

## REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF JULY 14, 2020

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: There were 3 members of the public present. This meeting was held "in person" at the Georgetown Community Center observing social distancing requirements.

Note: This was Geoff Birdsall's last Selectboard meeting after many years of service to the Town. During Public Comment, Bill Plummer and Bob Trabona both thanked Geoff and Mary McDonald for their service. Geoff also thanked Mary, the other Board members, and all of the boards and committees that have supported the Selectboard and Town over the years.

The minutes of the meeting of June 23, 2020 were approved. They will be posted on the Town website.

MOST IMPORTANT/INTERESTING ITEMS: The focus for this meeting was preparations for the upcoming Town Meeting and hearings that lead up to it. In my judgment, the following items were the most important things covered during the meeting.

\* Town Meeting: The Board agreed to hold the Town Meeting Saturday, August 22nd. The plan is to use an "in person" format with Social Distancing and Masks required. It is anticipated that 100-150 residents will attend and there was a substantial discussion about how to meet the 50 persons/meeting limit. The Board agreed to research availability of large tents and audio systems that can be interconnected. It appears the most likely approach is to use the School Gymnasium and have two very large tents located separately on the grass behind the school. The procedure for moderating the meeting and addressing comments and questions from the audience still must be addressed. The Town Meeting Warrant will be posted on the Town website and made available in hard copy prior to the meeting.

\* Hearings: The combined School and Municipal budget hearing is tentatively scheduled for July 22nd. The Ordinance Hearing is tentatively scheduled for August 4th. The dates for the Hearings may be delayed – watch for final notification from the Town Office. Both Hearings will be held on ZOOM which can handle up to 100 participants. The process will be similar to the recently successful "Candidates Night". The proposed budgets and ordinance changes will be posted on the Town website and made available in hard copy prior to the hearings.

\* Proposed 2020-2021 Budget: The Board discussed and resolved a couple of open issues from the previous meeting. The biggest issue is change in format and increased budget for GVFD. The Board approved the proposed budget. The proposed budget has an overall spending increase of approximately 6.5%.

\* Proposed Town Meeting Warrant: Each of the selectmen had already received and reviewed the draft Warrant. There was a short discussion of a couple of issues. The Board approved the Warrant and agreed to send it to Town Counsel for review.

### NEW BUSINESS:

\* Recycling Agreement: The Board approved signing the Lincoln County Recycling Services Agreement for 2020-2021. Price remains the same as last year.

\* Town Office Upgrade/Reconfiguration: Mary McDonald noted that the Town Office will be closed the week of July 27-31 while carpet, furniture and equipment are installed.

## REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF JUNE 23, 2020

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

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**THE MEETING:** The meeting was conducted on ZOOM. There were 4 members of the public present. It was a long (2 hr) meeting with much interesting discussion.

The minutes of the meeting of June 9, 2020 were approved. They will be posted on the Town website within the next few days.

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

\* **Todd's Landing:** During the initial Public Comment session, Bronwen Tudor announced that the TOPMB has negotiated a formal Purchase and Sales Agreement between the Town and Todd family to purchase the boat launch property for \$120,000. The Selectboard has approved the agreement subject to acceptance by the voters. Details of the sale and allocation of funds from current revenues will be incorporated into a Warrant Article to be discussed and voted on at the upcoming Town Meeting.

\* **Election:** Amanda Campbell provided an update on election issues. More than 200 residents have applied for absentee ballots. She will start sending them out to voters this week. She indicated that return by mail is the most secure way to submit the absentee ballots. She asked that anyone who cannot mail their ballot call the office to discuss an alternate approach. The Pole will be open July 14th at the School Gymnasium for anyone who wants to vote in-person. There will be Social Distancing rules in place. The State is providing PPE for people working the pole.

\* **Elected Officials:** During Public Comment Bob Trabona asked what happens with elected positions after July 1st when they officially expire. Amanda clarified that the current office holders will remain in their positions until replacements are elected (July 14) or appointed (if there is no elected candidate).

\* **Town Office Business:** Amanda also advised that the Town Office is open for in-person transactions but only by appointment. Call the Office to make an appointment.

\* **Town Meeting:** There was a lengthy discussion about the Town Meeting. It is anticipated that the group of 50 maximum will still be in place in August. Town Meetings normally have over 100 attendees so the meeting cannot be held in the school gymnasium as usual. It may be conducted outside or in multiple locations simultaneously. Ordinance and budget hearings are also an issue though they are normally less than 50 attendees. It may be feasible to conduct them by ZOOM or in person at the school gymnasium. A number of suggestions were discussed but no decisions were made.

\* **Warrant for Town Meeting:** The Warrant for the Town Meeting will be split into two sections; one for articles related to the election and a second for proposed ordinance changes and budgets. The Warrant which goes with the election was approved by the Board.

\* **Candidates Night:** Candidate Night has the same social distancing issues as the Town Meeting. One suggestion is to hold it outside behind the school on a Saturday afternoon, with rain date the next Saturday. Another was to record it on YouTube and post it on the Town website. No decision was made.

Also it was noted that there is still no candidate interested in the Treasurer position. Bronwen Tudor suggested that a job description be distributed to see if that elicits interest in the position.

\* **2020-2021 Budget (proposed):** The Board reviewed the entire Municipal Budget focusing on a few specific areas/issues including the following. Town Office salaries will be effected by personnel changes and training from the election results. Mary McDonald advised that we may need a larger pre-tax loan because of a change in billing procedure by the school. Training for the Animal Control Officer (ACO) will be increased.

There is a need for an assistant Code Enforcement Officer (CEO). The Fire Department (GVFD) was discussed at length at the last Board meeting. Mary will meet with them to clarify a couple of issues which are still open. Amanda Campbell brought up the issue of Town contribution to employee health insurance. The proposed budget can be finalized and approved once these issues are resolved.

\* Broadband: At a previous meeting, Rich Donaldson asked the 3BI Committee to provide a formal response to a number of questions. Dave Tudor has been working on them and will bring the responses to a future Selectboard meeting.

\* Proposed Ordinance Changes: Comments from Town Counsel have been received for all proposed ordinance changes. Comments have not yet been received on the proposed Cannabis ordinance. The Planning Board does not agree with some of the Counsel's proposed language. The Planning Board will review at their next meeting and bring their comments to the next Selectboard meeting.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

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

The most interesting items were:

\* The Georgetown Working League announced that the Tricentennial Committee Scholarship was awarded to Dory Kulis

\* Chris Baribeau forwarded his last GCS Principal's Report dated June 15th. Nina Willett officially takes over as Principal on July 1st.

## REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF JUNE 9, 2020

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

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**THE MEETING:** The meeting was conducted on ZOOM. According to the participant list, there were 15 attendees. I had trouble logging into the meeting and missed the first 5-6 minutes.

The minutes of the meeting of May 26 and June 1, 2020 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.

- \* **Election:** Amanda Campbell provided an overview of planning for the upcoming election. The State is going to provide much of the PPE for election support personnel. The State provided guidance on using a drop box for absentee ballots. They can also be submitted by mail. Amanda indicated that more than 150 residents have applied for absentee ballots. She will start sending them out soon. Again she asked that residents not submit more than a single request. If you are unsure about status of your request call the Office. It was noted that the Town Meeting warrant articles that apply to the election must be posted by July 1st.
- \* **Write In Candidates:** During the public comment session I advised that it is my intent to distribute a list of people interested in being considered as write in candidates for various Town offices through SingingBridge; separate from these notes. I also confirmed that the Board did not plan to have a "Candidate's Night" because of COVID-19 restrictions.
- \* **Town Meeting:** Board members have not yet proposed a date or format for the upcoming Town Meeting or the public hearings that normally precede it. They feel it is important to have it as an in-person meeting so that issues can be discussed on the floor but the current 50 person group and social distancing restrictions makes it difficult. This issue remains open.
- \* **Town Budget for 2020/2021:** The proposed budget was provided to Board members at the May 26th Selectboard Meeting. Instead of reviewing it now, the Board scheduled a workshop to review the proposed budget to be held Tuesday, June 16th, at 4:00 pm.
- \* **Laura Richards Library Opening:** Karen MacGillvary came to the meeting to review the detailed plan for opening the library. The plan includes: outside pickup and/or return – no customers inside the building; masks required for service; and a 72 hour hold (quarantine) on returned books.
- \* **Sign at Robinhood Road:** Mary McDonald asked if the sign at 127 and Robinhood Road should be changed to reflect the Governor's recent change to allow out of state visitors to have proof of a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours of arrival in lieu of the 14 day quarantine. Rich Donaldson pointed out that this is the best place to notify seasonal residents and visitors. The testing approach can be added but the quarantine approach is still valid and should remain in place.
- \* **In-Person Business at Town Office:** Amanda Campbell provided an overview of the proposed approach to provide in-person service, by appointment only. The appointment schedule will be available starting next week. They will setup a table in the lobby and will have screens between customers and staff. Customers must wear a face mask to enter the lobby area.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

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

The most interesting items were:

- \* Dr. Laser advised that Nina Willett has been selected and hired as the new principal for Georgetown Central School. She starts July 1st.
- \* Dr. Laser also advised that the State has provided guidance on how school departments can pass their proposed budgets by referendum (rather than by Town Meeting). Both Geoff Birdsall and Rich Donaldson said it's very important to have open discussion on the floor at the Town Meeting.
- \* The school custodian advised that water in the building will be shut down for a couple of days to install the updated filtration system.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- \* **Building Permit Ordinance:** The Planning Board submitted a draft update to the Building Permit that changes/enhances rules for demolition (in addition to previously proposed changes). The State has provided forms that address lead and asbestos. Bob Trabona pointed out that complying with the requirements should be easy and putting the requirements directly into the ordinance makes the requirements clear to building permit applicants.

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, June 23 on ZOOM. If you are interested in attending, you can obtain the ZOOM ID from the Town Clerk at [grgtwnclerk@yahoo.com](mailto:grgtwnclerk@yahoo.com).

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe

## REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF MAY 26, 2020

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: This meeting was conducted on Zoom. There were 3 members of the public present.

The minutes of the meetings of May 12, 15 and 19, 2020 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.

- \* Public Hearing: The Board approved Class I, II, III, IV license for Anchor Bar & Grill.
- \* Election: Amanda Campbell gave an update to the status of preparations for the election coming up July 14th.
  - \* In order for residents to vote in-person, the GCS gym will be laid out different from the past. She envisions a number of separate tables, with screening around them, being distributed around the room. A single entry line, with markings for social distance separation, will control the number of people within the gym.
  - \* Amanda noted that both the State and Town are encouraging residents to vote by absentee ballot. Residents can request an absentee ballot from the following website:  
<https://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>  
She also pointed out that residents should choose "all other voters" in the middle of the web page. Once you submit the request on-line your ballot will be delivered to you mid-June. Please do NOT submit a second request. If you are concerned about the ballot status, call Amanda in the Town Office.
- \* Vehicle Registrations: Amanda Campbell noted that boat re-registrations can now be done online at <http://www.maine.gov/ifw>. New registrations of any kind still must be done through the Town Office. People should call for clarification or information.
- \* 2020-21 Budget and Town Meeting: Mary McDonald distributed a copy of the latest draft Town Budget to each of the Board members. She indicated that this version is complete and ready for Board review. Rich Donaldson recommended that the Board hold a workshop (date TBD) to review the proposed budget. Geoff Birdsall suggested they can split the Town Meeting Warrant into two parts. Those articles related to the election can be done soon after the election. Those articles related to ordinances and budget can be delayed until August, giving more time to conduct the normal ordinance, school budget and town budget hearings. It is not clear how the hearings and Town Meeting can be conducted within social distancing limits and/or using Zoom. That issue will be discussed again at future meetings. Hearings and the Town Meeting are not yet scheduled.
- \* Broadband: Carlos Barrionuevo provided the Board with a draft warrant article for the Town Meeting. He noted that the Town cannot approve award of a grant until it is actually offered. He said it is intended the proposed article will spur discussion at the Town Meeting. Rich Donaldson indicated that he is looking for clarifications and answers to the issues raised at previous meetings before considering the article.
- \* Emergency Operations Plan: Mary McDonald had provided the Board with annual updates which are very minor. She will talk to Jerry Gamach to correct a couple of minor administrative details.
- \* Robinhood Free Meeting House: Carlos Barrionuevo explained plans for the 2020 Outdoor Concert Series planned for this summer. The plan will meet all social distancing and group restrictions in the Governor's re-opening plan. He wanted the Board to be aware and he wanted to make sure they have no objection to holding the concerts.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

The only correspondence was the Forest News, Spring 2020 newsletter. It will be posted at the Town Office.

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, June 9 th. The meeting will be held on Zoom. Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe

## REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF TUESDAY MAY 12, 2020

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

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THE MEETING: The meeting was conducted on ZOOM. There were a few members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of April 28, 2020 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.

\* On Premise License: The Board conducted a hearing and approved the Qualified Caterer license for Robinhood Ventures LTD.

\* Letter to Out of State Residents: Amanda Campbell drafted a letter to residents that summarizes lockdown requirements applicable to Maine and the Town. It was noted that some out of state residents/visitors have ignored lockdown requirements. There really is no enforcement at this time. The primary purpose of the letter is to advise out of state residents/visitors about current requirements in order to help protect Georgetown from becoming a COVIG19 hot spot. The Board concurred with finalizing and sending the letter.

\* Solid Waste Recycling Event: The recycling event last Thursday at the Transfer Station went well. Approximately 175 residents participated. The Solid Waste Committee is putting together a plan to expand the recycling scope. The plan will be reviewed and approved by the Board before implementation. Two items came up. After a brief discussion it was agreed that anyone coming to the event without a facemask would not be admitted. It was noted that some vehicles did not have Transfer Station stickers and should be denied access. However it was also noted that getting the stickers is complicated by the Town Office being closed.

\* Fire Department Auxiliary Plant Sale: The Board turned down a request from the Auxiliary to conduct the annual Plant Sale. It was proposed they could setup outside the station and maintain social distancing requirements. It was noted that all Town committees have been notified to cancel normal summer events. Geoff Birdsall expressed concern about the risk of out of state residents/visitors not following quarantine and social distancing requirements. Rich Donaldson recommended that we put our heads together and figure out how to distribute the plants, especially vegetables.

\* Town Office Election: Amanda Campbell gave a brief overview of discussions she's had with State officials. She noted that the only officially identified candidates are Selectboard candidates Bronwen Tudor and Bill Plummer. At this point all other office elections will be done by Write-In voting. The Town cannot endorse candidates. She suggested that people with interest in the offices should identify themselves. The following offices will be elected by Write-In:

- \* Town Clerk
- \* Tax Collector
- \* Treasurer
- \* Cemetery District Trustee
- \* School Committee
- \* Town Owned Property Management Board (TOPMB)

\* Proposed Town Budget: Mary McDonald said that the draft budget given to Board members at the previous meeting remains in-process. She expects to have all inputs by the end of May. There was no discussion of the schedule or process for conducting budget and ordinance hearings in support of the Town Meeting or how the meetings will be conducted (in person or via Zoom).

\* GVFD Proposed Budget: Jane Clukey and Justin LoDolce came to the meeting to discuss the Fire Department's proposed budget. A copy was given to each Board member but not available to members of the public. The budget format and content was apparently changed significantly. Jane walked through it in detail with Justin providing clarification of intent several times. The format reflects a change in funding philosophy. Justin said that all essential services and operational costs should be paid through Town taxes while capital expenses can be covered by donations. He gave a brief synopsis of grants the department has applied for. He also identified and explained the rationale for several items including future upgrade of the Five Islands fire station and engine. I expect that the GVFD budget will be a lively topic at the Town Budget Hearing and/or Town Meeting.

\* Town Office Reconfiguration: The Board approved a request to use \$19,000 of existing repair/maintenance reserve funds to start reconfiguration of the Town Office.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

Mary reported on correspondence received. It was a short list with nothing of real consequence. 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) <<http://www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php>>



## REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF APRIL 28, 2020

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

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**THE MEETING:** The meeting was held on ZOOM. I did not get an accurate count of members of the public but there were about 10; considerably more than normally attend regular Selectboard meetings. The minutes of the meeting of April 14th, 2020 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.

\* **Town Meeting and Budget/Ordinance Hearing Schedule:** The format and schedule, for School Budget, Municipal Budget, and Ordinance Hearings, remain unresolved at this time because of the Governor's rescheduling of the Maine Primary (to July 14th) and coronavirus restrictions on meetings with more than 10 people. There was a brief discussion of whether it is feasible to conduct the meetings on ZOOM. Mary brought up the incomplete status of the draft budget which she is consolidating. Board members received a copy of the current draft. Amanda addressed the actions she's taken to support the primary election. These issues will be discussed again at the next meeting.

\* **Summer Businesses:** This was a follow-up to discussions at the previous meeting. Does the Board want to provide any special guidance to small businesses (including rentals)? Mary pointed out that the Governor's 4 Phase Plan for re-opening Maine was issued 4/28. It includes extensive direction on re-opening businesses. Bob Trabona raised a question - should the Town send a letter to non-resident property owners advising them to review the Governor's plan before making arrangements for seasonal use and/or rental of their property?

\* **Transfer Station Recycling:** The Board approved a plan put forth by the Solid Waste Committee to conduct a special recycling event, for cardboard and (newspaper, and mixed) paper only, on Thursday, May 7th, 12 to 4 pm. A flyer for the event is attached to this email.

\* **Nominations for Office:** In response to a question from the public, Amanda advised that nomination papers have only been received from two people, Bill Plummer and Bronwen Tudor, both for Selectboard. All other offices will have to be "write in" candidates and their names cannot be endorsed by the Board or included on the ballot.

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

The most interesting items were:

\* A notice from Senator Susan Collins' office regarding Georgetown's application for the Broadband Re-Connect Program. She wishes us success.

\* A letter from Chris Baribeau, GCS principal, regarding the way school will be conducted for the remainder of this academic year. Last day of school will be June 5.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

\* **Malden Island:** Rich advised that Malden Island will not be open to the public this summer.

\* **Tax Exemption:** The Board approved a request from KELT for a tax exemption on two properties they recently purchased.

## REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF APRIL 14, 2020

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

THE MEETING: There were 3 members of the public present. The meeting was held on Zoom with all attendees participating from home. Unluckily, I missed the first 10-15 minutes of the meeting because my internet service wasn't working. I joined the meeting after discussion of previous meeting minutes and assessing items.

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

\* Snow Plow Contract for 2020-2023: Two separate bids were requested; one for the roads and one for Town administrative areas. Only one bid was received for the roads and it was accepted by the Board. Two bids were received for Town facilities and the Board approved the lower bid. Both awards were to Maine Moss.

\* Schedule for hearings, election and Town Meeting: There was a fairly lengthy and interesting discussion of the schedule leading to the Town Meeting and review/approval of next year's budget. In our normal process, ordinance changes and initial budgets are gathered in April, ordinance and budget hearings are held in mid-May, local elections are held early in June and the Town Meeting is held the Saturday after the local elections in June. The Town budget is approved at the Town meeting in time to support the next fiscal year starting July 1st. Given the current "stay at home order" and the rescheduling of state primary elections to July 14th it's not really feasible to follow our normal process/schedule. A number of specific issues were discussed as follows:

\* Is it really feasible to conduct the ordinance and school/municipal budget hearings by Zoom? There is concern that people will not participate as interactively as they normally do.

\* It was pointed out that the Town can operate past July 1st as long as funds from the current budget are available. There was general agreement on this issue.

\* Nobody has yet submitted paperwork for Town offices, probably because it's virtually impossible to get the necessary signatures. Is there an alternative. A suggestion was that candidates identify themselves as "write in".

\* It was noted that the Town can be somewhat flexible about finalizing and posting the Town Meeting warrant. It needs to be posted 7-10 days (minimum) before the meeting.

\* The Town is waiting for further information/guidance from MMA.

\* No decisions were made at this meeting. It will be discussed again at the next Selectboard meeting April 28th.

\* Seasonal Businesses: Another concern is seasonal business operations which might bring coronavirus into Georgetown. The Town cannot set special use/restrictions beyond those issued by the State. A number of specific topics/issues were discussed as follows:

\* It was noted that the Governor will issue direction on re-opening of seasonal businesses including hotels, rentals, AirBNB, restaurants, etc. New England governors are working on the policies. It was noted that we can "encourage" businesses not to open prematurely but that's the limit of Town authority.

\* Out of state residents and visitors are still required to self-quarantine for 14 days. This is not likely to change near term. It was noted that all covid19 reporting is handled through the state CDC, not local authorities. Mary McDonald will draft a letter for the Selectboard to distribute to small businesses, especially individual rentals. This draft will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

\* Meetings on Zoom: Geoff Birdsall suggested some guidelines for Town committees to conduct their meetings on Zoom. The committee chair should be responsible for conduct of the meeting, especially control of public participation. Meeting participation should be controlled by giving meeting ID and password only to known residents. Will Zoom meetings attract larger audiences than in-person meetings? Amanda Campbell commented about handling “digital/electronic” versions of documents for the committees. In the long run this may prove to be better than distributing drawings and “paper”.

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

The most interesting items were:

\* Notice from Bath Public Works that the HHHW (household hazardous waste) event which was scheduled for May has been postponed until next fall.

\* There will be a special school committee meeting (to be held on Zoom) on Thursday, April 16, at 1:00 pm. The agenda addresses a plan/schedule for the remainder of the school year. If you want to attend, you need to get the Zoom meeting ID by sending an email to [info@aos98schools.org](mailto:info@aos98schools.org) <<mailto:info@aos98schools.org>> .

#### OLD BUSINESS:

\* Rusty White requested permission to use the edge of Mountainside to access property on Ethel for timber harvesting. Geoff Birdsall clarified that all timber would be removed through their normal access in Beaver Valley. The request applies to access for the harvesting equipment itself.

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, 4/28 at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe

## Board of Selectmen Meeting of 3/24/2020

The Board of Selectmen held their regular meeting Tuesday evening. Because of the coronavirus restrictions, they limited on-site attendance and enabled remote access via ZOOM. I elected to stay home and participate using ZOOM. However, I was unable to hear much of the conversation during the meeting, either because it was too faint or because the signal was breaking up. It was a good attempt and will likely work fine once we get some of the bugs out.

The end result is that I don't have any "Notes from the Selectboard Meeting" this week. If you are interested in what was discussed, the Agenda for the meeting is posted on the Town website. If you're interested in official minutes, you'll have to wait until they are approved at the next Selectboard meeting (April 14) and then posted on the Town website. I plan to continue attending (in person and/or remotely) and sending out notes in the foreseeable future.

The Town Office is continuing to post important information about the Coronavirus emergency on both the Town website and Town Facebook page. Check out both at your convenience.

Keep yourself, your family and your neighbors safe.

Rick Cliffe

## REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF MARCH 10, 2020

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

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

The minutes of the meetings of January 18 and February 25, 2020 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.

\* Robinhood Road Culvert: Road Commissioner Charlie Collins came to the meeting to discuss repair/replacement of the existing culvert on Robinhood Road between the Meeting House and Little John Road. He anticipates the repair will cost approximately \$200,000 and it needs to be done within the next 2-3 years. He suggested that the Town could budget \$100,000/\$50,000/\$50,000 to the road repair reserve. The FAC and Board will consider the budget approach.

\* Roadside Pickup: The Solid Waste Committee is investigating the potential for curbside pickup. It was noted that it would be on Route 127 and Town Owned Roads (not private roads).

\* Broadband: The Board agreed to signoff on paperwork to support the 3BI group's grant application. The application must be sent to USDA by Monday, March 16th.

\* Town Roads: Town roads were posted March 3rd, to limit vehicles over 23,000 pounds. Scheduled un-posting is May 5th but Jon Collins advised that un-posting is dependent on road and weather conditions.

\* Proposed Ordinance Changes: The Board received three proposed ordinance changes. Draft copies have been forwarded for legal counsel review. Three additional ordinance changes are anticipated.

\* Bingo Fundraisers: The Board approved a GIEF request for approval to conduct Bingo Fundraisers from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2025.

\* Working League Fair: The Board approved a request from the Working League to use the first church for Fair activities.

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

The most interesting items were:

\* Note from State Representative Allison Hepler reiterating her support and seeking suggestions and/or concerns with the legislature.

\* Notice from the City of Bath announcing a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection event May 9th.

\* Request from SEARCH for \$400 donation. The request was forwarded to the FAC.

OLD BUSINESS:

\* Snow Plow Contract Bids: The 3 year snow plow contract was advertised in the Times Record, the Forester and on-line. Bids are due March 19th and they will be opened at the following Selectboard meeting March 24th.

## REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25, 2020

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

THE MEETING: There were 2 members of the public present. Geoff Birdsall called in to attend the meeting. This was a very short meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of February 11, 2020 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.

\* Emergency Communications issue: This topic has been discussed a number of times over the past few months. This time there was a brief discussion of future plans. The county is planning an upgrade of equipment that may involve a change in radio type/functions. If so, the towns would need to upgrade to the same type equipment. It was pointed out that neither Sagadahoc county or Georgetown have proposed budget lines for this type upgrade.

\* Snow Plow Contract: The proposed three year contract is out for bids. There is an ad in the Times Record this week. Bids are due in by March 19th.

\* Wharf Repairs: The TOPMB forwarded a memo to the Selectboard requesting permission to utilize \$36,000 wharf reserve funds for wharf repairs this year. There was a brief discussion and then the Board approved the expense.

\* Broadband: Mary McDonald had a number of forms needing Board signature so the the 3BI Group can submit a grant request to USDA. If the grant is awarded, it will cover 75% of the implementation cost. The Board agreed to sign. They also agreed to have outside legal counsel in Portland review the documentation. The 3BI group is also submitting a request to ConnectMaine, requesting some funding for the additional 25%.

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

The most interesting items were:

\* Maine Department of Agriculture sent a report summarizing the Brown Tail Moth survey conducted last summer. The summary projects a large infestation this coming summer.

\* Patten Free Library submitted a funding request for \$20,590, an increase of \$1,699 (9%). The request has been forwarded to the FAC.

NEW BUSINESS:

\* TOPMB: Two members of the TOPMB came to discuss Todd's Landing. This discussion was held in executive session so I did not attend.

Note: The new Town Calendar link is at the top of the "Scheduled Meetings" page on the Town website - picture below. Just click on Town calendar - see below. Give it a try. Town Meetings are official board and committee meetings. Community Events are planned/informal events of general interest.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe



## REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2020

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

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

The minutes of the meeting of January 28, 2020 could not be approved. Geoff Birdsall was not at the meeting and Rich Donaldson had not attended the January 28 th meeting.

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

\* Public Hearing: The Board conducted a brief, formal public hearing for Grey Havens Inn Class 1-A (liquor) license. There were no comments from the Board or public. The license was approved.

\* Waterways and Harbors Ordinance: Harbormaster Woody Hanstein came to discuss proposed changes to the Waterways and Harbors Ordinance. He explained that the issue was a result of 3 incidents last season, all of which concerned boaters tying up on a mooring belonging to another person. He proposed changes specifically to address these situations. There was a brief discussion after which the Board agreed to send the proposed changes to Counsel and then to the Ordinance Hearing in May.

\* Emergency Communications System: Rich Donaldson asked Mary McDonald if there has been any further official discussion of this issue with the County office. There apparently have been informal discussions but nothing formal and no action to date. Bob Trabona pointed out that any proposed funding must be addressed in proposed Town and/or County budgets soon or we will miss another year. Meanwhile intermittent radio communications between Georgetown and the County continue. Mary will follow-up with the County office.

\* Snow Plow Contract: Mary McDonald advised that bids for the next contract will be in by March 19th, in time to support them getting into the proposed 2020/21 budget.

\* Wilder Bridge (Arrowsic to Woolwich): MDOT will be working on the Wilder Bridge this summer and traffic will be single lane. This raises a concern about how traffic is stopped/cleared if/when there is a need for emergency vehicles to pass in either direction. Emergency organizations would like County Dispatch to control the lights in emergency situations. Mary McDonald will follow-up with MDOT.

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

The most interesting items were:

\* Funding requests were received from Bath Area Senior Activity Center (\$825) and Oasis Free Clinics (\$500). These requests have been passed to the FAC.

## OLD BUSINESS:

\* Office Reconfiguration: Amanda Campbell provided updated graphical renderings of the proposed changes to the Town Office administrative area. The consultant also provided a proposed list of furniture which is under review. In a brief discussion it was agreed that any carpenter work should be done by local (Georgetown) contractors. Bob Trabona pointed out that its likely volunteers would be able and willing to do furniture assembly and moving.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe

## REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 28, 2020

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

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

The minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2020 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.

\* School Payroll/Bill Payment Process: Dr Laser, Superintendent, Kelly James and Alaine Pinkham, of the School Committee, came to the meeting to discuss proposed outsourcing of some financial functions previously handled by the Superintendent's office. Mark (?) of the outsourcing company participated by phone. There was a significant discussion of the proposed change in process, particularly how bills/payments would be checked, by the School Committee and Treasurer, for accuracy and completeness. Ultimately the Board voted to accept the proposed change.

\* Free Tax Assistance: During public comment, I mentioned that starting Saturday, February 1st, AARP TaxAide volunteers will be doing income taxes for free at two sites in Bath. You do not have to be an AARP member and there are no restrictions on age or income. These two sites function on a first come, first served basis. If you have questions concerning this program feel free to contact me at [rickcliffe@aol.com](mailto:rickcliffe@aol.com) <<mailto:rickcliffe@aol.com>> . The weekly schedule is as follows:

- \* Monday – Bath Senior Activity Center – 9 am to 3 pm
- \* Wednesday – Patten Free Library (upstairs) – 10 am to 3 pm
- \* Thursday – Patten Free Library (upstairs) – 10 am to 7 pm
- \* Saturday – Bath Senior Activity Center – 9 am to 1 pm

\* Town Calendar: During public comment, Bob Trabona and I advised that we have setup a Town Calendar on the Town website. To use it, go to the website, open the tab for "scheduled meetings", scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the link entitled "Town calendar". There are two colors for events, one for official Town meetings and the other for Community Events of general interest. It's intuitive and you can't change any data. Give it a try.

\* Maine Maritime Museum is Free: Free admission to MMM has been extended through February. This is a good opportunity to see the latest exhibits. While you're there, stop in the Boatshop and see the Monhegan Skiff that Georgetown 6th graders are building.

\* Broadband: Geoff Birdsall said he attended the Arrowsic Special Town Meeting at which the residents overwhelmingly approved acceptance of the USDA grant/loan. See separate email from Carlos Barrionuevo.

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

The most interesting items were:

- \* ME DOT distributed their 2020 3-year plan for road work. There is none planned for Georgetown.
- \* A funding request for \$700 was received from the Bath Area Food Bank. It was passed to the FAC.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- \* Snow Plowing Contract: Mary advised that the current snow plowing contract expires this year and we will need a new one by next winter. The Board agreed with her recommendation that we solicit bids with a March 19, 2020 due date.
- \* Ordinances: Mary indicated that the Board has proposed changes to the Waterways and Harbor Ordinance. After Board review, the proposed changes will be reviewed by counsel and then go to the public hearing in May and Town Meeting in June.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe

## REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 14, 2020

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

**THE MEETING:** There were 2 members of the public present. Additional people came for discussions of the Cannabis Ordinance and Broadband (see below).

The minutes of the meeting of December 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.

\* **Draft Cannabis Ordinance:** Garrett Corbin attended to provide status of the Cannabis Ordinance Working Group and the ordinance they are drafting. This group was established by the Selectboard after the Town Meeting last June. Their task is to draft an ordinance for consideration at the June 2020 Town Meeting. He indicated that they have met numerous times over the past six months and plan on two more meetings (the last February 6). At that point they will have a complete draft ready for review by the Selectboard. He noted that a lot of the detailed requirements are actually addressed in State law. The working group has attempted to keep the draft ordinance as simple as possible. Garrett discussed a number of specific issues that the working group has addressed. He also asked the Board a couple of process questions the working group hasn't resolved. Mary McDonald suggested that it would be useful to have two public meetings; the first to distribute the initial draft and answer questions from the public and then a formal hearing in May (normal process). Bob Trabona suggested that the draft be posted on the Town Website in advance of the first meeting so interested residents will have time to review it before the meetings. The license review process was discussed and it was agreed it should be similar to the hearing process for liquor licenses. There was a short discussion about potential need to coordinate this proposed ordinance with the Planning Board.

\* **Broadband:** Carlos Barrionuevo, and two other committee members, came to the meeting to provide updated status and request SelectBoard support for their next stage, submitting a grant request to USDA. He noted that Arrowsic had received a grant/loan and they have a special town meeting scheduled next week to determine if they will accept it, recognizing the Town must guarantee the loan part. Carlos noted that in the next round USDA has a new grant (only) option that would cover 75% of the cost. The Town would be responsible for raising the other 25% through loan, taxes, or other means. He pointed out that this approach puts less responsibility and risk on the Town compared to the grant (50%) /loan (50%) they had previously considered. Carlos reiterated that the Town (not a separate "entity" as previously proposed) would have to submit the grant request and provide proof that they can/will guarantee the 25% funds. He provided spreadsheets showing the costs and cash flow for a couple of scenarios. There were a few questions and some discussion about how the funds could be raised. Bob Trabona asked specifically what funds would be required in the upcoming 2020-21 budget. Carlos said that it depends on the type loan they can secure. He also said he feels the scenarios he provided are very conservative. Given the USDA schedule it is not clear that notification of award will be made before the Town Meeting. He proposes that there be a warrant article this June that will authorize acceptance if/when Georgetown is notified of award. The SelectBoard remains very concerned that there are many residents who will opt out of broadband but would still have increased taxes which they cannot afford. This issue has been identified repeatedly but not addressed by the broadband team.

\* Fire Department Request: The GVFD submitted a request to the Selectboard to spend \$50,000 from the reserve fund to purchase a used (1998) engine that will ultimately replace current engine #3. #3 will be relocated to the Five Islands station. This is a temporary fix that will maintain qualified equipment until 2030. After a short discussion, the Board voted to approve the request.

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

The most interesting items were:

\* ME DMR notified the Town that a Lease was granted for High Tide Shellfish Farm (east side of Stage Island).

\* Maine Municipal Association invited a Town representative to attend the Marijuana Workshop on January 28th. It was forwarded to the Cannabis Ordinance Working Group.

\* Maine Spirit of America Foundation notified the Town that nominations should be submitted by February 28th. Anyone who has a recommendation should talk to Mary or Amanda.

\* Patten Free Library notified that they now have expanded hours on Mondays (after 12:00 pm) and that the rate is going up this year.

\* Funding requests were received from Healthy Equity Alliance (HEAL - \$500) and Sweetser (\$1,250). The requests have been forwarded to the FAC.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

\* The Town Office received a notice from Arrowsic regarding the surface replacement of the Wilder Bridge next summer. DOT is holding a meeting, in Arrowsic, January 27th at 6 pm. Georgetown was not notified by DOT.

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

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe