

SEABROOK BEACH CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Promoting betterment issues to improve
the livability of Seabrook Beach

Vol. 6 Issue 1 February 2003



What a winter!

I have a guest towel that reads,
“If you are lucky enough to be at
the beach, you’re lucky enough!”
This year, that beach should be in
Acapulco...
For the hardy souls braving the
bone-numbing temperatures in
Seabrook, there ARE some
advantages. The stars visible on
clear nights have been absolutely
breathtaking; they seem close
enough to grasp. The cold is also
an excuse to take in a matinee,
catch up on that reading that got
put aside in the holiday rush, try
out a new hearty soup recipe, or
just relax. You can also rest

assured that your driveway won't
be full of cars belonging to

family and friends taking
advantage of your proximity to
New Hampshire's finest coast.
Peace and quiet - it's wonderful!
Remember, it's only five months
until the start of summer.

Jacqui Lewis



The Board of Selectmen's
Meetings have yet to begin
televising live to the public on
Channel 22. Check at the Town
Hall and in your local
newspapers for possible
schedules.



Town Elections
Voting by Absentee Ballot
Return your absentee ballots in
plenty of time for them to be

counted. Last year, there were many ballots that arrived too late to be included. Election Day is Tuesday, March 11, 2003. Mark your calendars.



2003 Warrant Articles

Information from Selectwoman Karen Knight concerning the following warrant articles was sent to the editor. Karen felt that these particular articles were especially important for beach residents to consider.

- **Article 2:** To approve an operating totaling \$12,868,479, an 11.6 increase over last year's budget. Should the article be defeated, the budget would default to last year's figure of \$11,525,287.
- **Article 3:** To ratify the financial terms of the collective bargaining agreement between the board of selectmen and the Seabrook

Supervisory Employees' Association which calls for a three-year agreement. To raise and appropriate the sum of \$61,088 for the 2003 fiscal year, with no additional cost for the contract year 2002.

The increased cost for subsequent years being \$32,400 (2004) and \$33,177.83

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- (2005). The selectmen and the budget committee recommend this appropriation.
- **Article 4:** To ratify the financial terms of the collective bargaining agreement between the board of selectmen and the Seabrook Police Association, which calls for a three-year agreement. And to raise and appropriate the sum of \$126,541.00 for the 2003 fiscal year, with not additional cost for the contract year 2002. The increased cost for subsequent years being \$51,773.00 (2004) and \$52,814.00 (2005).
Selectmen: Yes
Budget Committee: Yes
- **Article 5:** To ratify the financial terms of the collective bargaining

agreement reached between the board of selectmen and the Seabrook Permanent Fire Fighters' Association, which calls for a three year agreement and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$90,085.00 for the 2003 fiscal year, with no additional cost for the contract year 2002. The increased cost for subsequent years being \$49,370.00 (2004) and \$50,269.00 (2005). Selectmen & Budget Committee - Yes

- **Article 9:** In accordance with RSA 72:37-b to modify exemptions for the disabled, as follows: Commencing with the 2003 tax year, shall we modify the existing exemption for the disabled as follows? The exemption based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers shall be \$65,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years and own and occupy the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by a spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than

\$20,000.00, or if married, a combined net income of not more than \$32,500.00, and own net assets not in excess of \$125,000.00 excluding the value of the person's residence.

- **Article 11:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,600,000.00 to prepare designs, permits and construct a stream diversion on the Hampton Falls River in Seabrook near the town boundary, and to prepare designs and permits for the construction of a Desalination facility and to install water meters as a part of a State-mandated water conservation program if the diversion and permits for the desalination facility are approved by the State.

• **OTHER THAN THE BUDGET, THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ARTICLE TO BE VOTED ON.**

- **Article 13:** To raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,575.00 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping one pick-up style truck with a dog kennel type cap for the use of the animal control division and to authorize the sale or

trade-in of the existing animal control van.

- **Article 14:** To raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a sound decibel reader.

Selectmen: Yes

Budget Committee: No

- *Note this equipment is used for measuring motorcycle noise.*
- **Article 18:** To raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a medical response vehicle for the fire department. This vehicle would be used as an ambulance follow-up vehicle or a stand-alone
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- **medical/emergency response vehicle.** The selectmen and the budget committee recommend this appropriation.
- **Article 20:** To raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,00.00 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping an ambulance for the fire department. The selectmen and the budget committee

recommend appropriation.

- **Article 21:** To raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing protective turn-out gear for the fire department. The selectmen and the budget committee recommend appropriation.

- **Article 32:** To raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 to design a water treatment facility at Bedrock Well 5. The treatment facility will be designed to remove arsenic in order to meet state and federal mandates.

- **Article 33:** To raise \$750,000 to establish a Water Resources Capital Reserve Account, which could be used to purchase equipment, land, buildings and contract services for the development of additional water resources.

- *Note: This would be an interest bearing savings account to avoid having to pay for Bond or Mortgage Expenses in the future to fund major water resources.*

- **Article 34:** To raise the sum of \$7,500.00 for the Conservation Fund to be used for funding

projects, acquiring grants, purchasing lands, etc. This will be a non –lapsing account per RSA 36-A: 5.

- *Note: the Conservation Fund has contributed to expenditures for paying the town’s share of the Sustainability of Groundwater Resources Project and to the cost of installing the stream gauge on the Hampton Falls River at Mill Lane. The stream gauge is an essential part of the proposed water diversion from the river to increase our municipal water supply.*
- **Article 36: To raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,000.00 for the purpose of constructing a 5-foot wide reinforced 6” thick concrete sidewalk from the Community Center entrance to the traffic lights at the Taco Bell.**

Water & Sewer Advisory Committee Report

By Suzanne Manzi

As a result of the longest drought this town

has experienced and a dangerously low groundwater supply, the town was required by the state to develop a plan for new water resources. The town has been mandated by the state to install water meters as part of the water conservation program. The state will not allow any other sources of water until this requirement is met.

This committee was appointed by the town and has been meeting by weekly or weekly since September 2002. At several meetings, the Earth Tech, Inc. engineers who were hired as consultants on the project, presented voluminous information on the town’s water resources and the options to consider for future needs.

The first objective for the committee was to recommend a plan to the town selectmen that could provide a quick water resource and then to establish plans for a long-term water supply. The committee submitted the warrant articles required to move forward with the plan.

First, the quickest and least expensive resource of water is the diversion plan taking the excess water from the Hampton Falls River during high flow periods and sending to the town holding ponds.

Second, to provide the funds to prepare designs and permits for the construction of a desalinization facility. The town needs for the future are far more than any underground water supply can provide. The committee will continue to pursue the most efficient means to obtain more water.

Third, to install water meters as part of the state-mandated water conservation program. If the voters do not approve Article 11 then the town will have to

pursue installing residential meters. The tax impact would be more favorable if they approve the meters on the March ballot. The average cost of this important article for all three portions would be \$1.75 per \$1000 property evaluation. The average household would be approximately \$300. Currently, all business are required to have water meters and the businesses which account for 80-85 percent of the tax base, would cover a larger part of the cost if meters are approved by ballot. Otherwise, the cost of the meters would fall directly on the residents of town. This could cost as much as \$1600 per household and would be billed on the water bill not through taxes.

It is essential that we approve this article in March so that the town can move forward to benefit all of us for our future water needs. The mandatory "Water Ban" will go on indefinitely if we don't act now. My husband and I have lived here for 33 years, and we were always amazed that our water bill was only \$40 for years and then increased to only \$60. The reality of what our water bill will cost us in the future will be to the extreme increase if we don't appropriate the tax funds now.

The Water & Sewer Advisory Committee Members are: Susan Foote, Chairperson, Sandy Beaudoin, Bruce Casassa, Dick Dodge, Warner Knowles, Water & Sewer Superintendent, Owen Latham, Suzanne Manzi, Linwood Norton and Carrie Fowler, Secretary.

For more information on the activities of the committee, visit the following web site:

www.rsdodge.info/Seabrook/Water_Conse rvation.htm

The following editorial appeared in the Hampton Union on January 28, 2003:

Meter should point to yes on water article

It's a vision thing.

Essentially, Seabrook residents must approve a \$3.6 million warrant article this March in order to proceed with a plan to expand the town's access to potable water. If residents fail to approve this measure then it is likely that continued draught conditions will only worsen the community's water woes.

We support this article and encourage the residents of Seabrook to do the same, because it involves not only short term answers to the town's water issues, but provides funding to search for long-term answers as the number of residents continue to grow and water demand is increased.

Currently Seabrook has a mandatory ban on outside watering, not that that is much of a problem this time of year, but it highlights the need for new sources of water. The article - to be paid in one year - covers three different expenses that will add up to one effort to meet the community's water needs. The expenses are installing water meters, a stream diversion of the Hampton Falls River, and part of an engineering study for a desalinization plant.

The first of these expenses is likely to be the most contentious among residents who may fear higher water bills from the town. However, the state has mandated that the town install these meters in people's homes before Seabrook will be able to access any new sources of water - such as buying water from another town.

And, as Committee Chairwoman Susan Foote has noted, residents who use the

average of 100,000 gallons per year would pay no more than the \$30 every six months they are paying now. When looking at the need for water within Seabrook and the state's requirements, which we assume are in place for good reason, it only makes sense for residents to make the investment.

It should also be pointed out that the valuation on Seabrook Station has been decreasing each year. Therefore, the sooner residents pass this article; the more of it will be paid by Seabrook Station.

We would also like to add that the other two initiatives bundled into the article would mean more water for the town in the short and long-term. Runoff from the Hampton Falls River will be diverted into the Tri-Town Pond and then pumped into town wells, which should be a good short-term strategy.

And looking to the future, it makes sense to investigate the idea of building a desalinization plant. After all, Seabrook is next to one of the largest water sources in the world - if the ocean can be used to supply clean, potable and inexpensive water, then residents have nothing to lose. Imagine a nearly limitless supply of water to keep the lawn green and the garden lush.

The Selectmen have displayed a strong vision for developing future water sources for the community, and residents would do well to support that vision.

Candidates Announced

We will have an opportunity to vote for candidates to represent us on March 11th. Karen Knight of Ocean Dr. is running for re-election as a Selectperson. Bruce Casassa and Jim Fuller are both running for Seabrook School Board. I have worked

on committees with them and find them worthy of your consideration. Sincerely,
Sue Manzi

Seabrook Beach Management Plan

Report from Suzanne Manzi:

The Beach Management Committee has applied for a grant from the state's Coastal Program in order to develop a beach management plan. The total cost for developing the plan is \$30,000. The selectmen have given their approval of the grant application that asks for matching funds of \$15,000 from the state. The town will provide \$10,000 in the town manager's budget and the DPW has \$2,500 for development of the plan. The Beach Management Committee will donate 165 work hours, accounting for the remaining \$2,500.

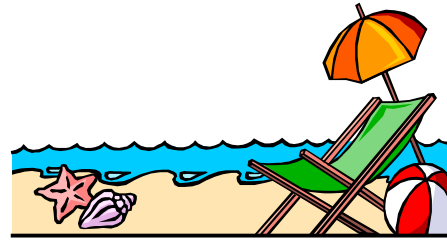
The plan is required by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Service's Wetland Board, the agency that grants permits for beach grading or other maintenance activities. Without the plan, beach maintenance jobs, such as controlling sand dunes or clearing sand away from surge walls, can "snowball" and add up. A plan would stabilize the beach, which will result in less maintenance.

The committee hopes that the DES will accept the final copy of the plan and grant a long-term, open-ended permit for beach management jobs. This would allow the town to clear sand away from surge walls without having to wait for permit approval. It would also allow the town to

control the unnatural growth of sand dunes, such as those near Hooksett St. and Manchester St., which have grown 35 feet high.

The Beach Management Plan also includes: maintenance of the boardwalks; the cleaning of storm debris; restoration of the North Beach with sand provided from the harbor dredging and the use of storm fencing to prevent windblown sand from moving onto private properties and public accesses. This plan will provide the proper guidelines for the town to schedule annual and seasonal maintenance activities.

Members of the Beach Management Committee are: Robert Brown, Paul Garand, Susan Foote, Dick Maguire, Suzanne Manzi, Doug Mullin - Hampton DPW and Paula Wood.



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