

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF MARCH 22, 2016

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

Note: (1). These are not official minutes -- -- just notes taken by me. Official minutes will be available from the Town Office and will be posted on the Town web site and at the Town Office and other places following Board approval at the next meeting.

(2). If anyone wishes to stop receiving these reports, they may simply hit "Reply" and request to be deleted from the list or say "Unsubscribe."

(3). Reports of earlier meetings and some supplementary materials are available at Rick Freeman's Town Meeting website - www.singingbridge.net.

THE MEETING: There were 3 members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of March 8, 2016 were approved. They will be posted on the Town website shortly.

MOST IMPORTANT/INTERESTING ITEMS: In my judgment, the following items were the most important things covered during the meeting.

- Public Hearing: After a very short public hearing, the Board voted 3-0 to approve a malt, spirituous and vinous liquor license (Class 1-A) for the Grey Havens Inn.
- Lisa Donaldson came to the meeting to discuss membership of the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC). After the discussion the Board voted to approve her appointment, the Board signed the paperwork and she was sworn in.
- Ordinance Changes: Animal Control Officer (ACO), Planning Board (PB) and Board of Appeals (BOA) proposed changes are currently being reviewed by legal counsel. Bob Trabona indicated that the draft Shore Zone Ordinance (SZO) is ready for review. All proposed changes must be complete by April 1.
- Arrowsic – Georgetown Broadband: Kate and Dave Tudor provided an update on actions taken since the last Broadband meeting. They indicated that the Broadband team is seeking support from the Selectboard for inclusion in a grant application to support further detailed planning. After some discussion, the Board agreed to provide a Letter of Support.
- Public Comment: I brought up concern about the draft School Budget presented and discussed at the last School Committee Meeting March 11th. The proposed budget is a 10.5% increase of last year's and I believe this increase is unreasonable and will be very hard on home owners with low and/or fixed income. I expressed concern that the School Committee seemed to accept the growth as beyond their control. In response to my request, Mary indicated that copies of the final proposed budget will be available in the Town Office a week before the School Budget Hearing. This will enable people to review it and prepare comments/questions for the Hearing. I also asked that the Selectboard, as representatives of the community, formally ask the School Committee to look for ways to reduce the proposed budget. Geoff recused himself (his wife is a committee member). Bill indicated that, based on town history with regard to the school, he wanted no part of the school budget issue. Kate supported the request (she attended the previous School Committee meeting). After some discussion, the Board will not address the issue with the School Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mary reported on correspondence received. For a complete listing of this correspondence, see the Meeting Agenda at: www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php

The most interesting items were:

- Maine Coast Heritage Trust advised they are holding a Maine Land Conservation Conference April 22 in Brunswick and April 23 in Topsham (Mt. Ararat).
- Notification from Lincoln County Recycling that their fee would increase 3% (approximately \$150) next year.
- SEARCH sent a request for funding (\$400). It will be passed to the FAC.

OLD BUSINESS:

- First Church: Kate provided an update on the status of seeking community input. A letter with survey will be distributed shortly.
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NEW BUSINESS:

- The Sagadahoc County Administrator submitted a request for ACO costs. The led to a discussion of a proposal to “regionalize” animal controls. Geoff, who attended a meeting on the subject, indicated he cannot see the benefit of such an approach to Georgetown. The Board agreed to send a letter to the Sagadahoc County Commissioner stating Georgetown’s position.
- Kennebec Estuary Land Trust: KELT submitted a request to have the Lundstrom Marsh Preserve designated as tax exempt. After some discussion of the specific details, noting that current valuation is approximately \$36,000, the Board voted to approve the request.

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, April 12 at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe