

China selectmen deal with resignations, appointments

by Mary Grow

China selectmen dealt with a number of miscellaneous items at their July 19 meeting, none requiring a major decision. They accepted half a dozen resignations from appointed town committees and reappointed people who did not resign for 2010-2011.

More volunteers are welcome for any appointed committee. Town Manager Daniel L'Heureux said the committee most in need of at least one new member is the road committee. With Dewey Ryan's resignation, it is down to four members, one of whom has moved out of town.

Selectmen scheduled a public hearing to review the Weeks Mills schoolhouse restoration work for 6:30 p.m., Monday, August 2, before their next regular meeting. L'Heureux said the project is finished. Selectman Paul MacDonald recommended a plaque or other permanent marker with a condensed history of the building.

The manager reported on two other projects:

- State transportation department employees have begun surveying along Weeks Mills Road in preparation for rebuilding part of it. L'Heureux hopes for a 24-foot paved surface, to allow more space for Erskine Academy runners and other pedestrians.

- The engineer planning sidewalks in South China Village is talking with state transportation officials about a walkway attached or adjacent to the bridge over the stream. The cost might be covered by eliminating the planned Jones Road sidewalk, L'Heureux said.

Board members talked at length about the effort to persuade Congress to allow trucks up to 100,000 pounds on Interstate 95 permanently. This year, the weight limit was raised from 80,000 pounds as an experiment. People commented on the local result: many fewer trucks on Routes 3, 200 and 9. Unless Congress acts, the limit will revert back to 80,000 pounds in December. Selectmen said opposition to a permanent higher limit comes mainly from the national railroad lobby, which fears competition from truckers.

L'Heureux reported briefly on two other matters:

- Tax bills for 2010-2011 will be mailed out soon. By town meeting vote, the first payment is due by Thursday, September 30.
- The Kennebec Water District and state Department of Environmental Protection have been testing China Lake water in response to questions and complaints.

Palermo selectmen reject 3/4 payment offer from contractor

by Mary Grow

Palermo selectmen refused at their July 15 meeting to settle for two-thirds of the penalty they imposed on Norridgewock contractor Larry Knowles. Knowles sent the town a check for \$5,000 and asked selectmen to accept it as full payment for the \$7,500 penalty they assessed for clearing in wetlands and along the shore of Sheepscot Lake.

Selectmen directed Codes Enforcement Officer Darryl McKenney to thank Knowles for the check and give him until August 31 – a month past the initial deadline – to pay the remaining \$2,500.

McKenney said landowners Laure and Real Robidoux, who hired Knowles, have paid their \$7,500. In addition, they spent an estimated \$100,000 on remediation, including replanting trees and shrubs, replacing culverts and applying for after-the-fact state permits. McKenney said the Robidouxes' engineer, Elliott Thayer, said they need to add a few more trees to the planting plan.

The July 15 meeting opened with board Chairman Sophia Glidden's recognition of the absence of Millard Saban, who died the previous week. Saban seldom missed a selectmen's meeting, and his advice was

always valuable, Glidden said.

Resident David Parkman attended the meeting to remind selectmen the town's contract with Tri-County Solid Waste Disposal ends in two or three years. He recommended board members begin considering whether they want to renew it or to seek other alternatives. Parkman considers the regional agreement cost-effective. He and Selectman Paul Cowing praised the managing board, on which Palermo has two seats, and transfer station manager Jim Guerra.

The only drawback, Parkman said, is the distance from Palermo to the transfer station in Union. Alternatives are available,

including sharing China's transfer station or building one in a Palermo on the town-owned lot on Turner Ridge Road.

In other business July 15, Town Clerk Sheila McCarty said the planning board's public hearing on James Pepin's four-lot Plummer Road subdivision is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 28; selectmen unanimously appointed Dennis Keller and Shane Keller members of the Palermo Days Planning Committee; and Glidden said final copies of the 2009 audit report have been received.

The next regular Palermo selectmen's meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening, July 29.

Kids in the woods at Hidden Valley Nature Center

Do you like to be outside instead of sitting behind a desk? Come learn what it's like to be a forester. On Tuesday, August 3,



from 9 to 11 a.m., join Licensed Forestry Barrie Brusila, from Mid-Maine Forestry for a gentle one mile walk along Hidden Valley Nature Center's interpretive trails in Jefferson in search of the mysteries of the woods. Learn how to identify different trees using all your senses. Look for signs of wildlife. Try out some of the cool tools that foresters use.

Barrie has experience teaching kids about the forest and she acts as the forester for HVNC and Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. Suggested donation is \$5. For more information or to register visit www.hvnc.org or contact Gary at 586-6752 or waywards@hotmail.com.

Great Salt Bay kids exploring the woods at HVNC. Learn what it's like to be a forester on Tuesday, August 3. Contributed photo

Students build a timberframe at Hidden Valley Nature Center

In three and a half days seven men and one woman started with standing trees and built an 8x10 timberframe building. It seemed like an impossible task that became even more challenging when Bob Lear, Hidden Valley Nature Center's timberframe instructor, broke his wrist a week before the class was to begin. The weather cooperated for the first two days but strong thunderstorms cause the group to move the outdoor shop to a dry indoor shop owned by Gary Hayward, Hidden Valley Nature Center's Director.

The first day began in the woods where Forester Barrie Brusilla talked about HVNC's sustainable forestry practices. The last of the trees needed to build the planned structure were felled and taken to the job site where Richard Hatch and his sawmill were waiting to start

milling the logs into posts and beams. By midday work began on the first beam. The eight students were all eager learners and hard workers though none had any experience. Three days later the building was completed. The timberframe is available for purchase. It is designed to be easily expanded.

Hidden Valley Nature Center, located in Jefferson, offers a wide range of recreation, education, and sustainable forestry opportunities. A second timberframing course is scheduled to begin on Thursday, September 30.

A special one and a half day class for woman wanting to learn the basics of using a chainsaw is being held on Saturday - Sunday, July 24 - 25. For more information or to register visit www.hvnc.org or contact Gary at 586-6752 or waywards@hotmail.com.

Emma's Family Farm in Windsor to welcome Open Farm Days visitors

Emma's Family Farm in Windsor, will be open and ready for visitors on Open Farm Day, Sunday, July 25, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The family farm welcomes very young children, families and elders, offering age appropriate information for everyone as well as visits with the animals. Handouts will be available: coloring pages, recipes, information on food quality, safety and storage. They raise their animals on pasture on this 70 acre farm.

Attendees will see heritage turkeys of various breeds; Pekin, Muscovy, and Khaki Campbell ducks; Emden geese; Americana and Rhode Island Red laying hens; two varieties of meat chickens and chicks; pigs, and some beef steers; and their guardian donkey, Ozzie.

Tastings of egg dishes and pastured poultry will be offered. Beef, chicken, free range duck and chicken eggs, garlic and other produce items will be available for purchase, as well as an opportunity to order chicken, pork, and beef for the freezer.

Hours of the open house are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The farm is located at 135 Windsor Neck Road in Windsor. For more information call Steve or Rose Hoad at 207-445-2141 or email emmas.family.farm@hotmail.com. To get to Emma's go to Husseys General Store at the corner of Routes 32 and 105 in Windsor. Watch for signs leading to the Farm on the Windsor Neck Road.

New Jersey peaches to arrive on August 6

It is time to order peaches and nectarines from the Palermo Community Foundation once again. Premium grade fruit will arrive in half-bushel boxes costing \$20 each. To order, call Connie at 993-2327 or e-mail pwhitehawk@fairpoint.net and be sure to include your phone number with your message, so you can be notified as soon as the truck is unloaded at the Palermo Community Center on Turner Ridge Road at Veterans Way. Five or more boxes of fruit will be discounted to \$18 a box. The last day to place an order is Sun., Aug. 1.



Pictured, left to right, are Gary Hayward, Bob Lear, Tracy Moskovitz, Richard Hook, Garrett Wilkin, Bruno Picanso, Karl Gifford, John Walker. Absent Jack Damon, Yamil Penalto, Emily Graham. This group built the timberframe building in a three-and-a-half day workshop at HVNC. Contributed photo

SOUTH CHINA LIBRARY
Wednesday, July 28
10:30 am
ADMISSION FREE
MILKWEED PUPPET THEATER
Presenting
BoBo the possum in "The Lost Half Hour"

NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING
July 28 at 6:30 pm
PALERMO TOWN OFFICE
REGARDING: A 4 lot subdivision on the Plummer Road.
Land owner Jim Pepin

Miss Windsor Fair Pageant
August 31, 2010
Ages 17 to 24
\$1,000 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP
For more information call 445-4792 or 232-5980 or email: misswindsorfair@yahoo.com