

FREEMAN'S REPORT ON THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF JUNE 26, 2012

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 my Town Meeting website:

www.singingbridge.net

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

The Board elected Geoff Birdsall as Chair for this fiscal year.

The minutes of the meetings of May 22, May 30, and June 4 were approved.

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

1. Mr. Poliquin's application for transfer to Open Space: The Board received a message from the Tax Assessor (Mr. Van Tuinen) stating that his application met the State's criteria and recommending that the application be approved. Several members of the public spoke in opposition to the change to Open Space and in favor of some effort to recover back taxes on the grounds of fairness to the rest of the taxpayers of the Town. I spoke in opposition to the change to open space, making the following points:

- I had been asked for my opinion as to why the Selectmen had not done anything to try to claw back the tax savings that Mr. Poliquin had obtained from his 8 years in Tree Growth; and my answer was that I was baffled.

- I was especially puzzled as to why the Selectmen had not gone to someone else to try to sort out the conflicting advice and opinions regarding property tax law that they had received from Mr. Van Tuinen and in memos they had received from Professor Orlando Delogu (retired professor of law at the Maine Law School).

- I urged the Selectmen to table Mr. Poliquin's application for Open Space and to seek the advice of a competent attorney or the legal division of the Maine Municipal Association.

Selectman Birdsall said that in his judgment the amount that the Town would be able to recover was small and that the likely costs would be high.

Selectman Plummer moved to accept the application for Open Space. The motion carried 3-0.

2. Mary McDonald reported that the Georgetown Community Center has been awarded a grant of \$10,000 by the Marshall L. & Ruth-Anne H. Gibson Municipal Charitable Program. The funds will be used for repairs and improvements in the building including to the bathroom and to areas used for food storage as part of the food bank.

3. Road Commissioner Dale Savoie and Jon Hentz met with the Board to discuss the State's plan to repave Rt. 127. The repaving is scheduled for later this summer (probably September). Jon and Dale

have been in contact with representatives of the State Department of Transportation (DoT). They reported that the DoT planned to put down what they call a “maintenance paving” that is 5/8" thick without repairing any of the noted defects in the road. All agreed that putting down such a thin paving without repairing any of the defects would essentially be a waste of the State’s money. Jon proposed that Dale be authorized to take about \$30,000 out of his budget for the Town’s roads to repair the worst of the defects in Rt. 127 before the State does its paving. This would be OK with the DoT Regional Planner. After some discussion, the Selectmen agreed that it would set a dangerous precedent for the Town to spend Town money doing things that the State should be doing itself. Dale was directed to use the Town road budget on Town roads.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mary reported on correspondence received. For a complete listing of this correspondence, see the Meeting Agenda at: www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php

The year-to-date recycling is up about 11 tons compared with last year. There are also small reductions in the year-to-date tonnage going into the compactor and the bulky waste container.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Animal Control Officer has inspected the pen built by the Kosalka’s for their dog. She has reported to the District Attorney that it appears to meet the specification set out in the interim order by Judge Kennedy.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Regarding the three-year Town Road Paving Project, Mary reported that there was a problem with the wording and content of the original articles approved in 2008 and 2009 at Town Meeting authorizing the loans for this project. A special town meeting will be necessary to correct so that final loan amount can be taken out to complete the work this summer. Mary was directed to work out the language and propose dates for the hearing and meeting.
2. Mary reported receiving a quote for renewing the Town’s insurance policy. It is below last year’s cost. After reviewing the quote the Selectmen voted to accept the bid.
3. Mary distributed a list of the members of various Town boards and committees and of the appointed officers. There are a number of reappointments necessary and some openings for new members. Because of known and possible future resignations, there are openings on the Board of Appeals and the Planning Board and possibly on the Harbor Committee. Anyone interested in serving on one of these bodies should contact one of the Selectmen or Mary McDonald.
4. Mary reported that Robin Doak has submitted her resignation as Deputy Town Clerk. Kathryn Cecero has agreed to take this position.
5. Codes Enforcement Officer (Bob Trabona) reported noticing two instances of accessory structures and an addition to a principal structure having been built apparently without appropriate building permits. Because of that, the necessary information has not been included in the property descriptions used for property tax assessments. It was agreed to notify the owners, have the Assessor visit the properties, and update the assessed values and collect back taxes.

Bob Trabona also noted a case of a driveway having been built off Rt 127 without the required state permit for the driveway cut. The owner has been notified that he must obtain a state permit and given the necessary application form.

The Selectmen then went into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

The next meeting of the Selectmen will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, July 10 at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Freeman