

The Arrowsic Arrow

Vol. 23 No. 3

September 2008

From the Selectmen: Committee Members Needed (Please Read)

We know that everyone is busy and it may seem like there's no time to volunteer on town committees but our town is a great place precisely because volunteers have stepped forward to serve. There's no question that it is getting harder to find people thus our committees are often shorthanded which puts pressure on those who do volunteer. Please consider helping fill the following needs:

Two members are needed for the Arrowsic

Properties Committee: The Properties Committee meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month and is responsible for maintaining the town's buildings and grounds. We are looking for individuals with abilities to help with routine building maintenance such as replacing light bulbs, putting up storm windows and screens, un-sticking stuck doors, maintaining sand for sanding walkways and other activities that keep our grounds and buildings in good repair. The committee also advises the Selectmen on major building repairs and grounds maintenance.

An alternate member is needed for the Zoning Board of Appeals: The ZBA performs the same function as an appeals court judge, deciding thorny questions in accordance with our local ordinances. The board meets only when a case comes up but then may meet several times to decide the issue. In recent years there have luckily only been a few cases but a full board must be available at all times.

As mentioned at the town meeting in June, additional members are also needed on the Shellfish Committee and the Road Commission. Please contact Jon Hentz for information about the Shellfish Committee or Jim Stump about the Road Commission. Please give these openings serious

consideration and contact any one of the Selectmen or committee chairs to find out more about these positions.

New Town Clerk

The Selectmen appointed a new Town Clerk during their September 4th meeting. We are pleased that Elaine Varney has accepted the position and already started working with Liz at Town Hall during regular office hours.

Elaine lives in Georgetown and comes to us after 20 years of experience in administration at teaching hospitals in the Boston area including Harvard, Beth Israel, Tufts, and Brigham and Women's Hospital.

In addition to issuing licenses and providing information and administrative support at Town Hall, she will be assuming the duties of coordinating our election coverage, tabulation and certification of results. She will also attend the bi-monthly Selectmen's meetings and thankfully take notes. Please make her feel welcome in Arrowsic.

Arrowsic DSL update

Our contact at Pioneer Wireless, Don Flewelling, reports that his company has passed another milestone towards a contract agreement with FairPoint Communications to provide DSL service to Arrowsic. This was to raise their liability insurance from \$1.5 million per incident to \$10 million. The next step is to reach agreement with FairPoint on using their poles and control boxes to connect us to DSL. While Mr. Flewelling is reluctant to predict when they can start work in Arrowsic, he does think that it may be possible sometime this year. Your Selectmen are in constant contact with Pioneer and will place updates on the Arrowsic web site or in the Arrow as we get new information.

Heroes. We'll be celebrating that event along with

Georgetown Central School

September 2008

The summer months just flew by! The annual Working League Fair was held here in mid-August. Despite the rain, we were able to sell enough raffle tickets for our Ansel Skiff to purchase the wood and materials for next year's boat! Congratulations to Tim Walsh on Indian Point (when he's not in Sudbury, MA) who was the lucky winner of the skiff!

The first day of school was September 3rd with approximately 60 smiling faces returning. We are sorry to say that our sixth grade teacher, Julie Denton, has taken a teaching position in a nearby district. Despite the loss of a teacher, we are excited and motivated to try team teaching in grades K-2 and 3-6 this year. With the new Historical Society just a few steps away, we are looking forward to building a true instructional partnership with them.

The Maine Educational Assessments (MEAs) are in and our students performed better than ever. Would you believe that seven students achieved a perfect score in math? This annual state test really serves as a showcase for what our students can do academically! In grades three through six, 88% of the students met or exceeded state standards in reading while 93% met or exceeded the standards in math. Thank you for all that you do to support and encourage our children!

Our greenhouse has arrived and Mr. Kovacs and Mrs. Thibodeau will be working with several parents and community members to build it in early September. We have big plans for the greenhouse that include science projects, winter vegetables for our cafeteria, and Leadership Club projects. With the addition of the Vin and Alice Strout Memorial Garden and a wonderful new picnic table donated by the parents of last year's sixth grade class, we expect to be doing a lot of outdoor learning this year!

Governor Baldacci has declared the week of September 8th to be the annual Maine Week of

*Kevin Tolan
and classmates
work on the
2008 Ansel
Skiff*

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Fire Prevention Week in early October. Then before we know it, it will be Halloween!

News from RSU 1

School has started for Arrowsic's children. As with every September, this year brings changes to our students. Some changes they may not even recognize such as our new administrative configuration. RSU #1 is up and running! Some important information about the administrative office:

Regional School Unit 1
39 Andrews Road, Bath
Phone number: 443-6601
e-mail: www.rsu1.org

Superintendent William Shuttleworth,
wshuttleworth@rsu1.org

The new school in Woolwich is scheduled to open in the fall of 2011. You are invited to meetings regarding this exciting project, which will impact the education of Arrowsic's children for many years to come. Even though the school will be built in Woolwich, it is being funded by the state and RSU – Arrowsic residents have a financial stake in this project! While the building committee and school board will vote about various aspects of this project between now and January, **YOU** will have the ultimate voice regarding how the school should look. In January, there will be a referendum within the entire RSU about the Woolwich school project. Between now

and the January vote, you are invited to voice your opinion, comments, criticism, and advise to either of Arrowsic's school board representatives, or to attend one of the many on-going Woolwich school construction committee meetings. The meetings are held the first and third Thursday of the month at 6:00 at the Woolwich School, and are also posted in the paper or you can contact the RSU #1 office for dates and times.

Tuition negotiations between the RSU negotiation committee and the Georgetown School committee continue. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us.

The RSU #1 monthly board meetings are rotated through each of the RSU towns. They are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00pm. All meetings are open to the public. Please contact the RSU office for location. Your opinion is valued; please let us know what you think. To contact us: Tim Harkins (timharkins3@aol.com, 442-8134) and Francie Tolan (tolans@peoplepc.com, 443-4893).

We Want You!!! ...to consider a seat on the Arrowsic School Advisory Group

The selectmen, along with RSU #1, are seeking to establish a school advisory group (SAG) for Arrowsic. The SAG will help the children of Arrowsic by providing feedback and advice to the RSU #1 school board and principals and teachers of the schools that our children attend. The work of the SAG is to support student achievement. While Arrowsic currently has two residents on the RSU #1 school board who are always receptive to your input, this is another forum for citizens to be involved with the education of our children.

SAGs are being formed throughout the school district as a way to allow citizens another avenue of input regarding school matters. Some of the duties of the SAG are:

- to communicate regularly about current issues between schools and our community

- to provide a link between parents, administrators and the school board
- to brainstorm solutions when there are obstacles to learning
- to advise the board on major issues pertaining to the RSU, when requested.

Please note that the SAG has an advisory role only and does not replace the statutory functions of the RSU board.

It is hoped that the SAG will represent a broad base of community members and reflect various interests and points of view. The term of membership is one year. Membership of an SAG can vary, but cannot exceed nine people. A letter of interest should be submitted to the selectmen, along with a completed RSU #1 application form (available by contacting the RSU, at 443-6601 or web site www.rsu1.org). Elected municipal officials cannot be members. The selectmen will appoint members.

The SAG will establish its own guidelines and protocol to guide its work. Each SAG will meet four times a year. One of the selectmen will convene and chair the group.

Please consider becoming a member of the Arrowsic SAG. Arrowsic has always been committed to the best education possible for our children. Here is another way to get involved and continue the tradition!

Halloween Fun !

Join us

Oct. 26th

2-4 pm at Town Hall

Crafts, games, stories. Bring some apples for the cider press and a pumpkin to decorate. Call Eugenie Knowles 443-1145 for more information.



From The Voter Registrar

Election time is drawing near – if you have not registered to vote, please do so by stopping at Town Hall or by requesting a registration application by phone or mail. The Town Hall is open on Wednesdays from 3p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and again on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. I can be reached at 443-4978 for information and requests. Absentee ballots will become available to those voters who request by phone or mail and can also be picked up at Town Hall. Let's all get out to vote in this very important general election.

Election Date: Tuesday, November 4th, 2008

Election Place: Arrowsic Town Hall

Election Time: 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Our Senatorial District is 19

Our Legislative District is 61

Ward#1

As of this writing we have a total of 383 registered voters:

Democrat: 159

Green: 17

Republican: 73

Unenrolled: 134

See you at the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 4th.

-- Jean Kane

Arrowsic.org

The selectmen and I would like to make our town website, *arrowsic.org*, useful to the town. Although the site gets more than 60 "hits" each day, few of them appear to be from our town. We know from the email list that many more town residents have Internet capability than use the town site.

The site is configured at present for dialup access, without lots of pictures and bells and whistles. The home page is designed to be YOUR home page, filled with links, local news, and useful search and reference tools. The site contains calendars, committee minutes, town land use and building codes, recycling information, and lots of other information.

We want to use the site to publish timely and helpful news and tips. We are also able to make the web site available for residents to post their own news if they wish. Please visit *arrowsic.org* and let us know your suggestions at news@arrowsic.org.

– Paul Kalkstein, Arrowsic Webmaster

Spring clean up at Squirrel Point Lighthouse.





CITIZENS FOR SQUIRREL POINT

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, October 1, 2008

Arrowsic Town Hall

6:30 p.m.

AGENDA:

- Review of projects completed in 2008
- Presentation and discussion of the architectural plans developed by Bowdion Rusack Fellow Annie Hancock
- Projects/priorities for the coming year
- Elections of Directors
- Other business

All Welcome!

FMI Contact Lee Johnson (386-1651,
leejohnson@wildblue.net)

Arrowsic - Georgetown Back River Bridge Replacement Pre-Construction Meeting 08/27/2008

Attendees:

MDOT – Stewart Rogers, Roxane Cleaves, Gary Hoar, Calvin Seeley, Reed & Reed – Charlie Guerette, Randy Hale, Bill Saucier, CMP – Mike Giles, Dick Adams, Randy Jones, FairPoint – Peter Whitney, Town of Arrowsic – Larry Wilson
Town of Georgetown – Charles Collins

Items discussed:

Construction:

- Start Work: Charlie Guerette anticipates starting to prepare and clear for detour, estimated start date, September 8th. Anticipated schedule for moving existing bridge to be used as detour; late November, early December.
- Progress Meetings: Progress Meetings will be held every two weeks unless it becomes apparent that they be held more frequently.
- Reed & Reed will be moving the existing bridge to use as a detour during construction of the new bridge. The contract calls for the bridge not being closed to traffic for more than two – eight hour periods. Reed & Reed foresees moving the bridge in two nights from approx. 9pm to 5am.
- Regarding emergency vehicle access – C. Guerette can provide foot traffic access during moving of the bridge. S. Rogers stressed need for backup plan in case it was necessary to cross for emergency purposes, if modification to contract is allowed. “Georgetown” will post updates on their website.
- “Arrowsic” stressed communication of moving of bridge notification to town authorities.
- It was asked by “Arrowsic-Georgetown” whether there was certification that the existing bridge is safe to use as a temporary. S. Rogers stated that Reed & Reed is required to submit a PE stamped certification.

Environmental Requirements:

In-Water work is allowed from October 1st to May 31st. C. Guerette commented that most in water work will be pier related and that the schedule shouldn't be an issue. S. Rogers explained extension requirements.

Contract Time: The permanent bridge will be opened to traffic by November 9, 2009. The project completion date is May 28, 2010.

Dredge Materials: Dredge Material = anything below normal high water mark that can be beneficially used on site or within same watershed.

Apple Cider? If you have unwanted apples I can use for cider we can barter. Al Heath 443-6614

The Crosby Mill

Excerpts from: Roy Lawrence's Recollections of the Crosby Mill in Arrowsic, as told to Laurie Mann, Arrowsic Historical Society, July 2008.

Roy Lawrence at age 96 recalls the design and layout of the mill and the surrounding area. Roy's father, Ibra Lawrence, was employed at Crosby Mill for more than 20 years from the 1910's to about 1939. As a child Roy had many opportunities to watch his father and the other men at work.

Crosby Mill operated in the early 1900's. It was a tidal water-powered sawmill on the east side of Arrowsic, Maine off the Old Stage Road on Mill Island between the millpond and the Back River. The road went over a causeway and right up to the north side of the mill. The two owners were brothers; Charles Crosby had a house and large barn at the mill, still there today as a refurbished home and Guy Crosby lived in Brunswick near the present day Hardings plant. Charles was the main sawyer, Guy provided general manpower. Another fellow, Mr. Fletcher, lived in a house next to the mill (that structure does not exist any more).

Ibra and his young family lived for a brief time in a house that stood at the south end of the mill-pond. They lived there while the lumber for their future home was being milled. (Roy still has the order for this home, dated Dec. 16, 1912, the total for the materials, delivered, was \$710). The house built with Crosby lumber, though no longer in the Lawrence family, exists today at the top of Palace Cove Rd. on the west side of Old Stage Road.

There was another house nearby that had been built with Crosby lumber. It was built for John Crosby, the son of Guy Crosby and was located on the west side of Old Stage Road across from the intersection at Mill Island Road at the site of the present day Carlton home. It came into disrepair and was torn down.

The Crosby's would take an order for an entire "cottage". Many customers were city folk who would spend three month of the summer in Maine. All the lumber for an order was milled so that it would be ready to assemble. Shingles, nails, windows - everything else needed to build the

house was acquired at Harry Passmore's Lumber Company (located on Commercial Street in Bath where the present day 'Bathport' exists). Material were stored in a building called "The Store" at Crosby Mill until the milled wood was cut and ready for delivery. All the materials were then loaded onto the mill's scow to be towed by boat to the building site. The Back River had more depth then than it does now.

The mill shut down every winter. Any logs on site were left to freeze in the pond where borer beetles wouldn't ruin the wood.

One winter Ibra built a 30'x15' scow in the bed of the mill, (approximately 20'x30'). The mill offered shelter but no heat. In the spring, the scow was launched out the slip, into Mill Pond, through the gates (which were just wide enough) and then into the river.

Another winter Ibra moved the family to Robinhood, Georgetown. Charles Crosby and Ibra worked together to cut down trees that in the spring would be rolled into Robinhood cove and towed north along the Back and Sasanoa Rivers to the mill.

Ibra used a pair of oxen to drag the logs to the cove. The logs remained there until the ice was out of Knubble Bay in the spring. Rafts were created after the logs had been rolled into the water: pegs were driven into the ends of several logs then they were chained or roped together. They were ready to be towed to the mill.

The gates of the mill were built into an earthen dam. When the tide was coming into the mill pond the gates would pivot open about 90 degrees to a stopper on each side. When high tide had filled the pond, the gates, due to the pressure of the changing tide, would automatically close, sealing tightly to each other in the middle of the opening.

Adjacent to the gates was the underwater box that housed the waterwheel. When the millpond was higher than the river, the sawyer opened the small gate in the box of the waterwheel. The water pushed against the blades of the waterwheel as it streamed from the pond through this box, thus turning the wheel and the shaft attached to it. This was the power source for all the machinery in the mill.

It was convenient when an overnight high tide was timed so that the pond was full when the men arrived for work in the morning. They started the day at full power when this happened.

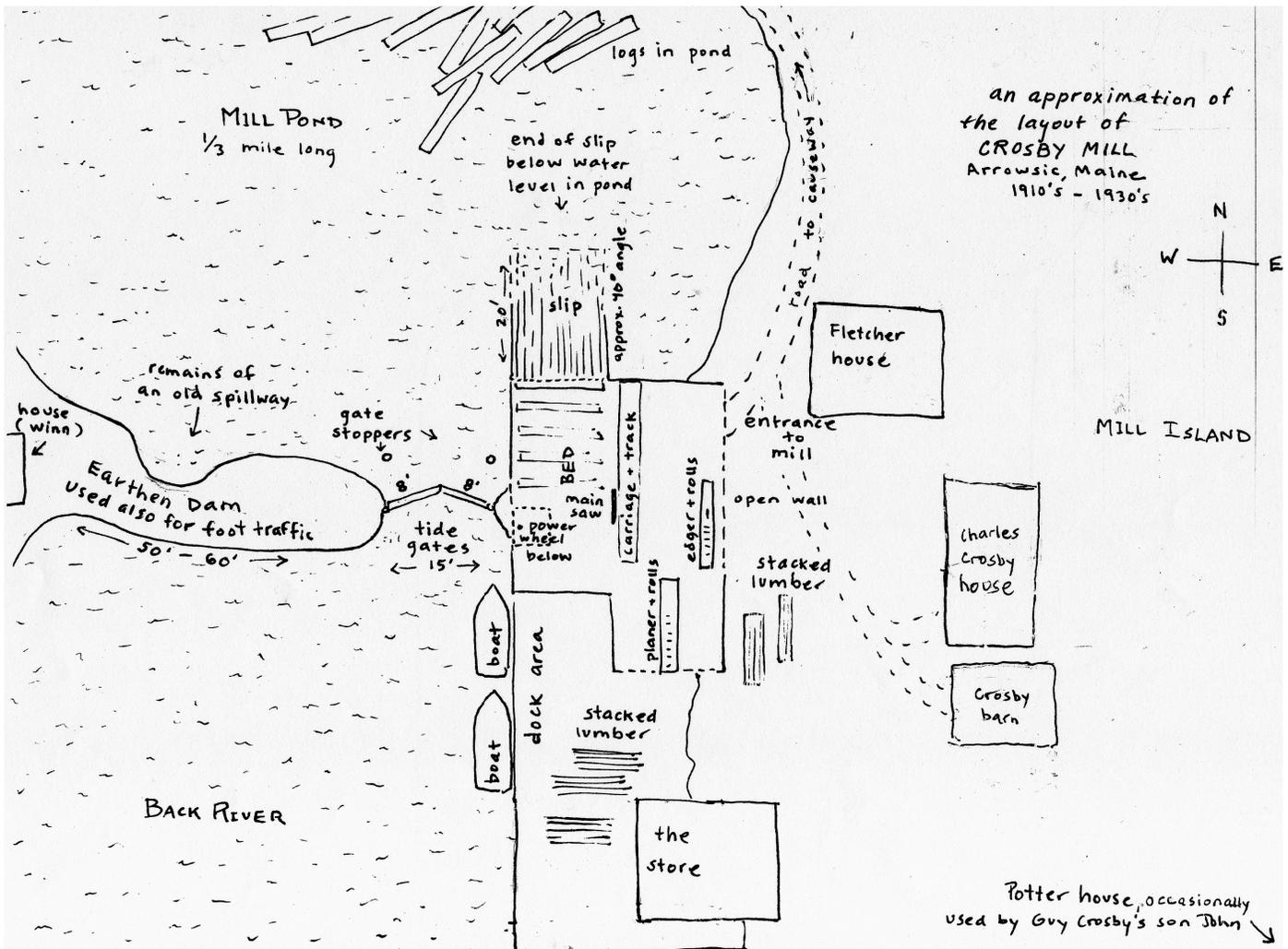
The waterwheel was about 6'-8" in diameter, the blades about 6"-8" long set into the wheel at an angle. The box was built to fit closely around the waterwheel. The vertical shaft from the waterwheel came up about 15' below the mill into the area of the main saw. The mill had one level and was about 8' to 10' above the pond at high tide.

The operating of the mill depended upon the tide. Criteria was that the water be 4' higher inside the pond than outside in the Back River. This would power the waterwheel with enough speed to keep the main saw functioning. This rotary saw could run 4-5 hours with the average 8' tide.

The length of the workday at the mill depended upon the length of daylight. There was no electricity. In summer, it might be a 9-10 hour day.

Crosby mill closed in the late 1930's. At that time Roy's father Ibra went to work for Spinney Mill on the west side of the island, but only for a year or two, at which time it shut down. Winnegance Mill in Phippsburg converted to electricity for power and is still in operation today. Roy's father finished out his working career at the Morse owned Winnegance Mill.

The Crosby mill collapsed about fifteen years after being closed. It was about ten years after that, when Roy was visiting the site, that he saw the original waterwheel washed up under a pier about 20-30' from its original location under the mill. It was still mostly intact.



Joseph A. Kane, Jr.

12-16-32 to 7-23-08

*I pray that I may live to fish
until my dying day,
And when it comes to my last cast,
I then most humbly pray,
When in the Lord's great landing net
And peacefully asleep
That in his mercy I be judged
Big enough to keep!*

On July 23rd Arrowsic lost the best fisherman I know. Not only did he know how and where to fish the best spots, but exactly what time to be there. Then he knew when it was time to move on to the next hot spot. I had the privilege to fish with Joe a few times and he was a fishing machine. The fish were always coming over the rail. The thing that I'll always remember about Joe was as I was reeling in a fish rather quickly he told me to slow down and enjoy every fish. I'll pass that message on Joe.

– Chris Grill

Home Energy Evaluations

I will complete my “official” training as an “official” home energy auditor in October. I would like to start by offering my fellow “Arrowheads” a reduced rate on a Home energy use audit. Evaluations include blower door testing, computer modeling and a home inspection. Recommendations should result in significant reduction in energy use and savings. Please contact Al Heath 443-6614 or 522-4588.

Car registrations for July through October 2008 are available in the Arrow on the Town Website. Recycling and trash schedule are also available on the town website Arrowsic.org.

Back by popular demand!

**2nd Squirrel Point
Clean Up Day**

Saturday, September 27

9:30 a.m. on.

(Weather date Sunday Sept. 28)

At the Light.

Hope you can join us!

Town of Arrowsic
340 Arrowsic Road
Arrowsic, Maine 04530

Resident
HC 33
Arrowsic, ME 04530