

# THE SORRENTO NEWSLETTER



## FEBRUARY 2023

### Sorrento Town Office

**Monday:** 8 am – 3 pm

**Tues:** CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

**Wednesday:** 8 am – 3 pm

**Thurs:** 10 am – 3 pm

**Friday:** 8 am - Noon

Phone (207) 422-6889 Fax: (207) 422-3737

79 Pomola Ave., Sorrento, Maine 04677-3126

[townoffice@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:townoffice@sorrentomaine.org)

**Town Office Administrator/Town Clerk/Tax Collector/  
Treasurer/Registrar of Voters/Harbor Secretary/  
Maine BMV Agent & Notary:**

Kathi Moore [kathi.moore@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:kathi.moore@sorrentomaine.org)

### Select Board:

Rob Wilpan 207-422-9115 term expires 2024

[rob.wilpan@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:rob.wilpan@sorrentomaine.org)

Jon Mickel 207-479-3544 term expires 2023

[jon.mickel@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:jon.mickel@sorrentomaine.org)

Diana Gazis 207-422-3697 term expires 2025

[diana.gazis@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:diana.gazis@sorrentomaine.org)

### Code Enforcement Officer & Plumbing Inspector:

Mike Gurtler 207-460-5544

[ceo-lpi@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:ceo-lpi@sorrentomaine.org)

### Fire Chief/Road Commissioner/Public Safety Officer:

Joey Clark 207-812-2208 term expires 2023

[tonkajoe801@yahoo.com](mailto:tonkajoe801@yahoo.com)

### Harbormaster:

Lou Sutherland Jr 207-266-5706

[harbormaster@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:harbormaster@sorrentomaine.org)

### Animal Control: TBA

### E-911 Addressing Officer:

Darlene Clark 207-422-9002

[911officer@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:911officer@sorrentomaine.org)

### RSU 24 School Board Member:

Janet Wilpan 207-422-9115 term expires 2023

### Planning Board:

[planningboard@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:planningboard@sorrentomaine.org)

### MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN CLERK

*The Town Office will be closed on  
Monday Feb 20 in observance of  
President's Day*

***Notary Public Services  
available at the  
Town Office***

**2022 Property Tax Bills were due by  
January 17, 2023 with interest at 4% per annum  
charged after that date.**

Credit and debit cards are now accepted at the Town  
Office!



**The Sorrento Community Building and Village  
Green are available to rent  
for your next event.**

**Call the Town Office 422-6889 for more  
information**

### SORRENTO COMMUNITY BUILDING

is reserved for:

**February 11**

**February 12**

**February 25**

**March 5**

**June 3**

**November 5-7**

**Village Green is reserved for:**

**August 2-3**



## **2023 Dog Licenses**

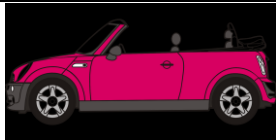
Starting February 1, 2023 a fine of \$25 will be due along with the registration fee on any unregistered dog. If you no longer own a dog that was registered last year, please call the Town Office to update our records.

**\*\*Dogs must be licensed by January 1 of each year or when they reach 6 months of age.**

\$6 for neutered/spayed... \$11 for unaltered

\*\*\*When licensing your dog, you must bring with you your dog's rabies certificate showing the tag number and date of expiration and your certificate of proof of spay or neuter, unless these are already on file at the Town Office.

\*\*Any dog living in the Town of Sorrento must have a Sorrento license/tag.



**When transferring your auto registration from your vehicle to a new/newer vehicle, you MUST bring in the registration of the vehicle you are transferring from.**

Ellsworth branch BMV hours are  
8-4:30 Monday through Friday  
Tel: (207) 667-9363 8:30-4:30  
Fax: (207) 667-0048

## **STATE OF MAINE RAPID RENEWAL SERVICES:**

Online Vehicle Registration Renewal:

<https://www1.maine.gov/online/bmv/rapid-renewal/>

Online Boat Registration Renewal:

<https://apps1.web.maine.gov/online/boat/>

Fishing and Hunting licenses:

<https://moses.informe.org/cgi-bin/online/moses v3/index>

## **EXPIRATION DATES**

**VEHICLES:** Expire a year from when they are registered (unless you are transferring)

**TRAILERS:** Can be registered for 1 or 2 years, same month, except over 2000 lb. Trailers expire in Feb. (1 or 2 years)

**BOATS:** Expire Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>

**ATVs:** Expire June 30<sup>th</sup>

**SNOWMOBILES:** Expire June 30<sup>th</sup>

**MOTORCYCLES:** Expire March of every year, except antique.

## **SORRENTO SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*Residents of Sorrento are eligible for scholarship funds to pursue additional learning after high school. These scholarships can be used for a wide variety of education – college, technical school or many other accredited programs. Students receive \$1500 per semester plus a bonus for achieving top grades.*

Please consider a gift to this fund and become a part of the community encouraging the next generation of high school graduates to pursue additional education after high school.

**Please make checks payable to: Sorrento Scholarship Fund**

**and mail or drop off checks to:**

**Gina Bennett, PO Box 93,  
Sorrento, ME 04677**

*Sorrento residents, who are currently or will be starting post high school education in the future, please contact Wendy Worrell at 207-422-2525*



### **RSU #24**

Greetings from RSU No. 24,

It certainly has been a weird winter so far with the weather. I am not complaining but we have been blessed to not have the brutal cold that January usually brings. I hope that I didn't jinx it!

The work at the Charles M. Sumner Learning Campus continues. The general contractor continues to work on the "punch list", those items that need to be fixed/corrected/etc. There are still a number of items that are missing from the building or are incomplete. For example, we still do not have lockers in the building (hallway and gymnasium), do not have access to the cafeteria, and we are waiting for the operable partition that separates the cafeteria and the performance space. RF Jordan has completed the demolition of the old school and has done as much ground work as they can given the winter weather. The property where the old school was located will become the new soccer field with that work to commence in the spring. It should be noted that we are still waiting to break ground for the sprinkler system cistern project that is needed to gain full access to the building.

The Friends of Sumner's Future fundraising group continues to raise money for those items not covered by the state. If you are interested in donating, please contact Megan Moshier (Committee Chair) at [meganallevymoshier@gmail.com](mailto:meganallevymoshier@gmail.com).

The Budget and Finance Committee is preparing for the upcoming budget season. We set our dates for the Budget workshops and welcome anyone who would like to attend. The meetings are scheduled for the District Services Facility and will be on Zoom as well. The Zoom link will be provided on the meeting agendas, which will be located on the district website ([www.rsu24.org](http://www.rsu24.org)). The scheduled dates for the Budget Workshops are February 15, March 1, March 15, March 29, and April 12. All meetings will start at 6:30 p.m.

Thank you for your continued support of RSU #24 and our students. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [meastman@rsu24.org](mailto:meastman@rsu24.org).

Sincerely,

Michael Eastman, Superintendent  
Regional School Unit #24  
2165 US Highway 1  
Sullivan, Maine 04664  
Email: [meastman@rsu24.org](mailto:meastman@rsu24.org)

## **Meeting**

### **SORRENTO SELECT BOARD MEETINGS VIA ZOOM**

First and third Wednesday of each month

At 7:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86535623920?pwd=d010>

[ajZHVE9sbStmQXpZSG M rZkNwUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86535623920?pwd=d010)

Meeting ID: 865 3562 3920

Passcode: 307652

### **Select Board Meeting Minutes**

**12/21/2022**

**Attending** via Zoom were Select Board Chair Rob Wilpan, Selectman Jon Mickel, Selectwoman Diana Gazis, Town Clerk Kathi Moore, Fire Chief Joey Clark, Tom Bailey, Ann Blood, Chip Campbell, Susan Clancy-Dougherty, Dan Dougherty, Malachy Flynn, Ann Hoffner, Amanda Mickel, Ted Preuss, Trina Wellman and Wendy Worrell.

**The meeting was called to order** at 7 pm by Rob Wilpan. The Board discussed the 12/07/2022 minutes. Jon asked for clarification on the motion to accept Dean Potashner's proposal of a check from Treasure Point Association for \$500 to the Town and additionally a \$1500 donation to the Fire Department, but it is unclear whether or not that is to satisfy the entirety of the forgotten 13 years of billing (*for salt and sand*) to Treasure Point Association or if it's for the past 6 years. Rob said it is payment in full for the past 6 years. Jon requested that the minutes be amended to reflect this. Rob made a motion to approve the 12/07/2022 minutes as amended, seconded by Jon, unanimous vote, motion passed.

**UPDATE ON TREASURE ISLAND PLOWING ISSUE:** Joey reported that there was a discussion between himself, Josh Trundy, Dean Potashner and Rusty Goodwin and as of last night they have come to a tentative agreement, pending Board approval. Josh will plow as far as the Reservoir Road and Rusty will take the rest of it down through. Rob made a motion to accept that plan, seconded by Jon, motion passed. Kathi reported that the total for the past 6 years that the town cannot bill Treasure Point Association for salt, sand and plowing totals \$11,376.40. Jon asked what the total is for the entire 13 years; \$22,467.76. The total for the 7 years lost due to the statute of limitations is \$11,376.40. Rob said that plowing should

not be added into the cost, in 2008 the Select Board made an agreement that the contractor would “donate” the effort to maintain a private road. Jon asked if the Town has an Errors & Omissions policy, if so can we be reimbursed for the mistake that was made by not billing for that work. Jon asked Kathi to look into whether or not the Town has an E&O policy and what that might mean for us being able to recoup for this unbilled work.

*For a more information on this issue, please see the links provided in the January 2023 issue of the Sorrento Newsletter.*

**UPDATE ON HARBOR POWER:** No update.

**UPDATE ON HARBOR RAILING:** At Rob’s request Henri Gignoux looked into some other options for the railing. He found someone who assembles the railing with fittings for a quote of \$4500. Rob spoke to a local welder for a quote; he will come back in about a week.

**UPDATE ON KEARSARGE AVE/WEST SHORE ROAD VEG CLEARING:** Joey reported that the storm last weekend delayed the clearing, he is trying to reschedule with Craig.

**UPDATE ON ROAD INVENTORY:** Rob contacted Pete Coughlin from Maine Local Roads Division inquiring about Sorrento’s road inventory. He sent the State’s inventory spreadsheet as well as a link to the Maine DOT Public Map Viewer website. It provides distances and whether state/town maintained. He will get a standalone copy to use for the inventory system. Jon said he has been doing some research about what other towns have done for road inventories and the importance of it. Jon made a motion to form a Road Committee: to create a road inventory, keep it updated and report to the BOS and Road Commissioner as needed. This committee will be tasked with a majority of the BOS and will meet as needed at their convenience no less than monthly. The committee should consist of at least 3 members and the Road Commissioner may choose to be a member of this committee as well. Rob asked how will members be found to join, Jon said to put something in the newsletter and open up to anybody that’s interested. Diana doesn’t see the need for it. Rob asked Ann Hoffner if she would be interested in being on the committee and she agreed. Rob seconded Jon’s motion, Diana abstained from the vote, motion passed with 2 votes in favor. It was decided the road inventory should include town maintained roads only for now and contain the road name, status, width including right of way, length and notes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**APPROVAL OF PRIVATE ROAD NAMES: JACK’S WAY & AVERILL LANE:**

Rob shared a graphic showing the two driveways with proposed road names and said each of them has deeded a right of way to their lots, they have already been approved by the Planning Board and the 911 Addressing Officer has stated they are not confusing or duplicating names. Rob made a motion to approve the names as depicted. Ann Blood, who recently resigned her position as E911 Addressing Officer, pointed out that no one from the Planning Board reached out to her with any information. The person who requested the road names does not own either one of those driveways and we don’t have anything in writing from the owners of the properties. Rob said Chip Campbell is one of the owners and he is in full agreement of the names. Jon asked Rob if he has something in writing from Chip that he can share with the Board. Rob said he wouldn’t be able to find it easy. Jon said he doesn’t know that it would be wise for us to accept these names without having a current E911 Addressing Officer in place to advise the board as to whether or not it’s a good idea; Rob disagreed. Jon asked if they are allowed to accept this in the absence of an E911 Addressing officer: Rob said yes. Jon asked if it will open up the possibility for any problems down the road; Rob said no. Trina said Chip will be joining in the meeting shortly to explain this. Chip Campbell joined the meeting; he is in agreement with the road names, Jack’s Way and Averill Lane and confirmed there will be 2 residential units on both roads. Rob made a motion to approve the names of Jack’s Way and Averill Lane, seconded by Jon, unanimous vote, motion passed.

**E-911 ADDRESSING OFFICER POSITION:** Ann Blood resigned her position, Rob nominated Darlene Clark for the position, seconded by Diana, unanimous vote, motion passed.

**COMMUNITY BUILDING RENOVATIONS:** Rob said about 2 years ago the Community Building Committee was assembled to discuss the possibility of taking part of the back room and creating an office for the Fire Department. It was approved by the committee and the contractor who worked on the building corner boards was going to give us a quote, which he finally did.

*Project #1: install exterior wheelchair access door to the side of the back room opposite the fire house, construct exterior landing and ramp for door, installation of two awning windows on south wall, replace and repair siding and trim at these locations, Estimated cost \$5880.* Rob made a motion to accept Project #1 as proposed, seconded by Jon, unanimous vote, motion passed.

**SORRENTO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT STATUS:**

A resident recently asked the Town Office if donations

to the Fire Department were tax deductible. Rob provided the following: It is determined that the Sorrento Fire Department, which was created on March 7, 1949 by ordinance, is a Municipal Fire Department. The town is allowed to accept donations as long as the donation is for an established town account specific for the donation. The donations are potentially tax-deductible if the donation benefits the town as a whole, the donor receives a receipt detailing the purpose and the donor is allowed to deduct the donation (which is determined by their tax professional). There are currently three donation categories and not all benefit the town as a whole so that will need further clarification.

Rob reviewed the Planning Board ordinance; members are to be appointed annually. All members will need to go to the Town Office to sign new papers.

Kathi requested permission from the Board to purchase a 2<sup>nd</sup> inexpensive laser printer for Clerk's office, to be designated for printing vehicle registrations only. Permission granted.

Kathi reported that there have been a lot of tax map changes over the past few years; she would like to send the file off to Eastern Mapping to update the tax maps. Rob said to hold off, he wants to get an update from UMM who is working on digitizing maps, we do need to update them but he will come back to the Board with a response.

Kathi asked Rob for an update on town website. He said if things calm down he will be able to spend some time on it.

Jon reported he does not have the time to dedicate to his appointment on the Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Municipal Joint Board. Ann Hoffner has agreed to take his place. Rob made a motion to appoint Ann to the FBRSMJB, seconded by Jon, unanimous vote, motion passed.

Jon reported that he recently took a Freedom of Access Act (FOAA) webinar and part of that outlined what constitutes an executive session. There was a discussion about whether or not the topics slated for tonight's executive session qualified as such. Jon brought up his 4/15/2022 *Fact Finding Information Regarding Safety Concerns* to Chief Clark, it's going on 8 months with no answers. Rob said he needs legal assistance from the Town attorney before discussing this issue, Jon asked for it in writing so it can be shared

with the Board, he would like to see this investigated further. Rob said the other two issues involve personnel matters that need to be discussed in executive session.

Kathi brought up an email she sent the Board requesting permission to stop using the bookkeeping service who currently does the Town's payroll tax reporting, W2 and 1099 issuing, as there have been issues recently, she can do the tasks herself, permission granted by Rob.

Susan Clancy Dougherty spoke about Jon's request for information from Chief Clark. She asked if she can request the information under the Freedom of Access Act, for Jon to send the information to her and she will share with the public. If there are concerns about the effectiveness of the Fire Department, don't sweep it under the rug anymore, it's not acceptable.

At 8:30 pm the Board went into executive session under Statute 30-A M.R.S.A § 405.

At 9:48 the Board returned from executive session where they discussed Kathi's pay increase. Rob made a motion to approve an 8% raise this year, seconded by Jon, unanimous vote, motion passed.

At 9:49 Rob made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jon, unanimous vote, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted on 01/04/2023 by Kathi Moore,  
Town Clerk

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### Select Board Meeting Minutes 01/04/2023

**Attending** via Zoom were Select Board Chair Rob Wilpan, Selectman Jon Mickel, Selectwoman Diana Gazis, Town Clerk Kathi Moore, Fire Chief Joey Clark, Tom Bailey, Chip Campbell, Susan Clancy-Dougherty, Darla & Mason Crocker, Dan Dougherty, Pat Dougherty, Malachy Flynn, Amanda Mickel, Dean Potashner, Ted Preuss, Dale Strohmaier, Trina Wellman and Janet Wilpan.

**The meeting was called to order** at 7 pm by Rob Wilpan.

**1) MEETING ETIQUETTE:** Rob requested that all Select Board discussions be uninterrupted. At the end of each topic discussion, audience questions will be addressed.

**2) FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**a) DEC 23 STORM UPDATE:** Joey reported that they began at 8:30 Friday morning and ran 18 hours

straight, during which time they received 12 calls for trees down & assistance and 3 fire alarms. With a full crew of 8 they were cutting trees and patrolling. At one point 2 big trees fell across the roads, 1 each on West Shore Rd and East Side Rd making it impossible to enter or exit Sorrento. Joey started on Tuesday getting Josh Trundy lined up with the pulp wood truck, loaded 2 truckloads. There is still one tree down on Doane's Point Road, waiting for the phone company to respond.

**b) F.D. RECORD REQUEST:** Rob addressed Jon's request for Fire Department records. It is expected that the FD would have most of the request available, but it's been a hard couple of years with the pandemic and the state postponing certain requirements and several members having family deaths. He agrees that the records do need to be updated and he spoke with Joey about a plan: 1) schedule inspection with Maine Dept. of Labor so that they can have a mutual time to complete the records prior to the inspection; 2) Look at Jon's list and think about a hard schedule. Demanding records is not something an individual selectman can do but he agrees with the records request. The Fire Chief reports to the entire Board and give them time to catch up on the records. Jon said he was not demanding, just asking some questions from the Fire Chief who has had 9 months to review this list and provide some transparency and accountability going forward.

**3) UPDATE ON KEARSARGE AVE/WEST SHORE ROAD VEGETATION CLEARING:** Joey is trying to line up a time for Craig Dubois to do the work. He asked Jon about the red ribbons between Waukeag & Kearsarge; save the 2 trees and a line between them, everything else can go.

**4) UPDATE ON HARBOR RAILING:** Rob contacted a welder in Trenton who is working on a quote. Rob brought up quoting fittings instead of welded, he recommended against it.

**5) UPDATE ON HARBOR POWER:** No update

**6) TOWN ROADS:**

**a) INVENTORY:** Rob reported during the last meeting it was approved to form a Road Committee. He would like to have as many people as possible volunteer, he believes we can take care of most of the requirements of the inventory system by having a Google drive available and whoever wants to volunteer to add data to it would be given permission to do so, with the Select Board reviewing it. Diana clarified her no vote from last week, she doesn't want another committee but is in favor of updating the road inventory. Rob said they are focusing on the maintained roads only and noted that Elm Street is considered a Town road

although the Town has never maintained it; it is something that we need to officially abandon. Jon said the formation of the Road Committee passed, regardless, so we have the possibility of a committee now and allowing people to collaborate with the Select Board without the formation of a committee is a great idea but requires a new motion. Rob made a motion that they reconsider how to ask for assistance for a road inventory system and do not establish a Road Committee, Diana seconded; Rob and Diana voted yes, Jon voted no, motion passed.

**b) WEST SHORE ROAD STRIPING BID REQUEST:** Rob asked Jon to work on a bid request for center line striping on West Shore Road. Joey is to get some more quotes that are good for at least 6 months out.

**7) UPDATE ON COMMUNITY BACK ROOM**

**RENOVATIONS:** Scott Simpson has started on the backroom renovations and Rob will ask him to fix the siding trim piece that blew off the back of the Town Office during the storm. Kathi asked if there was any chance of getting the Wi-Fi modem moved to the Town office, every time the power goes out the modem needs to be reset and having it located in the CB basement is very inconvenient and very dark. Rob said no as the wire comes into the CB first. It was agreed that it is not normal to have to reset the modem after every power outage. Rob told Jon he closed the door to boiler room and it should be kept closed. The condition of the boiler was discussed, it needs to be replaced. Jon will reach out to Steve Flaherty to see if the boiler part has come in. In the meantime, Jon and Rob will tend the boiler when the Low Temperature Alarm goes off. Jon needs to be added to Seacoast Security list of authorized people, Kathi will get the contact info to him.

**8) UPDATE ON DONATION TAX STATUS TO**

**SORRENTO FD:** It was agreed that there is no problem with donations to the Fire Department because it benefits the entire town.

**a) Auxiliary Children's Christmas Fund and Auxiliary Firefighter's Assistance Fund:** Both of these funds do not benefit the entire town. The Auxiliary is its own entity. Getting rid of the separate checkbook was discussed but it was decided that it can be used to keep donations separate. The Auxiliary needs to file as a 503-C since these funds have no benefit to the Town. There needs to be an accounting where the money goes so a financial report needs to be included in the Annual Report. Rob made a motion that the Fire Department Auxiliary file for 503-C status and this is the last year that their donations will be deposited into the Town checking account and before the end of the fiscal year a check will be issued to the Auxiliary for the



donations received for these two accounts, seconded by Jon, unanimous vote, motion passed.

**9) UPDATE ON TAX MAP UPDATES:** Rob spoke with Tora Johnson from University of Maine @ Machias. They completed digitizing tax maps and have started working on our tax map updates (at no cost) for the last 3 years. He noted that the map viewer used by local roads has the same property tax map layer, all show 2010 property lines.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Kathi said that a resident reported to her the door was open at 159 West Shore Road and he doesn't believe the wind blew it open. It was agreed that this should be reported to HCSO and Jon asked Kathi to do so.

Kathi said she keeps receiving a quote/proposal from Overhead Door. Rob asked for a quote for the salt/sand shed door without a motor, no reason to have an electric motor on back door opened twice a year, the chain to open is an option so he needs to check on that. Rob will get back to her on it. Joey said the only work they have done recently is put the old door up and nailed in place, ok to pay that invoice.

Rob made a motion to appoint Hilly Welch-Crary and Darla Crocker to the Community Building Committee, Jon seconded, unanimous vote, motion passed.

Hilly and Darla want to offer games and line dancing at the Community Building, twice a month during the winter only, free and open to the public. Rob made a motion to approve their request, seconded by Jon, unanimous vote, motion passed.

At 7:50 Rob made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jon, unanimous vote, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted on 01/17/2023 by Kathi Moore,  
Town Clerk



**Select Board Meeting Minutes  
01/18/2023**

**Attending** via Zoom were Select Board Chair Rob Wilpan, Selectman Jon Mickel (also in person at the Town Office), Selectwoman Diana Gazis, Town Clerk Kathi Moore, Fire Chief Joey Clark, Tom Bailey, Ann Blood, Susan Clancy-Dougherty, Darla Crocker, Dan Dougherty, Pat Dougherty, Malachy Flynn, Ann Hoffner, Amanda Mickel, Dean Potashner, Ted Preuss, Trina Wellman and Wendy Worrell. Attending in person at the Town Office was Tim Guyette.

**The meeting was called to order** at 7:01 pm by Rob Wilpan.

**IN-PERSON MEETING OPTION:** Jon asked that the minutes reflect if anybody wants to attend a Select Board meeting in person they are welcome to join him at the Town Office.

**1) PUBLIC HEARING:** A public hearing was held to review the Junkyard Permit renewal application by Guyette's, Inc. Guyette's was represented by Tim Guyette. Rob asked the Select Board and audience if they had any questions, there were none. Rob made a motion to renew the permit for one year, seconded by Jon, unanimous vote, motion passed.

**2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Rob made a motion to approve the 12/21/2022 meeting minutes as amended. There was a discussion about an amendment Rob made. Jon made a motion to approve the 12/21/2022 minutes as re-amended, seconded by Diana, unanimous vote, motion passed. Rob made a motion to approve the 1/04/2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Diana, unanimous vote, motion passed.

**3) UPDATE ON HARBOR POWER:** No update

**4) UPDATE ON HARBOR RAILING:** Rob reported no quote yet.

**5) UPDATE ON KEARSARGE AVE/WEST SHORE ROAD VEGETATION CLEARING:** Joey talked with Craig from Hyde Point; he is down to one man and will get to it within a couple of weeks.

**6) UPDATE ON TOWN ROAD INVENTORY:** Rob plans on having the Google drive up and ready by the next meeting.

**7) UPDATE ON WEST SHORE ROAD STRIPING:** Rob got an email from someone talking about the need for maintenance on the West Shore Road and said that should be considered before striping. Kathi asked what maintenance is needed, Joey said hot top patching.

**8) UPDATE ON COMMUNITY BUILDING BOILER:** Jon reported that the part has not arrived yet and Steve is trying to find out when it will arrive.

**9) UPDATE ON SEPARATING SVFD AUXILIARY FROM THE FIRE DEPT:** Rob requested help concerning separating the Auxiliary from the Fire Department but he has nothing to bring to the table yet, possibly by the next meeting. Kathi asked who he requested help from; Town Attorney Dan Pileggi and Auditor Jim Wadman.

**10) UPDATE ON TAX MAP UPDATES:** Rob worked with the group; they are getting close the finished product.

**11) UPDATE ON COMBINED ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:** The County is now accepting contracts from interested municipalities; the annual cost is \$2500 plus

mileage and hourly pay. Rob made a motion to approve the 2023 contract, seconded by Jon, unanimous vote, motion passed.

**12) UPDATE ON PLANNING GRANT:**

**1) DEEDS:** Rob spoke with Melissa, the planning grant will not be usable for any kind of deed/road research unless right on the shore.

**2) EROSION MITIGATION PLANNING:** Erosion mitigation planning is appropriate for town owned property only. He would like to seek out professionals that do more than provide erosion control with just stone. The grant would pay for ¾ of the cost.

**13) UPDATE ON MAINE DEPT OF LABOR:** Joey reported the Maine Department of Labor has scheduled their inspection of all Town offices for February 21, 2023.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**REPLACEMENT OF PIER RAMP & GRANT:** Lou received a quote from Henri at Custom Float Services to replace the existing wooden town ramp with a 3'6" x 46' arch style aluminum ramp, quote includes removal of old ramp and installation, total \$22,260. The length eliminates the need for the platform. Jon wants to get a 2<sup>nd</sup> quote from another company, such as Superior Docks just for comparison purposes. Lou can apply for a grant that would contribute \$15,000 towards this project which he would apply for in April; the ramp would be installed in 2024. Rob made a motion to give Lou the go-ahead to apply for the grant, seconded by Jon, unanimous vote, motion passed.

**REVIEW OF RENTAL CONTRACT FOR OLD FIREHOUSE WITH SVIA:** Kathi requested that the Select Board review the rental contract between the Town and the S.V.I.A. for leasing the downstairs of the building. The existing contract was signed in 2014 and has not been reviewed since. They are paying \$1500 a year for boat storage. Jon is concerned about continued maintenance of the building and that \$1500 a year doesn't cover it, we should definitely consider getting more money for the lease or consider selling the building. What is the fair market value of an unheated 2 car garage? Diana is against selling the building. Rob asked if anyone wanted to make a motion for a new rental agreement price. It was agreed to get more information before agreeing on a price. Jon requested an analysis on what the property costs annually; mowing, insurance, sweeping the parking lot, etc. Kathi said she will get this info for the next meeting.

**E-911 ADDRESSING OFFICER TRAINING:** Joey reported that the training has been rescheduled to this Tuesday but Darlene hasn't received anything via email yet.

**OVERHEAD DOOR: A) MAINTENANCE CONTRACT:** Rob made a motion to approve the 2023 Planned

Maintenance Program, seconded by Jon, unanimous vote, motion passed. **B) QUOTE FOR REPLACEMENT OF UPPER DOOR FOR SAND/SALT SHED:** The first quote was for \$6995 but Rob asked them to requote without the electric motor, 2<sup>nd</sup> quote is \$5340. Joey asked Rob to make sure the door is zinc coated the same as what the DOT has. Rob could not find his quote to forward to Joey. TABLED until Rob can find the email with the quote.

**TOWN GREEN EROSION:** There has been 3' of erosion at the Village Green, right up to the bench. Joey will talk with Josh about adding stone as a temporary fix; Rob will ask CEO Mike G about the necessary permits.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

**a)** Kathi reported to the Select Board that she is having an issue receiving sales receipts from the Fire Department for fuel purchases, she has been asking for this for the last 6 months. Just for the month of December fuel purchases totaled \$1200 with only 2 sales receipts received. The Select Board agreed that the FD needs to provide receipts for all purchases.

**b)** Jon said it was recently brought to his attention that a new green fire truck is being used by the Sorrento FD with no discussion or approval by the Board about commissioning a new fire truck. Joey said it was temporarily parked in the fire station last winter and the Park Service wanted to give it to the SFD. It is a 1988 Pierce Arrow 1000 gallon pumper truck. Jon asked Joey if he received the bill of sale and title for it and said decisions as this should be discussed with the Board prior to accepting any new apparatus. Joey said it has already been added onto the Town's insurance policy but not registered and no license plate. Rob said this truck has capabilities that are useful but adds a redundancy as it has similar functions as the forestry truck. He asked Joey what value it has if we were to sell it; Joey said the Federal Government said it was worth \$104,000 if they had sold it. Jon said we should seriously think about how much we need this truck vs getting some money for it. He asked Kathi to check and see if municipal vehicles are required to have license plates.

**BUILDING PERMIT APPEAL:** Jon wanted to discuss the email the Select Board received from the Dougherty's attorney regarding their building permit appeal. Rob said CEO Mike Gurtler has been working with the Doughertys and the Town Attorney and an agreeable conclusion was not met so they want to appeal. The town does not have a Board of Appeals and the Select Board cannot stand in as the Board of Appeals so it goes to Superior Court unless all parties can settle. Jon said their attorney questioned the legitimacy of our Land Use Ordinance; Rob said that's the lawyer talking,



it's not considered a problem on our side. Jon asked if the Land Use Ordinance was created by an attorney/did an attorney approve it. Rob said there is no problem with it. Dan Pileggi has been working with Mike on this situation and it's in their hands. Jon asked if there is any reason why the entire Select Board is not in the loop as Rob has been in further contact with Mike and Dan regarding this situation.

At 8:06 Rob made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Diana, unanimous vote, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted on 01/30/2023 by Kathi Moore,  
Town Clerk

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**CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW TO READ THE  
ELLSWORTH AMERICAN NEWS ARTICLE  
"SORRENTO SPENDS THOUSANDS ON PRIVATE  
ROAD" PUBLISHED DEC 28, 2022**

**[https://www.ellsworthamerican.com/news/sorrento-spends-thousands-on-private-road/article\\_42755a6e-7732-11ed-8c9f-af2ae75de3b2.html](https://www.ellsworthamerican.com/news/sorrento-spends-thousands-on-private-road/article_42755a6e-7732-11ed-8c9f-af2ae75de3b2.html)**

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**CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW TO READ  
ROB WILPAN'S COMMENTARY PUBLISHED  
JAN 4, 2023 IN RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE  
ELLSWORTH AMERICAN NEWS ARTICLE**

**[https://www.ellsworthamerican.com/opinion/commentary/story-on-road-work-plows-over-details/article\\_8ba9183e-8b6d-11ed-80c7-73a7b7504b37.html](https://www.ellsworthamerican.com/opinion/commentary/story-on-road-work-plows-over-details/article_8ba9183e-8b6d-11ed-80c7-73a7b7504b37.html)**



**PLANNING BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM**

First Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Easy option for first time users:

Search: join.zoom.us with Chrome browser

Enter Meeting ID: **889 8753 5935**

Download, install & launch Zoom Client

Enter passcode: **470 621**

**SORRENTO PLANNING BOARD MINUTES  
MEETING OF JANUARY 5, 2023**

**ATTENDING:** Sasa Cook, Beth Clark, Hilly Crary, Trina Wellman, Tom Bailey

**PRESENT:** Rob Wilpan, Mike Gurtler, Lynn Stone, Dale Strohmaier.

**The minutes of the December meeting were approved.** There was one correction, the approved street names are on West Shore Road, not East Shore Road.

**The proposed property information survey for first responder use was approved for further circulation.**

The survey prepared by Tom in consultation with Joey Clark is intended to provide contact and access information to first responders. Joey indicated that the information will be useful for the fire department and others providing emergency response at Sorrento homes. The survey will be sent to Kathi Moore for inclusion in the Newsletter and there was discussion about how best to get the survey to property owners. Rob Wilpan said the most complete list is the tax payer list which is more complete than the email and mailing lists for the newsletter. There will have to be a decision on how to proceed with circulation of the survey.

**There was discussion and adoption of the land use permit application checklist which has been under development for some time.** Mike Gurtler noted the checklist should be in the same format at the Building Permit application and that he would revise it. Sasa motioned to adopt the checklist with Mike's revisions.

**Mike Gurtler said that with regard to the Planning Board's concerns about being kept informed about building activity can be accommodated in several ways.** Mike said the applications are listed in a log kept at the town office. He said he can make a monthly report on permit activity.

**Lynn Stone again expressed her concern about short term rental registration.** Sasa and others noted that the board is supporting the first responder information survey as a way of gathering information but at this time there is not a lot of community interest or support on the issue and it seems to be fairly sensitive. Tom noted that any actual policy changes are actually the responsibility of the Select Board although the Planning Board can suggest and advise. Rob said the caps on short term rental housing mentioned by Lynn are a big step which would require town approval at a town meeting. Mike Gurtler said that such moves would require a change in the land use ordinance. Caps in other towns will probably drive investors to town such as Sorrento as they are doing in Sullivan and

Hancock which like Sorrento do have not regulation. Mike said we will have to be conscious of what future actions we take as a town and change can happen fast. Dale Strohmayr, a AirBNB operator, does not want to see local fees or regulation of rental properties. He has had very positive experiences as an AirBNB landlord. He does not feel that the town should control how he uses his property. It was pointed out that Zoning and land use ordinances are accepted practice and based on community consensus. Mike Gurtler did say that rentals are still regarded as residential dwellings not commercial uses unless redefined by ordinance at town meeting and such change might open a can of worms.

**Sasa requested that he serve as chair one more meeting before he changes residency.** The board voiced its approval.

**Trina, as a new member, expressed interest in understanding the boards responsibilities.** Hilly noted the MMA webinar about Planning Boards and Sasa will forward the information about the webinars.

**Sasa motioned for adjournment at 8:05 it was seconded and approved.**

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 5, at 7:00 PM.



#### **SORRENTO COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING VIA ZOOM**

**7:00 pm Tuesday December 13, 2022**

Easy option for first time users:

Search: join.zoom.us with Chrome browser

Enter Meeting ID: **836 8076 2498**

Download, install & launch Zoom Client

Enter passcode: **974 013**



#### **SORRENTO COMMUNITY BUILDING**

##### **WINTER ACTIVITIES FREE AND OPEN TO ALL**

##### **FEBRUARY DATES ARE:**

Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 pm  
Beginner line dancing taught from 3-4 pm  
The game of Bunco played from 4-5 pm

Light Refreshments.

##### **Special Valentines Event! At the Sorrento-Sullivan Rec Center (1776 US Rt 1, Sullivan, ME) Tuesday, February 14 5-7 pm Lasagna Supper!**

(Free but donations always welcome)

Please email us if you would like a ride there:

[hillywc@gmail.com](mailto:hillywc@gmail.com) or [floridacroc@gmail.com](mailto:floridacroc@gmail.com)

Even if free lasagna, dancing and games are not your thing, please come anyway and meet your neighbors.....

Future dates and times to be determined. Your suggestions for additional activities and times welcome. (please use the above email addresses)

#### **HOUSING WANTED**

**August 14 – September 22**

The Sorrento VIA is looking for housing for up to 7.

We have contracted with a tennis company out of Massachusetts to redo the tennis courts and need housing for the crew. If you have a room or house to rent or donate to this cause, or an idea of someone who might, please reach out to Hetty Nerod at

[hnerod@gmail.com](mailto:hnerod@gmail.com)

## CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING



### Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide detectors save lives. Every year more than 400 people in the US die from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In addition, over 20,000 visit the emergency room, and another 4,000 are hospitalized.

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that often goes undetected, striking victims caught off guard or in their sleep. The most common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are often described as “flu-like” – headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion.

### How Can I Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning?

Anyone can be at risk. Infants, the elderly, and people with chronic heart disease, anemia or breathing problems are more prone to illness or death, but carbon monoxide doesn't discriminate.

Winter can be a prime time for carbon monoxide poisoning as people use their heating systems, space heater, portable generators or warm their cars in garages. As the weather turns colder, it is important to take extra precautions.

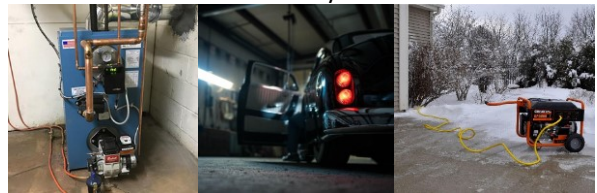
Carbon monoxide detectors should be installed on each level of the home and especially in the hallway near each sleeping area. Remember to check or replace any batteries when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall, and replace the detector every five years.



### Other prevention ideas include:

- Have your fuel-oil burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year

- Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors
- Have your chimney checked and cleaned every year, and make sure your fireplace damper is open before lighting a fire and well after the fire is extinguished
- Never use a gas oven for heating your home
- Never use a generator inside your home, basement or garage, or less than 20 feet from any window, door or vent; fatal levels of carbon monoxide can be produced in just minutes, even if doors and windows are open
- Never run a car in a garage that is attached to a house, even with the garage door open; always open the door to a detached garage to let in fresh air when you run a car inside



### When the Carbon Monoxide Alarm Sounds

Never ignore a carbon monoxide alarm, and do not try to find the source of the gas. Instead, follow these steps:

- Immediately move outside to fresh air
- Call emergency services, fire department or 9-1-1
- Do a head count to check to account for everyone
- Do not reenter the premises until emergency responders have given you permission to do so



**Sorrento Code Enforcement Officer,  
Plumbing Inspector & Shoreland Zoning  
Officer**

**Michael Gurtler (m) 207-460-5544**

[ceo-lpi@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:ceo-lpi@sorrentomaine.org)

Please use email to help document your requests

## **Sorrento Fire Department**

### **BURN PERMITS**

**You are required by Maine law to have a permit to burn**, even for a small pile of grass clippings or leaves. A **Forestry Warden** will be called if you burn without a permit, possibly resulting in you being summonsed to court and fined.

***The person who signs the fire permit is responsible for the fire. Do not leave any fire unattended.***

#### **To obtain a burn permit contact:**

Joey Clark, Fire Chief	207-812-2208
Brian Clement, Deputy Chief	207-460-4772
Mike Parker, Asst. Chief	207-460-3470
Chris Eklund, Asst. Chief	207-610-2794
Craig Clement, Chief Engineer	207-460-8851

#### ***Required for burning:***

***\*\*at least two adults to attend the burn,***  
***\*\*some form of water supply and hand tools must be on hand,***  
***\*\*and it is recommended you have a cellular phone or other communication device to call for assistance should the fire escape.***

**YOU are responsible to see that the fire is out before leaving.**

### **TAKE NOTE**

#### **BURNING TRASH IS ILLEGAL!!**

State Laws (12 MRSA 9321-25) governing the backyard burning of household trash are enforced by the Maine Forest Service.

If you think someone is burning trash **please call 973-3700 immediately!** 24 hours/day, 7 days a week.

#### **ONLINE BURNING PERMITS**

Traditional hand-written burn permits are still available, but the state online system allows permits to be acquired 24 hours a day, seven days a week, throughout the state, provided that the fire danger is not high.

For more information, call 287-4989 or visit [www.maineburnpermit.com](http://www.maineburnpermit.com).

## **SORRENTO FIRE FIGHTER MEMORIAL**

Fire Chief Joey Clark is looking for volunteers to form a committee for the Sorrento Fire Fighter Memorial to be built on the old Sorrento fire house property, honoring deceased members of the Sorrento Volunteer Fire Department.

Contact Joey at 207-812-2208 or email [tonkajoe801@yahoo.com](mailto:tonkajoe801@yahoo.com)



Please consider donating to the Sorrento Fire Fighter Memorial Fund. Checks can be made out to the Town of Sorrento (write FF MEMORIAL in the memo field) and mailed/dropped off at the Town Office, 79 Pomola Avenue, Sorrento, ME 04677

### ***Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Conservation Program***

***Mike Hall, Shellfish Warden 207-400-6183 or 207-963-7104***





February is Black History Month, and Black History is everywhere – even in Downeast Maine. For this month's article, we will divulge a bit of history that many may not be aware of because the plans did not come to fruition, and that is that Sorrento was almost home to the first Black resort in New England.

In 1927, a large amount of land came up for public auction in Sorrento. John Nail, a wealthy African-American realtor credited with developing Harlem, banded together with a few other influencers, including George Harris, Thomas Taylor, and W.E.B. Du Bois to travel by train to Sorrento to spend some time on the land. With the Harlem Renaissance well underway, more and more Black folks were moving from the South to New England and becoming successful in business and entertainment. However, Jim Crow laws were still in effect, which meant that traveling for pleasure was not easy – some places were more open than others, but some establishments were very clearly segregated or hostile. So the plan was to purchase 1200 acres in Sorrento and develop a Black resort community, with a golf course, tennis courts, and a beach all its own.

John Nail and his entourage arrived in the summer of 1927 and spent a couple of weeks in Sorrento and Sullivan, and found the people to be very friendly here. W.E.B. Du Bois was no stranger to the area; he'd been coming to stay on MDI since the 1890s and enjoyed his time on Frenchman Bay. The group agreed that Sorrento would make a wonderful place for a Black community, and purchased the option for 1200 acres. After the visit, Du Bois wrote a 2-page prospectus on the plan in a bid to seek donations from the well-to-do African-American community towards the resort.

Unfortunately, building was never started due to challenges posed by racism in the banking and mortgage industry towards Black people at that time. Also, the Great Depression was nigh, and by 1933 John Nail was bankrupt along with millions of other Americans, and his option on the Sorrento property expired the following year. Later, the first Black resort in New England would be established on Martha's Vineyard.

Maine remained a popular destination for folks, with the "Negro Motorist Green-Book" listing several safe places to vacation in the state from Portland to Robbinston in Washington County. W.E.B. Du Bois wrote fondly of Frenchman's Bay in his book "Darkwater: Voices Within the Veil" published in 1920:

"It is a mighty coast – ground out and pounded, scarred, crushed, and carven in massive, frightful lineaments. Everywhere stand the pines – the little dark and steadfast

pinetrees that smile not, neither weep, but wait and wait. Near us lie isles of flesh and blood, white cottages, tiled and meadowed. Afar lie shadow-lands, high mist-hidden hills, mountains boldly limned, yet shading to the sky, faint and unreal."

## Tobey S. Connor

Communications Coordinator  
Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society  
Sullivan, ME

[tobey.connor@maine.edu](mailto:tobey.connor@maine.edu)

207.266.4448

<http://sullivansorrentohistory.org/>

### FRENCHMAN BAY LIBRARY NEWS January 2023

Summer Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1-6; Sat 10-3

Winter Hours: Effective Oct 3 – May 2

Tuesday & Thursday 1-5; Sat 10-2

Hancock County is on Low Alert regarding the spread of Covid even though there have been many cases in our immediate area. We no longer require appointments but do recommend that masks still be worn and that you be conscious of social distancing. Hand sanitizer and masks are available at the door. Air purifier is now in use at the library so the door must remain closed. The Library staff will be wearing masks until Hancock County is consistently Low or None regarding the spread of Covid. There are other respiratory viruses in the area as well as the Flu. Stay Vigilant. And Stay Healthy. Help keep our Community safe. Masks, hand sanitizer, social distancing and vaccines when possible.

New Books we are ordering this month:

- Indigenous Continent: The Epic Contest for North America by Pekka Hamalainen (NF)
- Saved By A Song: The Art and Healing power of a songwriter by Mary Gauthier (NF)
- Slow Horses by Mick Herron (NF)

We are still accepting donations to our Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is located down by the Thrift Shop. Hours are Tuesday 1-5 and Saturday 10-2. Food donations may be dropped off at Dunbar Store, the town office, the library or the Thrift Store.

Frenchman Bay Library 207 422-2307  
[fbaylibrary2017@gmail.com](mailto:fbaylibrary2017@gmail.com)