

Weeks Mills FD gets OK to enlarge facilities

by Mary Grow

At their August 10 meeting, China Planning Board members unanimously approved the Weeks Mills Volunteer Fire Department's application to enlarge the fire station. Less than a week later China selectmen put the firefighters' plans on hold.

When fire department officials presented the initial plan, planning board members learned that the fire station does not meet road setback requirements. Codes Enforcement Officer Scott Pierz was not sure the building could be expanded unless the addition could be the required 25 feet from Dirigo Road. However, Maine Municipal Association legal staff advised that expansion was legal as long as the addition was no closer to the road than the main building.

With the land use question answered, planning board members unanimously waived a public hearing and approved the 28-by-40-foot addition with two conditions: receipt of the state fire marshal's permit and receipt of the revised lease with the Weeks Mills Water Company, which owns the land under the addition.

Meanwhile, Town Manager Daniel L'Heureux raised a financial issue. Firefighters intend to pay for the addition with funds appropriated at several town meetings for a building reserve plus a bank loan that they will ask town voters to help repay at the same \$5,000 a year rate as the contributions to the reserve fund. At the August 2 China selectmen's meeting, L'Heureux questioned the legality of using town funds for a building that belongs to the fire department, not to the town. Selectmen asked him to consult the municipal association legal staff on that issue, too.

The selectmen's August 16 meeting began with an hour-long executive session with town attorney Alton Stevens. Afterward, board members voted

unanimously not to issue a \$13,138 check intended to pay for materials for the addition.

The problem, selectmen and L'Heureux said, was not the funding source – they had an opinion from municipal association legal staff that taxpayers' money can be used for a public purpose, like expanding a fire station. However, they needed more time and research to sort out the legal relationship among the town, the water company and the fire department.

L'Heureux and selectmen emphasized that they support the firefighters and their project. However, they want to make sure town involvement is done properly.

The other permit application on the agenda was from John Nored to expand timber harvesting support operations in an existing building at 1144 Route 3, just west of the former Frontier Village market.

Keith Whitaker of Plymouth Engineering presented a plan showing an already-relocated driveway, expanded parking and a single-family house on the back of the property. He explained the run-off control systems that will manage stormwater from the additional developed area. Board members scheduled a public hearing on Nored's application for their August 24 meeting.

In other business, Pierz reported the town contracted with two residents to assist with tasks related to codes enforcement. Sally Vernon will work on the shoreland septic system compliance program, and Beth Cote will get in touch with people who need after-the-fact permits because their unpermitted improvements were noted when assessors reviewed town properties.

Pierz announced a training program for local contractors on erosion and sedimentation control laws. More information on the training program is available from Pierz at the town office.

Lexington to hold Old Home Day

Lexington Township is celebrating its 2010 Old Home Day on Saturday, August 21. The public is invited to join the activities at the Happy Horseshoe Campground on Long Falls Dam Road (DeLorme Map 30) located just north of New Portland.

The activities will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and include lectures by Steve Pinkham at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. emphasizing Lexington during the Civil War Era, "Reminiscing With Lexington Old Timers," a Lexington History House construction exhibit (currently being constructed) by James Taylor, a display of historical items with the theme of "What Is It?" and other activities. Also, being solicited are old family recipes to be included in a Lexington Cook Book and collectible historical items from the local area that would be suitable for display in the History House once completed.

Lunch is available at the campground store and the famous Happy Horseshoe Campground bean hole dinner will be available that evening.

The silent auction to top off the event is a fundraiser for the History House and will include local craft items, gift certificates, art, jewelry, and food. The auction will end at 1:30 p.m., with the winners announced at 2 p.m.

Of the three planning board members whose terms end in November, Milton Dudley (elected from the town at large) and Ronald Breton (District 4) said they are candidates for re-election. Board Chairman Michael Martin (District 2) said he does not intend to run again.

Nomination papers for seats on the planning board, board of selectmen and budget committee are available at the town office. Signed papers must be returned by 11 a.m. Saturday, September 18, for candidates' names to appear on the November 2 ballot.

Road work in China



Above, Shawn Reed doing roadside mowing in China. Below, Selectman Paul MacDonald, left, talks with David Allen of the Maine Department of Transportation about the potential dangers at the intersection of the Dirigo, Weeks Mills and Deer Hill roads.

Photos courtesy of Dan L'Heureux



SIZZLIN' SUMMER SAVINGS...

just in time for Back To School!

Even More

FAMILY PLANS
Starting at
\$59.99
for the first 2 lines

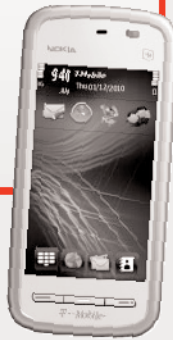
Add up to 3 additional lines for just **\$5** each per month!

Limited time offer. May require 2-year agreement. Requires new activation of two lines of service. Taxes and fees not included.

Dare to Compare!

Bring in your current wireless bill and we'll give you a **\$25 CPNM Gift Card!**

(See store for details. Limited time offer; subject to change; while supplies last at participating locations only.)



cellphones n more
your wireless source

A Maine based company...Locally owned and operated.

T-Mobile
authorized dealer

\$5 Add a Line price applies to 750/1500 minute family plans.

Additional restrictions apply; see printed materials and T-Mobile's Terms and Conditions at T-Mobile.com for details. Limited time offer; subject to change. T-Mobile and the magenta color are federally registered trademarks of Deutsche Telekom AG.

1-866-894-CELL
(Promotional Hotline)

WATERVILLE

371 Main Street

859-9999

www.cellphones-n-more.com

10-0389 (08/10)

HIRING

All Positions

All Departments
Managers, Assistant Managers
Cashiers, Stock Clerks
Deli Personnel

Apply In Person

TOBEY'S
grocery

THE MARKET & DELI

SUBWAY
eat fresh.®

Fieldstone
QuickStop