

Select Board Sidelines

July 14, 2021

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in the Sidelines are the individual thoughts of the Select Board member.

Submitted by Bill Lombardi

One would think that Select Board and Town Committee activity would slow down after the Budget & Warrants and Town Meeting activities were completed. Doesn't seem to be universally true this summer.

Broadband: The committee is doing great work exploring options for comprehensive connectivity for the Town. They are working with LCI/Tidewater and the Midcoast Internet Development Corporation, a coalition led by Camden & Rockport. At the Select Board meeting of July 6 John Gibbons presented the case for both options. You can view his comprehensive presentation on the Town's website under Town Hall Streams. My understanding is that a recommendation as to which avenue the Town ought to pursue will be communicated within the next month or two.

Thompson Community Center: The Future of the Thompson Community Center Committee has also been very active. They have heard presentations from Siemens, Mike Mullins and Penquis as well as a partial physical inspection of the building by Siemens. A letter from the Town's Attorney with pertinent questions regarding the operation of the Center to the Executive Director of the center has gone unanswered. For taxpayers interested in this topic, the committee's meeting of July 7 is also on Town Hall Streams. Due to technical difficulties, I recommend that you fast forward to about the 53rd minute of the recording where the actual meeting begins.

Town Owned Properties: I am looking forward to information to be presented by Jay Feyler, Town Manager at our next Select Board meeting on July 20 regarding town owned properties. This topic started with the discussion a few weeks ago about the possible sale of a 25-acre parcel on Stone Road. (Some may know it as the former sludge site.) There was a brief discussion of how we could utilize these town owned properties to be congruent with the Comprehensive Plan for recreational activities or housing. Generally, the question is how does the Town maximize the utilization of these properties. I am looking forward to discussing and exploring what is possible.

Ageing in Place: A successful summer "take away" luncheon took place on June 24 with 39 seniors enjoying the summer fare. Perhaps, at our next luncheon in the Fall, we can do an in person, sit down meal? At our last Select Board meeting, Holly Gartmeyer-DeYoung was approved as a new committee member. The committee will not be meeting in July & August.

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Sestercentennial Committee: Yes, the Town's 250th anniversary is in 2024. If you are interested in being a part of the planning, please fill out the Statement of Interest form found on the Town's website or obtained at the Town Office.