

3rd Annual Summer Residents Meeting

Special Select Board Meeting

July 7, 2014 – *unapproved minutes*

Summer residents attending: John Symonds, Carolyn Morrill, Bill and Sharon Freeman, Marti Wagner and Don George, Jeanne Liberatore, Charles and Stephanie Hatch, Jean and Charles Weaver, Jean Wagner, Carolyn Purington, Ellen and Billy Zimkin, Ajay and Alice Jagtiani, Elaine Berry, Judy Beck, Sandra Gorry, Sylvia Ellingwood, Joe Donahue and Rita Bouchard, Ann Wilson, Dick and Nancy Allen, Winifred and Alan Howie, and Fran Zambella.

Select Board members attending: Sue Reay, Val Pomerleau, Tom Dunham, and Allen Curtis,

Others attending: Jennifer Baack (resident), Grace Keene (Cemetery Committee), Peter Bickerman (Appeals Board), Paula Clark (Planning Board), John Parent (Budget Committee), Pete Davis (Road Committee), Kathryn Woodsum (SWRC), Stefan Pakulski (Town Manager), Milt Wright (Trails), Gary and Ann Keilty (Trails Committee), John Perry (Union Meeting House).

Select Board Chair Sue Reay convened this meeting at 6:37 PM, followed by introductions of Select Board members, the Town Manager, and chairpersons of Town boards and committees.

Mrs. Reay asked if there were any questions about the minutes from last year's Summer Residents Meeting. Carolyn Morrill asked whether there was any progress in making Sunday hours available at the Transfer Station or possibly switching hours from another day. Mrs. Reay referred this to the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee (SWRC) chair, Kathryn Woodsum to respond to later in the meeting.

Stephanie Hatch expressed concern about trees that limit safe visibility at the Thundercastle Road-Chase Road intersection. John Parent said the Road Committee will look at signage around town, including this intersection, and the Town Manager said he look at the need for any tree trimming there.

Jennifer Baack asked about the state law regarding fireworks, as people tend to set off fireworks late into the night. Mrs. Reay reviewed the state law limiting fireworks until 10:00 PM except on July 4th and Dec. 31st when fireworks can be used until midnight.

Mrs. Reay reviewed the Town Meeting vote on Heritage Days. The event will now be held every two years, with the next one in August 2015. The Town raised \$5,000 in reserve to support Heritage Days. Some other local events that usually coincide with Heritage Days will be held this year, such as the Fire Dept.'s bean hole supper, the library book sale, and events at the Union Meeting House and Historical Society.

There will be no Farmers' Market this year in Readfield.

Mrs. Reay reviewed how the Select Board stay engaged with the RSU #38 budget process.

Jennifer Baack asked how Readfield's tax mil rate compares with other towns. The Town Manager responded that Readfield's mil is higher than most of the other towns in this area.

Mrs. Reay noted a question or suggestion in last year's meeting minutes about placing benches on Town trails. Milt Wright, Trails Committee Chair, replied that a donation paid for a granite bench on the Lower Fairgrounds Trail and he hopes others could contribute to more benches. Mr. Wright also explained the continuing trails work at different sites, including a new trail on RSU #38 property that will link school and town trails. Jean Wagner said that after last year's meeting she attended a trails walk and noted how beautiful the trails are.

Mrs. Reay encouraged summer residents to volunteer on Town projects, such as a lilac "living fence" memorial planting at the East Readfield Cemetery on July 21st with the Cemetery Committee.

Mrs. Woodsum addressed the Transfer Station Sunday-hours question, asking for the Select Board possibly to survey the public to determine demand. It would be important to estimate costs, consider staffing impacts, and see how the change could be justified. This sparked the most extensive conversation of the evening with many points raised by many people. Fifteen people raised their hands to say they support some form of Sunday hours for trash and recycling. Mrs. Woodsum agreed to check with the SWRC about different options and costs for Sunday hours, such as whether a commercial hauler would be available to receive trash and recyclables at site in Town for a few hours, or perhaps to open the Transfer Station for a few hours. The Select Board will hear input from the SWRC about this issue on July 14, 2014.

Mrs. Reay noted an item from the meeting last year about the possible extension of notices to abutters for Planning Board items. Paula Clark, Planning Board chair addressed this, saying there is some flexibility on when the Planning Board will review items. She suggested meetings could be timed for interested abutters, especially those from a distance. She will explore this further with the Planning Board and CEO.

Jennifer Baack asked where she could information about erosion control for property owners in the shoreland zone. The Cobbossee Watershed District (CWD), DEP, and DOT (especially for private camp roads) were mentioned.

Mr. Jagtiani asked who he could contact about the Rte. 41 boat launch being used as a swimming area/beach. Paula Clark said the former Dept. of Conservation, now part of the Dept. of Agriculture, Forestry and Conservation probably is the right authority to contact, perhaps under George Powell. She promised to send contact information.

Jean Weaver noted the Maranacook Lake Association meeting, to be held next week, usually has information on erosion control and other shoreland topics. Fran Zambella mentioned the Kennebec County Soil & Water Conservation District (KCSWCD) as well.

Carolyn Purington asked whether the many bonfires she sees on the lake need burn permits. Mrs. Reay said as long as they are cook-out fires then no burn permits are needed. Mr. Curtis said on-line burn permits are available.

Mr. Jagtiani thanked everyone for coming out for the meeting.

Mr. Zambella asked why businesses seem to be closing and if this could be related to local taxes. Ms. Pomerleau said there was no real pattern she's aware of for business closures. Mrs. Reay noted the Readfield Enterprise Fund (REF) work to support local small businesses with several recent grants and loans. The REF will continue making new loans using repaid existing loan funds.

Sylvia Ellingwood asked about the status of the Grange building. The private Maple Tree Community School purchased the building and received Planning Board approval to operate a small school there, and might open this fall.

Ms. Pomerleau encouraged everyone to go see the great new ball field at the Fairgrounds.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.