

## TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

May 6, 2008

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Peter Martell. Guests present were Al Hunt, Laurel Hunt, Joni Slamm and Carrie Fellows from the Economic Development Board, Josh Salm from the Piscataquis Observer, and Donna Fichtner from The Nature Tourism Committee.

2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Burdin, to approve minutes of the prior meeting. Unanimous.

3. Balance sheets distributed.

Donna Fichtner was then introduced and she gave a presentation on the work of the Nature Tourism committee. Following the Blaine House Conference on Natural Resources, it was noted that while Maine offered extensive marketing to attract people to the State, there was no "product" in the way of creating experiences, providing restrooms and parking, providing directions to sites and coordinating a statewide network. People could not find what we had to share. Under the umbrella of the Piscataquis Tourism Task Force, a committee of the Piscataquis Economic Development Council, this committee has identified over 40 tourist sites in the county, obtained some grant funding, and started a signage program to identify them in a unified thematic manner. Guilford's Memorial River Walk is among the sites. Watch for the Big Chickadee signs in the future.

4. Manager explained that the Planning Board had discussed the use of engine brakes relative to a citizen request and had decided to post one sign requesting voluntary compliance on Water Street. Dexter moved that the manager determine appropriate wording for such a sign, check it with the M.D.O.T. and report back at the June meeting. Seconded by Lander and unanimously agreed.

5. Manager read letter from the school superintendent, Mr. Stearns, outlining the final draft of the upcoming school budget and noted a decrease in the share paid by the Town of Guilford.

6. Burdin moved and Dexter seconded a motion to appropriate \$85.00 for the rental of a Port-a-potty for the athletic field in response to a request from the Abaris Club. Unanimous.

7. Manager announced that Mr. Joe Gallant would again head up the Guilford summer recreation program and that discussion was ongoing with the Piscataquis County YMCA regarding continuation of the swim program. Lander inquired as to how that relates to Pirate Rec and was told that they are a separate, district wide group that has done an outstanding job through volunteer effort of coordinating recreational opportunities for the youth of area towns with great success in programming and fund raising.

8. A letter of invitation to the May 20th meeting of the Piscataquis County Commissioners was read. This meeting will address the state requirement that a county must discuss police protection annually with all involved towns.

9. An assessors' meeting was announced by Chairman Thompson for May 13th at 7:00 pm. Lander asked if at some point a clarification of when building permits are required could be published locally.

10. Under Other Business, manager was asked to give an update on the Elm Street construction project. He stated that work had started and that the completion date is October 17th, adding that there will be work stoppages around the three holidays involved.

11. Burdin moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Dexter, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:07 PM.