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**News**

**Great Island project given tax incentives**

[Beth Brogan@TimesRecord.Com](mailto:Beth_Brogan@TimesRecord.Com)

08/10/2007

HARPSWELL — A planned \$1 million expansion of Great Island Boatyard will move ahead as part of the Military Redevelopment Zone after the Board of Selectmen on Thursday unanimously voted to transfer four acres of the zone to the project.

The designation means the boatyard will enjoy a range of tax incentives as it develops its new site.

Stephen Rowe, who owns Great Island Boatyard with his wife, Stephanie Rowe, said the four acres, added to the boatyard's existing 7-acre site, would allow an expansion that would bring 11 new jobs in the next three to five years, including carpenters, electricians and mechanics, with an average salary and benefits package of \$42,000, Rowe said. The expansion, which is already permitted by the town, will also include environmental improvements to the site.

Great Island Boatyard has a verbal agreement to do finishing and commissioning work on a new line of 43-foot luxury cruising sailboats being built in China, Stephen Rowe said this week.

Jeff Sneddon of the Midcoast Council for Business Development, which administers the zone, told selectmen that if the Mitchell Field Committee decides at some point that they need those four acres, there is a "pool" of 40 acres in the 500-acre zone. However, Mitchell Field Committee chairperson Judith Redwine said the committee met Wednesday and sees the boatyard expansion as "a great opportunity for Harpswell and we certainly endorse it."

Selectmen also heard an update on the planning process for Mitchell Field from Redwine, and set Sept. 6 as a tentative date for the final presentation by the Mitchell Field Committee and consultants Holt and Lachman on a master plan for the property. The presentation will be the result of a series of planning sessions held this summer. Redwine told selectmen that the committee will hold a final planning session Aug. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at West Harpswell School.

The board of selectmen also conducted the following business:

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— Approved a wharf application for Heather Collins on Old Town Road.

— Unanimously appointed William Labbe as the town's representative to the joint board of the Cumberland County Regional Disaster Aid agreement.

[Top of Story](#)



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