

## Select Board Meeting

### Manager's Report – January 8, 2016

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**Temporary Library relocation** – The Library move has been completed and reopened at 485 Commercial Street. A great deal of credit goes to the organization and skills of the Library Director Ben Blackmon and his staff, as well as the hard working Public Works crew who pulled this all together, and got the massive job done without many hitches at all. But no thanks would be complete and the move wouldn't have happened as smoothly as it did without the nearly 80 volunteers who worked tirelessly for three days moving nearly 40,000 books and all the furniture into the new space. These volunteers created a well-oiled moving machine! They made it appear like they were having fun making it happen. I have a Proclamation for your signature thanking all the many volunteers that helped with the move that day.

Additionally, Phi Homes did the work on the renovations and went well above and beyond the work quoted and did a lot of extra work and painting for the quoted price. We ended up with a much better product at the end.

The 1 Limerock Street location is being drained and winterized to save money on heating bills.

When all was said and done the temporary building is an improvement over 1 Limerock Street, but it is not like we are swimming in space now. We have filled every inch of space in the 5100 square foot building and do not have a lot of room to spare. There are improvements in the ease of parking, the computer terminal work space, the circulation desk, book repair and interlibrary loan space, teen room, staff work space and restrooms, however the space for stacks of books feels just as crowded to me. This is a good example of how 6,000 square feet just doesn't work.

Another interesting point is that the Library has quite a bit of really good artwork that they now have displayed in prominent locations where it can actually be seen.

**Holiday on the Harbor** – The Holiday on the Harbor event was another huge success for several reasons, first the hard work and dedication of the committee, the donations from local residents and businesses, the many volunteers including Students from the High School, and of course the weather this year. This year this group of volunteers put out and lit nearly 1800 luminaries. And this was done while the Library move was being pulled off by another group of volunteers.

It is hard to tell just how many people were in attendance, but I would venture a guess it was several thousand people. The event at the Opera House sponsored by Bay

Chamber was well attended, the event at Union Hall was more popular than ever and packed with families, and Marine Park was packed with people enjoying the day and waiting for the fireworks. Much of the event was filmed and I am really looking forward to seeing the video.

A piece of good news that was received not in time for this year's event but will help us next year is that the class of fireworks we use do not need a permit or to be shot off by a licensed pyrotechnics person. This cost us \$1,500 that we won't need to spend next year.

We will be creating a line in the budget to add some money for incidentals that we need for the event that we are currently allocating to places in the harbor budget or parks.

The committee did a debriefing meeting last week to suggest improvements in next year's event while it was fresh in their minds.

***Winter Storm Update*** - we have had none! Well, one but it was nothing serious. 6 inches is just good traction. We have still had guys out for a few small events, sanding and salting due to ice ups in a few places in town.

***PWD*** – the new one ton has been delivered and is ready to be put into service. There have been a few problems with other trucks, but PWD has been able to keep up with them. On top of helping get the Library move done, the highway guys have removed all the docks, the harbormaster boat and have used the good weather to clear roadside brush.

***Fire***- The Chief has done a complete check of the Town's E-911 numbering system and has notified every property that is not properly numbered. He did this by physically driving by EVERY property in Rockport and going up and knocking on the door of people who are not in compliance. If they were not home they received a letter at the location. This is necessary so that emergency responders are actually able to find you if you are in need of their services. An improperly numbered house could mean that Police, Fire or the ambulance could drive by missing you in an emergency losing valuable minutes.

***PD*** – Cooper Plaisted submitted a letter of resignation and has left our Police Department for a position with the Maine State Police. We have started advertising for a replacement, the deadline for application is the 27<sup>th</sup> of January. We have also put the 2013 Dodge Charger out for bid.

***Opera House Project*** – The painting, and roofing portion of the project is complete and we are closing out the contract with McCormick & Associates as they have found a supplier for the arch topped window in the front of the building.

***Infrastructure Projects-*** the plan is to get all these projects out to bid by the end of the month or early February, so we are ready for Spring and Summer construction. School, Summer Street, and Mt. Pleasant Street are ready to go. Gartley and Dorsky is working on the final portions of the plans

***Rockport 125-*** the committee has been meeting weekly and working daily on putting together the events. The kickoff being Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, the 125<sup>th</sup> birthday, at the Opera House with a program of events and continued Friday and Saturday with a Fireside Chat, a play by the 4<sup>th</sup> graders, music by the Middle School Jazz Band, ice carving at Memorial Park by the Head Chef at the Samoset, kids activities and the snowball fight between the Rockport and Camden Select Boards at the Arch and ending with a bean supper at the Masonic Hall.

The celebration will continue this summer, Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>-Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> with a Firemen's Ball, a week filled with community events, including Bay Chamber Concerts putting on a performance on Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, a parade on Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> that we are encouraging all to participate in, and ending with the Goose River Bridge Party and Fireworks over Rockport Harbor. Events being added daily!