

St. George Annual Town Report



2014

Telephone Numbers

Town

Town Office	372-6363
Fire Department [24 hours]	9-1-1
Ambulance [24 hours]	9-1-1
Animal Control Officer	372-6363
Code Enforcement Officer	372-6363
Harbor Master	372-6363
Plumbing Inspector	372-6363
Jackson Memorial Library	372-8961

School

St. George School	372-6312
Supt. of Schools, RSU #13	596-6620

County

Knox County Sheriff's Department	594-5656
Registry of Deeds	594-0422
Registry of Probate	594-0427

State

State Police	1-800-452-4664
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House District #48

Hon. Charles B Kruger	354-8928
37 Green Street	
Thomaston, ME 04861	
	<i>e-mail</i> cbkruger@myfairpoint.net
	RepChuck.Kruger@legislature.maine.gov

Senate District #22

State Senator David Miramant	236-4845
via e-mail	davemiramant@gmail.com

Other Ways to Contact Us

Mail: P. O. Box 131, Tenants Harbor, ME 04860

Town Office FAX Number: 372-8954

Web Site: www.stgeorgemaine.com

In Person: 3 School Street, Tenants Harbor, Maine

Annual Report of the Town of St. George

for the Fiscal Year
beginning July 1, 2014
ending June 30, 2015

TOWN MEETING – SELECTMEN - TOWN MANAGER

FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Cover Photo
Entrance to the St George School
Courtesy of Sonja Schmanska

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DEDICATION

Town Education Committee & The Withdrawal Committee

Town Education Committee members

**Terry Driscoll
Don Choquette
Jennifer Garrett
Margot Kelley
Sonja Schmanska**

**Eric Waters
Charmarie Blaisdell
Tammy Willey
Tracy Leavitt
Shasta Minery**

Withdrawal Committee members

**Bill Reinhardt, Chairperson
Terry Driscoll
Jim Graf
Sherm Hoyt**

The Select Board dedicates this year's town report to two special committees and their members. The Town Education Committee was officially formed on May 23, 2011. They worked very hard in reviewing the educational offerings for our children. In June 2013 the Withdrawal Committee was authorized to prepare a plan for withdrawal from RSU #13. Both committees spent many hours working towards what is best for the education of our children.

It is our honor to dedicate this year's town report to these hardworking committees.

TOWN OFFICIALS

Selectmen & Assessors

William S Reinhardt – Chairperson, Resigned 12/2
Richard Bates, Chairperson
Russell Montgomery
Marguerite Cutroni
Tammy Willey

Town Office Staff

John M. Falla.....Town Manager
Timothy C. Polky.....Assistant to the Manager
Margaret J.C. Black.....Office Manager
Patricia St. Clair.....Clerk/Secretary
Beth A. Smith.....Administrative Assistant
Cherie A Yattaw.....Planning Secretary/Assessing Clerk

Fire Department Officers

Timothy C. Polky, Chief
Christopher Leavitt, 1st Assistant
Michael Smith, Sr., Deputy
Larry Smith, Jr., 2nd Assistant

Harbor Master

David P. Schmanska, Harbor Master
Bradley Rackliff, Deputy Gerry Cushman, Deputy

Code Enforcement & Plumbing Inspections

Terry Brackett, Code Enforcement Officer & Local Plumbing Inspector
Timothy C Polky, Deputy LPI & Deputy CEO

Director of Parks & Recreation

Benjamin Vail

Animal Control Officer

Robert J Polky

Transfer Station Staff

Eben Polky
Robert Haskell
James Benner

BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

	Term Expires		Term Expires
Board of Selectmen		Scholarship Award Committee	
vacancy	2015	vacancy	2016
Marguerite Cutroni	2016	vacancy	2016
Tammy Willey	2016	Frederic Carey	2014
Richard Bates, Chair	2017	William S Reinhardt	2014
Wayne Sawyer	2017	Rev. Walden Chandler	2015
R.S.U. #13		Clam Committee	
Sherman Hoyt	2015	Frank Fernands	2016
George Emery	2016	Sherman Hoyt	2014
		Steve Taylor	2015
Planning Board		Comprehensive Planning Committee	
Raymond Emerson	2016	James Gregg	2016
Mary K Hewlett	2017	Amy Morey	2017
William R. Hickey, Chair	2017	Joshua McPhail	2017
James Graf	2015	Rebekah Milton	2015
Stephen Adams	2015	~ vacancy ~	2015
Jane Brown, alt.	2015	Carl Schwab, alt.	2014
Charles Christensen, alternate	2015	Dorothy Wourman, alt.	2014
Board of Appeals		Solid Waste & Recycling Committee	
Richard Cohen	2016	Beverly Emerson	2016
Steve N Miller	2017	Deborah Wheelock, Chair	2017
Frederick Carey	2017	Kathryn Johanson	2017
George K. Rizkalla, Jr.	2015	Jane Bracy	2015
Mark Bartholomew	2015	Wendy Carr	2015
vacancy, alt.	2015	Ann Marie Merrill, alt.	2015
vacancy, alt.	2015	Raymond Emerson, alt.	2015
Budget Committee		Recreation Committee	
Kenneth C Oelberger	2016	Meghan Miller	2015
Susan F. Ellis	2016	Raymond Upham III	2015
Peter Lubs	2017	Craig Gauthier	2015
Suzanne Hall	2017	Gary Minery	2015
John Rasmussen	2015	Joanna Montgomery	2015
Elizabeth May, alt	2015	Ann Hoppe	2015
Earl Ludman, alt.	2015	Michelle Gill	2015
Coastal Waters Mgmt Board		Conservation Commission	
Glenn Hall	2016	Kenneth C Oelberger	2016
Michael Cushman	2016	Dan Verrillo	2017
Joshua Miller, Chair	2017	Leslie Hyde	2017
Richard Vermuelen	2015	Jean Hewitt, Chair	2015
Daniel Morris	2015	Jonathan Coggeshall	2015
Frederick Carey, alt.	2015	Ingrid Mroz , alt.	2015
William Mroz, alt.	2015	Ryan LeShane, alt	2015
Knox Dispatch Advisory Committee		Addressing Committee	
Timothy Polky – Fire Dept	2015	Timothy Polky	2015
- Vacancy - EMS	2015	Vacancy	2015
Christopher Leavitt– EMA	2015	John Falla	2015

THANKS FOR ALL THE TIME AND ENERGY YOU GIVE
TO MAKE ST. GEORGE THE COMMUNITY THAT IT IS !

SELECT BOARD REPORT

As always, the work of the Select Board this past year was divided into two areas: the regularly recurring activities and the special issues. In both areas we were very fortunate to have been supported and advised by a dedicated town staff and volunteers on boards, committees and commissions.

The regularly recurring activities include approving warrants and expenditures, monitoring the town's financial status, overseeing the annual audit, reviewing and revising the Policy Manual, and responding to citizens' questions and concerns. The board has met over 35 times this year, with the public always welcome, but unfortunately seldom present. The annual Town Meeting is not the only time you can participate in the town's government - please join us and contribute at our regular meetings.

The most significant of the special issues this year was undoubtedly associated with the withdrawal from RSU#13. Building on the strong foundations of the Education and Withdrawal Committees' work, the Town approved the School Administrative ordinance; then, after the public vote to approve withdrawal in December, we held a Special Town Meeting to approve the Transitional Budget for the new municipal school unit.

Another special issue has been the effort to purchase the property adjacent to the north-west side of the Public Landing in Port Clyde, in order to secure the Town more waterfront opportunities. Based on recommendations by the Coastal Waters Management Board and the Harbor Master, the Town negotiated to buy the property, subject to approval at the Annual Town Meeting. An Ad Hoc Committee was formed to advise the Town on the opportunities and projected short-term costs of acquiring the property, and the concerns and benefits.

Documenting what has long been tacitly understood by all Select Boards, the Board formally adopted a Code of Ethics to ensure that the general public and businesses of St. George have fair, impartial, ethical, and accountable local government that is responsive to the needs of the people and each other and that has the public's full confidence in the integrity of the Town's government.

The Board supported an ordinance to be approved at the Annual Town Meeting that will make it easier for citizens to finance energy efficiency upgrades or renewable energy installations in their homes; called the PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) ordinance, this is similar to ordinances already approved by nearly half the municipalities across the state.

The recommendations of an Ad Hoc Committee looking at the Transfer Station were approved by the Board; these included continuing the existing arrangements for solid waste disposal, and not adopting Pay-As-You-Throw, and continuing to accept residential and commercial sources of solid waste equally. The opening hours of the Transfer Station were rationalized to 8:00am-4:00pm, Tuesday through Saturday.

Recognizing the complexities associated with determining salary and benefits for the Town's employees and to ensure they continue to be fairly and competitively compensated, the Board has included funds in next year's budget for a consultant to assist in the development of a compensation strategy and implementation plan.

As Town Assessors, we met regularly with the Town's Professional Assessing Agent, to review the sales ratio and quality rating for arms-length transactions, and to identify any signs of area clustering or exceptional categories, to be sure that the burden of real estate taxes continue to be shared equitably by all owners, according to the assessed value of their property.

To summarize our efforts, the Board aims to act in the best interests of the Town, looking to the future, to ensure St. George remains a special place. Please continue to help us, by contributing your skills, interests and expertise. Our town reflects the values of all of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bates (Current Chair)

Marguerite Cutroni

William Reinhardt (Chair until resignation 12/2014)

Wayne Sawyer

Tammy Willey

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

The Planning Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. In addition to our regularly scheduled 7:00 p.m. meetings; the Board is also responsible for attending educational

workshops as well as scheduling and attending on-site public hearings. Advertised public hearings are held so Board members, abutters, and concerned residents may voice their concerns or support for upcoming proposed projects. Viewing the proposed project within its planned location allows the Board to assess the impact on the abutters as well as the community in general. The application process for a permit involves not only the applicant, but also municipal officials, other boards, abutters, concerned citizens and, when necessary, project professionals. The information gathered from the application process is evaluated in light of Federal and State regulations, as well as town ordinances, before the Planning Board reaches a decision to either approve or disapprove the project. The entire Planning Board process is always open to the public and we encourage their input and involvement.

The Planning Board is responsible for reviewing and acting upon Site plans; Subdivisions; and Shoreland Zoning permit applications. It is also the Board's responsibility to draft and update the town's Land Use Ordinances and regulations. Each year the Planning Board chairman meets with the head of the Planning Department, and a Board of Selectman Representative to review the Planning Board's agenda and policies. The Planning Board reflects the recommendations of our Town's Comprehensive Plan; the concerns of our residents; as well as Federal and State laws when drafting ordinances.

I would like to personally thank the members of the Saint George Planning Board for all their hard work. Our Board is made up of dedicated and conscientious individuals who have sacrificially given of their time and expertise to serve our community. Thank you for all the Tuesday evenings, and for all the Saturdays that have been willingly sacrificed for on-site public hearings. Thanks for the endless hours attending information workshops, and the time spent reading the many volumes of materials necessary for Board members to be familiar with. I personally would like to thank each of you for being fair minded; and for making decisions based on merit; our ordinances; the law; and not on personal prejudices.

The present Planning Board members are William Hickey, Chairman; Stephen Adams, Board Secretary; James Graf; Raymond Emerson; Mary K. Hewlett; and alternates Charles Christensen; and Jane Brown. We would like to thank all the townspeople who support us by voting on the purposed and updated ordinances. As a board we encourage suggestions and input from the community at large concerning town ordinances. The board would like to extend its gratitude to our Recording Secretary, Cherie Yattaw for her professionalism and hard work, always above and beyond the call of duty. It would also be impossible for the Planning Board to operate effectively without the assistance of Terry Brackett, CEO and Tim Polky our Planning Director.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Hickey, Planning Board Chair

BOARD OF APPEALS REPORT

The Board had one meeting in 2014. At this meeting elections were held and one appeal processed.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve N Miller, Chair

ST GEORGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission is comprised of appointed volunteers and acts in an advisory role with town officials and committees. The Conservation Commission also works with state agencies, conservation organizations and land trusts to preserve valuable open space through sound management practices, conservation easements or outright purchase.

Commission membership 2014 included: Jonathan Coggeshall, Jean Hewitt, Leslie Hyde, Ryan LeShane, Kenneth Oelberger and Dan Verrillo. Jane Brown and Jane Rasmussen served the Commission during part of the year before their resignation. Marguerite Cutroni represents the Select Board on the Commission.

Natural Resources and Wetlands Inventory: The Commission launched a major initiative this year to inventory and map important Town natural resource features including wildlife habitat, streams, wetlands, soils, historic and archeological sites, footpaths and other critical natural and human places. A wetlands inventory training for the Planning Board and Town Officials was held in the fall 2014. The inventory maps will be a helpful resource for Town boards, officials and the general public. It is expected the maps will be available in 2015 and posted for public viewing in the Town Office.

Footpaths: The Commission maintains a network of footpaths in collaboration with Georges River Land Trust. A June celebratory hiking event launched the opening of the new Jones Brook Trail as part of the 42 mile Georges River Highland Path. The two-mile Jones Brook footpath connects the town forest (Kinney Woods) to the historic Robinson Homestead and Fort Point on the Saint George River. It crosses private land and was made possible by the generous cooperation and support of participating landowners. The path leads the hiker through mature softwoods and mixed wood stands and offers views of beaver lodges and moss-covered granite outcrops. Volunteers were recruited and trained to maintain the footpaths. Improvements were made to both the Town Forest and the Fort Point trailhead parking areas.

Marsh Alewife Restoration: 2014 marked the sixth year of a collaboration with the Department of Marine Resources to reestablish a traditional Alewife fish run to Ripley Creek (Marsh) through annual stocking. The restoration effort also includes work with State and Federal agencies to replace the deteriorated, fish blocking culvert under Route 131. A fish friendly designed culvert under 131 is scheduled for installation by Maine Department of Transportation in 2015.

Conservation Education - Winter Series: The annual winter series for 2014 featured excellent speakers on three important conservation topics: Estate Planning for Landowners in January, Solar Energy and Energy Conservation in February and in March the theme was Climate Change. All workshops were well attended with snacks and beverages provided by the Friends of Saint George.

Roadside Cleanup: The May 2014 roadside volunteer cleanup was organized in collaboration with the Saint George Solid Waste & Recycling Committee and with help from the Bolduc unit of the Maine State Prison. The combined efforts of so many willing volunteers resulted in a great success. The day began with a Saint George Days' pancake breakfast and ended with much more beautiful roadsides.

Special Places: In 2013 the Commission designated Jones Brook, Long Cove and the Islands as a "special place" due to the areas valuable wildlife habitat and outstanding conservation values. In 2014 the Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) launched a campaign to purchase High Island (in Long Cove) as a public recreational resource and nature preserve. The Commission recommended that the Town contribute financially to the purchase of the island. Voters approved by ballot \$25,000 toward the purchase of High Island at the Annual Town Meeting.

Town Solar Panels: The commission initiated a study of the feasibility and possible energy savings of installing solar panels on Town properties. The exploration will continue into 2015.

Energy Conservation-PACE: The Commission voted to recommend the Town become a sponsor of the Efficiency Maine **Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)** program. PACE offers low interest loans to homeowners wishing to invest in energy saving home improvements. The program is offered at no cost to the Town, but must first be approved by voters. PACE will be brought to the voters for consideration in 2015.

Further information of the work of the Conservation Commission along with trail maps and reports on "Special Places" and management plans for conserved lands is available on the Town website: <http://www.stgeorgemaine.com/>.

ST. GEORGE BUDGET COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

To the Residents of St. George

The Budget Committee is advisory in nature responsible for monitoring the Town's financial condition as defined by the Town Charter and the Select Board Policy Manual. The Committee is responsible for reviewing the status of the Town's budget each quarter, reviewing the appropriations that are to be included in the Town Meeting warrant, assessing the long term financial concerns and addressing other tasks as requested by the Select Board.

The Committee feels that the Town is in excellent financial condition overall and this is reinforced by the auditor's report. In addition to monitoring the Town's financial condition, there are two areas that have been of special interest to the Committee over the past year. They are the Fund Balance Policy and the Investment Policy.

The Fund Balance Policy addresses the portion of the Town Budget that is held in reserve for a major unanticipated expense. The current policy recommends a minimum of two months operating budget be held in reserve. Currently, monthly expenditures are about \$650k, while the Town's unassigned fund balance as of June 30, 2014 was \$1,281,320. Transfers for reduction of taxes (\$100K) and the Interim School funding (\$160K) reduced the balance to \$1,021,320. The Budget Committee has recommended that steps be taken to bring the Fund Balance back to the recommended amount within the next three years.

The Investment Policy addresses the conditions under which the Town's funds are held and invested. Last year the Committee reviewed the Investment Policy and recommended several changes. This year the auditor's report expressed concern over Custodial Credit Risk, where investments are held in a bank's name, rather than in the Town's name. Following consideration of language used by other town's, a statement was included in the policy referencing GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) rules which should allay any concerns by the auditor in the future.

Committee Membership: With the addition of Elizabeth May and Earl Ludman as alternate members, for the first time in many years there are no vacancies on the Budget Committee. As an aid to new members, the committee has developed a "New Member Packet" which describes the duties and responsibilities of the committee, a partial listing of Budget Committee dates, the Budget Concerns for 2013, 2014 and beyond, the 2012 and 2013 Budget Committee Annual Reports and a Beginner's Budget Glossary. The Committee wishes to thank John Rasmussen for his service to the town on the Budget Committee since 2007.

Fiscal Year 2015-16 Proposed Budget

The budget for the various Town departments is proposed by the Town Manager and jointly reviewed by the Select Board and Budget Committee during February and March, 2015. The result of this review is presented to the voters for consideration at the Town Meeting on May 12, 2015.

This year the Select Board recommends a 3% salary increase for all full time employees with the exception of the Harbor Master where a 4.5% increase is recommended. This includes a 1.7%

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). The increase would be effective in July 2015. The Budget Committee agrees with the Select Board recommendation.

There are several significant events which impact the proposed budget and future budgets. These include:

- After 12 years the bonds for the construction of the fire station and the transfer station have been paid off, reducing the budget by about \$150,000.
- Purchase of a new fire truck at a cost of \$450,000 with \$350,000 coming from the vehicle reserve account.
- The Town Manager had proposed \$30,000 for planning an addition to the Town Hall based on the expanded requirements of the Fire and Ambulance Services. The Select Board and the Budget Committee both feel it was premature and that additional internal planning is needed based on information from the affected organizations.
- The Select Board is recommending that the town acquire the property at 10 Cold Storage Road in Port Clyde at a cost of \$810,000. In addition, approximately \$200,000 will be required for immediate repairs. An Ad Hoc Committee has been established to investigate the potential use.

Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Proposed Budget: The Town Budget recommended by the Budget Committee is in agreement with that proposed by the Select Board. It calls for a net expenditure of \$1,585,513 which represents a 2% decrease from the 2014/2015 Town Budget.

Town Office Administration: The budget is approximately 8% higher than last year. This is partially due to the proposed hiring of an independent consultant to evaluate the appropriateness of the salary and benefits provided the Town employees and give guidance for future compensation. The Budget Committee strongly supports this initiative.

Select Board/Assessors: The only significant change is a \$4,500 reduction in the cost for Certified Assessors.

Planning: The Budget Committee supports the inclusion of \$25,000 to replenish the Public Land Acquisition Reserve. Funds from this account were used as earnest money to hold the 10 Cold Storage Road property for a vote to acquire prior to the May Town Meeting.

Public Safety – Fire Department: The budget is approximately 30% higher than last year due to a proposed exhaust system at the central fire station, alarm systems at outlying stations and a \$25,000 increase in the Vehicle Acquisition Reserve.

Public Safety – Animal Control: There are no significant changes to this budget line.

Public Works – Roads and Bridges: An 8% increase is due to the cost of a new roof for the salt shed. The Budget Committee supports the Conservation Commission's recommendation that the town consider installing, when economical, solar voltaic when designing new construction.

Public Works – Solid Waste: The budget is reduced by 12% due to the retirement of bonds for the Transfer Station construction.

General Assistance: There are no significant changes to this budget line

Social & Community Services: A 10% overall increase primarily due to a 20% increase in the Town's support to the Ambulance Service.

Parks & Recreation: A 13% increase due to an additional Ball Field Maintenance request of \$7,000 which would include funds to replace bleachers and restore and renovate the baseball field, making it available for use by the new school system.

Harbors: A 14% increase primarily due to a request for \$20,000 to provide a use and development plan for the 10 Cold Storage Road property. These funds are contingent on the town approving the acquisition of the property.

Unclassified: In this portion of the budget there are several changes. The supplementary Math Program and Herring Gut support have been moved to the school operation and the Withdrawal Committee item is not requested. An additional \$7,500 is requested for secretarial and legal support to the Charter Commission. The overall result is a budget reduction of 25%.

Respectfully Submitted

St. George Budget Committee

Ken Oelberger, Chair

Susan Ellis

Suzanne Hall

Peter Lubs, Secretary

Earl Ludman

Elizabeth May

John Rasmussen

SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING COMMITTEE REPORT

To the Select Board and the citizens of St. George, the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee hereby submits its yearly report:

This year, the Committee has endeavored to support those residents who already recycle and also encourage new recyclers to take advantage of the Town's extensive recycling program. The Town has met the lofty goal of recycling fifty percent (50%) of its total waste stream. The Committee encourages all residents to increase the rate to fifty five percent (55%), greatly reducing the total amount of waste that must be transported and landfilled.



Recycling and Solid Waste

- The Committee awarded town residents who recycle with gift certificates to St. George local businesses which also recycle.
- Held an Open House at the Transfer Station.
- Conducted a demonstration of how to sort recyclable material for the fifth grade science class at the School.
- Provided information on recycling for voting days.
- Assisted in refining some of the solid waste ordinance to better address issues of noncompliance.
- Assisted in the Roadside Cleanup Day by staffing the Transfer Station to ensure that collected material was recycled.



Composting

- The Committee provided educational materials on voting days regarding composting, including information on household composting and uses for the finished compost in home gardening.

The Committee challenges all residents of St. George to re-use, re-purpose, and recycle.
Respectfully submitted,
Solid Waste & Recycling Committee

REPORT OF THE TOWN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Withdrawal Committee and the Town Education Committee (TEC) worked in close harmony to create the legal, financial and educational framework for the new St. George Municipal School Unit. The state statute governing education charged the Withdrawal Committee with negotiating an agreement with RSU 13 that covered areas such as educational continuity for students, allocation of RSU debt, responsibility for special education, transportation of students, disposition of personal/educational property, ongoing contractual obligations and other matters. The composition of the committee was as per statutory requirements and consisted of a Municipal Official, one of the St. George representatives on the RSU 13 Board, an at-large member and a representative of the Town Education Committee.

With the completion of the withdrawal agreement and the town's overwhelming vote to withdraw from RSU 13, the withdrawal committee has disbanded.

While the Withdrawal Committee focused on negotiations with RSU 13, the TEC created pro forma operating budgets that assessed the impact of the negotiations on taxes, finances and education. The TEC worked with the administration and faculty to identify areas needing financial investment. It also negotiated contracts/arrangements for St. George student to attend Medomak Valley, Watershed, Lincoln Academy or Camden/5 Town Consolidated High School in addition to Oceanside. The pro forma budgets reinstated the St. George School as an Expeditionary Learning School, expanded the Allied Arts and added a full-time math instruction specialist.

The Withdrawal Agreement, contracts with Camden/5 Town Consolidated High School and Medomak Valley, the pro forma budget and other pertinent document can be found on the town web site.

Withdrawal Committee

Bill Reinhardt, Chairperson

Terry Driscoll

Jim Graf

Sherm Hoyt

Town Education Committee

Terry Driscoll, Chairperson

Don Choquette

Jennifer Garrett

Margot Kelley

Sonja Schmanska

Eric Waters

WITHDRAWAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The establishment of the Withdrawal Committee was authorized in June 2013 when the citizens voted to commence with the process of withdrawal from RSU13. According to state law, the Withdrawal Committee consisted of one selectperson, one school board member from our town, one member from the petitioning party, which in our case was the Town Education Committee, and one member-at-large. The members appointed were William Reinhardt, Sherman Hoyt, Terry Driscoll and James Graf.

The committee was required to follow a 22-step process for the withdrawal of a municipality from a RSU prescribed in state law and would culminate with a “Yes” or “No” decision by the town’s citizens. Besides guiding the withdrawal process, the major task of the committee was the development of a Withdrawal Agreement that provided for the continuation of education for all the town’s children and met all the requirements of state law and regulations. Many of the key components of this agreement had to be negotiated with RSU13 and also had to be approved by the RSU13 Board and the Commissioner of Education. Once the agreement was completed and approved, only then could a vote by the town occur that would decide the ultimate fate of the withdrawal effort.

The Committee commenced its work in the summer of 2013 with the development of a request for information and data that we required from the RSU13 administration in order to begin negotiations and draft the plan. We soon realized that the RSU’s timetable and direction were dramatically opposed to ours in this process and that subsequently, the furnishing of information and the negotiation of specific terms of the Withdrawal Agreement were going to be prolonged, complex and painful. The poorly-crafted legislation governing the withdrawal process provided no incentive for the RSU to bargain in good faith nor any penalties for not actively participating in the negotiations. This situation coupled with turmoil and dysfunction within the RSU’s Board and administration, caused the development of an acceptable withdrawal plan to be drawn out over a 15 month period. Ultimately, the Acting Commissioner of Education stepped in and set a deadline for submission of the plan which provided the prodding necessary to move the RSU along and bring the one-sided negotiations to a conclusion.

The Withdrawal Agreement that was subsequently brought before the voters last November contained the following major provisions:

1. Established the St. George Municipal School District independent of any other regional school district and solely governed by its own duly-elected, 5-member school board and responsible for the education of all the town’s children. The effective date of withdrawal would be July 1st, 2015.
2. K-8 students would be educated at St. George School.
3. 9-12 students would have “school choice” of attending Oceanside, Camden Hill Regional, Medomak Valley, Lincoln Academy or Watershed with tuition paid by the town.
4. Provided for the continuation of regular education, special education, career & technical education, sports & extra-curricular activities and transportation for all students.

5. Provided for the allocation and distribution of all debt, assets and other long-term commitments.
6. Provided for the assumption of collective bargaining agreements, continuation of employment and contractual rights for all employees. In general, employees currently engaged at the St. George School at least 50% of their time would remain at St. George.
7. Transferred the St. George School and all personal property associated with it, including three newer buses, to the new St. George Municipal School Unit.

The Withdrawal Agreement in its entirety, as well as a Summary of Terms, is available on the Town of St. George website and a link to it can be found on the new SGMSU website.

On Election Day last November, the town's voters approved the withdrawal from RSU13 along with the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement. The voters also approved a School Administrative Ordinance that provided for the creation, election and basic procedures of a 5-member school board that would govern the new municipal school unit. In December, after the town elected the new school board and with its tasks officially completed, the Withdrawal Committee was disbanded.

The work of the Withdrawal Committee could not have been accomplished without the huge support of the members of the Town Education Committee, the St. George School teachers and staff, Town Office personnel, the St. George School Parent-Teacher Group, and other concerned and involved parents and citizens too numerous to mention here. The attendance and participation in community meetings, public hearings, RSU school board and committee meetings and referendums is demonstrative of the importance that St. George citizens place on educational quality. It most certainly was a collaborative community effort as so often can be evidenced in our town. We sincerely hope that this level involvement will continue as there is much work and many decisions remaining.

The overwhelming vote to approve withdrawal last November was historic. It validated the results of all recent surveys, straw-polls, referendums and public hearings regarding local educational issues. It confirmed, among other things, that St. George citizens hold educational quality and opportunities as high priorities, but want to have more input and control of the decision-making process. It is difficult to imagine a vote that could have more positive impact on the lives and futures of the town's children and citizens. Most decisions can now be made closer to those who will be directly affected by those decisions, and be made with proper consideration for individual and community interests. The citizens already have accomplished a good thing. Now, we have the opportunity to accomplish great things. We already have a good school. Now, we can have a great school and great secondary school options that better prepare all our children to excel in their lives and careers.

Respectfully and enthusiastically submitted,

William Reinhardt, Chair

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

To the Select Board and the Citizens of the Town of St. George, I respectfully submit my twenty-eighth report as town manager:

The Town's web site contains lots of information plus the times and dates of board and committee meetings. Please take some time and navigate through it to learn about your local government. All meetings are open to the public and you are all encouraged to attend. This is your community and your government.

Please pay attention to what is going on with your local government and what is going on at the State level. There is quite an effort in recent years to shift the cost of government from the State level to the local level. You don't want to be on the other side of a decision saying "How did this happen?" You need to be informed and involved. And we need some of the younger members of the community to get involved, too. You get out of it what you put into it.

As always, my thanks go out to all who assist in making this a great community in which we live, especially all my "team members". Couldn't do it without you!

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Falla



TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

To the Select Board & Citizens of the Town of St. George, Maine: State law prohibits the publishing of an itemized list of births or marriages in the annual report. The following is the total number of recorded vital statistics for the year 2014:

Births - 18

Marriages - 27

<u>NAME</u>		<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
UPHAM	BEVERLY	20140814	71	Port Clyde
MILIKOWSKI	ROBERT	20140706	90	South Thomaston
WARREN	ROBERT	20141020	92	Spruce Head
ANDERSON	EDITH	20140712	94	St. George
BERTE	DOMENIC	20140909	73	St. George
DARBY	EDGAR	20140701	87	St. George
DOLE	JOHN	20141118	84	St. George
DRINKWATER	CLYDE	20141128	64	St. George
ILIFFE	WILLIAM	20140205	75	St. George
NORRIS	EDWARD	20141025	58	St. George
STANLEY	LYNN	20141215	59	St. George
WALL	VIRGINIA	20140805	91	St. George
WHITE	DOROTHY	20140708	72	St. George
KILAYKO	ENRIQUE	20141213	76	St. George
HANSEN	JANET	20140529	67	Tenants Harbor
HOLMES	TIMOTHY	20140508	70	Tenants Harbor
LACHANCE	REGINALD	20140319	65	Tenants Harbor
MILLER	ANNE	20140714	64	Tenants Harbor
VAITONES	JOAN	20140127	87	Tenants Harbor

LOCAL PLUMBING INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Town of St George issued 94 Plumbing Permits in 2014.

- 52 Permits for Internal Plumbing
- 21 Permits for New Subsurface Wastewater Systems
- 16 Permits for Replacement Subsurface Wastewater Systems
- 2 Septic Tank Replacements
- 3 Expanded Septic Systems Permits

There were 175 inspections conducted, 8 violations investigated and 1 workshop attended.

The Plumbing Inspector is responsible for reviewing and issuing permits for internal plumbing and subsurface wastewater systems and completing the follow up inspections that go along with the permits. The Plumbing Inspector also investigates complaints from residents and state agencies regarding failing systems.

I am available 8 am to 4 pm Monday – Friday by calling the Town Office or by email at ceolpi@stgeorgemaine.com

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Brackett
Local Plumbing Inspector

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Code Enforcement Officer is responsible for enforcing the Town's Ordinances, reviewing building permit applications, issuing building permits, Floodplain Management, attending meetings of the Planning Board, Board of Appeals, Conservation Committee and investigating complaints of violations from residents as well as complaints from State and Federal Agencies.

The Planning Department issued 139 Building Permits with an estimated cost of \$6,823,120. I am available 8am to 4pm Monday thru Friday by calling the Town Office or by email at ceolpi@stgeorgemaine.com.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Brackett
Code Enforcement Officer

Town of St. George
Monthly CEO Report for Year Ending 2014

	Shoreland		Non-Shoreland			Value
RESIDENTIAL:	#	Zone	#	Zone	Total	Total
Single Family Dwelling	5	1,301,487	4	603,000	9	1,904,487
Multi Family Dwelling						
Manufactured Housing			2	59,000	2	59,000
Addition to Dwelling	5	341,835	1	17,500	6	359,335
Renovation to Dwelling	22	1,962,625	7	326,327	29	2,288,952
Conversion of Dwelling			1	60,000	1	60,000
ACCESSORY STRUCTURES:						
Shed / Out building / Decks	21	274,800	35	413,146	56	687,946
Garage	3	79,400	10	198,000	13	277,400
Wharf	6	389,000			6	389,000
Landscaping	1	15,000			1	15,000
COMMERCIAL:						
Educational						
Healthcare						
Industrial						
Marine Related	1	50,000			1	50,000
Office Related						
Religious						
Stores / Sales	1	3,000			1	3,000
Utilities/Communications Related	1	2,000			1	2,000
Vehicle Repair						
Wharf	4	204,000			4	204,000
Addition			2	25,000	2	25,000
Out Buildings						
Conversion			1	2,000	1	2,000
Renovation	4	181,000	1	370,000	5	551,000
Home Occupation						
Landscaping	1	900			1	900
Parking lots						
Totals	74	4,811,147	65	1,644,273	139	6,823,120
Sub-Division						
Floodplain Permits						
Site Plan Review	19				19	
Inspections Conducted	201				201	
Violations Investigated	22				22	
Training / Workshops	14				14	

HARBOR MASTER'S REPORT 2014

Are You Legal?

Once again I will touch on a number of subjects that seem to be commonly overlooked, or misunderstood.

First is the issue of unpermitted moorings within Town waters. In the St. George Coastal Waters Management Ordinance (CWMO) Section 108, #6 it states "It shall be unlawful to place a mooring within St. George waters without a permit from the Town of St. George."

If you have an unpermitted mooring in Town waters anyone, at any time, can remove or sink that mooring and replace it with a permitted mooring. That same mooring can be legally removed by this office at the owner's expense or sunk. There are also some pretty severe liability factors if someone were to use an unpermitted mooring and that mooring subsequently failed.

So, come in to the office, get an application or download one from our web-site and get legal. It's for your own protection. There are no penalties involved, and we'll try to make the process as simple as possible for you.

Secondly, is the matter of improperly marked or unmarked mooring buoys. All permitted moorings are issued a permit number. As per the CWMO Section 112, #1 "Each mooring buoy shall be marked with the number of its assigned permit, and with the watercraft or mooring owner's initials." The CWMO goes on to state in part in Section 112, #3 that "...Mooring markers shall have the mooring permit number prominently displayed on the mooring ball...".

If you do not know what your permit number is, give us a call at the Town Office and we'll be happy to supply you with it.

Your permit number can be put on with magic marker, crayon, or sticky back numerals, whatever is easiest and will be durable enough for the season.

Legally, moorings that do not display the permit number can be removed at the owner's expense or sent to bottom.

Lastly, please have your moorings inspected from top to bottom at least once every two years. The money spent on inspection is money well spent and can certainly be looked at as cheap insurance.

Again, I thank you for your cooperation and hope that you have a safe and enjoyable boating season.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Schmanska, St. George Harbor Master

FIRE DEPARTMENT

In 2014 the Fire Department responded to 84 calls;

Alarm Investigations	16	Ambulance Assists	5
Auto Accidents	14	Boat Sinking	1
Brush/Grass/Debris	3	Chimney Fires	2
Citizen Assist	1	Flooded Basements	12
Haz Mat	1	Malfunctioning Boilers	1
Mutual Aid	4	Odor Investigation	2
Smoke Investigation	3	Structure Fires	2
Trees Down	13	Transformer/Pole Fires	2
Wires Down	4		

Not included in the numbers above are the many hours spent by the firefighters and volunteers during the severe storms we have experienced this year. It has been a long time since we have seen such storms.

These storms really put us through the paces. But we were ready. The whole team; the firefighters, the EMS crews, the many volunteers that did everything including manning the warming shelter, the Town Office Staff and the Select board , was ready because we trained and drilled. The November 2nd storm was almost like it was scripted from the exercise that we all did the year before.

A lot of hard work and planning paid off in October of 2014. We have been working towards lowering the town's fire insurance rate or the ISO rate. The ISO rate goes from a class 10 where there is no fire protection to a class 1 which is the best fire protection in the country. St George has been at a class 9 for many years. Well, with a lot of hard work and training, and the help of our neighboring towns we were able to lower our ISO class to 6. I want thank the Fire Departments from South Thomaston, Thomaston, Owl's Head, Cushing and Warren for their help in making this happen.

We are fortunate that we have a great team of trained and dedicated people. However the number of members on our roster is down. We do not always have enough people to respond to calls. We do need more firefighters. But if you don't want to go into burning buildings we do have jobs that need to be filled that do not actually mean firefighting. These jobs include directing traffic, serving meals, driving, and pumping.

In the times of need when we may not have enough firefighters we call for mutual aid from our neighbors. This practice of neighbor helping neighbor has been around for many years. Our mutual aid neighbors are facing the same staffing issues.

One of the obstacles to recruiting and retaining firefighters is the training requirements. Live fire training is one of the requirements that have become more difficult to meet. The use of acquired structures to burn to get the training for interior firefighting is not as common as in the past. Environmental issues and the value of older structures have caused these buildings to not be available. Because of the lack of buildings to burn we turn to burn buildings. We have used a

burn building in Wiscasset. This facility is not always available and the distance makes it difficult to use as a department without stripping our town of personal and equipment. Our mutual aid neighbors have the same issues. That why we are in the process of building a training facility here in St George.

The facility will offer more than just live fire training, such as confined space rescue, sprinklers, firefighter survival and EMS training just to name a few. We have raised some of the funds to build the facility and plan to raise the rest of the money from grants, donations and in kind services. We would like start building in the summer of 2015.

In accordance to our vehicle acquisition plan, we are planning to order a new fire engine. The cost will be about \$450,000.00. The truck committee has been working on this truck for a couple years. This truck is being built so as to allow space for all the required and additional equipment needed to perform the tasks that we are responsible to do as well as fighting fires.

Thank you for your support,

Tim Polky, Fire Chief



ST. GEORGE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

The St. George Volunteer Firemen's Association (SGVFA) would like to thank our supporters. Without the support of our donors and behind-the-scenes volunteers (such as the Ambulance Support Team and others who help with fund-raising efforts) our providers would have a difficult time doing their jobs.

2014 proved to have some challenging weather events. In February 2014 we experienced a true nor'easter blizzard that lasted for 2-3 days and required full station coverage. During that time, the ambulance responded to 3 calls. On November 2, 2014, St. George experienced an early winter storm which caused major power outages. The Ambulance had two calls during the storm which required assistance from both the Fire Department and local plow crews due to downed trees and poor road conditions. The Emergency Shelter opened with the assistance of volunteers who provided warm food, coffee and comfort to all of the citizens of St. George, as well as feeding the Emergency Crews. It was team work at its finest. The Ambulance crews called many residents to check on their well being during the days following the weather event until power was re-established and roads were cleared. To the Citizens of St. George, we thank you for your support, patience, and kind words of encouragement during that week.

Last year was one of the busiest on record for the ambulance service for call volume. We responded to 361 total calls. Of those 361, we responded to 258 emergency calls, with 203 of those calls resulting in transport to the hospital. Three quarters of those transports required advanced life support (paramedic) assessment or intervention. We also continued to make Community Health visits to members in the community with 95 calls total.

We are on our second year as one of 12 pilot sites in the state for Community Paramedicine. We have been working with area physicians and Pen Bay Medical Center to identify and work with individuals in the community who meet the criteria for the service. This has required some additional training for our Paramedics and EMTs, above and beyond the required continuing education hours needed to maintain their license.

We are developing a new "team-based" approach to CPR, increasing our community CPR trainings, working to increase the number of AEDs in town, and increasing our Cardiac Health and Stroke education. If you are interested in learning CPR, please call 372-6122.

The ambulance service is always seeking new volunteers. We need drivers for the ambulance, licensed EMTs, Advanced EMTs, and Paramedics, as well as support members who can help with many of the vital non-emergency functions of the organization. Anyone interested in more information about volunteering for the service can talk to any of our members or call the EMS office at 372-6122. We also encourage anyone with questions about the service to stop by or call.

We are proud to serve the community of St. George and thank you for your support.

Amy Dyer-Kelley
Ambulance Director

Candice Davis
Asst Director/Community Health Coordinator

PARKS & RECREATION REPORT

It is my pleasure to submit this Parks and Recreation Department report to the people of St. George. The past 12 months since my last report has been both eventful and successful. The Parks and Recreation report below is divided into four sections, youth programs, seniors programs, community programs and facilities. We continue to offer quality programming due to the support of the community as a whole, but particularly because of the many volunteers that give back to this wonderful community. Within this report, I will be thanking those people. If I miss someone, please accept my sincere apologies. Thank you for the opportunity to present this report and to serve the community of St. George.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: presented in order from last spring to this winter:

Tennis Clinics: Two tennis clinics were held under the direction of St. George School Physical Educator Cheryl Worthing in the March of 2014. Students in grades 2-8 participated in clinics in the gym.

Baseball/Softball: The 2014 season was the first official season for the newly formed Oceanside Little League. With the old Knox-Suburban League passing out of existence, the new league provided exciting new opportunities for more St. George boys and girls to play Little League with less travel for parents. Last season we had 21 boys playing Little League on 7 different teams. There were 12 girls playing on 3 different teams. In addition, we had 26 boys playing Farm League on 2 teams and 18 girls on one team. T-Ball included 23 players that met as one team and were divided into teams at each session. I want to take this opportunity to thank the following coaches: Little League Baseball- Jed Miller, Dan Kingsbury and Gary Minery; Little League Softball-Travis Simmons, Stephanie Simmons and Tania Kingsbury; Farm League Baseball- Jason and Patti Mattox, Greg Murray, Jeff Elwell, Missy Gill and Chris Leavitt; T-ball – Chris and Tracy Mills and Roni Stuart. Another highlight of the Little League season was the involvement of our Little League teams in the Memorial Day parade, followed by a Little League game here in St. George. We are planning to continue this American tradition in the future.

Summer Clinics: A program of summer clinics was established during the summer after a series of years without any in-town offerings. The selection of clinics was based on surveys of the children at the St. George School. Participants were charged a fee and instructors were paid for their time. Within the four week window between the close of school and St. George Days, full day three day clinics were offered in basketball, cheering, tennis and art. Clinic numbers ranged from 9-22 and the reviews from kids, parents and instructors were overwhelmingly positive. This summer clinic program will continue with the same format in 2015, with the selections again determined by the survey results.

Soccer: During the fall season, there were 62 boys and girls who participated at one level or another. 25 Boys and girls in grades K-2 participated in a short season of games involving Cushing and Thomaston. They also participated in a series of Sunday clinics hosted by Thomaston Recreation and directed by Oceanside girls' soccer coach, Darryl Townsend. 21 Soccer players in grades 3 and 4 participated in a coed league against players from Cushing, Thomaston and Rockland. Our 5th and 6th boys played on a combined team with Thomaston and Cushing while the numbers on the girls' side allowed us to have a St. George girls team. With a surge in boys numbers at the 3rd grade level, it is hoped that in the future we can have a St. George boys 5/6 team as well. I would like to thank our volunteer coaches in soccer: Becky Melquist, Randall Thissell, Travis Simmons, Roni Stuart, Summer Ward, Matt Falla, Josh

McPhail, Nancy Iliffe, Krissy Hooper, Shasta Minery and Missy Gill. I would also like to thank volunteer officials Angie Vachon, Rick O'Malley and Craig Wilgus.

Basketball: St. George youth basketball enjoyed a very successful season in the Midcoast Basketball League with our neighboring communities Thomaston, Cushing, Rockland and Vinalhaven. This year, we had 2 5th/6th boys teams that played in a 9 team league, and two girls 5th/6th teams that played in a 7 team league. . The games were played here, at Thomaston Grammar School and at the Rockland Recreation Center. Our third and fourth graders began their season with two weekend clinics in early December, and then began play in a smaller league configuration with Thomaston and Cushing that concluded just prior to February vacation. The earlier start to the league play allowed our 3rd/4th teams to participate in one additional out of town tournament in addition to the Mussel Ridge Hoop Tournament which was held March 13-15. Finally, our K-2 ballplayers participated in a series of clinics and short games here in St. George. All the players had a great experience due to the work of volunteers like Summer Ward, Roni Stuart, Josh Miller, and Caleb Long. I am very pleased with the development of this league structure and it bodes well for young St. George basketball players in the future. I would like to thank the many selfless citizens who have donated many hours to referee, coach, keep score and assist with gym set up and clean up. The list includes the coaches mentioned above and 5th/6th coaches Garrett Hilchey, Davin Putansu, Jesse Wilgus, Craig Wilgus; 3rd/4th coaches Colby Haight, Caleb Long, Josh Miller and Jim Wirkal. I want to thank community members Raymie Upham, Meghan Miller, Joanna Montgomery, Angie Vachon, Kristin O'Neal, Jed Miller, Nancy Iliffe Katie Cushman, Dave Schmanska, and Tamara Cody for their time in providing a positive experience for all.

Mussel Ridge: The recently completed 20th annual 3rd/4th grade travel team tournament was another huge success! So many community member volunteer time or food it would be impossible to name everyone, but some key players deserve mention and our gratitude. First, we could not run this tournament without the support and cooperation of St. George School staff, particularly Jan Letourneau, Jeff Cushman, Janet Harjula and Cheryl Worthing. St. George Boosters and community members Tania Kingsbury, Katie Cushman, Mike Cushman, Raymie Upham, Meghan Benner, Craig Gauthier, Gary Minery, Ann Hoppe and Missy Gill spent hours and hours making sure the concessions, admissions and scorers table were manned at all times. I'd also like to mention Oceanside High School student and Tenants Harbor resident Sierra Beal for the many hours she donated as well.

Community Programs

Ski Club: Following a late start due to construction at the Snow Bowl, the ski club had a great season once again. Having feet, rather than inches of snow allowed us to continue the program until the end of March! Thank yous are in order for volunteer ski leaders Missy Gill, Shasta Minery, Jasmine Miller and Nancy Iliffe. I also want to thank Patty St. Clair and Beth Smith in the Town Office for all their help with signing up skiers.

Boston Celtics: We will again be taking a community trip to see a Celtics game in April. This year, there are 54 community members going, and 14 young fans will get the chance to stand with a Celtics player while the National Anthem is played!

Adult Exercise: Under the direction of Angie Vachon, there have been both morning and afternoon exercise classes offered for interested community members. Yoga was also offered during the spring and summer with instructor Melissa Derbyshire, but with her

relocating, we will be looking for a new instructor for this year. Finally, Thursday night adult basketball continued throughout the winter under the direction of Brittany Anthony.

St. George Days: 2014 saw a return to a variety of activities offered for the community. A Father-Son Softball game followed the parade on Saturday and an Old-Timers' Softball Game in memory of long-time St. George resident and avid ballplayer Tim Holmes was held to rave reviews on Sunday.

Senior Citizen Programs

Luncheons: The past year saw a very successful run of luncheons with attendance ranging from 18 right after a snow storm to 40 last fall. Generally, attendance is in the high 20's- low 30's. Some of our speakers/performers included Tim Polky, John Falla, Jackson Library staff, Angie Vachon, Neal Lash, St. George School Band and Chorus.

Trips: Our local seniors had a great time on a variety of trips last year. A lighthouse cruise in May, the Boothbay Botanical Gardens in June, the Hope Elephants in August, Union wineries tour in September and our annual shopping trip in November all got rave reviews.

Facilities:

This will be a year of transition for our facilities due to both wear and tear and the approval by voters of an independent school district. Some of our completed or upcoming work includes replacement of a jungle gym and backboards at Collins Park in Port Clyde, installing a new scoreboard at the Landing Field courtesy of a donation by community member John Schwartzburg, repainting the tennis court surface, returning the full size diamond at the big field to playable condition, replacing worn out bleachers with moveable bleachers and completing a drainage project at the big field.

Conclusion: My first thanks go to the staff at the St. George School. Mary Alice, Jan, Jeff and Cheryl in particular have been very helpful in allowing Recreation programming to use the gym and soccer field. I look forward to continuing our partnership with the school as we enter this new era. I also want to thank the 2014-15 Recreation Committee for their dedication and service. Raymie Upham, Meghan Benner, Craig Gauthier, Gary Minery, Joanna Montgomery, Michelle Gill and Ann Hoppe have donated their time to meetings and youth events in such a positive way. I am also blessed to work with such a supportive group of co-workers in the Town Office. John, Tim, Dave, Peggy, Terry, Cherie, Beth and Patty have all been extremely helpful and I thank them for their help.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Vail, St. George Parks and Recreation Director

JACKSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY REPORT



The Jackson Memorial Library offers something for everyone, from toddlers to students to adults of all interests. In addition to books, electronic media, computers and information services, we offer space for people to come together for programs and meetings, places to chat, and quiet areas for research and study. Since the library moved to our new location (the former Grace Youth Center) in July 2013, we have grown into a vibrant, community-centered resource for all things library and much more.

In 2014, the library averaged **1,000 visitors** every month; about 1,000 items were checked out each month, including books, DVDs, audio books, magazines, and digital readers (Nooks and Kindles). We issued **new library cards** to 116 adults and 56 children.

Over 1,000 **audio books and eBooks** were downloaded by our cardholders to their own devices in 2014 through the Maine State Library portal on our website. The **inter-library loan** service brought nearly 500 books from other Maine libraries to our patrons at no cost.

There are 8 **computers** for public use at the library for Internet browsing; some also offer a variety of work and recreational applications. Three computers are reserved exclusively for children and teens, and are loaded with appropriate software for education and fun. An iPad is loaded with the New York Times and other newspapers, and we recently added access to Consumer Reports. We provide printer and scanner services, and staff is available to help with computer questions and tech support for patrons' own devices. Broadband Internet wifi is available 24/7.

The library depends heavily on **volunteers**. Over 2,600 volunteer hours were logged in 2014; more than 40 individuals helped by working at the circulation desk, cataloging, shelving, offering programs, and assisting with fundraising activities and events. Volunteers also helped with maintenance and troubleshooting of the complex systems in the building.

Our **after-school children's programs** consistently bring 20 to 25 children, grades 2 through 7, to the library in the afternoons. There is always a healthy snack and time to do homework, as

well as participate in enrichment programs. A monthly schedule of activities is available on our website. We added a part time assistant to the Children's Librarian to help facilitate the program in 2014.

13 four-year-olds attended the 2014-15 free **Pre-K**, meeting 3 mornings a week. We have an instructor and an assistant to help these young ones get ready for kindergarten in September. Parents contribute by helping out in the classroom and doing fundraisers. In the 2014-15 school year, nearly half of the children in the St. George school kindergarten class were graduates of our Pre-K program. Our very first Pre-K students are now in 3rd grade.

Adult programs at the library are many and varied. There are Brown Bag Lunch talks, book clubs for adults and children, men's discussion groups, adult drawing and painting classes and many others. The fine art exhibition program brought 9 shows to the walls of the library, and resulting sales added over \$3,500 toward our fundraising goals.

Each year the Town makes a generous allocation to the Library; in 2014 it was \$35,000, 20% of JML's operating budget. We are very grateful for the Town's continued support. Other **revenue** sources include donations; fundraisers; the annual book fair, raffle and art auction during St. George Days; grants; and income from a restricted endowment.

There is something for everyone at the Library. If you don't see what you need, please ask! And please consider volunteering your time or expertise to help make the library better. If you'd like to receive the library's e-newsletter, sign up at www.JacksonMemorialLibrary.org. You can also learn what's happening by joining JML on Facebook. Or simply stop by!

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Welch, JML President
Yvonne Gloede, Library Director

ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The St George Historical Society was organized in the early 1980s to enhance the appreciation of our town's heritage and to encourage the preservation of its historic sites, documents and artifacts.

The park and lighthouse museum at Marshall's Point; public access to Fort St George on the river; the Andrew Robinson Homestead property connecting part of the trail which connects Fort Point to the Town Forest; the Schoolhouse Museum beside the Town Office; and a growing collection of documents safely kept in a room designed for that purpose within the Town Office Building – these community assets are visible results of the Historical Society's members having worked with enlightened town officials and town committees.

April through October the Society presents a program on some aspect of local history at the St George Grange Hall on the last Thursday of the month. Programs begin at 7:30pm preceded by a pot luck supper at 6:30pm.

In 2014, April's program featured the importance of the town's forest resources from Colonial times to the present. Speaking from his long experience in the wood business and drawing from his father's memories before him, Ralph Cline, Jr., described developments in the industry from the early 1900s. He demonstrated tools and techniques used in maneuvering logs and manufacturing wood for various purposes.

Matt Wheeler and Ben Stickney came from the Penobscot Museum in May and projected pictures developed at the museum from century-old glass negatives given to our society by St George residents.

In June we reviewed the acquisition of lands of historic and ecological significance and how they have been linked together by a walking trail well over a mile long. That story should be remembered, so we digress:

The earthen rampart and cellar holes of the barracks and blockhouse of Fort St George, built by the U. S. Government in 1809 to protect shipping interests on the river, are the only visible remains of a fortification in Knox County.

In June 1814 under cover of dense fog, British marines from the British warship Bulwark rowed up river in several barges and attached the fort. Receiving only verbal opposition from the fort's sole occupant, aged but feisty Revolutionary War veteran Ephraim Wiley, they disabled the fort's two or three cannon, scattered the fort's small supply of gunpowder and returned down river within hours of their victory.

Neglected after the War of 1812, the fort fell into complete decay and the point remained surplus federal property for over a century.

In the early 1920s, Governor Percival Baxter, now renowned and blessed for his foresight, arranged the State's purchase of Fort Point from the federal government for a token fee. Not until the late 1950s or early 1960s did the State have the point's tangle of trees and bushes cleared away, revealing the remains of the fortification. Since then, regular mowing has transformed the two and one-half acre point into a park of unique interest and scenery.

With collective foresight almost equaling Governor Baxter's, in 2006 the Town voted to buy the strip of land between Fort Point and the spring on the main road, ensuring public access to Fort Point.

The Andrew Robinson Homestead property across the road from the spring was willed to the Historical Society by Ruth Hazelton, whose ancestor Joseph Robinson, the first settler on the

lot, sold Fort Point to the government in 1808. He received his right to operate the ferry from the point to Cushing.

Joseph's son Captain Andrew built the present house in 1805. One of the oldest dwellings in town, it is the only one that had been occupied by the same family for nearly two hundred years.

About a mile east of the Robinson house, across the woods that occupy much of the central part of the peninsula, the Town acquired seventy or more acres of the old Zebulon Kinney farm for back taxes. Rather than sell off the property, the Town retained it as a Town Forest. That area was enlarged a few years ago when the Town purchased about eighty acres of cut-over woodland.

The St George Conservation Commission, working with the Georges River Land Trust, developed a plan to create a walking trail to connect Fort Point to the Town Forest. Cooperative land owners gave permission for the trail to cross their land, and the trail was marked and cleared by 2014 by members of the Conservation Commission, the Land Trust, and other volunteers.

Now to return to June's Historical Society's meeting: Robert Skoglund showed a video of Fort Point and the interior of the Robinson Homestead; Ken Oelberger projected the beautiful photographs he had taken along the trail to the Town Forest; and Jean Hewitt explained how the Conservation Commission and Land Trust planned and cleared the trail.

July's program had best be forgotten. The sound on a video of a panel discussion about Harts Neck made in 1994 had deteriorated: the images of the participants were perfectly preserved but we could not understand what they were saying. Electronic gadgets will not preserve our town's history.

August's presentation wasn't quite so bad. James Skoglund talked about the development of the Town's roads, but the pictures he had taken to show the particular sections of roads under discussion all looked the same – a stretch of tar hedged in by encroaching bushes and trees. In most of the town, abandoned fields and pastures are overgrown with scrub forest. Identifiable and scenic views remain only along the immediate shoreline.

For September's program, Dr. Richard Kahn presented a fascinating illustrated description of medical care during the Civil War. Dr. Kahn could make even the history tonsillectomies riveting and intellectually stimulating to any audience.

We enjoyed another fine program in October when Peggy McCrea of the Thomaston Historical Society gave a history of the black marble industry in Thomaston during the 1800s.

The Society thanks the members of the St George Grange for the use of their hall; individuals who generously gave their time and shared their knowledge by presenting programs; you who have donated photographs, documents or other items of historical interest; and all who have supported the Society by attending our programs. We look forward to seeing you in 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

James Skoglund, President
St George Historical Society



MARSHALL POINT LIGHT HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

On June 26 & 27, the lighthouse facility and grounds became a major attraction on the peninsula. Anthology Productions and Nautica – VF Sportswear Inc. engaged in a two day photo shoot for Nautica's winter catalog. Children and adult models dressed in Nautica's latest winter attire, using the Marshall Point Light tower and museum as a backdrop, attracted a large number of visitors to the action. When the photo shoot contingent moved on, the Mid Coast Maine Lighthouse Challenge arrived for the June 28 & 29 activities. These two events, once again, played a significant role in attracting over 13,000 visitors to the Port Clyde area. It is well known the Lighthouse facility is staffed and manned by all volunteers to accommodate these activities. In fact, during the entire summer tourist season volunteers are on the job. That translates to 1000 plus volunteer hours from May through mid-October.

Visitors come from most of the fifty states and from countries listed from A (Australia) to Z (Zambia) and everywhere in between. If, under the "Remember" column of our Guest Book, is an indication of our visitor's experience, it would be the word "wonderful". If you would like to be a part of this exciting environment as a volunteer, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Dave Percival, 372-6438.

Three new faces have been added to the list of Marshall Point Lighthouse scholarship recipients. To qualify a student must be a graduating high school senior from St George. Our three scholarships this year were awarded to:

- 1) John Ferguson – John claimed a four year award of \$2500. John is academically proficient and an active participant in his community. He was awarded a U. S.

Army four year scholarship and will be attending Norwich University in Vermont.

- 2) Olivia Hupper – Olivia began her essay noting her lifelong residence in St George and her lineage of many generations of fishermen. She is attending Main Maritime Academy and is interested in global business to connect Maine's fishing industry to a larger marketplace. Olivia was awarded a \$2500 scholarship from the Marshall Point Lighthouse and Museum.
- 3) Sarah Tarbox – Sarah received a \$1500 scholarship to attend Eastern Maine Community College where she will join the College's Hospitality and Tourism Management program. Sarah, too, comes from a lobster fishing family and is active in all sorts of community events.

Upkeep and maintenance are our financial and primary challenges for this local historical icon. Both interior and exterior issues involving the light tower and the walkway, and the Keeper's House (now the museum) dominate our Board discussions. Each season brings new issues to confront us and old issues that need revisiting. Along with the normal paint and polish projects we face major projects that usually are costly and much involved. Currently we are facing fix-up and restoration work with the summer kitchen, which serves as the main entrance to the museum. We recently updated our fire/smoke and intrusion alarm system. New units were installed, activated and are apparently working very well.

A great deal of time, effort and energy has been utilized in refining and redesigning our website. By our May opening it will be up and running with many new and exciting bits of information for lighthouse fans and potential summer visitors.

The Lighthouse Committee is grateful for the involvement, commitment and support of our neighbors in the local community. Without your encouragement and help our efforts would be wanting and certainly more difficult.

Beginning in May, we will again be open on weekends, 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Then, beginning June 1, the museum and Light House will be available seven days each week, 1:00pm to 5:00pm, and on Saturday, 10:00am to 5:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert "Bob" Sierer, Chairman, MPLHC



ST. GEORGE COMMUNITY SAILING FOUNDATION

Sailing requires that you be aware of your environment. You must understand the wind, the waves, the tide, the balance of the boat, and the set of the sails. By using your wits and the forces of nature, you can coax a boat to do your bidding. It is a great learning experience, and a lot of fun. Note the young sailors above inspecting Southern Island from the water!

The nonprofit St. George Community Sailing Foundation has offered instruction in sailing and seamanship since 2001. We operate from the shore of Blueberry Cove Camp in Tenants Harbor, with whom we have a partnership.

In 2014 fifty-eight children sailed with us, some in multiple sessions. One third of our sailors were year-round residents of St. George, with the rest coming from other parts of the state and the country. All four of our 2014 instructors learned to sail as children in our program and eventually became US Sailing certified instructors. It is exciting to watch these young people take on the challenge and responsibility of teaching the next generation.

Sailors from St. George raced again in the exciting annual Red Jacket Regatta in Rockland, where SGCSF sailor Harry Sage, of Austin, Texas, won the Sportsmanship Award.

The Foundation has worked hard to make sailing affordable for everyone. St. George residents pay a reduced rate on our low fee, and we have scholarships available for those who need them. St. George Sailing receives no money from the Town. Tuitions only account for about half of our actual costs—the balance is made up from generous donations from friends and neighbors who believe it is important to get our children out on the water exploring and having fun. We thank them all. We look forward to another great summer in 2015!

For the Directors:

Steve Lindsay, President
Marney Hupper, Vice President
Tamara Cody, Treasurer
Deanna Smith, Secretary
Kate Bourne
William Deignan

Paul Gill
Felix Kloman
Ryan LeShane
Chuck Paine
Dave Schmanska, *ex officio*

KNOX COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

To the citizens of St. George,

Once again, funding for County jails has become a serious topic of conversation at both the State and County levels. Discussions have centered on whether the State should take over entirely the operation of the jails, or return them to the counties. Any decision made has the potential to seriously impact the County budget.

As originally envisioned, the current arrangement of bringing all County jails together under the umbrella of the Department of Corrections was meant to alleviate many of the problems experienced by County jails statewide, including over-crowding, which had been a chronic problem in Knox County for several years. The jails, however, are still managed by the County Sheriff's departments and counties contribute significantly to funding jail operations. This hybrid system of the State ultimately determining the funding levels for jails yet operations being left to the counties has led to contentious discussions of jail budgets. At present, County funding for jails is capped at 2008 levels, with the State paying for anything above this amount.

At the local level, Knox County is talking with its neighbors in hopes of developing a plan that will benefit each County. And should the jails be returned to the counties, which is another option being discussed in Augusta, Knox County and its neighbors are optimistic any plan developed will mitigate the potential adverse effects of returning the jails to the counties.

Discussions are still on-going as I write this report.

Another area that may impact the County in the next year or two is the building envelope at the County Courthouse: a professional evaluation raised concerns regarding the condition of the façade. Extensive repairs will be needed, and the County received an estimate of \$456,500 to do the work. Surplus funds will be used to fund this project. To conserve available surplus funds, the County Commissioners decided this year to use only \$100,000 of General Fund Surplus to reduce the tax commitment. Last year, the Commission used \$230,000 in surplus funds to reduce taxes.

For calendar year 2015, the total Knox County budget is \$6,864,653, an increase of \$327,368 (5.01%) over calendar year 2014. For St. George, the total County tax is \$806,723.89, an increase of \$62,123 (8.34%), while the Dispatch Fees are \$67,578, an increase of \$479. The combined tax and fees is \$62,602 (7.71%) higher than last year. This increase is due to a combination of increased County spending and a 3.32% increase in valuation. For the last two years, the Town's valuation had decreased, moderating the Town's County taxes.

The calculation of the county tax is based on property valuation. For 2015, the Certified State Valuation for St. George is \$834,900,000, an increase of 3.32% over 2014; the total valuation for Knox County increased slightly from \$7,201,200,000 to \$7,246,500,000 (\$45,300,000, or 0.63%).

Dispatch Fees are based on population figures from the 2010 US Census: 67% of the fee is for 911 services, and 33% of the fee is for Dispatch Services, calculated as 85% for Law Enforcement, 10% for Emergency Services, and 5% for Fire.

County employees received a cost of living adjustment (COLA) of 1.6% based on the August 2014 CPI-W (the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, as determined by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics), and a 2% step increase to wages, as appropriate.

Areas of County government that experienced significant changes in 2015 include:

- Building Maintenance at the Park Street Public Safety Building – Budget increased 37% (\$19,116), due to a change in contractors and new service contracts with HVAC and other system vendors. Since renovations to the facility are no longer under warranty, it was determined that service contracts would be the most cost-effective way to prepare for any problems in the future.
- Registry of Deeds – Projected Revenues decreased 4.62% (-\$21,000) from \$454,000 to \$434,000, due to a flat real estate market and the way registry fees are now collected online. This department provides a significant portion of the County's non-tax Revenues.
- Emergency Management Agency – Budget increased 16% (\$11,432), due mostly to the addition of a 20-hour Geospatial Database Manager: this position is 50% grant-funded and will be reviewed next year to determine whether or not it should be retained.
- Sheriff's Patrol – Budget increased 8.48% (\$137,969), due to the addition of a new Patrol Supervisor and the corresponding cost of benefits, vehicle purchase and other equipment related to this position.
- Knox Regional Communications Center – Budget increased 0.71% (\$7,240). Earlier problems with the Ragged Mountain transmission tower and equipment have been resolved and KRCC will continue to use this tower.

As always, I appreciate the opportunity to represent the Town of St. George on the Knox County Budget Committee, and look forward to answering your questions at Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Matlack

Knox County Budget Committee

District #1 – Representing Isle au Haut, Friendship, Matinicus, North Haven & St. George

Insert letter from Senator King

Insert letter from U S Rep Pingree

Insert letter from Gov LePage

Insert letter from State Senator Miramant

Insert letter from State Rep Kruger