

CHEBEAGUE TOWN OFFICE UPDATE

Week of August 20, 2007

Changes in Tax Bill Exemptions: After tax bills were sent out last week we became aware that the Town of Cumberland as our assessor of record had previously designated a 75% reimbursement ratio with the State of Maine that is less than the 100% exemption level applied to tax bills last year. The State of Maine requires that municipalities' set a reimbursement level for their total value of exemptions awarded under the Homestead and Veterans programs. For this tax year, however, the Maine Revenue Services changed the ratio level to 75%. This means that residents who qualify for the Homestead and Veterans exemptions have seen the value of their exemption amount reduced by 25% from what it was last year. The Board of Selectman have asked the Town Administrator to further look into this matter to determine what options, if any, are legally open to them to address this change.

BOARD OF SELECTMAN APPOINTMENTS: The Board of Selectman is pleased to announce the following appointments:

Planning Board: Jane Frizell, Sandra Birkett, Beth Howe, Ernest Burgess, Mabel Doughty, Thomas Adams and Tad Runge

Board of Adjustment & Appeals: Donna Colbeth, Peter Rice, Dave Stevens, Milo Matrazzo and John Wilson

Coastal Waters Commission: Winthrop Houghton Jr., Paul Belesca, Kenneth Hamilton, James Millinger and Jeffrey Putnam

Shellfish Conservation Committee: Robert Earnest, Gary Ross, Marianne Brenton, David Miller and Cecil Amos Doughty

Tree Cutting in the Shoreland Zone: One of the most frequent questions and inquires we have received concerns what is permissible with respect to clean up, landscaping and shrubbery planting along the shoreland zone. Some folks have indicated that they have gone to various web sites, including the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection, to get their information. However, you still need to consult our Code Enforcement Officer Paul White before taking any action to ensure that one's interpretation is consistent with his application of the law. We urge that if you have any questions or before you take any unilateral action please call the town office to speak with him first!

Concealed Weapon Permits to be Issued by State Police: The Board of Selectman have designated this important permitting to be done by the Maine State Police. As a result they will be handling all aspects of the permitting! Upon request they will send you a new or renewal application package. We will not be handling any such requests. Please call Joanne Cummings at the State Police at 207-624-7217 to receive any application materials and for any questions you might have.