

FREEMAN'S REPORT ON THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2012

Prepared by Rick Freeman

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 my Town Meeting website:

www.singingbridge.net

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

The first item of business was a public hearing regarding acceptance and approval of the General Assistance Appendices C from the State. There was no comment from the public and no discussion by the Selectmen. The Appendices were accepted.

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

1. Tax Abatement Requests: The Selectmen had received six tax abatement requests. One of these involved a correction to the land area of the parcel. After reviewing the documentation, the Selectmen unanimously approved the request. The others involved challenges to the assessed values of the land. In three cases the properties were purchased at prices below the Town's assessed value. One case involved a comparison of the assessment with an appraised value obtained from a professional appraiser. In all five cases, the Selectmen denied the abatement request after reviewing the documents and the assessed valuations of nearby comparable properties.

2. The Fire Department requested authorization to take \$2,550 out of the Five Islands Fire House Reserve Fund to have a new fire and security alarm system installed by Northeast Security. The request was approved.

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 most interesting items were:

- Notification from the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry that the Town has been awarded a Maine Coastal Communities grant to support the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust program to study and monitor the Town's shellfish flats. See the discussion of the grant application at the Selectmen's meeting of September 11. The notification included a request for some modifications

to the work plan that had been submitted.

- The County Emergency Management Administrator forwarded notification of the first confirmed case of West Nile Virus in a human in Cumberland County.

- There was a request from the Conservation Commission for a letter from the Selectmen supporting their request for technical support from the Marsh Migration Outreach Program. This is a data gathering effort and involves no cost to the Town.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Regarding the request from the Selectmen for assistance from the Maine Forest Service (MFS) in reviewing the application for recertification for the Ledge Island LLC parcel, MFS has responded. They are in the process of arranging a visit to the property by the District Forester accompanied by the professional forester engaged by the land owner.
2. Mary is still working with the property owners to select a name for the private road serving the two houses. It was reported that Mary and Bob Trabona also had visited Soldiers Point Road to renumber the properties there in conformance with the Town's Addressing Ordinance and that there is a need to do the same on Old Country Mile Road and the Knubble Road.
3. The Selectmen, along with Alison Freeman and Sharon Trabona representing the Solid Waste Committee interviewed John O'Leary for the fill in position as Transfer Station Attendant. He was offered the position and accepted.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The Town has received an application for recertification of a Tree Growth Parcel owned by David Wright. It was tabled until the Town has completed its review of the Ledge Island LLC application (see #1 under Old Business.).
2. There was a letter from the Transfer Station Manager, Jim Coombs, reporting repeated violations of restrictions on placing used propane cylinders in the trash compactor by resident. It was pointed out that the Solid Waste Disposal Ordinance authorizes the Selectmen to "revoke a permit sticker following notice and hearing of a violation of this Ordinance or operating procedures (Section 5 B)." The Selectmen decided to note the letter and place it on file.
3. After some discussion and review of the correspondence relating to the legal work done for the road paving loan, it was decided to authorize payment of the bill from Bernstein-Shur for \$1107.
4. It was noted that Claire Darrow, Director of the Town Office Gallery, has decided to step down after 12 years of service. There was some discussion of possible replacements. Anyone interested in taking this position should contact one of the Selectmen or Mary McDonald.
5. The recent storm caused some damage to the First Church. Bill Plummer has asked Brian Elwell to submit a bid. Mary will check to see if repairs can be covered by the insurance on the building.

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

Prepared and distributed by Rick Freeman