

Town / Gown Meeting Notes  
Friday, December 6, 2024, 9AM  
Emerson Hall

RB  
ag  
Daniel Leo  
(Zoom)

**Present:** Roberta Boczkiewicz, Amy Gutow, Karen Motycka, Craig Johnson, Michael Dickerson.

**Public:** Bobby Vagt, Laurie Lyman and Doug Koos

Roberta opened the meeting at 9AM

**Item 1:** Joint traffic mitigation efforts & cost sharing. Roberta explained that Dan Leader had requested this for the agenda and to keep it on the table. Derik thinks that MEDOT may be able to help with this at no cost.

As a related item, Roberta shared that she has spoken with area towns who pay for additional police coverage and the cost incurred. Stonington has been paying approximately \$90,000 per year for 32 hours of coverage each week. They were notified that the cost would increase to \$120,000 for the same coverage.

Craig said that when Maine Maritime Academy has larger campus activities, they hire additional police cover that they are billed directly for. This year they are keeping more activities on campus to keep students off the roads.

Doug Koos brought up that in some states, cameras are used to take pictures of speeding vehicles. Perhaps this could be done here?

Roberta and Craig were both aware that MEDOT will do traffic surveys that can count vehicles and keep track of speed. We could have them do several times per year to see how speed and traffic differ during the year.

**Item 2:** Recent Water Street MMA building demolition. Craig said that it has not yet been decided what to do with that property. Some thoughts have been to put a stairwell down to the MMA waterfront. There was a parking space in front of the building, and they hate to lose it, as everyone knows how precious parking spaces are.

The demolition took a few people by surprise. It was noted that a better job could have been done on communicating the date of the demolition.

Craig updated on the MMA pier. The piles are a couple weeks behind. Hopefully, pile driving will start in 2 – 3 weeks. The current ship schedule has a completion date of August 2025 at best. However, the ship will not be in Castine until Spring 2026 at best.

Students are in Castine until December 13, 2024 and then they are gone for a month for break. The Seniors will be back the first week in January for US Coast Guard Exams. They are generally pretty quiet as they are busy studying in between exams.

The dorm project starts December 13, 2024. All the work is being done within the walls, so shouldn't hear construction noises. The work is plumbing, heating, electrical, etc.

Roberta updated that with the recent rains, the reservoir level is rising, and fire danger is down.

Doug Koos reminded that he would be at the Selectboard work session on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> to talk about housing. Doug would like MMA to consider him a housing option. Doug has a subdivision and could build more housing units.

Craig said that MMA had been looking at their own resources for housing. They may change some houses that had been converted to offices, back to housing. Some faculty and coaches are having problems finding housing. Craig also said that George Stevens Academy has approached them about leasing its dorm directly to MMA students. This would be a rental agreement between GSA and the students, MMA would not be part of the lease. Craig suggested that MMA and the Town work together to find common goals and perhaps apply jointly for congressional spending in March for housing. Roberta suggested a January Work Session to discuss.

MMA's Penobscot lot is not viable for housing as there is no 3-phase power. They are having a 100 X 110 foot building put up for boat storage in Penobscot, which will free up some space at the waterfront.

There are 4 picnic tables on top of Payson Hall, which is the best place in town to eat one's lunch. The views of the harbor and bay are great. Anyone is welcome to use them.

Bobby Vagt thanked MMA for being helpful to the Health Clinic. The clinic may be able to obtain congressional money to help with the renovation. MMA has also been working to see how they could utilize the clinic more in the future.

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Minutes by Karen Motycka