



# ARROWSIC ARROW

Arrowsic, Maine 04530

May, 1987

## Dear Reader,

I was going to write, "Happy Spring!" but I can hardly bring myself to be serious about springtime as I sit here watching the snowflakes falling through the sky. Good weather for ponderin'. And, while you're at it, think about Town Meeting coming up in June. Are there any changes you'd like to see in Town policy? Maybe you've got some ideas on roads, taxes, conservation, or growth management. Town Meeting is a good chance to air ideas and find out what your neighbors are thinking about similar issues. We have gotten an early start on publishing the Annual Report, and will do everything we can to have them to you the week before Meeting Time. See you June 25th at 6:00 PM.

## Fred's Footnotes

Fred Kahrl

### An open letter to our Conservation Commission

\*\*\*\*

*This was going to be a letter from the Selectmen to the Conservation Commission, but because its theme touches every property holder in Arrowsic, I have chosen to share it with all of you.*

\*\*\*\*

One aspect of the acknowledged and unprecedented development pressure on Maine's coastland is that some landowners, especially those with large parcels, are seeking ways of protecting themselves from taxes and encroachment. In recent years, coastal communities especially have seen a growing trend toward land being placed in trust in various ways as a result of these pressures.

Already in Arrowsic approximately 300 acres comprising all of Bald Head at the southern tip of the island has been donated by the Sobins to the Nature Conservancy. The Conservancy considers itself exempt from property taxes but as a matter of "good neighbor" policy pays Arrowsic a negotiated annual fee for services in lieu of taxes based on 35% of the assessed value.

At the same time, the Holts have placed their land (between Sewall Pond and the Back River) into a private trusteeship and are actively managing the property with the University of Maine's School of Forestry as a demonstration woodlot. The trustees are at the same time reportedly in an active search for a way to reduce their property tax liability to the Town.

A quick look at the Town maps suggests that there are other large properties in Town owned by people who have indicated a sincere interest in Arrowsic's quality of life. These might soon be candidates for some protection from taxation as an alternative to their being sold for (possibly intensive) development.

At the other end of the spectrum, there is always the possibility that the Town may have the opportunity to purchase or receive as a gift small parcels of land. Identified needs include saltwater access, a stump dump, a cemetery, or even relocation of the Town Hall or Fire Station. It is also reasonable to expect that the Town will have a chance to bid on the Doubling Point Lighthouse property when that station is automated, reportedly in the near future.

This all suggests tht Arrowsic needs a plan to deal with these issues. The State Planning Office, The Nature Conservancy, and the Maine Coast Heritage Trust have combined to assist other towns in confronting this task, and much of the preliminary research has already been done. In addition, it would be very helpful if a Town group other than the Assessors was prepared to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of tax relief under Maine's Tree Growth and Open Spaces laws with interested property owners.

For starters, I would like to suggest that the Conservation Commission explore with the Holt Woodlands Trust the possibility of imposing a 300-foot wide conservation easement around Sewall Pond to prohibit further development. The assessors could then consider forgiving all taxes in such a zone in return for the protection afforded to the pond's extremely fragile ecology.

Next, serious thought should be given to whether the Town actually wants the Doubling Point lighthouse-keepers property, and if so, what its best use would be. In the absence of such pre-planning, the Town may have already missed an opportunity to have taken possession of the picturesque Squirrel Point lighthouse, across from Phippsburg Center, which is now in the hands of the Maine Maritime Museum.

There is already property in Town under Tree Growth, and more will be added soon. To qualify for this type

There is already property in Town under Tree Growth, and more will be added soon. To qualify for this type of tax relief, a professionally prepared woodlands management plan must be in force. Again, the Assessors would benefit from the Commission's interest and involvement in reviewing these plans when submitted, and in periodically checking on compliance. These suggestions scratch the surface of many logical possibilities.

There is also a need to determine where to divide responsibilities between the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission. As an advisory board, the Commission is the primary land management team for property put in trust with the Town rather than with third parties.

This is not a blueprint for some indefinite future; it is an appeal for immediate "damage control". We are fortunate that the Town's size and location has kept us on the edges of the development boom, but I think that the sand has almost run through the hourglass for Arrowsic. Time is short for us to take initiative in charting the Town's land management course.

## "Toenotes"

It's time to start work on the Town Roads again, and as the ground dries out and the posting signs are removed from the Town roads, you will see work started in various places:

Preble Point Road: improve drainage from Rte. 127 around the Chamberlain property and eliminate standing water in the ditch.

Sirois Road: complete grade improvement and match grade to the three driveways; install "storm dike" on inlet side.

Old Stage Road: (north end) some tree limbing and cutting in preparation for shoulder and ditch work needed before repaving; drilling of ledge to removed later this summer.

**\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** Work on the steep hill and curve will begin as soon after school closes as possible. There will be periods during the reconstruction when the Old Stage Road will be **CLOSED** between Kenney's driveway and the Crosby Road. We'll try to keep this inconvenience as brief as possible.\*\*

Bald Head Road/Steen Road intersection: completion of this project is tied to having the exposed ledge drilled when the contractor is in Town for the Old Stage Road work.

Route 127: expect a second public hearing on the State's proposed improvement project (Drummond's Curve to Fire Station). The Davis' have negotiated a third centerline option through their property and the DOT has extended the original plan (at Town request) to straighten the curves south of the Spinney Mill Road.

### THE ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION

is interested in promoting recycling. Unfortunately, our town's size makes this difficult since we would generate such small volumes. A regional approach seems to be the best answer. Any recycling effort is going to require volunteers and storage space. If you want to help, please call Jeff Mann at 443-6174. If you have any friends in Woolwich, Georgetown, Bath, West Bath, or Phippsburg who would be interested in recycling have them contact us.

As an interim plan, we are still taking non-returnable glass bottles to Brunswick. These can be left at the Town Hall with Prudie Foster or Nancy Brown Stump during their hours. Thanks.

## Take Pride In ARROWSIC \*Annual\* Spring Cleanup

-brush, stumps and lumber will be picked up by Reynolds Tree Experts

Mon. & Tues, May 4 & 5,

following the T&R weekly pickup route\*

-T&R will pickup large trash items on

Tues., May 5

following their regular route\*

\*This pickup does not include private driveway service- roadside only.

-Route 127 Roadside Litter Attack

Sat. May 2nd 8:30 AM-Noon

we need at least 3 pick-up trucks  
and lots of helpers.

Please contact Dottie Doyle 443-3850

\*\*\*

### FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR'S DESK

The following people have  
vehicle registrations due in  
May:

Ames, Harold  
Appel, James  
Bertschy, Robert  
Cates, Nancy  
Chaffee, John  
Cousins, Sally  
Davis, Diana  
Ho, Manli  
Homan, Jane  
Jurenas, Ed  
Mazeiko, Adele  
McDonald, Franklin  
Mitchell, Cathryn  
Orr, Edward  
Philips, Joseph  
Rollins, John  
Sewall, Abbie  
Spencer, Wylie  
Stinson, Lucy

### LATE BULLETIN

The Maine Department of  
Transportation will be  
holding the second public  
hearing on Route 127  
changes (from the Town Hall  
to the Fire Station) at 7:00 PM  
on May 19th at the Arrowsic  
Town Hall.

### ARROWSIC-GEORGETOWN BABYSITTING DIRECTORY provided by Abbie Sewall

Shannon Campbell (Sherman &  
Elizabeth) 443-6441

Cristy Collier (David) 442-7130

Jenny Collins (Charlie & Cathi)  
371-2337

Megan Cowley (David) 442-8535

Jenny Dodge (Andrew & Susan Bertocci)  
371-2740

Keith Dresser (Arthur) 443-6239

Janine Hutton (Ray & Pat) 442-7187

Lucy Stinson (Carl & Lucy) 443-3954

Kika Stump (Jim & Nancy Brown-  
Stump) 442-7527

Other sitters wanting their names added to the list, please contact Abbie Sewall 443-1432, coordinator. Anyone calling for the first time is expected to check with the parents before making arrangements with the sitter.

### CLASSIFIEDS

-THE TOWN will need alternates for the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Planning Board to replace those on the Boards who may choose to leave their posts. These individuals will be appointed by the Selectmen after Town Meeting this year.

Anyone interested can talk to Jozef Tara, Chairman ZBA 443-5267; or Lucy Stinson, Chairman Planning Board 443-3954.

-ANYONE WITH IDEAS or pictures (black & white) they'd like to submit for the cover of the Town Report this year, call Patty Olds 371-2300 9AM-4PM or drop them by the Town Hall by May 8th.

-WANTED: SCRAP SOFTWOOD. I have a wood-forged kiln that will burn any softwood. No pressure treated, no plywood or particle board. \$5.00 a truckload delivered to the studio. Call Jeff Mann 443-6174

-DON'T FORGET TOWN MEETING on Thursday, June 25th

-NO SMOKING AT THE TOWN HALL!!

-IF YOU HAVEN'T LICENSED your dog please do, and let Prudie know if you don't have a dog that you had last year.

-VETERANS- you are eligible for property tax exemptions. All you need is a copy of your DD214 or discharge papers on file at the Town Hall.

-MAY 7 HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED the annual National Day of Prayer by President Reagan. Those who would like to participate are encouraged to do so for five minutes at 12 noon, May 7th .

-CLASSIFIED ADS can be placed in the next issue of the Arrow, to be published right around Town Meeting (if there's a need, we'll publish beforehand). Leave ads at the Town Hall attn: Patty Olds

State of Maine laws on ATV use are on file at the Town Hall for any who are interested.

## From the Fire Department...



For fire emergencies, or a burning permit contact:

**Ron Proctor**, Fire Chief  
Old Stage Road 442-7770  
8AM-8PM

**Bill Krachy**, Fire Warden  
Spinney Mill Road 443-6975  
1PM-5PM; M-F

**Tony Carey**, Deputy Fire Warden  
Assistant Fire Chief  
Rte. 127 443-6254  
3PM- 8PM

**Thanks Millions!!**

To the following readers for their contributions:

Mrs. Harold Monier  
ERA LeDuc Realty  
The Brennans  
Norma Barter  
Esther Doherty  
Ted & Margaret Bertocci

Total donations: \$65.00