

SELECT BOARD, TOWN OF GEORGETOWN

Agenda for Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Hybrid meeting held via ZOOM for public and at the Town Office for SB Members who wish.

Please email gtwnme@hotmail.com for the ZOOM login info.

*indicates copy provided to Selectmen

***INDICATES THE NEED FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE**

Call to order:

Public comment:

Items to be added to agenda (if approved by chair and board):

Scheduled appointments:

Minutes:

- Minutes of January 14th Meeting for review and approval* *****

Review:

Assessing items:

- Abatement Requests from Seidman Ledges, LLC (01R-006, 01R-006-A:H)
- Abatement Request from Scott N Weller Revocable Trust of 2013 (09R-019)

Correspondence:

- State of Maine – Email from MEMA Hazard Mitigation Office re: Possible Collaboration with FOSILS*
- State of Maine – Maine Climate Council – Youth Climate Summit*
- Sagadahoc County – Emergency Management – Deputy Director Dickinson to Probate*
- Town of Georgetown – Shellfish Conservation Committee - Fundraiser*
- Town of Georgetown – Conservation Commission Potluck Notice*
- Email from Counsel re: Upcoming Bills in Legislature*
- Maine Municipal Association – Maine Town and City Magazine (Copies in Office)*
- Maine Municipal Association – Summer Internship Program Information*
- Maine Municipal Association - Legislative Update re: General Assistance Public Hearings*
- Maine Municipal Association – January RMS Express*
- Central Maine Power – Watch Out for Imposters Notice*
- Georgetown Community Center – Community Cupboard Notice*

Continuing Items:

Receipts for pumping:

Maine Waste Discharge License *renewal* / transfer applications:

- Phillipa Dexter (1 Town Landing Road, 01U-044)

Maine Waste Discharge License *approvals*:

- Hall Revocable Trust

PBR / NRPA :

Committee Updates:

Minutes:

- Planning Board Minutes
- TOPMB Minutes

Membership:

- Ad Hoc Town Report Committee

Board Member / Committee Updates:

- Mr. Collins:
- Ms. Tudor:
- Ms. Eee

Town Administrator Update

Finance Director Update

Old Business:

- Proposal re: Working Group to Draft a Working Waterfront Ordinance / Policy*★

New Business:

- Discussion and possible action relative to Planning Board Questionnaire re: Short Term Rentals*★
- Determine the time for a Public Hearing and Subsequent Vote to Amend the Fee Schedule*★
 - Note from Chair of the Planning Board
 - Note from the Finance Director
 - Update from Chairman Collins as Shellfish Liaison
- Request from Fire Chief re: use of Town’s OWL for Town Departments / Boards / Committees*★

Items For Signature:

- *After determination made*, Abatement Applications for Seidman Ledges, LLC
- *After determination made*, Abatement Application for Scott N Weller Revocable Trust of 2013

Public comment:

Executive Session:

Adjournment:

UPCOMING MEETINGS/ EVENTS:

Recreation Committee	Tuesday, February 4 th	6:00pm HYBRID
Planning Board	Wednesday, February 5 th	7:00pm HYBRID
Conservation Commission	Monday, February 10 th	6:30pm ZOOM
Select Board	Tuesday, February 11 th	6:30pm ZOOM

ABATEMENT REQUESTS #5-13

SEIDMAN LEDGES, LLC

Summary: In 1975, a parcel in Town was subdivided into 9 lots (01R-006, -006-A:H), all owned by the same family. Seidman Ledges LLC is requesting that the Town assess these parcels as one parcel. Further, relative to 01R-006 the Seidman's requested a \$0 reduction, but to be included in a broader assessment of the full 9 parcels at \$1,401,300.

Abatement Request #5

Here is a breakdown in land description for 01R-006:

- 4 Acres Homesite (75,000 per acre, Jewett Road Neighborhood)
- 10 Acres-Rear Land 1 (2,000 per acre)
- 5 Acres-Rear Land 2
- No Site Improvement

TOTAL LAND VALUE \$204,600 BUILDING VALUE \$0

Abatement Request #6

Here is a breakdown in land description for 01R-006-A:

- 0.78 Acres-Homesite (75,000 per acre, Jewett Road Neighborhood)
- No Site Improvement

TOTAL LAND VALUE \$119,200 BUILDING VALUE \$0

Abatement Request #7

Here is a breakdown in land description for 01R-006-B:

- 0.78 Acres-Homesite (75,000 per acre, Jewett Road Neighborhood)
 - 90% Factor for Access
- No Site Improvement

TOTAL LAND VALUE \$107,300 BUILDING VALUE \$0

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Abatement Request #8

Here is a breakdown in land description for 01R-006-C:

- 0.69 Acres-Homesite (75,000 per acre, Jewett Road Neighborhood)
 - 90% Factor for Access
- No Site Improvement

TOTAL LAND VALUE \$556,800 BUILDING VALUE \$0

.....
Abatement Request #9

Here is a breakdown in land description for 01R-006-D:

- 0.73 Acres-Homesite (429,000 per acre, Knubble Neighborhood)
 - 80% Factor for Topography
- No Site Improvement

TOTAL LAND VALUE \$556,800 BUILDING VALUE \$0

.....
Abatement Request #10

Here is a breakdown in land description for 01R-006-E:

- 0.46 Acres-Homesite (429,000 per acre, Knubble Neighborhood)
 - 80% Factor for Topography
- Site Improvement (22,000)
- Basement Reduction (17,983)

TOTAL LAND VALUE \$517,700 BUILDING VALUE \$212,800

.....
Abatement Request #11

Here is a breakdown in land description for 01R-006-F:

- 0.51 Acres-Homesite (429,000 per acre, Knubble Neighborhood)
 - 80% Factor for Topography
- No Site Improvement

TOTAL LAND VALUE \$494,700 BUILDING VALUE \$0

.....
Abatement Request #12

Here is a breakdown in land description for 01R-006-G:

- 0.50 Acres-Homesite (429,000 per acre, Knubble Neighborhood)
 - 80% Factor for Topography
- 0.18 Acres-Rear Land 1 (6,710)
- No Site Improvement

TOTAL LAND VALUE \$493,600 BUILDING VALUE \$0

.....
Abatement Request #13

Here is a breakdown in land description for 01R-006-H:

- 1.68 Acres-Homesite (75,000 per acre, Jewett Road Neighborhood)
- No Site Improvement

TOTAL LAND VALUE \$142,200 BUILDING VALUE \$0

.....
Findings -

The Seidman's request is to assess these lots as a combined lot, something we cannot do. This could be achieved by merging lots through deed. If combined, however, they would not be able to be split in the future under the 2-acre minimum. Each of these lots of record, since the 1970s, have had a homesite. While it is contended that these lots are unbuildable, that is false if setbacks can be met.

.....
Recommendation -

Based on my review, it is my recommendation that the 9 abatement requests from Seidman Ledges LLC be denied.

ABATEMENT REQUEST #14

ASSESSMENT ASSIGNMENT ERROR - WELLER, SCOTT N TRUSTEES

183 SEGUINLAND ROAD (09R-019)

LAND: 171,700 BUILDING 155,000

Summary: Shortly prior to April 1, 2024, the Scott N Weller Irrevocable Trust of 2013 purchased land from Peter Boucher who owns two parcels on Seguinland Road. The initial deed indicated two acres and buildings purchased. the Town Office, in error, assigned the wrong lot to this sale, not realizing it was a split versus a direct sale. A corrective deed was issued after April 1, 2024. The Abatement Application from the Trustees is to reduce the valuation. They also paid the taxes on 09R-019. 09R-019 should not have been assessed to them and their purchased land was not split from the previous owner.

Recommendation: The Board should deny the Trustees Application to reduce valuation, as the property is accurately assessed. The Board should move to abate the full amount of taxes paid on this parcel, as it was assessed to the wrong owner of record. The correction will be picked up in the course of the Assessor's work.

FOSILS

From Whelan, Christine N <Christine.N.Whelan@maine.gov>

Date Tue 1/21/2025 11:45 AM

To Tyler Washburn <GtwnME@hotmail.com>

Good Morning Tyler,

This morning I had a meeting with FOSILS regarding the erosion from the January storms and funding opportunities available under Hazard Mitigation Assistance for private non-profits. Because they are at design-phase, the only funding opportunity available would be under the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant, which they are ineligible to apply for. I wanted to reach out to you to see if the Town of Georgetown would be interested in applying as the eligible subapplicant on behalf of FOSILS. I would be happy to setup a meeting with you to discuss what that would mean and what the Town's role would be as the subapplicant.

Let me know!

Sincerely,



Christine Whelan

State Hazard Mitigation Officer

Maine Emergency Management
Agency

Cell: (207) 707-2963



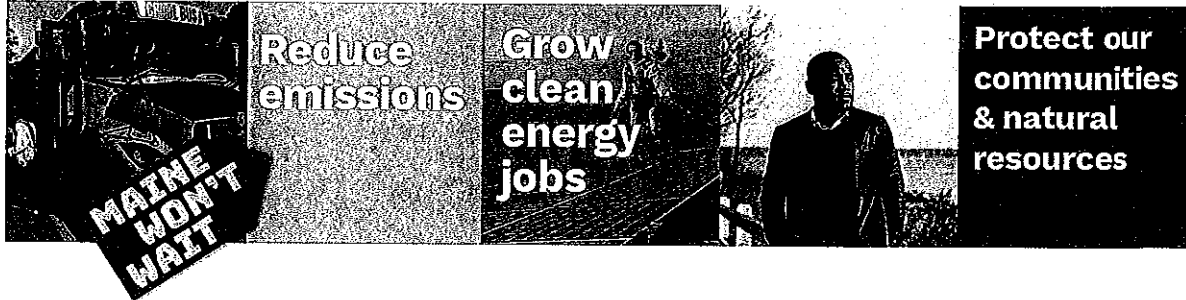
<https://www.maine.gov/mema/>

Youth Climate Summit

From Amalia Siegel, Maine Climate Council Coordinator <maineclimatecouncil@maine.gov>

Date Fri 1/24/2025 2:30 PM

To Tyler <gtwnme@hotmail.com>



Follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), or [LinkedIn](#)!

Dear Tyler,

Maine is hosting a summit to empower high school students in climate action, and you're invited!

The Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, Maine Department of Education, Maine Environmental Education Association, Maine Youth for Climate Justice, Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance, and JustME for JustUS are hosting the Climate&Me Youth Leadership Summit.

This all-day event will include student-led workshop sessions, time to meet and connect with other students, and opportunities to build skills and a library of climate action resources. Students will have the chance to hear from other young climate leaders and experts about how to drive action and change in their schools and communities. Featured speakers and agenda updates will be announced soon!

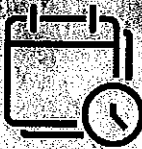
Climate&Me YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Summit

FEATURING STUDENT SPEAKERS

Roz O'Reilly, Orono High School

Maya Faulstich, Yarmouth High School



APRIL 4, 2025

WELLS CONFERENCE CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT ORONO

REGISTRATION OPEN THROUGH MARCH 3

 MAINE.GOV/CLIMATEPLAN/CLIMATEANDME/YOUTHSUMMIT2025

 abigail.hayne@maine.gov



Summit Details

- **Where?** Wells Conference Center on the University of Maine Orono campus (131 Munson Road, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04473)
- **When?** Friday, April 4, 2025. Check-in and breakfast begin at 8 a.m.; the Summit will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 5 p.m.
- **What?** This full-day summit will offer Maine high school students and adult leaders the opportunity to connect with fellow emerging climate leaders, attend student-run breakout sessions, and build a toolkit of climate action project planning skills and resources. Educators and administrators accompanying students to the Summit will

join a separate “adult track” to exchange knowledge and build connections.

- **How can you register?** Form a cohort with one to two adult leaders (for example, a teacher, administrator, school staff member) and 2-10 students from your high school. Cohorts may be based on classes, pre-existing eco-clubs or be newly formed groups. No prior experience in running a climate project at your school is necessary! Then, **register by March 3**. Space is limited, so we recommend applying early!

Visit the Summit webpage

Register your cohort here

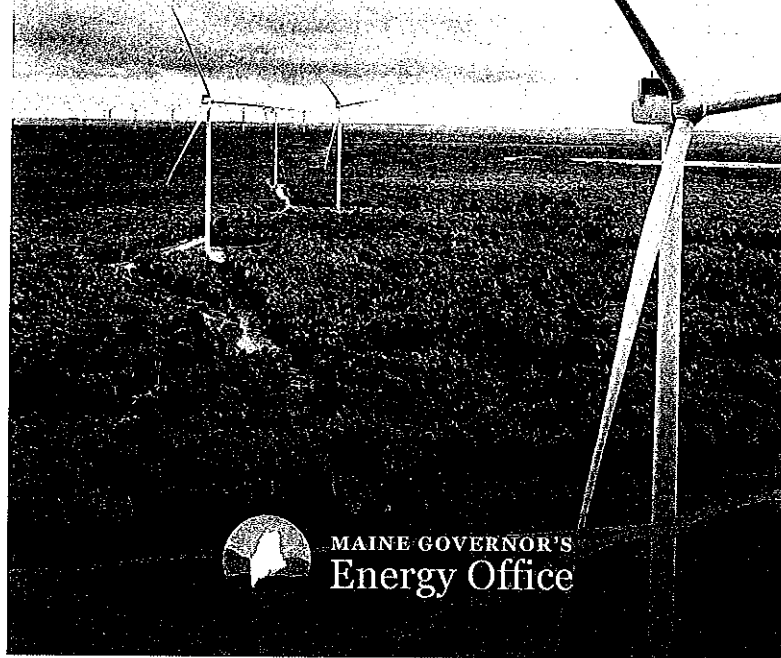
Maine Energy Plan

The Governor’s Energy Office has submitted to the Legislature the Maine Energy Plan, a strategic plan for the state to advance affordable, reliable and clean energy for Maine’s people and economy.

January 2025

MAINE Energy Plan

Advancing affordable, reliable,
and clean energy for Maine



The Energy Plan highlights the significant progress Maine has made toward achieving its energy goals to date, including investing in energy efficient technologies that are saving Maine people money and expanding homegrown clean energy to boost the state's energy independence.

For too long, Maine has been heavily reliant on imported fossil fuels to heat our homes, run our businesses, and power our economy. This over-reliance has made our state vulnerable to steep price increases driven by global markets, as we've experienced in recent years.

-- Dan Burgess
Director of the Governor's Energy Office

The Plan outlines strategies to further reduce energy costs, ensure reliability and resilience, and increase the diversity of energy resources to meet the Governor's goal of 100 percent clean electricity by 2040, which will reduce energy costs and volatility over time. The Plan was informed by an 18-month stakeholder engagement process and an expert technical report.

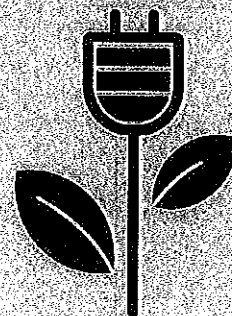
[Read the Maine Energy Plan \(PDF\)](#)

[Read the news release](#)

Much of the energy plan is directly aligned with Strategy C in *Maine Won't Wait*, the state's climate action plan. It includes four recommendations to transition to clean energy:

1

Decrease energy burdens while transitioning to clean energy.



Read the full *Maine Won't Wait* here.

Read the Maine climate action plan

Career Opportunities



Are you looking for a career aligned with Maine's climate action goals?

Last year, Maine was awarded a \$69 million climate resilience grant through NOAA's highly competitive Climate Resilience Grant Challenge to protect its communities, environment, and working waterfronts from extreme storms, flooding, and rising sea levels. A portion of these funds will support positions with the state to address vulnerabilities, protect people, and ensure critical infrastructure is prepared for future impacts.

Our office and partner agencies are currently looking to hire for these positions:

- NOAA Coastal Flood Risk Fellowship (*GOPIF*)
- NOAA Inland Flood Risk Fellowship (*GOPIF*)
- Habitat Resilience Biologist (*Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*)

Learn more and apply online

Funding & Input Opportunities



Environmental Justice for New England

Investing in community-driven change

Environmental Justice for New England Grants

Grant funding is now available for environmental and climate planning and projects led by nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, grassroots organizations, Tribal governments, intertribal consortia, and Native American organizations. Grants can be used to build capacity at small organizations with fewer than four full-time staff and for environmental assessment, public engagement and education, project planning, and project implementation. Free assistance is available to complete grant applications and execute projects.

Learn more and apply by **February 14, 2025**

Visit the [EJNE Grant website](#)

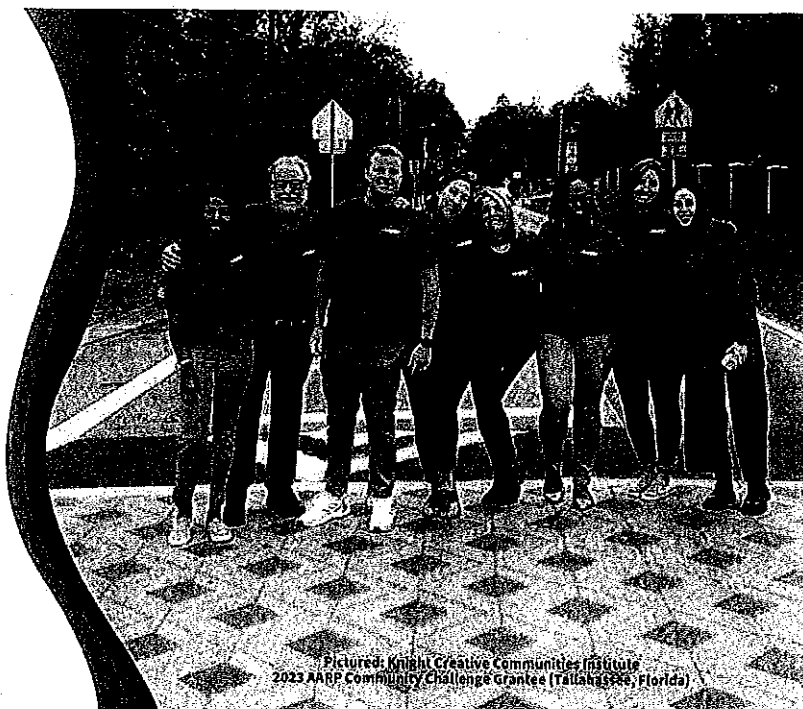


2025 AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Application Deadline:
Wednesday, March 5, 2025
5 PM (ET) / 2 PM (PT)



Grants to make communities safer for people of all ages
aarp.org/CommunityChallenge



Picture: Knight Creative Communities Institute
2023 AARP Community Challenge Grantee (Tallahassee, Florida)

2025 AARP Community Challenge Grants

This program offers funding for a range of community projects, including supporting community resilience through investments that improve disaster management, preparedness, and mitigation for residents, pedestrian safety demonstration projects, and expanding broadband access.

The application deadline is **March 5, 2025**.

[Learn more about the AARP Challenge Grant](#)

Northern Border Regional Commission Catalyst Program

The Catalyst Program stimulates economic growth and inspires partnerships that improve rural economic vitality across the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) four-state region. Through the 2025 Catalyst Program, NBRC anticipates making up to \$50 million in competitive awards from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding. Infrastructure projects are eligible for awards of up to \$1,000,000. Non-

infrastructure projects are eligible for up to \$500,000. Eligible entities include **state and local governments, Tribes, and non-profits.**

Spring 2025 Timeline and Key Dates:

- Pre-Application (Required) due on **February 28, 2025** by 5:00 pm EST
- Application (By Invitation) due on **April 11, 2025** by 5:00 pm EST

Visit the Catalyst Program website

Climate Education Professional Development Grants

The Maine Department of Education (DOE) is seeking applications for its Climate Education Professional Development Grant Program. This pilot program awards grants for high-quality climate-related interdisciplinary professional learning designed and carried out in partnership with community-based nonprofit organizations.

Applications are available now and are due **March 21, 2025**. Programming may run from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Follow this link for the RFA page.

Learn more on the Procurement Services webpage

Regional Heat Pump Program Seeks Input

A coalition of states including Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island is

requesting input on program design for the New England Heat Pump Accelerator, funded by EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program. The Accelerator is a multi-state effort led by Connecticut to accelerate the adoption of cold-climate air-source heat pumps, ground-source heat pumps, and heat pump water heaters across New England. Anyone can respond to this Request for Information (RFI); responses are due **January 29 at 4 p.m ET**, and a virtual Technical Conference will be held on **January 24 at 10 a.m. ET**.

[See the full RFI here](#)

[Register for the meeting here](#)



Electrification Training

Join us for a free training workshop hosted by the Biddeford-Saco-Old Orchard Beach Transit Committee, one of the first transit agencies in the state to integrate an electric bus into their fleet, on **Wednesday, February 19** at Biddeford Middle School!

Take the opportunity to tour electric buses, learn about electric vehicle technology and charging, and discover how to electrify your transit

fleet. Additionally, if you're interested in learning about microgrids, there will be a presentation about microgrids and their ability to reduce demand on the main electric grid.

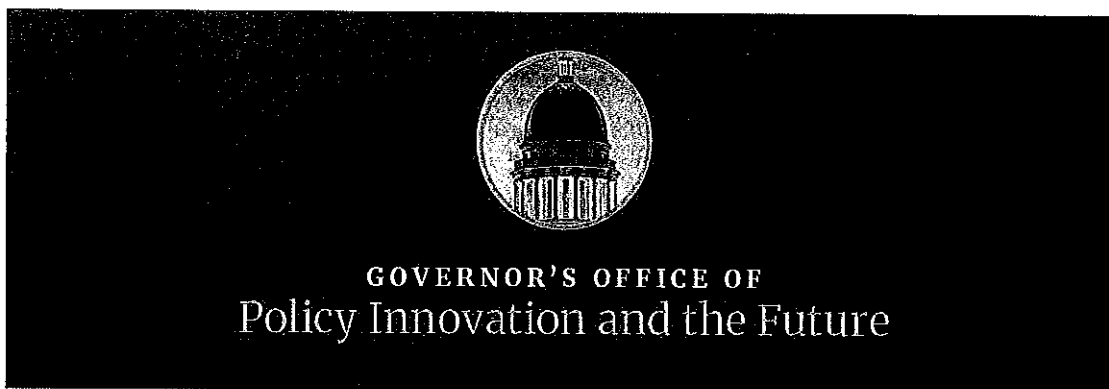
Refreshments will be provided.

[Register here](#)

Upcoming Meetings

- Mar 28, 2025 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Maine Climate Council
- Jun 10, 2025 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Maine Climate Council
- Sep 25, 2025 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Maine Climate Council
- Dec 1, 2025 | 1 - 4 p.m., Maine Climate Council

If you were forwarded this message, please consider signing up for our newsletter here.



181 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333
Maine.gov/Future | future@maine.gov

[Click here to update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.](#)



Outlook

Sagadahoc County EMA Changes

From Philip Davis <pdavis@sagadahoccountyme.gov>

Date Tue 1/21/2025 8:09 PM

Cc Hannah Dickinson <hannahd@sagadahoccountyme.gov>; Amber Jones <ajones@sagadahoccountyme.gov>

Good evening everyone,

I wanted to share an important update regarding changes within the Sagadahoc County EMA department. This afternoon, the Sagadahoc County Commissioners voted to move Deputy Director Hannah Dickinson over to the Probate Office where she was prior to working in EMA. This is effective starting February 1, 2025. Her last day with the EMA department will be January 31, 2025.

While Hannah will no longer be with the EMA department, she will undoubtedly continue to be an invaluable asset to the Sagadahoc County community. Throughout her time as the EMA Deputy and even Interim Director, Hannah's expertise and deep local knowledge have been vital to our work in all areas of emergency management. She was always focused on ensuring that every part of our community was included in our efforts. Her compassion for helping others, and her steady presence during crises, will be deeply missed.

I would like to take a moment to personally thank Hannah for her leadership during several major and unprecedented incidents, including a mass shooting, two severe flooding and storm events, and a federally declared disaster. Her dedication and hard work during these events have played a crucial role in making Sagadahoc County a stronger, more resilient county, and I look forward to continuing these efforts in the future.

To help minimize any disruption and ensure ongoing communication, please direct all correspondence to scema@sagadahoccountyme.gov. This will allow not only Hannah to stay informed, but also myself and the next Deputy Director of the EMA, ensuring a seamless transition.

Thank you for your attention, and please join me in wishing Hannah the best as she transitions to her role as the Deputy Register of Probate. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out any time. We are here to support our local communities and residents before, during and after every emergency.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact SCEMA at any time. Thank you.

Important update: Sagadahoc County EMA has transitioned to a new citizen alerting system, RAVE. If you wish to continue receiving important safety information, please sign up with RAVE, by visiting: <https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=SCEMA> or by scanning the QR Code below.

Philip B. Davis

Director

Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency (SCEMA)

Sagadahoc County Board of Health (BOH)

Sagadahoc County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

752 High Street | Bath, ME 04530

Office: (207) 443-8210

Cell: (207) 449-2086

Email: pdavis@sagadahoccountyme.gov

Website: www.sagadahoccountyme.gov



SAGADAHOC COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH



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Clamming in Georgetown

January 22, 2025

Georgetown has a long and productive history of harvesting the bounty of the ocean: lobster, shrimp, ground fish, and not least, soft shell clams. All of them are under threat. Our clam resource has dwindled over the past few years and now we are down to one full time and only a couple part-time commercial diggers. The only significant digging areas that are still productive are Sagadahoc Bay and small portions of Robinhood Cove. In addition to improving the resource in these flats, we are working with Reid State Park management to see if we could make the flats at Todd's Point along the Little River part of the project.

I am working on this with Chad Campbell, Chair of the Shellfish Committee and longtime clam digger and Marissa McMahan, a fisheries researcher at Manomet, a conservation sciences organization, as well as other members of the Shellfish Committee. Both Chad and Marissa have deep roots in our town and do much to maintain the character and working waterfront culture that goes back generations. Clam digging is an important part of that.

If we don't act, there is a chance that we will lose this important part of our heritage and a valuable resource. In the past, harvesters could dig over three bushels in a single tide while maintaining a sustainable resource. Now, they are lucky to gather even part of a bushel despite working longer and harder.

All is not lost. While conservation efforts have been employed over the years, the loss of clams has continued. As a member of the Town's Shellfish Committee and a regular recreational digger, I think it's essential that we take additional steps.

The most effective method to sustain the clam population is seeding with starter clams. They will grow and replace the clams that are harvested or lost to green crabs or other predators. Once the seed clams are spread into the mudflats, they are covered with nets and a couple inches of sediment to protect them.

Between the Shellfish Committee's budget and other funds from a town contingency fund, we have \$1,000 available for this project. However, the Shellfish Committee feels it is necessary to take stronger measures. We are trying to raise an additional \$2,000 to allow us to buy enough seed clams to make a substantial investment in the recovery of our flats. I am contributing \$200 as "seed money" to start the campaign. I hope you can support this important effort as well.

Please make checks out to Town of Georgetown and put Shellfish Conservation in the memo line. Please mail checks to me at: 99 Beaver Valley Road.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jim

The Georgetown Conservation Commission Potluck has been rescheduled! Save the date!



RESCHEDULED

Winter
**Potluck
Dinner**

**Saturday, February 8th at 4-6pm
Georgetown Community Center**



Hosted by the Georgetown
Conservation Commission

Please join us as we gather together to celebrate winter.
Please bring your favorite dish to add to the meal, turkey
will be provided.

For more information, email Nancy Kinner at nancy.kinner@unh.edu

Legislative Review Report 1/24

From Collins, Kristin M. <KCollins@preti.com>

Date Fri 1/24/2025 9:29 PM

To Collins, Kristin M. <KCollins@preti.com>

Cc Langsdorf, Stephen E. F. <SLangsdorf@preti.com>; Ferrante, Cameron A. <CFerrante@preti.com>

Please see the below list of new bills and those scheduled for public hearing. The FOAA bill is of particular interest, as it purports to require fulfillment of FOAA requests within 30 days, regardless of complexity. Please let us know if you have any questions about this proposed legislation or would like assistance commenting on them.

Kristin M. Collins

Attorney

PretiFlaherty

From: Govt Affairs <govtaffairs@preti.com>

PretiFlaherty

Recently Assigned Legislation

[LD 237 - An Act To Increase The Percentage Of Funds Provided To Municipalities Through State-municipal Revenue Sharing](#)

Clients: Municipal

[LD 261 - An Act Regarding The Authority Of Municipalities To Regulate Timber Harvesting](#)

Clients: Municipal

[LD 264 - An Act To Remove The 12-month Waiting Period For The Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption](#)

Clients: Municipal

Upcoming Hearings

Public Hearing - Mon 1/27 @ 12:00 PM - [LD 138 - An Act To Exempt Airports From Certain State Endangered And Threatened Species Habitat Protections](#)

Clients: Municipal

Public Hearing - Wed 2/5 @ 9:30 AM - [LD 152 - An Act To Amend The Freedom Of Access Act To Require A Specific Time Frame For Agencies To Comply With Requests For Public Records](#)

Clients: Municipal

Public Hearing - Wed 2/5 @ 1:00 PM - [LD 185 - An Act To Expand Opportunities To Invest](#)

Municipal Tax Increment Financing Revenues

Clients: Municipal

Public Hearing - Wed 2/5 @ 1:00 PM - LD 237 - An Act To Increase The Percentage Of Funds Provided To Municipalities Through State-municipal Revenue Sharing

Clients: Municipal

Updated Legislation

LD 1 - An Act To Increase Storm Preparedness For Maine's Communities, Homes And Infrastructure

Status: Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

On motion by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin for the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**.

Ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence. (1/21)

Clients: Municipal

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MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION SINCE 1936

60 Community Drive | Augusta, ME 04330-9486

TO: Members of the Maine Municipal Association
FROM: Peter Osborne, Director of Educational Services
DATE: January 8, 2025
RE: 2025 MMA Municipal Government Internship Grant Program

The Maine Municipal Association is pleased to build upon the success of its Summer Municipal Intern Grant Award in summer 2025 in collaboration with the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center. MMA's Executive Committee remains committed to supporting Maine's towns and cities with municipal workforce recruitment and development. As part of MMA's ongoing efforts, we especially understand the importance of municipal government internships as a way to introduce students to careers in municipal government, make professional connections, and engage in meaningful work experiences. Towns and cities gain from the opportunity to hire students with fresh perspectives who can contribute to the community. In 2024, MMA made four intern grant awards to the towns of Casco, China, Northport, and Oakland.

Internship Grant Overview:

In 2025, the MMA Municipal Government Internship Grant Program will provide four \$4,300 grants to MMA member municipalities who host an intern through the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center Government Internship Program. These grants are intended to partially offset costs associated with the intern's salary and the MCS Policy Center administrative fee, and to support training and professional development activities for the intern during the internship period. During their internship and for one year after, interns in these municipalities will also receive a complimentary MMA student membership and will have their registration fees waived for MMA trainings, conferences, and Convention.

How to be Considered for an Internship Grant:

Municipalities must complete the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center's Intern Request Form and Municipal Signature Form by the March 1 deadline. Within the Intern Request Form, please select that your municipality would like to be considered for an MMA Municipal Government Internship Grant. Indicating this interest gives the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center permission to share your forms with MMA, who will convene a committee to consider applications and decide on award recipients. This committee will make award decisions based on the quality of the proposed internship experience; the intended impact of the intern's work on the community; and the potential for the internship to provide meaningful exposure to municipal careers. The committee will also work to balance geography and municipality size in determining award recipients.

Award recipients will be notified of their grant award by April 1, 2025. Disbursement of the grant is contingent on the successful placement of an intern in the municipality and awards will be presented at the conclusion of the completed summer internship program in August 2025.

Members should contact Peter Osborne, Director of Educational Services at MMA, at posborne@memun.org or 207-623-8428 for more information or with questions regarding this grant. For more about the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center's Government Summer Internship Program and its deadlines, please visit <https://mcspolicycenter.umaine.edu/maine-government-summer-internship-program/>.

A Sampling of Projects Carried out by Municipal/Regional Summer Interns:

Community Outreach and Planning

- coordinating volunteers and focus groups to start planning community events for next year;
- generating positive rather than negative buzz around the downtown construction project;
- serving as liaison between city and citizen committees to help facilitate communication;
- developing a new website, advertising daily events and happenings in town, including managing social media accounts;
- identifying and documenting abandoned or dilapidated properties;
- creating a community cleanup event;
- developing a tree walking tour of downtown;

City Administration

- writing an application for an AARP Challenge Grant;
- preparing a 50-page Guide to Doing Business and a 40-page Protocol for External Communications;
- designing and writing the city's Annual Report;
- undertaking a review of the city's policies and providing recommendations for appropriate changes to bring them up to date;
- updating egress routes for the office spaces following some remodeling, researching LD 2003 and assisting with a development project;
- working with health and safety officials to improve the personnel and safety manuals for the town office, fire and EMS departments, and public works;
- cataloguing all town owned roads that have been closed, abandoned, or discontinued.

GIS and Mapping

- mapping and assessing culverts (roadside stormwater infrastructure) on all town-administered public roads;
- creating a StoryMap describing how emergency management should be effectively practiced and communicated at the Fair;
- creating a Cemetery Map App - an app that allows the viewer to search between the five cemeteries that the Town manages with interactive headstone-points that show the name of the person buried in a specific cemetery lot;
- creating a Municipal Inventory Map - a map that features all of the Town's municipal property such as bridges, boat launches, dams and fire hydrants;
- creating multiple maps for police station needs

A Sampling of Projects Carried out by Municipal/Regional Summer Interns:

Economic Development

- working with the ED director to amend the Tax Increment Finance districts with the DECD
- writing an Impact Fee Analysis project: we contacted 12 other Maine communities to gather their respective fees and then created a comprehensive report;
- helping develop and publish the *2017 Maine Planning and Land Use Law* book and gather advertisements to put in the book;
- calculating seasonal census population information from 39 communities for the SMPDC region and mapping it using ArcMap to better understanding seasonal population growth;
- gathering information on handicapped accessible ramps in the region and putting this into an app;
- working on a project to identify abandoned buildings on behalf of the economic development committee - first researching local and state ordinances to determine the legal recourse our municipality had to address this perceived problem, then surveying a large proportion of residential neighborhoods, pinpointing several dilapidated dwellings;
- compiling a database of food trucks in the state, creating a public interest survey to send out to residents and starting a weekly food truck schedule and promoting it to residents;
- updating the business directories on the Town website and updating an internal spreadsheet of local businesses - identifying several businesses in town that were not current on their tax status.

Marketing and Event Promotions

- developing long-term marketing and promotions strategies for the city;
- creating social media content including designing infographics and filming & editing reels, created "How Do I..." page on website and related updates, assisted with communications and marketing campaigns;
- completing a public-facing Welcome Packet which will be mailed to new residents; helping design a public-facing EDDM postcard to communicate information about our budget process;
- finalizing the long-awaited Town Older Adult Resource Guide, which is already receiving a great public response; helped design public-facing community outreach material, such as event notifications and social media graphics.

A Sampling of Projects Carried out by Municipal/Regional Summer Interns:

City Management and Finance

- assisting with the Workforce Housing RFP process;
- researching statistics for audit;
- working on a road analysis project for the town - I went out to all the public roads and surveyed their surface and drainage conditions, measured them, took photos, gave the roads an importance and traffic level, input all the data into the RSMS program, and created a prioritization plan of which roads to fix first;
- turning several photocopied PDFs into Excel spreadsheet, entered information into municipal fiscal tracking software, combined multiple spreadsheets into a single large spreadsheet, combined many documents from separate departments into one large document for City's annual report;
- digitizing the TIF Development District programs, updating the data in our capital planning software, assigning account numbers, reviewing plans and studies, creating a sustainability score card for our capital plan, and generally assisting in taking our Capital Plan to the next level;
- working on the disposal of vital records for the human resources and finance departments, I sorted through different boxes and referenced them with a retention schedule guide, ensuring that the town will have space for a few more years.
- cataloguing all town owned properties by researching purchase transfers through deeds and liens;
- attending several workshops including MMA Human Resources training, Managers Conference; training on the new handgun concealed carry permit in Maine and how it impacts issuing agencies such as town offices, GIS training, county managers meeting, and others;
- running two town selectmen meetings which involved prep beforehand and follow up afterwards.

Research and Writing

- researching legislation such as bill LD 2003, which relates to the ability of a municipality to regulate municipal zoning;
- attending the committee hearings at the State House and reporting back to city government and the Marijuana Task Force on the ways in which the passing of the marijuana referendum and MLA will affect municipalities like ours in terms of regulation, licensing, and enforcement issues;
- pursuing opportunities for ways to better utilize the town owned space such as turning empty tree lots into hiking trails or partnering with a Land Trust to discuss an environmental easement on a property;

A Sampling of Projects Carried out by Municipal/Regional Summer Interns:

- assisting in writing a grant for the town office, writing an application for new streetlights, and updating the town's CDBG program match;

Public Works

- updating stormwater maps using ArcGIS and field observations;
- developing and submitting an application for an NRPA permit;
- assembling safety data sheets for four town facilities;
- mapping an inventory of all town parking spaces for parking committee meetings;
- updating all files in regards to DEP/town regulated outfalls;
- helping out at Transfer Station;
- attending meetings dealing with town's field maintenance, weed control and County MS4;
- receiving quotes/hired for cleaning of oil water separation tank;
- participating in Salmon Falls watershed success workshop;
- attending Southern Maine Public Works directors meeting;
- updating all EMS and Fire and Public Works Material Safety Data Sheets to OSHA's new Safety Data Sheets;
- working with a digital roads program which categorizes all town roads and signs by color according to repair requirements and cost of repair.

January 23 Public Hearing on GA- Part S of the Supplemental Budget

From Amanda Campbell <acampbell@memun.org>
Date Fri 1/17/2025 10:38 AM
To gtwnme@hotmail.com <gtwnme@hotmail.com>



**MAINE MUNICIPAL
ASSOCIATION SINCE 1936**

60 Community Drive | Augusta, ME 04330-9486
1-800-452-8786 (in state) | (t) 207-623-8428
(f) 207-624-0129

To: Welfare Directors & GA Administrators
Key Municipal Officials
Legislative Policy Committee

From: Amanda Campbell, Legislative Advocate

Date: January 17, 2025

Re: **January 23 Public Hearing on GA- Part S of the Supplemental Budget**

Next week, the Appropriations & Financial Affairs (AFA) Committee will host a series of public hearings seeking feedback on Governor Mills' proposed supplemental FY 2025 General Fund budget. The budget proposal has been printed as LD 209, with the details found on the Bureau of the Budget's website at www.maine.gov/budget/home.

Of greatest municipal interest is Part S of the bill, which seeks to amend the General Assistance (GA) statutes by limiting eligibility to three months of housing assistance and 30 days of aid for all other non-housing-related living expenses during a 12-month period. There are exceptions for supporting temporary housing or emergency shelters, as well as for certain hardships, which include applicants with severe or persistent mental or physical conditions and those with pending Social Security Administration applications.

Part S can be viewed [here](#).

The hearing on Part S will take place on Thursday, January 23 at 1 p.m. before the AFA Committee in room 228 on the second floor of the State House. Municipal officials interested in participating in the hearing can do so either in-person, via Zoom, or by submitting written testimony. Please visit the portal found here: <https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/> to sign up to provide testimony via Zoom or to submit written testimony. Please note that you will need to register specifically for the hearing to take place on the afternoon of January 23, as the hearing is being held over a four-day period.

Because the Legislative Policy Committee will not have established the association's position on the bill before the hearing, MMA will be testifying "neither for nor against" Part S. We will, however, submit additional testimony once our position has been established.

I urge you to review the proposal's impact on your communities and share those findings with members of the AFA Committee. If you have any questions about the proposal or how to register to testify, please do not hesitate to contact me at acampbell@memun.org or 1-800-452-8786.

Thank you.

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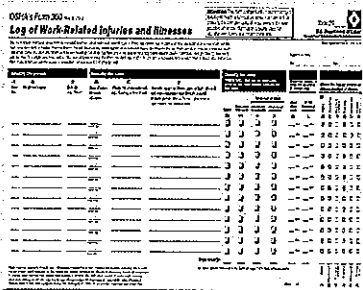
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THE RMS EXPRESS

OSHA 300 Logs

This is a reminder that your OSHA 300A Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses for calendar year 2024 is required to be posted in a conspicuous location or placed where employees frequent from February 1-April 30, 2025. If you have multiple locations such as a Public Works, Fire Department, and the Town Office in a third location, then department-specific 300A forms must be displayed, at each location, in a common area where notices to employees are usually posted.



To complete the annual OSHA 300A Summary, enter:

1. Total the columns on the OSHA 300
2. Log (if you had no recordable cases, enter zeros for each column total);
3. Enter the calendar year covered, the company's name, establishment name, establishment address, annual average number of employees covered by the OSHA 300 Log, and the total hours worked by all employees covered by the OSHA 300 Log
4. If you are using an equivalent form other than the OSHA 300-A summary form, as permitted under §1904.6(b)(4), the summary you use must also include the employee access and employer penalty statements found on the OSHA 300-A
5. Names are not recorded on the OSHA 300A



Risk Management Services Department

This issue:

- OSHA 300
- In Your Inbox –
 - WC Payroll Audit
 - Unemployment Comp Wage Reports
- Secure File Drop
- Email Continuity

In Your Inbox

Once a year, payroll audits are performed for the members of the MMA Workers' Compensation Fund (WC). The Fund is required to complete these audits during the first quarter of each year for the previous coverage term of Jan 1, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024. The Workers' Comp audit compares the estimated annual payroll projections (which your entity provided to us the year prior) to the actual annual payroll totals at the end of the year. Therefore, if you overestimated your payroll, you may receive a contribution credit returned to your entity or vice versa if the reported payroll was underestimated. The audit process is important and with some planning can be completed with ease.

For more tools and information on WC Payroll Audits, please select [Tools](#) or contact us at: rmsunderwriting@memun.org

Unemployment Wage Report Due Jan 17, 2025

The Unemployment Fund has recently sent a request for your Quarter 4, 2024 Wage Reports.

Important Request: in an effort to improve data accuracy and ensure timely reporting, the Unemployment Fund is requesting that all participating members send their Quarter 4 Wage Report as an **Excel export** by January 17th, to the ucfund@memun.org or utilize our secure portal: <https://www.memun.org/Risk-Management/Secure-Drop>

If you have questions with regards to this new request, please email ucfund@memun.org or call 800-623-8428 and ask to speak with Denise Kolreg or Marcus Ballou.

Safe & Secure File Drop

When you have a large file exceeding email limits or have confidential data to send MMA Risk Management Services, we have a **Secure File Drop Portal** that will accomplish that task for you. Please follow the instructions below:

1. Goto:

<https://www.memun.org/Risk-Management/Secure-Drop>

2. Select your entity from the Member Selection Dropdown. Hint: if you type the first letter of your entity name, the dropdown will scroll to that point in the alphabet.

3. Enter your Name as the sender.

4. Enter your email address.

5. Select the type of data to be uploaded under "Subject of Upload".

6. Select the files that you wish to upload or drag the files over to the Box.

7. Select the Submit button.

8. You will then see "Success! Your file has been submitted".

Email Continuity

MMA Risk Management Services Underwriting Team is encouraging Members to submit questions and requests to our common email address:

rmsunderwriting@memun.org

By utilizing the common email address, we can ensure that we are here for you when you need us, regardless of vacations, illnesses, or positional updates. If one person is unavailable, others can step in to help with your requests.

Watch Out For CMP Imposters

From VOIT, PATRICK <patrick.voit@cmpco.com>

Date Thu 1/23/2025 1:42 PM

To VOIT, PATRICK <patrick.voit@cmpco.com>

Good Afternoon,

Central Maine Power (CMP) has been made aware of imposters approaching residential and commercial buildings claiming to be from CMP. Below is a link to a WGME news story aired on 1/22 as well as a handful of reminders and warnings to be aware of. If you have hear of any of this happening in your area, please let us know.

[WGME News Story](#)

As a reminder, CMP will never:

- Send an employee inside your personal residence to use a computer or other device.
- Have an employee take a photo of your electric bill.
- Send an employee to your home to offer a discount, offer a cost-savings program or encourage you to sign up for a service.
- Ask customers to make a payment with a pre-paid debit card or other non-refundable methods.

Customers should also be aware of some of the known scammer tactics:

- Fraudulent phone numbers: Caller ID may show the call is coming from the utility. In some cases, the perpetrators pretend to have specific knowledge about the customers they're calling and may even provide a callback number with a recorded greeting similar to CMP's company's customer service line.
- Fraudulent emails and texts: Scammers are using digital correspondence to portray themselves as the utility.
- Door-to-door imposters: Scammers are posing as CMP employees and asking about utility bills.

Types of scams that customers should look out for include:

- Disconnection threat: Someone posing as a utility representative, aggressively telling a customer their account is past due and a crew is on the way to shut off service unless an immediate payment is made—typically using a prepaid debit card or another non-refundable form of payment.
- Meter payment: The caller or in-person scammer instructs the customer to pay with cash or a prepaid debit card to cover the costs of a new meter or meter upgrade.

- Information request: The caller insists that a recent payment encountered a system glitch and was not completed, or that the company had not received the payment at all. The perpetrator then asks the customer to make a false payment using a prepaid debit card or by providing personal bank account information.

Do not hesitate to reach out if you have noticed these issues in your town. Thank you,



Pat Voit

Key Account Manager – Midcoast
Brunswick, Rockland and Belfast Service Centers

280 Bath Road, Brunswick, ME 04011

207-319-9585

Patrick.Voit@cmpco.com

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COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

GEORGETOWN COMMUNITY CENTER
19 OLD SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD

MONDAY JANUARY 27TH
3-5PM

PLEASE STOP BY AND FILL A BAG!
CONFIDENTIAL





TOWN OF GEORGETOWN

PO Box 436 50 Bay Point Road
Georgetown, Maine 04548

MEMORANDUM TO SELECT BOARD

From: Town Administrator Date: 1/27/2025 Re: Creation of a "Right To Fish and Know Before You Buy" Ordinance Work Group

Background –

In 2024, the Town of Harpswell adopted a "Right To Fish" Policy in response to complaints from new residents about noise and odors associated with commercial fishing activities. In the Fall, our Select Board heard a request from resident, Pat Burns, and discussed the possibility of convening a working group to draft a similar Town Policy or Ordinance. Enclosed with this Memorandum is a copy of Harpswell's Policy.

Recommendation –

I recommend that the Town of Georgetown set up a working group to discuss whether to bring forward a similar policy or Ordinance to the Select Board for approval.

This working group should have the following membership:

- One Select Board Member
- One Member of the Harbor Committee
- One Member of the Shellfish Conservation Commission
- One Member of the TOPMB
- At least two members of the public, one of whom is involved in Georgetown's Working Waterfront

This working group shall meet at the Town Office and report back to the Select Board by their March 11th Meeting.

Town of Harpswell Right to Fish Policies

Harpswell is a “working waterfront community”. Commercial fishing, lobstering, shellfish harvesting and processing, boat building, repair and service, and similar marine-related activities are at the core of what Harpswell is and should remain. These Right-to-Fish Policies serve as a guide for the Town of Harpswell and the Harpswell community in protecting the working waterfront and commercial fishing from potential nuisance complaints by aiming to prevent contention in commercial fishing zones and other areas of the community, and limiting restrictions that have the potential to adversely impact commercial fishing and marine businesses.

I. Educational Activities

It is a policy of the Town to ensure that there is adequate education and outreach to new residents about commercial fishing and marine industries that rely on the waterfront. New residents, especially those in the commercial fishing zones, should be given informational materials about living near the working waterfront. This proactive approach aims to reduce potential future conflicts and supports local businesses.

II. Funding for Activities

It is a policy of the Town to create a funding mechanism to support initiatives focused on educating new residents about commercial fishing, enhancing the town's capacity to support marine resource industries, and expanding access to the waterfront for commercial fishing activity including shellfish harvesting in the intertidal zone.

III. Periodic Review of Ordinance Provisions Governing Commercial Fishing Uses


It is a policy of the Town to maintain commercial fishing as a permissible use including appropriately scaled commercial fishing related uses as a home occupation and accessory use across all zoning districts. To implement this policy, the Town should periodically review its land use ordinances to ensure that commercial fishing related uses are preserved and maintained throughout the Town, and that provisions are adopted which unequivocally allow the storage of commercial fishing equipment, such as lobster traps, rope, and other fishing gear, on private premises throughout Harpswell.

IV. Nuisances

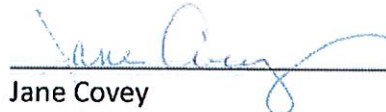
State law provides that a private nuisance action may not be maintained against a person engaged in a commercial fishing activity or a commercial fishing operation so long as the activity or operation is undertaken in compliance with applicable licensing and permitting requirements and

other applicable statutes, rules and ordinances (see 17 M.R.S.A. § 2807). It is the policy of the Town to support and recognize the application of this state law, as well as the legal doctrine of "coming to the nuisance" which may prevent actionable nuisance claims, in order to minimize the potential for conflict involving commercial fishing and to make residents aware of these provisions.

Adopted by the Harpswell Select Board this 11th day of July, 2024:



Kevin Johnson, Chair



Jane Covey



David T. Chipman

DRAFT SHORT TERM RENTAL SURVEY DRAFT

The Town of Georgetown, like many others across the country has long term and short term rental properties. They have been part of the town for many years. In an effort to look at their role in our community, the Planning Board has taken on the task of gathering information about short term rentals (STRs) and the thoughts of our community members about them. For the purposes of this survey, a Short Term Rental is defined as a residential property that is rented for a weekend, a week or a portion there of, or a month. For this reason, we ask that you take a few minutes to complete this survey and return it in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope. We thank you in advance for your time.

1. Are you the owner of a STR? (If so complete questions 2-11. If not skip to question #12).
Yes _____ No _____

2. Do you agree with the above definition of a STR?

Yes _____ No _____

If you answered No, what do you recommend? _____

3. Is your STR within the home where you live? That is, a room/apartment/wing, etc. of your home.

Yes _____ No _____

4. Is your STR a separate dwelling unit on the same plot of land where you reside?

Yes _____ No _____

5. Is your STR on it's own plot of land?

Yes _____ No _____

6. How many STRs do you own? _____

7. Do you operate your STR(s) in your own name? _____ As an LLC? _____ As a corporation? _____

8. Do you reside in the town of Georgetown?

Part time _____

Year round _____

I do not reside in Georgetown _____

9. How many years have you been renting your STR(s)? _____

10. Do you manage your own STR(s)? Yes _____ No _____

DRAFT SHORT TERM RENTAL SURVEY DRAFT

If your answered no, please indicate the services that someone else provides relative to your STR. Check all that apply.

Secure guests _____

Clean the premises _____

Tend the grounds _____

Remove trash from premises _____

11. How many months of the year is your STR available? _____

12. If you did not rent as a STR would you rent to long term renters instead?

Yes _____ No _____ Unsure _____

13. Do you live next to/near a STR (If so, answer questions 13-15. If not please skip to question #16.)

Yes _____ No _____

14. On a scale of 1-5 how would you rate the experience of having a STR as a neighbor?

No opinion _____

Negative 1 2 3 4 5 Positive

15. Do you have concerns about your neighborhood STR? If so, please check all the apply.

_____ Noise _____ Traffic _____ Use of town facilities/resources

_____ Trespassing on my property _____ Strangers in my neighborhood

_____ Other (please explain)

16. Is it important to you that the owner of the STR in your neighborhood lives locally?

Yes _____ No _____ No opinion _____

17. On a scale of 1-5 how concerned are you about STRs in Georgetown?

No opinion _____

Negative 1 2 3 4 5 Positive

18. Do you own a seasonal property that is not a STR but that is used by various family members throughout the period of Memorial Day to Columbus Day?

DRAFT SHORT TERM RENTAL SURVEY DRAFT

Yes _____ No _____

19. I believe STRs serve a purpose in the town of Georgetown. Check all that apply.

- _____ No opinion
- _____ Bring income to property owners
- _____ Allow families to generate income on jointly owned property
- _____ Support the local economy
- _____ Brings diversity to town
- _____ Offers future residents the ability to generate money to maintain homes until they move to town permanently
- _____ Other (explain)

20. There are currently no regulations in Georgetown regarding STRs. On a scale of 1-5 do you believe STRs should be regulated by the town?

No opinion _____

No regulations 1 2 3 4 5 STRs should be regulated

21. I am in favor of STRs in Georgetown if they are monitored in the following ways: (check all that apply)

- _____ STRs should be owner managed.
- _____ The STR is licensed and/or registered with the town.
- _____ The owner of the STR is charged an annual fee.
- _____ The number of guests allowed in a STR should relate to the size of the structure, i.e. number of bedrooms in the STR.
- _____ The town of Georgetown should regulate STRs.
- _____ The town of Georgetown should have a noise ordinance.
- _____ The owner certifies that the well and septic systems have sufficient capacity for the number of guests allowed.

DRAFT SHORT TERM RENTAL SURVEY DRAFT

_____ Other (explain)

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to provide any additional thoughts or comments.



Outlook

Re: Higgins Mountain

From Robert Trabona <conotu@hotmail.com>

Date Thu 1/23/2025 1:28 PM

To Tyler Washburn <gtwnme@hotmail.com>

Tyler,

As I mentioned during our phone conversation, I discovered during my review of the Wireless Communications Facilities Ordinance that the Wireless Communications Facilities permit fees were not posted on the town website. In order to add the permit fee to the schedule there would have to be a hearing held by the Sel Bd to discuss the fee.

Bob



Outlook

Update of Fee Schedule

From Town of Georgetown <townofgeorgetownme@gmail.com>

Date Thu 1/23/2025 11:08 AM

To Tyler Washburn <gtwnme@hotmail.com>

Good morning

Can you please add a Returned Check Fee of \$20.00 to the fee schedule. We had inadvertently left it off (and has been our standard practice for many years).

Thanks

Mary

MEMO

TO: Georgetown Select Board

Jon Collins

Bronwen Tudor

Aria Eee

CC: Tyler Washburn

Mary McDonald

From: Brian Whalen, Fire Chief

Subject: Use of Town owned property by Town departments & committees

This memo concerns the use of town owned property by town departments. I am specifically referring to use of the OWL device to facilitate communication between the town and its committees and other interested parties that are not "in person".

The town recently purchased an amazing and much needed piece of hardware that has greatly improved the quality of online communications at select board meetings. Having the ability for residents and visitors to participate online in addition to in person has significantly improved the quantity and quality of discourse in Georgetown.

There have been several requests for access to this technology from various town departments and committees. So far, each request has been denied for various reasons. I understand that this piece of equipment is expensive, delicate and requires some specific knowledge to operate.

I respectfully request that town departments and committees be allowed to utilize this equipment to facilitate the town's business and interests. It does not make financial or common sense to duplicate this purchase within the town organization when we already have what we need. I'm confident that each interested party will have the utmost care and respect for this equipment that will ensure it lasts as long as possible.