



# TOWN OF WINSLOW, MAINE

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## Monthly Report to the Town Council –October 2022 - Presented November 14, 2022

Esteemed Councilors,

October was a busy month with Absentee Voting and election preparations. So far absentee voting has been steady with more than 1000 ballots have been cast. I am happy to report that there have been no significant incidents surrounding voting and the process has been smooth so far. Good work to Lisa and her election crew as always!

On October 12 we had our first Council meeting in the new meeting space at the Winslow Public Library. The space is so much nicer than our previous Council Chambers. The look is more professional, and the atmosphere is more intimate allowing for better interaction with the public. After working out a couple of first-time bugs in the technology the meeting came off without a hitch. This move allows us to renovate the old Council Chambers into much needed office space, which will begin after Absentee Voting is over. The new space is still available to Library patrons for other events and meetings.

I am excited to report that both I and Councilors Macklin and Trahan were able to attend the grand opening of Maine Crisp at their new facility on Lithgow Street on October 14. Karen and Steve Getz and co-owner Michael Ross put on a fun and informative event. We were able to tour the new facility, see where the goodies are made, how they're packaged and, of course, sample the products. The facility will not only add to the Winslow tax base, but it will also add jobs. Congratulations to the Maine Crisp Crew! I would also like to congratulate another Winslow-based business, Standard Waterproofing, on their acquisition of New England Fire Protection. It's wonderful to see the Winslow business community continuing to grow and thrive!

In October the Facilities Committee issued the RFP for a Municipal Facility Study which will investigate the best way forward with the Fire Department, Police Department, and current Town Office. The study will not only assess the feasibility of a new facility but will also investigate the possibility of renovating the Town Office instead of building new. The RFP called for proposals to assess the current site and potential development in terms of employee health and safety, best practices for public safety, environmental conditions, spatial needs, public convenience, and of course, the most cost-effective solution. Three proposals were received, and the Facilities Committee is scoring them independently before reconvening as a group to recommend which firm should be chosen.

### Project Updates:

**Comprehensive Plan.** The Committee met on October 26 to finalize the Future Land Use chapter. The Committee will reconvene on November 30.

**Junior High Environmental Study.** Craig Wilson conducted the study with Shelley Phillips on May 19. We are awaiting the report.

In personnel news I would like to welcome our newest Town of Winslow employees. Lisa Witham started as the new Finance Clerk at the Town Office. Lisa has no prior experience in municipal government but is picking up quickly and works great with our customers. Celeste Gleason is our new Children's and Programming Librarian. Celeste is a writer, writing mentor, and a creative coach, helping writers learn to stop sabotaging their creative lives. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Stonecoast where she studied Young Adult and Popular Fiction. Welcome aboard Lisa and Celeste!

I am sad to report that our esteemed Fire Chief, Ronald Rodriguez, has resigned effective December 2, 2022. Chief Rodriguez has accepted the position of Fire Chief for the Town of Skowhegan. Deputy Chief Bolduc will take the helm in the interim vacancy. I have every confidence in Deputy Chief Bolduc and ask that you join me in giving him your support. I am very sad to see Chief Rodriguez leave the Town of Winslow. He has left a huge imprint on this Town by instituting the Ambulance Transport Service. He did this in the face of many naysayers and individuals who did not believe this would be good for the Town. His perseverance in the face of obstacles has benefitted Winslow residents possibly more than any other Fire Chief, and I know our residents feel safer and better served because of it. The proof of this comes in the form of numerous emails and thank you letters from residents who have had the misfortune of needing those services. I wish the Chief all the best in Skowhegan. He will be dearly missed.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Erica LaCroix  
Town Manager