

St. George Annual Town Report



2015

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 Municipal School Unit (MSU)	372-6312
Supt. of Schools, St George MSU	372-6312
St George School Business Office	372-0523

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
--------------	----------------

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, 2015
ending June 30, 2016

TOWN MEETING – SELECTMEN - TOWN MANAGER

FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Cover Photo

Aerial photo of Port Clyde Village about 50 years ago

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dedication

Town Officials
Board & Committee Members
Reports - Boards & Committees
 Select Board Report
 Planning Board
 Board of Appeals
 Conservation Commission
 Budget Committee
 Solid Waste & Recycling Report
 Charter Commission
 St George School Board
 Internet Service Availability Committee
Reports – Town Manager & Department Heads
 Town Manager
 Town Clerk
 Local Plumbing Inspector
 Code Enforcement Officer
 Harbor Master
 Fire Chief
 Emergency Management Director
 St George Volunteer Firefighters & Ambulance Association
 Parks & Recreation Director
Reports - Community Groups
 Jackson Memorial Library
 St George Historical Society
 St George Community Sailing Foundation
Reports – Other Governments
 Letter from U.S. Senator
 Letter from U.S. Representative
 Letter from State Senator
Financial Summary
 Departmental Report
 Trust Funds
 Reserve Funds
 Audit Report
 List of Taxpayers
 Tax Acquired Property
 Abatements
 Supplemental Tax Lists
 Tax Liens
 Properties under State Programs
Annual Town Meeting Warrant

DEDICATION



Bill Hickey

The Select Board dedicates this year's town report to someone whose roots in this Town go back many generations. He has served as moderator at town meetings, member and chairman of the Planning Board, and also serves his community as pastor of the Tenants Harbor Baptist Church.

It is our honor to dedicate this year's town report to William "Bill" Hickey.

TOWN OFFICIALS

Selectmen & Assessors

Richard J S Bates – Chairperson	Marguerite Cutroni, resigned
Randall Elwell	Gerald Hall
Wayne Sawyer	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	Michael Smith, Sr., Deputy
Christopher Leavitt, 1 st Assistant	Larry Smith, Jr., 2 nd 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 Robinson

Transfer Station Staff

Eben Polky
Robert Haskell
James Benner

BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

	Term Expires		Term Expires
Board of Selectmen		Clam Committee	
Marguerite Cutroni, resigned	2016	Frank Fernands	2016
Tammy Willey	2016	Sherman Hoyt	2017
Gerald Hall, replaced Cutroni	2016	Steve Taylor	2015
Richard Bates, Chair	2017		
Wayne Sawyer	2017	Comprehensive Planning Committee	
Randall Elwell	2018	James Gregg	2016
		Amy Morey	2017
St George Municipal School Committee		Joshua McPhail	2017
Sherman Hoyt	2016	Rebekah Milton	2018
Terence Driscoll	2016	~ vacancy ~	2018
Margot Kelley	2017	vacancy, alternate	2016
Williams S Reinhardt	2017	vacancy, alternate	2016
Jennifer Garrett	2018		
		Solid Waste & Recycling Committee	
Planning Board		Beverly Emerson	2016
Anne Cox	2016	Deborah Wheelock, Chair	2017
Mary K Hewlett	2017	Kathryn Johanson	2017
William R. Hickey, resigned		Jane Bracy	2018
Noah Bly	2017	Wendy Carr	2018
James Graf, resigned		Ann Marie Merrill, alt.	2016
Gary Minery	2018	Raymond Emerson, alt.	2016
Stephen Adams, resigned			
Jane Brown	2018	Recreation Committee	
Raymond Emerson, alternate	2016	Meghan Miller	2016
Paul Gill, alternate	2016	Raymond Upham III	2016
		Craig Gauthier	2016
Board of Appeals		Gary Minery	2016
Richard Cohen	2016	Joanna Montgomery	2016
Steve N Miller	2017	Ann Hoppe	2016
Frederick Carey	2017	Michelle Gill	2016
William S Reinhardt	2018		
Mark Bartholomew	2018	Conservation Commission	
vacancy, alt.	2016	Kenneth C Oelberger	2016
vacancy, alt.	2016	Dan Verrillo	2017
		Leslie Hyde, Chair	2017
Budget Committee		Ingrid Mroz	2018
Kenneth C Oelberger	2016	Jonathan Coggeshall	2018
Susan F. Ellis	2016	Ryan LeShane , alternate	2016
Peter Lubbs	2017	Vacancy, alternate	2016
Suzanne Hall	2017		
David Percival	2018	Addressing Committee	
Elizabeth May, alt	2016	Timothy Polky	2016
Earl Ludman, alt.	2016	Terry Brackett	2016
		John Falla	2016
Coastal Waters Mgmt Board			
Glenn Hall	2016	Ad Hoc 10 Cold Storage Road	
Michael Cushman	2016	Bill Mroz, Chair	
Joshua Miller, Chair	2017	Dan Morris	
Richard Vermuelen	2018	Sandra Roak	
Daniel Morris	2018	Dave Schmanska	
vacancy, alt.	2016	Gerald Hall	
William Mroz, alt.	2016		
		Ad Hoc Internet Service Availability Committee	
Scholarship Award Committee		Jeff Boulet, Chair	Susan F Ellis
vacancy	2016	Richard Bates	Chris Caffrey
vacancy	2016	Betsy Welch	
Frederic Carey	2017	Alane Kennedy	
William S Reinhardt	2017	Anne Matlack	
Rev. Walden Chandler	2018		

THANKS FOR ALL THE TIME AND ENERGY YOU GIVE

TO MAKE ST. GEORGE THE COMMUNITY THAT IT IS !

Select Board Report for 2015-16

This Annual Report details the many facets of our Town; as you read it, you will see the dedicated contributions by volunteers and Town employees that go to make it the special place it is. It is a pleasure and a privilege for the Select Board to work in this environment.

The work of the Select Board is a combination of the routine and the new - fine-tuning existing arrangements and responding to new opportunities and developments.

Examples of the routine includes approving warrants and expenditures, ensuring equity of property assessments, monitoring the town's financial status, overseeing the annual audit, reviewing and revising the Policy Manual, and responding to citizens' questions and concerns. Our meetings, held most Monday evenings, are open to the public and your comments are welcome.

Examples of the new include:

- Exploring the value of solar panels to reduce the Town's electricity costs.
- Working with a consultant to understand the competitiveness of the Town's salaries and benefits.
- Forming an ad-hoc committee to investigate the availability of Internet service in the town.
- Acting on the recommendations of the 10 Cold Storage Road Committee.
- Encouraging the formation of a town group to explore future affordable housing needs
- Supporting the Georges River Regional Shellfish Organization in its effort to manage new pressures on the mudflats.
- Joining the Mid-Coast Regional Planning Commission to take advantage of their land use, transportation and economic planning services.
- Participating in the County's Major Winter Storm Functional Exercise.
- Accepting FEMA's final flood hazard determination for the town.
- Accepting funds and an agreement with the Lillius Gilchrest Grace Institute to form the Lillius Gilchrest Grace Scholarship Fund in memory of Tim Watts.

The Board has followed the work of the Charter Commission with vicarious pleasure as it revised, clarified and updated the charter to reflect the Town's evolution.

To summarize our efforts, the Board aims to act in the best interests of the Town, looking to the future, to ensure St. George continues to thrive. 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
Randy Elwell
Jerry Hall
Wayne Sawyer
Tammy Willey

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

The St. George Planning Board has the task of considering building construction and land use changes in the town. As a town we have a number of ordinances that we have voted on adopted over the years -- Shoreland Zoning, Coastal Waters Management, Lot Size, Subdivision, Site Plan, Housing Conversion, Wellhead Protection (all available at stgeorgemaine.com). These ordinances are designed to protect our natural environment and general community character, while allowing for flexibility as landowners develop their specific properties. The members of the Planning Board weigh proposed changes in light of the specific provisions of the various ordinances applicable to each project and work with property owners to see that proposed changes are in line with these provisions. This happens at regularly scheduled Tuesday meetings (2nd and 4th of each month) and at visits to specific project sites as needed.

Through much of 2015 the members of the St. George Planning Board included Bill Hickey, chair, Jim Graf, Steve Adams, Kate Hewlett and Ray Emerson, with alternates Jane Brown and Chip Christensen. The current board members include Anne Cox, chair, Jane Brown, Noah Bly, Gary Minery and Kate Hewlett, with Ray Emerson and Paul Gill as alternates. Mr. Hickey served as chair for 12 years, and was a member of the board for 17 years; Mr. Adams served for 13 years; Mr. Graf, 12 years; Mr. Christensen, four years. All contributed countless hours of time and their expertise to help see that the town's ordinances were fairly and justly followed.

In addition to reviewing the building permit applications in the town that require planning board approval, one of the tasks of the current board has been to work with planning staff members, Terry Brackett and Cherie Yattaw, to revise our Shoreland Zoning Ordinance in light of state-mandated changes. As much of St. George falls in the shoreland zone (all land within 250 feet of the normal high-water line of any great pond, the upland edge of a coastal wetland, the upland edge of a freshwater wetland and all land within 75 feet of the normal high-water line of a stream) this is an ordinance that has bearing on much of the property in town.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Cox, Planning Board Chair

BOARD OF APPEALS REPORT

No meetings or appeals were held in 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve N Miller, Chair

ST GEORGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission coordinates conservation activities in the Town and seeks to preserve valuable open space through sound management practices, conservation easements or outright purchase. Commission membership 2015 included: Kenneth Oelberger, Dan Verrillo, Jonathan Coggeshall, Ingrid Mroz, Ryan LeShane, and Leslie Hyde served as chairman. Tammy Willey served as the Select Board representative and Terry Brackett, Code Enforcement Officer, as link to the Planning Board.

Natural Resource Maps and designation of Significant Ecological Areas

The Conservation Commission developed a set of six Natural Resource Maps in 2015. The maps show wetlands, watercourses, wildlife habitats, farmland soils, protected lands, shore land access, footpaths and other features. The maps are used as a basis for the designation of nine Significant Ecological Areas within the Town. The designation is for planning purposes only and seeks to identify locations where multiple natural resource and human made features create high value habitats for wildlife. This designation also highlights opportunities for recreation, farmland conservation and access to the shore. The maps are hanging on the downstairs Town office meeting room wall. The maps and Significant Ecological Areas listing can be accessed from the Town's Conservation Commission webpage.

Alewife Restoration

Over a span of many years the Conservation Commission has collaborated with the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), US Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Department of Transportation and others to reintroduce an alewife run to the "Marsh". The fish run was disrupted many years ago in part due to the instillation of a non-fish friendly culvert under Route 131. The last run was seen sometime during the 1970s. Since 2009 the DMR has annually released roughly 1,500 spawn ready alewives into the marsh. A new fish friendly culvert was installed in the fall of 2015. The Conservation Commission is collaborating with the St George School eighth grade science class in an ongoing project to study the marsh and monitor the return of the alewives.

Footpaths

The Conservation Commission is creating footpaths in the Town in collaboration with landowners and the George's River Land Trust (GRLT). The two-mile Jones Brook Trail links an existing trail in the Town Forest on the Kinney Woods Road to the historic State owned Fort Point on the Saint George River. The trail route passes through mature softwoods and mixed wood stands and offers views of beaver lodges and moss-covered granite outcrops along Jones Brook. The Jones Brook Trail crosses private land and was made possible by the generous cooperation and support of participating landowners. Trail maps can be accessed from the Conservation Commission page of the Town website.

The **St George School Nature Trail** is being restored and expanded onto adjacent Jackson Memorial Library property with the support of students, teachers and the Conservation Commission. Region 8 Mid-Coast School of Technology students and teachers are constructing a kiosk display board and nature trail interpretative sign boxes to be installed along the trail.

Management of Town and Land Trust owned Properties

The Conservation Commission collaborates in managing the Fort Point and Town owned forest properties. Plans for management are posted on the webpage.

The campaign to preserve **High Island** in Long Cove being led by the Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) was successfully completed in 2015. Financial support came from many sources including: area residents, The Land for Maine's Future and \$25,000 in 2014 Town voter approved money. A closing for the purchase has been set for early 2016. The Conservation Commission will work with MCHT in coming years to develop management plans aligned with the interests of the Town.

The **Bamford Preserve** on Long Cove Road was established by Maine Coast Heritage Trust in 2015 with Conservation Commission support and grant funding from the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program. The Select Board authorized a quitclaim deed to the adjacent tax acquired "woodcrafters" property, which will be used as a parking area for the preserve. The Commission will collaborate in the development of public recreational trails and a management plans for the property.

St George Solar Photovoltaic

The Conservation Commission presented a recommendation to the Select Board that the Town negotiate a Power Purchase Agreement with one of several possible Maine solar providers to install a photovoltaic system on the Transfer Station and Salt Shed roofs. The solar system would reduce Town electric expenses. A study team was established to consider presenting a proposal to the voters.

Educational Programs

The 2015 winter educational series of three well attended monthly programs was presented in collaboration with Friends of Saint George. The programs topics included: Ocean Acidification by Dr. Susie Arnold, Climate Change impacts on Wildlife by Andy Whitman and Biology of Butterflies by Phillip deMaynadier.

The Commission supported **Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)** program was approved by voters at the 2015 town meeting. PACE offers low interest loans to homeowners wishing to invest in energy saving home improvements.

Spring Clean-up

First Saturday in May is designated Town Clean-up Day! Residents join to remove trash accumulated over the winter from our roads and beaches. This collaborative effort involves the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee, Conservation Commission, and everyone in town.

ST. GEORGE BUDGET COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

To the Residents of St. George

The Budget Committee is advisory in nature and 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 current auditor's report.

Compensation Survey

In addition to monitoring the Town's financial condition an area of interest this past year to the committee as well as the Select Board had been employee compensation. Of particular interest was: Is our compensation package (salary and benefits) one which will attract new employees? Also if changes are in order are they fair to existing employees and the tax payers. At last year's town meeting funding was approved to hire a consultant to assist in the evaluation. In summary it was concluded that we are in-line with peer towns for the salary portion of the compensation package and for the most part the benefits are fair and equitable with one notable exception. That exception being the health benefits for families. The proposed budget reflects the existing employee only health benefits for current employees and an option for a top up benefit for family health coverage on a sharing basis. The Budget Committee agrees with this recommendation.

Fiscal Year 2016-17 Proposed Budget

The budget for the various Town departments is proposed by the Town Manager and was jointly reviewed by the Select Board and Budget Committee during February and March, 2016. The result of this review is presented to the voters for consideration at the Town Meeting on May 10, 2016.

This year the Select Board recommends a 2.5% salary increase for all full time employees with several minor adjustments. The increase would be effective in July 2016. The Budget Committee agrees with the Select Board recommendation.

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

- The purchase of the 10 Cold Storage Road property in Port Clyde was approved by the voters last year. The bond payments will continue for another nine years at approximately \$100,000 per year.
- An Ad Hoc Cold Storage Road Committee has been established to investigate the potential use of the property, recommend appropriate maintenance and propose future improvements. This year \$32,500 is proposed for design and fees. It is expected that future improvements for both residential and commercial use will be funded by a combination of grants and town approved funds.
- The Solid Waste department has determined that several capital items have reached end of life and need to be replaced. They have also identified the need for a pickup truck to replace the need to use private vehicles. \$79,000 is proposed for these capital items. The funding for the solid waste equipment reserve account is expected to return to approximately \$20,000 per year after this one time blip. The Budget Committee has requested a long term capital equipment plan similar to the fire vehicle acquisition plan for the future.
- It is quite evident that the Cemetery Associations in town are no longer financially viable as shown by the increasing requests for town assistance. In the

not too distant future it is most likely that the town will assume full financial responsibility for the cemeteries.

Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Proposed Budget: The Town Budget recommended by the Budget Committee is in agreement with that proposed by the Select Board. The Budget Committee worked alongside the Select Board through the winter in developing the proposed budget.

Town Office Administration: There are no significant changes to this budget line. The budget is approximately \$10,000(1.6%) higher than last year.

Select Board/Assessors: The only significant change is a \$2,500 increase from \$2,500 to \$5,000 in the provision for expected abatement expense based on recent experience.

Planning: The only significant change is that no addition to the Public Land Acquisition Reserve is required this year, a \$25,000 reduction from last year

Public Safety – Fire Department: Discounting the major capital expenditures from last year, the budget is increasing from \$312,543 to \$357,666 approximately a \$45,000 increase. The contribution to vehicle reserve has been increased by \$25,000 based on a full assessment of the cost of the vehicles replacements over their life and the equipment line increased by \$10,000 for new fire hoses.

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

Public Works – Roads and Bridges: The bottom line for this department only increases by approximately \$3,000. A reduction in the capital expense of \$25,000 is offset by increases in Summer Contract Services (\$20,000) and Sand & Salt purchase (\$5,000). The summer contract is for road preparation for the planned resurfacing this year.

Public Works – Solid Waste: Overall the budget is up \$93K of which \$60K is for the above mentioned capital items. The remaining increase is primarily for increased trucking costs and wood chipping.

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

Social & Community Services: A \$19K overall increase primarily due to \$10K increase in the Town's support to the Ambulance Service and \$8K increase in support of the Veteran Graves and Cemeteries.

Parks & Recreation: A 20% increase primarily for a request of \$20,000 to replace the baseball field dugouts. The field will be used by the St. George School for their games in addition to the town recreation teams.

Harbors: A 18% increase primarily due to a request for \$32,500 for Design and Permitting fees for the 10 Cold Storage Road property and the debt service increase of \$18K.

Unclassified: As described above a change to the employee health benefits has been proposed. A contingent account is being established to fund the incremental cost of the health plan for employees desiring to elect one of the family plans. It is not expected that all of this will be spent but the “worst case” amount must be available.

Respectfully Submitted,

St. George Budget Committee

Susan Ellis

Suzanne Hall

Peter Lubs, Secretary

Earl Ludman

Elizabeth May

Ken Oelberger, Chair

Dave Percival

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 continued to support the outstanding efforts of its citizens to recycle more than 50 percent of the waste generated in St. George. Our goal continues to be an increase in the rate of recycling so that our overall level approaches fifty five percent, a goal far and above any percentage achieved by all other municipalities in the State of Maine. As always, the reduction in total amount of waste that must be transported and landfilled, besides reaping environmental benefits, realizes a savings to the Town.

- The Committee attended the 22nd Annual Maine Recycling and Solid Waste Conference, taking classes on the markets available for the sale of recycled plastic, paper and glass. Committee members were excited to learn that our recycled materials, because we pre-sort which prevents cross-contamination, command higher prices than single stream items.
- Assisted the Town in strengthening the Solid Waste Ordinances to address enforcement of noncompliant waste disposal.
- Assumed responsibility from the Conservation Committee for the organization of the spring St. George Roadside Cleanup Day. Volunteers from the Town cleaned the major roads of all the waste that had accumulated over the winter. In addition to cleaning segments of local roads, Committee members picked up bags of waste and recyclables and sorted them at the Transfer Station.
- Took a tour of the Crossroads Landfill in Norridgewock. This landfill receives all of the municipal waste generated in St. George.
- Conducted a mini fall Roadside Cleanup on Wallston Road to pick up waste fallen from vehicles on the way to the Transfer Station.
- Assisted in the initiation of the PaintCare program which provides for the recycling of paint for energy and the creation of new paint.
- Assisted the school in paper and corrugated cardboard recycling. Provided support to the St. George MSU in setting up a fledgling recycling program.
- Provided information on recycling for voting days.
- Provided educational materials 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

Charter Commission Report for 2015

In early 2015 the Select Board proposed the formation of a Charter Commission to update the Town Charter due to the creation of the St. George Municipal School Unit (MSU) and the need to address changes in Town operations. This action was approved by voters at the May 2015 Town Meeting.

To address this task, the newly formed Charter Commission familiarized itself with the existing Town Charter to understand its description for the organization and operational requirements of town government. It also reviewed the charters of a few “reference towns” for additional perspectives and solicited input regarding potential changes from Select Board members, Town Management, the standing boards, committees and commissions in town and from the public at a public hearing.

From this process, 60 proposed revisions to the Charter were identified by the Charter Commission. All were systematically reviewed, discussed and a decision made as to whether to incorporate them into a Revised Charter. From this deliberation a Preliminary Draft of the Revised Charter of the Town of St. George was produced, has been published for review by town residents and discussed in a Public Hearing on February 25, 2016.

More than half of the changes made in this Revised Charter can be categorized as “housekeeping” changes to reflect changes in town operation or procedures. The creation of the St. George MSU is the most significant of these, but a number of smaller changes were also appropriate.

A second group of changes were made to make the Charter more of a “framework” for Town government, rather than a detailed set of instructions. Priorities, practices and needs change over time, so the Commission felt those are better addressed by Ordinance or Select Board Policy which should be reviewed annually and updated as required.

A third group of changes were made for “clarification”. The Ordinance section was rewritten to better describe the process for creating ordinances. The responsibilities of the Select Board were described in more detail, to clarify the relationship between it and the various boards and committees it appoints.

Finally, the proposed draft also includes a couple of changes which the Commission felt would be “beneficial to the town”.

The existing Charter prohibits Select Board members from town employment, because of the potential for conflict of interest. The Commission felt that where a conflict of interest could be avoided that provision should be waived and proposed two exceptions to this rule: school system employees and part time firefighters. The Commission’s view was that the pool of candidates willing and able to make the time commitment required of Select Board members is not that large and it would be a mistake to unnecessarily restrict it further.

The second item “beneficial to the town” is the issue of term limits for Select Board members. The current Charter limits Select Board members to two three-year terms. Most members of the Commission felt that eliminating term limits would be beneficial, as it had the potential to provide more continuity in the Select Board, improving institutional knowledge and expertise in areas such as assessment. Further, with the impending retirement of the Town’s long serving Town Manager, more continuity and knowledge in the Select Board might prove even more beneficial than normal.

In the end, the Commission compromised, proposing that the limit on three-year Select Board terms be increased from two to three. This was viewed as a way to gain benefits from greater continuity, but still address the concerns of residents who feel that term limits are a good idea.

The Commission is satisfied with the proposed revision. Though not every issue brought before us was included in the final version, we spent a considerable amount of time understanding the current Charter, the operation of Town government and considering whether changes proposed would be beneficial to the Town of St. George. We believe the adoption of this revised Charter will be beneficial to the Town, as it provides a framework for government which has been updated, takes a longer term view and is more clearly defined. On this basis, we believe it is a document in which we can all have confidence.

As soon as this Charter is accepted, the Select Board Policy Manual and all Ordinances should be reviewed and, if appropriate, updated to be consistent with the revisions in this Charter. If this Charter is approved at the Town Meeting in May, it will go into effect immediately. If it is not approved, another Commission must be established and given a year in which to produce another Charter. We sincerely hope that will not be necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARTER COMMISSION

Terry Driscoll

David Lowell

Jerry Hall, Chair

Charlie Merrill

Bruce Hodsdon, Vice Chair

Tim Polky

Bill Iliffe

Tom Vachon

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

On July 1, 2015, through the dedication and hard work of the Withdrawal Committee, Town Education Committee, school staff, and the people of this community, the St. George Municipal School Unit (MSU) came into existence. Local control of critical decision-making regarding our children's education is now vested with the citizens of St. George, through their own elected municipal school board and public hearing process. The St. George School now belongs fully to the people of St. George. Students can remain in our own community school for their K-8 school years while high school students may individually choose what local secondary institution they wish to attend. The dragon is free!

With freedom comes great responsibility—as well as opportunity and excitement. School Committee members, staff, students, families, and community partners have continued their hard work to build a truly exceptional school. With input from staff and community members, the School Committee articulated the following vision:

The St. George School will be a child-centered school recognized for its excellence as demonstrated by continuous student academic achievement; a culture where students and staff are valued, respected, and empowered; quality leadership; and high quality learning experiences that focus on the success of all.

We are working to realize this vision. During the first critical year of operation, a great deal has been achieved. Below, please find some of those accomplishments that demonstrate the dedication, talent, collaboration, and creativity required to build the best school ever.

- **Budget.** For the same assessment the Town paid in 2014 to be part of RSU 13, St. George MSU was able to add a classroom teacher in each of the K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 levels. We made Physical Education, Art, and French full-time positions, moved the Band teacher from 2 days per week to 3 days, and added a part-time Music teacher. We increased, diversified, and improved our programming for students.
- **High School Choice Program.** St. George MSU is a K-12 district. We are committed to helping our students choose, and succeed at, a high school that meets their educational needs. Through the hard work and coordination of Josh McPhail (8th Grade Advisor/Middle Level Social Studies) and Joyce Slader (Guidance Counselor), students heard from, learned about, and visited five local area high schools. As a result, students and families were able to choose a high school that worked for them. Eleven of this year's 8th graders will be attending Oceanside High School, six chose Camden Hills Regional High School, five will attend Medomak Valley, and three will go to Lincoln Academy.
- **Summer Math Camp.** For the third consecutive summer, the St. George School opened its doors to nearly 50 students in 1st through 8th grades interested in increasing their math skills. For three weeks, Monday through Friday, students and teachers worked on projects, worksheets, websites, and games to help boost math skills and scores on school-wide fall assessments. Most students in the nation lose over 2 months' worth

of math skills during the summer. However, **72% of students participating in last year's math camp either increased their math test scores or kept their scores stable from the spring.**

- **Herring Gut Program for Middle Level Students.** The Herring Gut Program provides an intensive hands-on learning experience outside of the traditional classroom. It allows students an opportunity to engage in authentic scientific inquiry of the local ecosystems and explore trends in aquaculture. Collaboration between St. George School and Herring Gut educators shapes programs that integrate science and observation skills, explore the history of local ecosystems, and apply mathematical analysis of real-world data.
- **Marvin the Lobster.** In collaboration with the Kit Harrison, the French teacher, Leatrice Falla's 2nd grade class has been involved in a Learning Expedition about lobsters and lobstering. Marvin, a rubber lobster and the class mascot, is traveling throughout the world. Through contacts with friends and community members, Marvin traveled to Quebec in November and Nicaragua in January. His future travels include Antarctica, the Bahamas, and Guatemala. Because Marvin has had so many invitations, it was necessary for Marvin's cousin, Delphine from St. John, New Brunswick, to also begin traveling. She will travel to Italy, Mexico, Morocco, Amsterdam, Paris, Berlin and London. The people they travel with are sending the class photos of Marvin's and Delphine's excursions with information about the places they visit and how lobstering is done in that part of the world.
- **Leaps of Imagination.** Leaps of Imagination is a group of local artists who make art with, and teach art to, students. In collaboration with the school Art teacher, Julie Ryan, this group of artists worked with Christine Miller's 3rd grade class to learn how to tell a story with collagraphs, a printmaking technique. The students met with the artists twice-a-week for several weeks at the Jackson Memorial Library and presented their work to families and community members at an exhibition in December.
- **8th Graders and Alewives.** The 8th grade class has taken science into the field and history into the community to study alewife passage into the marsh. This interdisciplinary study will help the town learn about the new culvert and if there is adequate "fish passage" for the fish run in May. There is a class blog that follows the students' activities, which include talking to community members who remember the last runs of fish in the 1970's. Their blog can be found at <http://alewives.edublogs.org/>.
- **Band.** Seven middle level band students participated in District 3 Honor's Band and Honor's Jazz Band. Nearly 100% of the 5th grade class is part of the Beginning Band program and, with the addition 8th grade, the St. George Middle Level Band has an enrollment of 47 students and has never sounded better.

- **Athletics.** This fall, students participated in Cross Country, Golf, and Soccer on St. George teams as well as Field Hockey and Football at RSU 13. The Golf Team took the league championship and we had 25 of 38 eligible students participate in fall sports. This winter, both the girls' and boys' basketball teams finished the regular season in first place in their division. The boys made the divisional championship game and the girls won the division title. Spring sports begins in April with Softball, Baseball, and Track and Field. Thank you to coaches, families, Ben Vail, and the entire community for cheering on our very own St. George Dragon athletes.

As we approach the end of our first year of independent operation, we should celebrate our successes. But we also recognize that with regards to achieving sustainable educational excellence, there is much more work to be done. The following is just a few of the challenges that we will be addressing in the coming year.

- **Expeditionary Learning.** It will be a challenge to prioritize resources (time & money) to continue towards our goal of becoming a certified Expeditionary Learning School. Progress in this endeavor had been stymied by lack of philosophical and financial support from RSU 13.
- **Withdrawal Agreement with RSU13.** We have a few unresolved issues with RSU 13 related to our withdrawal agreement. For example, St. George owns approximately a 25% share of RSU 13's audit-validated fund balance, either positive or negative, at the time of withdrawal. As of this date, their audit for the 2014-2015 fiscal year has not been completed.
- **High School Tuition.** We have tuition agreement or memorandums of understanding with all of the local secondary education institutions that our students may attend. Without exception, these schools have enthusiastically welcomed and accommodated our students. All of the schools, with the exception of Oceanside, have their tuition rate tied to the state calculated per pupil average cost, and are reasonably predictable and projectable. However, Oceanside's tuition rate is tied to their own calculated per pupil cost. Given their rising costs and declining enrollment, we are predicting that we could be paying from 13% to 27% more for students attending Oceanside than for the other receiving schools in the next few years.
- **High School Experience.** We may be a K-8 school, but we are a K-12 district. Even though a student is attending a high school of their choice, they are still our responsibility. We need to formalize a process so as to stay in contact, monitor their progress, access and address any needs and evaluate their secondary educational experience.
- **Budget Sustainability.** While we are committed to excellence, we are also committed to achieving it through a budget that is both reasonable and sustainable for the taxpayers of St. George. This requires us to continually evaluate our current programs and services,

intensely analyze any proposed new program or service, and always be willing to identify and consider alternatives for cost savings and improvements.

The St. George MSU School Board meets at least once a month (usually more) on the second Wednesday at 6:30 PM at the St. George School. We encourage any interested people to attend our meetings to observe, comment, ask questions or offer suggestions. Keep in touch with the happenings at our school through the school newsletter, our website, Facebook or from teachers, staff, parents and students. Furthermore, consider attending a school event or even volunteering your talents. After all, we are a community school, and it is community involvement that makes St. George great!

For the St. George MSU School Board,

William S. Reinhardt, Terrence Driscoll, Jennifer Garrett, Sherman Hoyt & Margot Kelley

Ad Hoc Internet Service Availability Committee Interim Report

Summary

The Ad Hoc Internet Service Availability Committee was formed to investigate the current options for internet access in St. George, the potential needs and future prospects for improvement of internet access, and to prepare a report to the Select Board with the Committee's findings and any recommendations on how the Town may usefully assist with these improvements. According to Wikipedia, "*broadband is...any high-speed Internet access that is always on and faster than traditional dial-up access.*" Broadband allows residents and businesses to download movies (Netflix, Hulu, etc), communicate via video conference or VoIP (Skype, FaceTime, Google Hangouts), enables people to pursue educational goals (download homework or watch streaming classes and tutorials, download books from a library), shop online (Amazon), and communicate with family and friends (Email, Facebook, Twitter). Fast internet is good for local business, makes education more accessible and is positive for the community—so we think everyone in St. George should have access to it.

Based on anecdotal evidence, the committee's assumption was that the quality of broadband varied throughout St. George. Most of the stories we heard were negative even though we had proof that people had access to broadband. Within our committee alone, there were disparities in service that ranged from no-broadband access to very fast broadband access.

What we have done

After a first meeting to discuss the perceived problems, we met with Lisa Leahy, a representative from the ConnectME Authority, a component unit of Maine state government. We learned that our community is eligible for grant funding to help subsidize the cost of broadband infrastructure assessments and upgrades. The grant process begins by fulfilling a checklist.

The first item on the checklist was to contact a representative from a local Internet Service Provider (ISP). We met with Mike Edgecomb, a representative from Time Warner Cable (TWC) who lives in Spruce Head. Based on TWC's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data, it appeared that there are very few regions of St. George that do not have broadband access. He showed us how—using Google Maps and Google Earth—we can identify broadband access points and Time Warner equipment that indicate broadband service. It appears that the regions that do not have broadband infrastructure are mostly limited to dirt roads and private access roads.

After our meeting with Time Warner Cable, we met again to discuss how to proceed. We determined that, though most of St. George appears to have broadband coverage, there appear to be enough homes without broadband to warrant further investigation and that we should continue working on the checklist in the ConnectME grant process. The next steps will be to speak with additional ISPs to discuss the cost and viability of an infrastructure assessment.

What we've learned

- Without doing a planning study with a technology partner (such as Tilson Technology or the James W. Sewall Company), we do not know how many people are unserved or underserved.
- A planning study would help us identify exactly which homes do not have broadband.

- Based on the GIS data from Time Warner Cable, it appears that unserved regions are mainly isolated to private roads.
- Most people on or near a main road *should* have broadband access already.
- While it is currently possible to have broadband infrastructure on any remote road, the cost is high (see below).
- According to Time Warner Cable, it costs approximately \$10,000/mile to build infrastructure for broadband.
- In order for Time Warner Cable to install infrastructure at their own cost, the house density must be approximately 25 houses/mile. This number ensures they have a return on their investment (ROI).
- Wireless technology may be more commonplace in the near future. Wireless access points could be placed near the end of a road where there is still access to broadband cables. Broadband could then be accessed via specialized wireless equipment in a home. With all wireless technology, it has a limited geographic range and won't serve everyone. We don't know specifics.
- Anecdotal evidence may indicate that people don't know what to expect when purchasing broadband. It's possible that the people who have slow internet are paying for a plan with limited access when faster plans are available to them (at a higher price).
- It's also possible that people have old or faulty equipment that gives the perception of slow internet.

Next steps

- Meet with Tilson Technology or the Sewall Company to discuss a planning study and how much a planning study would cost.
- Apply for a Community Broadband Planning Grant from ConnectME, which would help pay for an infrastructure assessment. The assessment would be performed by an independent contractor (Tilson or Sewall) and would develop a plan to expand the availability of broadband services in unserved and underserved areas in St. George.
- Prepare a report of the Committee's findings, including the results of the infrastructure assessment, and present it to the Select Board at a public meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Boulet, Chairperson
 Christopher Caffrey
 Susy Ellis
 Alane Kennedy
 Ann Matlack
 Betsy Welch
 Richard Bates, Select Board Representative

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

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

Wow! Has it been that long? Next year will see my thirtieth and final report as town manager. I have informed the Select Board that it is time for me to do something different. But don't worry, I'm not leaving town. I'll be around.

If you want to know something about the Town, please visit the Town's website. It 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 a lot going on in the world around us. 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 things what you put into them.

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 2015:

Births - 9 Marriages - 18

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	
Barnes	Patricia Ann	01/22/2015	71	St George
Benson	Helen Maria	07/16/2015	87	Camden
Champagne	Raoul A	12/30/2015	76	Lewiston
Clark	Donald Merritt	02/07/2015	90	Augusta
Dalrymple	Robert Anthony Jr	12/07/2015	94	St George
Davis	Donald Richard	11/19/2015	82	St George
Dennison	Norman Earle Sr	06/18/2015	88	Rockport
Doherty	Marion Louise	02/19/2015	77	St George
DuBack	Charles Steven	10/22/2015	89	St George
Estes	Alice Elaine	08/02/2015	92	Rockland
Fitzcharles	William Grant III	11/26/2015	59	St George
Libby	Kimberly Eileen	01/07/2015	60	Rockport
Lombardo	Kenneth J	05/02/2015	66	St George
MacDonald	Eileen K	06/26/2015	71	St George
Maki	David Jeramiah	07/17/2015	77	Portland
McKay	Susan E	11/11/2015	61	Portland
Miller	Mae Edith	12/08/2015	90	St George
Murphy	Merton Everett	06/26/2015	81	Portland
Myers	James Allen Sr	02/26/2015	62	St George
Perry	Robert Marshall	02/17/2015	70	St George
Robinson	Ralph Herman	08/02/2015	85	Rockport
Rordam	Betty Marjorie	01/07/2015	95	St George
Smith	Flora P	07/21/2015	88	St George
Sullivan	Kenneth J	02/13/2015	87	St George
Todd	Deborah Ann	07/04/2015	62	Rockport
Wilson	Harold Ernest	06/22/2015	63	St George
Wood	William Edward	04/11/2015	67	Farmington

LOCAL PLUMBING INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Town of St George issued 87 Plumbing Permits in 2015.

- 41 Permits for Internal Plumbing
- 18 Permits for New Septic Systems
- 24 Permits for Replacement Systems
- 2 Septic Tank Replacements
- 1 Expanded Septic Systems

There were 157 inspections conducted, 6 violations investigated and 4 training/workshops 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 government agencies regarding failing systems.

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
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, attending meetings of the Planning Board, Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission and investigating complaints of violations from citizens as well as complaints of violations from State and Federal Agencies.

The Planning Department issued 147 Building Permits with an estimated cost of \$8,309,117.

I am available Monday thru Friday from 8am to 4pm. You may contact me 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 2015

	Shoreland		Non-Shoreland			Value
	#	Zone	#	Zone	Total	Total
RESIDENTIAL:						
Single Family Dwelling	4	2,150,000	6	1,298,000	10	3,448,000
Multi Family Dwelling	1	2,000			1	2,000
Manufactured Housing	1	341,900			1	341,900
Addition to Dwelling	4	198,000	4	460,000	8	658,000
Renovation to Dwelling	16	701,713	24	933,749	40	1,635,462
Conversion of Dwelling						
ACCESSORY STRUCTURES:						
Shed / Out building / Decks	30	638,835	29	234,720	59	873,555
Garage	1	68,000	5	133,000	6	201,000
Wharf	9	492,100			9	492,100
Landscaping	5	42,000	1	74,500	6	116,500
COMMERCIAL:						
Educational			1	7,000	1	7,000
Healthcare						
Industrial						
Marine Related	1	25,000			1	25,000
Office Related			1	75,000	1	75,000
Religious						
Stores / Sales			1	500	1	500
Utilities/Communications Related						
Vehicle Repair						
Wharf						
Addition						
Out Buildings	1	4,350	2	428,750	3	433,100
Conversion						
Renovation						
Home Occupation						
Landscaping						
Parking lots						
Totals	73	4,663,898	74	3,645,219	147	8,309,117
Sub-Division						
Floodplain Permits						
Site Plan Review			13		13	
Inspections Conducted			220		220	
Violations Investigated			19		19	
Training / Workshops			11		11	

HARBOR MASTER'S REPORT 2015

Mariner Radio Activated Sound Signal (MRASS)

The Coast Guard is installing MRASS at many Maine lighthouses and the following is an attempt to clarify and explain exactly what MRASS is and how it will work for mariners.

What is MRASS?

MRASS enables mariners to activate the sound signal on lighthouses where the system is installed by using a VHF radio.

How will I activate the sound signal on a lighthouse where MRASS is installed?

Mariners will activate sound signals by keying a VHF radio 5 times consecutively on channel 83A.

Do other lighthouses currently have MRASS installed?

Yes. many lighthouses around the country have MRASS installed including the Great Lakes, west coast and 8 lighthouses in ME and NH already have MRASS installed.

Why is the C.G converting lighthouses to MRASS?

The existing VM-100 fog detection system is antiquated, unreliable, and inefficient. Spare parts are also extremely limited and no longer being manufactured.

Will there be any changes to the light characteristics or sound signals at these lighthouses?

No. All light characteristics and sound signals will remain the same. The only change is the way the sound signals are activated.

How will I know when a lighthouse is converted to MRASS?

All changes will be announced in the Local Notice to Mariners at:

<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=InmMain>

The USCG is currently installing MRASS at these local lighthouses:

Marshall Point Light	Owls Head Light
Whitehead Light	Egg Rock
Two Bush Light	

Other ME lighthouses receiving MRASS include Seguin, Cape Elizabeth, Goat Isl., Burnt Isl., Portland Head, Spring Pt., Dog Isl., West Quoddy Head, Fort Pt., Heron Neck, Goose Rocks, Browns Head.

For further information contact: US Coast Guard Sector Northern New England Waterways Management Staff at 207.347.5015

This is a major change for mariners of all types. Please take it seriously and make the necessary adjustments in your boating activity to keep you and yours safe at all times.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Schmanska, St. George Harbor Master

FIRE DEPARTMENT

In 2015 the Fire Department responded to 81 calls;

Alarm Investigations	25	Ambulance Assists	3
Auto Accidents	7	Boat Sinking	1
Brush/Grass/Debris	9	Chimney Fires	2
Citizen Assist	3	Flooded Basements	4
Odor Investigation	4	Search & Rescue	2
Smoke Investigation	2	Structure Fires	5
Trees Down	5	Vehicle	2
Wires Down	7		

This year we saw more alarm related calls. A lot of these calls were for carbon monoxide alarms. It is good to see so many people have detectors and alarms in their homes and businesses. Smoke, heat, temperature, or carbon monoxide detectors are not effective if they don't work. Test your detectors monthly and change the batteries every six months. Change your batteries when you change your clock for daylight savings time. The detector should also be replaced when they reaches their expiration date.

We are fortunate that we have a great team of trained and dedicated people. However the number of members on our roster is down and some of the team is getting older. We do need more firefighters. If you want to help, but 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.

The lack of volunteers is not just a problem in St George. This is a problem that fire departments across the country face. We rely on our neighboring towns for help when needed. We ask for help when we need it and respond to them when they are in need. This is mutual aid.

A good example of mutual aid is the 2014 water supply testing that allowed St George to go from a fire rating class of 9 to class 6. To make that happen we needed the help of So Thomaston, Owl's Head, Thomaston, Cushing and Warren Fire Departments. This change in class is important because it should lower your insurance premium for fire coverage.

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 fire training buildings where we can have fires in the burn room without damaging the structure. We have used a burn building in Wiscasset. This facility is not always available and the distance makes it difficult to use, plus, while we are training in Wiscasset we have stripped our town of personal and equipment. Our mutual aid neighbors have the same issues. That is 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. The plans are drawn, the permits are issued and the proposals have been returned. We plan to start building in the spring/summer of 2016.

We have started a new Fire and Ambulance Junior Program. Hopefully this program will get young people interested in the fire and ambulance services.

What will the future fire service look like? The aging membership of the fire departments and the lack of new members may have us looking at different approaches to fire protection. Maybe more cooperation with neighboring towns, maybe consolidation of stations and equipment.

There was a study conducted in Knox County this year that was looking at these issues. Maybe that group will come up with ways to help solve these problems.

We are planning to take delivery of a new fire engine this summer. The cost of \$450,000.00 has been anticipated, budgeted for and accrued in the budget under our Fire Vehicle Acquisition line item. 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.

We are having some issues with not being able to find addresses in time of emergencies. This could be less of an issue if everyone would put house number up where we can see them. If your house can be seen from the road the numbers can be on the house. That is if we can read them from the road. Otherwise the number should be posted at the end of the driveway.

Thank you for your support,

Tim Polky, Fire Chief

St George Office of Emergency Management 2015

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has been around for many years. It was called Civil Defense many years ago. It is the lower end of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) , and then Knox County Emergency Agency (KXEMA).

The OEM is managed by the Emergency Management Director (EMD), who is responsible preparation and implementation of emergency management plans to minimize injury and loss due to a serious emergency or disaster.

The EMD is responsible for performing the four phases of Emergency Management; preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

St George is very fortunate that we have great group of volunteers that make all this happen. We have a great shelter group that if needed in an emergency or disaster makes sure there will be a place to get warm, have something to eat, take a shower, charge your cell phone or just have someone to talk to.

There is a lot of time that goes into this kind of stuff. Spending time at the fire station that serves as our shelter for now, learning where everything is and how it works. Taking time to make sure the food in the storage lockers are not out dated. If the food needs to be replaced they do the shopping.

Another thing that the OEM does is drills and exercises. The exercises can take a bit of time as well. We have had several in the past year that have involved the fire department, ambulance, law enforcement, the shelter group, town manager and select board. A couple of these exercises have involved other towns as well.

These exercises are important because they show what we do well and where we need to improve. One of the big items that came out of this year's exercises is that we need to separate the shelter from the fire station area in an emergency. We plan to work with the school and have the shelter there. The school has more room, a bigger kitchen, more showers, bathrooms and we're not competing for space at the fire station.

Thanks to all the people that make my job as EMD so much easier,

Tim Polky, EMD

ST. GEORGE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

The St. George Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Association (SGVFAA) 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.

To the Citizens of St. George, We thank you for your support, patience, and kind words throughout the year.

2015 we responded to 339 total calls. Of those 339, we responded to 315 emergency calls, with 210 of those calls resulting in transport to the hospital and 80% of those transports required advanced life support (paramedic) assessment or intervention. We also continued to make Community Health visits to members in the community who were part of our program with 24 calls total.

This year we went into an agreement to provide ALS response for South Thomaston. The agreement went into place in September and we have responded 12 times. As part of this agreement South Thomaston first responds to emergency calls that are on the northern part of our response area until we arrive.

We are on our third 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 have developed 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 in the community. If you are interested in learning CPR, please call 372-6122.

We have replaced the ambulance this year. We are trying to maintain a 10-year replacement cycle. The money for this ambulance has been set aside each year. We also donated the old ambulance to Mid Coast School of Technology for educational purposes.

The ambulance service is always seeking new volunteers. There are many roles to be filled in the service. 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

PARKS & RECREATION REPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to present the 2015-16 Parks and Recreation report. This past year has been marked with many successes, thanks to the support of the townspeople of St. George and particularly the many, many volunteers who donate their time. This support, both financial and in person, allows us to offer a variety of programs that serve young and old. The report that follows will be a review of the last year beginning in March of 2015 and concluding in February of 2016. It is a pleasure to serve the people of St. George.

Senior Citizen Programs: This was a most successful year for our seniors program. Our luncheon attendance continued to grow with 35-40 seniors attending each month. Our programs at the luncheons included music from Kip Yattaw, St. George School Band, Tenants Harbor Ukeleles as well as presentations from the Town Manager, Fire Department, Harbor Master and Code Enforcement Officer. Our Senior Citizen trip schedule took us to the State Museum and the Blaine House, the Medomak Valley High School greenhouses, on a dinner cruise out to Eastern Egg Rock and back to visit some puffins, to Acadia National Park and finally on our annual shopping trip.

Youth Activities:

Mussel Ridge Hoop Tournament: The 20th annual 3rd-4th grade tournament was again a huge success, both in participation and as a fundraiser for the St. George Rec Boosters. Participating teams included Medomak, Rockland and Thomaston along with the host St. George teams. The Rockland girls and Medomak boys emerged victorious, but more importantly the kids had a great time and it was another great example of dedicated volunteers coming together to provide an outstanding tournament.

Little League: Our second year in Oceanside Little League was a successful one on many levels. Our numbers of participants was excellent with 33 Little League boys and girls, 40 Farm League boys and girls and 18 T-ballers. The Dragons won the Oceanside Championship and the Lady Dragons were runners-up! Thank you to the following coaches and managers: Little League – Jed Miller, Brice Carlson, Kristin O’Neal, Dawn Gauthier, Ben Caron and Patty St. Clair; Farm League- Missy Gill, Josh Miller, Chris Leavitt, Jason Mattox, Patti Mattox, Josh McPhail, and Jeff Elwell; T-ball- Chris Noland, Becky Melquist and Ericka Theriault.

Summer Clinics: Our second year of summer clinics went very well. As before, the offerings were determined from a survey taken from the students at the St. George School. This past summer, they selected basketball, art, science and baseball. The participation numbers for the clinics ranged from 11-24 and the young people had a great time learning more about each of the areas. In all, 42 different children took part in one or more summer clinics. My thanks to our instructors - Ashley Geel, Ann Boover, Angela Pomerleau and Drew Townsend. We were also fortunate to team up with Blueberry Cove camp and bring the Dutch Soccer Academy here to St. George.

Soccer: Last fall, our soccer program consisted of a 5th-6th girls team, two 3rd-4th coed teams and 3 K-2 teams with a total of 68 boys and girls participating. Many thanks to our volunteer coaches Jeff Shaw, Missy Gill, Josh McPhail, David Black, Tracy Leavitt, Nancy Iliffe, Autumn Miller, Shasta Minery, Roni Stuart, Summer Ward, Mike Hooper and Krissy Hooper.

Basketball: Our soon to be completed Midcoast Basketball season has been a rousing success. Our K-2 clinics saw 20-28 boys and girls attend each Saturday in January minus one snow day. The boys and girls were instructed in beginning fundamentals and then played in age group games with their peers. This program is only possible through the

support of knowledgeable, enthusiastic parent volunteers. This year I want to thank Rachel Putansu, Davin Putansu, Summer Ward, Katy Morris, Shasta Minery, Ericka Theriault, and Becky Melquist for their help. 3rd-4th grade and 5th-6th grade seasons come to an end this week. Our overall numbers are down a bit, but all 5 of our teams had successful seasons. The Lady Knights and Knights 5th-6th teams are in the finals as of this writing. Thank you to coaches Garret Hilchey, Jeff Elwell, Jim Wirkala, Jeff Shaw, Josh Miller, Dan Kingsbury and Ryan Payne.

Community Programs and Support:

Ski Club: The ski club started this year in mid-January and continues despite our spring-like weather. This program continues to be popular with all ages. Thank you to Beth and Patty for helping with weekly registrations and thanks to the Camden Snow Bowl for their cooperation.

Boston Celtics Trip: we had a very successful trip last April and we are scheduled to head to the TD Garden again on March 11 this year. We will once again be able to have 14 lucky young fans be on the court with the Celtics during the National Anthem.

Adult Exercise Classes: Angie Vachon continues to offer popular exercise classes 3 morning a week, and during the winter afternoon classes as well. We were fortunate to reinstate yoga classes from May through October as well under the direction of Toni Small.

St. George Days: The Dunk Tank made a triumphant return in 2015, thanks to the a number of selfless “dunkees.” As has been the tradition, we kicked off the festivities on Saturday morning with our annual Marshall Point road race. On Sunday, a variety of players of all ages turned the Old-Timers Game into an “Anytimers” Game.

Community Support: It is entirely appropriate to take a section of this report to thank a number of folks who donate their time to support the activities of this department. Without them, we could not have Senior Luncheons, ball games or any other activities that this department sponsors. A sincere thanks to: luncheon helpers Deanna Smith, Dianne Oelberger, Kate Hewlett, Angie Ritz, Debby Wheelock and game officials Angie Vachon, Rick O'Malley, Craig Gauthier, Peter Henderson, Bruce Hodsdon, John Petersdorf and Fred Campbell.

Facilities: the past twelve months has been very productive on the facilities front. Over the summer, the big diamond was restored to baseball condition in preparation for the school team's season this spring. Upgrades to the Collins Park playground were completed including new glass backboards and a new climbing wall. This fall, the final phase of a drainage plan for the big ball field was completed. Finally, the Rec Committee and Rec Boosters purchased an ice rink kit and with the cooperation of the St. George School and the St. George Fire Department built a rink on the outdoor court at the school. The weather has not cooperated this year, but this investment will result in community skating for years to come. It should be noted that both the playground improvements and the skating rink were paid for from Rec Booster funds raised at the Mussel Ridge tournament and at the Marshall Point road race.

Acknowledgements: My thanks to our excellent Recreation Committee – Raymond Upham, Meghan Benner, Craig Gauthier, Gary Minery, Joanna Montgomery, Michelle Gill and Ann Hoppe. They contribute countless hours of invaluable time and are a pleasure to work with. Another round of thanks to my co-workers in the town office – John, Tim, Dave, Peggy, Terry, Cherie, Beth and Patty. Your support and assistance is invaluable. Thank you to my

family for their support, and last but not least, thank you to the community of St. George for supporting the Parks and Recreation programs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Vail, Parks & Recreation Director



JACKSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY REPORT



The Jackson Memorial Library is a small-town library with big-city services. 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. The library has become a hub of community and learning.

The library averages **1,000 visitors** every month. Circulation increased by 16% in 2015, with more than **14,000** books, DVDs, audio books, magazines, and digital readers (Nooks and Kindles) checked out. We issued **new library cards** to 127 adults and 49 children.

Over 1,000 **audio books and eBooks** were downloaded by our cardholders to their own devices in 2015 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 **computers** for public use at the library for Internet browsing, some offering a variety of work and recreational applications. We provide printer and scanner services, and staff is available to help with computer questions and tech support for patrons' devices. Broadband Internet wifi is available 24/7.

The library has been actively working with the **St. George MSU** to find ways to develop **program support** for classrooms and the school library. The "Leaps of Imagination" workshop conducted at the library with the third grade was exciting and fun, culminating in a well-attended show in early December. We continue to work to identify new ways to team with the school to provide enrichment opportunities for St. George children.

Our **after-school children's programs** consistently bring 20-25 children to the library in the afternoons for art, cooking and other interesting activities. Afterwards, homework help is available as well as comfortable places to read and study. A monthly schedule of programs is available on our website.

12 four-year-olds attend the free **Pre-K program**, meeting 3 mornings a week. Our instructor and assistant to help these young ones get ready for kindergarten in September. Parents actively contribute by helping out in the classroom and doing fundraisers.

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 a French class. Informal bridge and mahjong groups meet weekly for lively games and conversation. The fine art exhibition program brought 9 shows to the walls of the library, and resulting sales added over \$1,000 toward our fundraising goals.

The library depends heavily on **volunteers**. 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 support of complex systems in the building. Over 2,100 hours of volunteer time represents nearly \$30,000 of in-kind services.

Each year the Town makes a generous allocation to the Library; in 2015 it was \$35,000, 20% of JML's operating budget. We are very grateful for the Town's continued support. Other **revenue** sources include individual 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 finding JML on Facebook. Or simply stop by!

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Welch, JML President
Yvonne Gloede, Library Director

Library Mission

Jackson Memorial Library serves the St. George community by providing information, materials, services and programs to families and individuals of all ages for their education, enrichment and personal enjoyment. The Library provides a welcoming and comfortable public space for social interaction, civic engagement and quiet study.

ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The St George Historical Society was organized in the early 1980s to increase the appreciation of our town's heritage and to encourage the preservation of its historic sites, artifacts, and documents. Over the years, the Society's members, in cooperation with town officials and other organizations, have established the Marshall's Point Lighthouse Museum, the Schoolhouse Museum; provided access to Fort St George; encouraged and provided actual labor in restoring our town's cemeteries – all of which were at least partially overgrown with trees and bushes until a few years ago.; and preserved countless documents, photographs, and recordings in a safe room created for that purpose in the Town Office.

April through October the Society presents a lecture or discussion on a topic relevant to local history on the last Thursday of the month at 7:30pm after a pot luck supper at 6:30pm. Unless announced otherwise, meetings are held at the St George Grange Hall. Everyone is invited at no cost or obligation, but a collection is taken.

These monthly meetings promote an understanding of our town and contribute to general community inclusion and sociability.

In April 2015, Larkin Post of Owls Head presented an illustrated talk of the wreck of the Polias on Old Cilley Ledge in 1920 and the underwater archaeological team that examined the wreck a few years ago.

Leroy Peaslee of Rockland came to our May meeting in his World War II uniform and delivered a talk on his memories of the war. Listening to a good and wise man remember and reflect on events of seventy years earlier was a moving experience.

Flag appraiser and expert Dave Martucci brought pictures and actual historic flags to our June meeting. He explained the significance of flags, how they evolved, and how customs on the appropriate treatment of flags has changed.

James Skoglund attempted to give a "drive-by" history of St George in one hour at the July meeting. Failing to compress four hundred years of history into the time allotted, he carried on at the August meeting and eventually concluded.

In September we had a general discussion of our memories of our school days in St George.

October's meeting was a fine conclusion to the 2015's programs. Michael Dekker, while a student in Thomaston, became interested in the French and Indian wars. Eventually he became a teacher and historian, and in 2015 he published "The French and Indian Wars in Maine". He explained the complex political and economic forces that brought about a century of warfare that delayed the settlement of St George until 1763.

The Society is grateful for the participation of both speakers and listeners at our meeting, and thanks the members of the St George Grange for the use of their hall. Special thanks to you thoughtful people who have so kindly donated items to the Society.

The Andrew Robinson House, built in 1805, needs shingling, painting, and other repairs which cannot be done by volunteers, before it can be opened as a community museum. Although there are already several other community institutions depending on your generosity for support, we too will need to call out for help.

Students at the St George School, in their project of researching St George schools, have interviewed older residents, visited the School House Museum, and studied old records. Teacher Josh McPhail has arranged for them to present their results at April's Historical Society meeting. We hope to see you there.

Respectfully submitted,

James Skoglund, President
St George Historical Society



ST. GEORGE COMMUNITY SAILING FOUNDATION

The nonprofit **St. George Community Sailing Foundation** was created in 2001 to teach sailing and seamanship to children and adults on the St. George peninsula. The summer of 2015 was our **fifteenth season**.

Over the course of six weeks we enrolled 64 young sailors. About a third were residents of St. George, a third were summer visitors, and the rest were campers from Blueberry Cove Camp. We also offered private lessons to adults and families on weekends and late afternoons. Four of our five young instructors were graduates of our program.

We awarded 9 scholarships in 2015, which were funded by the St. George Park & Recreation Boosters, the Ingalls Fund of the Jackson Memorial Library, and through gifts to SGCSF.

The “University of Maine 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Blueberry Cove” (Blueberry Cove Camp) continues to host our on-shore activities, store our floats in the winter, and enroll campers in our program. This has proven to be a great partnership.

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 account for less than 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 2016!

For the Directors:

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

Ryan LeShane
Chuck Paine
Felix Kloman, *emeritus*
Dave Schmanska, *ex officio*
Ben Vail, *ex officio*

Insert letter from Senator King

Insert letter from U S Rep Pingree

Insert letter from State Senator Miramant