

## **Arrowsic Select Board**

### **Minutes of April 26, 2022**

(Approved as amended May 10, 2022)

**Present:** Walter Briggs, Will Neilson, DeeDee Jorgensen, Steve Bonine (in person at Town Hall); Brett Jensen, Phine Ewing, Don Kornrumpf, Michael Kreindler, Michele Gaillard, Clarke Cooper, Bob Ater, Paul Schlein (via Zoom)

Walter called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

#### **Items for Approval:**

The draft agenda was reviewed and approved.

The minutes of the Select Board meeting of April 12, 2022 were approved.

Treasurer's Warrant #20 for \$6,076.26 was approved.

**Town Meeting Preparation:** Budget Workshop was scheduled for Friday, April 29 at 1PM at the Town Hall. DeeDee will arrange to distribute notice.

#### **Town Staff and Volunteers:**

- Administrator Update: Sheila hopes to be able to continue for a while longer. Vicki Stoneman is receptive to the idea of helping out and perhaps taking over as Administrator eventually, subject to an obligation which could oblige her to leave Arrowsic for a time. This should become clearer in the near-ish future.
- Tax Collector Update: Training for Rachel in Bath is going well. Teeing up state training now.

#### **ARPA Funding**

- Brett will call US Treasury Dept. to try to get assistance logging on so he can file the report due April 30.

#### **Range Lights property update**

- The Conservation Commission drafted 2 letters to the GSA for the Select Board – one requesting a delay in putting the property up for auction so that the Town can further consider its options, the other requesting that the Federal government donate the property to the Town. As one letter was distributed minutes before the meeting, and the other not until after the start of the meeting, review of the contents of the drafts was conceptual.
- Walter expressed a preference for requesting the donation of the property. Some discussion ensued in which it was noted that the sending a letter would not obligate the Town to accept the property if offered, but that delay could risk losing the opportunity to prevent or delay the property being listed for auction, and once that happened it was felt

the Town would be unlikely to be willing or able to acquire the property at a market price.

- Concerns were raised about:
  - The degree to which public water access was a current priority for the Town's inhabitants in 2022, as opposed to being more of a historical artifact of the Town's 1989 Comprehensive Plan.
  - The advisability of the Town creating another public recreational area, given the difficulties of managing the Town's Conservation Area at Sewall Pond;
  - The potential for increased liability for such an area;
  - The practical difficulties of the site, such as limited space for parking and turning around, purported access problems on the water side at various tides, the burdens of maintaining a historic structure to mandated historic preservation standards, the status of the septic system, traffic in the neighborhood, etc.:
  - The absence of a plan for how the property would be used, and
  - The apparent opposition of property owners in the neighborhood.
- It was noted again that public water access had been a formal priority for the Town since the Comprehensive Plan, with fees from boat excise tax committed each year to a dedicated water access fund, which currently has ca \$80,0000 in it.
- Bob Ater, who has worked on the issue for decades, volunteered to liaise among the various parties, pro and con in the community.
- It was agreed that Walter and Will should try to find a time for a site walk with stakeholders and to revise the draft letter to the GSA, but to take no action prior to the site walk.

### **ABA Update**

- None.

### **Other Business**

- Michael indicated he would take a look at the Sagadahoc County Hazard Mitigation Plan based on his work on the federal flood plain map revision a few years ago, on which this plan is presumed to be based. No comment has been received as yet from Brian Carlton, the Town's Local Emergency Management Administrator.
- A request for General Assistance has been received from a resident who suffered economic loss as a result of the pandemic. DeeDee will follow up and research the possible applicability of a donation the Town received some time ago for use as pandemic relief.
- "Deferral of tax" request – in the hands of the State.
- Jennifer Geiger has not yet received a response from the Town Attorney in response to questions about the new Accessory Dwelling Unit legislation just signed into law – in particular with respect to a possible moratorium on building such structures when not permitted under the existing Zoning Ordinance to allow time for the Planning Board to develop standards for such previously prohibited structures.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Neilson

On the Radar: Approval of the Sagadahoc County Hazard Mitigation Plan by May 30.