

# The Arrowsic Arrow

## THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S MINIPUMPER

Arrowsic may need to make some decisions about firefighting vehicles in the near term and review its plans for fire protection for the long term. A meeting on March 5 included a tour of the fire station and then discussion of the department's vehicles, particularly the aging Minipumper.

The Arrowsic Fire Department has three vehicles:  
1) The Tanker, purchased in 2010 with a federal grant, can carry 2000 gallons of water. It is crucial for transporting water and also carries the equipment needed for structure fires. What the Tanker cannot do is easily navigate Arrowsic's narrow dirt roads or rough driveways.

2) The Brush Truck, purchased used in 2009, carries hand-held water tanks as well as other emergency equipment. Its primary use is for brush and grass fires; it is also useful for controlling traffic around accidents or flooded roads. The Brush Truck can access most places in town.

3) Between these two in scale is the Minipumper, purchased in 1988. The Minipumper can carry 250 gallons of water and also has the capacity to pump 450 gallons per minute. It can be used at a water source (such as Sewall Pond) to pump water into a tanker, which will then ferry the water to a major fire. Or it can be positioned all the way up a difficult driveway to pump water directly onto a fire while the Tanker remains on the road, with hoses running from its reservoir up to the Minipumper to keep it supplied. The Minipumper also carries equipment for chimney fires and motor vehicle crashes. With four wheel drive, it can readily handle the town's narrow dirt roads and driveways.

The three vehicles serve different fire-fighting functions. The mix and quality of the equipment have implications for the safety of both the people in an emergency calling for immediate aid and of the

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volunteers doing their best to respond. In 2014, the Fire Department responded to 64 emergency calls -- 30 requests for fire response and 34 requests for medical response. The Fire Department's vehicles and volunteers also enable cooperation between towns. Arrowsic participates in mutual aid agreements with all surrounding towns. Chief Chris Cummings estimates Arrowsic gets about ten mutual aid calls a year. Georgetown asks for both the Tanker and Minipumper, while the other towns generally request the Tanker. The Fire Department's equipment also has financial implications for the homeowner insurance we can each purchase. In Chief Cumming's view, a newer mix of equipment at the fire department could result in lower fire insurance premiums for homeowners.

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## FROM THE SHELLFISH CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

All four 2015 commercial licenses have been sold, but there are of plenty of recreational licenses available.

*William Blaiklock*

## BOATS, ATVs, AND ELECTIONS!

- \*Spring is really here and it's time to get your boats registered.
- \*ATV & Snowmobile registrations expire 6/30/2015.
- \*RSU1 Election is June 9th. Polling will be open from Noon until 8:00 pm.
- \*June 17th 6:30pm Town Hall: Town Meeting!

Thanks, Linda Warner

## WHATEVER INTERVIEW WITH BOB KALISH

March 25, 2015

Bob Kalish became editor of *The Arrowsic Arrow* sometime before September 1995, close to seven years after Patty Olds started the paper. Bob characterized the founder's intent using words like "objective take" and "watchdog". He appreciated that Patty raised issues in an objective way. He hoped that would remain a characteristic of the paper. He wanted to continue encouraging editorials. He agreed that opinions, not just facts, were worthy of a reader's respect.

When asked if he planned to do things differently, giving the Olds Arrow a dose of Kahliness, Bob chuckled. He then explained that what interested him was *The Arrow's* voice. "Do you know what I mean by a writer's voice?" he asked. "I mean voice as an attitude toward what I am writing; it's subtle...but I wish to add lightness to the dark news of the day... lightness, you understand, not ridicule." He stressed allowing for humor in the midst of the seriousness of life. It made me think of the notification of the state's new license plate design that he placed under the bold heading: "GOODBYE LOBSTER, HELLO MY LITTLE CHICKADEE."

In looking through old issues of *The Arrow* I found plenty of evidence of seriousness in Bob's four years as Editor. There was the question of whether or not to contract out fire department services. There was the matter of whether or not to pave the Bald Head Road. And biggest of all was the issue of the Pilarski's garage. Bob read aloud part of his own editorial in the Sept./Oct. 1995 edition:

Distrust of big government may be the latest fad, but in a town like ours, government isn't some nameless, faceless bureaucrat. It's a neighbor. The *attitude* of distrust and ridicule doesn't play well in a small town like Arrowsic. It's ugly and demeaning and our elected officials, whoever they may be and

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whatever political  
philosophy they espouse,  
deserve better.

"Ugly" and "demeaning" Bob repeated. "An attitude of distrust...wow, that was a good editorial,"

So, had there been cases of demeaning letters to the editor? Had Bob ever felt compelled to change more than a miss-spelled word? "Good question," Bob smiled, explaining that he considered himself a journalist for whom the Editorial section was sacred: Whatever someone's opinion, he, as Editor, would allow *The Arrow* to express it and not interfere. Bob was focused on providing a framework for discussion.

And there was certainly discussion. Top number of Letters to the Editor included in one Arrow was five in Vol.10 #4. "No kidding? That many?" Bob said, humming a song I did not recognize. "Mickey Rooney," he told me, "...bring a smile to your face."..."

Bob believed every opinion mattered and deserved to be heard. He referred back to "the thing about ugliness... there is no humor to it, no light, too much darkness."

Bob had characterized the publication of the Arrow

*Continued on page 7.....*

### ON THE ROADS AGAIN:

A hearty thank you to Charlie Collins and his Maine Moss snowplow crew for an outstanding job this winter.

And the Road Commission is seeking a new member. If you are looking for an exciting, challenging position in Town, try the Planning Board. But if you would be willing to help plan and manage our road work in an admittedly relaxed atmosphere with no special knowledge or skills necessary, please contact Jim Stump (442-7527) or any of the Selectmen.

For the Road Commission,  
*Jim Stump*

## ARROWSIC ANNUAL ROADSIDE CLEANUP

Dedicated recyclers Ros Arienti, Lucy Pieh, and Damian Sokol, during April's Annual Roadside Cleanup, as they sorted recyclable items and saved them from the incinerator. This year's cooperative efforts on the part of the Conservation Commission and the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee reduced roadside trash going to the incinerator by nearly 20%, and saved the town \$45 per ton in disposal fees.



## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Arrowsic's 26th annual Roadside Clean-Up took place on Saturday morning, April 25th. The season was not as far advanced as usual for the event, and it was touch-and-go whether the snow banks would be gone in time. Luckily they were. Plants had not yet started to leaf out, nor had the bugs arrived; the perfect sweet spot in between snow and bugs, and high visibility for trash. And the rain held off all morning.

In all 43 volunteers participated (on Saturday or earlier in the week) in trash pick-up and/or sorting recyclables. All of Route 127, Old Stage Rd., and Bald Head Rd. were covered, as well as Indian Rest Rd., Cottage Rd., Spinney Mill Rd., and the Sewall Pond Conservation Area. We are delighted to have a crop of enthusiastic young people joining our ranks. We ranged in age from 3 to 93. Three cheers to all our hard working volunteers! Also thanks to all those folks who keep their own roadsides picked up throughout the year.

*Phine Ewing*



*Stella, Ren, and Charli, our youngest collectors on Arrowsic Clean-up Day*

***MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPS KEEP ARROWSIC BEAUTIFUL!***



## WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON?

On our town website, [arrowsic.org](http://arrowsic.org), you can find out what the select board has been up to, what the town weather will be like, how to get a free burn permit, when to register your vehicles, and lots of other useful information. If there is something you would like to see on our website, please make sure it is not already there, and then email [news@arrowsic.org](mailto:news@arrowsic.org) and I will try to get it online for you.

*Paul Kalkstein, Webmaster*

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## The Minipumper is getting old

The Minipumper is getting old, as emergency equipment goes. It was projected to last 20-25 years but has been in service for 27. The pump has gotten finicky and will not always start. When functioning, it does not meet the pumping requirements of current firefighting standards. Other shortcomings of the Minipumper include the capacity of its tank and the size and length of its hoses. Safety and ease of operation are other issues of concern. Newer models have automatic transmissions and more safety features (such as airbags and antilock brakes). For volunteers to be able to respond at speed and be safe themselves, this is relevant.

## Cost of a New Minipumper

Chief Cummings explained that the cost of a Minipumper is high and increasing. A Minipumper costs more than a tanker partly because it squeezes sophisticated equipment into a smaller chassis and because it has to be customized. The limited market for such equipment may also boost the cost. The current cost is estimated at \$250,000 and will likely increase.

The cost of emergency equipment is high. The cost of not having the equipment you need when you need it is also high. At the meeting, Malcolm Persen suggested that the cost looks high only when you don't need it, but that saving a single house from a major fire could well justify it.

## Alternatives to Replacing the Minipumper

Replacing the Minipumper with a new one is one option. Meeting participants offered several others.

*Replace just the pump:* Jeremy Blaiklock contacted a company in Vassalboro willing to rebuild just the pump on the Minipumper for an estimated \$10,000 to \$15,000. The rebuilt pump would handle 450 gallons per minute, as does the current one. A further upgrade is not possible as the Minipumper lacks the power to handle anything faster. This option does not address any other issues – ongoing maintenance costs, improved safety features, etc.

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## The Arrowsic Arrow Needs You!

The Ad Hoc Arrow Editorial Committee needs more volunteers to help develop the content for each issue.

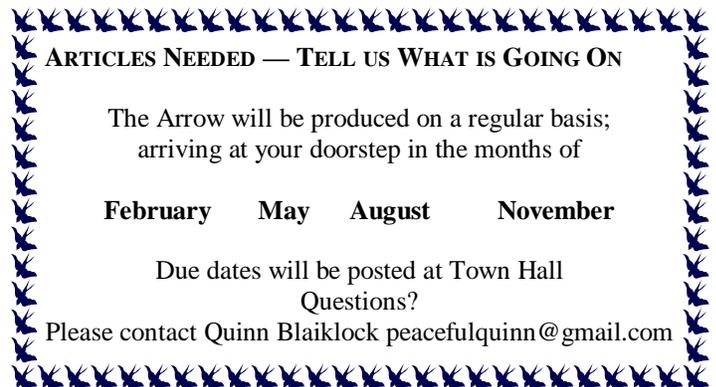
- Brainstorm ideas
- Write / Interview
- E-mail / call to solicit articles from fellow townspeople
- Four meetings per year

## Arrowsic Solid Waste and Recycling Committee

### • Call for New Members

This venerable committee is in need of new members interested in helping with the necessary work and in developing strategies and charting the Town's course for resource and materials management. Should you be interested, please contact Paul Schlein, pschlein@gmail.com, 443-3209.

*Paul Schlein*



**ARTICLES NEEDED — TELL US WHAT IS GOING ON**

The Arrow will be produced on a regular basis;  
arriving at your doorstep in the months of

**February    May    August    November**

Due dates will be posted at Town Hall  
Questions?

Please contact Quinn Blaiklock [peacefulquinn@gmail.com](mailto:peacefulquinn@gmail.com)

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE ARROWSIC SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING COMMITTEE:

Please note that, starting on **Friday, June 5**, **trash will be picked up weekly**, until Friday, September 4, when the schedule will return to biweekly pickup. **Recycling pickup will continue on a biweekly schedule.**

For the complete 2015 trash/recycling pickup schedule, see the next page, or go to: [http://arrowsic.org/recycle/recycle\\_schedule.pdf](http://arrowsic.org/recycle/recycle_schedule.pdf).

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Schlein, [pschlein@gmail.com](mailto:pschlein@gmail.com), 443-3209



### MAY MYSTERY ITEM

Can you identify this item that someone left in the Recycling Shed? Made of galvanized metal, it's about 8 inches high and 7 inches across. If you know what it is, and are the first to get your answer in to Quinn at peacefulquinn@gmail.com, it's yours!  
*Paul Schlein*

### THEFT AT THE RECYCLING SHED!

Someone has evidently stolen one of the new LED lights that has been so nicely illuminating the inside of the Recycling Shed since last fall. While the surveillance camera clearly caught the person red-handed (*we know who you are!*), the Recycling Committee doesn't want to confront anyone directly, nor does it want to involve the police. The Committee respectfully requests that the individual in question please return the light to the shed or slip it through the Town Hall door into the mailbox. No questions will be asked.  
*Thank you!*  
*Paul Schlein*

### COASTAL HAZARDS WORKSHOP, MAY 19

The Midcoast Council of Governments is conducting workshops for coastal towns on sea level rise. Topics to be covered include how the public can access information online on sea level rise data, interpreting the data, potential impacts of sea level rise on coastal marsh habitats and on road infrastructure, and adaptations to changing sea levels. Mr. Scott Hastings of the Midcoast Council of Governments will be coming to Arrowsic on Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall. Everyone is welcome, and we hope to have a good turn-out for this event. Come with your questions and concerns.  
*Phine Ewing*

## ARROWSIC SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING COMMITTEE

# 2015 TRASH/RECYCLING

## PICKUP SCHEDULE

January–May: September–December

Biweekly schedule for everything; Friday pickup\*

June–August

Weekly trash pickup; biweekly recycling; Friday pickup

MAY	1 <sup>R</sup>		15 <sup>R</sup>		29 <sup>R</sup>
JUNE	5	12 <sup>R</sup>	19	26 <sup>R</sup>	
JULY	3	10 <sup>R</sup>	17	24 <sup>R</sup>	31
AUGUST	7 <sup>R</sup>	14	21 <sup>R</sup>	28	
SEPTEMBER	4 <sup>R</sup>		18 <sup>R</sup>		
OCTOBER	2 <sup>R</sup>		16 <sup>R</sup>		30 <sup>R</sup>
NOVEMBER		13 <sup>R</sup>		27 <sup>R</sup>	
DECEMBER		11 <sup>R</sup>		*24 <sup>R</sup>	

<sup>R</sup>Recycling, as well as Trash pickup

\*Pickup Thursday, due to Christmas holiday

Questions? Contact: Paul Schlein, pschlein@gmail.com, 443-3209

### LHO (LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER)

Just because this year's flu shot was only 23% effective, does not mean to omit from getting it next year. You may have fallen in the 23% effective group which would of either protected you or if you did get the flu had a shorter time being sick.

### LEMA (LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY)

Worries this Spring is flooding. We have seen some flooding near Sirois road already this year. The temperature is rising, and the snow will be melting here in Arrowsic and up in Northern Maine. We all know that route 127 can flood with high tides so please do not cross a flooded road. It only takes inches to move a car to danger. Be safe.  
*Pauline McLuer*

## ARROWSIC PROPANE CO-OP

The previous co-op will come to an end in early summer and it will be time to renegotiate. If you currently are involved you do not need to do anything at this point but if you are not and want to be please email Matt Bachman at mbachman17@gmail.com. Last year we had a rate of \$1.799/gallon which gave significant savings for many households. If you will be joining please provide Matt with expected number of gallons annually used of propane, who owns your tank (you or which provider?).

*Matt Bachman*

### PLANNING BOARD CONTRIBUTION TO THE ARROW FOR SPRING 2015

You may have heard or read of FEMA's years-long effort to update flood plain maps across the country, and, concomitantly, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which is intended to protect people from economic catastrophe on top of a physical one, but which has also been criticized for allowing development in flood-prone areas by shifting financial risk to the taxpayers. This effort is culminating in 2015 with the issuance of a new Floodplain Management Ordinance which municipalities must adopt if they wish to remain eligible for the NFIP, and Arrowsic's adoption of the new ordinance is the subject of nearly all the Planning Board's proposed warrant articles for this year's Town Meeting. There will be a public hearing on the proposed warrant articles on **Wednesday May 27 at the Town Hall at 7 PM.**

In Arrowsic the new Floodplain Management Ordinance will have limited practical effect due to the fact that virtually all floodplain areas are located within the shoreland zone setback where structures already cannot be built under the existing ordinance.

*Will Neilson*

### FROM THE SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Keep a lookout for a printed copy of the new recycling brochure that will be delivered along with the Annual Report before Town Meeting in June

Thanks,

*Paul*

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*Buy a used Minipumper:* Chief Cummings indicated that most fire departments keep their equipment as long as possible. Some locales have shorter time frames for replacement but lack what Arrowsic is looking for (that is, cities with budgets to regularly replace equipment are not apt to have four-wheel-drive vehicles meant for handling narrow dirt roads). Purchasing a used Minipumper would probably also decrease the length of time before it would need to be replaced.

*Improve access for the Tanker:* Michael Kreindler reflected on the tradeoff between the cost to the town of purchasing a Minipumper which can maneuver to houses down narrow and unpaved driveways – compared to the cost of everyone in town making sure their houses and lots can be reached by the Tanker.

### Financing a New Minipumper

If the town were to purchase a new Minipumper, how might that be financed?

*Federal grant:* Chief Cummings indicated a grant is unlikely. In the past, he has successfully found grants for equipment, both major and minor – from the Tanker itself to pagers. However, Arrowsic has applied for FEMA grants to replace the Minipumper six times without success (a decision about the current application is due in mid-summer). In Chief Cumming's view, grants have become very limited and the chances of receiving one are slim.

*Available resources and financing options:* The Arrowsic Fire Department has had a \$12,000 operating budget, unchanged, over the last few years. In addition to operating funds, fire departments typically have capital accounts and replacement programs which assign a 20-25 year lifetime to trucks. Arrowsic has been putting \$5,000 each year into a Fire Department Capital Fund which currently has about \$48,000. The Benevolent Fund has about \$6,000. Resale value of the Minipumper is probably about \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Member of the Select Board Bill Savedoff shared

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## ARROWSIC SEAL IDEAS

Many thanks to our contributors for Arrowsic town seal ideas! Here are the suggestions that we have received thus far. Keep the ideas coming! Please email or send your suggestions to Quinn at [peacefulquinn@gmail.com](mailto:peacefulquinn@gmail.com) or Paul at [pschlein@gmail.com](mailto:pschlein@gmail.com).

Not being an artist, but appreciating art and design, I decided I'd use words to describe my idea for a town seal. How about a nice rendering of our island with the three rivers surrounding, the 2 lighthouses in their appropriate places, Sewall Pond, and the schoolhouse/town hall in its location? I realize this seems like a lot of things on a small seal, but I was also surprised at the detail captured in a few of the other seals. Just an idea, maybe it would inspire an artist and they could put their own spin on it.

Thank you for doing such a nice job on the Arrow. I enjoy it and look forward to each issue. I've only lived on Arrowsic for 13 years, but feel blessed everyday as I wake up to the sunrise over the Sasanoa. Aren't we lucky!

Best Regards,  
Susan D. Elkin



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as occurring haphazardly and irregularly, yet it came out about twenty-five times in his four years. When asked if he ever got paid for his work, he laughed. He said being Editor was a matter of public service. "What?" he asked. "I'll drive you to the hospital, then tell you it'll cost you." No, he said he was glad to do the job; he appreciated that the little paper was autonomous, not an official mouthpiece of the town. He did admit that there were times he could have used some more technical support, but eventually he discovered that Walter Briggs had a MAC and a great deal of technical knowledge he was willing to impart.

In Vol.14 #3, the March 1999 issue, there came word that Bob Kalish and Patty Olds were going to try to keep *The Arrow* going, though it had gotten increasingly expensive to publish and mail. Then in Vol.14 #5 there were words of praise and gratitude to Bob for his four years of service as *The Arrowsic Arrow* Editor. Bob guessed that must have been when he started working in Bath as a writer for *The Times Record*; he recalled it being difficult to do both jobs at once.

With respect for Bob's interpretation of voice and humor, I wonder why I want to read it, not on the computer, but in hand on a tree-sacrificed, "Forever" stamped page. It is not that I can't compose, lose, compose again, send, read, respond and delete a computed message, but can I convey the right attitude to what I write? Can that voice vent and serve as best it is able? As long as I hold resistance to the medium, the message gets resistance-obscured, the humor sours, the watchdog fades to a mascot, and the chickadees near the garden take up all the shade?

*Nancy Brown Stump*

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some estimates of the impact of replacing the Minipumper on Town finances and tax rates, based on options that spread the cost over time and raise funds just from taxes or from a mix of taxes and loans. After compiling a total of \$95,000 from Town reserves, the fire department capital fund, and sale of the old Minipumper, the town would need to raise \$155,000 to purchase a Minipumper that costs \$250,000. By deferring delivery for a year and taking out a loan, the town could raise the required funds with a 5% increase in property taxes each of the next four years or 2.3% each year if stretched over ten years. The discussion that followed touched on the affordability of any of these options, especially for lower income property owners, and on the merits of borrowing. Views were also expressed that annual allocations to the Fire Department's capital fund should reflect the real long-term capital requirements of the department.

### Next Steps

The sense of the March 5 meeting was that the status of the Minipumper needs to be explored further and that a committee should be formed to develop a long-term plan for fire protection in the town. The role of the Minipumper can then be considered within that plan. Such a committee would consider not only the fire department's equipment but also the issue of volunteers and other actions that can make the town safer (such as improved driveway access, clear house numbering). On April 27, the Select Board appointed that committee. Funding the Fire Department will be discussed at the Town Meeting on June 17.

*Amy Smith*

## TOWN CALENDAR REMINDERS:

### May

#### Coastal Hazards Workshop

Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall

**Floodplain Management Ordinance:** public hearing on the proposed warrant articles on Wednesday May 27 at the Town Hall at 7 PM.

### June

**RSU1 Election is June 9th.** Polling will be open from Noon until 8:00 pm

**June 5** Trash will be picked up weekly, recycling will still be on a bi-weekly schedule

**June 17th 6:30pm Town Meeting at the Fire Station**