

ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS
St. George Town Office
MEETING MINUTES
November 13, 2023

The Select Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Steve Cartwright, Rick Erb, Wendy Carr, Randy Elwell, Irene Ames, Jane Conrad, Van Thomson, Chris Leavitt, Mike Smith, Tim Polky and Keven McCarthy.

Via Zoom: Present were Betsy Welch, Malcolm Willard, Sandra Roak, and Jonathan Coggeshall.

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjustments to the Agenda

Discussion of the Establishment of a Town Emergency Response Committee was moved to the top of the new agenda items.

Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

Minutes

A motion was made by Cartwright, seconded by Conrad, to approve the October 30, 2023 Select Board Meeting Minutes as amended, and by a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Communications

There were no communications.

Warrant

Thompson

I thought it was fairly straightforward.

Ames

There was nothing that really stood out to me as unusual.

Thompson

Did you send that around to the committees?

Ames

Yes.

Discussion of the Establishment of a Town Emergency Response Committee

Thompson

We've had some talk about whether there should be an Emergency Response Committee and whether we need to establish some way to have regular communications with various departments and so forth, which we generally do. As of right now, I know that there's no one associated with the Select Board as a starting point that meets regularly with the St. George Fire and Ambulance Department. The question has come up.

Elwell

I do.

Thompson

Good point but we don't ask specifically for a report and so forth; maybe we should as part of the process. Jane, you expressed some needs and concerns about this.

Conrad

It just seemed a logical thing to have an Emergency Response Committee since we have other committees such as the Harbor Committee, Conservation Committee, Planning Board and other responsibilities of the town. Once all of the emergency response people became employees of the town,

and obviously we have lots of volunteers, it seems appropriate to have a committee that would coordinate with the Volunteer Ambulance Association so that we are clear on communication and priorities. Obviously, if there's a need for a new fire truck or an ambulance, I think it would be helpful for us to make sure that we're coordinating the priorities including how we're going to raise money, what part is going to be done through the volunteer group and how much the town will raise through the tax base. That was the reason I thought it was appropriate to have a committee, nothing against how things have worked historically, but now that the Town has the legal obligation and responsibility for all of those services, it just made sense to me that we have a committee, even if it's the same people that have been doing it, a formal committee with a Select Board liaison where the public knows when the meetings are and all of that.

Thompson

General comments?

Erb

I wonder if we could accomplish the same thing through the current chain of command and maybe a more regular item on Select Board's agenda and report. Is that something that could do the same thing? That would leave the entire Select Board involved instead of trying to recruit new committee members.

Conrad

I'm sure that could be done. For example, right after the Port Clyde fire, so many people wanted to raise money to help with that situation. The CDC formed the Port Clyde Strong organization. I understand that some of that money will be going to the fire department. It isn't particularly clear to me who's doing what about that. It would just be helpful. That's just one example and not as much of an ongoing situation such as buying a new ambulance, budgeting for it and how the community raises money for it. Like I said, there are already people that are doing this work. You could essentially have some of the same people form a committee of the town and have it on the town calendar. Part of it is having the public know when the meetings are and being able to get information, provide support and have a coordination of information. I'd be happy to hear from folks that are that are involved in this to hear their thoughts.

Tim Polky

We don't fundraise. We put money away every year for new fire trucks. I know the ambulance is a new ballgame altogether. The fire department has a town fund where we put money away. What else would you be looking for, what we're doing for emergency management?

Conrad

Yes, just to have clear communications with everybody in town and the Select Board. I've only been on the Select Board since May, and we haven't had any discussions about it. Somebody mentioned we're going to need a new ambulance and a new water truck or tanker truck.

Thompson

Maybe two I heard.

Tim Polky

If it works, we would like to do that. The ambulance is new, and they've not put money away for it. We've been putting money away for it for the last thirty years, always saving ahead to buy a truck so we don't have to go to the town to ask for lots of money. We already have it put away.

Erb

When you say putting it away, that's through town meetings, just to make sure everyone understands.

Conrad

So that is from tax dollars that have gone into the budget but you're making the decisions about how to plan for that.

Tim Polky

Yes. We replace a twenty-five- to thirty-year-old truck every five years.

Conrad

How many are there altogether?

Polky

We have three engines, two tankers and a utility truck. We are a little behind as COVID threw us for a loop and are behind on our purchasing but we're still doing fine. The equipment is fine.

Conrad

Another question for the ambulance folks would be, is there some reason to not have a formal committee? I know the paramedicine program is going to get a part time person in January and that's something that I really want the community to be aware of. That's not an emergency response; it's sort of a chronic health response.

Polky

There is also a grant from the state to the town, so that is not through the association either. Would a monthly report suffice for what you're looking for, as opposed to a committee meeting on a regular basis?

Elwell

The association meets every second Wednesday at seven o'clock and has for years. The public can come to that. Basically, Kevin or Amy gives their report on the ambulance, Mike gives his report as Fire Chief, so it's the night when association business is discussed. People can come to that if they're

interested. The fire department doesn't have a meeting. It is the association night when the association meets which is the ambulance and fire department, and they give their reports of what's happening, for example how many calls were handled, how many Covid shots were given, etc.

Thompson

Unless I was going to those meetings, I wouldn't know anything about it. Is there some way, perhaps on a quarterly basis, you could give some summaries to us so we know and can put it out through the town. Getting information out to the general public is part of our problem, regardless of the organization, that's always the problem. People need to appreciate what's going on and what's being done for them.

Carr

What happened to the old Emergency Committee, I think you were the head of it and talked about creating a warming place.

Thompson

Shelter in Place type of thing.

Polky

That's what we call The Shelter Group. That is through the emergency management agency. We still have that and as a matter of fact, we need people.

Conrad

Hearing all this, it seems like if we had an Emergency Response Committee that even met quarterly to have all of these different pieces in a room, even if it's you that's the liaison, so the community and the Select Board had sort of a comprehensive emergency response group.

Carr

Do we have a reverse 911 system? I remember a long time ago when I filled out a form.

Erb

We have not taken that step, but it's certainly been discussed. Jane, are you thinking in terms of something where the department heads, the Town Manager and the Selectmen meet on a quarterly basis?

Conrad

I don't think we would need all of us and all of them. For example, I learned since I came on the Select Board that there was a mortgage that was taken out to build the Fire Training Center and take on that effort. With all of these departments being departments of the town, is the town responsible for paying that mortgage? Was that in the Memorandum of Understanding?

Carr

That is the association; the non-profit holds that.

Conrad

Just to be clear and have all those sorts of things in one place, so that any member of the community who wanted to understand our whole emergency response effort could, particularly the coordination of fundraising and planning for new ambulances, tanker trucks and things like that, so that the Select Board and the Budget Committee are also paying attention to the timing and planning ahead so we can pay for these things when we need them.

Thompson

The Budget Committee has been doing that with the various departments along the way, asking them, if those reserve accounts that we put together are sufficient for what's going on. That is part of the ongoing process. I think the difficulty is when it comes to this level, do we know what's going on?

Kevin McCarth

Could we come here and update you as a whole? Then, nothing gets lost in translation, and I could use one less night out a week. One less meeting is always appreciated. We can come to you far easier than any one of you can probably come to us. Our schedules are already pretty full of training. We are in training tonight with South Thomaston on car fires.

Thompson

Is that why I saw all the engines coming out?

Mike Smith

They are heading over there to do joint training exercises. For us to come here is much easier than picking another night during the week to not be home.

Conrad

I'm not interested in taking up volunteer time.

Elwell

Could the department head send a quarterly report to the Town Manager that he could bring to this meeting, a summary of what they are doing. Would that be easier?

Thompson

What's easiest for most people; they're certainly quite busy.

Elwell

That way, when people read the minutes, they will see what's going on.

Conrad

Including this information about planning ahead for equipment, since those are long-term budgeting issues.

Elwell

Or they could email that to me.

Thompson

You could do that.

McCarthy

If you had a running agenda of items that were interesting to you each quarter, and the quarter coming up is probably going to have different questions about the budgeting that the quarter after. If you guys came up with six or seven questions that you wanted answered, then that would give us at least a starting point to make sure you're satisfied with what you're getting.

Thompson

Well, I don't think we're going to solve it at this point, but I think I want to dial in everything that's been said and maybe we will bring it up at the next meeting to see if we can put something in place that's going to satisfy everybody.

Town Manager Report

Erb

I have a couple of things I thought I'd bring you up to date on. At the end of last week, Terry Brackett and I had a Zoom meeting with people that will be involved in the general store construction: Oak Point Engineers, Gartley & Dorsky, and I think the name of the general contractor is Zackau Construction. I'm not familiar with them but I know the other engineering firms very well and glad to see that they're on the job. We talked about what the site review process would be like for that project. They had some questions about which specific zone in the Shoreland Zone it involves. We talked a little bit about any potential for expansion and what that would involve but for the most part we're talking about staying within the footprint. We discussed elevation issues. It was not much more than a half hour or so. But we now know who the players will be, and I thought the meeting went pretty well.

The revaluation proposals will be due before your next meeting. I have only heard from one firm and not surprisingly, they will not be submitting. We'll see what happens. I think I sent something around from some of the other towns. They are in great demand. I'm glad we did not ask for it to be any sooner than April 1, 2026. The big problem is the (inaudible) so we'll see what happens on that. I'll report on that next time.

On Sunday I was at the dedication on Route 131 for the deputies who lost their lives. It was a nice ceremony. Sheriff Polky did a nice job. I'd say at least thirty people were there. It was a good turnout. It was almost all family but of course the deputies will show up for that kind of thing. Overall, I thought it was a nice ceremony. You'll see the signs. It's interesting. I didn't realize how they were going to do it but one deputy for northbound and one for southbound. They don't have to share the sign and it makes it easier to read. The families were very pleased by it. I could tell. It has been more than sixty years. There were a couple there that lost their father but never really knew him. They were my age.

Elwell

Frank Ross who was the Fire Chief for years at Owl's Head, it was his father who died.

Erb

I thought it was well done. We have had information on the county budget. There is an increase that we all expected. It has worked out, as we figured, that it would from the relative increases in town valuations. Our increase was slightly less than the average in the county but still, the proposed increase for St. George is 19.1% The county wide increase is 20.5%. These are large increases, and they have a way to go but from previous experience, they haven't changed very much in the last few times. We'll see what happens on that. Their big public hearing will be on December 14th. In the meantime, they're taking up individual budgets. Nick Latham is our representative to the county budget board. He has met with us in the past so we can ask him to come to the next meeting if you'd like to have him here.

Thompson

There are two aspects to this. We definitely should have him in. Since I've been on the board, I don't think I've ever met with him. Number two is, I was talking with Sharyn Pohlman about this, who is one of our County Commissioners. Either she or Ed Glasier, who is our official County Commissioner, would be happy to meet with us to talk about their budget, the budget process and how it's reviewed and so forth, so we have a little handle on how they're doing it. It is to be noted that the way things are written, it is the Budget Committee of the county that sets the budget, and the commissioners can approve it or disprove it, but only disprove it with two thirds vote, then it goes back to the committee and so forth. But this committee has the final word.

Elwell

Theirs is the opposite of us. Our Budget Committee basically has no say.

Thompson

Nick Latham's position is particularly important to us. I think we must work a little harder on establishing a relationship with him.

Elwell

He's good at answering questions to particular questions and concerns.

Erb

It's over a million dollars for us. It's so different than what I remember. In Kennebunk, a much larger town, it was \$300,000.

Conrad

Well, that was a while ago.

Conrad

Technically people who are elected still have the final word because they're approving it or not. Normally, elected officials have to be held responsible and accountable.

Thompson

No, that is an elected position. Nick Latham's position is an elected position. Remember, he represents Friendship and some of the islands and so forth, so it's a conglomeration of things, groups that have input to these decisions but in terms of our contributions to the budget of the county should have a little bit more say.

Conrad

And then this whole 911 fiasco, that's where some of our monies are going.

Thompson

There was an increase in the budget this past year to address that because of the loss of people and so forth. I understand that Nick Latham voted against it.

Conrad

Good, invite him.

Elwell

One of the problems is the County Supervisor, I guess you could call him. They have people that have been there for years getting paid, say \$20 per hour and they're bringing people in per diem for \$40+. There's an internal battle. They are fighting with the union and the Commissioners don't understand why people are upset.

Cartwright

Two tiered systems are always a bad idea.

Elwell

My opinion is from dealing with him, until they get rid of that particular person, things are not going to get better. You don't hear much about it, but there is still so much internal rift that is just crazy. You

don't hear anything about it. It's like all the news. It kind of goes away and then something new comes along. It's an important thing.

Thompson

I'm proposing just to start this process that I mentioned, to either Sharyn Pohlman or Ed Glaser that we have one of them begin the process of what it's like, and then get together with Nick, as well.

Elwell

If people have questions, then send them the questions. That way, when they come, they have their answers for you.

Thompson

That may come to light when we have a meeting with the commissioners.

Committee Reports

Planning Board - Carr

Carr

Last week, we had a site visit at Atwoods Quarry. In addition to the luxury seasonal cabins, the property owner is putting in a new pier and a boat ramp to bring timber off the islands. Several people attended the site visit who were not very happy. Tomorrow night at seven o'clock is the public hearing on the project. We'll see what happens. Everyone who was there said they planned to attend. In addition, tomorrow night there is going to be an informal conversation with Rob Kelley from the CDC about the housing project, and it's on the agenda. Everyone knows that everyone is attending but there is no pending application. They're just talking, which sounds like a good idea, so the Planning Board can point them in the right direction for their application.

Thompson

Doesn't it also have to do with the realignment of the ordinances and how that fits in.

Carr

That's part of it, but I think they're keeping those separate right now. Rob Kelly is coming in with some general ideas. Maybe Steve knows some ideas about how it's going to look, including how the housing is going to look, how it's going to be laid out and on what lots. As far as I know, there's not a formal application.

Cartwright

Just to get a general sense of whether they are on the right track, and pass muster with the Planning Board.

Appeals Board – Conrad

Conrad

There are no appeals.

Budget Committee – Thompson

Thompson

You just met with the Budget Committee and nothing more has happened.

Resiliency Committee – Thompson

Thompson

They met the other night. We went back to Terry Bennett of Sebago Technics and asked him for what's called a bathtub model for Drift Inn Beach and for Rackliff Island Road so that you would be able to visualize what it would look like, the topography that's there at various time periods and so forth. Just a plane with some reference things such as people or something like that. Another thing that was also discussed and has been taken up with Mike Felton would be to see if we can get into the school curriculum for this spring. The idea is making a three-dimensional model of Port Clyde for instance, 3D printed in segments and then glued together. It would be like an aquarium showing the amount of water at the current level and then what happens if we go one foot or three feet, this is what you see, etc., so that you can visualize it. We can show it to a lot of people. That's another part of the project and the files are there in terms of the digital information from Sebago Technics.

Elwell

Allison has been involved with that, the sea level rise.

Thompson

Mike's trying to get together with the people involved in early December to see if we can get into curriculum for the spring. We think that could be a nice way to do things.

Elwell

Educate the kids.

Thompson

Gives them a good project as well. That's about it for the moment.

Comprehensive Planning - Conrad

Conrad

We're taking the first steps in the plan which is this postcard project, and I just circulated the content of that. We're asking everybody in town to fill these out and put them into these drop boxes. This is the one that will be in the town hall upstairs and the other four locations are the Tenants Harbor, Port Clyde, Spruce Head post offices and the school.

Thompson

Thank you for putting them together.

Conrad

I was going to have the school kids make it, but they didn't have time, so I did it. Then John Maltais and I met with Mike Felton today to talk about turning this into a civics lesson so that schoolchildren appreciate that this is how public policy is made. Ordinances are made and budgeting decisions for the town are made through our input and because the Comprehensive Plan can be in effect for up to twelve years, somebody who is ten today filling out a postcard, will be an adult affected by this plan if we don't update it before then. These postcards will also be available where there are boxes, and people can download this form from the town's website. One of the committee members is trying to do a Google doc so it could be filled out online at home and then find a box to put it in. These will be out until the end of the year, and we will be putting information on the message board encouraging people to think about their top priorities. We're also interviewing twenty key people in town about what they think our priority should be going forward and once that initial list of priorities is put together, we'll be doing more detailed surveys and public hearings on this. We have several students from Colby College who are interested in helping us with college credit. It's great that the President is committed to supporting St. George in this way. It's exciting.

Cartwright

I'm curious. How do you identify key people. What sort of people are you looking at.

Conrad

We just rattled off some various types of longtime residents, business owners, fishermen, Mike Felton, Richard Bates, a minister. We were looking for a group of people to interview with open-ended questions about what the town should focus on. The fire chief is on the list. Also, what things do people feel like the town is doing well at now and what things could we be doing better. These are the first steps in the process.

Cartwright

Just wanted to compliment Jane on all our activism in this; it sounds great.

Conrad

I've turned into the staff person for the committee. Everybody else is employed and I'm not. I'm happy to make the postcards up and they decide what to say.

Conservation Commission – Cartwright**Cartwright**

The trail work is continuing at Fort Point even when the weather is less than ideal. I saw it was pretty muddy there, but they were working on it. I don't really have anything else.

Solid Waste – Erb**Erb**

Nothing to report.

Shellfish Committee - Elwell**Elwell**

They were supposed to meet last Thursday night, but they canceled it.

Thompson

I can add a little bit. Remember the question came up regarding dog waste, DNA and so forth. Well, I ran into an individual that's involved in this in Thomaston and asked what's the current status with that. Come to find out they've done more DNA analysis, and it's primarily human. They realized that they have a number of homes that are currently discharging directly into the river. They've set up a new policy that states if you voluntarily advise notice of the situation then we'll work with you, but if you don't, then you're in for a very heavy fine. They're trying to address it. That's where we have a problem with shellfish contamination.

Carr

Septic systems are a problem everywhere when you have people that live on the shore.

Elwell

For years Port Clyde had houses that drained into the beach over on Factory Road. The State had a program where you could get funding.

Carr

To get rid of overland discharge.

Elwell

The same thing in Thomaston and other older communities.

Thompson

Apparently, a number of people didn't get involved. Anyway, I thought I'd bring that up.

Cemetery Committee – Carr**Carr**

They have not met.

Affordable Housing - Cartwright**Cartwright**

Rob is going to address that.

Tax Acquired Property**Erb**

I have a report on the latest developments on that. We actually had another year of tax acquired property tax liens become tax acquired. At first it looked like we could potentially be picking up six new tax acquired properties but at the last minute four of them have paid, so there are two additional ones.

Ames

Four of them have mortgages.

Erb

They will be paid. There was an error on the banks part. Usually, they will not let tax liens mature. The good news for us is because they did let them mature, they paid all the taxes, not just the year. Our written policy on tax acquired properties is that we basically don't do anything to sell them in that first year, so these two will not add to what we're working with right now. I've got the same list here. I'm happy to share that if you want and have had a phone conversation with Bill Kelley about some of the trickier ones here. These are ones where people have died without wills or representative as (Inaudible). There's the parcel that abuts the cemetery and we would like to carve out a piece of it. It's not very clear how that works. Under the new state law, we keep only what the tax is. If we sell it, we keep only what the taxes are owed. So, if you've carved out a piece of it, it's not very clear how you divide that up. Bill has some ideas. Here's my suggestion at this point. If we move ahead to sell them, under the new law, there's a 90-day notice that is given to them before that happens, before it is sold. My suggestion is we're getting to the middle of November right now. On January 1st, why don't we do those notices? I've said

this before. I think it's distasteful for towns at Christmas time to be foreclosing on properties. It's going to take us that long to get some of the components together.

Elwell

For property number 1931, with the new state law, would it be best if the town acquired it and just kept it? It is confusing.

Erb

We talked about that.

Elwell

Then we are not paying lawyers and don't need to figure out what's going on. We have the land you need for the cemetery and plots for the future. The (Inaudible) is fit for trails and the old road goes straight across Turkey Cove Road to Harper's Pit.

Erb

That is one of his suggestions.

Conrad

Is that an option? Let's say somebody owes \$14,000 but the property is worth say \$40,000, and the town keeps it, wouldn't we owe the person the \$26,000 above what they owed.

Erb

There is no instruction that tells us that.

Conrad

Wow. That's kind of what the Supreme Court decision was implying. If you sold it for \$40,000, you definitely would have to give back \$26,000 to the property owner.

Ames

If he was to come in and pay all the taxes on this property and take it back, he has the right to do that.

Conrad

Well not after the point of the transfer. If you've given somebody notice...

Erb

Say we sell it.

Elwell

It has to be deeded over to them.

Conrad

Right. Once the deed is changed, nobody gets anything back, as long as they've had their notice.

Elwell

Are you saying we take out the taxes but have to pay the remainder back?

Conrad

That's my question because it seems like it would be unfair, unjust enrichment is the legal term, where the town is keeping more value that would historically have belonged to the property owner.

Erb

Phillip and I have talked about that to some extent already. Let me do a little bit more with him and at least get an email from him clarifying what he thinks.

Cartwright

Is this something MMA's legal department could answer for you?

Erb

They probably could.

Cartwright

That would cost less.

Conrad

I'm sure this is a question that other towns have.

Elwell

It's a good question.

Cartwright

Otherwise, it's an incentive to keep the property.

Conrad

Right and in a place where we would like to acquire part of the parcel, it's a logical decision, but not if we owe people money. Perhaps only if we decide we're willing to pay that.

Thompson

Is there anything we need to do, anything more than getting the information?

Conrad

When you talked about the notices published in the newspaper, is it a ninety-day notice?

Erb

No. That just goes to the individual.

Conrad

What if you don't have somebody to serve, if there's no known executor.

Erb

Bill and I talked about what the process is of last resort, and you send it to the last known address. We discussed that it would probably be good policy for the town to do some detective work.

Conrad

To show good faith.

Erb

Absolutely, you don't have to, but it would certainly be considered a better practice if we make those steps. That's that's the plan and it's going to take a little while.

Elwell

If we take that and sell it, do we pay him? There must be liens on it.

Ames

As near as I could tell, there were liens for federal income tax liens and state income tax. A lot of it is in Tree Claim and they have not renewed the forestry plan for twelve years. That must be resolved as well. It's going to take the assessor to figure that out.

Erb

Bill's opinion was that the federal lien will come ahead of the town, but the state will not.

Ames

With what the federal liens what they were, it looked like they were trying to get his attention for not filing a tax return and get him to file a tax return. The federal liens could add up to more than what we get for the property.

Port Clyde Landing Project

Erb

The Harbor Committee met last week, and I have a report for the Harbor Committee for your next meeting. I will send those out to you.

Elwell

It was a good meeting. There was a lot of back-and-forth and different opinions.

Erb

There are a couple of issues on the project. One concern is the float design and what was being proposed as a substitute for what was asked for by our engineers. We have prevailed upon CPM to follow the specs and that's what they're doing at this point. I think that one is resolved. It's been quite a struggle to get what we wanted for the hoist there. I think we have resolved what will happen. It will come out of the CPM contract of the town. It will take care of obtaining the hoist. The only question that we have right now is to EDA to make certain that we keep our 80/20 match. When we spoke with Dan and David Stevens, who was our contact person, he listened and said what we were saying made sense, but he wanted to run it by his boss. For other things, he has been able to sign off on his own. He just wanted some security.

Elwell

We want that security too but don't want to assume.

Thompson

For the board, this was to make sure that we had a very good hoist.

Elwell

It has to be rated and engineered for safety.

Erb

The way it looks right now, we probably will be doing business with Prock Marine which I think most people here have at least heard of. One of the questions for the EDA is are we going to run into any issues with competitive bidding if we go with them. Hopefully we'll have an answer on that soon. The issue that we have run into as far as not having ledge where we thought it would be. We're still working on that. There are change order proposals from CPM. The one that will be the easiest to resolve and we already have resolved is the purchase of additional longer sheets of steel. The reason it was fairly easy to resolve that one is the new price for steel is actually lower than what the original bid price was. It's a commodity; it goes up and down. The original bid was \$58 per square foot. The price right now is \$47. It's clear how much steel is needed and the price we know is reasonable, so we're moving ahead with that because we could not wait any further. The other issues that are still in negotiation have to do with

the removal of the obstacles. As you recall, what we thought was ledge turned out to be boulders and they still need to be removed from the site. We still have some questions on how that would be calculated. The toe pins are basically a method of strengthening the steel so that it does not pull over under pressure. There are prices for longer toe pins that are associated with the new steel but there are some mitigating factors because of the depth that they will go. I won't bother to get into detail, but it's not as straightforward. And as I mentioned before, it looks like we will be about a month delayed on this. We're still dealing with CPM on what the cost should be for that month of delay. They'll have to add one more month's management expense there. I think our position at this point is we anticipate that it will be a month, but we really don't know that yet. We're going to continue to negotiate.

Conrad

Was that a month beyond June?

Erb

Yes. It was to be early June now but now will be early July.

Elwell

The Harbor Committee talked about it because it's kind of disappointing, but it's a big project and to be expected. They did find ledge, but it's a lot deeper than what they originally thought. Ninety-five percent of it will be done by June and then some little stuff to finish up.

Erb

Hopefully we'll have a good turnout of Harbor Committee members at your next meeting because there is a lot to talk about.

Thompson

The next meeting is here on the 27th.

Erb

That's all I have to report on unless there are any other questions on that.

Holiday Hours for Town Offices and Services

Erb

December 25th is a Monday this year. I saw something that went around to various town managers, and it looks like most places are going to close at noontime on Friday. The state has crossed me up in the past where fairly late in the process they decide to give the whole day off on Friday. Maybe they won't this time, but it wouldn't surprise me if they did. I really would like to follow whatever the state does. At this point, not knowing any different, why don't we plan on closing at noon on Friday.

Thompson

What would it matter for our employees if we said it was a day regardless of the state?

Erb

You could.

Cartwright

I would be in favor of that.

Conrad

Do we have any reason to think they would close on Tuesday instead of Friday, the day after?

Elwell

I've seen it in the past where we've discussed the same thing. The Transfer Station is not open on Monday but technically the Town Office is open.

Conrad

We could have it closed on Saturday.

Erb

That's what I would probably do.

Thompson

I think it's time to look after our employees.

Elwell

I agree. We should close the town office Friday and the transfer station Saturday,

Cartwright

I'm in favor of giving the full Friday off to our employees. Then we don't have to worry about what the state is doing.

Request to MDOT for a Speed Zone Review in the Vicinity of 13 River Road

Erb

You will remember that there had been a proposal to construct the parking lot across from the Happy Clam and the Outback, and eventually that plan was withdrawn from the Planning Board. One of the reasons that it was withdrawn was it seemed fruitless because technically that is not a 25 mile an hour

zone there, even though the sign makes you think it is. Based on the state's rules on signs, that's technically a 45 mile an hour zone still.

Thompson

The rule is 200 yards from the sign, you must reduce your speed.

Conrad

Steve, you need to get this traffic committee going. There are a lot of questions.

Thompson

Officially, the crosswalk by the Post Office is within 200 yds and therefore there should be a light there.

Elwell

It's within the 45 mile per hour zone.

Thompson

We have our own reason to move it (the sign).

Conrad

There are a lot of reasons for moving the speed limit and having that speed limit reduced sooner than it does now.

Erb

Terry Brackett reached out to the Maine DOT. The response he got back was that they will examine that to see if the speed limit should be moved but they need a request from the municipal officers to do so.

Conrad

How would we reach a recommendation of where it should go down to 25mph?

Erb

They won't ask for our recommendation. They say they will study it.

Conrad

I live very close to where the village line is, but it is still in the 45mph zone. It seems to me like it would make sense for it to be reduced near Long Cove or someplace up there. You have a lot of village houses and people that walk.

Erb

This quote is from David Allen at the Maine DOT, "To increase the 25mph speed limit a little bit would require a request from the town following a discussion in a public forum, typically a Select Board

meeting, for a Speed Zone review. The town would submit this request in writing to the Maine Mid Coast Region Traffic Engineer. We will then undertake an engineering study to determine the correct speed limit in the area.” I think that is his title.

Thompson

I would suggest that we direct you to write them a letter with the request to establish a speed limit. You could suggest an area, Wildcat Cove for instance.

Conrad

I think it should be north of where it is now.

Thompson

Make a suggestion that the town feels the speed limit should be 25mph by the time you get to some named place.

A motion was made by Conrad, seconded by Cartwright, to ask Rick to submit a letter to the DOT advising the town feels the speed limit should be 25mph in a specified location north of its current location, and by a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Appointment to the Comprehensive Plan Committee

Conrad

As you all know I've been eager to have a business person serving on the Comprehensive Plan Committee and Greg Soutiea attended our last meeting and became enthusiastic and eager to serve.

A motion was made by Conrad, seconded by Cartwright, nominating him to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Committee as a full member, and by a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Policy on Including ad hoc Committee Reports in the Annual Town Report

Erb

Certainly nothing prohibits it. I don't know if they've ever (Inaudible).

Conrad

Given how active the Resiliency Committee has been and some of the others, such as the Affordable Housing and Traffic Committees, everybody in town would want to know what that was about. These folks have been working hard.

Erb

We'll just have to identify who to reach out to

Request to Collaborate on a Maine Coast Fishermen's Association Grant Application

Erb

I was contacted by Monique Coombs from Harpswell, ME. She comes from a fishing family. She is associated with the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association, and they are applying for a grant. It says the goal of the community cohort is to familiarize municipal staff and others with the working waterfront inventory toolkit that MCFA recently produced and the different planning processes that could form. It could be helpful for the Comprehensive Plan for sure. I brought this up with the Harbor Committee last week. A few of them knew Monique and spoke highly of her and the organization.

A motion was made by Elwell, seconded by Conrad, to issue a letter of recommendation for the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association's grant application, and by a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Conrad, seconded by Cartwright, to enter executive session at 8:07pm for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, as well as to discuss the possible acquisition of property on Old Woods Rd. as allowed under Title 1 Section 405, 6c of the Maine Revised Statutes:

"Discussion or consideration of the condition, acquisition, or the use of real or personal property permanently attached to real property or interests therein or disposition of publicly held property or economic development only if premature disclosures of the information would prejudice the competitive bargaining position of the body or agency."

A motion was made by Cartwright, seconded by Elwell to end the Executive Session at 8:38 pm and the public meeting was re-opened for the purpose of adjourning.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Cartwright, seconded by Conrad, to adjourn the Select Board meeting, and by a unanimous vote, the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Taylor
Recording Secretary
Town of St. George, Maine