

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR
ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 16, 2013
GIBRALTAR TOWN HALL
4176 MAPLE STREET FISH CREEK WI 54212**

Call to Order: Brian Merkel, chairman called the annual town meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Brian Merkel, Dick Skare, Karl Stubenvoll, Brian Hackbarth and Steve Sohns

Approval of the Minutes: MOTION: (Bob Spielman, Barb McKesson) to approve the minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting as presented. Carried

Chair Comments: Mr. Merkel stated that at this meeting the electors determine the agenda. He asked that electors identify themselves for the record.

Approval of the Annual Report: Beth Hagen read the 2012 Annual Report as presented by the auditor. MOTION: (John Young, Ron Merkel) to approve the Annual Report as presented. Carried

Standing Reports:

Building Committee: Karl Stubenvoll reported that inspections of the town owned buildings and properties have been completed. Repair and maintenance issues and cost saving upgrades where possible have been recommended, budgeted for and completed. Multi-year budgeting will be required for several of the projects. Thanks were given to all of the people who guided the Committee with their inspections. Barb McKesson asked if street lighting could be kept a “warmer” light to maintain the appearance of gas streetlights.

Fire Department/First Responders: Greg Swain reporting for the Department thanked the residents and guests of Gibraltar for their continued support. Mr. Swain stated there were increased requests for fire and EMS calls in 2012. A 501(C)(3) not for profit corporation was created with the cooperation and support of the town. This move will allow for an increased pool of grant opportunities and providing those who wish to donate the added benefit of a tax deduction. Fire inspections have been brought back in-house and a Capital Improvement Plan was established.

Harbor: Dave Harris stated the Dock had a successful and profitable 2012 season. Dredging has been completed so with a little luck the low water will not be an issue. A profit margin of \$90,000 was realized as opposed to \$82,000 in 2011. New for 2013 is a Fish Creek Town Dock website www.fishcreektowndock.com A change in policy is now allowing slip reservations by phone, in-person or via the website.

Law Enforcement: Brian Merkel reported that the Police Department continues to work with event organizers to keep them safe and fun for the participants' and residents alike. The Department has begun to work with the YMCA on safety programs to help make the streets of our town safer. One of the programs is a bicycle safety program. This program is mainly for younger children but will also benefit parents and other adults as well. The "House Watch Program" has seen an increase each year; this is a free service and the house watch form can be picked up at the Town Office or downloaded from the Town website at www.townofgibraltar.com

John Young asked if bicycle riding on sidewalks was prohibited. Mr. Merkel responded that it is but dealt with on a case by case basis. Nancy Sargent asked if there was a way the people could be "guided" into using the crosswalks vs. jaywalking. Mr. Merkel stated that the state controls the number of crosswalks across Hwy. 42 and at the time of the highway resurfacing this item will be discussed.

Parks & Lands: Brian Hackbarth reported that in 2012 Parks & Lands merged with the Chambers Island Lighthouse Committee. The Blahnik's continue to be the caretakers of the Lighthouse and work closely with the Committee. The Parks & Lands Committee thanks them both for all the work they do caring for the property. With the generous donation of trees from the Gibraltar Historical Association replanting of the Square has begun. The Committee also thanked the Maintenance Department and Laurie Buske for keeping the community and town gardens looking great.

Plan Commission: Brian Hackbarth reported on behalf of Linda Merline. The following work was done to implement the Town's Comprehensive Plan. 1) Residents were able to participate in the UW Stevens Point Community Well Water Testing Program. 2) Best management practices for maintaining groundwater quality for the protection of the Hines Emerald Dragonfly was presented by Marne Kaeske Stewardship Coordinator from the Ridges Sanctuary. 3) Monitoring of the Fish Creek Watershed continued. 4) Baudhuin Inc was contracted for a conceptual parking plan for the area currently being used for boat trailer parking. 5) Work continues on the updating of the maps in the 2004 Comprehensive Plan. Andy Coulson was thanked for his years of service on the Commission.

Watershed: Brian Merkel reported on behalf of Linda Merline. The Fish Creek Watershed Study is designed to establish physical, chemical and biological baselines. Yearly testing and sampling results are compared to the body of baseline data for the purpose of detecting changes in the water quality over time. Four separate sites including the south headwaters, the creek at Spring Road, the pond and the creek at the bridge. The Committee thanked Jim Jauquet for his 10 years of service. Anyone who would like to become a volunteer can contact Linda Merline.

Ephraim-Gibraltar Airport Commission: Jon Neville reported a profit of \$2,671 in 2012; a profit has been realized in 3 of the last 4 years. The town and village have approved a petition for the automated weather observation system. The town and village have received a combined donation of \$4,500 from the Friends of the Ephraim-Gibraltar Airport toward the sponsor share of the AWOS system. A new accounting system was established to provide better accounting to the Commission, town and village.

Tim Halbrook, President of the Friends of the Ephraim-Gibraltar Airport detailed the 2012 accomplishments of the Friends of Ephraim-Gibraltar Airport (FOEGA). FOEGA provided approximately 110 volunteer hours. Pete Newkirk volunteered an additional 120 staff hours. The EAA Young Eagles continued with flights for 64 young people. Two EAA Air Academy Scholarships were donated to area students.

Door County Tourism Commission: Dick Skare reported there are 19 member municipalities. He and Bill Weddig are representatives for the town. Dick is also on the Executive Committee. Thirty percent of room tax proceeds are returned to the municipalities. The Door County Tourism Commission was established to get permitted properties on board; those are properties who rent out for less than 30 day periods. Tourism Commissions from across the state are working to follow the successes that our Commission has had.

Door County Coastal Byways Council: Beth Hagen stated that the Door County Coastal Byway Counsel (DCCBC) received a federal grant for an Interpretive Master Plan. The contract for the plan was awarded by the Council to Schmeekle Reserve Interpreters from UW-Stevens Point. A portion of the interpretive process required citizen input. The process also involves research on geological, biological, historical and cultural aspects to the Byway route. The resulting long-range plan will guide the Byway in preservation, promotion and education, and enhancement goals within the corridor for residents and travelers. The interpretive story of each unique community and its link to the Niagara Escarpment is integral as a guide. Information from this project will aid in development and construction of a series of 12 kiosk structures. The kiosk site will feature 4 panels conveying the Byway interpretive story.

Fish Creek Civic Association: Bob Spielman, President of Fish Creek Civic Association (FCCA) thanked the town for their financial support. FCCA produced, printed and distributed over 30,000 brochures. Nearly 27,000 visitors were through the Information Center in 2012. The Association sponsored GHA's Heritage Days, the Door County Half Marathon and the Door County Plein Air Festival. Two primary events are held annually Fish Creek's Summerfest and the Winter Festival.

Gibraltar Historical Association: Barb McKesson, President of Gibraltar Historical Association (GHA) stated that 2012 was another successful year. Gibraltar Talks programs are held the third Thursday of the month. Heritage Days was scaled down to 3 days due to the availability of fewer volunteers. Myrvin Somerhalder is a new board member and is busily working on research. The hours of volunteer time given to the GHA for projects, events and care of Noble House and grounds continues to amaze. The board and gardeners have again logged over 3000 hours of work. Thanks were given to the Town Board for the upkeep and maintenance of Noble House, the History Center and Noble Square.

Old Business: Brian Merkel stated the latest communication from the Department of Transportation regarding the Hwy. 42 resurfacing project is that it has been pushed back to 2015-16. The area from the bottom of the hill to the school has been turned into a reconstruct project. Curb and gutter along with a sidewalk are slated for the north side of the road. It is possible that

the Town will put in curb and gutter on the south side. Funding sources are an ongoing project. Tree planting has been addressed under the Parks & Lands report.

New Business: Brian Merkel reminded the audience that this discussion was strictly advisory to the Town Board.

MOTION: (Nancy Sargent, Ron Merkel) that Parks & Lands or a designated committee appointed by the Town Board, develop and implement a plan to hang Christmas trim/evergreen wreaths on our black light poles; at the beginning of the season, with the further intention of developing a lighting system on the poles to light these Christmas trims. Carried.

Ron Merkel expressed concern about icing on the sidewalks. Brian Merkel responded that the Board is looking at the sidewalk policy.

Bob Speilman asked why the Noble Square and Town Hall public restrooms are not open year round. He stated that at Winterfest Noble Square was not open. Brian Merkel responded that in the off season the restrooms were closed due to reduced need.

MOTION: (Ron Merkel, Sarah Sohns) to set next annual meeting date for Tuesday April 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gibraltar Old Town Hall.

Nancy Sargent asked how parking congestion is being addressed. Brian Merkel stated that parking ordinances are being reevaluated. With the resurfacing project looming this is also being studied for potential inclusion in the project. Given the efficiencies of size there are a number of things being considered to be done, at that time.

Adjourn: **MOTION:** (John Young, Nancy Sargent) to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Hagen, Clerk