

# The Arrowsic Arrow

Vol. 15, No. 2

Get out and vote!

March/April 2000



visit us on Arrowsic's own web site at [www.gwi.net/arrowsic](http://www.gwi.net/arrowsic)  
 Thanks to Great Works Internet (1-800-201-1476)  
 and Larry Wilson, Selectman and Webmaster 443-6970

"When I see an adult on a bicycle, I have  
 hope for the human race" H.C. Wells

Dear Reader,  
 Tuesday, March 7 is the Presidential Preference Primary Election. Please come to the Arrowsic Town Hall to vote.  
 Polls open at 10AM and close at 8 PM. The last chance to change parties was Feb 18, 2000, but unenrolled voters can declare a party anytime up to and including election day.  
 Here is the Secretary of State's List of candidates:

#### Democratic Party:

Bill Bradley, Montclair, New Jersey  
 Richard Jan Epstein, Boca Raton, Florida  
 Al Gore, Carthage, Tennessee  
 Lyndon H LaRouche, Jr, Round Hill, Virginia

#### Republican Party:

Gary Bauer, Fairfax, Virginia  
 George W. Bush, Austin, Texas  
 Steve Forbes, Bedminster, New Jersey  
 Alan Keyes, Darnestown, Maryland  
 John McCain, Phoenix, Arizona

#### About the Fire Department:

On Thursday, March 2, I and about 30 others went to the Town Hall for the 3rd in a series of discussions held by the Selectmen to discuss Arrowsic's firefighting capabilities, present and future. We have published minutes from previous meetings in the Arrow (and they are available at Town Hall), so I'll stick to the unfolding of this meeting.

We began with a bus ride down to the firebarn on Rt 127 during which many recalled childhood memories of long school bus rides, motion sickness, falling asleep, missing the bus, not getting to sit next to friends or having to sit next to bullies or intimidatingly cute boys or girls. Many of us asked if they were going to serve dinner when we got to the firebarn.

If the point of the trip was to see the equipment, I can honestly say that I never got more than 6 inches away from the side of either of the trucks. Turnout gear, helmets, boots and other necessary items were all neatly stashed and hung tight up against the walls. The fact is, there is little to no room to move in the barn, and we could not possibly squeeze another inch of truck into those walls. We all single-filed, turning sideways, between the trucks and the walls around the perimeter, reconnoitered outside while Chief Scott and Assistant Chief Thomas gave us facts and figures about the pumper and the brush truck as well as pointing out the property boundaries (about 8 feet from either side of the existing building).

If the point was to let us all know that we are desperately pressed for space and unable (quite literally) to expand the department, the point was well made.

Back at the Town Hall, Larry Wilson led the rest of the meeting. He pointed out that Four options have been identified from the previous two work shops:

1. Renovate the present fire barn
2. Build a fire barn large enough to house fire equipment, on land next to Town Hall
3. Build a fire barn large enough to house fire equipment and accommodate other town interest, on land next to Town Hall
4. Keep the Status Quo

First we discussed purchasing a new truck Vs purchasing a used truck. A new truck will cost about \$160,000.00 and last about 30 years. It will also feature the latest in Class A foam technology which increases water carrying capability 7-10 times, and decreases manpower requirements by more than half. As an example, Chief Scott pointed out that currently we have 7.9 minutes of water on one handline. If we go to 1500 gallons with foam technology, it would increase our capacity to 29 minutes of water on one

handline. In other words, two firefighters and one truck could do the job that now requires 2 trucks and 5-7 firefighters.

Alternatively, we could purchase a used truck for \$90,000.00 that might last 15 years but would not have the advantage of foam technology. Chief Scott pointed out the increased maintenance costs that come with a used vehicle. We have put \$5,000.00-\$6,000.00 into the 1966 truck we bought 3 years ago.

The next part of the discussion focused on the assumption that if we buy a new truck, we need a new building (arguably, we could use a new building now for training and meetings). We compared the options of size and aesthetic: do we want cheaper and larger (Chief Scott pointed out that a Morton building, built on a slab with wood trusses and sided with metal could be very reasonable but probably not available in multi-level design), or stick-built and "Arrowsic-designed"? Do we want to spend a little more time coming up with a comprehensively designed plan incorporating the new building on the new site (land we purchased this summer adjacent to the town hall) into the current town hall setting? Do we want to spend a little extra money to get extra space for other town functions?

Financing options were also discussed. Shall we sell the town land (across from the current fire barn) and add \$50,000.00 to the pot of available moneys? Do we sell the current firebarn? How much additional money do we need to raise to purchase a truck this year and begin the building process this summer? There were concerns about the town paying finance charges for loans and I pointed out (as Town Treasurer) that we have enough money in surplus that we could finance the project ourselves.

Assuming we sell nothing, here are the (ballpark) costs involved in all of the options:

20x48 building with site prep:	\$53,800-\$ 63,400
40x40 " " "	\$73,000-\$ 89,000
40x60 " " "	\$95,000-\$121,000

Much of the discussion centered around the building until Chief Scott pointed out that he doesn't care if the truck is parked in a tent. His primary concern is getting to fires quicker and saving lives.

Many issues need to be researched before a proposal can be brought to town meeting. Michele Gaillard kept a running list on a flip chart. At the conclusion of the meeting those interested in helping with specific tasks were asked to sign up. If you'd like to join the team, the list is at the Town Hall.

Larry Wilson will print up detailed minutes and have them available for you at the Town Hall, and on Arrowsic's web site ([www.gwi.net/arrowsic](http://www.gwi.net/arrowsic)). We will have a fourth and final meeting just before Town Meeting in June to discuss issues on which we will be voting.

"We have to keep in mind that we are not fighting for integration, nor are we fighting for separation. We are fighting for recognition, for the right to live as free humans in this society" Malcolm X April 6, 1964

#### Important Dates:

Selectmen meet 3/13, 3/27, 4/10, 4/24 6 pm Town Hall  
 Planning Board Meets 3/6, 4/3 7 pm at Town Hall  
 Coop Ordering Dates: 3/7; 4/4 (FMI, call Paul Schlein  
 Coop Bread Delivery: 3/11-12, 4/8-9 443-3209)  
 Coop Order Delivery: 3/16, 4/13  
 Property Management Committee meets 3/7 7pm Town Hall  
 Shellfish Committee Meets 3/20 5 pm at Town Hall  
 Conservation Commission meets 3/20 6 pm Town Hall  
 Road Commission meets 3/4 9 am Town Hall

"Inert objects with simple, definite locations in space and time do not exist. Instead, all nature is alive with process and happenings." Mae-Wan Ho

## The Letter Box:

Dear Town of Arrowsic and Union 47,

Thank you for the scholarship. Your gift is greatly appreciated! In addition to the financial help, it's a good feeling to know I have the support from my community.

I am working for an engineering firm this summer and start classes this fall at the University of Maine at Orono.

Thanks again, Jake Bryant.

*for more information about adding to the growing pool of donations to the Arrowsic Scholarship fund, please contact any of our school committee members: Eloise Vitelli, 443-4660; Nancy Brown Stump, 442-7527, or Jody Jones 443-3697*

MINUTES FROM SELECTMEN'S MEETING Jan. 10, 2000 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT Selectmen: Pat Harcourt, Larry Wilson, Greg Guckenburg Others: Mary Hillery, Alice and Richard Higgins, Patty Olds, Brian Scott, Eugenia and Robert Knowles, Scott Stuart, Sally Drake, Brett Gillam, Dave Foster, Phine Ewing

1. Planning Board: Mary Hillery came to talk about the Planning Board, which she and Karen Robbins co-chair. they have a good working group, with five full members, two alternates, and a range of experience to bring to the mix.

This year the Board hopes to work on improving compliance with the home business ordinance, by getting people to file for permits. As always, they will also be dealing with building permits and conditional use permits. David Foster is a regular at Planning Board meetings when building permits are being discussed.

The Board anticipates help from the Merrymeeting Regional Council of Governments, which has offered its services to Arrowsic free of charge.

Among other things, they have offered to do a workshop on subdivisions, a subject that the Planning Board would like to re-visit. They also hope to have a workshop on how to read deeds, in which John Wood will take part.

2. Fire Department: Brian reported that during the controlled burning of the Frye house, some hot embers landed

on Judy Kenney's garage roof and melted holes up to four inches across. It is a pipe-frame, portable garage. Brian estimates the damage at \$300-5500, although that is just a guess. The Selectmen asked him to find out how much it will cost to repair, then Greg will call MMA to find out if the town is covered for it.

Workshop #2 on the Fire Department will be on Wed., Jan 19 at 6:00 p.m.

3. Stonetree Representatives from Stonetree were given the floor, as the Higginses had spoken at the last Selectmen's meeting. Scott asked for the Selectmen's reaction to Stonetree's most recent letter, but the Selectmen had not had time to read it; Larry asked for time to read, digest, and come back with a well thought-out reply. However, Brett Gillam pointed out that Stonetree Association is being required by the Selectmen to make progress, and requested some indication from the Selectmen what their course of action will be. Stonetree representatives say the negotiations have come to standstill.

Scott said he had received a letter from Dave Foster saying there is no violation where the dock is concerned. He asked Dave to affirm; Dave said yes. Scott went on to say that there is a violation where the Higgins' house is concerned. Again, Dave agreed. However, Larry said he is not ready to take the dock out of the discussion yet. A discussion of the status of each violation followed. David Foster had brought both violations forward to the Selectmen; he later wrote to Stonetree to say that although the dock is in violation, he feels he cannot enforce the statute because of the way the town handled their permit. Brett said that what separates the dock and the house violations is that the dock was put in with everyone's O.K.; the Planning Board, the Army Corps of Engineers, and (twice) the Higgins' written consent. He complained that everyone is talking in circles; first the dock is in violation, then that is rescinded, then it is back in violation.

Pat asked the Stonetree residents to come back to the Feb. 28 Selectmen's meeting, for which the Selectmen will prepare by gathering their documents and consulting the town lawyer.

Greg addressed the Higginses and said he didn't think there has been a lot of honest-to-goodness negotiation going on, and that in his opinion, the Higginses have a lot more to lose if negotiations fail, in that they will have to move their house, whereas Stonetree just has a dock to move.

The Higginses have a For Sale Sign on Rte 127 for a portion of their land. The sign is routinely vandalized

A long discussion was held following the departure of the Stonetree residents and the Higginses. Larry talked to a lawyer who said that if it goes to court, the Selectmen have to be able to prove a violation was made willfully, or conversely that it was an honest mistake. They also have to know when it took place in relation to the appeal period. The Selectmen And Dave will meet with Eliot Field, taking all the pertinent documentation, before Feb. 28. Pat will arrange the meeting with Eliot They will also talk to John Wood and Bill Blaiklock again for historical perspective. On the 28th the

Selectmen will tell Stonetree residents what the Selectmen plan to do about the violations.

Larry and Dave had a tour of the area in dispute Larry says that Richard Higgins is willing to submit to binding arbitration.

Assessing Kevin's schedule for assessment visits was reviewed. He will be at the Town Hall on the first and third Friday of each month during office hours. People can call then to make appointments with him.

The Dec. 2 workshop had about 25 people in attendance, and a January date for the next workshop needs to be set, with a snow date. Larry talked about creative solutions to the volunteer deficit; some towns give property tax breaks to fire department volunteers, or other incentives to join.

7. Hot Water Heater has not been moved. The man from Dead River Co. who came to move it had to order a piece for the vent. When that comes the heater will be moved. It will cost under \$500 to complete the job.

The Selectmen went into executive session. The next meeting will be Jan. 10

Respectfully submitted,  
Phine Ewing

WANTED: to purchase land to build a one person home in Arrowsic-Georgetown area, and/or to rent house/apartment in Arrowsic/Georgetown area year round. Please leave a message at 442-7061

From the Tax Collector, Liz Rollins 443-3648

THE FOLLOWING REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE IN MARCH (APRIL UNAVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING)

AMES, HAROLD A  
ATER, ROBERT G  
BRAWN, ALLISON L  
BRIDGE, CLARE L

BURKE, JOHN G  
DAVIS, NANCY A  
DUNN, FLOYD L  
FOSTER, DAVID R

FRAHM, SHIRLEY D  
GILES, SAMUEL D  
GUCKENBURG, MARY L  
HOLBROOK, KIMBERLY

HOWLAND, JEAN M  
JORGENSEN, MARK  
KANE, JEAN R  
KING, STANLEY E

KREINDLER, MICHAEL  
LELIEVRE, BRIAN  
MANN, JEFFREY S  
MOORE, GEORGE

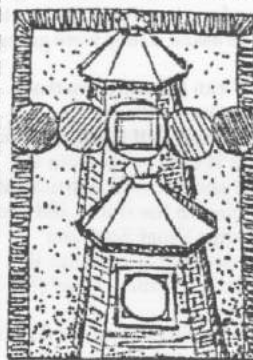
MOUNT, PAMELA  
NEILSON BRUNE, WILL  
O CONNOR, JAMIE R  
PACKARD, PHILLIP E

PACKARD, PHILLIP E  
PINETTE, ALFRED J  
PINETTE, ANTHONY J  
ROBBINS, KAREN

ROOT, DONALD M  
SCHLEIN, PAUL B  
SHELDON, CATHERINE  
SHUFELT, ERNEST F

STONE, JOHN F JR  
SULLIVAN, MICHAEL  
TOLAN, JAMES J  
WARNER, KEVIN J

WOOD, JOHN  
YEATON, GUY M



The Range Light Keepers  
invite you to the  
1st Annual

**FOG BELL  
FISH CHOWDER  
SUPPER**

Join us for a good old-fashioned chowder supper  
to benefit the Bell Tower Restoration Project.

**Saturday, March 18, 2000**

Arrowsic Town Hall

5:00-7:30 PM

\$6. adults / \$3. children

take-out pints available

Door Prize: signed original wood engraving

call 442-7443 for information