

The Arrowsic Arrow

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Arrowsic, Maine 04530

Jan./Feb. 1999

An independent publication

TOWN OF ARROWSIC OFFICIALS

Board of Selectmen: Pat Harcourt (442-8122) Larry Wilson (443-6970), Greg Guckenburt (442-8020)

Town Clerk: Liz Rollins

Tax Collector: Liz Rollins

Codes Enforcement Officer: David Foster

Regular Town Hall Office Hours:

Wednesday, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Fridays, 8:30-11:00 a.m.

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

A special town meeting will be held Wednesday January 12, 1999 at 5 p.m. in the town hall for the purpose of revising the Shellfish Ordinance to include a new classification of Commercial Student License at a cost of \$35.00. For further information call Betty Wilson, chair of the Shellfish Conservation Committee, at 443 6970

Additionally, the town will be asked to accept a small triangle of land in front of town hall. The state presently has title to this land and wishes to tidy up the records. No expense to the town is involved. For further information call Jim Arsenault, chair of Town Property Management Committee, at 443 1510

Summary of Selectmen's Minutes.

11/9/98 meeting.

Kevin McGillicuddy meet with the selectmen to report on the progress of his evaluation of the town. By July 1999 all buildings and land will be visited with computer work being completed by September 1999. Letters will go out 9/30/99 informing individuals of the results and hearings will be scheduled for the first part of October 1999.

Note: As a result of a suggestion by a resident, Kevin will have a sign on his truck that reads "Arrowsic Town Assessor." This will let you know who is your drive way or if you are from the house when Kevin arrives to do the assess-

ment you will know whose truck it is when you return.

Paul Schlein, manager of the area food co-op asked that the basis on which the co-op was being assessed for the use of town hall be reconsidered.

Dave Foster reported that the Fire Department Boosters were looking for a recipient for their annual Thanksgiving basket. Dave also reported that he had sent a letter to a homeowner that was in violation of the zoning ordinance because the outside of the owner's home had not been completed within the time frame stipulated in the ordinance. Dave reported that the clear cutting that occurred on Mill Island was requiring him to do some digging because the property had been sold and resold. He is in the process of tracking down the new owners and will get back to the selectmen.

11/23/98 meeting.

Auditors will finish work by 12/16 on a town audit. Selectmen debated the proper charge for using the town hall. Several suggestions were made. It was decided to table the discussion until next meeting.

The selectmen agreed, at the request of Chief Scott, to purchase a 10 X 20 canopy structure to house the brush truck at a cost of three to four hundred dollars. This action was necessary because Brian could not find a place to store the truck for the winter.

A consent agreement has been sent to the Flinks, for their signature, regarding the clear cutting on their property off old stage road. The agreement requires, among other things, the replanting of trees under the guidance of a professional State Forester. The trees are to be a 50-50 mix of hard and soft woods that are common to the area.

The selectmen also agreed to levy a fine of \$3000.00.

12/14/98 meeting.

Sue Elwell, in consultation with the selectmen, has resigned her position as Town Clerk. Liz Rollins has been sworn in as town clerk and will perform the duties of town clerk until the annual town meeting in June. Liz, of course, is still tax collector.

A discussion, among the selectmen, on setting of office hours for clerk and tax collector was held and making sure all town business is done in town hall. In the absence of any article stating otherwise the clerk and tax collector set their own hours and where they do business. The selectmen next addressed the flow of town money. There are a couple of options. One is to have the money come to the treasurer and have the treasurer write the appropriate checks. Another option is to set up with the state a direct deposit. Liz Rollins and Pat Olds will decide on the options.

Chief Scott reported that the Maine Bureau of Health has a pilot program for giving free smoke alarms to homes that have small children and elderly family members. It is up to local organizations, such as the fire department, to install the alarms. It was decided to pass this onto Bill Shoemaker and his Emergency Management Preparedness committee.

Wendy Briggs, Chair of the School Committee, reviewed the status of the school committee's work. Wendy indicated that our school budget, for the next year ('99-'00) would be similar to last year. There is a chance that budget might be slightly reduced.

Wednesday December 30th the selectmen met at town hall for an afternoon of cleaning, organizing and "dumping." The kitchen area has been sorted, organized, and cleaned. A table has been placed in the main room with "stuff" that needs to be examined by all committee members for things that should be kept and things that should be tossed.

This is an appeal to all committee members. Please check the material on the tables and place anything that should be kept in the kitchen room. The selectmen will find a place to store it. If the material is not a keeper leave it on the table and we will dispose of it February 1st, 1999.

The selectmen would like to know what you think about:

1. The town hall being decorated this holiday season.

2. A web page for the town as a place to post the minutes of committee and selectmen's meetings.
3. Other things.

You may respond by e-mailing Larry Wilson at lwilson@gwi.net or calling him at 443 6970 or leaving a note in the selectmen's box at town hall.

Our Volunteer Fire Department

(By Larry Wilson)

I learned, during a few meetings with Chief Scott and reading articles in the Townsman magazine, that volunteer fire departments across Maine are struggling. The struggle is primarily due to a shortage of qualified volunteers, increased paper work required by state and federal government, additional training and the need for more technical and expensive equipment.

Linda Lockhart, in a recent article in the Maine Townsman, wrote "The governing tradition for acquisition of firefighting equipment has been organized fundraising. Public suppers, box socials, product parties, car washes, walkathons, food sales, chimney cleaning and even door to door solicitation have funded protective gear, radio equipment, vehicles and all manner of gear required by prudence if not by laws and rulemaking. But as the necessary equipment has become more technical, more expensive, and more often driven by federal and state mandates, the abilities of fire departments and their auxiliaries to keep up with the need for funds have eroded. Instead, municipal budgets have been required to fund firefighting equipment".

Quoting again from Linda Lockhart's article, "This exploration of the evolutionary pressures on Maine's fire service raises more questions than it answers. Do we value Maine's system of fire service and its 90% volunteer composition? Who gets to make that value judgment? Is there a way to reduce, slow down, or mitigate the impact of federal regulation on volunteer fire departments and the municipalities they serve? If the change must come, should it come through rulemaking, or should Maine's citizens be allowed to affect the decision-making process? In the next few years, the answers to these questions will unfold, with or without our conscious participation."

I gained appreciation for what Chief Scott is doing for our town when I understood what he and his crew are doing to improve our fire department's professionalism and capability. Bath's Assistant fire chief told Pat Harcourt that he was impressed with Chief Scott's protocol in requesting assistance and directing the equipment during the recent Old Stage Road fire. Brian shared with me his written SOP's for sounding second

alarms, driving fire apparatus, safety priorities, standby coverage, use of red lights and operation of personal vehicles when responding to a fire alarm.

While there are signs of discouragement within our fire department I am impressed with the dedication and motivation Brian has in continuing his effort to build and maintain an adequate volunteer fire department for our town. Part of the reason for the motivation may come from his sense of accomplishment. Herzberg, a behavioral scientist, says that accomplishment is the greatest motivator for doing work. Recognition of that accomplishment is the second greatest motivator according to Herzberg. It is certainly a great accomplishment when Brian and his volunteers save the house next door. The firefighters recognize this accomplishment and are motivated to continue being firefighters. However, the greater recognition is from others such as us, the residents of Arrowsic, and peers such as the assistant chief from Bath. We support and recognize our volunteers when we attend their suppers, buy their raffle tickets or stop by and say thanks during National Fire Prevention week. We recognize them for being there if and when we need them. Now it looks like we need to recognize the additional load placed on our volunteers through government regulations and rulemaking.

SOME WORDS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE ARROW.....

We need donations for next issue (March)!!!

We are trying to improve the Arrow so that it can better communicate news between the selectmen and the residents, and between residents. We'll publish everything received, limited only by room. Your feedback is encouraged, as is your participation. Those of you who have email are invited to send submissions to Bob Kalish (rkalish@gwi.net) or Larry Wilson (lwilson@gwi.net). You may leave old fashioned paper and ink in the Arrow box in the Town Hall, or you can mail it to Bob Kalish, HC 33, Box 156, Arrowsic 04530. We would like to experiment with a Kid's Page or Kid's Korner featuring news, drawings, and features from our school-age citizens. We plan to publish every other month, so the next issue will come out March, deadline Feb. 28.

Shellfish Conservation Committee

Although our first clamming season has ended, the Shellfish Committee is still busy collecting monthly water samples for analysis by the Maine

Department of Marine Resources. Each month, the committee samples water quality at five locations around the island, on both the Kennebec and the Back River. This information is valuable to the DMR not only as it affects shellfish harvesting, but also over the long term, in highlighting seasonal patterns and trends in water quality.

One would assume that in the winter, as water temperatures decrease, water quality would improve. Oddly enough the reverse is true. Traditionally the water at the mouth of the Kennebec has a higher bacterial count in the winter months than in the summer. We believe that this is due to the fact that most towns upriver chlorinate the outflow of their waste treatment operations only during those months when it is likely that people will be swimming in the river. Since fewer people upriver depend on the river for their livelihood or their dinner, their priorities differ from ours. The DMR and local shellfish committees were successful in lobbying the city of Bath to chlorinate year round. Our water sampling should provide the DMR with information that will help them advocate for year-round chlorinating in those towns that are not doing so at present. At some point in the future this might allow us to keep our clam-flats open year round.

In other committee news, we have recently decided we will add another license category in addition to our Resident and Non Resident Commercial, Resident and Non Resident Recreational licenses. Next season any full-time matriculating student may apply for a Student Resident Commercial license at a cost of \$50.

Would you be interested in joining our committee? Dave Foster's term will be up in June of 1999 and we are looking for someone to take his place. If you want to join the few, the proud, the marines... please contact Betty Wilson at 443-6970.

RECYCLING NEWS

Lately the Recycling/Solid Waste committee has discovered tied bundles of newspapers in the mixed paper bin at the town hall. It is the committee's opinion, based on past experience, that someone who's job it is to deliver the papers is dumping them into our bin. This makes for a lot of extra work, since we have to get them out of the bin before the bin is unloaded. So we'd like to ask anyone witnessing such a dumping to please get the person's name and let us know by calling Bob Kalish at 443-4660. Thanks.

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

Although Arrowsic has no commercial zone, it

does recognize "home business." To clarify, the zoning ordinance defines a home business as an occupation or business which is regularly carried on within a dwelling by a member of the family residing therein. Permitted home businesses include production of goods, sale of goods produced on site, provision of services performed on site, and provision of goods and services off site for which material and equipment are kept on site. A sales outlet is not a home business unless the items sold are products of the owner's labor.

At the 1993 town meeting, residents enacted a requirement that all home businesses need to obtain a "home business permit," a no-fee permit that asks the permittee to address the impact of the home business with respect to noise, traffic,

waste disposal, etc. An ad hoc committee was formed following the meeting to conduct fact-finding, analysis and to recommend ordinance changes if needed. The committee has concluded its findings and found that the ordinance seems to reflect the desire of the majority of the residents.

DOG OWNERS

All dogs in Arrowsic need to be licensed by January 31, 1999. A mandatory late fee will apply to all dogs licensed after that date (except new owners of dogs or new residents in state). This late fee will be deposited in town's animal welfare fund.

CAR REGISTRATIONS -- JAN/FEB 1999

AL'S P.H.E. INC
ARSENAULT, JAMES E
ATER, ANN
CARD, AIMEE S

CARLTON, CELIA M
COLLIER, SUSAN
DAVIS, NANCY A
DAVIS, SHELDON K

GAILLARD, MICHELE
GILES, SAMUEL D
GRILL, CHRISTOPHER J
HIGGINS, RICHARD A

JONES, ANNMARIE G
KENTY, DIANE E
LIZOTTE, SUSAN Y
LUM, KENNETH M

ROSS, WILLIAM L
SHULTZ, ROBERT E
SHULTZ, ROBERT E
SIMMONS, WILLARD

STINSON, CARL N
VONHUENE, ANDREAS
WARNER, DORIS E

ALS PLUMBING & HEATING
ANDERSON, AVERY H
BRIGGS, WALTER H
BRYANT, DONALD A

BRYANT, DONANT A
CARLETON, JAMES
CARLTON, DALE
CHAPIN, EDWARD B III

COLE, CHARLES D
COLLIER, SUSAN J
ELWELL, JULIE A
ELWELL, RICHARD H

FOSTER, DAVID
GALUZA, JAMES J
GRILL, CHRISTOPHER J
HIGGINS, RICHARD A

HILTON, WANDA
HINDS, JOHN
HINDS, JOHN
HOLBROOK, LEW

HOLT WOODLANDS RESEARCH FOUNDAT
JORGENSEN, MARK
KAHRL, FRED J
KIMBALL, DUGGAN

KIMBALL, SUSAN C
KNIGHT, MILDRED E
LEBRUN, LEONARD
LYDEN, DAVID J

MACMAHAN, NORMA
MCLUER, JOHN W
MILLER, ERIK D
MOORE, GEORGE D

MOUNT, PAMELA A
ODONNELL, NANAOK
PACKARD, PHILLIP E
PINETTE, ALFRED J

PUFF, KATHLEEN S
ROOT, DONALD N
SAFFORD, GEORGE A
SCOTT, BRIAN D

SCOTT, NANCY
SHAW, RON
SHELDON, CATHERINE C
SOKOL, DAMIAN

SPENCER, DAVID M
SPENCER, JAMES A
STAFFORD, GEORGE F
STARBIRD, JOHN S

STINSON, LUCY E
STORIN, KEIKO

SULLIVAN, CATHERINE C
SULLIVAN, TIMOTHY
TEXTOR, KENNETH J
THOMAS, KATHRYN

WALSH, THOMAS J
WILSON, LAWRENCE