



A Quiet Morning at Brooklin Maine (Photo by Karin Sadtler)

The Arrowsic Arrow

News Around  & About Arrowsic

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Summer 2021

Town Meeting

Town residents convened once again in the fire house for the annual town meeting at 6:30 on beautiful summer evening, June 17th after last year’s split inside/outside meeting.

They gathered to approve an overall budget of \$1,035 million, an increase of \$66,600 over the current year. The largest increase was \$24,800 in the town's contribution to the RSU1 budget, caused by rises in general instructional costs and an increasing number of Arrowsic students attending.

There were also anticipated increases of \$13,500 in the road budget to cover costs for maintaining Bald Head Road, replacing road signs, paving, and plowing.

Administrative costs rose by \$13,300 for new computer hardware and software together with \$8,200 in salaries for a new Deputy Town Clerk, Deputy Tax Collector, ABA Chair, and ABA Treasurer.

Recycling expenses were estimated to rise by \$3,000, and legal services by \$2,000.

The new Arrowsic Broadband Authority was included in the town budget for the first time. The ABA is a self-financing entity, paid for by the USDA

loan and grant together with user fees, with a net cost to town of \$0.

Residents reelected Walter Briggs to the Select Board and approved two minor amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.

Town committees and officials also reported on their activities for the year in the Annual Report accompanying the warrant.

The Selectmen awarded the annual Spirit of America Award to the Town Clerk, Barbara Boyce, and her crew of election workers, Josephine Ewing, Mary Louise Blanchard, Amy Smith, Jim Flannery, Bets Skillings, Gretchen McLeod, Joe Bonnett, Anita Brown, and Marnie Kalkstein, for organizing and conducting the presidential elections safely and securely in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

After frustratingly slow progress in getting the new Arrowsic Broadband Authority off the ground, it reported impressive progress toward installing a broadband system for Arrowsic by early next year. A survey of the town reported considerable interest in the service, auguring well for its future success.

The USDA has approved its loan and grant funding, the ABA has signed contracts with Finley

Engineering to manage construction and Axiom Technologies to be our internet service provider, and it is currently entertaining construction contracts.

Remaining work includes negotiating with CMP and Consolidated Communications to gain access to their poles, which could take up to six months, preparing the Little Barn to house the equipment, and construction of the system to every house, which should take only one-two months.

ABA and Axiom will begin marketing and encouraging early signups later this summer. Residents should make sure they are signed up for the [town email list](#) to insure they get timely information about enrolling.

The Properties Committee regraded and enlarged the parking lot at the fire station, refinished the floor of the Town Hall, and began work with the ABA to upgrade the Little Shed to accommodate broadband equipment.

The Road Commission reported major damage to Bald Head and Steen roads, necessitating major reconstruction and deferring paving elsewhere in the process.

RSU1 School Budget Referendum

The town voted on June 8th to approve the RSU1 annual budget referendum 28-0. The vote for the entire district was 317-69.

The \$38.8 million spending plan for fiscal year 2022 included increased instructional costs, bond payments for the new Morse High School, and the addition of 1.6 teaching positions.

The total cost for Arrowsic taxpayers is \$535,000, representing an increase of \$24,800, largely due to the district wide increases as well as an increasing number of pupils from Arrowsic.

The Recycling Committee continued to monitor the increasing volumes and costs of recycling with an eye to reducing both.

The Fire Department reported 30 calls for fires, accidents, downed wires, EMS, and mutual aid. Luckily in a time of COVID-19, the Health Officer, Emergency Management Agency, and General Assistance all reported no calls for assistance.

The Conservation Commission spent considerable time grappling with problems caused by crowds at Sewall Pond, but resolved not to implement parking limits until the town is able to enforce them effectively. They also initiated a project to monitor rising tides by installing photo posts at vulnerable locations.

Building activities saw an upsurge of activities in line with the booming real estate market just as our long serving CEO Michael Kreindler turned over the reins to our new officer, Chris Wilcoxson.

The Shellfish Warden and Shellfish Conservation Commission continued to manage the flats and study the population of invasive green crabs around the island.

—Tom Spear

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Arrowsic and Georgetown Fire Department Hold Joint Exercise

In a large parking lot in West Bath on a Saturday morning in June, members of the Arrowsic and Georgetown departments are listening to Mike McMahon as he describes the scenario for our joint exercise: a structure fire at the end of a 350ft long, narrow driveway. “Arrowsic Fire Department respond to 292 Island Lane in Arrowsic. We have the report of a fully involved structure fire. The time of your tone: 8:32.”

Jeremy and Rowan are the first to respond with Engine I, “Milly”. The versatile small truck rolls down the driveway, laying 200 ft of 4” hose, not long enough to cover the entire length of the driveway. As they approach the buildings, Jeremy evaluates the scene: a structure fire involving a garage with flames coming out the windows with the main house only about 50 ft away. Could there still be people inside? He immediately requests mutual aid, coming in the form of an additional tanker from Georgetown.

In the meantime, Rowan pulls out a preconnected fire hose, nozzle already attached, and Jeremy starts the pump. Within minutes water is delivered to protect an

imaginary main house. A voice on the radio: “Georgetown Tanker to incident commander, we have arrived at the beginning of the driveway, what do you need from us?” “I need people down here and



Georgetown’s Team

a reverse lay of an additional 100 feet of 4” hose for additional water.” Georgetown firefighters pull out the connecting piece and drag it down the driveway while others get the tanker ready to deliver water. Once all the hoses are hooked up, water can be delivered to “Milly” to keep the firefighters supplied.



Another joint exercise at the pump station in Georgetown (photos by Mike McMahon)

It is critical that we can establish water supply quickly as “Milly” will soon run out, the tank holds just 350 gallons.

Arrowsic Tanker 3 now also arrives at the scene. Positioned just right, we will be able to dump 2000 gallons of water into a portable swimming pool-like tank, known as a dump tank. Not an easy task in a tight space but once accomplished, Arrowsic Tanker 3 takes off to refill the tank at a hydrant near the West Bath Fire Station. Georgetown will use the dump tank as an on-scene water supply for “Milly” as

her pump continuously keeps a steady stream of water on the fire.

We repeated this scenario two more times with alternating roles and learned a lot, emphasizing that the two departments work well together and are an incredible resource for our towns. In addition, we also had so much fun that we want to do it again, soon. And by the way, the house was saved, the garage burned to the ground, and no one was injured.

—Karin Sadtler and Rowan Blaiklock

Shellfish Commission

Since about 2000, surveys of clams in Arrowsic’s three flats have revealed that our softshell clam population is dwindling. While Arrowsic’s clams’ shells are exceptionally soft, we presume that the reason their numbers are falling is because they’ve been eaten by invasive green crabs.

And so over the past two decades time our flats have changed from places for clams—and clambers—to places with lots of crabs and not so many clams. But these two data points—clams and crabs—don’t tell us how the ecology of the flats is changing, and what their future is.

New sampling methods combined with digital repositories like Aneccdata.org could allow us to learn more about all of the organisms in our flats, track them, and come to a deeper understanding of how they are evolving.

On the morning low tide of July 28, members of Arrowsic’s Shellfish Conservation Commission will join local marine biologist, Marissa McMahan from Manomet, to learn some new survey protocols for green crabs, shellfish, and other mudflat organisms. If you have a boat and would like to bring some people to the flats, that would be great.

August 4th and September 1st and 25th we will try to estimate the size of the green crab population in a cove near Doubling Point during a capture, mark, and recapture project. We will also measure the haul, marvel at crab anatomy, and try not to be pinched by the claws. We invite everyone interested in survey

techniques and these events to join us. Please write to Lisa at clams@arrowsic.org.

Clams for Everyone:

On July 29, at 9:30 am, KELT will be holding its annual learn how to clam class at Reid State Park. Any opportunity to learn from local clam warden Jon Hentz should not be missed. This is great for kids. <https://www.kennebecestuary.org/upcoming-events/2021clammingreid>

How to Get a Clam License:

If you would like to dig for clams recreationally on Arrowsic's flats you can get a clam license from Town Clerk Barbara Boyce for \$10 at barbara.boyce@arrowsic.org

Before heading off to the flats, you'll need to check that they are not closed because of pollution or biotoxins. Check the DMR's website. Our flats are in region WM, which is on map 100 A:

<https://www.maine.gov/dmr/shellfish-sanitation-management/closures/index.html>

North Squirrel Flat is currently closed with a conservation closure so you cannot dig there.

It's possible to walk from the lighthouse to South Squirrel Flat, but you'll need hip waders to cross the creek. The Crow Island Flats are best reached by boat.

—Lisa Margonelli for the Shellfish Commission

Arrowsic Broadband Authority has made continued progress since our last report in March this year.

After months of communication, USDA finally approved the town loan/grant documentation and pronounced the Town 'Ready for Funding', meaning we can start submitting invoices arising from work on the project to USDA for funding. These early claims will involve some \$3,500 of pre-application expenses plus early project engineering fees and Make Ready expense.

Working with the Select Board, we have also placed the combined Town and ABA insurance with Trident Insurance via the F. A. Peabody brokerage, which will result in annual premium savings of more than \$10,000.

ABA and the Town have agreed to move ahead with the plan to use the 'Little Barn' as ABA's Communication Center. Located just down the slope behind Town Hall and the Firehouse, the Center will house the electronic, switching and power equipment to make the network run as well as provide added space for other town uses. The Town's Properties Committee, chaired by Malcolm Person and supported by Mike Kreindler and ABA's Mike Loviska, are finalizing plans to move ahead with this project.

The contract with the project engineer Finley Engineering Inc has been signed and the Wisconsin firm has started work on our project. Finley will oversee the construction of the ABA fiber network and ensure all standards set by ABA and USDA are met.

ABA's contract with Axiom Technologies LLC as our Internet Service Provider is in the final stages of legal review. Axiom will provide the interface with the world-wide internet, develop and market services, administer billing and customer queries and provide repair/maintenance of the network.

With guidance from the town survey ABA conducted back in January 2021, ABA is in the final stages of a joint ABA-Axiom marketing plan which will likely

include four levels of service speed: Basic 25/25 Mbps, Standard 50/50, Premium 100/100 and Custom (various), all with a guaranteed consistent speed in contrast to the existing service where our speed tests show highly variable and much lower speed results.

Aside from providing reliable high-speed internet, ABA-Axiom plans to offer VoIP telephone service, and to encourage various streaming services that can replace satellite TV and significantly lower overall communication costs.

We also plan to offer Arrowsic property owners an early sign up and deposit option to cover connection costs and provide working capital to ABA. In the initial construction phase, wiring each property that takes the early signup option will be included at no cost to the subscriber.

Despite recent legislation and administrative rules, it appears CMP and Consolidated (CCI) can hold off approval of ABA hanging our fiber line on their poles for six months or so. This extended process could mean the installation of the lines cannot occur until January-April 2022. Nonetheless, current plans are to start on other elements of the project during early autumn as soon as possible on the Little Barn including installation of CO communications equipment.

If you are likely to sign up, do not enter into a fixed price contract with CCI or a TV service for over 6 months unless you are willing to pay an early termination fee, which could be substantial.

It is important to remember that despite the delays, the USDA funding provides ABA an interest free grant of \$604,254 and a 22 year loan for the same amount at say 2.5% interest pa, saving some \$500,000-\$1,250,000 over alternative 22 year commercial funding options. The pain of delay and administrative detail seems certainly worth it over the long term.

Your support is welcomed!

—Don Kornrumpf, Chairman

Conservation Commission

Save Water

Arrowsic may be surrounded by water, but that doesn't mean there is an unlimited supply for our personal needs and wants—not to mention the other living things that depend on water. Consider this: every year for the last decade, Maine has seen conditions that ranged from abnormally dry to drought. In 2020, areas of the state experienced extreme drought conditions. (Check out [this site](#), if you are interested in learning more about current and past drought conditions in Maine.)

While we can't change the weather, we can change some of our habits to be more mindful about our water usage year-round. This may help dampen the effects of the next dry spell.

Fun fact: according to [the U.S. Geological Survey](#), the average person uses as much as 80 to 100 gallons of water every day.

Read on for some simple tips. While not all of these may be practical for you, even making one or two changes can make a difference. Every drop in the bucket helps!

In the home

- Shorten your showers and consider installing a low-flow shower head. If you are feeling ambitious, keep a shower bucket handy to collect water while you wait for it to heat up. This is clean water that you can use to wash dishes or water plants.
- Shut the water off while you are brushing your teeth. Similarly, shut the water off while soaping up your hands for the recommended 20 seconds.
- Completely fill the dishwasher and washing machine before running them.

- Fill your sink with water when handwashing dishes, rather than letting the faucet run. (There are a lot of variables at play when weighing whether the dishwasher or handwashing is greener. For more on that debate, [click here](#).)
- [Fix leaky faucets and toilets](#). A faucet dripping at a rate of one drop per second can waste upwards of eight to nine gallons a day. A leaky toilet can waste about [26 gallons](#) per day.
- In the summer, fill a pitcher of water to keep in the refrigerator, rather than running the tap until the water cools down.

For your lawns and gardens

- Avoiding watering during the heat of the day and when it is windy. Water will evaporate much faster in these conditions, and your thirsty plants will benefit less.
- Direct the water to only where it needs to go. Don't water your driveway!
- Choose native plants over exotic, ornamental plants that may require more water to survive.
- Mulch around your plants to reduce evaporation and keep in the moisture. Mulch will also help keep out the weeds, which will compete with the plants you want for water.
- Collect rain in a rain barrel and use the water for your plants. Note that rain barrel water should be used with some caution. For best practices, click [here](#). You can [make your own](#) rain barrel or purchase one at a local hardware or garden store.
- During dry spells, prioritize outdoor water use. For example, consider not watering your lawn in favor of watering plants that produce food.

Click [here](#) for more great tips on ways to conserve water.

Thanks

The Conservation Commission would like to extend its thanks to the many volunteers who have helped us out this spring. More than two dozen people took part in the annual roadside clean-up at the end of April/beginning of May. The entire length of Arrowsic Road was picked up, as well as the full length of Bald Head Road and Whitmore's Landing, and most of Old Stage Road. It is always a satisfaction to remove the debris uncovered when the snowbanks recede, and head into the growing season with a fresh clean look. Thank you to everyone who signed up!

Thanks are also due to the Maine Tree Foundation for offering us as many wood chips as we could use from their pile at the Holt Research Forest; and a special thank you to Brian Elwell and his crew for transporting several cubic yards of those chips to the Sewall Pond Conservation Area for use on the trail. We spread most of those chips the next day, but we still have a stash in reserve to be spread at a future trail work session.

—*Phine Ewing for the Conservation Commission*

Drought Conditions

The Maine Drought Task Force has issued the following update of drought-related efforts and observations:

- Conditions in Maine have degraded substantially, 100% of the state is Abnormally Dry with 70.44% in Moderate Drought and 20.85% in severe drought.
- Maine CDC Drinking Water Program is receiving requests for assistance from public water systems statewide on drought preparedness and response including bulk water delivery. Most of the reported water quantity issues are from southern and coastal areas.
- Most streamflow stations in central and western Maine with 30+ years of record are the lowest they have ever been for this time of year, including the 2020 drought.
- Please direct private well owners facing drought-related issues to the Dry Well Survey: <https://maine-dry-well-survey-maine.hub.arcgis.com/>. Mainers can either dial 211 or 1-877-463-6207, or they can text a Maine zip code to 898-211 for assistance with filling out the survey.
- Low income homeowners with dry wells may be eligible to apply for assistance through the [USDA](#)

[Single Housing Repair Program](#) or the [Maine Housing Home Repair Program](#).

The Maine Drinking Water Program has put together abundant information on their [Emergency Response Resources](#) webpage to include; guidance on issuing drinking water orders to protect public health, emergency bulk water transport policy and procedure, drought contingency guidance for public water systems, and preparing, responding, and recovering from a drought.

Additionally, their [Bottled Water and Bulk Water Transport](#) webpage provides State of Maine rules relating to bulk water, as well as a partial list of bulk water hauling companies that municipalities would be able to call to arrange for services. *This program does not offer financial assistance for bottled or bulk water hauling.*

The Maine Emergency Management Agency *does not have funding* to support bottled water purchases, nor the ability to fund emergency water hauling without a formal disaster declaration. With USDA being the main federal agency on the drought scene, we're not likely to ever meet the FEMA threshold for a drought disaster declaration.

—*Christine Woodman, Arrowsic Health Officer*

Update on Island Transportation - Become a Volunteer Driver!

In 2018, Bob Kalish wrote an article for the *Arrow* about island transportation, listing the Midcoast Connector, Bath City Bus, local taxi services, and Uber and Lift as the only options. Three years later, in March of this year, the Volunteer Transportation Network organized by People Plus in Brunswick started activities in Bath, Arrowsic, Phippsburg, West Bath, and Woolwich. Georgetown adopted the program a couple of years ago and currently has eight volunteer drivers.

Since March, nine new drivers have signed up in the region, and requests for rides from our towns are increasing at such a rate that the program continues to seek additional volunteer drivers. Applications can be found at peopleplusmaine.org. Once your application

Brown tail Moths

While the state forestry department is reporting a dramatic infestation of brown tail moths throughout Maine, Arrowsic, which has previously been at the pest's epicenter, appears to be relatively free this year, with only a few reported at Mill Island and the end of Whitmore's Landing. After years of widespread defoliation and skin rashes, the wet springs of 2019 and 2020 apparently reduced the population of overwintering larvae and hairy spring caterpillars sufficiently that few emerged this spring.

has been processed it is entirely your decision how many times a month you get involved. The website that matches drivers and riders is very user friendly and makes documentation easy. Riders can find more information on the same People Plus website.

Most riders request essential rides to medical appointments, for grocery shopping or to the food bank. In Sagadahoc County, transportation to medical appointments is also provided by the Midcoast Connector; for more information call 1-855-930-7900. Taxi services are currently available from Brunswick Taxi and Ship City Taxi.

-Submitted by Karin Sadtler for Age Friendly Communities of the Lower Kennebec



Do you have something usable that you don't want anymore, but something that someone else might be interested in?

Arrowsic FREECYCLE

is an online giveaway site, administered by the Arrowsic Recycling and Solid Waste Committee.

You'll be finding a new home for perfectly good items, and helping a neighbor out at the same time. Plus, you'll also be saving yourself the time and trouble of taking unwanted things to Goodwill or the Salvation Army.

Simply post it online at:
<https://www.arrowsic.org/free/free.php>



Link to Arrowsic Freecycle:
<https://www.arrowsic.org/free/free.php>

Arts

A Field Day for Greens

By Sharif S. Elmusa

Chance favors the prepared mind,
said Pasteur. True, yet nothing from my past,
whether as chef or shopper, a farmer's son
or political animal, had readied my mind
for the mutiny at this gigantic supermarket.

That place had always been a safe haven
for the five senses, a little Earth gathered
under one roof, till the other day
when I found myself caught up, stunned,
a witness to a riot of the elements. I saw and heard
them act as if their discontent had been brewing forever,
and a band of anarchist Greens seized the day
and barged into this showcase of capitalism
to stir up trouble.

It all began peacefully.
The blueberries darkly recalled their home and spine;
the melons flashed their red, clear-cut presence;
the carrots made pointed remarks about the fat cats;
and the apple cart was upset,
tossing the apples wildly in the aisles.

No life stayed still.

The *haute* dogs, beef and fish and ham
—the whole herd—bellowed they were game,
kicked off a stampede, egged on all along by the cluck cluck
of chickens. The blunt fronds of pineapples spread the word
that the fruits themselves were now grenades set to burst.
The seemingly tranquil garden was going to pot,
as I watched, frozen, an alien in my very flesh.

The poem first appeared in "Deep Water," a weekly feature in The Portland Sunday Herald, edited by Megan Grumbling



The Arrowsic Arrow is Arrowsic's independent newsletter, produced through the efforts of volunteers. The newsletter is published three times a year in March, July, and November. The Arrow is primarily distributed via e-mail to all those on the Town of Arrowsic email list or on paper to those who are unable to access them online. The Town covers any costs for paper and postage. All articles and notices are welcome. Notices should be limited to 100 words. The Arrowsic Arrow Editorial Group: Bob Kalish, Karin Sadtler, and Tom Spear. Contact: Tom Spear, tspear@wisc.edu, 607-9649. Past issues of the The Arrow can be found at www.arrowsic.org.

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The Mary E off Fidler's Reach (photo by Paul Kalkstein)