

The TOWN of THOMASTON MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 299, Thomaston, ME 04861

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Web Address: <http://thomaston.me.us>

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GET INVOLVED!

The Thomaston Board of Selectmen is seeking Citizens interested in serving on the following Boards and Committees:

Planning Board

- 1 – Three Year Term expiring
- 2 – Alternates

Board of Appeals

- 1 – Three Year Term expiring
- 1 – Three Year Term vacant
- 2 – Alternates

Personnel Committee

- 1 – Three Year Term expiring

Budget Committee

- 2 – Three Year Terms expiring

Harbor Committee

- 3 – Three Year Terms expiring

Recreation Committee

- 3 – Three Year Terms expiring
- 1 – Alternate
- 1 – Non-Voting Senior Citizen vacant
- 1 – Non-Voting High School Student vacant

Shellfish Committee

- 1 – Three Year Term expiring

Watts Block Trustees

- 1 – Three Year Term expiring

Academy Board of Trustees

- 2 – Three Year Terms expiring

Conservation Commission

- 1 – Three Year Term expiring
- 2 – Three Year Terms vacant

Municipal Facilities Committee

- 5 – Citizens at Large

The Selectpersons will consider the appointment requests at their regular meeting on September 25, 2017. If you are interested in serving please submit a letter to the Town Office at the above address or by email to thommanager@midcoast.com. Be sure to include your name, address and a telephone number and note the position you are interested in.

APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE POLICY

Whereas the Board of Selectpersons annually appoints citizens to expired terms of seats on Municipal Boards, Committees and Trustees. These appointments are for both incumbents and vacant seats as it may vary.

Whereas the Board of Selectmen's policy has been to require all such appointees to attend the Selectmen's Meeting for said annual appointment.

Whereas there is a clear distinction of discussion between an incumbent and a new appointee.

Whereas all such expired terms of seats are required to be publicly noticed and advertised.

It therefore should be the policy of the Board of Selectmen to require all new appointees to attend the Selectmen's Meeting for said appointment. An appointee may be excused from attendance by the Board of Selectmen.

It further shall not require incumbent appointees to attend said meetings unless another citizen at large submits a request of consideration for the same appointment.

It further shall be required for interested citizens to submit a written request to serve, and for an incumbent their active service shall suffice as notice of their interest.

It shall be the responsibility of the Administrative Secretary to notify all parties of said appointments and to further insure notice is given to incumbents if other interested parties are vying for their seat.

It shall be the responsibility of the Town Clerk to assemble the list of expired and vacant seats and to advertise same in a timely manner, to coordinate with the Town Manager's Office the appointment list, and to update same after said appointments.





Town of Thomaston Standing Municipal Committee 2017

Thomaston, ME: The Thomaston Comprehensive Plan Committee is inviting residents and business owners to discuss the future of the Town at a series of four “Thomaston Talks” events to be held on October 4th, 11th and 25th and November 1st at Watts Hall in Thomaston.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee is in the process of preparing a ten year forward looking Plan for the Town as well as action steps to ensure Thomaston's vitality in the short term. Earlier this year, the Committee distributed a survey seeking input from residents and it would like to present the results of the survey as well as engage in a more detailed discussion of four topics that figured prominently in the survey responses.

The topics of the four “Thomaston Talks” sessions are:

October 4, 2017: *Downtown: Main Street Matters*

October 11, 2017: *Community: What do we want our Town to be?*

October 25, 2017: *The Harbor and Thomaston Green (former site of Maine State Prison)*

November 1, 2017: *Toward a Sustainable Economy*

“We hope a large number of people will come out to participate in these sessions”, said Peggy McCrea, Co-Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee. “The Committee is eager to hear the views of all Thomaston residents and businesses as we address the future direction of our Town”, she added.

The four “Thomaston Talks” sessions will start promptly at 6:30 pm at Watts Hall on Main Street in Thomaston and will be facilitated by Anne Krieg of the Midcoast Regional Planning Commission. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information, please contact Peggy McCrea at 354-2314.

The responsibility of the said Municipal Facility Committee will be to make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen annually or as necessary for the expenditure and/or the encumbrance and/or exposure to the Town of Thomaston when said cost of \$250,000 or more or market value exceeds for the following five categories:

1. Capital Improvement to Existing Facilities
2. Expansion of Existing Facilities
3. Acquisitions of Property
4. Acceptance of Property
5. The sale or devastation of Town held property

The Municipal Facilities Committee will be made up of the following fifteen members as appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

1. Chairman Board of Selectmen or respective designee
 2. Chairman of Budget Committee or respective designee
 3. Chairman of Planning Board or respective designee
 4. Chairman of Zoning Board or respective designee
 5. Chairman of Comprehensive Planning Committee or respective designee
 6. Chairman of Watts Hall Trustees or respective designee
 7. Chairman of Academy Trustees or respective designee
 8. Senior Citizen Advocate
 9. Chairman of Historical Society
 10. Chairman of Harbor Committee
- Plus 5 Citizens at Large

The Board of Selectmen will further appoint the following voting members as available based on a determination of expertise required under one of the five categories previously identified.

1. Engineer
2. Architect
3. Building Contractor
4. Electrician
5. Plumber
6. Environmental Professional
7. Grant for Economic Professional
8. Real Estate Broker
9. Banker
10. Other Expert in Fields as deemed necessary

The ex officio non-voting members shall be as follows:

1. Town Manager
2. Code Enforcement Officer
3. Fire Chief
4. Police Chief
5. Public Works Director
6. Ambulance Director
7. Library Director
8. Recreation Director
9. Pollution Control Director
10. Harbor Master
11. Other departments, boards, etc. as deemed necessary

These members are required to attend meetings and make recommendations based on the specific municipal facility project acting as liaisons to the standing committee.

The recommendation to create this standing committee arises from the Town Manager's office based on the voters' acceptance of the 23,000 square foot Lura Libby School and the understanding from the Board of Selectmen their decision to embark on the relocation of the Town Office, Police Department, Recreation Department and Food Pantry from Watts Hall to the new facility, thereby vacating store fronts and/or office spaces in the central downtown which will open up the commercial viability and create a cohesive footprint of retail and commercial use/spaces.

While at the same time it will preserve the historic Watts Hall auditorium for public uses by the condominiumization of the store fronts and selling the spaces. This action has the potential if the spaces are sold to create a funding source and at the same time reduce the Town's maintenance cost to half while collecting taxes. This process will further allow for Watts Hall to be placed on the historic preservation list and afford historic preservation credits to the new private owners which in turn ensures the preservation of the facility.

The complexity and long range planning for this endeavor was initiated ten years ago with a twenty-one member Thomaston Municipal Facilities Working Group created by the Board of Selectmen charged with analyzing the Town's facility needs. The Town engaged "Maine Solutions" Ron Beard from the University of Maine Co-Op which at its conclusion in 2007 a Declaration of Cooperation was signed by the parties which laid out the needs. The one item lacking in many capital investment plans is funding without creating exorbitant tax increases - otherwise it would be simple.

The Town Manager believes the acceptance of Lura Libby property assessed at \$3,000,000, the previous planning mentioned above, the downtown tax increment financing district approved by voters in 2010 at 70%, the Route 1 Highway and Granite Sidewalk projects and the financial status of the Town all lend themselves to the perfect but yet aggressive idea to also investigate the sale of the fire station and complete an annex construction of bays for apparatus onto the north side of the Lura Libby facility with a rural development loan and grant application thereby creating a complete public safety center in one location, ambulance, police and fire.



The Personnel Committee interviewed three highly qualified candidates for the position of Town Clerk on August 30th. After deliberations, the Personnel Committee submitted two candidates to the Town Manager for final selection.

"I am excited to notify the Board, Kara Cushman George was my final choice, after reference reviews and the totality of this process. She is a prior resident of Thomaston, now residing in Hope. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from Thomas College. Kara has been employed with the City of Rockland for the past seven years. She is currently the Assistant Clerk and Assistant Treasurer for the city," said Valmore Blastow, Town Manager.

As one can imagine, she has dealt with all aspects of the Clerks position requirements: from voter registration and State CVR voter records and Caucuses to Birth, Death and Vital Statistics.

One of her business references from seven years ago with twenty plus employees stated "Kara was dependable, hardworking, smart, honest, and an exceptional employee" that they wished still worked for them.

"Her eagerness and outward personality are indicative of an employee the Town will benefit from for years to come and I believe the Town will have the same sentiment in seven years," said Blastow.

TOWN OF THOMASTON
 P O BOX 299
 THOMASTON, ME 04861

September-17



2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HOURS 8 - 5	HOURS 8 - 5	HOURS 8-5	HOURS 8 - 5	HOURS 8 - 2
				1
4	5	6	7	8
LABOR DAY MUNICIPAL OFFICES CLOSED				
11	12	13	14	15
Brd of Selectmen 7:00 PM Watts Hall			Joint Clam BD 6:00 PM Watts Hall	
18	19	20	21	22
	Planning Board 7:00 PM Town Office	Comprehensive Plan Committee 6:30 PM @ Watts Hall	Solid Waste 7:00 PM OH Town Office	
25	26	27	28	29
Brd of Selectmen 7:00 PM Watts Hall	Board of Assessors* 5:00 PM Town Office	Knox County Democrats 6:00 PM Watts Hall		

*** Due to Tax Commitment, This meeting may be rescheduled to 10/3**

**ALL MEETINGS LISTED ABOVE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
 AND MAY BE CANCELLED IF THERE IS NO BUSINESS**

For up to date notification of meeting schedules and agendas sign up to receive the newsletter by email:
<http://www.town.thomaston.me.us/public/index.php/news/newsletters/newsletter-sign-up>