

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 26, 2021

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

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

THE MEETING: The meeting was conducted as a Zoom hybrid. SelectBoard members Rich Donaldson and Jon Collins, plus administrator Amanda Campbell were present in the Town Office. Bronwen Tudor was present on Zoom. There were 4 or 5 members of the public in attendance on Zoom. This was a very short, approximately an hour.

The minutes of the meeting of October 12, 2021 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.

- **Property Tax Rate:** Amanda provided the Board with spreadsheets that summarized the budget, projected income from other sources, resulting revenue to be raised by property tax, and alternative MIL rates. After a short discussion the Board settled on a MIL rate of 8.25 (up from last year's 8.1).
- **Selectboard and School Committee liaison:** Rich summarized a budget meeting held before the regular School Committee meeting on October 25th. Rich noted a couple of items. The School Committee plans to modify the format of the upcoming proposed school budget. They also discussed potential establishment of an education reserve fund to address emergent issues that arise during the year. School Committee member Kelly James is designated as the liaison with the Selectboard. The Board did not decide who should represent the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Amanda reported on correspondence received. For a complete listing of this correspondence, see the Meeting Agenda on the Town website.

The most interesting item was:

- **Georgetown Comprehensive Plan:** The Town received notice from the Maine Department of Agriculture that the Revised Comprehensive Plan has been found complete and consistent. Thanks to Theo Holtwijk and John McIlvain. Ultimately Town residents will also have to approve the changes that were made at a Town meeting.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- **Town Wharf Lease:** Rich noted that Five Islands Lobster Company was the only bidder for the upcoming lease. He recommended that a clear list of Town vs Lessee responsibilities be developed.
- **Mountainside Cemetery:** Jon noted that the Cemetery Committee is going to purchase signs and barricades which will enable them to close off muddy areas during the spring.
- **Solar Working Group:** Bronwen advised that this team has renamed themselves the Energy Working Group since the scope of their efforts was expanded (at a previous Selectboard meeting) to include heating and air conditioning of the school.
- **Recreation Committee:** Bronwen asked if there was any schedule date for drafting the mission statement proposed by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **CMP Street Light Conversion:** Amanda agreed to make a map of all existing Town street lights. The Board will hold off discussions with CMP until the map and applicable light data are available.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Treasurer:** Amanda advised that Katrina Bouchard has been appointed Town Treasurer to fill the vacancy until the next Town election next June.
- **Route 127 Bicyclist and Pedestrian Safety:** Rich summarized a visit he shared with MeDOT (Department of Transportation) engineers Patrick Adams (bicycle and pedestrian specialist) and Dave Allen (traffic engineer). Starting in Arrowsic, they surveyed the entire length of 127 in Georgetown, including both Seguinland Road and Five Islands Road from the Seguinland Road intersection. They also surveyed a couple of Town roads. Patrick will draft a plan for bicyclist and pedestrian safety signage. The Selectboard will have an opportunity to review/revise the plan. DOT will provide and install the signs, probably not until next spring.
- **Affordable Housing:** Bronwen attended a presentation on affordable housing put on by MMA. She said American Rescue Program (ARP) will be distributed to Towns but there is no schedule yet. The presentation didn't identify "solutions to the problem." One proposal is to put funds into a housing reserve fund which can then be made available to an appropriate project. A guide for applications will be issued in a few weeks.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Route 127 Corridor Management Plan/Committee:** During Public Comment John Jones noted that the Selectboard had *paused* the committee effort. He asked if/when they might re-start. Bronwen noted that the Board has not had time to review all the material provided or to discuss whether to re-start the committee with additional guidance/direction. She indicated a willingness to disband the committee for now. Bob Trabona noted that everyone knows there are severe problems with shoulders dropping off the pavement. Amanda noted that DOT doesn't have funds to do all maintenance that is needed. Geoff Birdsall recommended the Board continue to "badger" DOT but don't expect too much.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

Date & Time	Event	Place	Comment
Tuesday, Nov 2, 8 am – 8 pm	Election – 3 ballot questions	School Gym	
Tuesday, Nov 2, all day	Town Office will be CLOSED		For election

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, November 9 . The public is welcome to attend on ZOOM. Contact Amanda Campbell or Alex Neese at the Town Office to get the Meeting ID and Password.

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