

FREEMAN'S REPORT ON THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF JULY 9, 2013

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 minutes of the meeting of June 11 were approved.

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

1. Dolores Pinette nominated Bill Plummer to serve as Chair of the Select Board. Geoff Birdsall seconded the nomination and Bill was elected.

2. A member of the public asked what action had been taken Jan Martin's violations of the Building Permit Ordinance. The violations involve building and then expanding a shed on his property on the Jewett Road. The violations would normally be resolved by applying for retroactive permits and paying double the usual fee. The following is taken from the official minutes of the Selectmen's meetings when these violations were discussed.:

- April 9 - "Action: CEO, Bob Trabona updated the Board that he did speak with Mr. Martin, who told him to go ahead and take him to court." - April 23 - "Action: Tax card to be flagged and Mr. Birdsall will call Mr. Martin."

- May 28 - "Action: Mr. Plummer will contact Mr. Martin."

Bill Plummer responded to the public question by saying that he would not chase Mr. Martin for a shed, implying as I understood it that violation was not important enough to warrant more action. Dolores and Geoff both said that ignoring the violations would set a bad precedent. Geoff moved to refer the matter to the Town Attorney for action. The motion carried 2-1 with Bill opposed.

3. During New Business the Selectmen dealt with a number of openings on Town Boards and Committees, mostly by reappointing people whose terms had expired. These included:

- Board of Appeals: Lindsay Dorney

- Conservation Commission: Jay Holt, Nancy Kinner, Robin Moore, as members and Rosalie Paul as associate

- Financial Advisory Committee: Dick DeVito, Jim Paterson,

- Harbor Committee: Alex Hadden, Dale Smith as members and John Teller as alternate.

- Recreation Committee: Amy Lang and Paul Morin as alternates.

The Selectmen also appointed Donald "Bud" Grant to fill out the one year remaining on my term on the Planning Board, since I had resigned effective July 1.

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 Centers for Disease Control: Public Health Update June 13: high numbers of cases of Lyme Disease and Whooping Cough

Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department from the Board of Directors requesting the reappointment of Larry Mann as Fire Chief. The Selectmen had already made this appointment at their last meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Orin Winn's Application to renew his Tree Growth Status. This was discussed in Executive Session on June 11. He has apparently decided to apply instead for Open Space. He has not submitted an application yet.

Eric Kosalka's letter regarding violations and agreements at the Sagadahoc Bay Campground. He has not yet responded. The Selectmen directed Mary to request that he respond by the next meeting (July 23).

NEW BUSINESS:

Town Wharf: Mary reported that there were several issues for the TOPMB to deal with:

- unpaid commercial user fees (4). The TOPMB should direct the Harbor Master to warn fishermen in arrears that continued use of the wharf or floats constitutes trespass and to issue summons as necessary. (I should point out that this was standard practice several years ago.)

- oversized skiffs being kept on the commercial float. Again, the Harbor Master should be directed to use his enforcement mechanisms.

- apparently Keith of Five Island Lobster Co. Has asked to have lines painted in the Parking Area. This is a matter for the TOPMB to deal with.

Commercial usage of the Town properties and the permitting process: Apparently a week ago, Five Island Lobster Co. had a crew filming a commercial using public space in and around the wharf causing some congestion and disruption. Geoff thought that the Town needed some process for controlling activities such as this. This issue was tabled for now. Mary will gather information on how other Towns deal with this.

Mary raised the question of insurance for art works on display at the Town Office Gallery. The Town has a rider that provides some limited coverage. An alternative is to have the Town Attorney draw up a waiver to be signed by artists displaying work. Mary will follow up on this.

Bill Plummer requested permission to close Old School House Road to auto traffic on July 27 from 3 PM to midnight for Community Day. This was approved 3-0.

The next meeting of the Selectmen will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, July 23 at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Freeman