

Submitted By:  
JMY

TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
October 23, 2002

Approved By:

## MINUTES

*Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Selectmen Rice and Douglass present*

1. Review and Sign:

- Accounts payable, payroll warrants and minutes

**All items reviewed and signed.**

2. Meetings and Hearings:

- Popham Parking Meeting (**see attached minutes**)
- Coffin Engineering- Center Pond

**Meeting held with Ed Coffin (Coffin Engineering), Curtis Doughty (Road Commissioner), Jim Totman (Fire Chief) and Tom Totman (Center Pond Alewife Committee.) The preliminary plans for repairs to the causeway were reviewed with the only issue being the design of the concrete stairs. Mr. Coffin and the Road Commissioner will review the plans again and come to an agreement on the stairs. Once the final plan is approved Mr. Coffin will apply for DEP permits and then the contract will go out to bid. It was determined that the best time for the repairs would be August of 2003 when the water in Center Pond is at its lowest and the alewives are not running. T/A will give DMR an update on the repair status and ask them to continue holding our grant money for the fishway redesign. There is a possibility that the fishway redesign could be done at the same time as the causeway repairs.**

- GA Maximums Public Hearing

**Hearing held at 8:00 p.m. There was no input from the public. Selectmen voted to accept the maximums as required by State DHS.**

3. Discuss the following issues

- Road Striping

**Tabled until the Road Commissioner gets an estimate on single striping vs. double.**

- Date for X-MAS Open House

**Approved for Friday, December 20th.**

- Request from the Phippsburg Cub Scout Pack to sell X-MAS Trees at the Town Hall Parking Lot on December 14th.

**Selectmen approved.**

- Attendance at the Shellfish Meeting

**No one will attend.**

- DMR shoreline survey and Brigham's Cove pollution issues

**T/A gave an update on the pollution issues. The four possible pollution problems in Brighams Cove will be corrected prior to May of 2003, which will allow Brigham's Cove to be opened year round for shellfish harvesting. DMR is currently conducting a shoreline survey in the Atkins Bay, Kennebec River area and has found numerous wastewater pollution sources. They will provide a list to the Code Enforcement Officer for his action.**

- Selectmen's Meeting on Oct 30th?

**There will be no meeting. Selectman Wells will be in Montana and Selectman Rice will be at the Chamber of Commerce "Meet the Candidates" night.**

- Elections setup on November 5th

**T/A requested help from the Selectmen for setup. No further action taken.**

4. Review the following items

- Town profile for Commercial Fishing Study Access

**Reviewed. T/A will make copies for the Harbor Commission, Town Landing Committee, and Comp Plan Committee. No further action taken.**

- Tax Policy and Economic Development in Maine from U of M.

**Selectmen will review. No action taken.**

5. Discuss attendance at the following meetings, courses, and seminars

- Basic General Assistance

**Selectman Douglass may attend.**

6. Miscellaneous

- Taylor Fine

**The \$32,500.00 court ordered fine has been received. Reimbursement for professional fees is forthcoming.**

*Adjourned:* 8:00 p.m.

(Final)  
**Minutes from Popham Parking Meeting**  
October 23, 2002

Meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Dave Allen (DOT)  
Gerald Walsh (DOT)  
Brian Murray (Popham Park Ranger)  
Herb Hartman (State Parks)  
Steve Curtis (State Parks)  
Allen Douglass (Selectman)  
Mike Rice (Selectman)  
Mike Young (Town Administrator)  
John Skroski (Chief of Police)  
Jim Totman (Fire Chief)  
Curtis Doughty (Road Commissioner)  
Les Smith (Road Committee)  
Clifford Newell (Road Committee)  
Dick Palmer (Road Committee)  
Bob Butler (Road Committee)  
Curtis Doughty (Road Commissioner)  
Tracey Percy (Business Owner)  
Dave Percy (Business owner and Park Ranger)  
Leila Percy (Popham Resident)

Mike Rice - Presented an overview of the past meetings and efforts that had been made this year to improve the parking problems.

Brian Murray - The Park had tried the following steps that had been agreed upon in the spring:

- Opened the Park one hour earlier (still didn't stop the line up of cars)
- Used the entire south-parking lane as an entry lane into the Park until the park was full – at which time the lane reverted into parking. The lane division worked OK, but need to expand the signs or mark the pavement to reinforce the traffic pattern.
- Erected an “additional parking” sign directing traffic to private parking further down the road.

Tracey Percy - The “additional parking” signs worked very well.

Bob Butler - The parking problems had improved over last year. However, the use of signs and cones for the entry/parking lane was confusing – definitely need better signs. He also stated that he didn't see the Park Rangers doing anything when the cars were stopped on Route 209. He said they should be trained for traffic control.

Brian Murray - There were only 19 days during the past summer that the park was full and the gate was closed. Last year it was 33 days. They only had one real bad day. The Park had 169,968 visitors this year (to date) which is 5% down from last year. The average decline in statewide parks this year was 7%.

Dave Allen - The entry lane signs should be “black on white” instead of “black on yellow”, because it is an advisory sign. DOT can mark the lane correctly, but the problem is that it can be either marked as a travel lane or as a parking lane – but it can't be marked as both.

Clifford Newell – Recommended a double sign be used for the entry lane. One side would list a travel lane and the other a parking lane. The sign could be switched depending on the use of the lane.

Alan Douglass –Recommended a flip down sign rather than a double sign.

Dave Allen – The sign wouldn't comply with state guidelines; however - a roll up sign would work.

Brian Murray – The Rangers don't have the authority to force drivers to move cars on Route 209. The Rangers will try to persuade traffic to move, and if they have a problem they will contact the Chief of Police or Sheriff's Department.

Alan Douglass – Recommended pulling the “No Parking” signs on the north side of the road to allow parking and placing cones in the road at the beginning and ends of the area to caution drivers that pedestrians may be crossing. The Percys and Brian Murray were against the idea. There was some opposition to removing the signs.

Leila Percy – Recommended increasing the parking fines.

Clifford Newell – Recommended widening and flattening the south side of the road vs. the north side. This would be safer than having pedestrians crossing the road from the north side. This would make all the parking and walking area on the south side.

John Skroski – Recommended that the park have a surcharge that would be put towards increasing parking.

Jim Totman – Give it another chance next year. Things appeared to work well this year. He recommended that the Park approach the Popham Church because they have many parking spots. The Church could charge for parking.

Leila – Recommended planting bushes along the north side shoulder to keep vehicles from parking there.

Les Smith – Recommended that the old “No Parking” signs be replaced and perhaps sticking sticks in the ground along the north shoulder to keep vehicles from parking there. Dave Percy had issues with the current placement of them.

Jim Totman – Recommended not touching the north side. Snow used to drift very deep across the road in past years. The problem isn’t as bad now.

Mike Rice - Brought up parking fine discussion again. Jim Totman was against it as a business owner. Leila Percy and others did not want the fines increased.

Bob Butler - All increasing the fines will do is cause an increase in the number of nasty letters to the Town and State. He recommended allowing people to park on the north side and improve safety through the use of temporary speed cones.

Dave Allen – Even if the town removes the “No parking” signs , the state will not allow cars to park. There would be a liability issue and it would only exacerbate the problem. He also mentioned that the only way to have a “temporary” speed zone would be to have legislative action. Curtis Doughty asked how that would be done – based on a sunny day vs. a rainy day? Temporary signs (ie. cones) are not legal and can be a liability issue if a car is damaged by them – DOT will not allow them. DOT also will not allow barricades along the north side. A Yellow flashing pedestrian lights was explored. However, DOT will not fund it. Perhaps a cost share between the Town and Parks. Cost approximately \$18,000 per light. Alan Douglass recommended just one light on the marsh end. There was a side discussion on using two sawhorses with flashing lights at either end of the area. The lights would be battery/solar powered and much less expensive then the pedestrian lights. The Rangers could put them out when needed.

Jim Totman – Towing the illegally parked vehicles would be a problem.

Nowhere to store them.

Clifford Newell – The State Parks should take a spot on the south side and put in a small overflow parking area for 20 cars. Then stop people from coming into the Park if the parking is full. The State built a Park and created this problem with parking. They need to look into a parking lot expansion. Herb Hartman stated that there was no plan for a parking lot expansion - it is hard to justify for only 20 days of overflow.

Brian Murray - Stated that they have always historically let people in when the parking is full. Restricting parking keeps the capacity down.

### **Action Items**

#### **Park Manager**

- Open early again
- Continue two lane entrance
- Have better signs for entrance (flip-down or roll-out). No striping.
- Continue posting availability of additional parking
- Check with the Popham Church concerning overflow parking
- Check on the cost/procurement of sawhorses with yellow lights.

#### **DOT**

- Review methods for discouraging parking on north side of Rte 209
- Explore the cost of a flashing yellow pedestrian light.

#### **Town**

- Leave “No Parking” signs. Will check on condition and placement.
- Install a sign by the marsh which states “High Use Pedestrian Area – Please Slow Down”

#### **Misc**

- No ticket increase
- Will have another meeting during the winter
- Mike Young will get ticket statistics together

Adjourned at 7:15 p.m.