

SELECTMEN CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

THOMAS DANYLIK, CHAIR

My fellow citizens: The Board of Selectmen has invested its time and energy in a variety of issues and concerns during the preceding year, including some that have been carried forward from previous years and some of which were of first impression.

Within the former category, there would be included a continuing, somewhat frustrating effort, directed toward the siting and construction of a new Town Hall. The Board has been in consultation with various professionals regarding both the suitability of potential sites, evaluation assessments, and conceptual designs of a new building. Despite a few promising proposals the Board explored this year, after they were fully vetted, they proved ultimately not to be within acceptable parameters. Nevertheless, the Board is committed to continue to pursue the goal of replacing the present, aged and inadequate structure that is the existing Town Hall and to garner community support for same.

The Board has also been trying to address the parking and safety issues surrounding access to the Eastern Trail as it crosses the Limerick Road. It is anticipated that a parking area for several cars will be constructed this year to allow for some parking near the trail and thereby alleviate the need to only utilize the Town Hall parking lot and walk from there along the Limerick Road to the trail. The Board intends to monitor the situation and explore all options in order to provide a safe and convenient access to the trail which the Board believes is a municipal asset being enjoyed by many of us.

Economic development also continues to be a focal point of the Board's attention. The recommendations contained in

the branding study, authorized by the Town last year, prepared by Chesapeake Group, Inc. has been qualifiedly accepted by the Board and forwarded to the Economic Development Committee for the formulation of appropriate implementation strategies. It is anticipated that such strategies will dovetail with the proposed revisions to the Comprehensive Plan which will be before the voters at this year's Annual Town Meeting, both of which have as an objective increasing the municipality's commercial tax base.

In the novel category is the Board's and Town's first involvement with "TIF Districts". The Town has already approved the CMP District and the Board is presently in negotiations with a developer to establish another such district along Route One. Should these negotiations prove successful, the Town will be asked at this year's Annual Meeting to approve a second TIF District. As many of you know, these municipal/private developer partnerships provide opportunities for municipalities to acquire assets or provide services that would be of economic benefit to the Town through the use of dedicated sheltered revenue, avoiding thereby adversely impacting the mill rate or, in other instances, providing assistance with keeping our mill rate steady.

As always, the Board wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to all of the citizens who have volunteered their time to make our community better, or, as Down East Magazine opined, one of the six best Towns in Maine. I would be remiss if I failed to recognize the superlative job performed by our Public Works Department during this past severe winter. I am sure it did not go unnoticed by anyone how our roads and ways were kept open and passable despite the seemingly never ending snow storms.

Lastly, the Board would request that everyone please take the time to attend the Town's Annual Town Meeting and participate in the democratic process in its purest form which is both unique and vital to the operation of small town government.