

Arrowsic Select Board Minutes

April 9, 2024

As Approved on April 22, 2024

Present: Walter Briggs, DeeDee Jorgensen, Jennifer Geiger, Steve Bonine, Eileen Bonine, Jody Jones, Don Kornrumpf, Don Hudson, Josephine Ewing, Karin Sadtler, Mike Field, Angel Braestrup, Claire Enterline, Nick Stoneman, Bob Ater

Attended via Zoom: Denise Parker, Vicky Stoneman, Amanda Moore, Karen Robbins

Call to Order: 6:05pm by Walter

Agenda: Reviewed & approved

Items for approval:

- Minutes of Select Board Meeting on March 25, 2024, approved on a motion by DeeDee seconded by Jennifer.
- Treasurer's Warrant FY24 #20 for \$56,189.90 approved on a motion by Jennifer seconded by DeeDee.
- ABA Warrant FY24 #13 for \$13,401.55 approved on a motion by DeeDee seconded by Jennifer. Don Hudson reported that this is the last large-ish invoice from Axiom/Hawkeye. There may be one more in the range of \$1,700 related to some re-routing of fiber on Warner Road. Future invoices should come from Axiom alone (\$41,200 for completing home connections and \$12,259 for the 41 home connections above the Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA) agreement number of 165), except for an ABA invoice of just about \$24K to cover the exigencies of our management of the process. The bulk of these funds will remain in our bank account and help us begin to accrue as a buffer against future storm damage. With these last invoices, we will use every penny of the grant. The USDA lien is closed.

Arrowsic Climate Resilience Committee Action Plan – Jody Jones

1. **Process:** Priorities in the plan were based on input from all town committees and two public workshops.
2. **Most Significant Issues Identified in the Plan**
 - a. Infrastructure – especially current and future road flooding and how are we going to get off the island considering regular flooding at the north end of the island.
 - b. Groundwater – concerns about rising sea levels affecting private wells.
 - c. Coastal Marsh health – concerns that we allow for marsh migration for flood control as well as habitat & wildlife.
3. **UPDATES to current plan were shared:**
 - a. CoastWise approach to tidal crossings is being strengthened within the plan. The approach was developed over a six-year period with contributions from leading experts in Maine, across the U.S., and abroad. Specifically, we are adding that for roads which are the sole access for a community, we will include storm surge and planning for a 6–8-

foot sea level rise based on site specific data. We will need to advocate for this with MDOT project being planned for Rt. 127.

- b. New language that is being added to the Emergency Response section (seen below) was given to Select Board:
 - i. The responsibility of the Fire Department is to respond to emergencies. However, when hazardous events become predictable in scope and location, precautions should be taken in advance to mitigate adverse impacts on the community. The primary road to the mainland for both Arrowsic and Georgetown is a state highway under the responsibility of Maine Department of Transportation with the mission to responsibly provide the safest and most reliable transportation system possible, given available resources.
 - ii. While long-term solutions addressing the frequent predictable flooding of route 127 may be years off, interim measures such as automated signage and flood-activated warning lights can serve to ensure public safety. To achieve this goal with cooperation and support from State agencies, officials from Arrowsic and Georgetown will need to work together with elected state representatives and Department officials.
4. **Priority Actions** in plan
 - a. Emergency Services – our volunteer firefighters are being overwhelmed by the regular flooding of Rt. 127 (a State road!). Capacity is stretched by directing traffic for hours due to the flooding. We need to start advocating now for warning lights and tide gauges that alert residents that the road is impassable.
 - b. Marsh Migration & Coast Erosion – advocate to include this in any projects. Not only for habitat but to help absorb rising sea levels and protect the shoreline from erosion.
5. **Vulnerability Assessment** – identified all areas and ways we are vulnerable with the top priority of working with MDOT on assuring we can get off the island not just “now” but for the next 100 years.
6. **Implementation of the Plan:** All actions identified in the plan are “assigned” to town committees based on expertise within the committee. However, we will need support to make any of this happen. ACRC is likely to evolve to become the “Implementation Committee” with 3-5 members. Jody is willing to continue working on this. We are looking for members who have time & interest in working on this.

Arrowsic Broadband Authority (ABA) update – Don Kornrumpf:

- Hawkeye is nearly finished with their work and Axiom is almost finished connecting homes.
- The broadband system is expected to be live in May.
- Nick Stoneman met with a broadband network contractor hired by MCA, who was impressed with the quality of the work, as well as the planning that went into it. This inspection was necessary to get the final tranche of MCA grant money.
- Insurance for the broadband system is being sought. PURMA will be giving a presentation to MCA and towns. The policy minimum is \$5,000 and there is a \$1,300 membership fee and a \$25,000 deductible per storm.
- DeeDee checked with FA Peabody about removing the Central Office building and equipment from the Town policy. Savings would be \$300+ so they will remain on the FA Peabody policy.

Town staff & volunteers:

- Appointment of Deputy Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) – Mike Field was appointed on a motion by DeeDee seconded by Jennifer. Mike will work with Chris Wilcoxson until Chris's departure. It is anticipated that Mike will also function as CEO for Georgetown and Woolwich.
- Animal Control Officer (ACO) – Amanda Moore, who serves as Georgetown ACO, was appointed ACO on a motion by DeeDee seconded by Jennifer. Amanda may be reached at 207.350.6481 or redalm15@icloud.com.
- Arrowsic Recycling & Solid Waste Committee (ARSWC) – two members needed

Other business:

- Water Access Management Committee (WAMC) – Bob Ater
 - A conditional use permit was obtained for a 30' x 60' parking lot with a driveway and culvert. Three bids were received. The committee recommended hiring Maine Moss to do this work at a cost of \$14,850. The Maine Moss bid was approved on a motion by Jennifer seconded by DeeDee.
 - Three bids were received for the pier, ramp, and float. The committee recommended hiring Kennebec Marine Services to do this work. Kennebec Marine Services was approved on a motion by Jennifer seconded by DeeDee.
 - Kennebec Marine Services - \$18,590.00
 - King's Tide Marine Services - \$24,600.00
 - RV Motor Sports - \$20,444.00.
 - Articles to make WAMC a free-standing committee, along with a budget, will be discussed at the April 22 Select Board meeting.
 - The Fire Department will conduct training at the house on April 20.
- IT discussion – Eileen Bonine
 - With broadband, the VPN is not working so Eileen can't work from home.
 - Resolution of the VPN issue is on the horizon.
 - An IT coordinator is needed to "own" the network, systems, backups, VPN, etc. There are many moving parts. A coherent plan is needed to move forward.

Mail: None

Adjournment: 7:29pm on a motion by Jennifer seconded by DeeDee

Next meeting: Monday, April 22, 2024, 6:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Parker
Town Administrator