

Report on the Selectboard Meeting of September 12, 2023

Prepared by Alison Freeman

Note: 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 following Board approval at the next meeting.

Please email me at news@singingbridge.net with any questions, comments, or requests to subscribe to the list. To unsubscribe, simply follow the instructions at the bottom of this email.

These notes, and the full agenda for the meeting, are available at SingingBridge.net as a PDF.

The Meeting: The meeting was conducted as a Zoom hybrid. Selectboard Members Rich Donaldson and Jon Collins, Town Administrator Tyler Washburn, and Finance Director Mary McDonald, were together in the Town Office. Selectboard Member Bronwen Tudor was on Zoom. There were 8 members of the public in attendance on Zoom.

The minutes of the meeting of August 29, 2023, 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.

- The Fire Chief's Proposal for purchase of a new Squad Truck was approved after discussion.
- Resolution re: MacMahan Island was approved after discussion. This resolution is a proposal that will begin discussion at the State Legislature regarding a bill that may or may not repeal or amend the Special Law. See below for more information.
- There was discussion regarding current tax policy on household solar and emergency generators. Rich Donaldson stated that generators and renewable energy installations are not currently factored into the valuation of homes in Georgetown, but they probably should be in the future. While the Selectboard ponders this issue, any homeowners who have installed solar panels are encouraged to apply for a Renewable Energy Investment Exemption from the State:
<https://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/property-tax-relief-programs/property-tax-exemptions>
Renewable Energy Investment Exemption - This program exempts renewable energy equipment, such as solar panels, from property tax beginning April 1, 2020. Taxpayers must apply for the credit by April 1 of the first year the exemption is requested.
[Renewable Energy Investment Exemption Application \(PDF\)](#)
- Moment of Silence in Honor of Julia Moulton, Boston Post Cane Holder, 2019-2023
The Town Administrator is gathering information to find the next recipient.
- There was discussion on implementation of a policy to manage short term rentals in reaction to LD 1706. Town Administrator Tyler Washburn was asked to gather data.
- The appointment of Phil Mason as a Planning Board Alternate was approved.
- Update – Pat Dow is still working in Town on pre-commitment pickup work.
- Town Administrator Tyler Washburn reported that the 8/29 Selectboard Meeting has already had over 60 views on the Town's YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/@GeorgetownME>. (The 9/12 meeting is available now, too.)

Correspondence (partial list):

- Maine Dept. of Labor Job Information
- Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Department Incident Report
- GVFD September Newsletter
- Letter from Susan Wise, President of Sheepscot Island Company, re: MacMahan Resolution

Upcoming Events/Dates:

Select Board	Tuesday, September 12th	7pm HYBRID
Solid Waste Committee	Thursday, September 14th	7pm ZOOM
Planning Board	Wednesday, September 20th	7pm HYBRID
TOPMB	Thursday, September 21st	4pm @ WHARF
Select Board	Tuesday, September 26th	7pm HYBRID

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, September 12th. The public is welcome to attend on ZOOM. E-mail gtwnme@hotmail.com for the ZOOM code to join the meeting no later than 2pm that day.

Prepared and distributed by Alison Freeman

A brief history regarding the MacMahan Island resolution:

The Private and Special Law regarding MacMahan Island was enacted by the State Legislature in 1955 and it created a separate entity that at the time was called the MacMahan Village Corporation. This law, and subsequent amendments regarding the percentage of property tax refunded, is why each year Georgetown votes at Town Meeting on an article in the Town Warrant to refund a percentage of the property taxes collected for properties on the Island of MacMahan. At the 6/27 Selectboard Meeting Rich Donaldson pointed out that in 1955 road maintenance was the largest part of the Town budget. Now schools and solid waste are. It is my understanding that MacMahan is the only island in the town of Georgetown with this special arrangement.

What has been researched and discussed is asking the State Legislature to repeal or amend of the part of the Special Law that refunds a percentage of the property tax to the MacMahan Island entity. This is an issue that has come up for discussion many times in the intervening 65+ years.

The resolution approved on 9/12/2023 is a proposal that will begin the discussion at the State Legislature regarding a bill that may or may not repeal or amend the Special Law. The legislative process allows ample opportunity for public input and comment from interested parties.

From the official Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2023:

MacMahan Island - specifically TS stickers, generally the Private & Special Law Action: Ms. Tudor made a motion to have Town legal counsel review the Private & Special Law and determine what services the Town is required to provide to our island communities. Mr. Donaldson suggested an amendment to this motion to include requesting that the Solid Waste Committee not act until they get feedback from the Select Board. This amendment was approved, and the amended motion was seconded by Mr. Donaldson and approved 3-0.

From the official Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2023:

MacMahan Island - update from Mr. Donaldson re: Legal Opinion MMA's Legal Department said that the Private and Special Law re: MacMahan Island is very ambiguous and that the law did not say that MacMahan Island residents cannot use our Transfer Station. Their advice was to allow them to use it as they have historically and there are a few options moving forward. One option was that the law can be amended. Ms. Tudor was in favor of further research into the current law and the precedents of other island communities in Maine. Mr. Donaldson would like to research how to amend the current law for a special review. Action: Ms. Tudor moved to allow Mr. Donaldson to research the current law and the precedents of other island communities in Maine. The motion was seconded by Mr. Collins and approved 3-0.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN, TOWN OF GEORGETOWN

Agenda for Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Hybrid meeting held via ZOOM for public and at the Town Office for SB Members who wish.
Please email gtwnme@hotmail.com for the ZOOM login info.

*indicates copy provided to Selectmen

***INDICATES THE NEED FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE**

Call to order:

Moment of Silence in Honor of Julia Moulton, Boston Post Cane Holder, 2019-2023.

Public comment:

Items to be added to agenda (if approved by chair and board):

Scheduled appointments:

Minutes:

- Minutes of August 29th Meeting for review and approval******

Review:

Assessing items:

- Update – Pat Dow is still working in Town on pre-commitment pickup work.

Correspondence:

- Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Notice re: Volunteer Fire Assistance Program*
- Maine Dept. of Labor Job Information*
- Midcoast Council of Governments August Newsletter *
- Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Department Incident Report*
- GVFD September Newsletter*
- Letter from Susan Wise, President of Sheepscot Island Company, re: MacMahan Resolution*

Other Correspondence: None

Continuing Items:

Receipts for pumping of Holding Tanks:

- Georgetown Community Center (19 Old Schoolhouse, 13U-009)

Maine Waste Discharge License *renewal* / transfer applications: none

Maine Waste Discharge License *approvals*:

- Joseph and Hannah Conley (01U-068), 4 Keen Way

PBR / NRPA : Lothrop LLC (14U-044), 40 Lewis Road

Town Administrator Update

Finance Director Update

Committee Updates:

Minutes:

- Recreation Committee, August 1st Meeting

Membership:

- Appointment of Phil Mason as a Planning Board Alternate

Liaison Updates:



Board Member Updates:

Mr. Collins:




Mr. Donaldson:

Ms. Tudor:

Old Business:

- Fire Chief Proposal for purchase of new Squad Truck*
- Resolution re: MacMahan Island *

New Business:

- Memo from Administrator re: Agenda Item Submissions*
- Maine Municipal Association Annual Business Meeting Delegate and Alternate Selection*
- Discussion on implementation of a policy to manage short term rentals in reaction to LD 1706.
- Discussion regarding current tax policy on household solar and emergency generators.
- State of Maine State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

Items For Signature:

- *If Appointed*, Certificate of Appointment for Phil Mason, Planning Board Alternate
- *If Approved*, Resolution re: MacMahan Island
- *If designated*, Maine Municipal Association Annual Business Meeting Delegate and Alternate Selection.

Public comment:

Executive Session: *Under 1 MRS §405(6)(if needed)*

Adjournment:

UPCOMING MEETINGS/ EVENTS:

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FALL FROLIC & *Art Show*

SEPTEMBER 16TH 9AM - 2PM

**REID STATE PARK
East Beach/Group Pavilion**

9:30am Fun Run

10:00am Beach Walk

10:30am Yoga

10am-2pm Art Show (door prizes)

Kids Art Studio, Lawn Games, Lots
of Food and Drinks

FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL GEORGETOWN RESIDENTS

Tickets available starting September 1st at
multiple locations including Transfer Station,
Town Office & Rec Com Members.



Community Cupboard

Thanks to, and due to, the generosity of others, the Georgetown Community Center is able to offer a monthly food pantry to all town members.

The pantry will be held at the Community Center and open the last Monday (usually!) of the month, from 3 PM til 5 PM.

Limited items available will include:

- Bread
- Peanut Butter
- Pasta
- Rice
- Beans
- Cheese
- Snacks and more.

We encourage and welcome anyone from Georgetown in need to come to our pantry.

*No income verification necessary.

We will begin August 28th.
September 25th
October 24th



Georgetown Coastal Clean-Up 2023

We Need Your Help to Clean Up Georgetown's Coast!

Saturday, September 30th, 9:30 – 12:30

Pick up trash at the coast anytime!

Drop it off at the Transfer Station on the 30th

Can't make the 30th? Fill out your own Datasheet and submit it before 9/30 at the bin outside the Town Office

Who can take part?: Anyone is welcome!

How to Participate:

- 1)** Pick up trash along Georgetown's coast.
- 2)** Record information about the trash – either on your own anytime during the month or bring the trash to the Transfer Station on the 30th for sorting, weighing, and data recording.

If you do your own recording: Use a Datasheet to record the items of trash you pick up, the weight of the trash, the participants, and the location. Drop the Datasheet off at the town office bin anytime in September or bring it to the Transfer Station on the 30th. If you can, separate the recyclables and returnables from the trash when disposing of it. Or bring it by the Transfer Station on the 30th for help!

If you bring the trash to the Transfer Station for recording on 9/30: Come by the Transfer Station anytime between 9:30 and 12:30, and volunteers will be on-hand to help with weighing, sorting, and inventorying the trash.

- 3)** Win prizes! There will be gift card prizes for the heaviest trash and most interesting items found.

What Supplies Do You Need?

Supplies are available in a plastic bin outside the Town Office

- A bag to put the trash in
- Gloves to keep your hands safe while picking up trash
- A Coastal Cleanup Volunteer Datasheet



Questions?: Contact the Georgetown Conservation Commission at conserve04548@gmail.com or call Ruth Indrick at 315-415-4160



Georgetown

FIRE DEPARTMENT

SPAGHETTI

DINNER

Sponsored by the

Georgetown Fire Department Auxiliary

Saturday, October 7, 2023

5:00 to 6:30 pm

Adults: \$6.00 Children under 6: Free

Georgetown Community Center