

**Minutes from meeting with  
State Senator Mayo  
and  
State Representative Percy  
3/5/03**

**1. Bike paths/paved shoulders along Main Road (Route 209) to Popham**

Discussion: The edges along the “wide” sections of Route 209 were not repaved when the road was and have deteriorated. The rest of Route 209 to Popham has no shoulders to speak of. Many people bike to Popham Beach State Park and it is very dangerous. We have discussed possibilities with the DOT – but funding is an issue. What other types of funding would be available?

Final: There is no funding at this time due to the State’s fiscal crisis. Senator Mayo recommended having a citizen participate on the RTAC 5 board (Les Smith?) Kate Dempsey, from Senator Allen’s Office, stated that she would look into federal funding for Bike Paths (wide shoulders.)

**2. Continuing Route 209 (Popham Road) as a “Major Collector” vs. a “Minor Collector.”**

Discussion: Currently the section of Route 209 that runs from the intersection with Route 216 to Fort Popham is a “Minor Collector” Road, which means that we have to cost share 1/3 for maintenance and upgrades with State DOT. Due to the summer traffic to the State Park we requested DOT to re-designate the road as a “Major Collector.” We were refused.

Final: Dead issue. State DOT has determined that this section of Route 209 does not meet the criteria of a “Major Collector.”

**3. Temporary speed limit decrease for Popham Road (209) along Popham State Park**

Discussion: We would like to have a decrease in speed limit on this section of road during busy State Park days because of pedestrian traffic. We were told by DOT that this could not happen (see attached Popham meeting minutes.)

Final: There are only two temporary speed limits in the State. They have to be passed by the Legislature. Senator Mayo will introduce a bill in 2004.

**4. Support of parking issues on Popham Road (Route 209) along the State park.**

Discussion: We have had several meetings between State Parks, DOT, Popham residents and DEP seeking solutions to parking issues along this stretch of road (see attached Popham meeting minutes.) Would like your support in this endeavor.

Final: The funding for an additional parking area within Popham State Park is not in the budget. We should keep in contact with the Dept. of State Parks and Recreation to keep this issue on the front burner in case some money becomes available later. Senator Mayo also informed us that the State Park user fees were going to double. It was recommended that someone contact the Popham Chapel for use of their parking lot for overflow parking. According to Representative Percy, the State Park Manager has already done this and the issue will be discussed at the May Chapel Trustees meeting. She will let us know the specifics about the meeting so that the Selectmen can attend. The State Parks Dept. also recommended that the road shoulders be hydro-seeded to keep vehicles from parking along them. Some doubt exists if that would work.

**5. Lowering of the Speed Limit at the Center where Parker Head Road and Main Road (Route 209) intersect.**

Discussion: This section of road is very dangerous because of the number of driveways and the location of the Center Store. We have had accidents and many near misses at this intersection. We have requested that DOT reduce the speed limit twice and have been turned down both times.

Final: State DOT will conduct another study. However, they have already recommended that the bushes and cedar trees be cut down or trimmed back along the corner to provide better line of sight and that the Center Store have less curb cuts.

**6. More money from State Park revenue sharing**

Discussion: We currently receive only \$2,000.00 to help with Parking Enforcement and \$12,770.00 for Park Revenue Sharing. Can this be increased?

Final: Funding will hopefully continue at the same rate and will not increase in the near future.

**7. Request a list of State troopers assigned to Sagadahoc County.**

Discussion: At this time we do not believe that any troopers are assigned to Sagadahoc County. We would like increased patrols by the State Police.

Final: Two troopers reside in Sagadahoc County. However, State Troopers are no longer specifically assigned to each county. Most of their patrols are spent on 95 and 295. Senator Mayo recommended that we ask the County to enter into a "Call Share Agreement" with the State Police for coverage. We will discuss this with the Sheriff and County Commissioners.

## **8. DMR personal cutbacks and affects on our fishing industry**

Discussion: DMR has cut out the four area biologists and most of the water quality employees. Our fishing industry depends on their support. For instance – we have conditionally open Shellfish areas that help support over 40 harvesters. These areas require water sampling (which our harvesters do) and the testing of those samples (DMR.) DMR also conducts shoreline surveys to keep these areas open as well as possibly opening new areas. What will happen the next time “Red Tide” hits?

Final: This issue has been raised by many shore communities. Senator Mayo thinks that it will not be as bad as we contemplate. The State is holding a series of public hearings on the DMR personal cutbacks. Dick Lemont, Shellfish Chair, attended one of the hearings. He reported that most harvesters would like to see State Shellfish license fees increased to help continue funding the area biologists and lab personal.

## **9. Any cutbacks in Personnel for the Planning Office?**

Discussion: When we completed our Comprehensive Plan in 1990-1991 it was sent to the Planning Office. They returned it to us with some required corrections. Then, that part of the Planning Office was disbanded and the Comp Plan fell into a “big black hole.” Needless to say, it was never approved (the Town is part to blame for not having followed up on it) and when we went to rewrite it last year we discovered that were not eligible for any grant monies because the original plan was never approved by the State Planning Office. We have spent two years on our “new plan” and want to make sure that this does not happen again.

Final: Senator Mayo did not know if their would be any cutbacks in the section of the State Planning office that deals with Comprehensive Plans. He will continue to monitor it.

## **10. County has to house and transport State prisoners who violate probation.**

Discussion: We understand that the County has to house and transport prisoners who violate parole. Shouldn't this be a funding responsibility of the State?

Final: When Senator Mayo was a State Representative, he unsuccessfully tried co-sponsoring several bills which would have shifted some of the financial burden to the State. The County Commissioners Association should take the lead on this issue. The time to correct the inequity is when the state has adequate funding again.

## **11. Property tax relief in general**

Discussion: We are concerned with the amount of property taxes that our elderly and low-income families are paying. Most of our shoreline has being bought up by individuals who pay much more for the properties then we have them assessed for. This drives up property assessments. Many of these properties have been in the same family ownership for generations, but the owners can't afford the taxes. Also, since many of the

properties are owned by fishing families, waterfront access becomes an increasing issue as the properties are purchased and access to the shore is cut off.

Final: Many bills are being brought forward by legislatures. The Taxation Committee is reviewing them all and will probably recommend their own bill, which will be a combination of the ones they are reviewing.

## **12. Regionalization of services**

Discussion: What are some of the regionalization efforts going on? Will there be any monetary incentive from the State for implementing different types of regionalization?

Final: There is a Government Education proposal to reward schools and municipalities who merge different services such as bussing and school districts.

## **13. Other items discussed that were not listed on this Agenda:**

- Senator Mayo is sending a bill to the legislature that would increase the number of Sagadahoc County Commissioners from three to five. The two extra Commissioners would be “at large.” The bill will also require that the County have at least one budget hearing in each district.
- The Moses program from Inland Fisheries is still pending.
- Senator Mayo stated that there will be cuts in State Education Subsidies and Revenue Sharing. He expects that the next bi-annual shortfall will be between 1.2 and 1.3 billion. He explained that the State budget must be approved by 1/2 of both legislative bodies by March 31st or it would need a 2/3 vote afterwards. If the budget still did not pass the vote – it would become effective 90 days after the Legislature adjourns (September.)
- Selectman Douglass discussed EMS Licensing and recommended that the fees be increased. He also informed Senator Mayo that the Fire Service Training Office was a waste of taxpayers money as it provided very little service for the larger communities.