

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 9, 2016

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 for the whole meeting. But a number of people came for specific segments.

The minutes of the meeting of July 12, 2016 were approved. They should 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.

- **Public Comment:** John and Ruth Fisk attended the meeting and opened a conversation, during the Public Comment segment, about extreme fire danger in Georgetown due to the drought we are currently experiencing. John cited his own personal experience during the 1947 island fire. He also cited recent weather data statistics to substantiate the severity of risk. He requested that the SelectBoard issue a temporary, emergency ordinance prohibiting open burning and fireworks, both of which he had smelled/heard in the past few days. The Board indicated that the Fire Chief/Warden has authority to disapprove all fire permits due to the current extreme danger and they agreed to contact him asking that he do so. It was agreed that the notice should also include no fireworks though there is no applicable town ordinance.
- **Clear Cut in Shoreland Zone:** Jason Lang came to the meeting to discuss an incident of clear cutting by an owner and/or his subcontractor. He brought pictures of the property and he discussed the extent of cutting which he found when he went to conduct a site survey. The owner is not resident in town. He also brought a draft letter which will notify the owner the clear cut is in violation of the Town Shoreline Zoning Ordinance and State Law. His next step is to coordinate with the State Forestry Department to develop a reforestation plan which the owner will be responsible for executing over ten years. The owner may also be subject to fines for the violation.
Jason also provided brief status updates on a couple of other issues he has been following up on.
- **TOPMB Issues:** Two items were discussed. One concerned a problem with an oversized skiff on the commercial float. The owner has been notified to remove it but has not yet done so. The Board discussed potential follow-up actions by the Harbor Master and/or Board. The other was a bill for more than \$1,000 sent to a Westport Island resident because the Harbor Master had to clean up a mooring off MacMahan Island on their behalf.
- **Transfer Station Issue:** Jim Coombs sent notice of illegal dumping of HHW in the bulky waste container. This led to a substantial discussion about what residents and non-residents could or could not bring to the transfer station. It was agreed that the Board needs to talk to Legal Counsel about the ability to deny use of the transfer station to individuals and/or businesses.
- **Open Position on Planning Board:** Terry Taylor attended the meeting to discuss membership on the Planning Board. He provided brief resume of related experience and explained his interest. After discussion with the Board, they voted 3-0 to appoint him to the Planning Board.
- **Open Position on Harbor Committee:** Mike Vailancourt attended the meeting to discuss membership on a committee or board. After a brief discussion of his experience and interests, the Board asked if he would be interested in the Harbor Committee, which he was. The Board voted 3-0 to appoint him to the Harbor Committee.

- **Assessing Issues:** The Board reviewed three separate cases where updated survey information resulted in Town tax record acreage needed to be corrected. The Board agreed to update all three records.

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 Maine Historic Preservation Commission that Robinhood Free Meeting House was approved for nomination to the National Register for Historic Places. The nomination must be approved in Washington DC.
- A note was received from a resident citing problems with their FairPoint DSL. The company indicated that it wasn't a broad-based problem since they have limited complaints. The note suggests that anyone having DSL problems should contact FairPoint at 800 240 5019.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Animal Control:** Sarah Mancini came to follow-up on a discussion at the last SelectBoard meeting. The Board agreed that she (ACO) and the Board can/will follow-up on any fines issued to residents. The other issue concerned how much the Town is willing to spend on a hurt animal when the owner cannot be identified and/or located. Geoff Birdsall said he talked to the Bath veterinarian who charges \$179 to euthanize a dog/cat. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to limit the Town's payment to \$180. Sarah and the Board also had a brief discussion of steps she should take to identify and notify owners. This is particularly an issue with cats since they do not require licenses or collars.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mary noted Dave Moyes resignation from the Harbor Committee and FAC. The Board recognizes his dedicated service on these committees.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

- **Working League Fair** – this Saturday, August 13th, 10 am – 2 pm, at the School and First Church
- **MacMahan Island Day** – Sunday, August 14
- **GHS Tour of Historic Places in Georgetown** – Saturday, August 20th, 10 am – 1 pm

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

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe