

The Arrowsic Arrow

Vol. 15, No. 4

Town Meeting Issue

June/July 2000

Dear Reader,

Another town meeting has come and gone. Following you will find names and telephone numbers of town officials, as well as an informal recounting of what transpired. Blessings to you as summer comes upon us.

Town Officials for the Year July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001

Town Clerk	Josephine Ewing 443-9795
Selectboard	Greg Guckenburg 442-8020; Larry Wilson 443-6970, Michelle Gaillard 442-7443
Treasurer	Patty Olds 443-4764
Tax Collector	Elizabeth Rollins 443-3658
Fire Chief	Brian Scott 442-7409
Asst. Fire Chief	Gil Thomas
School Committee	Eloise Vitelli, Chair 443-4660; Nancy Brown Stump 442-7527, Jody Jones 443-3693
Codes Enforcement Officer	David Foster 443-2114
Planning Board	Karen Robbins, co-chair 442-7533, Mary Hillery, co-chair 442-8020; Lisa Stuart, Roger Heard, Michael Dube, Mary Louise Blanchard
Board of Appeals	Grace Stone, Chair 442-7663, Bart Chapin, Mona Schlein, Jack Witham, James Arsenault, Lois Hewlett, Alt.
Recycling Committee	Paul Schlein, Chair 443-3209, Robert Kalish, Michael Kreindler, Jeff Mann
State Fire Warden	Brian Scott, 442-7409
Dir. of Local Emergency Management	William Schumaker 443-5714
Health Officer	Mildred Stafford 443-5832
Registrar of Voters	Jean Kane 443-4978
Road Commission	Jim Stump, chair 442-7527; John Wood, Joan Richardson, Richard Elwell, Sally Drake
Conservation Commission	Josephine Ewing, chair 443-9795; Bill Blaiklock, Joan Richardson, Milly Stafford, Frances Smith, Charlotte Brown, Noreen O'C. Blaiklock, Henry Mann
Town Historian	Mildred Stafford 443-5832
Animal Control Officer	Larry Mann 371-2997
Town Property Mgmt.	James Arsenault 443-1510; Robert Ater, Ann Ater, Carmen Belleville, Elizabeth Wilson, Robert Miller, Mildred Stafford, George Stafford
Shellfish Committee	Michelle Gaillard, Chair 442-7443; Michael Kreindler, Elizabeth Wilson, David Foster, William Blaiklock, Richard Higgins
Shellfish Warden	John Hentz 371-2732
State Representative	David Etnier 833-2378
State Senator	Mary Small 443-2220

The following is the result of 37 registered voters who voted in the June 13 primary election

Jean Kane, Registrar of Voters 443-4978

	Republican	Democrat		Republican	Democrat
US Senator			Judge of Probate		
Snow, Olympia	14		Voorhees, John	13	
Lawrence, Mark		19	no one running		0
Represent. to Congress			Register of Probate		
Amero, Jane	12		No one running	0	
Allen, Thomas		20	Atwood, Joan		20
State Senator District 19			Sheriff		
Small, Mary	13		Westrum, Mark	14	
Baffer, Roger		19	no one running		0
Represent. to the Legislature Dist. 51			County Commissioner Dist. 2		
Eberhart, Channa	13		Higgins, Richard	13	
Etnier, David		21	Connery, Crispin		19

a brief summary

83 registered voters attended.

Eloise Vitelli was elected moderator (and did a fantastic job). Phine Ewing was re-elected town clerk, Michele Gaillard ran unopposed for selectman. Eloise Vitelli was re-elected to the school committee and Brian Scott was re-elected as Fire Chief. Patty Olds and Elizabeth Rollins were re-elected to the posts of treasurer and tax collector respectively. We voted to add \$500. to the town clerk salary so that the town clerk, the treasurer, and the tax collector are all making \$3,000. A total of \$28,550 was raised for salaries (which includes federal taxes).

There was some discussion about paying Kevin McGillicuddy \$2000. for his work as Assessor's Agent. Someone requested a show of hands for any who have seen Kevin at their property. About half those at town meeting thought he'd been by their houses. The other half have seen no evidence of his having visited. We have paid him \$17,000 so far. The selectmen say that he has completed his visitations. The next step is the actual revaluation. Greg Guckenberg told us that we will be notified by mail very soon of the assessments.

Spencer Mann came to the front and thanked the town for the \$500. scholarship, saying it was great to feel the support of his town. He is going to McGill University.

Although there was a vote, we are no closer to resolving the fire department question. For instance, several people began their statements by saying, "Five years ago we voted to support our fire department..." Yet, in those five years we have trained only one person in town to fight a house fire. As Pat Harcourt so eloquently put it, "WE NEED VOLUNTEERS." If we do not have firefighters, why talk about spending a quarter to a third of a million dollars on trucks and buildings.

Skip Stinson (one of us who have been through years of these discussions) made an ammendment that, in its final form, read something like this (forgive me if I do not have the exact wording, the ammendment took many forms before the final one), "To see if the town will direct the selectmen to establish a committee to develop a plan to be submitted at the next town meeting or an earlier special town meeting to be implemented within two years (by 2002) to construct a fire barn/ community center, purchase a fire truck and other equipment to enable us to meet our mutual aid responsibilities."

Mercer Blanchard stood and read a lengthy list of people and organizations who may fund and/or help build and design a new firebarn (but only in the guise of a community center). He was refuted by people who said no one will fund a community center because we already have one (our town hall). Paul Kaulkstein said we don't need a new truck to have foam technology-- foam is cheap and can be carried on a Humvee.

Mary Hillery said, "I assure you there will be more heart attacks and strokes in this town than fires...everywhere municipalities are teaming up

regionally to take care of emergency services and medical needs because they have figured out that we can get better equipment and care providers if we pool our efforts..." (rough paraphrase). Others said they are tired of waiting and forming committees, why don't we do something sooner rather than later. More calls for volunteers and concern that we do not have enough interest in town to people a department. One of the volunteers said you don't have to fight fires to be a volunteer, you can just (for instance) hold a clipboard for the chief. Most of the volunteers on the Arrowsic Fire Department are from other towns. Anyway, back and forth for what seemed like hours and then a VERY close vote which put the town on a fast-track to come up with a plan for action within a year. We then voted to appropriate from surplus \$5000. for plans and misc. expenses for the fire building committee. We also voted to raise \$15000 for the Fire Department Capital Improvement Fund. We raised \$16330 for the Dept. budget for fiscal year 2000/2001, and \$5000 for ambulance service (to contract with either Bath or Georgetown).

Next, it was thanks to Pat Harcourt for seven years of great service. Cake and cookies for all and a fifteen minute break. Lots of people left. It was now after 9:00.

The school articles brought discussion about upcoming senior population (11 graduating next year) and the need to grow a scholarship fund. Nancy Brown Stump expertly went through the articles, explaining their origins within the actual school budget process. One person asked about a late bus and Eloise Vitelli said the committee had studied the possibility but the cost was prohibitive. Karen Robbins suggested that the School Committee come to the Town Meeting next year with a late bus proposal that can be voted on by everyone. The scholarship award amount was changed from \$4500 to \$2500 since there were only 5 scholarships given out.

We voted to sell the sand lot (which was listed incorrectly and changed to Map 4 lot 6) to an abutter. According to Milly Stafford, it was bought in the 30s as a place to store winter road sand. Several opinions put the size of the lot somewhere between the size of the tent in which we held our meeting to an acre.

The road budget passed for \$86,495 (\$24,125 to be raised in taxes), most of which is snowplowing and paving the first part of the Old Stage Road. Jim Stump also mentioned this is the final year of our three year snowplow contract. Next year we will be voting on a new bid.

The Recycling Committee talked briefly about the proposal to amend Arrowsic's Solid Waste Ordinance to direct our trash contractors to leave trash uncollected at the households of residents who do not recycle. Paul Schlein was quick to point out that Craig Rogers who collects our trash already knows who is recycling and who is not, so isolated incidents will not cause trash to be left without cause. We are trying to get the message across to repeat offenders. Paul also mentioned statistics which show that our trash tonnage is up (for instance 19% in Jan 2000 over Jan 1999) while recvcling is way down (23% less recvclcd

town meeting 2000 continued...

in Jan 2000 than Jan 1999, 55% less in April 2000 than April 1999). We are hoping the revised ordinance will change some bad habits.

We raised \$3700 for the 1999/2000 audit. Next we went on to revisit the Sewall Pond Conservation Area ordinance that was passed last year, but (we discovered after town meeting), was invalid because we amended it at town meeting and ordinances cannot be ammended. The ordinance passed without discussion. We also voted to keep the town alewife resource closed.

There were several questions about the article to sell a portion of town owned land to the Wilsons. Larry was uncomfortable addressing the questions and no one from the property management committee was at the meeting. We decided that as long as the town owns the land, we didn't have to worry about subdividing it, and we voted the article down down

The Longreach and septage articles passed as always.

Someone noticed that the Range Lightkeepers was listed twice in the organizations the Town voted to

support, so we amended the article to remove one of the listings and the article passed with a new total of \$10,367. We voted to raise \$920 to pay dues in 2000-2001. \$4500 was raised to pay for contingent expenses, \$2400 to pay for the town report printing, \$4000 to pay for insurance, and \$3500 for utilities.

Town committees were funded as follows: Planning Board: \$500, Conservation Commission: \$1000 (mostly for erosion control at the Sewall Pond public access on Old Stage Rd), \$250 for the Shellfish Committee; \$250 for the Local Emergency Management Agency.

Next we voted to clean up some deed problems related to the selling of the old church on the Holt Property. \$4000 was voted from surplus for legal services, and \$4998 for our final installment to the Patten FreeLibrary's Capital campaign. The rest of the articles (the every year "housekeeping" articles) passed. And due to the lateness of the hour, we chose next town meeting to be on Wednesday, June 20 at 6:30 pm until 10 pm and then if necessary to continue on Thursday, June 21. Those of us who were left adjourned somewhere around 11:00, stood stiffly, folded up our chairs, said sleepy goodnights, and went home.

congratulations! felicitations! auspicious new horizons! hope and here and next and always!

TO THE CLASS OF 2000: The Arrowsic School Committee wishes to congratulate Jessica Ater, Shawn Davis, Brandon Elwell, Erick Galuza, Craig King, Spencer Mann, Sam Reitman and Kevin Warner on graduation from high school. We are proud of all of you for this fine accomplishment, and we wish you health and joy in the learning that is your life ahead. Because some of us believe that every juncture deserves a story, here is a fragment of one about two young friends who went on a journey together. One was named Crow, and the other was named Weasel:

"I will urge my children to do what I have done," said Weasel.

"Whether they are young men or young women, I will urge them to go."

"That is new thinking for you," said Crow.

"Our journey, seeing different ways of life, has made me wonder about many things," said Weasel. They stood in silence together, their breath rising in a fog.

"One day perhaps my son will travel with your son," said Weasel.

"They will return and the people will listen to what they have to say. And then their children. It will go on like that, and that way our people will look into the heart of wisdom."

Crow pondered his friend's words. His eyes followed an Appaloosa mare on the hill below them. "The wonder and the strangeness," he said, "the terror of the world, will never be over." He turned and regarded Weasel. "Imagine our daughters," he said. "Traveling."

-Barry Lopez

from Crow and Weasel

We hope that you, as the grown children of our beautiful little island, will share the strength and independence, the gratitude and humility that years of living in this special place has nurtured in you. We trust that you will honor the land and the rivers and the sky because they have surrounded you here. We wish you well as you to proceed in each of your various directions. Blessings on you!

-Nancy Brown Stump

The Arrowsic Scholarship

Nancy Brown Stump 442-7527

The purpose of the current Arrowsic Scholarship Fund (ASF) is to recognize the accomplishments of our graduating seniors and to encourage them to further their education. A grant of \$500 is awarded on a non-needs basis to any senior who submits a letter of intent to the Arrowsic School Committee. The grant amount is sent directly to the school that the graduate is attending.

This years recipients of the Arrowsic Scholarship are Jessica Ater, attending George Washington University in Washington, D.C.; Frederick (Erick) Galuza, attending the University of Vermont; Craig King, attending Unity College; Spencer Mann, attending McGill University in Montreal; Sam Reitman, attending Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. These students have not only fulfilled their academic requirements, but have done so while pursuing other activities. One was a band member, a basketball player and helped build a house for Habitat for Humanity. One skis competitively, has disc jockeyed for his school's radio station and raced for the Bath Cycle Mountain Bike Team on a bike he built himself. One loves the outdoors and rock climbing. One is a playwright, an artist and a kayaker. And one played tennis for his school and pond hockey for his town. We wish these students well in their continuing education, and we thank them for their hard work and various contributions to their school and communities.

In anticipation of any inquiry with regards to the Arrowsic Scholarship Fund, I was asked to do some research. By looking through past town reports, I found that a Scholarship was first voted funding by Arrowsic on June 24, 1982, when the town approved Article 33, "...providing a Scholarship to a worthy and deserving student from the Town who graduates from a Secondary School during FY82-83."

Mildred Stafford, Noreen Blaiklock and Shirley Alexander were members of the Arrowsic School Committee members at that time.

I talked to Mildred Stafford and Noreen Blaiklock about the decision to form an Arrowsic Scholarship. Noreen said that other towns (Georgetown, Phippsburg, and Woolwich) had at least one scholarship set up for their students. She indicated that there was a growing number of students in Arrowsic, and of those, more wanted to go on to college and could use the financial support. "The time had come," said Noreen "We asked for \$500, and the

article passed at town meeting without a hitch." "That's how I remember it," Millie agreed. Noreen explained that in those days there was no application process, the school committee simply enquired as to who was going on to college. Often there was only one student. She recalled that they offered one senior the Scholarship but he turned it down because it would only throw his financial aid package into confusion without reducing the amount either he, the student, or his family were obliged to pay.

As time went on, Noreen recalled, the process was formalized a bit: a letter from the student was required. In 1990, when the School Committee could not decide between two equally deserving applicants, the Scholarship was split between them. For FY91-92, the town raised the Scholarship to \$1000 and the full amount went to one recipient. From FY91-91 to FY96-97, the Scholarship amount was \$1000. In FY97-98, the School Committee again felt they had two worthy candidates for the Scholarship, so the town raised \$2000, each recipient getting \$1000. However, in FY98-99 the requested amount remained at \$2000 but was split between four students. ASF recipients have received from \$250 to \$1000, depending on the year of their graduation and/or the number of deserving candidates in that year.

The fact is that the children of Arrowsic are exemplary students (Lake Whoa-Be-Gone, meet Arrowsic). The percentage of our students who make their school's honor roll is nothing shy of remarkable, so it is not surprising that many are interested in pursuing education beyond secondary school. With respect to the fact that there are growing numbers of seniors (three to four each year from 1992-1996, in contrast to eight in 2000, eleven projected in 2001 and fifteen projected for 2002), the Arrowsic School Committee last year decided that it would be wonderful if the town could offer scholarships to each student going on to higher education, but to do this the town needed to establish money for scholarship in some way other than year to year budget requests. The Arrowsic Scholarship Fund (ASF) was discussed and established with the town's gracious initial donation of \$20,000 at June town meeting last year. Because the town's donation was a public donation, those monies must be invested by the treasurer according to guidelines for investment of public funds, and given the size of up coming classes, it won't be long before the ASF will be without money unless it gets continued support. It has been the thought of the School Committee that we would be well advised to establish a separate fund with monies raised privately

The Arrowsic Scholarship, continued...

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We have been given private donations amounting to \$2700 to date and hope more of you will see this as a creditable way to invest your charitable donations. We are hoping to establish a committee to oversee the growth of a private fund fed by private donations and therefore not tied to the constraints of public fund investment policies. We are very pleased that Sukie Heard has already agreed to sit on that committee.

The current thought is that we will hire a professional manager to manage this account. Our hope is to raise enough money privately and through wise investment, so that our eventual request of the town would be only that they pay the management fee charged the private fund. If any of you is interested in being on the committee, please feel free to call Eloise Vitelli (443-4660), Nancy Brown Stump (442-7527) or Jody Jones (443-3697).

We are hoping that there are those of you out there who would be glad to support the continued education of Arrowsic's wonderful young people with charitable donations to the Arrowsic Scholarship Fund. I know Jake Bryant is not alone when he says, "In addition to the financial help, it is a good feeling to know I have the support from my community." Perhaps, it takes a village.

Nancy Brown Stump

Important Dates for July

- July 1 Road Commission Meets 9 AM
- July 3 1835--Children strike in Patterson NJ for an 11- hour day and a 6-day work week
- July 7 Trash and Recycle
- July 10 Shellfish Committee 5 pm
Selectmen 6 pm
Planning Board 7 pm
- July 14 Woodie Guthrie born in 1912
Trash pickup in Arrowsic
- July 16 Sâskego:nah Full Moon
(Long Daylight Big Moon)
- July 17 Conservation Commission 7pm
- July 18 Nelson Mandela born in 1918
Property Management Comm. 7 pm
- July 19 1848--First Women's Rights
Convention in Seneca Falls, NY
- July 21 Trash and Recycling
- July 24 Selectmen's meeting 6 pm
- July 26 Americans with Disabilities act
becomes law 1990
- July 28 Trash Pickup

The Selectmen would like to invite any who are interested to come to the first meeting of the newly formed **Fire Department/Community Center Planning Committee** to meet Tuesday, July 11 at 6:30, Town Hall. If you cannot come to that meeting but would like to be on the committee, please contact one of the selectmen.

The following registrations are due in July:
Liz Rollins, Tax Collector 443-3658

AMES, SYLVIA M	KENNEY, VIVI M
ANDERSON, AVERY	KNIGHT, MILDRED
ANDERSON, PETER	LAW, DONALD W
APPEL, CHERYL L	MCDONALD, FRANKL J
ATER, ROBERT C	MILLER, ALLEN L
BASSETT, KENNETH	MILLER, ELAINE B
BLAIKLOCK, WILLI	NELSON, ROBERT H
BLANCHETTE, DONA	PIEH, JEROME
BRENNAN, WILLIAM	PINETTE, ALFRED
BRENNAN, WILLIAM	PUFF, DAVID M
BRETT, J CHRISTO	ROGERS, RUSSELL
CAREY, ANTONIO W	SIMMONS, CONNIE I
CONNER, PATRICIA	STARBIRD, JOHN S
DEION, TAMMY J	STARBIRD, RYAN
DRAKE, SALLY P	STONE, ALBERT
DURRELL, DAVID A	VITELLI, ELOISE I
ELLIOTT, JAYNE E	WALSH, LOUISE P
ELWELL, SUSAN D	WARNER, KEVIN J
FITZHERBERT, DAVI	WARNER, LINDA M
FRAHM, SHIRLEY E	WOOD, JOHN
GALUZA, ANDREA J	
GEIGER, JENNIFER	
GEIGER, MARK C	
HINDS, HOLLY M	
HUDSON, W DONALD	
JORGENSEN LANDSCA	
KAHRL, THOMAS A	
KENNEY, JUDITH R	

DON'T
MISS
IT!!



The 25th Annual Fire Department Auction happens this coming July 8th at the Georgetown Fire Dept. Five Islands station inspection begins 9:00AM Bidding at 9:30

The Arrowsic Arrow is made possible through the generous gifts of time, energy and cold hard cash offered by many individuals in town. It is not a town officials' publication.

Commentary and news are always welcome. All letters to the editor will be published as long as the author includes a name and telephone number.

Items for the next Arrow may be left at the town hall or sent via email to paolds@javanet.com.

The Arrow appropriation that was received at town meeting will be used only if other sources of funding are not available.

—Patty Olds, publisher 443-4764

Kennebec River Range Light Keepers Summer Update

Michael Kreindler & Michele Gaillard 442-7443

The Range Light Keepers are happy to announce that, as part of our restoration of the Fiddlers Reach Fog Bell Tower, the United States Navy has given our organization a bell, on loan, to replace the original bell removed from the tower by the Coast Guard. Prior to 1971, a 1200-pound, bronze bell hung on the outside of the tower, projecting over the Kennebec River, where it could be easily seen and heard. An historic photograph of the tower, bell and Keeper Kilton was featured on the cover of last year's Arrowsic Annual Report

Following the grounding of the steamer, Ransom B. Fuller at Fiddlers Reach, the Fog Bell Tower was built in 1914 to alert ships of the dangerous double bend in the river during periods of low visibility. The bell was activated by a clock tower mechanism that was manually wound by the Lighthouse Keeper. The Keeper cranked a large iron gear that would pull a counterweight high into the rafters of the tower. As the weight gradually descended, it would wind a spring causing a hammer to strike the bell. The bell was in continuous use at Fiddlers Reach until its function was automated by an electric fog horn in the 1950s.

The bells used by the US Light House Service for their fog stations were not made exclusively for maritime use. The bells were cast at foundries throughout the United States and were used for churches, town halls, schoolhouses, etc. The original bell installed

at Fiddlers Reach weighed 1200 pounds and was cast in Troy, New York in 1912. The replacement bell also weighs 1200 pounds and is of the same size and shape, but was forged in Baltimore, Maryland in 1900.

The Range Light Keepers are very grateful to their corporate partners for their assistance in bringing the bell from its location in Omaha, Nebraska to Arrowsic. Central Transport International (CTI), a Michigan based trucking company with local offices in Gardiner, Maine, graciously agreed to ship the bell without charge. Downeast Energy and Building Supply in Brunswick, donated the use of their boom truck to handle the transfer. Great Works Internet

(GWI) has provided free internet service for RLK's website at www.rlk.org so that the news of this project could be communicated to our internet fans. In February, our website was selected as a "Yahoo Pick of the Week", resulting in over 51,000 visits in March. Currently web traffic to the site averages 10-12,000 per month resulting in a lot of exposure for Arrowsic, Maine! Visit the site to see images of the original bell where it currently is on display in New London, Connecticut.

The bell will be on display at the Arrowsic Town Hall for the summer. Prior to restoring the bell to the tower, much work needs to be done. The Range Light Keepers must replace the two remaining sills and the cantilever beam that carries the bell out over the river. A new roof will need to be installed, and flooring and shingles replaced. We are happy to share this good news and hope you enjoy seeing our very large bell when you come to town hall.

news around and about Arrowsic

The Arrowsic Arrow

Vol. 15, No. 4 Town Meeting Issue June/July 2000

visit the town web site at
www.gwi.net/arrowsic
brought to you by GWI and
Larry Wilson, Webmaster

"You must do the thing
you think you cannot do"

—Eleanor Roosevelt

