

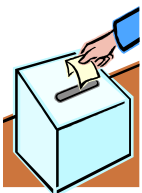
HARPSWELL *BULLETIN*

News for Harpswell Residents & Property Owners from the Town Office – June '12

Town Web Site: www.harpswell.maine.gov

MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROVED

Voters at the 2012 Annual Town Meeting in March approved a municipal budget of \$4,332,818, up 7% from prior year appropriations. Budget increases were attributable primarily to two new areas of spending: (1) paramedic level service and garage space needed for the paramedic vehicle; and (2) maintenance of West Harpswell School while Selectmen develop long-term considerations to come back to voters. Additionally, the 2012 approved budget included authorization for a \$1 million dollar bond to be used for the planning and construction of capital road projects.



ELECTION RESULTS

Elinor Multer won re-election to the Board of Selectmen for her second three-year term, and was re-elected to serve as Chair of the Board. Ronald Ponziani was elected to a three-year term as Road Commissioner replacing Robert Venard, who retired after more than five years of service. Joanne Rogers was re-elected to a three-year term on the School District's Board of Directors.

2012 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Board of Selectmen recently adopted its goals and objectives for 2012. An abbreviated list follows with a complete listing available online at harpswell.maine.gov:

Mitchell Field

- Develop approach and strategies for determining how best to proceed with infrastructure issues at Mitchell Field and reach firm agreement on lease for Marine Business District or begin marketing efforts by year's end

West Harpswell School

- Develop medium-term plan for West Harpswell School use while reviewing long-term options and creating timeline for binding vote in March 2013

Hildreth Road Property Disposition

- Determine terms and conditions under which the Board will sell a tax-acquired parcel on Hildreth Road

Appointed Treasurer

- Develop job description and budget and ask voters to consider changing from an elected to an appointed Treasurer

Town Office Area Master Plan

- Continue developing a master plan for the Town Office area property, particularly in relation to determining optimum location for a small-scale garage, such location to have potential for future expansion

Economic Development Plan

- Formulate an economic development plan for Harpswell to include but not be limited to identifying key strategies that support the local business community and defining an appropriate role for local government in fostering economic development



JUNE 12, 2012 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING: SECRET BALLOT ITEMS

On Tuesday, June 12, polls will be open from 8am to 8pm at three voting sites.

Included in the items to be voted on that day, will be a municipal ballot with three secret ballot articles. To better inform the voter, the articles and summaries are provided below and the proposed ordinance and amendments are available on-line:

Article 2 – Shall an Ordinance entitled “Town of Harpswell Mobile Food Handlers Ordinance” be enacted, such ordinance to be effective only if Article 3 is also enacted at the June 12, 2012 referendum?

Over the past few years several people have inquired about having mobile food carts in Harpswell, similar to those in Brunswick and Freeport. Since this type of use would only be allowed through the Site Plan Review process and on an individual’s own property, the Town thought that a less cumbersome process might be warranted. With this in mind, the Selectmen drafted a new ordinance to allow this type of use without the need for Site Plan Review and for use on multiple locations including public property. This “**Town of Harpswell Mobile Food Handlers Ordinance**” describes the licensing and operating methods for the use including:

- definitions of a food handler and a mobile unit;
- descriptions of the prerequisites for a license such as size of mobile unit and insurance requirements; and
- explanations of standards for Denial, Suspension or Revocation



Article 3 – Shall an Ordinance entitled “2012 Amendments to the Basic Land Use Ordinance, Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, Site Plan Review Ordinance and Definitions Addendum Regarding Mobile Food Handlers” be enacted, such amendments to be effective only if Article 2 is also enacted at the June 12, 2012 referendum?

These amendments to the Basic Land Use Ordinance, Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, Site Plan Review Ordinance and Definitions Addendum allow the mobile food handler as a use in all zoning districts except the Resource Protection zone but including the Mitchell Field Marine Business District and add definitions to terms that are used in the mobile food handlers ordinance.

Article 4 – To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$25,000 from unassigned fund balance to make emergency repairs to the Mitchell Field pier which may include removing portions thereof.

In early April, the north gangway and much of the north dolphin at the Mitchell Field Pier collapsed. The precarious position of the hanging gangway and concern that the south gangway may also collapse have caused the Town to seek an appropriation for performing emergency repairs including the removal of the gangways. A rough estimate for removal of the gangways is \$18,000 since all work must occur from the waterside, likely by use of a barge. Structural deterioration of the pier has occurred to such an extent that no equipment can safely be allowed on the pier. Planning for the future of the pier is a priority of the Board of Selectmen for 2012.

ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT SALE & RESTRICT USE OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS

Maine law gives each municipality the authority to determine whether it will allow the sale or use of consumer fireworks within its borders. In March, Harpswell voters adopted an ordinance that bans the sale of consumer fireworks in Harpswell, but allows for limited use of consumer fireworks. Consumer fireworks may only be used on the following dates and during the following times:

July 3, 9am to 10pm

July 4, 9am and ending 12:30am on July 5

July 5, 9am to 10pm

December 31, 9am and ending 12:30am on January 1

January 1, 9am to 10pm

Weekends immediately before and after July 4 and December 31, from 9am to 10pm

The Town asks that if you are planning to allow the use of consumer fireworks on your property, that the use be handled in a responsible and safe manner.



PARAMEDIC LEVEL SERVICE

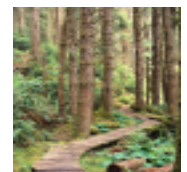
The Town of Harpswell has entered into a five-year agreement with Mid Coast Hospital for the provision of dedicated paramedic level services. Mid Coast Hospital will ensure that a trained paramedic is stationed in Harpswell, currently at the Town Office, from 6am to 6pm Monday through Friday. Any emergency call that involves the dispatching of an ambulance will immediately trigger a response from the paramedic. While the paramedic may be the first to arrive at the scene, the three fire and rescue service providers—Cundy’s Harbor Volunteer Fire Department, Orr’s-Bailey Island Fire Department, and Harpswell Neck Fire and Rescue—will continue to provide patient transport to local hospitals. Whenever practical and reasonable to do so, the patient’s choice of hospital will be honored by the responding entity. The Town has a history of working with Mid Coast Hospital for the provision of regional paramedic level services and that service will continue. In addition, Mid Coast will provide administrative support and training for the three fire and rescue departments in Harpswell.

PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2012 will be the second year of the Town’s Property Tax Assistance Program. This program provides relief to income-qualifying households in Harpswell. In order to be eligible for the Town’s program, one must have first applied and received a benefit from the State of Maine Residents Property Tax and Rent Refund “Circuitbreaker” Program. Application to the Town’s program must then be submitted and applicants may receive a 50% match of the State reimbursement up to \$800 as long as the Harpswell applicant has had a homestead for the previous two years and paid taxes in full for the year for which reimbursement is sought. Applications are now available online or can be picked up at the Town Office. In 2011, the Town granted a total of \$22,467 in property tax relief to 65 applicants.

HARPSWELL GUIDE TO THE OUTDOORS

The Recreation Director in collaboration with the Recreation Committee, Town Lands Committee, and the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust has developed a guide for Town trails, lands, properties and landings. It is available online or as a brochure at the Town Office or other locations around the Town. The project was funded in part by a grant from Maine Access Health to encourage healthy outdoor activities which abound in Harpswell.



Important Dates

Tuesday, June 12, 8am to 8pm—State Primary, School Budget Validation Referendum and Municipal Referendum, voting at three sites: Old Orr’s Island Schoolhouse for Orr’s-Bailey Island voters; Cundy’s Harbor Community Building for most Great Island voters; and Merriconeag Grange for Harpswell Neck and Mountain Road area voters

Saturday and Sunday, June 9 and 10, 10am to 3pm—Take the Harpswell Hiking Challenge, Experience eight wonderful coastal walks with the challenge of completing all 10-miles of trails in two days; visit the Recreation Department section of harpswell.maine.gov for details

Sunday, July 1, 2012—Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC) goes into effect in Harpswell; contact the Code Office for more information

Wednesday, July 11, 6pm—Annual Non-resident Taxpayer Meeting, Harpswell Community School Gymnasium



Ongoing—Garden spots now available at the Harpswell Community Garden at Mitchell Field; applications available at the Town Office and on the Town’s website at harpswell.maine.gov