

THE GOULDSBORO NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2010

SELECTMEN/TOWN MANAGER

The Board of Selectmen and staff of the Gouldsboro Town Office are shocked and saddened about the closing of Stinsons Seafood. This plant has been a part of our community for well over 100 years, surviving 2 world wars, the great depression and all else that came along. Our hearts go out to all the employees losing jobs. We plan to diligently work with Bumble Bee and various State agencies to do everything possible to assist in the wake of this devastating development.

Future MDOT Projects in Gouldsboro

The Maine Department of Transportation Project Manager, Emory Lovely, officially informed us of plans to design and advertise their construction project for the summer of 2010. The improvements will begin .13 miles south of Armory Court and extend northerly 1.5 miles to end, approximately .11 miles south of the Clinic Road. This project will finally address the much-needed repairs to the South and West ends of Route 186/South Gouldsboro Road.

2010/2011 Budget

March is a busy month for putting together the preliminary budget. Department budget hearings are scheduled as follows and held at the Town Office in Prospect Harbor:

Police Department, Fire Department and Public Works: Wednesday, March 24th @ 6:00PM.

Administration, Town Property, Services and Committees: Wednesday, March 31st @ 6:00PM.

New Well and Septic System Grants

If your well does not produce safe and adequate water or your septic system is failing, you may be eligible for state grant monies. The Hancock County Planning Commission and the Washington Hancock Community Agency are applying for a multi-town grant for well and septic tank replacement in April 2010 for income-eligible households. These income guidelines are on a sliding scale according to family size. For example, the maximum income for a family of four must not exceed \$44,000. The State of Maine will make a decision as to which towns are funded later this spring.

Community Forum Discusses Survey Results and "Preferred Future" for Gouldsboro

About two dozen Gouldsboro residents gathered for a public potluck supper and community forum on February 9th to review results of a survey offering perspectives on the future of Gouldsboro. The survey was conducted by Ron Beard, of University of Maine Cooperative Extension, who interviewed 25 residents in the summer and fall and also collected voluntary on-line survey results.

Discussion at the forum focused on six broad themes:

- the need to hear from and involve younger members of the community, perhaps by making good linkages with the Peninsula School and creative uses of web and email to create better two way communication between town officials, volunteers and community members;
- the importance of DSL for local business and for families (progress noted on this topic through meetings between town officials and representatives of AXIOM Technologies of Machias);
- the idea of the creation of a local community foundation, through which money donations might form an endowment and the interest from this foundation could fund community projects;
- concern about the future of Stinson's factory, currently employing approximately 125 employees;
- the possibility, now that both Winter Harbor and Gouldsboro have survey results pointing to more town to town collaboration, a meeting be set up to explore possibilities;
- the idea of follow-up "peninsula-wide" community meetings, building on the past success of Schoodic Futures, to frame exploration of common opportunities.

We would like to thank Jason and Diane Knowles of Gouldsboro Storage, for continuing to allow us the free use of a storage unit. Don't know where all that extra stuff comes from! Very much appreciated!

Thank you Tom Allen for picking up the roadside trash and helping our community!

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Permit Activity 01/21/2010 – 02/19/2010

Clamshell, LLC	1 Clamshell Road	Residence Renewal
R. Moores	56 Chicken Mill Pond Road	Residence
G. Emond	1057 Route 1	Driveway
L. Koehling	164 Pond Road	Storage Trailer
L. Morse	21 Gouldsboro Point Road	Mobile Home

ASSESSORS OFFICE

The State Legislature has lowered the amount of the homestead exemption from \$13,000 to \$10,000 in assessed valuation for the 2010 tax year. This lowers the amount of the exemption by about \$24 per account in Gouldsboro. This action was taken to help offset the anticipated drop in state revenues. The state is required to pay back half of the loss in revenues resulting from the loss of taxable value caused by the homestead exemption. There were 573 homestead exemptions in the 2009-2010 commitment. The state saves half of the \$24 per account or about \$6,800. The Town of Gouldsboro will be reimbursed about \$22,000 in 2010 rather than \$29,700.

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Monday March 1st at 7:00 PM in the Town Office. The major agenda item is the review of Transfer Station costs and development of recommendations as requested by the Board of Selectmen for cost reductions. In addition, the committee will be reviewing the past 12 months of the "tag-for-bag" program. It should be noted that since the first of this year the volume of materials (trash) sent to PERC reflects a 44% reduction over the average of the same timeframe in 2008 and 2009.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Things are changing at www.gouldsborotown.com. We will be adding pictures, maintain up to date burn permit information,(now is the time to burn that brush pile, don't wait until spring), and downloadable forms for citizens to log all medications and allergies in case they need emergency care. Four new EMT'S have joined the department in the last year to help with the almost 200 emergency calls we respond to every year. Volunteers are always welcome, there are many in house jobs for people, you don't have to fight fires to be a part of a good team and give back to your community.

DORCAS LIBRARY

Remember that the library is now open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00-7:00 PM. Although the library is open more hours, the closing time on these days is one hour earlier than before. On Saturdays the library is open from 1:00-4:00 PM.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

The first draft of the Town Budget is scheduled to be presented at the March 18th Board of Selectmen's meeting . The first in a series of budget committee meetings starts Wednesday March 24th at 6:00 PM and continues every Wednesday thru April 14th. As scheduled the final budget should be ready for presentation to the Board of Selectmen at their April 15th meeting . As always all Budget meetings are public and everyone is urged to attend and share their opinions.

ELECTIONS

Nomination papers will be available March 15, 2010 at the Town office for the Annual Town Meeting Election to be held June 8, 2010.

2 Vacancies - Board of Selectmen - 3 year term

3 Vacancies - Planning Board Members - 3 Year Term

Completed nomination papers must be filed with the Town Clerk no later than 4:00 PM – April 23rd , 2010.

TOWN CLERK

Just for general information, on your yellow vehicle registration, there are two columns on the right, the figure in the left hand column is the excise tax that you paid to register the vehicle.

WEEKLY TRASH PICK-UP

A REMINDER: Your garbage must be curbside by 7:00 AM on Thursday morning for the weekly pick up. Also a garbage tag needs to be in evidence to ensure that your trash is taken.

PENINSULA SCHOOL

Thursday, March 4th at 6:30 PM at the Peninsula School there is a meeting to discuss community wishes/ideas for this upcoming school budget during these difficult financial times.

SCHOODIC EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

On March 13th we will present Bonnie Newsom "Legends, Land Use and Layers of Time" at The 2nd Saturday Lecture, 7:00 PM and on March 26 - "Muffins at Moore: A Community Conversation" - Join us for coffee and muffins, 8:30 AM. Both events will take place at the Moore Auditorium at the Schoodic Education and Research Center.

RECREATIONAL NEWS

The Jones Pond Recreation area is ready for ice skating—the Gouldsboro Town Office and Recreation Committee have made sure the area is all prepared for those wanting to use skates received for Christmas gifts, or a dusty old pair that is crying to be taken out of the closet. Come down to Jones Pond and have a ball. This area is to be used at your own risk.

LAST FRIDAY COFFEEHOUSE

Friday, March 26th, 7:30 PM at Hammond Hall come and see Jennifer Armstrong presenting Songs, Tunes and Tales from the Folk Tradition at the Last Friday Coffeehouse presented by Schoodic Arts for All. Suggested donation for this event is \$15 - Kids under 12 admitted free - Great desserts available!! No reservations required. Doors open at 6:30 PM. For further info, call 963-7670, 963-2569, or go to www.schoodicarts.org & www.jenniferarmstrong.com

"Nature does nothing uselessly." -Aristotle

RECYCLING WILL BE PICKED UP EVERY WEDNESDAY
PLEASE HAVE CURBSIDE BY 7:00 AM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & MEETINGS (March 2010)

Monday	1 st	Solid Waste Meeting - Town Office	6:00 PM
Tuesday	2 nd	Planning Board - Town Office	7:00 PM
Thursday	4 th	Selectmens Meeting - Town Office	6:00 PM
Thursday	4 th	School Budget Ideas Meeting - Peninsula School	6:30 PM
Wednesday	10 th	Shellfish Meeting - Town Office	7:00 PM
Thursday	11 th	Buildings and Grounds Meeting - Town Office	8:15 AM
Thursday	11 th	Neighborhood Watch Meeting – Fire Station 1	6:00 PM
Saturday	13 th	2 nd Saturday Lecture- Moore Auditorium	7:00 PM
Monday	15 th	Local School Advisory Committee - Peninsula School	6:30 PM
Tuesday	16 th	Planning Board – Town Office	7:00 PM
Wednesday	17 th	Harbor Committee Meeting - Town Office	7:00 PM
Wednesday	17 th	Peninsula School Parent Group - Peninsula School	6:00 PM
Thursday	18 th	Selectmens Meeting/ Budget Committee -Town Office	6:00 PM
Wednesday	24 th	Budget Committee Meeting – Town Office	6:00 PM
Friday	26 th	Last Friday Coffee House - Hammond Hall	7:30 PM
Friday	26 th	"Muffins at Moore:A Community Conversation"- Moore Auditorium	8:30 AM
Wednesday	31 st	Budget Committee Meeting - Town Office	6:00 PM

**GOULDSBORO NEWS
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