

The Arrowsic Arrow

Volume 10, Number 3

Arrowsic, Maine 04530

July, 1995

ZONING ORDINANCE DEFEATED; LAND PURCHASE REQUEST PASSES AT TOWN MEETING

When the smoke cleared close to midnight on June 26, Arrowsic residents had voted down an ordinance that would have reduced frontage setbacks, voted down a "tag-per-bag" recycling ordinance, passed an article requesting an appropriation to purchase land, and chosen a new selectwoman.

Melissa Textor was voted in as new selectwoman, replacing Manli Ho, by a 69-46 vote.

The zoning article brought to the warrant by petition concerned changing the existing regulations by reducing the minimum frontage setback from 75 feet to 50 feet along Old Stage Road and Route 127. The article was petitioned for inclusion in the warrant by Thomas and Jo Pilarski, who had recently lost a court decision to the town for building a garage out of compliance with the zoning regulations.

Many residents spoke during the discussion,

expressing concern that the situation should have been resolved without going to court, but that changing regulations was not the solution. Some expressed a fear that passage of the article would set a precedent for other laws to be changed at the request of solitary residents. The article was defeated.

Town residents also voted down an article intended to encourage recycling by utilizing a "tag-per-bag" system. Residents would have received a particular number of tags to be attached to their trash bags. Any tags used over that number would have to be bought. Many residents expressed the opinion that since Arrowsic already is doing a good job of recycling, the town doesn't need to adopt such a system.

A presentation by John Wood and Sandy Weiss from the ad hoc land committee reviewed the four possible land sites and explained why the

committee was recommending the Elwell property, located across the road from the current Town Hall. Several residents expressed concern regarding the environmental condition of the land. The article was finally passed after modifying it to ensure Department of Environmental Protection evaluation before purchase.

TOWN OFFICIALS

Town clerk:

Jane Peabody --442-8858

Selectmen:

Brian Scott --442-7409

Pat Harcourt --442-8122

Melissa Textor --443-1677

Tax Collector

Sally Brooks --443-6814

ATTENTION ARROWSIC RESIDENTS WITH POST OFFICE BOXES

Those residents without mailboxes who are interested in receiving the Arrow can drop off stamped, self-addressed envelopes to the selectmen, who will then send them each new issue. Contact the selectmen if interested.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE, TO THE PEOPLE

An open letter to the People of Arrowsic:

I've always felt that Arrowsic is a very special

place. It's small and yet surrounded by the waters of three rivers. It has a fresh water pond for swimming in the summer and skating in the winter. Blue flag and poison ivy and red winged black birds skirt the roadsides, and the maples in the marsh go flame red soon after school starts in the fall.

This is a town with two bridges, one of which hums loud enough that we can hear it half way down the island, hear it above the songs of the robins and the mosquitoes. It's a place where there are deer and geese and ducks.

I feel lucky to have been given the chance to live here. We're all lucky in that. But luck is not something any of us can always count on, leastways not good luck, which is the kind of which I'm speaking. Sooner or later, a good thing needs what we can give back to it in order to endure.

A place of beauty, such as Arrowsic, requires unselfishness and energy and the concern of its inhabitants. I believe I owe this island, this earth, something for the privilege of living here. I do not feel it is my right to see the land, whether I've paid for it or not, in money or in kind, as mine and, thus, disconnected from all its other parts.

And so I ask a favor. Let us work together, not to bow to

individual agendas, but to strive for what is best for all concerned, for the various inhabitants now and those to come in future generations and for the island that was here before any of us arrived.

Let us continue to work together to establish guidelines, to set down ordinances that the town agrees to and abides by, that are not hurriedly dismissed as too confining when they interrupt our individual schemes. The rules that we arrive at need to be the best efforts of a community that understands it needs a framework within which to do what is best, not just for one or two, but for the whole and for the island that is our town.

These are not easy tasks. We do not all agree, so we must work to respect each other, to meet the challenges before us with honesty, good humor and imagination. I wish us good luck.

Sincerely,
Nancy Brown Stump

To the Editor:

I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to the dedicated people on our town boards and committees who provided so much input, guidance and support over the past three years.

I also extend my

gratitude to the town officers with whom I worked: Nancy Brown Stump, Anne Carlton, Jane Peabody, Patty Olds, Millie Stafford, Greg Guckenberg, and Pat Harcourt. Without their selfless commitment, our town would have been a much poorer place.

Thanks,
Manli Ho.

To the Editor:

Leadership Appreciated

I want to express appreciation to Manli Ho, for her hard work, dedication and leadership during her three years of service on the Board of Selectmen.

She brought a level of professionalism to our town government, yet did not stray from the small town 'intimacy' that characterizes our community. She reached out to us as citizens through surveys, public forum, including this newsletter. She committed a great deal of her time to becoming better informed about the issues affecting us all.

She viewed other town officials- school committee members, recycling and conservation committees, fire department and planning boards- as true partners in developing and yes, upholding- public policy.

We elect our leaders to be the decision-makers, the doers as

well as the holders of our collective vision. An effective leader recognizes the importance of followers and includes them in the process of governing. Leadership is a risky undertaking, especially in a democracy where diversity and debate are among our underlying values.

Thank you, Manli, for your efforts in providing leadership to our town.

Sincerely,
Eloise Vitelli

A special thanks to the Beals family for sprucing up the Newtown Cemetary on Bald Head Road.

RECYCLING/WASTE MANAGEMENT NEWS

Beginning this month (July), we'll be able to recycle "mixed paper". "Mixed paper" is a term that means just about anything between newsprint and corrugated cardboard. Included, but not exclusive, are cereal boxes, cardboard six-pack containers, office paper, and envelopes (including those with cellophane windows). This is good news, now we can recycle just about any kind of paper, and we all know how large a percentage paper is of our trash. Look for the signs at the recycling bins to make sure the new bins have arrived.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

WED. 3:00 - 5:30

FRI. 8:30 - 11:00

FROM THE BOARD OF APPEALS

In June, David Lyden of Preble Point Road applied for a variance in order to increase the size of his recently acquired, non-conforming house by more than the thirty percent allowed by the 1991 Arrowsic ordinance as mandated by the State. The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) determined that his request could not fulfill the four criteria of the state and town regulations. The ZBA therefore denied his application for a variance.

In other action, the five year term of Noreen Blaiklock ended as of the last town meeting. The Board of Selectmen will appoint a replacement and an alternate. The next meeting of the ZBA is scheduled for July 25, during which they will hold elections of chairman and secretary.

Congratulations and welcome to newly-elected Melissa Textor, selectwoman, and Sally Brooks, tax collector.

**NEXT ISSUE OF ARROW: SEPT. 11
DEADLINE: SEPT. 4
PLEASE SUBMIT TO THE
ARROW'S BOX IN TOWN HALL**