

## *Manager's Report – August 10, 2015*

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The Opera House project is underway and going smoothly so far. The fixed pipe staging is all in place and the pump staging is being installed soon. The contractor has started removing the fascia board and gutter that has been the subject of some concern and we have found that things are not as bad as we suspected they might be. So far the rafter ends appear to be in reasonably good shape and do not show signs of rot in many places.

The contractor has a lift on site and is using it on the front end of the building and the sides that it can reach. It is parked at the CMCA building in the evening and on weekends so it is out of the way.

There has been a lot of tree trimming around Marine Park to help increase the view of the harbor for residents and visitors. In addition there were a lot of cedar trees that have been removed or thinned around the lime kilns to help protect them and also increase the view. We have received a lot of positive comments on this work.

The paving bid is due to go out this week. Over 8,000 feet of Rockville Street is due to be repaved which will eat up most of our paving budget.

The Public Works crew has been extremely short handed this summer due to all of the comp time the guys accumulated during last winter's plowing nightmare. In spite of all of that they are managing to get a lot done. They are replacing culverts all around town, clearing brush on roadside and did some work on the sidewalk in Rockville to open that back up as it had gotten so overgrown, it was not being used. Additionally, when they have time, they are building another float to add to the new section of dock that will extend the new dock to 130 feet.

The new fire truck is down in Brunswick getting some tweaking done to it as part of the first 30-day checkup. The Fire department has been busy with training and when not in training with the many calls. The fire in Union recently was handled largely by our Rockport fire crew, who had 14 members show up, more people on scene than most other communities who sent aid. In fact we had more fire fighters there than Union. This is becoming more of the norm for our response from Rockport. These guys are beating the curve when it comes to volunteer fire departments. Home Depot finished up the renovations to the kitchen in the station and it looks great.

This is Ann's last week as our Library Director and Ben will be taking over as Interim Director immediately. We have hired a new person, Laura Meservey in the Library to help fill in on a temporary basis. The hope is that the transition will go smoothly and Ben will be able to step up and take over and Laura will be in position to take over in Ben's role.

The harbor has been very busy this summer with a lot of activity and even some big boat rentals coming in to utilize the power and new docks. Additionally, they had an event this weekend that was well

attended and done in conjunction with the annual SUP Cup event. Parking is a big issue for the harbor and enforcement of parking violations a problem on both sides of the harbor. We have been stepping up our enforcement efforts and attempting to get people to park in the correct places and not park illegally.

The fiber study is now complete and we will be meeting with Aaron from Tilson next week in a workshop to discuss next steps. I am hoping to have a look at the results late this week and have a conference call scheduled with the team on Thursday afternoon.

Unfortunately the big summit in Portland is scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of September and I will be away in Seattle at the ICMA Conference. This is an important event and I am sorry to miss it. In addition to Senator King, it is expected that FCC Chairman Wheeler will be in attendance. I am hoping that at least one member of the Select Board will be attend the event in Portland to represent Rockport and our role in pushing this forward in Maine. You have been sent the details of the event, but if you like I will send you the details again.

We are installing the last of the equipment that will allow us to have Wi-Fi access in the harbor that will all run back through the Town office as the Opera House and Fire and PD does. The challenge is that at least for now, the connection between the harbor and the fiber network is through a wireless antenna on the opera house so we don't get the best speed but it is workable.

I spoke at a Broadband workshop in Portland recently and will be speaking at the ICMA conference in Seattle.

There have been NUMEROUS meetings with MCSWC this month between the BOD meetings, Executive Board meetings and the personnel committee meetings. I often comment that I meet with them more than I meet with the Select Board.

I reached out to the Camden Film Festival to express our interest in having them have more of a presence here in Rockport. They said that was their plan and they have in fact moved their office to Rockport as of last week.

I was on vacation for 4 days last week which was great! Internet out on the island is sketchy at best so I could not do too much when I was on vacation.

I will be at the Maine Manager's Conference in Newry, Maine starting tomorrow evening through Friday.

