

ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS

St. George Town Office

MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2020 – 7 p.m.

The Select Board meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Members present were: Richard Bates, Chair; Randy Elwell, Jerry Hall, Wayne Sawyer, and Tammy Willey. Also present: Terri-Lynn Baines, Tim Polky, Amy Drinkwater, Richard Cohen, Crystal Tarjick, Elizabeth Matthews, David Percival, Scott Vaitones, David Chase, Kyle Byrnes, Ward and Kathy Carpenter, Peta vanVuuren, Deana Zoe Smith, Sandra Roak, Judy Smith, Diane Oelberger, Stephen Maxwell, Peggy Williamson, Rob Kelley, Linda Small, Alane Kennedy, Sherman and Suzanne Hoyt, Van Thompson, Elizabeth May and Susy Ellis.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

REGULAR SESSION:

- Adjustments to Agenda - The following items were moved from New Business and taken up under Regular Session:

- Budget Committee Concerns for the 2020-21 Proposed Budget
- Budget Items: General Assistance, Social & Community Services, Planning Department, Harbors, Parks & Recreation and Unclassified

- Budget Committee Concerns for the 2020-21 Proposed Budget: Susy Ellis, chair of the Budget Committee, said they had reviewed the 2020-21 Budget and had the following comments and concerns.

- St. George Municipal School Unit's (MSU) budget and proposal to add a Pre-K program for four-year-old children. This will require adding car seats in the buses and this will create other areas of concern not yet identified.

Chair Bates explained two-thirds of the tax bill is for the school, one-quarter is for municipal, and the remaining nine percent is for county services. In the next few weeks, the Boards will be discussing the municipal portion of the tax bill. Chair Bates encouraged the public to attend school meetings and to voice their opinions about the school's portion (two-thirds) of the tax bill.

- Aging in Place. The Neighbor to Neighbor program is critical to the town not only for aging in place but for people with disabilities (at whatever age), or for those who cannot drive to medical appointments.
- A Constant Tax Rate. It is important to have a constant tax rate for those living on limited income. There are many people in town who are just living on Social Security if they are even eligible.
- A Handyman Service. The Budget Committee suggests having this type of service for those in need of home repair or who cannot afford a high dollar contractor. This service can help

keep people stay in their homes longer. Rob Kelley of the CDC said this suggestion has been brought to their attention.

- **Funding the CDC.** The Community Cupboard is a wonderful service and fills a gap the town might not be able to address. The CDC recognizes issues that the town cannot do such as address affordable housing. The Budget Committee's recommendation is to continue working with the CDC to fill out those services. A question from the committee: How are the town's donations to the CDC earmarked?
- **Preparing for Higher School Budgets.** Chair Ellis said the Budget Committee noted there are additional services needed at the school and the town needs to be ready for the school's requests.
- **Sea Level Rise and Solar Power.** The town has a great opportunity to research options for solar power and turn it into a revenue-sharing situation. The committee recommends earmarking money in the budget for Sea Level Rise (SLR).
- **Continue to look for Peninsula-wide access to Broadband.** Chair Ellis said both the CDC and the Select Board through the Budget Committee have looked exhaustively at providing broadband services throughout the peninsula. The Budget Committee does not see any real way to do this but still recognizes it as a high priority. Chair Bates said it is a high priority and said the CDC and the committee are doing a great job.
- **Funding the Conservation Commission.** The Budget Committee believes it is nice to have access to the beautiful areas on the St. George peninsula. Chair Ellis does not think the budget needs to be extravagant, but residents want to access and protect the places that make St. George special.
- **A St. George Bulletin.** There is a need to address available services, activities, events, and amenities, Select Board meetings, Budget Committee meeting schedules with the topics and those that concern the community and non-standard expenditures open to the people since the demise of the St. George Dragon. Elizabeth May said she is trying to come up with a way of doing this without spending money and suggests using email, phone calls, posters, and tapping into town hall and school library lists.
- **Sidewalks.** Chair Ellis noted the sidewalks in town are sometimes difficult to walk on and suggests keeping them clear of snow for students and residents.
- **Mil Rate.** The Budget Committee asks that the Select Board and Administration be mindful of the town's mil rate. Chair Ellis noted that all of the projects are great, but the Budget Committee recommends having a predictable and constant mil rate so taxpayers can anticipate and prepare for their taxes as much as possible.

Chair Bates noted some of the suggestions and recommendations that could be worked on in the coming year. Elizabeth May volunteered to take on a newsletter to replace the St. George Dragon. Chair Bates recommended the newsletter be a group effort.

Alane Kennedy noted that the Friends of St. George are working on a St. George Journal, have published their first copy, and they hope to create a journal to carry on the tradition of the St. George Dragon.

- Budget Items. The following areas of the Proposed Budget for 2020-21 were reviewed with the Town Manager: General Assistance, Social & Community Services, the Planning Department, Harbors, Parks and Recreation and Unclassified. Chair Bates explained this meeting was a time for the Select Board and Budget Committee to ask the Town Manager questions regarding his proposed budget. The Select Board will vote on the budget at their March 9, 2020 meeting.

General Assistance. No questions from the Select Board.

The AIO. Requested amount is based on services provided the town. AIO gives money for food pantry visits, weekend backpacks, heating vouchers, and electric disconnect prevention.

Coastal Opportunities. The Budget Committee received a letter of request. The funding services individuals with intellectual or physical disabilities in Knox County. Currently CO has no clients in St. George, but nothing would exclude the town from getting their services.

Health Equity Alliance. This is an AIDS organization with centers in Bangor, Ellsworth, Machias, and Augusta. Because of the geographical locations of their centers and there are centers in the Rockland area who cover this medical issue, no funding is recommended.

Knox County Health Clinic. The Boards supports this organization's work as this clinic provides many services to many people, including St. George residents.

LifeFlight. This organization has been in business for 22 years and has helped fifty-six individuals from St. George during that time-period. The Boards support this organization for the work they do.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT). MCHT is a friend of St. George and has helped the town preserve land and properties. Board consensus is that funding will continue based on the Select Board's statement of values which came into focus because of the Clark Island project.

Maine Public. The town's funding helps Maine Public leverage other, larger amounts of funding.

MC ME Community Action. This organization serviced 44 individuals and 34 families in St. George in the last year, i.e., WIC, Head Start, Emergency Fuel Assistance program.

Neighbor to Neighbor. This nonprofit organization provided 551 rides to St. George residents last year. Each of the 32 volunteers provides approximately 40 to 50 rides a month and they do not get reimbursed for mileage. The group fundraises and will look into the availability of Maine Care reimbursement programs. A dispatcher was hired last year to assist with the calls.

New Hope for Women. The organization has given 100-hour service hours to St. George in the last few years. The Board believes this is a necessary service.

Penquis CAP. Provides support for low-income families, Head Start, and other programs including energy and food assistance. They do provide services to St. George residents, but no percentages were provided.

Rockland District Nursing Association. RDNA provided in-home services to 15 St. George residents last year. In 2019, RDNA made 110 visits. This was up from 85 in 2018. Services provided are predominately for the elderly and RDNA steps in when other groups cannot. Services are mostly footcare and medication reports, which include safety and mobility

allowing people to remain in their homes as part of the community. RDNA is 90 years old and was founded by Eliza Steele who was a St. George native.

Spectrum Generations. The value of aging and disability services provided the town in 2019 was \$8,413 which included nutrition and social well-being programs. This agency also provides the Meals-on-Wheels program to St. George residents.

St. George Youth & Scouting Council. They are not requesting any town funding as the council will try to do fundraising on their own.

Trekkers. This is a youth mentoring program originally established in the town of St. George and continues to be used by the youth of St. George.

Waldo County CAP. Their letter indicated that very few residents of St. George used their services last year and would not be requesting any funding from the town.

Veteran Graves. The town is required to support the maintenance of veteran's graves.

Cemeteries. The request is for the two North Parish yards. A large percentage of the funding is for mowing, along with some tree service and stone repair (which fluctuates year to year).

Jackson Memorial Library. A request letter has been received. The amount requested is twenty-four percent (24%) of JML's budget. The Library now has two co-directors, they offer many programs, and the library did expand their hours of operation last year. The Select Board and Budget Committee feel the Library is doing a great job for the town.

Shellfish Management. The requested amount is one-fifth (1/5) of the shellfish committee's budget.

Community Development Corp (CDC). The CDC requested \$10,000 to cover their programs. Rob Kelley explained why the CDC requested \$10,000 in funding:

This represents approximately 11% of the CDC's adjusted 2020 budget. The Community Cupboard is a huge portion of that. It is \$10,000. Just in terms of food purchases, would represent half of what we purchase in order to serve the community, not including all of the administrative costs that we have as part of it. The Community Cupboard has now been in place for one year and six months. January 2020 was the largest month ever with 134 household visits in a single month. We distributed almost 4,000 pounds of food. It continues to be an important part of how these families are actually able to support themselves. It is true, we do deliver a higher quality of service than AIO. We allow families to come every week. AIO allows for 3 days' worth of food once a month, which clearly is not enough for many of these families. In addition to this work, a lot of the other critical social service work we do is we have now instituted a "pay what you can" dental clinic which we will now run twice yearly in the community. That has filled each time we have run it.

To comment to some of the other items which are not necessary in the social services budget, but I think are relevant to how we fit into some of the work that is being done in the community, we have looked at the handyman service. We do have an ad hoc committee that is a spin-off on community solar which we invite people who are interested to get involved in. We have run the broadband work and have made significant progress there. It is not going to be an easy fix, but we now have some facts to base this on and some actual costs. We have recently instituted a relationship with Lydia Richard, LCSW. She has her office in 47 Main Street. We have made an arrangement with her that in return for reduced rent, she will provide one day a week of essentially need blind counseling services for community members. We continue to look for opportunities to fill those gaps where the municipality

doesn't really have a place and where other services aren't necessarily available because of our location down the peninsula.

Chair Bates asked about the \$8,000 grant the CDC anticipated receiving. Kelley said, "The way we did this this year is we have been exclusively funded through donations and then last year through the town's \$5,000 grant. We wanted a little bit of organizational maturity before we started going after grants." He said, "We have earmarked an unspecified bucket of grant monies in order to make ourselves go look for grant opportunities. We just spooled up a grant committee and they actually began work today looking at things as varied as our half of the housing study as well as other social service programming."

Chair Bates noted the payroll had increased by one-third and asked if that was because they would be hiring more people. Kelley said, "Alane was very part time and is getting close to full time. We don't have plans to make additional hires at this point. We are fortunate in that our Community Cupboard Manager, Jeff Shaw, actually volunteers his time."

Bates asked who would manage the CDC's Emergency Assistance Fund? Kelley said, "We all know the fact of this. Qualification for General Assistance is at such a level of dire need that, of course people in that level of need should get it, but the families between that and subsistence is a large number of households we are dealing with that."

Kelley said, "Taking as a model, Knox County Investors, a program where families can apply for need, we decided this year to set aside a relatively small dollar figure of \$5,000 to experiment with emergency funding. The stat is that 40% of American households could not meet an emergency need of \$400. It can be anything as simple as car transmission goes out and then you can't get to work to, I can get a heating voucher, but I can't pay my electricity bill.

We are using the model that other organizations have used where a family comes and sits with Alane and fills out an application. We look at what the need is, and we basically adjudicate it at our Board level, and it is a voucher system. In other words, we don't hand somebody a check; we pay the electric bill on their behalf. This really is an experimental program.

We know there is a need because we faced it in the last year and a half that we have been in business. We have had many families who we have had just to turn away in dire need because there was no way to help them. We try to take this as a step to see if this is something we can actually accomplish. We also believe that this would be something that could attract grant money as we have looked at where we can apply for grant money."

Chair Bates said he was concerned about how the program would be managed and managed appropriately if the town contributed \$10,000. Kelley said, "We are happy to accept whatever level of transparency you'd like. Kennedy said, "We do have an application process. It is much like AIO's voucher system." She said the program requires the approval of at least one of the members of the Board of Directors before the CDC will issue a voucher.

She said, "The program is not needs-based. If it is going to set you back, we are going to help." Kelley added there is a cap per household, per year.

Selectperson Hall thought there was a need in the community for something beyond the General Assistance the town provides. He liked the idea of experimenting with a number of programs. He said, "You have tried things, and you tried in a way that it was not a big dollar item. If it worked, you continued it and if it didn't work, you stopped it." Hall said he was generally supportive of the concept, but the question is how much? Chair Bates said at an experiment of \$5,000.

Percival thought some of the services the CDC provided, Penquis also provided. Kelley said, "There is some overlap. There are some challenges with Penquis as you are having to deal directly with their caseworkers, and it is a much higher threshold to be able to get access to their (Penquis) services. It is a little more difficult.

Penquis actually manages some of the services we'll be building into our programming over the next couple of years because they are the Knox County representative of a lot of the federal programs. There will be a partnership and there is a little bit of overlap but between many of these organizations, us and AIO, for example, there is overlap. The question is are the needs being met and can we supplement what they do? Which is what I see us doing."

Kennedy says she refers out as much as she can to Penquis, the WIC office or other agencies if she can get people connected faster to a service.

Chair Bates asked what the CDC Program Fund does as it was \$2,000 and is now \$8,000. Kelley said, "It is a reclassification of the way our budget was done in 2019. We had put dollars in housing, in health care, etc., and we did because we want to make decisions based on new programs that come up, they think they want to fund. That all has just been consolidated into a single entity we can draw from. It is essentially a Board Restrictive Program Fund. Our Board can decide to take money out of the budget and apply it to programming." Kelley said anything over \$250 needed full Board approval.

Selectperson Willey asked if the CDC request (\$10,000) was going to be a yearly request or would the amount keep increasing? Kelley said, "Ideally, I like the 10-11%. I think there are a lot of places in which we do collaborate, and we are doing things the town can't do. In my perspective, I like the fact that there is that monetary relationship. I don't see the town funding our operations. I think it is our responsibility to go raise the money through grants and development, finding donors to fill the rest of the budget."

Selectperson Willey noted when the CDC originally came to the town, the CDC was going to be reporting to the town, but they would be looking for grants and donations and running their own program.

Kelley said, "In 2019 for example, basically the town had given us \$5,000. That was under 10% of our aggregate budget. We are doing the work to make sure we have the funding we

need to operate." Chair Ellis said the Budget Committee would support the CDC's request for \$10,000.

Housing Assessment. The CDC requested \$5,000 in town monies to help fund a housing assessment.

Rob Kelley said, "As a starting point, the most recent comprehensive plan identified that workforce housing was a known issue in the community. As a definitional starting point, this would be more in the 80 to 120% (range) of area median incomes. Can a local tradesperson have a home? Can teachers in our school have a home? That is the context we're looking at.

Alane and I attended an Island Institute program in 2019 regarding Island and Workforce Housing Issues. We had a chance to listen to a lot of other communities, (such as) MDI, Kennebunk, Freeport who have been very successful in this space. I did some follow up with a couple of the communities, including Deer Isle-Stonington - Island Workforce Housing, and got a brief on how their whole process worked. Because there is a lot of assumptions about housing, like there are no rentable apartments available or housing isn't affordable in the community, you need some hard facts. What those communities did was they started their process with a needs assessment."

Chair Bates said in order to be eligible for federal and possibly state funding to help with affordable housing, a housing needs assessment would have to be done. Kelley said any funding requires the assessment to establish a baseline and estimated the assessment would cost about \$10,000. Chair Bates indicated it would be reasonable that the town would contribute half and the CDC would contribute half.

Chair Bates asked what funds this would unlock and how would it benefit the town? Kelley said they would go to private grant making organizations like Genesis Fund, Family foundations and other completely private 501(c)(3), state organizations like Maine Housing Authority, access funds through Maine's new statewide Workforce and Affordable Housing Assistance Program, and then through federal programs. Kelley estimated the need for twenty-five (25), two to three (2-3) bedroom, workforce homes in the community beyond what the town already had.

Kelley said the CDC sent out RFP's and they had received two back with specific recommendations. The CDC's housing committee will meet on February 11 to review the RFP's and interviews will then be done with each of the firms. Kelley said they expect to select a consultant on February 21st. Kelley noted that one RFP came in within the CDC's budget target and one was way off. He said if the assessment was more than \$10,000, the CDC would not ask the town for more money; they would find a way to cover the rest.

Chair Bates said the CDC had dates for the RFP schedule but he did not think the Select Board and Budget Committee would be able to finalize their decision tonight and would not be making a decision on the budget until March 9.

Kelley said he would continue to supply the committees with data and answer any questions they had. Kelley stated that according to Maine Housing Authority, there were certain kinds of workforce housing grants that only run through the municipality so there would be some monies that the CDC could not manage. He added that the CDC and town would have to collaborate if this project moved forward.

Selectperson Hall noted monies for affordable housing were not in the proposed budget and asked Kelley to get the information to them within the next couple of weeks so they could act upon the request.

Ambulance Service. Amy Drinkwater explained why they requested an increase in their budget. She said it is for an additional EMTs to assist the paramedic on duty and be able to respond quickly to calls. This will cut response time down to 3 to 4 minutes from 8 to 9 minutes while waiting for someone to come in from home. The Community Paramedicine (CP) Program is no longer a pilot program but a regular community paramedicine program. The plan is to have one of the paramedics do more outreach in the community involving their programs: Hands Only CPR, Stop the Bleed, and those types of training. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) also provides training for Neighbor to Neighbor drivers on how to assist their riders.

Chair Bates said Community Paramedicine means they will be able to do more home visits perhaps lessening trips to the doctor's office. Drinkwater said the CP program is not just for the elderly. The program it is for all ages, including children and that information needs to get out to the community. For instance, if a child has asthma, is sent home with an inhaler and the parent needs instruction on how to use it, they can help with that.

Peta vanVuuren noted the CP program and RDNA complement each other but the difference is in licensure perspective in what each is allowed to do. vanVuuren felt that RDNA aligns well and fits better with the EMS.

- Planning Department.

- Personnel increased because of wage increases and the fifty-three (53) pay periods.
- Conservation Commission budget increased to explore the improvement of Fort Point Trail. Oelberger said the CC expects to have something back by the end of the month from the trail designer and a cost analysis based on a professional approach to improving the trail.

Oelberger said the CC does not think the trail will be full Universal Access because all parts of the trail need to be less than an 8% grade and some areas are higher than that. Any money the CC spends upfront for items like trail design, the amount can be used as part of their 20% towards the grant money.

Selectperson Hall asked for the breakdown of the \$20,850. Oelberger said \$17,500 is all for Fort Point Trail and the remainder \$3,350 is for other items on the budget.

- Harbors. Polky said there will be new floats in Port Clyde and some replacement floats are needed in Tenants Harbor.

- Parks and Recreation. Increase in wage and benefits but otherwise unchanged. There is a small decrease in ballfield maintenance.

- Unclassified.

Family Health Contingent. Increased due to changes in family plan insurance coverage.

38 Main Street Expenses. The amount in this line was removed as it was an error.

38 Main Street Reserve. \$1,000 was requested for this line item and remains in the budget request.

- Minutes: The minutes of January 27, 2020 were amended as follows:

Page 3 corrections:

Under Town Office, line 1, correct name to Vaitones'

Under Solid Waste, line correct word to used

Under Town Manager's Report, Town Office, line 2 change to 1.7%

Page 5 corrections:

1st paragraph after bullets, line 2, correct date to February 11 and 24, 2020.

Under Minutes, page 6, line 2, correct to wind rows

Page 6, under Shellfish Committee, line 4, change to read: ...recommendation from July is to move...

A motion was made by Selectperson Sawyer, seconded by Hall, to approve the January 27, 2020, Select Board minutes, as amended. The vote was 5-0. Motion carried.

- Communications:

- Town Manager Polky received a call from Steve Walker of Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Walker said there was stewardship money in the amount of \$4,750 that went along with the Meadow Brook property and MCHT wanted to give the money to the town. Polky wrote a letter requesting those funds and said the money would be earmarked for stewardship of the Meadow Brook trails.
- A communication from Steve Walker regarding Clark Island. MCHT is in negotiations with the state to take ownership of Clark Island. MCHT asked for a \$1,000,000 grant but the state said in order to do that MCHT had to list in their program who would take over the ownership of the island if MCHT dissolved. Walker said the state was willing to be listed but the state would not take responsibility for the right-of-way to the island or on the island. MCHT asked if the town would be willing to take on that responsibility if there was enough money from the trust to pay the expenses.

Polky noted that currently, the family was responsible for maintaining the causeway to the island as the town's right of way stops where the pavement ends. Polky said his concern was the maintenance of the causeway but Chair Bates read Walker's letter which stated, "We've raised the dollars necessary to tackle our road maintenance responsibilities in perpetuity, and we will have these funds in a stewardship endowment."

Steve Walker also told Polky the state was not happy with the parking arrangements made with the Craginair Inn. Walker asked if the town had any ideas or comments about what

could be done about the parking. Polky told Walker he would talk with the Select Board. Polky said the town's right of way (down the hill in Clark Island) was three times as wide as the paved area and suggested possibly having parallel parking on the side of the road but he would talk with the neighbors first. He did not think there would be more than three cars to six cars there at any given time.

Selectperson Elwell said a lot of local people walk on the island, but the beach got the most activity from others. Selectperson Hall thought this area could become quite a destination. Selectperson Elwell stated that people in the Clark Island village were already talking about the increase in traffic and that traffic would increase more when the area is advertised as recreational. Polky said he and the Select Board needed to discuss this with Walker and come up with a plan for day trippers.

A motion was made by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Willey to authorize Town Manager Tim Polky on behalf of the Select Board to explore the issue of parking for the public preserve at Clark Island and report back with his findings. The vote was 5-0. The motion carried.

- Warrant: The warrant for the week of January 30, 2020, was reviewed and signed. The total expenses were \$141,874.43 and includes two weeks of payroll, the Winter Road Contract of \$40,672.00, a payment to ME Municipal Employees Health Trust, and other regular expenses. Chair Bates asked about Simpson Electric under the Fire Department account for \$1,222.50. Polky said it was work done to start the process of replacing the LED lighting in the Fire Station which allowed the town to apply for a grant through Efficiency Maine.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: Tim Polky reported the following:

- Streetlights. Steve Jarret used GPS to map the streetlights in town. Polky said CMP had been good and was prompt in getting the information to him which he asked for. CMP said the town had 108 lights, but Jarrett counted 116 lights. Polky said he had been working with a company that Rockland, Camden-Rockport, and Union had worked with. He said he is expecting a quote on what the cost would be to the town to buy the lights off of CMP and have CMP install and maintain them.

Polky said CMP had just given the town a proposal. The proposal was: if the town signs a 15-year contract for new lights, CMP will install the new LED lights and maintain them. Polky thought this could save the town approximately \$4,000 a year. Polky said if the lights came off the poles, then the town would own them, and the town would lose approximately \$4,500 in tax money from CMP. Polky said he would wait until the other proposal was in before making a decision.

- Road Postings. The orange colored road signs would be posted on the utility poles Tuesday, February 11 because of mild weather/spring-like conditions, Polky said.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Conservation Commission - Selectperson Willey reported the following:

- The CC met on Thursday, February 6, 2020.

- Fort Point Trail would not have a universal accessible trail and they would like to get the Fort Point Trail on the state website as a significant historical site and state park.
- Sea Level Rise. The CC discussed climate change and there will be a Sea Level Rise workshop on February 29, 2020, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Streetlights. The commission discussed streetlights and supported the use of LED bulbs.
- Solar Systems. The CC discussed how solar systems affect people's taxes and evaluations. The CC is encouraging people to install solar energy to their homes. Chair Bates added that the state recognized that people should not be discouraged from installing solar systems. There were changes in legislation and one of the committees in Augusta was tasked to figure out how this would work. Chair Bates wrote to Rep. Matlack to see what the committee came up with and what they were proposing.

Chair Bates said people who have solar panels need to file paperwork with the town and say they want to make sure they are not paying any extra property taxes on their solar systems. Beth Smith has been talking with Assessing Agent Bob Gingras about this. Rep. Matlack noted there is a workshop being held on this issue. Polky did not think the information would be out before the town's deadline date of April 1st for Gingras to do his reassessments and pick up work.

- Alewives. The CC said the restocking and restoration of alewives is on hold for now as the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is not supporting the project. The CC is looking for new ideas to continue this project.

- Vote to Extend the Meeting: A motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Hall, to continue the meeting beyond 9 p.m. The vote was 5-0. Motion carried.

- Land conservation. The CC is having continuing conversations regarding land conservation and they are looking into the Old Woods Farm property. There are 80 acres available on this property and the original owner brought this to the CC's attention. This property abuts the Tenants Harbor Water District property.
- Website. The CC is working on their updates on the website and once they have those completed, they will continue to update the website, as needed.

- Planning Board: Chair Bates reported the Planning Board met at 7:00 p.m. on January 28, 2020.

- There were no applications to consider.
- The Board continued the review of ordinances, this week considering the standards for Subdivisions.

- Ad hoc Sea Level Rise Committee: Chair Bates reported the ad hoc committee met and worked on plans for the Saturday, February 29, 2020 workshop. There will be two facilitators and invitations for the meeting are being advertised.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Gulf of Maine Research Institute Proposal: Chair Bates stated the Select Board received a communication from Susie Arnold of the Island Institute asking if St. George (and Vinalhaven) would be interested in being one of their pilot communities for a three-year training program developed by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) and the Island Institute. The program is designed to support Maine rural coastal communities making climate resilience decisions. The project is being developed to help communities plan for sea level rise. The Select Board agreed to participate as a pilot community in the training program. Chair Bates will notify Ms. Arnold of the Board's approval.

On a motion by Selectperson Sawyer, seconded by Elwell, it was voted 5-0 to approve the town of St. George participate as a pilot community in the Gulf of Maine Research Institute's 3-year training program.

At 9:07 p.m., on a motion by Selectperson Sawyer, seconded by Hall, it was voted to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marguerite R. Wilson
Select Board Recording Secretary