

Selectmen's Report

The Selectmen are happy to present this report of some of our activities during 2016 to the citizens of Penobscot. We are grateful for the opportunity of serving as your municipal administrators and wish to thank all community residents for their support during the past year.

Early last year we were approached by Richard Hutchinson with an idea to use volunteers who were willing to help out in various community issues by providing basic research and fact gathering to assist the Selectmen in crafting policies and recommendations for the Town. The MRC and PERC solid waste issue became high on the list of issues with a deadline of the 2016 Town Meeting. With a small group of volunteers from our community, using a unique problem-solving approach created by Dick, they quickly were able to bring much needed information to Town Meeting, allowing an informed decision by those present to continue with PERC for our municipal solid waste solution. Since that time other volunteers have joined the group and helped the Selectmen with a new community web site (www.penobscotmaine.org) and developing ideas to improve our recycling efforts at the Transfer Station. The Selectmen feel that this volunteer group, known as The Peoples Forum, has become a valuable resource for our community. For those citizens who have a little spare time and would like to learn more about The Peoples Forum, please call Richard Hutchinson at 326-9715.

We are also very thankful for the work our office crew does each and every week. Elizabeth Hutchins brightens the front office with her efficient good nature and is now backed up by Elizabeth Gray, who is learning the Treasurer's job and helping us a little more when the office is open on Tuesday evenings. Sally Bridges is using her considerable community skills in her role as Town Clerk and Registrar of Voters. She got a baptism of fire in managing the 2016 presidential election for the Town. We are happy to report no voting irregularities in the Town of Penobscot. Thank you, Sally. Ann Stadden is still with us on a part time basis, helping us stay on the straight and narrow and we appreciate her expertise in the municipal software system, as well as her careful calculations.

We have recently learned that Stan Shorey has decided not to seek another term as Selectman. After twenty-five years, that is not surprising. Stan has been a fixture on the Selectboard for all these years, and has decided to spend a little more time with his grandchildren and maybe a little more time at his camp on Toddy Pond. His friendly nature and great sense of humor has endeared him to all who have known him. We will miss seeing him on Tuesday evenings.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Bowen, Stanley Shorey and Harold Hatch