

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF APRIL 24, 2018

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. Plus a number of members from three groups had scheduled appointments (see below).

The minutes of the meeting of April 10, 2018 were approved. They will be posted on the Town website.

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

- **TOPMB:** Town Owned Property Management Board members Bronwen Tudor, Rob Lowell and Mark Donovan came to discuss their proposed changes to the TOPMB ordinance and Harbor Master's job description. This was a follow-up to the last Selectboard meeting where Harbor Master Tom Bolster had discussed the same issues. Bronwen opened discussion by summarizing how the TOPMB got to where they are with the proposed changes. The intent is to clean up the wharf. The Board talked to marine resources officials at a number of other towns and based their proposed wording on proven ordinances. Georgetown's ordinance doesn't really have any "teeth" because it doesn't address enforcement. The Harbor Master already has authority to issue warnings and citations and the proposed changes are intended to define specific criteria that will lead to enforcement actions. Rob Lowell pointed out that it is about safety and fairness to the wharf leaseholder and other fishermen using the wharf. Bronwen said what they propose is common practice in the coastal towns they talked with. Dolores Pinette asked if most Harbor Masters are full-time. Bronwen responded that the Board doesn't see it taking up large amounts of the Harbor Master's time because there are other people who will help identify and document offenders. The Board has added \$5,000 for enforcement into this year's proposed budget. This proposed change gives town residents an opportunity to approve the process at the Town Meeting. Geoff asked if the TOPMB agreed with wording changes that the Selectboard proposed at the last meeting, including specifically excluding parking tickets at Todd's Landing. They agreed with proposed wording. While Todd's Landing parking is a recognized enforcement problem, they agreed to exclude it at this time. Geoff closed the issue by advising that the proposed changes, including the Selectboard's language changes, are currently being reviewed by legal counsel.
- **Reserve Fund for Water Access:** Stephen Mace, chairman of the Comprehensive Plan – Marine Resources subcommittee came to the meeting to discuss continuing yearly contributions to the Water Access Reserve. This reserve was setup in 2008 to generate funds for legal/administrative costs if/when the Town was able to purchase land for a boat launch. It currently has \$15,000 which is enough for the legal fees and it was not funded in last year's budget. Stephen said water access, for both commercial and recreational users, has been identified by the Comprehensive Planning team as a priority issue. He recommended that the Board continue to fund the reserve each year. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to propose \$1,000 be added in this year's budget.

- **Broadband Update:** Six members (I didn't get all names) of the Broadband Initiative team, including one each from Arrowsic, Southport and the Island Institute, came to provide a status update. Carlos Barrionuevo, the primary spokesperson, stated that no final decisions have been made and they were not here to ask for anything of the Selectboard. He discussed key points from the Engineering Study recently completed for the team. The overall objective will be to connect every house (assuming they want it) in the 3 communities with a fiber network that will be capable of service for 30 years. The design uses "best practices" from a number of towns/cities that have recently installed or upgraded their services. Estimated cost of the network is \$5 million and Georgetown's share would be \$2.4 million of that. The network would be owned and operated as a town utility. It would be leased to ISP(s) (Internet Service Provider) who actually provide the services. Because the towns own the infrastructure, they would be able to prioritize services to meet resident's needs/wants. They have identified multiple sources of potential funding support and intend to establish a finance committee to explore these options. Their assumption is that revenue from users will cover the operational cost but not construction. The team is interested in feedback from the Selectboard. There were a few follow-up questions with discussion which included the following.
 - What happens when technology outgrows the infrastructure? The fiber itself does not change. But the "boxes" that interface with and control the fiber can/will be upgraded as technology advances. Towns will be able to setup contracts with ISPs with various terms, services and conditions.
 - How will services be managed? No decision has been made yet on this issue. Typically towns establish a board that manages the infrastructure and ISP contracts. Some sort of legal entity must be setup first to manage the construction process. Ultimately, management will be based on what best serves our community.
 - What is the schedule for implementation? The schedule has not been finalized and will not be ready for this year's town meeting. The Broadband team will likely be ready to bring their proposed plan to each of the three towns late in 2018 or early in 2019. It may involve a special town meeting. Geoff Birdsall pointed out that special meetings haven't typically gone well in Georgetown.

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:

- The Gulf of Maine Research Institute will be holding a "Sea Level Rise Workshop". Mary indicated she'd forwarded the notification to the Conservation Committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Health Insurance for Town Employees:** This issue was carried over from the last meeting. The Board discussed making one or more of the MMA plans available to Town employees who meet the hours/week criteria. They also discussed what percent of the cost the Town should offer. Kate MacKay recommended that the Town support a health Savings Account instead. She had no specific details. Geoff Birdsall said he could support paying \$200/month toward premiums if the employee got the insurance. The Board approved this approach 2-1.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Meeting with DOT:** Geoff Birdsall gave a brief summary of the meeting they had with Denis Lovely of ME DOT concerning repair of the shoulders along Route 127. The State has no money to do any work beyond a fresh skim coat on top of the existing roadway. Upgrading and paving the shoulders would cost \$150,000 per mile and would have to be paid entirely by the Town. Repaving is supposed to start the second week of May and complete before the end of June.
- **Town Budget for 2018/19:** The FAC will attend the next Selectboard meeting to review all budget submittals in advance of the budget hearings.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

Date & Time	Event	Place	Comment
Saturday April 28, 5 pm	Pot Luck Supper	GCC	
Saturday April 28	HHHW Collection		Pre-registration Required
Saturday April 28, 10-2	Medication Collection	Center Fire Station	No registration or appointment necessary
Wednesday May 9th, 7 pm	Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance Changes	School	
Tuesday May 15, 6 pm	School Budget Hearing	School	Note Time
Wednesday May 16, 7 pm	Town Budget Hearing	School	
Tuesday June 12, 8 am – 8 pm	Election	School	
Saturday June 16, 9 am	Town Meeting	School	

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, May 8th at the Town Office.

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