

State of the Town Georgetown 2013

April 8, 2013



Agenda

Public Safety

- Police
- Fire

Education

- School Building Committee
- Schools

Council on Aging

Land Use & Other

- CPC
- Park s & Recreation
- Planning Board
- Affordable Housing Trust

Selectmen's Report

- Chairman, Board of Selectmen



Public Safety





Accomplishments

- **Awarded State Accreditation by MA Police Accreditation for three years 2015.**
- **Commission January 26th 2012.**
- **Awarded Pedestrian Safety Award from AAA, 33 years without a pedestrian fatality January 5th 2013**
- **Lieutenant Donald Cudmore attends and graduates from the FBI National Academy September 26th 2011.**
- **Georgetown Police Honor Guard Trains with Marine Honor Guard. February 15, 2012 Win Best Dress competition.**
- **Georgetown Police Detectives arrest serial robbery suspects responsible for attacks on merchants in Georgetown and other communities on the North Shore ending their crime spree. Suspect sentenced to 8 to 10 years**
- **Aug 16th 2012.**
- **Master Patrol Officer Scott Hatch and Officer Derek Jones honored by MADD organization for their proactive work to stop drunk driving. May 18th 2012.**
- **MPO Scott Hatch promoted to Sergeant June 25th 2012.**
- **Eleventh Annual Baseball Clinic for the children of Georgetown.**





Opportunities/Challenges



- **To increase our community wide communication network, by working with all departments in Georgetown to upgrade our communication center to come into Federal Communication Commission Compliance, for every department in Georgetown by April 1st 2013.**
- **To create a crime prevention unit with on duty personnel to work with our residents and merchants to increase security at their homes and business and increase interaction with uniform officers with our residents, local merchant and visitors. Brochures have been printed and distributed throughout our community**
- **Challenges: The primary challenge facing the Georgetown Police Department is working with a reduce patrol force and relying on part time Reserve Officers to fill shifts. In spite of the fact Georgetown is the fastest growing town in Essex County, the Georgetown Police Department lost an officer due to budget cuts and a layoff that has not been replaced putting us back to the same number of officer we had in 2000. Our Reserve force are citizen officers who have full time jobs. We need to increase our full time department by one or two officers in the future.**



Goals

- To increase the number of full time certified officers. Add a full time Resource Officer.
- To maintain Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission, “Accreditation”. This is an ongoing program of oversight by an outside agency to make sure GPD is on the cutting edge of our profession and to make sure each employee understands and follows these standards. This allows our residents to know that we are constantly working to improve what we do and how we do it.
- To work to keep Georgetown a safe community where residents have confidence in their police department and feel safe and secure. To continue to have a proactive motor vehicle enforcement programs. To improve the quality of life, reduce accidents and injuries.



Accomplishments

- **1,208 incidents calendar 2012**
 - 2% increase over 2011
 - Greatest increase from Medical calls, +6.6%
- **Fire Prevention & Public Education**
 - Fire Safety Inspections
 - Open House & other outreach programs
 - Tracking data
- **Training**
 - Ambulance Services training occupied a lot of hours
 - Mass Fire Academy Training – 2 graduated
 - Monthly fire skills training
- **Emergency Medical Services**
 - 24 EMT's on staff, (4) in class now 5/2013 projected completion date
 - 100% self-supported. No Town money needed.
 - Staffing nights and weekends



Accomplishments

- **Revenues**

- FY 2012 - +\$23,000 approximately
- Opening Burning Permits
- Master Box fees
- Oil/smoke/CO inspections

- **Online Permits**

- Ability to access open burning permits
- 62.2% participation in 2012

- **Inventory Accountability System**

- **Preventative Maintenance Program**

- Extend service-life of apparatus, breathing apparatus
- Aging fleet means potential for breakdowns
- Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Program
 - Flow testing – completed annually
 - Hydrostatic testing – 5 year
 - Turnout Gear Program



Opportunities/Challenges

- **Opportunities:**

- Very dedicated force of people
- Community support
- Continued use of per diem staffing

- **Challenges:**

- Ever changing state/federal mandates
- Increased demands of training
- Increased responses
- Being prepared for *anything*
- Updating new CPR standards
- Suitable space for training
- Daytime staffing – accomplished with per diem people



Goals

- **By July 1, 2013**
 - Conversion to new radio frequency
 - New radio repeater system
- **EMS – By EOY 2013**
 - Adopt OEMS conversion to National EMT Registry
- **Document conversion**
 - Digital and electronic conversion of FD records for future reference
- **Training**
 - Take advantage of MFA field training equipment
 - Fire Prevention Division personnel to receive training on Fire Codes

● **More information: www.georgetownfd.com**



Schools



SCHOOL BUILDING

Aerial View of new Penn Brook School



Accomplishments



- **Town approval to build a new K-6 Penn Brook School**
- **Completed Schematic Design Phase of new Penn Brook**
- **Approved Feasibility Study for GMHS**

Penn Brook

First Floor



Opportunities/Challenges



- **Continue to move forward with plans of the new Penn Brook school within the scope and budget**
- **Complete the GMHS Feasibility Study to determine the scope and budget of required work and MSBA reimbursement**
- **Address concerns of Elm Street residents:**
 - **traffic**
 - **safety**
 - **emergency access driveway**
 - **water**
 - **maintaining the historic feel of Elm Street**

Penn Brook

Main Entry Approach



Goals



- **Complete the Penn Brook project on time and on/below budget**
- **Propose scope of work and budget for GMHS to voters at Spring 2014 Town Meeting**
- **Continue to work in partnership with the MSBA**

Penn Brook

Drop-off View



Accomplishments

- **Continuous improvement in student results and performance**
- **Maintained and expanded programs and services**
- **Developed Continuation Strategic Plan**
- **Completed the Design Development Phase of the PB Building Project**
- **Obtained Town and State Approval for MHS Feasibility Study**
- **Restructured the District Maintenance Department**
- **Replaced the Perley Roof and Obtained CPC funds to do Historical Restoration**



Opportunities/Challenges



- **Opportunities:**
 - Talented staff and students
 - Dedicated parents and town citizens
 - Departmental partnerships
 - New and/or renovated school sites
 - Next Accreditation Review in 2016
- **Challenges:**
 - Sustainable funding
 - Accreditation – Getting Off Warning
 - Providing for ALL students
 - Increasing up to date technology
 - Controlling costs/Lack of predictability in some areas
 - Changing state and national standards/ mandates
 - Maintaining community confidence / public relations

Goals

- Continue to improve student performance
- Stabilize funding for education/ Continue to explore options with town
- Achieve strategic goals, short and long term
- Maintain a stable workforce and provide high quality training
- Meet state mandates and timelines
- Increase technology infrastructure and use
- Maintain buildings in coordination with the town
- Improve public relations and communications





Council on Aging

Accomplishments

- **Provided 656 elders with 6,773 units of service**
 - Includes information & referrals, transportation,
 - social, recreation, health, cultural, & advocacy
- **Provided non-elders with 125 units of service**
- **Received \$3,295 Executive Office of Elder Affairs Service Incentive Grant to fund a Mental and Cognitive Health Project that included monthly support groups and professional development program**
- **Partnerships: six-week My Life, My Health Self-Management Program & six-week Diabetes Self-Management Program with ESMV**
 - Fully implemented regional transportation plan with Merrimac COA to lease new van from MVRTA funded by DOT
 - Georgetown Cultural Council grant; Georgetown Housing Authority; Georgetown TRIAD (Essex County Sheriff's Dept., Police, Fire, Housing Authority, COA & elders); Georgetown School Department; Crosby's Marketplace; COA Friends



Opportunities/Challenges



- **Opportunities:**

- Wonderful volunteers
- Caring and supportive community
- Multiple locations has allowed COA to gain visibility & greater connections to elders across the community

- **Challenges:**

- Reaching elders without a physical facility
- Logistics of providing programs and services in multiple locations
- Steady increase in elder population with limited resources available to provide services
- Part-time staff limits efficiency and effectiveness in meeting needs of elders and family members

Goals

- **Exploration of the opportunity to use space that will become available at the Perley School, following the construction of the new Penn Brook School, as a permanent location for the Council on Aging**
- **Enhance existing staff positions to include additional hours**
- **Increase COA expense line to add additional programs and cover increased costs related to potential repurposing of the space at the Perley School as a Senior Center facility**
- **To function effectively & efficiently as the community's focal point for understanding and communicating information regarding programs and services designed to support elder wellbeing**





Land Use & Other

Accomplishments

- **Administrative Reservation**
- **Housing Authority Community Building**
- **A.H. Trust Grant**
- **Central Fire Company Historic Preservation**
- **Brocklebank Foundation Repair**
- **Digitize Historic Town Reports (Phase 1)**
- **Camp Denison Historic Preservation**
- **High School Field Rehabilitation**
- **American Legion Park Pavilion and Playground Equipment**
- **Wheeler Brook Farm Conservation Restriction Purchase**



Opportunities/Challenges



- **Opportunities (unfinished projects):**
 - Rail Trail Utilization
 - Greenbelt additions
 - Fanwort monitoring
 - Parking and trail mapping to purchased conservation parcels
 - Low income and Rental housing improvements
 - Park Construction
 - Perley Historic Preservation
- **Challenges:**
 - Getting a good read on the needs of the community

Goals

- **Monitor the Projects approved at the previous town meetings**
- **Monitor the start of the projects approved at the 2013 Annual Town Meeting**
- **Disseminate the Open Space Report (when completed) and others**
- **Try to fully understand the needs of the community**



Accomplishments

- **East Main Street**
 - Park design done
 - Permitting in process
- **American Legion**
 - New sand / dock / buoys
 - Bacteria counts historically low
 - New sand box
 - Removed swing for safety
 - Labor Day movie set
- **West Street / Littles Hill**
 - NO upgrades done by P&R



Opportunities/Challenges

- **Opportunities:**
 - Central St Park / Rail Trail access
 - Playground Upgrade ALP
 - Pavilion ALP
 - ALP Rail Trail access
 - Future Summer activities
 - Another good year for water quality?
- **Challenges:**
 - Permitting For East Main Street
 - Greenbelt work continues



Goals

- **Finish permitting for East Main St**
- **Start Pavilion/Playground?**
- **Provide access to ALP from Rail Trail**
- **Clear some Rail Trail for use?**



Accomplishments

1. Technology:

- Town maps and pictometry.
- GEO-TMS software training

2. 43D Expedited Permitting Program:

- Marketing of properties attracting potential development.

3. Development Review:

- ANR Plan: Heather Road.
- Subdivision: Harmony Lane, Stone Row.
- Special Permit: East Main Street Athletic Facility.
- Site Plan: 11 Martel Way, 6 Norino Way, Bank of America.

4. M-Account:

- Management of 53G Accounts.

5. Zoning Bylaw Amendments:

- FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps.
- Corrected transcription errors on Zoning Maps.

6. Zoning Bylaw Updates:

- ISH bylaw: Citizen Petition.

7. Affordable Housing Trust:

- Protection of Affordable Housing Dwelling Units in Town.



Opportunities/Challenges



Opportunities:

- Map and Data Updates:
 - GIS Mapping and MIMAP.
- Stormwater Management: Coordination
 - MVPC for 5-Yr Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan.
- Open Space and Recreation Plan:
 - Updating of Town Maps such as Open Space and Zoning Map.

Challenges:

- Validate Discontinued County Roads: Jewett Street.
- Monitoring status of ongoing subdivisions.
- Facilitating appropriate growth within Site Plan Approval and Special Permit processes.
- Will not be conducting Site Plan Approval process for Penn Brook School.
- Diligence with Zoning bylaw and regulations in anticipation of economic upswing

Goals

1. Improvements to Permitting Process:

- GIS Mapping / Pictometry.
- On-Line Permit Tracking Software (GEO-TMS).

2. Economic Development Diversity:

- Economic Development Committee.
- Georgetown Alliance.

3. Zoning Bylaw:

- Independent Senior Housing, Land Use Designations, Definitions.
- Development Regulations.

4. Street Acceptances:

- Cedar Lane.
- Abbey Road.

5. 2007 Master Plan Update:

- Acquire funding source(s) for 5-year review.



Accomplishments

1. Rental Subsidy Program:

- Initiated development of rental assistance program.
- Established 'working relationship' with Coastal Homebuyers.

2. AHT Fund Levels:

- Created effective fund level to engage affordable housing opportunities.

3. Affordable Housing Units:

- Maintained Two Single Family dwelling units with efforts from citizens.
- Applied new DHCD deed riders so units remained on the Subsidized Housing Inventory.
- Assisted property owner in refinancing affordable housing dwelling unit.

4. Affordable Housing Task Force :

- Recommendation to Selectmen achieved the AHTF to be re-established.
- Reestablished AHTF as "boots on the ground" for the Trust.
- Three Current members.
- Investigated potential properties.

5. Education:

- Trust members met with other Town Boards to communicate their mission and establish how the Trust and Board may effectively work together.



Opportunities/Challenges



Opportunities:

- Implement Rental Subsidy Program:
 - First year of trail program.
- Work in support of Economic Development Issues:
 - Mixed-Use bylaws in appropriate locations.
- Inclusionary Zoning Bylaw:
 - Collect and implement funds received as in-lieu of payments.
- Work with Planning Board on future residential development:
 - Act proactively with Planning Board to support affordable housing issues.

Challenges:

- Maintain vision of the Housing Production Plan.
 - Housing Production Plan states a significant issue of affordable housing is lack of rentals.
- Initiate Rental Subsidy Program.
 - Determine if prime issue is high rent costs, lack of rental properties or inventory.
- Funding.
 - Continue to seek and obtain available funds to operate the Trust effectively.
- Work with Planning Board on future residential development:
 - Get involved with proposed residential development in early stages of review process.

Goals

1. AHT Mission:

- Continue development of Trust and Task Force expertise.
- Educate residents about affordable housing issues.
- Address needs of Housing Production Plan.

2. Subsidized Housing Inventory:

- Increase dwelling inventory with grant programs and Trust funds.
- Alliance with not-for-profit developers for inventory creation.

3. Identify Development Opportunities:

- Document land and dwellings for future affordable housing goals.
- Determine at end of year if rental assistance program is viable.
- Identify at least one potential opportunity for new rental property.

4. Protect Existing Affordable Housing Properties:

- Develop system to monitor properties with and enforce deed restrictions.

5. Grants:

- Locate, apply for, receive and maintain grant funding sources to add financing resources.





Selectmen's Report

Accomplishments

- **Georgetown is fiscally sound**
 - STAB fund
- **Enhanced budget planning process**
- **Renewed Town Administrator contract**
- **Successful Energy Project**
 - Grant reduced interest cost by \$500K
- **New ambulance service effective & profitable**
- **New Penn Brook school approved by residents**



Goals/Challenges

- **Hire new Chief of Police**
- **Review DOR recommendations**
 - Evaluate and implement improvements
- **Continued focus on bringing new businesses to Georgetown**
- **Continue to pro-actively fund “rainy day” accounts**
 - Capital improvement, stabilization, etc.
 - Address unfunded liabilities (e.g. – OPEB)
- **Complete GMHS feasibility study**
- **Retain AA bond rating and strong financial position**
- **Focus on savings from consolidation of services (e.g. – maintenance)**





Wrap Up