

**Board of Selectmen  
Listening Tour  
Recap and Follow-up  
October 15, 2012**

**Select Board**

William Chapman  
Geoff Parker  
Ken McKinley (via Facetime)

Charlton Ames  
Tracy Murphy  
Robert Peabody, Town Manager

**Public**

Heaven Bartlett  
Linda Greenlaw  
Shay Grant  
Will Gartley  
Tom Levasseur  
Molly Larsen

Jack Lane  
Jan Rosenbaum  
Richard Remsen  
Diane Emery  
Stephanie Grinnell

Mr. Chapman opened the Recap and Follow-up meeting at 7:10 p.m. and welcomed those present.

The Select Board began reviewing the information garnered from the meetings with the individual villages. Two (2) lists will be created during the meeting – “Low Hanging Fruit” will encompass tasks that can be accomplished immediately with little or no cost to the Town and within the current budget while “MDOT Issues will list long range plans.

The Select Board learned that, overall, the different neighborhoods feel ignored. The Select Board should periodically reach out to residents.

The most disappointing aspect the Select Board learned at the Listening Tour sessions was the lack of interest by residents in volunteering for committees or being involved in any way. The attitudes of the residents support Public Works and the Town Office staff.

Ms. Emery thanked the Select Board for meeting with the villages and listening to resident’s concerns.

**Rockville-**

- a. Ms. Murphy highly recommends everyone visit the Rockville Community Chapel to see the amount of work done during the renovation.
- b. Residents would like the rich history of Rockville to be known. They would like to revitalize the village and develop activities around the chapel. The Chapel Association should contact the Town’s rental agent providing her with venue information for weddings and other activities.
- c. Sidewalks should be reconstructed and/or maintained.
- d. The speed limit sign on Gurney Street is missing and will be replaced.

- e. Residents would like a greater police presence in Rockville and on Route 17 because of speeders. Speed limits should be unified along Route 17.
- f. The intersection where Old Rockland Street meets Route 17 is blind and dangerous. There is a rise onto Route 17 from Old Rockland Street adding to the problem. MDOT has been notified but has chosen not to make any changes. A letter stating all concerns for that area could be voted on and sent to the MDOT with copies going to local legislators.
- g. Residents questioned whether a sign saying “Historic Village of Rockville” would be installed by the Town or MDOT. The Town’s Land Use Ordinance supersedes State Regulations on a town sign. Mr. Peabody will contact Steve Beveridge and Tom Ford regarding this matter. Residents also inquired if signs with historic photos could be installed.
- h. Four out of the five villages have sidewalks. Simonton Corner had a sidewalk that crossed from Cross Street to St. John Street. The sidewalk was removed in the 1940’s. A new sidewalk would be on the long term planning list along with a sidewalk in Glen Cove. The building and maintenance of sidewalks is one of the most expensive projects in a town. Sidewalks were not considered relevant enough or “budget wise” to maintain in the past. A correctly constructed sidewalk will last according to Public Works Director Steve Beveridge.  
  
The Select Board chose to do sidewalk work in the Village because “you get the best bang for your buck” since the area is compact and not spread out like the other villages. Rockport is currently working with the Town of Camden in applying for a CDBG Grant for a sidewalk.
- i. Rockville Residents are in favor on maintaining control of the RES site. There is no pressure to move quickly but to continue moving. They recommend upgrading and landscaping the site.

### **Glen Cove –**

- a. Some residents of Warrenton Street were unaware a 35 mph speed limit sign is within 25’ from Route 1. A bush that partially obscures the sign will be trimmed.
- b. One section of the Glen Cove Rest Area is owned by the State and another section by the Town of Rockport. The Town pruned the area four (4) years ago and two (2) years ago thinned out the sumac. Rockport will again trim the low hanging branches and remove the sumac. There is access to the water from the Glen Cove Rest Area although it is very steep.
- c. Of the 18 residents attending the Listening Tour in Glen Cove, 16 moved specifically to the area to be near Pen Bay Medical Center and Route 1. This sets Glen Cove apart in character as the second waterfront community in Rockport. A more gradual access to the cove is at the cul-de-sac. All attendees were from Warrenton Street.
- d. The Select Board should consider the concept of rotating capital projects for villages
- e. Residents expressed opinions pro and con for a walking/bike path that would extend from the Samoset to Brewster Point and connect into a sidewalk.
- f. The renaming of Glen Cove met with little interest. Residents of Glen Cove lamented on how few things carry the Glen Cove name anymore. The Glen Cove Post Office was the last entity lost that carried the name.

- g. Two (2) memorials dedicated to service men and women located in the area will be moved to the rest area for better visibility

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) paid to have the war memorial near Warrenton Street refurbished. It is the only memorial in the U.S. that acknowledges the roles Native Americans had during the War of Independence.

- h. Sewer Access and potential zoning ordinance changes could help the density along Route 1 in Glen Cove.

### **Simonton Corner** –

- a. The village area of Simonton Corner is not clearly defined but some residents were definite that Mystic Avenue is not included while other residents believe Mystic Avenue to be included in the Village.
- b. “STOP” should be stenciled in the intersection of Main Street and Park Street.
- c. Town Officials should communicate better with the villages. Suggestions were: an annual or semi-annual mailing to residents or a synopsis/narrative of Town events in the Camden Herald or on Penbay Pilot.
- d. A resident asked about the Town using Facebook where everyone could contribute. The Town of Freeport currently uses Facebook. Mr. Peabody will contact Freeport for information on using Facebook. Concerns expressed by residents for using Facebook: privacy issues; who would police the site (Town employees have enough responsibilities vs. should be overseen by Town employees because of the turnover in Select Board members); possibly use a few trusted people to moderate the page; the site should be “checked every two hours or so”; and possibly each of the five (5) communities could be challenged to find a resident to contribute for their village.
- e. Conduct a utilization study for town facilities such as the library, rec fields, etc. It is not clear how much casual use there is for Town facilities.
- f. A request for additional police coverage will be addressed at the budget meetings.
- g. Green lawn pesticides will be addressed at a later meeting.
- h. Residents expressed concerns with fireworks regulations.

### **West Rockport** –

- a. West Rockport is considered by some residents as the “Town They Tore Down.” The Select Board will consider relocating Engine 83 to the West Rockport Fire Station. There are no deed restrictions and the meeting room (slightly altered) could be used to house the truck. Further development of the West Rockport Fire Station would take long term planning under Capitol Improvement.

- a. Mt. Pleasant Road is in need of long term planning and care. The road has become a safety issue with ruts and ice build up during the winter months. Repairing Mt. Pleasant Road would be a symbol of caring to the residents. Residents do not believe traffic would increase if the road was improved.

Improving Mt. Pleasant Road would be a major two (2) phase operation beginning with an engineering workup.

- b. Pipework for a natural gas line will be installed down Route 17 from Augusta to Pen Bay Medical, the Cement Plant and the State Prison. Most of the natural gas is intended for industrial use. Pressure would need to be lessened for business and residential use. Maine Media Workshop would like to tie in to the natural gas line.
- c. Residents were interested in having Rockport become involved and “get at the table” in the State discussion of high speed fiber optic service. A single strand of fiber optic wire is used at the Town Office. A resident asked if Rockport could do its own connection for fiber optic service. The Select Board recommended residents keep in touch with protocols.
- d. The residents of West Rockport were positive with development in the Town. They would like to have Rockport become a ‘destination’ and not a ‘pass through.’
- e. A comprehensive letter should be mailed to MDOT with a copy going to the legislative partners regarding the speed issue on Route 17. The speed limit changes to 35 mph while going down the hill that slopes to the stream. Another resident added that the speed should be lowered by Tolman Pond Market. He added that a DOT representative should visit the Town of Rockport.

### **Businesses –**

- a. The topic of signs was the most important concern of the businesses. It was the perception of business owners the Sign Ordinance generally “worked against” them. In some cases the ordinances were “not restrictive enough” and at other times were “ridiculous.” Signs are often times the first exposure a person has to the business. The signs should be easily read by a motorist but sometimes are too small to read due to the zoning in certain areas. Greater flexibility should be given for signs. Buildings with multiple businesses need more flexibility in signage.
- b. Business owners, “by and large,” believe the Planning Board is “too picayune” and “50% informational and 50% emotional.” Some residents did not feel they had enough information to go before the Board. They recommended using a checklist system for various requirements, one being an administrative form checklist. This checklist would cover simple changes – fast track method, change of use, etc. The CEO could do the “intensity of use.”
- c. The Select Board would like to hold a session in early December that would be quasi-judicial and the conversation facilitated.
- d. One resident was “very pleased” with the help she received from the Planning Office. She was given the information she felt she needed. Another person believed she was being held to a different standard and more items were required.

- e. In order to keep big box stores out of Rockport, the size of buildings allowed are sometimes “way too restrictive.” Businesses should have the ability to increase the size of the building.
- f. Extend the Route 1 sewer to Rockville.

### **Village –**

- a. Parking is an issue in the Village area. Numerous events are held at the Rockport Opera House and MCMA with vehicles lining all available streets. Residents recommended doing ground work on the east side of harbor to improve parking. Marine Park is not often used for parking because of poor night lighting. Additional parking options might be: evening use of private lots by fostering parking relationships with abutting neighbors; parking on both sides of some streets; parking behind the Leucadia buildings; or parking on Church Street. Rockport might consider installing signage similar to the type used in Camden. The sign has a capital “P” indicating parking areas.
- b. A resident asked if the traffic flow at the intersection of Union, Russell and Central Streets could be improved pointing out that it is very confusing. Suggestion: installing a “Stop” sign situation similar to Elm and Union Streets in Camden.
- c. It is unclear if vehicles are allowed to park in front of the Post Office since lines were not painted after the road was paved. The Town did not paint where parking is allowed. With striping, a vehicle is sometimes more in the road because the driver cannot tell where to park. No parking is allowed on the west side of Union Street.
- d. Drivers are not obeying speed signs through the Village area. The high traffic count is making it difficult for people to cross Pascal Avenue.
- e. Would the State be willing to meet with 45 +/- people regarding the parking and speed problems in Rockport or would they prefer to meet with 1 person on a board?
- f. The street sign for Beauchamp Point/ Chapel Road is missing and will be replaced.
- g. The matter of using charge cards was mentioned by a resident. This issue is reviewed on a yearly basis by the Town Manager, Town Clerk and Finance Director at budget time. Municipalities are charged a usage fee for a credit card machine.
- h. The cross walks in the village area will be restriped.
- i. Mr. Rosenbaum asked that the two (2) lanes coming out of Mid Coast Solid Waste have arrows painted on the roadway indicating which direction the vehicle should turn.
- j. The outflow of Tolman Pond is deteriorating the bridge on Mill Street. The pond and bridge, once owned by the State, is now owned by the Town of Rockport. The initial estimated cost to repair the bridge (on the list of Top 10 bridges to repair in Maine) is \$500,000. The University of Maine created a “Bridge in a Backpack” for repairing bridges. This type of bridge takes less time to construct and has a longer life span than the usual type of construction.
- k. Mr. Peabody will work with Richard Remsen, Will Gartley, Tom Ford, Scott Bickford and Steve Beveridge on updating the Wastewater Ordinance.

- l. The Select Board will review the concerns and ideas expressed at the Listening Tour meetings at the next Board meeting in November.
- m. Mr. Peabody will provide an update on the Tax Club at the November Select Board's meeting. Mr. McKinley will be at the general election to provide Tax Club information to residents. The Board discussed having a table tent in June at the Town Office when the last tax payment is due. "You could have some fun and pass out popcorn" was a comment made at the meeting.
- n. The Select Board's vision for Rockport will be summarized and a 5, 10 and 20 year plan established. Mr. Rosenbaum recommended beginning with the 20 year plan and working back to the five year plan.
- o. A second workshop will be held by the Select Board in January to continue the review and the progress made to date.
- p. Brief mission statements will be written for each board and committee.
- q. Lime kilns information could be made into interactive media.
- r. The Town Manager, Select Board and residents in attendance discussed when the next Listening Tour should be held. A resident mentioned that having the Listening Tour made the Select Board "more approachable."
  - Doing a Tour each year might be "grueling."
  - Things do not tend to change annually
  - Hold the Tour bi-annually
  - Need open communication
  - Give the Town time to complete some of the items submitted this year
  - Hold a Tour next year to show the Board's commitment and then go bi-annually
  - Go around to the various villages on Friday afternoon to listen and set the next Board agenda

Some items suggested could not "realistically" happen by next year. Give the Select Board time to "get the work done." The Select Board should be able to demonstrate real progress within two (2) years.

Mr. Chapman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melody Sainio  
Recording Secretary

## **“Low Hanging Fruit”**

- Speed limit sign for Gurney Street
- Historic Signage for Villages
- Glen Cove – cut/trim sumac and trees
- Move war monuments to rest area in Glen Cove
- Paint “STOP” on roads
- Communication – narrative/meeting synopsis
  - Town Facebook Page (Freeport)
- Submit Rockville Community Chapel and Simonton Corner Hall information to the Rental Agent (Sue Dates) and Rockport Legacy
- Second truck at West Rockport Fire Station – Engine 83
- Get at the table for natural gas
- 3 ring binder prodigal – checklist for appearing in front of PB, ZBA and BAR
- Select Board moderate a meeting with PB and ZBA
- Install parking signs locating public parking
- Foster parking relationships with private entities
- Beauchamp /Chapel traffic sign is missing
- Have the Town accept charge cards
- The exit from MCSWC onto Limerock Street in Camden has 2 lanes. Paint arrows on road pointing the direction each lane should turn.

## **“MDOT Issues”**

- Speed and signage
- Dangerous intersections – Route 17 and Rockville Street
- Reduce speed earlier on Route 17 as you come down the hill to the intersection light
- Reduce speed earlier on Route 90 from Tolman Pond to Route 17
- Reduce speed on Pascal Avenue and Union Street
- Address the intersection of Union Street and Russell Avenue – clarify which lane has right-of-way