

Report on the Selectboard Meeting of October 14, 2025

Prepared by Alison Freeman

Note: These are not official minutes -- -- just notes taken by me. Official minutes will be available from the Town Office and will be posted on the Town web site following Board approval at the next meeting.

Please email me at news@singingbridge.net with any questions, comments, or requests to subscribe to the list. To unsubscribe, simply follow the instructions at the bottom of this email.

These notes, and the full agenda for the meeting, are available at SingingBridge.net as a PDF.

Recordings of Selectboard meetings are available on the Town's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@GeorgetownME>

The Meeting: The meeting was conducted as a Zoom hybrid. Selectboard Members Aria Ee and Katie Goodwin, Town Administrator Tyler Washburn, and Finance Director Mary McDonald were together in the Town Office. Selectboard Member Bronwen Tudor was on Zoom. There were 17, members of the public in attendance in person or on Zoom.

The minutes of the meeting of September 23, 2025 were approved. They will be posted on the Town website.

Most Important/Interesting Items: In my judgment, the following items were the most important things covered during the meeting.

- The Selectboard met with Jess Weller from the Conservation Commission to discuss the proposed Trail Permit Application. It was approved as adjusted after the discussion
- The Selectboard met with the Planning Board regarding Short Term Rental (STR). *The report is below.* After discussion the Selectboard directed the Planning Board to begin work on a DRAFT Short Term Rental ordinance

Correspondence:

The Town Administrator reported on correspondence received. For a complete listing of this correspondence, see the Meeting Agenda on the Town website. Members of the public may come to the Town Office to read the correspondence items listed here.

The most interesting items were:

- Town of Georgetown – Volunteer Opportunities Notice
- Georgetown Central School – Open House Postponed
- Maine Municipal Association – Municipal Communications Essentials Class
- MidCoast Council of Governments – Monthly Newsletter
- Georgetown Age Friendly – Go Bag Information
- University of Maine System – Lacrosse Clinic
- Galen Cole Family Foundation – 250th Celebration – Flags

Public Comment:

- Dave Polito commented on the discussion of the Transfer Station schedule for 2026. He said he is comfortable with a change to being CLOSED on Saturday 7/4 and OPEN on Sunday 7/5 and Monday 7/6/2026

Upcoming Events/Dates:

Planning Board – Wednesday, October 15th – 7pm HYBIRD

TOPMB – Tuesday, October 21st – 4pm HYBRID

Select Board – Tuesday, October 28th – 6pm HYBRID

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 6 PM on Tuesday, October 28th. The public is welcome to attend in person or on ZOOM. E-mail gtwnme@hotmail.com for the ZOOM code to join the meeting no later than 2pm that day. The agenda and meeting packet are available, usually the Monday before a meeting, at:

https://www.georgetownme.com/?page_id=6611

Prepared and distributed by Alison Freeman

SELECT BOARD, TOWN OF GEORGETOWN

Agenda for Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Hybrid meeting held via ZOOM for public and at the Town Office for SB Members who wish.

Please email gtwnme@hotmail.com for the ZOOM login info.

***indicates copy provided to Select Board**

***INDICATES THE NEED FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE**

Call to order:

Public comment:

Items to be added to the agenda (if approved by chair and board):

Scheduled appointments:

- 6:00pm – Meeting with Jess Weller to discuss proposed Trail Permit Application and any appropriate action*
- 6:30pm – Meeting with the Planning Board re: Short Term Rental Findings and any appropriate action*

Minutes:

- Minutes of September 23, 2025*

Review:

- September 30 Financials*

Assessing items:

- Open Space Application from Tim Zorach*

Correspondence:

- Town of Georgetown – Volunteer Opportunities Notice*
- Georgetown Central School – Open House Postponed*
- Maine Municipal Association – Municipal Communications Essentials Class*
- MidCoast Council of Governments – Monthly Newsletter*
- Georgetown Age Friendly – Go Bag Information*
- University of Maine System – Lacrosse Clinic*
- Galen Cole Family Foundation – 250th Celebration – Flags*

Continuing Items:

- Receipts for pumping:
 - Spence, 6 Town Landing Road
- Maine Waste Discharge License *renewal* / transfer applications:
- Maine Waste Discharge License *approvals*:
- PBR / NRPA :

Board Member / Committee Updates:

- Ms. Tudor:
- Ms. Eee:
- Ms. Goodwin:

Town Administrator Update

Finance Director Update

Old Business:

New Business:

- Approval of TAN related documents ★
- Direction on donation letters ★

Items For Signature:

- TAN related documents
- Cemetery Deed

Public comment:

Executive Session:

- Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(A) an Executive Session regarding Personnel

Adjournment:

UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND DATES TO REMEMBER...

Conservation Commission – Monday, October 13th – 6pm ZOOM
Select Board – Tuesday, October 14th – 6pm HYBRID
Planning Board – Wednesday, October 15th – 7pm HYBIRD
TOPMB – Tuesday, October 21st – 4pm HYBRID
Select Board – Tuesday, October 28th – 6pm HYBRID

Planning Board STR Research/Update to the Select Board - Oct. 14 2025

Executive Summary:

- The PB believes a STR registry will benefit the town.
- An ordinance would specify requirements, and how the registration process works.
- To limit over reach, the PB recommends a business-friendly self-compliance approach.

Background: Georgetown has a tradition of seasonal rentals and more recently STR's. The Planning Board has discussed developing a STR ordinance and an accompanying STR registry. Many communities in Maine and across the US have developed Short Term Rental (STR) regulations to ensure safety standards, protect community resources and character, and preserve the availability of long-term housing. The PB researched 20 towns:

- 10 have SRT regulations
- 8 have no STR regulations
- 1 is in-process of developing an ordinance
- 1 is trying a second time, with less restrictions than the first

Town Input & Rationale: The board has wrestled with the question of whether Georgetown could use some type of STR regulation, and a town survey, with 487 respondents, showed:

- 44% of respondents live next to a STR.
- 10-15% of respondents indicated some issues (noise, traffic, trespassing).
- 68% were in favor of some level of regulation (254/375, not including 63 with no opinion).

A STR registry would allow Georgetown to better understand the local STR picture regarding their numbers, locations, and occupancy rates. (Data from AirDNA show that STR's make up 10% of the housing stock in town.) An STR ordinance would give the town a mechanism to structure a registry and address any unanticipated issues in the future.

Regulation: A STR ordinance would require all STR owners to register with the town. The registration process needs to be simple and the ordinance basic, and give all STR owners enough time to comply with the ordinance after they register.

Options for additional requirements include:

- Meeting State building codes, specifically for safety. This can be through an inspection program or one where owners self-verify.
- Occupancy limits based on the number of bedrooms and septic capacity.
- Emergency local contact person.
- Proof of liability insurance.
- Good Neighbor document to be posted onsite - to address safety (in case of fire or emergency), waste management (who, when, how), parking, and expectations (i.e. noise, dogs, water use, and septic risks).

Concerns:

- Response time for emergency services - as many renters don't know their addresses.
- Overuse of water - that may result in "theft" from surrounding wells, and the potential for salt-water intrusion.
- Overloaded septic systems - some local STRs advertise occupancies that are greater than what a septic system is sized for, increasing vulnerability for bacterial release with risk to aquaculture and swimming areas.
- Need to verify whether there is any town liability - If we register and regulate in some fashion - could the town be liable if something goes awry in a STR without sufficient insurance. Or whether an agreement by the owner to assume liabilities will be sufficient.
- Enforcement - Self-certification is recommended, to lessen additional demands on code enforcement, with engagement still necessary when there are complaints or violations.
- Process management - The Town Office may not be staffed for the influx of additional work, most significantly at the registry start-up (reviewing applications, assisting some townspeople to complete these, fielding calls, database entry, generating and presenting stats). Survey responses suggest that approx. 90-120 registrations could be expected.

THE ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION &
THE GEORGETOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PRESENT

A WINTER MOTH PRESENTATION

An Overview of the Winter Moth Problem in the Midcoast
by Tom Schmeelk, Maine Forest Service Entomologist

Wintermoth Operophtera brumata



Fig. 1
Male Wintermoth



Fig. 2
Female Wintermoth



Fig. 3
Wintermoth Caterpillar

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH AT 6PM
GEORGETOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
20 BAYPOINT RD, GEORGETOWN



This presentation will be hybrid.
To Register for the Zoom Link, please visit:
<https://bit.ly/WinterMothsNov12>



Essential Rides for Everyday Living

Georgetown has a volunteer transportation program for older residents without other transportation options. This free program is all about getting neighbors to where they need to go. Local volunteers from your community are ready to drive a registered rider to different destinations such as the grocery store, medical appointments and social activities.

To register or to learn more about these rides Georgetown residents please get in touch with James Peavey at 207-387-0440 or email gtagefriendly@gmail.com.

This program would not be possible without the continuous support from the Bath Police Department, AARP Maine, UMaine Center on Aging/Lifelong Maine, the Maine Cabinet on Aging, and Age-Friendly Communities of the Lower Kennebec.



**Where every ride and
everyone matters.
Age-Friendly Georgetown**

Community Navigation

Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency
and Board of Health

What can a Community Navigator do for you?

Life can get overwhelming, but you don't have to figure it out alone. A Community Navigator is here to guide you, connect you with the right resources, and empower you to be self-sustaining.

Serving the towns of:

Arrowsic

Bath

Bowdoin

Bowdoinham

Georgetown

Phippsburg

Richmond

Topsham

West Bath

Woolwich



SAGADAHOC COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH

A Community Navigator can help you find:

Food & clothing
Housing & shelter
Recovery support
Childcare

Heat assistance
Transportation
Home repairs
And more!



Call our help line: **207-449-0185**



Or email us at:
mhymbaugh@sagadahoccountyme.gov



WATER TESTING DELAYED IN ARROWSIC & GEORGETOWN

Due to a delay in grant funding, we need to postpone our water sampling program until Summer 2026. We apologize for any inconveniences that this may cause and appreciate the great response to the well survey we have had thus far.

WELL SURVEYS ARE STILL BEING ACCEPTED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.GTOWNCONSERVATION.COM



Georgetown Community Center's

Annual Holiday Craft Fair

Sunday, November 30th, 2025

11 AM – 2PM

*For more information, or to reserve a table,
please reach out through our Facebook page
or email Angie at fiveislandsang@yahoo.com.
(Table fee will be \$20. Cash or check that
day, or mail a check to P.O. Box 103,
Gtown; Craft Fair in the memo.)*

Limited space available.

Handcrafted goods only.





Georgetown Historical Society

20 Bay Point Road, Georgetown, Maine 04548
207-371-9200 georgetownhistorical@gmail.com

GHS hours: Wednesdays 10 – 5 and Saturdays 10 – 1

Celebrate! 50 Years, 50 Treasures: Selections from the GHS Collections

An exhibit which takes visitors back through our island's history –
from the current day to pre-colonial Indigenous habitation.



May 24 through November 1, 2025



Join us as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of
GHS and The Georgetown Tide.



Home Energy Help Desk



Get Answers to Your Questions:

- Where Should I Start??
- How to Save \$
- Home Efficiency
- Utility Bills
- Heating & Cooling
- Insulation

First Saturday of each month
Sept 6th, Oct 4th, Nov 1st, Dec 6th
at Patten Free Library Lobby 10am-12pm

*This program is presented by the Bath Climate Action Commission
in partnership with the Patten Free Library*



October 4
at Patten Free Library



October 25th
At the MerryMeeting Adult
Education Topsham



November 15
Bath
Habitat for Humanity
ReStore



December 6th
at the
Curtis Memorial Library

Why Replace when you can repair?

A Repair Cafe brings together a community of fixers willing to educate people so that they can repair their everyday items rather than throw them out

All events held on Saturday Mornings
10 A.M. till 12:30 P.M.

Our Repair Cafe will have experts able to repair:

- Electronics
- Computers
- Mending
- Small appliances
- Wooden Furniture
- Book Repair
- Leather Repairs
- Knife Sharpening
- Bike Repair

**We are always looking for
additional volunteers, if you
are interested call Curtis
Library!**

Questions? Please call the Curtis library at 725-5242 ext 4

WE NEED YOU... TO SERVE ON A TOWN COMMITTEE!

Harbor Committee – Full Member

The Harbor Committee convenes approximately six times per year. This committee works closely with the Harbormaster and is responsible for overseeing matters related to the harbor, moorings, ensuring proper management and addressing any issues that may arise.

Solid Waste Management Committee – Full Member

The Solid Waste Management Committee (SWMC) meets monthly. Its primary role is to oversee operations at the Transfer Station, ensuring that solid waste is managed efficiently and in compliance with state/local regulations.

Planning Board – One Alternate

The Planning Board holds meetings twice each month. Working closely with the Code Enforcement Officer, the Planning Board is tasked with overseeing new permits and ensuring compliance with Town Ordinances.

Financial Advisory Committee – Two Alternates

The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) meets several times per month from January to April. The committee's main responsibility is to work on the Town Budget, providing financial oversight and recommendations during the budget planning season.

If you are interested in serving, please contact the Town Office for more information at 207-371-2820. Applications are on the Town Website (on the Forms & Applications tab).