

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 19, 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: There were 2 members of the public present. In addition John McIlvain came to discuss the Comprehensive Plan Consultant Selection and Lisa Donaldson, Sheila O'Grady and Kelly James of the FAC came to discuss potential benefits for Town employees.

The minutes of the meeting of November 28, 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.

- **Comprehensive Plan Consultant:** John McIlvain provided an overview of the review/interview process which was completed last week. Three members of the Comprehensive Planning Committee consolidated comments on the proposals, interviewed the proposed Consultant from each of the (2) proposals, and recommended award to MCEDD (MidCoast Economic Development District). Their recommendation was presented to and approved by the Comp Plan Committee December 18th. MECCDs proposal showed much more experience, a better grasp of the issues in a coastal community, and an increased time commitment. The Board agreed with the recommendation and approved the Committee to move ahead with a contract. MECCD will provide a draft contract to be reviewed by Town legal counsel before final signature. The Consultant should be on-board in early January.
- **Benefits for Town Employees:** Three FAC members, plus Bob Trabona who was already at the meeting, attended to discuss potential benefits for Town employees, an issue that was raised at last June's Town Meeting. They have talked extensively with other towns in the area and found there are a wide variety of policies. Generally towns that provide benefits provide them only to "full time" employees. Health insurance is the most significant and expensive benefit but some towns also offer life insurance, vacation/sick days, etc. In some cases, employees are able to "buy into" benefits, even if they are part time. There are no Federal or State guidelines so Towns are free to establish benefits if/where they desire. MMA (Maine Municipal Association) offers a broad range of benefit plans. The FAC and Board agreed it would be very useful for an MMA representative come to a future Board meeting to explain what benefit options exist and provide cost estimates. The issue will be continued at a future Board meeting.
- **Assessment Issues:** The Board briefly looked at an abatement request for a property with an abandoned house on it. The basis for the request is that the house is not livable in its current condition. The Board agreed to forward the request to Bill Van Tuinen (assessor) for a reassessment.

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:

- Department of Marine Resources (DMR) notified the Town of a completed application for a limited-purpose aquaculture lease to grow oysters in Robinhood Cove submitted by Michael and Mark Gaffney. Comments to DMR are due January 2, 2018.
- Maine Coast Heritage Trust submitted their Fall 2017 newsletter. Mary will post at the Town Office.
- Bath Area Livable Age Friendly Community announced a “regional discussion” to be held at Patten Free Library at 6 pm on January 11th.
- Funding requests were received from Maine Public (Broadcasting), The Children’s Center and Health Equity Alliance. They have been forwarded to the FAC.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **MOA for Project Adventure Trail:** Matt Carlson, principal, initiated a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and the School. The Conservation Commission reviewed the MOA in detail and provided comments. The Board questioned why this has become an issue many years after the Adventure Trail was built. The Board decided to ask Matt Carlson to come to the next Selectboard meeting and explain/discuss the rationale/need.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

| Date & Time | Event | Place | Comment |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Mon-Tue Dec 25, 26 | Town Office CLOSED | | Holiday |

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe