



**Town of Arundel**  
***The Progress Report***  
**New Town Hall Building**

This newsletter, appropriately called **The Progress Report**, will be distributed to the public throughout the construction process as frequently as activities warrant, with the intent of providing accurate information to the citizens of Arundel. The Building Committee will strive to the “No Surprises” approach to information distribution. Understanding that people will have positive and negative opinions regarding a large municipal project, the committee’s goal is to keep the citizens informed of the construction details. This newsletter, along with various technological communications, should keep all citizens informed of the work of the building committee throughout the process.

**ARUNDEL’S PLEASANT SURPRISE**

For those of you who are aware of municipal operational traditions, you know that finding citizens to volunteer to serve the town is always a struggle. The volunteer pool is often empty and communities often rely on the “core helpers” time and time again.

Following the approval of the voters for and thereafter acquisition of the Limerick construction site the Board of Selectmen wanted to gain the input of community members regarding the design and layout of a new municipal facility before engaging any design professional, thus leading to the call for volunteers to establish a building committee. This spring, Arundel Selectmen were absolutely taken aback when they announced a call for help from local citizens to assist them with the project. To the selectmen’s surprise, many Arundel citizens were willing to provide their professional expertise, and their time indicating they would like to help.

Unwilling to “pick and choose” among the group of talented citizens, the selectmen decided on a practical common sense approach to the selection challenge. They decided they would take “all the help they could get” and the Arundel New Town Office Building Committee was born.

The new building committee has many collective experiences and skills. There are construction builders and contractors, both large and small. Architects and engineers, design specialists, retired municipal civic leaders with public facility construction experience, technology support personnel, site and excavation specialists and the list goes on and on. It is no wonder that the selectmen are grateful for the local interest in the project. The committee members, who number more than a dozen, are currently working to develop a building design for architectural consideration.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The Arundel Building Committee suggested that a Vision and Mission Statement be established. The statement would be created to guide the committee during all phases of the construction process. With agreement from the full committee, the following were adopted to be the Vision Statement and Mission Statement of the Arundel New Town Hall Building Committee.

**VISION STATEMENT**

Our vision is that the new town office building will meet the current and future needs of the municipal staff and the Arundel community, by providing a functional, practical, efficient and economical facility, which the citizens of Arundel will be proud to call their new town office.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Our mission is to provide input and assistance to the Selectmen in the design, construction and completion of a new town office building. The committee will participate in the process from the early stages of design to the opening of the facility.



### The Team

Although it was made clear that the final decisions relating to the new town office project are the responsibility of the Arundel elected officials, the Selectmen were also clear they supported and encouraged a team approach to the project. Blessed with and encouraged by talented staff and citizens, the selectmen have encourage the Building Committee to work in a cooperative atmosphere where “together, we can build the facility” from start to finish in the best interest of the Town of Arundel.

### What Will It Look Like ?

Although it is still too early in the process to present a building design, the Building Committee agrees the Limerick road location is a non-commercial, rural setting and the new town office building should not look like a “gas station” or traditional elementary school. The group would like to design a building which will blend into the rural setting with a “Farm House/Attached Barn” look and feel. Currently, this task of determining “What it will look like” is the committee’s top priority with the majority of time spent at our meeting focused on that question.

### SUB-COMMITTEES

A number of “as needed” long and short term sub-committees have played a major role in the Building Committee accomplishments. Many hours beyond the regular meetings have been necessary to provide research and material for the regular bi-weekly meetings. To mention a few: The Site Visitation Committee; Staff Research Committee; Energy Committee; Research and Legal Review Committee and Design Group. These are just a few small groups, preparing material for each and every meeting. It is expected that many current and future sub-committees will be addressing specific responsibilities throughout the project.

### A CHALLENGING DISCUSSION

#### **(Build It For Now or Build It For the Future?)**

As previously reported, the Building Committee members provide great individual talent. The group is generally conservative, with an understanding that the new building needs to be affordable and realistically priced. In addition, a new facility must adequately serve the people who work for our community. The building committee group, who has collectively impressive construction experience, would like to create a facility that adequately serves the community now and for many years to come. The goal is to think forward and avoid coming back to the public in 10 years, to report that the town has already outgrown the new town office.

Serious discussions have been taking place regarding building for the future versus building for the present. Much of the committee’s research with other area communities produced the same warning. The most common construction mistake is to build “too small”. The idea of saving money now, only to saddle the citizens in the future with the cost of more space, make for interesting conversations. The “Build it for now” or “Build it for later” question becomes both a financial and philosophical discussion.



### MEETING SCHEDULE

The Arundel New Town Office Building Committee currently meets every other **Tuesday at the Mildred L Day School library at 7 PM.**

Please check the online calendar at [www.arundelmaine.org](http://www.arundelmaine.org) to see scheduled dates.

Sub-committee meetings have been left to the discretion of the sub-committee members, who have scheduled their meetings around their own professional employment.

The committee members want the general public to know the building committee meetings are open to the public and anyone with any interest are encouraged and welcome to attend.

### NEXT STEPS

1. The Committee will continue to reach a consensus on a design that will be provided to an architect/engineer for structure review and to eventually be translated into working construction blue prints.
2. The Committee will select the services of an architect/engineer to serve the Arundel Municipal Officers, Town Manager, and the Arundel new town office Building Committee.