

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 10, 2019

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 <<http://www.singingbridge.net>> .

THE MEETING: There were 2 members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of November 26, 2019 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.

* Maine House Representative: Allison Hepler came to the meeting just to "check in" and discuss legislative issues of interest. The most significant discussion concerned the Department of Transportation being unable to properly fix 5-6 areas along Route 127 where the road floods and freezes, causing severe driving conditions. The Board also mentioned that the 127 entrance into US 1 south is a very hazardous intersection that the State should be looking at. Allison indicated that she has been told they are looking at it but do not yet have a concrete plan. Geoff Birdsall pointed out that Reid State Park brings in substantial revenue but pays Georgetown very little. Bob Trabona asked if Allison knows anything about plans for the incomplete paving of US 1 between Bath and Cook's Corner.

* Broadband: Carlos Barrionuevo attended the meeting to discuss status of the USDA application by Arrowsic and to discuss next steps in formalizing Georgetown's application for a grant which he expects will be submitted when USDA opens the next round within the next few months. After a short discussion, the Board agreed to have him return in January to discuss in more detail. Rich Donaldson will act as on-going liaison with the Broadband group.

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 <<http://www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php>>

The most interesting items were:

* State of Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) advised the town of renewal LPA (aquaculture) licenses for 2020 for 5 residents.

* Sagadahoc Commissioner's forwarded an invitation to attend the Spirit of America Award Ceremony where Don and Karren Cowing will be recognized.

* Sagadahoc Sheriff's Department identified 23 incidents in November. 12 were apparently delivering free buckets of sand to residents.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Emergency Communications System: This was a follow-up to discussions at previous Board meetings. Justin LoDolce will be meeting with County administration on Friday, December 13th.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

Date & Time

Event

Place

Comment

Saturday, Dec 14th, 5 pm

Holiday Dinner

GCC

Santa will arrive about 6

Tuesday, Dec 24 – Thursday, Dec 26

Town Office will be CLOSED

Holiday

Tuesday, Dec 31 and Wednesday, Jan 1, 2020

Town Office will be CLOSED

Holiday

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at the Town Office. Note: There will not be another SelectBoard meeting in December unless there is an unforeseen emergency need.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF (WED) NOVEMBER 13, 2019

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

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THE MEETING: There were 2 members of the public present. Note that the meeting was postponed one day due to weather.

The minutes of the meeting of October 22, 2019 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.

* Assessing Items: The Board reviewed three abatement applications.

* One was a clerical error in the acreage of a lot. The Board unanimously approved this abatement.

* Two abatement requests were based on sale price of the property and an appraisal done by an outside agency. Note that Geoff Birdsall recused himself from discussion/vote on one of the cases. The Board reviewed each of them by comparing with other, similar properties near those in question. In both cases the Board found that the assessments were consistent with other nearby and similar properties. The Board unanimously (3-0, 2-0) declined these properties.

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
<<http://www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php>>

The most interesting items were:

* Comprehensive Plan: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry forwarded a checklist identifying missing elements in the Georgetown Comprehensive Plan that was approved at last June's Town Meeting. John McIlvain and a number of the original committee members are addressing the issues. I noted that most of which are minor clarifications of where specific information appears in the plan.

* Maine DMR has scheduled an Aquaculture Lease Hearing for High Tide Shellfish Farm on December 9th at Georgetown Central School.

* Funding requests were received from Maine Public Radio and Midcoast Maine Community Action. Both were forwarded to the FAC for consideration in next year's budget.

* Bangor Daily News had an article on Quahog Aquaculture that contained information on efforts in Georgetown. Melissa MacMahan and Chad Campbell were prominently included.

* Age Friendly Georgetown forwarded a note about free buckets of sand available from the Sagadahoc Sheriff's Department. They deliver.

OLD BUSINESS:

- * The Board approved two new town committee volunteer assignments; Jen Hathaway on the Recreation Committee and Roger Bogart on the Conservation Commission.
- * Town Office Reconfiguration: Mary McDonald walked the Board through draft plans from Cynthia Wheeler. The intent of reconfiguration is to improve overall efficiency. After a brief discussion, the Board approved moving forward by getting a cost estimate for the work.

OTHER:

- * Mary McDonald noted that Nancy Kinner purchased a laptop computer for the Road Commissioner and has loaded the Town culvert data on it.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

Date & Time

Event

Place

Comment

Wed, Nov 27

Town Office closes at noon

Thur, Nov 28

Town Office closed

Thanksgiving holiday

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, November 26 at the Town Office. I will be out of town for Thanksgiving so there will be no notes distributed for this meeting.

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 22, 2019

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

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THE MEETING: There were 2 members of the public present. Selectman Geoff Birdsall was absent.

The minutes of the meeting of October 8, 2019 were approved. They are posted on the Town website.

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

* Road Sign: During the Public Comment segment Bob Trabona noted that the Indian Road sign at the route 127 entrance was taken down and replaced with an "Indigenous Peoples" Point sign. He and Rich Donaldson pointed out that this creates a significant risk to the Fire Department and residents of Indian Point. When responding to a fire, the GVFD will often call for "mutual aid" and drivers may not be familiar with Georgetown roads. It could delay water and personnel assistance. It was also noted that removing public road signs is illegal.

* Emergency Communications: This was a follow-up to discussions at the last few SelectBoard meetings concerning on-going problems with tactical emergency communications between Georgetown and Sagadahoc County. Rich Donaldson, who has been working with the Fire Chief on the issue, asked that the Fire Department and Town Administration pull together a summary/history of discussions/notifications. Apparently the current county authorities are not aware of the problem even though it goes back all the way to 2011. Mary McDonald will coordinate with the county administration once the history is documented.

* Town Office Reconfiguration: Mary McDonald summarized a proposed contract with a Portland-based design firm that will develop a more efficient working arrangement for the Town Office area. After a short discussion, the Board approved moving ahead with the contract. Funding was included in this year's budget.

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 <<http://www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php>>

The most interesting items were:

* Funding Requests: Requests were received from The Life Flight Foundation (\$521) and Spectrum Generations (\$400). Both were passed to the FAC for consideration in next year's budget.

* Senator Eloise Vitelli forwarded a summary Legislative Report for the 2019 session. It will be posted at the Town Office.

* Maine Maritime Museum forwarded a schedule for winter programs. It will be posted at the Town Office.

NEW BUSINESS:

- * Property Tax: Tax bills were mailed October 18th. Payment is due on/before December 16th.
- * Broadband: The Broadband Task Force requested that the Town accept and administer the Maine Community Foundation Grant (\$15,000) if it is received. Donaldson asked to confirm this grant will not obligate any other Town funds. It won't. The Board approved the request.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

Date & Time

Event

Place

Comment

Saturday, Oct 26, 10-2

Medication Take Back

Central Fire Station

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

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 2019

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

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

THE MEETING: There were 2 members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of September 24, 2019 were approved. They are 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 MIL Rate: Every year the Board must determine the MIL rate for property taxes based on a number of factors. Proposed expenditures are detailed in the Town (including school and county) budget which was approved at the Town Meeting last June. Projected income from the Federal Government, State and local sources (such as mooring fees, vehicle registrations, etc.) is identified. The difference between budget and projected income is the amount that must be raised through property taxes. Mary McDonald brought a spreadsheet summarizing expected revenues for a number of different MIL rates from 7.7 (2018-19 rate) to 8.0. Each rate generates a small percentage "overlay" amount that will maintain a positive funds balance for the Town. That balance will convert to "undesignated funds balance" if it is not spent during the tax year. MMA recommends that towns maintain the undesignated funds balance approximately equal to 3 months expenditures. The Board's discussion centers on what MIL rate will generate a reasonable overlay. After considerable discussion of alternatives the Board decided to set this year's rate at 7.8% (a 1.3% increase). The Board agreed to have tax notices mailed out October 18th.

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
<<http://www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php>>

The most interesting items were:

* Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) sent a summary of new laws/fees affecting motor vehicle registration. Rate for renewals will increase from \$3 to \$5. Rate for new registrations will increase from \$4 to \$6.

* Nature Conservancy announced a funding opportunity for converting municipal buildings to LED lighting. Birdsall pointed out that the proposed grants are not "free" and that the Town doesn't have funds in the budget to cover replacements. But he also noted that there may be some, high intensity fixtures, that may make sense.

* Midcoast Humane notified the Town that their rate would increase from \$1.15 per resident to \$1.30 in 2020 and \$1.45 in 2021. Their total yearly fee is based on the Town's full-time resident population.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Volunteers for Boards and Committees: Just a reminder from the Town website (This issue was not discussed at the meeting. Volunteers are needed to serve on the following Boards and Committees:

- * Board of Appeals – 2 Alternate members
- * Conservation Commission – 1 Fulltime member
- * Financial Advisory Committee – 2 Fulltime members
- * Harbor Committee – 2 Alternate members
- * Planning Board – 2 Alternate members

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees or boards, please contact Mary McDonald in person at the Town Office or call at 371-2820.

NEW BUSINESS:

Work on the school/town office exterior, including windows, is complete.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

Date & Time

Event

Place

Comment

Saturday, Oct 19

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Brunswick Public Works

Pre -register by calling 725-6654 and you will be given a specific time to show up with your HHHW

Saturday, Oct 19, 5 pm

Pot Luck Supper

GCC

Spaceheaters at 6 pm

Saturday, Oct 26, 10 – 2

Medication Collection

Central Fire Station

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, October 22 at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

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

THE MEETING: I was the only member of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of September 10, 2019 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.

* Assessing Items – Solar Panels, etc: Bill Van Tuinen, Georgetown assessor, came to the meeting to discuss a number of issues related to property assessment and taxes. Topics included solar systems, generators, tiny houses, campers, integrating assessment cards with pictures/sketches in a digital format and status of current valuation. Van Tuinen provided overviews of state positions and examples of how other towns have dealt with the various issues. No actions resulted from the discussion. It was more an opportunity for the Board members to get familiar with current assessing issues and some of the options available. At the end of the discussion Mr. Van Tuinen summarized the current overall valuation of Georgetown to be very good compared to state data.

* Van & Driver(s) for School: Mary read a note from Chris Baribeau, Principal at GCS.

The school is need of any number of drivers who could run two Georgetown children to the greater Portland area for their school day, and then bring them back to Georgetown at the end of their day. My thought would be to have two drivers - one, morning run and one, afternoon run but we would take what we can get. I am in the process of searching for a minivan to purchase that would be used to transport and can compensate the drivers with an hourly wage. If you know of anyone who might be interested, I'd greatly appreciate it if you could forward their contact information to me. Christopher Baribeau, Principal, Georgetown Central School, 207-371-2160, cbaribeau@aos98schools.org <<mailto:cbaribeau@aos98schools.org>>

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 <<http://www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php>>

The most interesting items were:

* Secretary of State DMV forwarded additional guidelines for registering tiny houses.

* New Hope for Women submitted a funding request for \$500. They missed the spring deadline so it will be considered in 2020. The request was forwarded to the FAC.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Administrative Assistant Position: Mary advised that she has received a second application for the Administrative Assistant position. Geoff Birdsall reiterated his recommendation that the Town position and GVFD position be completely separate. The Board concurred with Mary's recommendation that she interview the second applicant.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

Date & Time

Event

Place

Comment

Saturday, 10/26, 10 am – 2 pm

Drug Take Back Day

Central Fire Station

See attached flyer

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

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 27, 2019

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

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

THE MEETING: There were 2 members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of August 13, 2019 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.

- * Proposed Cannabis Ordinance: The Cannabis Ordinance Drafting Work Group (new title) meets second and fourth Thursdays, 7 pm at the Town Office. Minutes are being posted on the Town website.
- * Age Friendly Georgetown (AFG) Group: Jim Peavey, co-chairman of the AFG group, came to the meeting to discuss the future of this Comprehensive Plan subcommittee. He had provided a draft letter in advance of the discussion. He pointed out that the (unofficial) committee had completed input to the Comprehensive Plan but was continuing a number of projects in support of the community. He proposed that the committee would continue to notify and/or coordinate their actions with the SelectBoard. Further discussion of specific issues followed:
 - * Insurance: Mary McDonald indicated that most of the AFG members and facilities are already covered by Town liability (for volunteers) insurance. Other organizations (e.g. GCC, GHS, GWL, etc.) also have insurance. So insurance doesn't seem to be an issue.
 - * AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities: Peavey pointed out that joining the AARP Network was approved by the Board and it provides the connection between the committee and Town. Mr. Birdsall said he regrets joining the AARP program. He has concern about the focus on (seniors) Aging in Place. He pointed out that the Comprehensive Plan seeks to attract young people and families and the focus on Aging in Place does the opposite. Mr. Donaldson also indicated that joining the AARP Network puts the town on the map for retirees, potentially pushing away younger families.
 - * Tax Impact: Birdsall expressed concern about the group eventually requesting additional Town services which would have impact on Town taxes. Mr. Donaldson noted that "transportation", for example, might become a budget issue. He said that the Town should not pay for senior transportation.
 - * Ad Hoc Committee: Birdsall recommended that the AFG committee should be an ad hoc group/organization not tied to the Selectboard. Mr. Peavey agreed this approach is workable.
 - * Support: Peavey pointed out that the committee's focus is on people who need support in a number of areas. Mr. Birdsall said that the majority of people who retire here have the resources to support themselves. Mr. Donaldson pointed out that Georgetown has an informal network in place that addresses these support issues.

* Emergency Communications System: This was a brief follow-up to discussion at the last Board meeting. Mary McDonald advised that she had notified the County Administrator (Pam) that the “spotty communications” are still a problem in Georgetown. The Fire Department is pursuing upgraded radio equipment. Birdsall questioned why can't they use cell phones? His AT&T phone works well throughout Georgetown. It was noted that other towns are also having communications issues with Sagadahoc County emergency services. Fire Chief Justin LoDolce will be meeting with the County communications director to discuss the issues.

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
<<http://www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php>>

The most interesting items were:

* ME Forest Service forwarded the Georgetown Tree Growth Roster. It was reviewed and returned. There are a couple of residents with property in Tree Growth that will have to be renewed in 2020.

* Town of Arrowsic is sponsoring a presentation on Zero Waste, Monday, September 30th, at the Arrowsic Fire Station. This presentation is open to Georgetown residents.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Administrative Assistant and Fire Department Bookkeeper Position: Mary McDonald noted that one potential applicant has been identified to replace Tyler. She also said that they need to determine how best to reconfigure the office for another person and that she has no spare time to train another assistant at present. Birdsall said that he believes the bookkeeper should be hired and paid through the Fire Department in order to keep their finances (non-profit) separate from the Town. He also indicated that the Town needs backup/assistance for Mary McDonald and Amanda Campbell.

* TOPMB: Jon Collins provided a status report on the TOPMB meeting which he attended August 20th. Most of the discussion concerned launching/retrieving and parking issues at Todd's Landing. Collins indicated that the TOPMB is not prepared to move forward with towing at this point. Mr. Birdsall commented that he recommends that cleanliness of the wharf should be incorporated into the contract for food services.

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, September 10 th at the Town Office.

Note: I will be out of town and unable to attend the two Selectboard meetings in September. If someone is interested in attending and documenting these meetings, I'll be happy to provide an MS Word template and will be able to do the distribution through SingingBridge. Reply to this email or contact me at rickcliffe@aol.com.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF August 13, 2019

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

Notes:

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THE MEETING: There were 2 members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of July 23, 2019 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.

* Comprehensive Plan Implementation: John McIlvain attended to discuss moving forward with some of the recommendations made in the comprehensive plan. He had previously met with Mary to review the Action Items that involve the SelectBoard. Four recommendations were discussed as follows:

* Developing and Maintaining a Community Calendar: John proposed development of a calendar on-line and as a monthly paper handout. It would identify meetings and events of interest to the Community. Geoff Birdsall noted that with Tyler gone, Mary and Amanda are too busy to take on this responsibility. Bob Trabona pointed out that he maintains schedule information on the Town website but he is dependent on committees and organizations providing accurate, timely data. I advised that the AFG committee had two volunteers willing to help develop and maintain the capability and data. John offered to help develop a prototype. Rich Donaldson suggested he develop a sample for September which covered October meetings and events. The sample could be used to determine how much effort is required to maintain it.

* Developing an Acquisition Plan for a Town Landing: Geoff pointed out that this has been an open issue for the 18 years he's been on the SelectBoard. There was a brief discussion of prior efforts to acquire Todd's Landing. Mary asked if Bronwen Tudor and Susie Wren might approach the owners about acquisition. There was also a brief discussion of lack of parking and no realistic way to expand it.

* Enforcement of Town Ordinances, particularly at Todd's Landing: Geoff advised that this has been a long-standing issue between the TOPMB and SelectBoard. TOPMB must take responsibility. He suggested using a "warning card" approach where illegally parked vehicles would get a one-time warning. If that vehicle was left illegally again, it would be towed at the owner's expense.

* Explore Uses or Divesting of underutilized Town owned property: The focus of this discussion included the First Church and Stone School House. There was brief discussion of prior efforts to make use of the buildings. Bob Trabona summarized some history of GHS lease of the First Church. Might the State or a conservation organization (like KELT) have interest in owning or using these facilities? Mary noted that Ally at the Meetinghouse worked with historical preservation and she might have some insight.

* Assessing Items: Pat Dow has been to town doing field work on open assessing issues. Mary will setup a meeting with Bill Van Tuinen in September to discuss/resolve all open issues – a pre-requisite to setting the MIL rate for property taxes at an October Board meeting.

* Town Administration: Tyler Washburn resigned from his part-time administrative assistant position to take a full-time position elsewhere. There was a brief discussion about how to replace him or reassign his tasks. No decision was made.

* Emergency Communications System: Rich Donaldson provided an overview of continuing operational problems with the existing system and enhancements proposed by the GVFD. They propose to purchase new digital radios base station. Before ordering the equipment, they will collaborate with the County to make sure it is compatible. The base station will be at the central fire station and they will mount the antenna on the existing mast at the station. Rich also said that the GVFD will apply for a grant to cover some/all the costs of new equipment.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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<<http://www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php>>

The most interesting items were:

- * ME DOC acknowledged acceptance of the Georgetown Comprehensive Plan for review.
- * MMA Risk Management sent a \$795 dividend check to Georgetown.

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, August 27 at the Town Office.

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REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF JULY 23, 2019

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

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THE MEETING: I was the only member of the public present. It was a short meeting with a minimal number of issues discussed.

The minutes of the meeting of July 9, 2019 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.

* Solid Waste: A memo from Lee Leiner, Bath Public Works, advised they will no longer accept upholstered furniture as bulky waste. They will accept it for a \$10.00 fee. It was noted that the Transfer Station will not accept upholstered furniture since they cannot dispose of it. The Solid Waste Committee is trying to work out a solution for Georgetown residents.

* Enforcement of TOPMB Ordinance: This issue has been an on-going, on and off discussion at Board meetings for many months. Violations at Todd's Landing are sometimes making boat launching difficult. It was noted that TOPMB has put up new, more definitive signs at the Town Wharf listing the regulations/rules identified in the Ordinance. The latest version of the TOPMB ordinance empowers the Harbor Master to enforce the rules; however, it was also noted that the Harbor Master's enforcement activity is normally "on the water". Geoff Birdsall brought a sample violation card from the Indian Point Association as an example of an approach which can potentially be applied at the Wharf and Todd's Landing. He also noted that the TOPMB should include responsibility for enforcement at the Wharf in their contract with the restaurant lease. Mary noted that the commercial side of the wharf is not the lessor's responsibility.

* Age Friendly Georgetown committee: With adoption of the updated Comprehensive Plan at the Town Meeting, the Comprehensive Plan Committee and Marine Resources Subcommittee have disbanded. The Age Friendly Subcommittee has completed input to the Comprehensive Plan but they still have other initiatives in work. There was a brief discussion about whether the Age Friendly group should become an official Town Committee or function as a group of concerned citizens. Mary expressed concern about insurance coverage if they remain independent. The issue was tabled for future discussion.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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The most interesting items were:

* Department of Marine Resources notified the town of opening of Southwest Lobe for clamming from 8/7/2019 to 8/31/2019. This opening was requested by the Shellfish Conservation Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

* The Board approved a GCC request to close Old Schoolhouse Road from the Church to the Fire Station from 5-10 pm for Community Day.

* Robinhood Free Meetinghouse advised they are having an outdoor concert on Saturday, August 10, from 5 to 8 pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

Date & Time

Event

Place

Comment

Saturday, July 27, 5 pm

Community Day

Outside the Community Center

A section of Old Schoolhouse Road will be closed to traffic during this event

Saturday, August 10, 5-8 pm

Outdoor Concert

Robinhood Free Meetinghouse

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, August 13 th at the Town Office.

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REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF JULY 9, 2019

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THE MEETING: I was the only member of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of June 24, 2019 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.

* Board & Committee appointment renewals: Every year following the Town Meeting, the Board must re-certify voluntary Board and Committee members who are willing to continue serving. Mary put together a list and contacted the applicable members. Almost all volunteers agreed to continue. Then she put together the necessary paperwork. The Board approved the volunteers and signed off on the paperwork. Their appointments will be listed on the Town Website shortly. A couple of volunteers resigned. There remain numerous positions in a number of Boards and Committees.

* Right of Way Request: A Bay Point resident sent a letter to the Town asking permission to build stone stairs on a public right of way. After a brief review of maps and pictures it was determined that it is actually a utility right of way. Since the Town doesn't own the land or have authority over the right of way, the Town cannot grant permission. Geoff Birdsall recommended the resident discuss it with the actual property owner. Mary agreed to review deeds to determine who actually owns that area.

* Maine Revenue Service Preliminary State Valuation: Every year, the State sends a Valuation report listing properties sold during the year and comparing the sale amount against property tax assessment. The Town reviews for accuracy and also any special conditions that might make the sales price unrealistic. Mary provided the State report and a summary she put together identifying special conditions. The Board reviewed and concurred with her report so it can be sent back to the State.

* Parking at Todd's Landing: Rich Donaldson brought up the issue of people parked at Todd's Landing blocking access to others trying to launch their boats. It was noted that some "non-residents" have also been seen at the site. It was recommended that town officials place "courtesy cards" on vehicles blocking access and/or parked without a current resident (transfer station) sticker. The courtesy card will notify vehicle owners/operators that continued violation can result in their vehicle and trailer being towed at owner expense. Rich agreed to look further into the proposal.

* Fee Schedules in Ordinances: Rich Donaldson summarized findings from his review of nearby town ordinances vs Georgetown ordinances. For example, Georgetown recreational moorings are the lowest of all towns – the highest being almost double Georgetown's rates. After a brief discussion the Board agreed to have the Harbor Committee review (against other towns) all types of mooring rates and recommend increases where appropriate. Rich also noted that new construction building permit fees are also low compared to other towns. The Board agreed to have the Planning Board look at this issue and make a recommendation.

* Recreational Marijuana Working Group: The Board has organized a working group to draft an ordinance as voted by residents at the Town Meeting. This group will not be a formal town committee. It will meet twice

a month. They want to have a draft ready by year end. The draft will need SelectBoard review/concurrence, a public hearing for input/feedback, review by Town Legal Counsel, and then review/approval at the Town Meeting next June.

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
<<http://www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php>>

The most interesting items were:

- * MMA has scheduled a Legal Update on Recreational Marijuana Workshop in Saco in August.
- * Newsletters: Both Maine Maritime Museum and Maine Coast Heritage Trust sent quarterly newsletters to the Town Office. They will be available for viewing in the hallway outside the office.

NEW BUSINESS:

- * Comprehensive Plan – Moving Forward: Mary initiated a brief discussion on how the Board wants to move forward in implementing the Comprehensive Plan. Action items need to be prioritized and scheduled. I advised that Comp Plan Committee members will, I'm sure, be available to support the effort as needed.
- * Extra Deer Hunting Permits: The Board approved a request from Kate MacKay to put an item on the Town Website indicating the availability of "bonus antlerless deer hunting permits" for this Fall's season. They will be available to Town residents.

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

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF JUNE 11, 2019

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 <<http://www.singingbridge.net>> .

THE MEETING: There were 2 members of the public present. It was a very short meeting except for the OBD replacement discussion (see assessing item below).

The minutes of the meeting of May 28, 2019 were approved. They are posted on the Town website.

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

* Assessing Item: A Five Islands couple came to the meeting in support of a request for an easement which will enable them to install Japanese designed Residential Treatment System. This system will replace their current attachment to a multi-property overboard discharge (OBD) system. It has a very small footprint, compared to normal septic systems and requires much less maintenance than the OBD. They need a small easement at the edge of the Town property in order to bank the side of the drain field. Jason Lang explained the process and rules for obtaining State approval. After a brief discussion the Board approved the request. It was also pointed out that this system might be of interest to other property owners who have OBDs. It is sold through Maine Septic Solutions in Damariscotta.

* MMA Risk Management: Mary indicated she has updated the list of Town volunteers for the 2019-20 Volunteer Accident Insurance and it is ready for submittal. This policy insures against liability for anyone involved in a Town volunteer activity.

* Midcoast Humane: The Board approved an agreement for services covering the year from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, June 25 at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF MAY 28, 2019

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.

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

THE MEETING: There were 2 members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of May 14, 2019 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.

* Town Meeting Preparation: Town Counsel reviewed the draft warrant and provided comments to the Board. Counsel confirmed that the School Budget wording should remain "as is" open to proposed budget changes if any are advanced from the floor. Counsel also recommended rewording of the recreational marijuana articles to clarify the intent of the articles. The Board made a wording change to the proposed broadband article that would require any funding to be approved at a regular (yearly) Town Meeting. The Board approved the warrant. It will be posted June 1st. The Board is anticipating that there may be considerable discussion on some of these issues. Rich Donaldson volunteered to come to the meeting early and help setup tables if any committees, boards and/or organizations wanted to have volunteer tables in the hall before the Town Meeting.

* Recycling: The Town received a proposed contract from Lincoln County Recycling for 2019-2010. The cost reflects what was included in the Town budget. Lincoln County Recycling also noted that if two more types of recyclables become unwanted, they will have to re-negotiate the contract. The Board approved and signed the contract.

* Broadband: Three Bridged Islands Broadband Initiative (3BIB) submitted an information package to support their proposed warrant article. They also established a public information meeting June 5th at 7 pm in the school gymnasium. Rich Donaldson suggested that it might be useful to meet with Selectboards from Arrowsic and Southport to discuss the project. To date all coordination has been via the task force.

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 <<http://www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php>>

The most interesting items were:

* Maine DOT sent a 2018 Inspection Report for Williams Road Bridge. They summarized it is fair condition.

OLD BUSINESS:

- * Midcoast Economic Development District (MCEDD): The Board approved Rich Donaldson as a member of the MCEDD Board of Directors. Rich noted that they meet 4 times per year.

NEW BUSINESS:

- * The Board approved GWL's request to use the First Church for the annual fair.
- * Northeast Inspection Services submitted an inspection report on Richard's Library and Old Stone Schoolhouse. Jonathan DeWick Engineering Services submitted an inspection report on the Town Wharf. The inspections show structures to be sound but recommended a number of small fixes/enhancements. TOPMB will determine what actions are needed.

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, June 11, 7 pm at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF MAY 14, 2019

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.

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

THE MEETING: There were 4 members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of April 30, 2019 were approved. They are posted on the Town website.

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

* Broadband: David Tudor came to the meeting in support of a proposed warrant article which will authorize the Board to enter into an "Inter-local Agreement" with Arrowsic and Southport. This agreement is a first step toward establishing a legal entity that can ultimately construct and run a new broadband system for the three islands. It will also enable the Three Bridged Islands Initiative to apply for State and Federal grant funding. Dave indicated that this agreement poses no liability to the community. Rich Donaldson said the broadband plan potentially poses a \$1.35M liability to the Town and asked if/when we would have an "out". Dave said the potential liability depends on the "take rate" (percentage of households that sign up for the service) and the 3BI team projects that 50-60% would result in no Town liability. Rich moved to incorporate the proposed article "as is" in the warrant. Dolores Pinette was "not comfortable" with it. Geoff Birdsall asked to hold off so he could think about it but near the end of the meeting he voted to support the article.

* EWaste Recycling: It was noted that China is no longer accepting most American electronics waste for recycling and, therefore, the company handling local EWaste has closed. The State provided a list of four "approved consolidators" in Massachusetts and New Hampshire but only two of them will accept from small communities. The Town will have to negotiate a new contract with one of the consolidators and it is assumed there will be a cost increase.

* Bingo Registration: John McIlvain attended the meeting to support the Georgetown Island Education Foundation's request for registration for the 2019 season. The Board granted approval for 2019 and follow.

* Municipal Budget: The Board reviewed a couple of last minute changes to the proposed 2019-20 budget. They added funds to cover expected increases to EWaste recycling and the primary election next spring. The proposed budget was discussed in detail at the hearing the next day (5/15).

* Adult Use (recreational) Marijuana: The Board re-reviewed language for five proposed articles to be included on the Town Meeting Warrant. The intent of these articles is to identify whether the Town wants to develop an Ordinance and, if so, which of the four functions should be included. Mary also identified some additional reference information which may help clarify the issues discussed at the Ordinance hearing 5/8.

* Town Meeting Warrant: The Board reviewed the proposed warrant for the Town Meeting. Except for Broadband (above), Adoption of the updated Comprehensive Plan and Marijuana (above), most articles are consistent from those of previous years. It was noted that, as currently written, the School Budget articles are "open ended", allowing for either decreases or increases from the floor. The Board agreed to have the Warrant reviewed by Counsel before it is posted in advance of the Town Meeting.

* MCEDD: Midcoast Economic Development District would like Georgetown to appoint a member to their Board of Directors. Rich Donaldson expressed interest and asked when the next MCEDD Board meeting will be held.

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
<<http://www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php>>

The most interesting items were:

* The Town received copies of training certificates from (new) Animal Control Officer (ACO) Matt Norris.

* The Sagadahoc County Sheriff's April incident report had 7 incidents; the lowest monthly total in memory.

* Chris Baribeau provided a summary of his weekly Principals Reports that covered from the beginning of the school year.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

Date & Time

Event

Place

Comment

Tuesday Jun 11, 12 noon – 8 pm

Elections

School

Please note that start time has changed from 8 am to 12 noon

Saturday, June 15, 9 am

Town Meeting

School

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, May 28 at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF APRIL 30, 2019

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.

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

THE MEETING: There were five members of the FAC and five members of the Comprehensive Plan Committee present plus one member of the public. This was a special meeting setup to address a number of specific actions (see below).

The minutes of the meetings of April 9, 2019 and April 23, 2019 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.

* Harbor Master: Woody Hanstein attended to discuss his interest in the Harbor Master position which will become vacant at the Town Meeting. Hanstein indicated that he has read and understands the job description and has spent considerable time discussing the position with George Dufour (current harbor master). Rich Donaldson asked a couple of questions. He believes that we need a hard copy or on-line map showing the location of all moorings in the town. Mr. Hanstein indicated that he understands the need and can develop the map over time. Rich also asked if he had read the TOPMB ordinance and is prepared to enforce the regulations at the Town Wharf. Mr. Hanstein is prepared to do so with support from the Selectboard and the TOPMB. The Board approved him taking over Harbor Master responsibilities as of the Town Meeting.

* Definition of Resident: Mary McDonald advised that the simplified definition discussed at previous meetings doesn't work for all ordinances, especially for the Shellfish Conservation Ordinance. She recommended the Board modify the Shellfish Conservation Ordinance and leave all others alone. Rich Donaldson said he hopes the change will generate more revenue from recreational licenses and enable both full time and seasonal residents to dig. Geoff Birdsall said the proposed definition should be reviewed by Counsel. This change will be addressed at the Ordinance Hearing on May 8th.

* Recreational Marijuana: The Board discussed whether to put forward a draft ordinance or to propose a series of warrant articles that will enable the town to determine how to proceed. The first article will be to address whether residents want to proceed with an ordinance permitting recreational marijuana. If not, that is the end of the issue. If the town votes yes, then there are four articles which will determine which of the four functions, cultivation, manufacturing, testing and/or retail should be allowed in Georgetown. The Board agreed to go forward with the latter approach. This issue will be addressed at the Ordinance Hearing on May 8th.

* Proposed Budget for 2019-20: The FAC came to the meeting to present the proposed 2019-20 budget to the Selectboard. Bob Trabona led the discussion pointing out and explaining significant increases and/or decreases. Overall the proposed budget has an increase of 3.7% from current year. The amount raised by the Town would increase 4.0% changing the MIL rate from 7.7 to 7.805. As always there were a number of questions and discussions of individual budget items. These included a number of school decreases/increases explained by Kelly James; office salaries for the GVFD/Town administrative support recently hired and the Clerk, Tax Collector and Assistant to the Selectmen; Code Enforcement Officer and building permit fees; solid

waste; and road reserve fund. The Board directed a few, relatively minor changes and then approved the proposed budget move forward. It will be discussed in the same level of detail at the School Budget Hearing on May 14th and the Town Municipal Budget Hearing on May 15th.

* Comprehensive Plan: John McIlvain started to review recent changes that have resulted from public input and comments from the Board. Jason Lang described the change to add a “Site Review” process for large business building permit approval. Geoff Birdsall said he thought we were there to discuss how the Comprehensive Plan would be presented at the Hearing and Town Meeting. John indicated that the Board needs to approve the Plan moving forward. The Board approved moving to the Ordinance/Comprehensive Plan Hearing on May 8th and the Town Meeting June 15th. Bob Trabona will post the final version on the Town website.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF APRIL 23, 2019

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.

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

THE MEETING: Geoff Birdsall was out of town. There were 2 members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of April 9, 2019 could not be approved. Dolores Pinette was absent on the 9 th and Geoff Birdsall was not available to vote. Review/approval will be addressed at a future meeting.

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

* Public Comment: Bob Trabona mentioned two bills being considered by the State legislature that potentially impact Georgetown. The first would place a \$3.00 surcharge on building permits. The second would have the Maine Building Code apply to smaller communities than it currently does. This could invoke a considerable increase in CEO workload and cost to the Town. Both proposed bills are at the public hearing stage.

* Electronic Waste Collection: Bath Rotary notified the Town that they are hosting a free electronic waste collection event on Saturday, May 11th, 8:00 am – 12:00 noon, at Morse High School.

* Marijuana Ordinance: This was a follow-up to discussion at the last two Board meetings. Mary McDonald brought a draft ordinance modeled on the one approved by Etna. She noted that if we take the ordinance to the Town Meeting, the only options are to approve or disapprove it. She said it might be better to have 4 articles on the warrant, one for each of the four functions (cultivating, manufacturing, storing and testing) permitted by the State statute, and let residents decide what Georgetown should authorize. Because Geoff Birdsall was absent, this issue was tabled to the special meeting scheduled for April 30th.

* Proposed Ordinance Changes: The following ordinances have proposed changes to be addressed at the Ordinance Hearing on May 8th.

- Cemetery
- Shellfish Conservation
- Solid Waste (resident definition)
- Waterways (resident definition)
- Wireless Communications Facilities
- (new) Marijuana Licensing

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 <<http://www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php>>

OLD BUSINESS:

- * Need volunteers: Many volunteer openings remain on Boards and Committees.
- * Office Reconfiguration: Mary found an old paper scale model of the office area. There was a very brief discussion of the arrangement and potential floor covering (tile vs carpet). No action was taken at this time.

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, April 30th at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF APRIL 9, 2019

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

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

THE MEETING: Dolores Pinette was not in attendance. There were 2 members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of March 26, 2019 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 Board conducted public hearings and approved liquor licenses for Anchor Bar and Grill and Robinhood Ventures (Meeting House).

* Adult Use Marijuana: This was a follow-up to the brief discussion at the last Selectboard meeting. Maine LD1719 establishes the basic law for cultivating, manufacturing, storing and testing of recreational marijuana. In order to allow any/all of the four functions, a town must generate and approve an ordinance. Rich Donaldson did considerable research and came to the meeting with sample ordinances from Etna and Sangerville, towns similar in size and makeup to Georgetown. After a short discussion of the issues, the Board agreed to draft an ordinance for consideration at the May Ordinance Hearing and June Town Meeting.

* Facebook Page for Georgetown: This issue was tabled at the previous meeting. Mary McDonald and Amanda Campbell recommended that the Selectboard authorize them to setup and maintain a Facebook page, noting that many nearby towns have done so. Geoff Birdsall said he is not a fan of Facebook. Rich Donaldson is highly supportive and Dolores Pinette had expressed support at the previous meeting. There was a brief discussion of the cost/time necessary to setup and maintain a page. There was no formal vote/approval but the Board is supportive.

* Comprehensive Plan: The final draft version of the proposed Comprehensive Plan was forwarded to the Board by John McIlvain. He came to the meeting to explain the format/content of the plan and some of the most recent changes made based on feedback from the community and some boards/committees. A selectboard meeting is scheduled for April 30th for the Comprehensive Plan Committee to get feedback and approval from the Selectboard before it goes to the May Hearing for final review/feedback and June Town Meeting for approval. The draft Plan is posted on the Town website.

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 <<http://www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php>>

The most interesting items were:

* There will be a Midcoast Solar Energy Forum in Waldoboro April 16th. This notice was forwarded to the Conservation Commission.

* The Town received an \$825 request from the Bath Area Seniors Activity Center. It was forwarded to the FAC.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Definition of Resident in Ordinances: The issue has been discussed with applicable committees. The Board agreed to change all to the definition “year-round or seasonal property owner in Georgetown.” The changes will be addressed at the Ordinance Hearing and then voted on at the Town meeting in June.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Office Update and Reconfiguration: This was a follow-up to the brief discussion at the last meeting. Mary has obtained cost estimates for replacing the carpet in the Town Office (\$6,800) and adjacent entry/waiting area (\$4,400). She noted that the existing carpet has been in-place since the Town Office was opened 30+ years ago. Geoff asked if there is anyone in Georgetown who might volunteer to help re-layout the office based on normal activities. I believe there was general agreement that the proposed budget include at least replacement of part of the carpet this year. Reconfiguration remains an open issue/discussion.

* Shellfish Conservation Committee: The Board approved and signed a contract for \$4,400 (part of \$13,500 grant) to purchase quahog seedlings.

* Town Copier: Mary brought forward estimated lease costs for a new, color laser printer to replace the current one which continues to have maintenance issues. The recommended copier is \$155/month plus a maintenance fee of \$35/month.

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, April 23 rd at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF MARCH 26, 2019

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

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THE MEETING: There were 2 members of the public present. Geoff Birdsall was absent and the meeting was very short.

The minutes of the meeting of March 12, 2019 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.

* Mary McDonald noted that there were big turnouts for the recent Comprehensive Plan Public (feedback) Meeting and the Browntail Moth presentation.

* Definition of "Resident" in Town ordinances: This was a brief follow-up to discussion at the last meeting. Notes have been sent to the Harbor Committee and Solid Waste Committee for their input on the definition. Amanda Campbell has talked with the Shellfish Conservation Committee. Dolores Pinette advised she would like to change it back to enable more licenses for seasonal residents. The issue was tabled until the next meeting so that Geoff Birdsall can participate in the decision.

* Facebook: Amanda and Mary requested permission to setup a Town Facebook page. Amanda and Tyler would have responsibility to maintain the page. The issue was tabled until the next meeting.

* Marijuana Ordinance: The State requires towns to have an ordinance in order to permit growing, processing, and/or selling recreational marijuana. MMA has provided sample language which is being used by other towns (e.g. Brunswick). Any new ordinance must be voted on by the Town residents. It will be difficult to have a draft in time for this June's Town Meeting. The issue was tabled until the next meeting.

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
<<http://www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php>>

The most interesting items were:

* Maine DACE (Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry) notified the Town the schedule for Recreational Trails Grant Workshops. It may be of interest to the Conservation Committee.

* MMA notified the Town Office to be careful about sharing the budget numbers recently released on-line by the State. They are subject to change.

* Maine Community Foundation provided notification that the Shellfish Conservation Committee was approved for a \$13,500 grant to diversify local resources – seed cohogs.

* The Town received a \$7,500 request from the Georgetown Community Center. It was forwarded to the FAC for inclusion in the upcoming 19-20 budget.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Michael Vaillancourt resigned from the Harbor Committee. FAC, Planning Board, Board of Appeals, and Harbor Committee all need new members. If you have interest in volunteering please talk to Mary McDonald.

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, April 9 at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF MARCH 12, 2019

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 <<http://www.singingbridge.net>> .

THE MEETING: There were 2 members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of February 26, 2019 were approved. They are posted on the Town website.

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

- * Public Hearing: The Board approved the liquor license for D&E Ventures (Gray Havens Inn).
- * Adult Use Marijuana Survey: The Board completed the MMA survey during the meeting. The intent of the survey is to assess town's readiness for implementation of non-medical Marijuana. Georgetown is not prepared. It appears we will ultimately need a new ordinance or an appropriate article on a Town Meeting warrant.
- * Comprehensive Plan Feedback: John McIlvain came to the meeting to get feedback from the Selectboard on the draft Comprehensive Plan. He had provided a draft of the Goals & Action Items section and noted that it and the Inventory section were posted on the Town website. John had also sent letters to boards and committees that had been identified with responsibility for any action items. So far he has received feedback from the Conservation Commission, the School Committee and the Solid Waste committee. He noted that Future Land Use will be reviewed at the March 18th meeting and then provided to the Board. He also noted that the Comp Plan Committee included a lot of actions that will need to be prioritized and some may end up delayed or not implemented. And there are fiscal considerations. Ultimate authority for implementation is the SelectBoard. There was short discussion of a few specific issues. The biggest concerns appear (to me) to be the potential cost of some proposed actions and lack of support from some people in the community.

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 <<http://www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php>>

The most interesting items were:

- * Maine DMR provided an update on annual water quality data review for Kennebec and Sheepscot Rivers. The report is posted at the Town Office.
- * Sagadahoc County Commissioners agenda for 3/12 included an overview of the proposed County budget.
- * Jim Peavey sent a note advising that KELT was awarded a grant from Maine Community Foundation for accessibility improvements to the Schoener Trail Project.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Definition of "Resident" in Town Ordinances: This was a follow-on to the discussion at a previous meeting. Amanda Campbell had provided a summary of the differing definitions in various ordinances. While the Board agrees that the goal is to have consistency across all ordinances, some ordinance specific criteria appear necessary. After a short discussion the Board deferred this item to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Public Hearings: The Planning Board has scheduled two public hearings. The Bolster Subdivision is March 20 at 6 pm. The Cell Tower is March 25 at 7 pm.

* Postal Service: There has been an uproar around Town in reaction to a letter from the local Postmaster regarding returning mail addressed to a physical home address when the residents have a PO Box.

* Credit and Debit Cards: The Board gave permission for the Town Clerk to investigate accepting debit and/or credit cards for Town resident transactions. The Clerk will talk with a couple of banks and discuss results at a future meeting.

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, March 26, at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2019

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 <<http://www.singingbridge.net>> .

THE MEETING: There were 2 members of the public present.

The minutes of the meetings of January 22/February 5 (combined) and February 8, 2019 were approved. They are posted on the Town website.

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

- * Public Comment - Roads: Bob Trabona asked if ME DOT has any plans for repairing the large frost heave and ice spread across Rt 127. Road Commissioner Charlie Collins has discussed it with the DOT; however, there is an issue with the adjacent property owner.
- * Assessing Issues: Bill Van Tuinen, assessor, provided comments/recommendations on a number of open issues. One of the issues was clarification of the basis for assessment of a property with tree growth. Van Tuinen drafted a letter of explanation which will be forwarded to the land owner. Two abatement requests were denied after the board reviewed nearby and similar Lots in the area. The Board agreed to reduce the assessment on a small common land lot in Indian Point.
- * Town Election: Nomination papers will be available at the Town Office on Monday, March 4. Anyone interested in running for office should see Amanda Campbell.
- * Harbor Master: Woody Hanstein has expressed an interest in becoming Georgetown Harbor Master. The Board agreed to invite him to a meeting to discuss the position.
- * Budget Letter to Boards/Committees: The Board reviewed and approved a draft letter to the FAC laying out guidance, process and schedule for reviewing proposed budgets for each of the Boards/Committees. The FAC will present the draft budget to the Board April 30th.
- * Emergency Management Plan Updates: The Board reviewed and approved the draft updates to the Emergency Management Plan. Changes were administrative in nature and minor.
- * Definition of "Resident": Amanda Campbell provided the Board with a summary of definitions for "resident" in Town ordinances, many of which are different. The issue came up as a result of Amanda's issuing clam digging licenses last season. Discussion seemed to agree consistency is desirable; however, there are some ordinance-specific criteria that apply. There was no closure to the issue.
- * Animal Control Officer (ACO): The Board signed off on paperwork appointing Matt Norris as ACO.
- * Senator Susan Collins Staff: Kate, from Senator Susan Collins office, will be in at the Town Office Conference Room at 10:30 – noon on Thursday, March 14th. This is a public meeting open to anyone interested in discussing issues of interest to Senator Collins.
- * Draft Update to Comprehensive Plan: The Inventory section of the draft 2019 Comprehensive Plan has been posted on the Town website.

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
<<http://www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php>>

The most interesting items were:

- * FEMA sent a letter advising of a revision for the Flood Insurance Rate Maps which was forwarded to the Planning Board.
- * State Representative Allison Hepler sent a letter providing information learned from meetings (in Augusta), following up on discussions she had with the Board at a previous meeting.
- * ME DMR advised of 2 approved Limited-Purpose Aquaculture licenses for Robinhood Cove.
- * Patten Free Library provided copies of their 2017-18 Annual Report and their Monthly Report for January 2019.

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

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 22, 2019

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

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The minutes of the meeting of January 8, 2019 were approved. They will be posted on the Town website.

THE MEETING: Dolores Pinette was absent. Neither Mary McDonald nor Amanda Campbell was present. There were 2 members of the public present. Because so few were in attendance, the meeting was very short.

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

- * New Position: The Board was scheduled to meet with Tyler Washburn to discuss the Fire Department Treasurer/Town Office position. This discussion was tabled because Dolores Pinette was absent.
- * ME Department of Marine Resources (DMR) advised the Town that the license for Georgetown Aquaculture LLC was signed and issued.
- * Animal Control Officer (ACO): Pam Hire of Sagadahoc County Administration responded to an inquiry about the potential "regionalization of ACO services". She has forwarded the Georgetown inquiry and advised other Towns that we are looking for an ACO or some sort of shared services.
- * Maine Spirit of America Foundation: The Board has not yet identified any recommendations for this year's award. If anyone has a suggestion, please contact Board members and/or Mary. The nomination is due by the end of February.
- * Harbor Master: The Board is looking for a Harbor Master to replace George Dufour when he retires. Training takes place in March. If we cannot identify a local resident, the Town may have to advertise for one.
- * Budget Discussion: The Board had planned to start discussions about the 2019/20 budget; however, it was tabled due to Dolores and Mary being absent. Attendees had a very short, informal discussion about expectations that it will increase this year and future years.

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

Note: I will be out of town that week so I will not be distributing notes from the 2/12 meeting.

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REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2019

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

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THE MEETING: There were 4 members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of December 11, 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.

* Assessing Items: There are a couple of abatement requests in review with Town Assessor Bill Van Tuinen. The Board sent Mr. Van Tuinen a request for penalty amount for residents who are withdrawing from Open Space.

* Harbor Master Training: Maine Harbor Masters Association notified the Town about registration for 3 days of training (offered once per year) in March. But the Board has not yet identified a Harbor Master to replace George Dufour in his temporary role. This adds a sense of urgency to finding someone interested in the role.

* Grant Application: Chad Campbell came to the meeting soliciting the Board's support for a grant that the Shellfish Conservation Committee is submitting. If/when awarded for up to \$20,000, the grant would fund purchase of Quahogs to be seeded throughout Georgetown's flats. The Committee would then monitor growth to determine if and where Quahogs could be grown and harvested. All Town flats would be on a conservation hold during the monitoring phase. After a short discussion the Board agreed to support the application and signed a draft letter of support which Chad brought with him.

* Comprehensive Plan: John McIlvain came to the meeting to provide a status report on the Comprehensive Plan Update effort.

* The Committee's intent is to hold an open public meeting in March to present a summary of the draft plan and obtain feedback from the community. The plan is to make the draft available to residents a week in advance so they can provide suggestions/comments at the meeting. Any necessary corrections or updates would then be incorporated before the draft comes to the SelectBoard for approval.

* The Comprehensive Plan has two elements: an Inventory which details the current status and a Plan which identifies issues, goals and proposed action items for each of the Topic Areas. John indicated that the Inventory is almost complete and has been reviewed/approved by the Committee. The Inventory includes a number of appendices. The Committee is currently working through each of the Topic Areas at the bi-weekly Monday meetings. All meetings are open to the public and, in fact, numerous people have attended and participated in Topics of interest. Town committee members have also attended and participated.

* John brought and handed out a draft one page sheet which identifies and describes what the Committee believes are major risks facing Georgetown's future. He then briefly walked through each of these risks. Risks include the following.

- * Overdevelopment, particularly broad concern of Commercial developers with deep pockets.
- * Decline in the number of “young” people and families and the resulting impacts on the school, the fire department, and seasonal businesses.
- * Aging Population issues – recognizing that more than one third of current Georgetown residents are 65 and older.
- * Marine Resources including declining fish/shellfish populations, need for diversification, increasing water temperature and acidity, and rising sea level impacts on marshes and flats.
- * Sea level rise, increasingly severe storms and climate change. What can the Town do to mitigate these impacts.
- * Fiscal pressures on the Town’s finances. How do we keep the MIL rate low (compared to nearby communities)?

* Dolores Pinette asked if the Age Friendly subcommittee is still part of the Comprehensive Plan. She is concerned about moving recommendations ahead rather than identifying them in the plan, gaining Town approval and then implementing. Both Dolores and Geoff Birdsall express some concern that the Board had perhaps prematurely supported designation as an AARP Age Friendly Community.

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
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The most interesting items were:

- * Maine Spirit of America Foundation sent a notice asking for the Town’s recommendation by February 28th. This item will be addressed at the next couple of meetings. Anyone having a recommendation should talk to Mary.
- * Funding requests were received from Big Brothers Big Sisters (\$650), Midcoast Maine Community Action (\$525) and Sweetser (\$1,250). The requests will be forwarded to the FAC for inclusion in next year’s Town budget.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Personnel Issues: In response to ads placed in the Times Record, the Town received 2 applications for the Fire Department Treasurer and Town Office Administration position and 1 application for the Animal Control Officer position. At the end of the meeting the Board went into executive session to review/discuss these applications.

NEW BUSINESS:

- * Subdivision Issue: Bob Trabona, chairman of the Planning Board, sent a request to MMA concerning legalities related to a potential subdivision request. The Board thinks MMA’s response is too vague. Geoff Birdsall indicated he doesn’t think the Planning Board can issue a building permit until the deed issue is resolved. After a short discussion the Board decided to send the request to MMA and their answer to Town Counsel for guidance.
- * Grant Request for Schoener Property: Jim Peavey came to the meeting seeking Board support and/or input for a grant request co-sponsored by the Conservation Commission and Age Friendly Committee. If approved it would fund KELT (conservation managers) and the University of Maine (owners) to make some minor improvements to the trail so it would be more accessible to individuals with limited mobility. Jim described the proposed changes. Two issues came up during the discussion. Bob Trabona pointed out that the

proposed changes may require a State permit since increasing parking spaces changes “use” of the property. Chester Horne asked if the Town still has an easement on the property and, if so, would it limit the changes. Jim will follow up on the issues with KELT.

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, January 22 at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe