News Around and About Arrowsic

The Arrowsic Arrow
Vol 19 No 1
Jan 2004

Arrowsic Volunteer Fire Department News

• Construction of the Arrowsic Forestry Garage, for which funding was approved at the last Town Meeting, is well underway. The garage is located behind the Arrowsic Town Hall and will house Arrowsic’s brush truck and woods fire equipment. We have also applied for a FEMA grant for additional two-way radio equipment for the department.

• The hand pump outside the Arrowsic Town Hall was replaced by the Town in June, and is checked quarterly to ensure its water is of drinkable quality. This pump provides a water source you can access any time, but may want to remember is available during power outages or if you’re having trouble with freezing pipes.

• Everyone’s aware of the fire hazards when all our heating systems are working overtime (keep creosote from building up in woodstoves; check outside vents for ice blockage; be aware of carbon monoxide alerts; make sure portable heaters are well away from flammable objects, curtains, pets and children….do not to leave portable heat devices on unattended. In addition folks need to be careful with heat tape. We recommend putting new heat tape on pipes every two years. We all are busy and checking these things regularly can be another matter, so, when you put down your Arrow, go check these things if you haven’t recently. We had two chimney fires and several serious furnace malfunctions in Arrowsic last winter, and our goal for this winter is to match the total with the weather – zero!

• The AVFD is developing an emergency contact list. If you are dependent on medical equipment or for any reason would like someone to check in with you during power outages or any other extreme conditions such as this recent cold, please call Fire Chief Ike Heffron at 371-9093 or email him at lawrencetara@clinic.net. If you have elderly or disabled neighbors, please let them know about it, too. We will only add people at their request, but are very happy to check in with people who may need some extra help, so don’t feel shy about asking for assistance.

• Dale Carleton is able to issue burn permits during the day so that folks don’t need to call Ike at work. Dale’s number is 442-8343. Ike is looking for someone else who is willing to issue Burn Permits during the day as well. Volunteers could call Ike at 371-9093.
A Letter to Arrowsic Property Owners
from your Select Board and Planning Board:

Recent property issues have come before the Select Board, the Planning Board and the Board of Appeals that indicate to us that there is uncertainty among Arrowsic property owner regarding zoning in the town.

The Arrowsic Zoning Ordinance, established in 1979 to reflect the goals of the Arrowsic Comprehensive Plan, governs land use in the Town of Arrowsic. The ordinance has been updated and amended many times since then, most recently at Town Meeting this past June. It is available at the Town Hall and on the Town website, www.arrowsic.org. The ordinance addresses many issues regarding land use and must be adhered to by all property owners.

The town is divided into two zoning districts: Rural Residential District I, which has a minimum lot size of two acres and Rural Residential II, which has a minimum lot size of five acres. It is important that each property owner knows what district they are in and what it means to their ability to use the land. To facilitate this we have attached a map showing the locations of the zones.

In addition, there are two overlay districts: Shoreland Zone and Resource Protection Zone. The Shoreland Zone includes all land within 250 feet of high water line of any river, stream or salt-water body. The Arrowsic zoning ordinance strictly adheres to the State of Maine Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Law with some even stricter applications where warranted.

The Resource Protection Zone is the most regulated of the zones because it contains the most sensitive habitat for aquatic and terrestrial plant and animal life in and around wetlands, swamps, bogs, and salt marshes. The district includes, but is not limited all lands within 250 feet of the high water line of Sewall Pond, Mill Pond, and on the Back River. It also includes areas adjacent to a marsh greater than two acres in size. Where Shoreland and Resource Protection Zones overlay, Resource Protection permitting requirements take precedence.

Based on the Statement of Purpose on the Arrowsic Zoning Ordinance your Select Board and Planning Board believe that, when restrictions are put on land use in the Resource Protection and Shoreland Zones, they are meant to protect land from damage and erosion, to maintain property values, and to protect the habitat for the good of plants, animals and our residents.

Property owners are advised to consult the Zoning Ordinance and the attached map and obtain the proper permits before clearing land or building any structure, including patios, retaining walls and docks. Those in the resource Protection Zone will find stricter oversight for any alterations of the land, and are invited to refer to table I in the ordinance and consult with Michael Kreindler, Codes Enforcement Officer, 442-7443 or email at kreindler@gwi.net.

The Select Board meets on the second and fourth Monday of the month. The Planning Board meets on the first Monday of the month. We invite your comments and participation.
Notes from the Recycling Committee

- TREASURE HUNTERS: If you believe that "one man's trash is another man's treasure" you'll be interested in this offering. We will be holding a SWAP MEET on July 10th. Begin to gather up items that are useful to someone but no longer to you so that you can join in the fun.

- Bath is working on another Household Hazardous Material Collection to be held on April 17th. Details are still being worked out but you can begin to identify those things which qualify, such as batteries, used motor oil, based paints, fluorescent bulbs and mercury containing items. More specific information will be coming in the next issue.

- Many of you have begun to recycle Aluminum and we have filled a barrel thus far. For those of you not on board yet, Aluminum can be placed in the marked barrel in the new shed at the Town Hall.

Thanks,
Judy Jones
442-7612, jjones@roteang.org

Trash Pick Up:
January:30
February: 13, 27
March:12, 26
April 9, 23

Attention! Arrowsic Democrats

WE NEED YOU TO:
- Help choose a new United States President
- Help build support for Democratic candidates in Arrowsic
- Elect delegates to the state convention
- Elect local Democratic Party Leaders
- Share your ideas for the direction of the Maine Democratic Party

Come To The:
ARROWSIC DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS
Sunday, February 8th, 2004 at 5:00 pm, Arrowsic Town Hall

Folks must arrive by 5:15pm in order to participate in the presidential preference / delegate selection.

IF WE ARE TO MOVE MAINES FORWARD, WE ALL NEED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS
Remember: you must be a registered Democrat to participate in the Democratic Caucus.

If you need an absentee ballot contact www.mainedems.org or 207-622-6233.

If you have any questions, please call Eloise Vitelli at 443-4660 in the evening.
Squirrel Point Progress

Citizens for Squirrel Point’s case on behalf of Squirrel Point Light is proceeding in Federal court. CSP filed suit last fall on the grounds that the current owner has not complied with Squirrel Point’s deed conditions requiring that the property be maintained to historic preservation standards and used for programs benefitting the public. Should CSP prevail in its suit or the government decide to act rather than fight it, the U.S. would reclaim the deed, and reallocate Squirrel Point to a qualified nonprofit organization under the terms of the current National Lighthouse Preservation Act. Squirrel Point is no longer under contract to be sold to a private buyer, and the federal magistrate’s finding that CSP has legal standing to represent the public interest has now been confirmed by Federal District Judge Hornsby, making way for the case to proceed.

For more information, talk to anyone on Citizens for Squirrel Point’s Board of Directors: Brian Detwiler, Fred Kahrl, Tim Harrison, Roger Heard, Lee Johnson, Will Neilsen or Nancy Sferra. If you’d like to join Citizens for Squirrel Point or contribute to our out-of-pocket legal expenses (attorney’s fees are being graciously waived by Verrill & Dana, which is handling CSP’s case pro bono), contact Brian Detwiler, Secretary/Treasurer, 50 Island Hill Road. Thanks to all who have already done so. CSP has about a hundred members, half of them property owners in Arrowsic, and the broad membership base has helped to demonstrate both strong local and broader public interest in the conservation of Squirrel Point and its availability as a public resource.

2004 Midcoast Community Read

Endurance: Shackleton’s Incredible Voyage

On January 13th four area libraries kicked-off the Midcoast’s Community Read. This year’s book is Endurance: Shackleton’s Incredible Voyage by Alfred Lansing. The Friends of Curtis, Patten, Topsham and Wiscasset libraries sponsored kick-off events at 10:30am at each library to celebrate the third annual Read.

Alfred Lansing relates in gripping detail the exploits of polar explorer Ernest Shackleton, who set sail from England in 1914 to explore Antarctica, only to see his ship, the Endurance, crushed in pack ice. The stranding sets in motion a tale of truly epic proportions. Shackleton and his crew of 27 must survive bitter cold, near starvation, and the treachery of shifting ice, with little hope of rescue. To save his men, Shackleton and a small crew launch a 22-foot boat into the wild South Atlantic bound for a whaling station 850 miles away.

The community read is funded principally by the four Friends’ groups, as well as The Alfred M. Senter Fund, Bath Savings Institution, First Federal Savings, and Harpswell summer resident Jon Leader.

The Georgetown Town Office, West Bath Town Office, Woolwich Town Office and Albert F. Totman Library in Phippsburg have copies of Endurance for circulation. Discounts on the book will be available for a third year at local bookstores. The reading period extends through February followed by discussions groups and related activities in March. Screenings of the film Shackleton’s Antarctic Adventure with Kevin Spacey will be shown at the libraries and is available for check out to library patrons.

For a schedule of events including discussions, movies and presentations log on to www.midcoastrads.com.
For more information contact Sandra Weiss, 443-5141 ext. 14

Attention! Arrowsic Republicans:

COME TO THE:
SAGADAHOC COUNTY REPUBLICAN CAUCUS
February 7th
West Bath School
12:30-3pm
For more information contact Dick Higgins at 443-8404 or rahiggins@gwi.net