**TA Update 09.16.19**

**Committees**

 Planning Board: Our question revolves around the use of the word “premises” in our bylaw.  A narrow interpretation might be the location where you register and pay your fee.  A broader interpretation for a “portage business” might include the parking area, registration area, transportation vehicles, and drop off and pickup area. As background, Deerfield portage has in excess of 50 tubes available for rental and has on some occasions had in excess of 30 vehicles in their parking lot.

 Mr. Winston Burt has returned to town and would like to schedule a hearing regarding his complaint about his neighbor’s geese. I will reach out to the Select Board and the other party and try to reach a time when everyone can attend. Since it is unclear how long such a meeting would last, it might be best to consider having it at a time other than the regular Select Board meeting.

 The Historical Commission believes they submitted an invoice which was not properly processed in FY 2019, so they may need Town Meeting to pay a bill from a prior year to reimburse a member for expenses. A copy of their letter to the accountant is in your mail. Our accountant has been away; I have asked for his explanation as to how the invoice was missed.

 I’d also like to give a reminder that the Finance Committee needs new members. They are now down to three, the minimum required. Two more volunteers, and even more to make up a bench, would be very much appreciated.

 **Departments**

 I am pleased to say that the new copier has been installed here at the Town Office. It is sturdier and has more functions than the last one, and cost about the same, even after five years.

 There have been further complaints against dogs on Graves Road, though no further evidence has been submitted. Both the Animal Control Officer and the Police Chief are aware of this and alert for any nuisance activity.

 The ground blasting for the new Highway facility has been completed, though some of the larger pieces of rock will also be blasted to assist in their removal. The Highway Superintendent plans to keep the rock, crushing and using it as appropriate in his regular work.

 The Fire Department needed repairs totaling $10,939 to get an inspection sticker—there is only $7,500 in repair account, so they may need reserve fund transfer. They will bring this up at their budget meeting this winter. Depending on the end-of-year situation, there may need to be Town Meeting action in May, or Finance Committee action in June.