

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF JULY 13, 2017

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.

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

The minutes of the meetings of June 13 and 22, 2017 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.

- **Deputy Shellfish Warden:** Rich Donaldson came to the meeting to discuss his interest in being appointed Deputy Shellfish Warden for the Town. After a brief discussion of conditions for the appointment he was unanimously approved for the position.
- **Tree Cutting Violation:** Jason Lang came to the meeting to provide a brief status summary of the restoration plan. He indicated that all plantings are in-place and growing successfully. He will continue to monitor, at least through next spring.
- **Right of Way Access:** There was an interesting discussion about public access to Sagadahoc Bay flats. Mary provided a summary of research into the records. A 1957 agreement moved the Town road and dead ended public access short of the tidal area. The adjacent property has a "colonial deed" which gives the owner title to the low water mark (vs high water mark for normal deeds). So the bottom line is that there is no public access to this area. People must gain permission from the land owners.
- **Comprehensive Plan Update:** The Board had a discussion of the implementation of the update to Georgetown's Comprehensive Plan which was approved at the Town Meeting. Most of the discussion concerned makeup of the official town committee which will be responsible for the plan and the "rules" for open public meetings, notifications, and minutes that will be required. They noted that subcommittees for specific tasks/areas of interest can be established on an informal basis by the official (central) committee. Further discussion will be on the next (July 25) Board meeting agenda. Some members from the Exploratory group will attend.
- **First Church:** The Board discussed status of the ad hoc group's request to investigate re-purposing of the First Church into an Art and Education Center which was approved at the Town Meeting. As I understand it, the current thought is that the ad hoc group will apply for 501c3 non-profit status which will allow them to start soliciting funds. Geoff Birdsall pointed out that the Town could look into leasing or selling the property once the ad hoc group reached a funding threshold (amount to be determined). The Board does not see reason for an official committee or board for this project.

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:

- Maine DMR approved of recent changes to the Georgetown Shellfish Conservation Ordinances; the same changes that were approved at the Town meeting.
- Maine Municipal Association provided an update on the General Fund Budget as adopted. Mary pointed out that the Homestead reimbursement to towns was reduced from 62% to 50%.
- MRRA sent notification of an open house to be held at (new) Flight Deck Brewing in Brunswick Landing on August 1st.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Ryan Pearl offered to serve on the Shellfish Conservation Committee. After brief discussion the Board unanimously approved this appointment.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Town Officer Durations:** As a Public Comment, I asked the Board how come some elected town offices were 3 years and others were 1. I specifically question that it might be better to have the Road Commissioner a three-year term so that he/she could take a more strategic view toward planning for road maintenance. Nobody at the meeting knew the rationale. Mary agreed to do some research for discussion at a future meeting.
- **Contract:** The Board approved and signed the contract with Lincoln County Animal Shelter services for FY 2017-18. Cost is the same as last year.
- **Road Closure:** The Board approved a request from the GCC for a partial road closure of Old Schoolhouse Road on July 22 for Community Day.
- **GVFD:** The Fire Department board of directors informed the Board that Justin Lodolce was elected Fire Chief at their annual June Meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

Date & Time	Event	Place	Comment
Saturday, July 15, 6-8 pm	Bath Municipal Band	GCC	
Saturday, July 22, 4-10 pm	Community Day	GCC	

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

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe