



# KENNEBUNKPORT Town Review

A newsletter for the residents of Kennebunkport

Number 31

Spring 2019

## The village parcel

By Laurie Smith, Town Manager

Some of the biggest news in 2018 occurred this past fall. On September 19, 2018, the voters approved the \$10,000,000 purchase of approximately 85 acres near the village area at a special town meeting. The property was previously approved as an 80-unit subdivision for high end condominiums. The parcel currently has a base road that has been constructed to connect North Street and School Street, as well as water and sewer stubbed to the site from the North Street entrance. The parcel is located approximately 0.1 mile from the Village Fire Station on North Street, and 0.7 mile from the village of Cape Porpoise on School Street.

There are currently no plans for the parcel, although several ideas have been



brought forward, both through the town meeting process and since that time. The Board of Selectmen have engaged the consulting team of Mitchell & Associates, Gorrill Palmer, Camoin Associates, and Principle Group to

orchestrate the public process and develop the master plan. The Selectmen have also appointed a steering committee to work with the consulting team.

The timeline for the master plan will be from April through October 2019.

Initial efforts will be in information gathering and identification of site-specific opportunities and constraints for the parcel. Initial public introduction to the process and participation will occur in the latter part of May, with several events to follow through to September. The final master plan is to be completed the end of October 2019.

There will be a dedicated webpage on the town website that will be updated with information as the process moves forward. In addition, to provide an opportunity for public input throughout the process a Facebook page will be established for public comments and questions. The project schedule will be uploaded to the webpage within the next few weeks.

## Kennebunkport Heritage Housing Trust

By Laurie A. Smith, Town Manager

Kennebunkport is "special." This is a statement many of us have used to attempt to describe that certain characteristic that drove us to move here or has kept us here for decades. Although our town is known for its scenic vistas, beautiful beaches, and postcard harbors; when questioned further, most people define Kennebunkport by its people. There are those who have moved to town "from away" and thrown themselves head long into volunteer work and community engagement. There are the salty fishermen who work long hours in one of the more dangerous professions in the state. There are the seasonal residents who bring energy and activity to our community, and the families who have lived in town as far back as anyone can remember.

Unfortunately, the delicate balance

of people in Kennebunkport is changing. Between 2000 and 2017, the seasonal housing stock increased from 34% to 40%, and it continues to climb. In 2018, only 56% of Kennebunkport property owners lived in Kennebunkport. The popularity of our community has led to a 106% housing cost increase since 2000, while incomes have only increased by 41%. The current non-waterfront median home sale is \$482,500, putting Kennebunkport out of financial reach for young families looking to move back home, and seniors looking to downsize.



Recognizing this trend, the Board of Selectmen commissioned the Housing Needs and Assessment Study in 2017, and then appointed a housing committee in the spring of 2018 to implement the strategies identified in the study. After an analysis of the situation, the committee recommended that the Board of Selectmen establish a standalone, not-for-profit Housing Trust, which would be modeled after successful trusts in communities like Bar Harbor, Nantucket, and Martha's Vineyard. The Trust would seek to provide housing that is affordable for families and individuals with low to moderate incomes.

The Board of Selectmen approved the formation of the Kennebunkport Heritage Housing Trust in the fall of 2018, appointing to the Board of Directors, Patrick Briggs, Patrick Clancy, Sue Ellen Stavrand, Bill Dugan, Eileen Lang, David Kling, Sarah Dore, James Fitzgerald and Jean Conaty. The group submitted their 501 (c) 3 application at the end of the calendar year and plan to also institute a 501 (c) 4 to accomplish their goals, which are outlined below.

**Our Mission:** Kennebunkport Heritage Housing Trust's mission is to create and sustain affordable housing for our year-round residents to live, work, volunteer, and retire.

Heritage Homes help to bridge the gap between today's high market value and the incomes of our year-round residents.

**Who we serve:** The Kennebunkport Heritage Housing Trust serves low, moderate and middle income residents who will live year-round in Kennebunkport, including both individuals and families.

**How we do it:** Heritage Homes will be built on land that is owned by the Kennebunkport Heritage Housing Trust. Land leases, covenants, and a commitment in perpetuity will keep the homes financially accessible for low to middle income families and individuals for years to come.

**How we fund:** The Kennebunkport Heritage Housing Trust raises funds to cover its project and operating costs through donations from individuals, businesses and foundations, commercial and private financing, and grants from town governments and public agencies.

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# Town of Kennebunkport Annual Town Meeting June 11 and 15, 2019

## – PLEASE TAKE NOTICE –

To the voters of Kennebunkport: You are hereby notified that the Annual Town Meeting of this municipality will be held at the **Village Fire Station, 32 North Street**, in said Town on **Tuesday, the 11th day of June, AD 2019, at 8:00 AM.** for the purpose of acting on Articles numbered 1 and 1a (Election of Officers) as set forth in the Town Warrant.

The polls for voting shall be opened immediately after the election of the Moderator at 8:00 a.m. on June 11, 2019, and shall close at 8:00 p.m.

The continuation of said meeting will be held at the **Consolidated School, 25 School Street**, in said Town on **Saturday, the 15th day of June AD 2019, at 9:00 AM.** for the purposes of acting on Articles numbered 2 through 43 (Funding and Non-Funding Articles), as set out in the Warrant.

The Registrar of Voters will hold office hours while the polls are open to correct any error in or change a name or address on the voting list, to accept the registration of any person eligible to vote, and to accept new enrollments.

Attested copies of the Town Warrant as well as Sample Ballots are posted at the United States Post Office, Temple Street; Atlantic Hall, Main Street, Cape Porpoise; Louis T. Graves Memorial Library, Maine Street; Goose Rocks Beach Fire Company, Winter Harbor Road; and at the Town Offices, 6 Elm Street.

Copies of the Warrant can be viewed on the Town's website at <https://www.kennebunkportme.gov/town-clerk/pages/elections-and-voting>.

A copy of the Town Report will be available by the first week of June and may be picked up at the Town Offices, 6 Elm Street; Bradbury Brothers Market, Main Street, Cape Porpoise; and Graves Memorial Library, 18 Maine Street.

Tracey O'Roak, Town Clerk

## – JUNE BALLOT –

### – Question 1 –

By John "Jay" Everett, Fire Chief

Question #1 on the ballot proposes revisions to the Street Ordinance. The changes to the ordinance clarify how numbers will be assigned for two or more residences on a drive, whether public or private. Also, in numbering houses, the change is going by the location of the front door and not the driveway. The switch to the front door also changes the section about how corner lots are numbered. There is also new enforcement language in the ordinance.

### – Question 2 –

By Christopher H. Mayo, Harbormaster/Pier Manager

Question #2 on the ballot involves adding language to the Waterfront Ordinance requiring people on the mooring waiting lists to renew their application annually in order to stay on the list. The purpose of this change is to keep updated contact information as well as to only retain interested parties on the waiting list in order to streamline the process of harbor administration.

## Absentee ballots now available

Absentee ballots are now available at the Kennebunkport Town Clerk's Office for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting Election and the R.S.U. #21 Budget Validation and Referendum Election to be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, at the Village Fire Station, 21 North Street, in Kennebunkport. **PLEASE NOTE: the last day to obtain an absentee ballot for this election is Thursday, June 6, 2019.**

If you have any questions about absentee voting or about this election, please call Tracey O'Roak, Town Clerk at 967-1610.

# Are your numbers up—and we don't mean the lottery

By John "Jay" Everett, Fire Chief

Sometimes a person has an unfortunate circumstance thrust upon them, wrong place at the wrong time. Others make it at their own choosing. Either way, someone is in imminent danger and the emergency knows no boundaries. Someone may need any of our emergency services such as police, fire, and EMS, quickly.

There are protocols and policies in place for answering 911 calls, transferring it to the proper dispatch center, and dispatching the call to the proper first responders. Once all that happens, very quickly the call belongs to the first responders. The next part of the response requires assistance from all property owners.

As I continue my career in the emergency services, it never ceases to amaze me the amount of homes and businesses that do not have their address number on their buildings. This oversight is not only a problem in our community, but a systemic apathy that people have for their own safety. The "It won't happen to me theory."

It is very frustrating for the responder to not be able to readily see the address numbers on houses and businesses as they approach. When we are close, we try to find each number on the houses we pass. Backing up a large fire truck to the proper address is time consuming. Sometimes we may go by three or four houses in a row that don't have their number up or in an obvious place. So, as we pass these three or four houses, when we get to one with the number up, we could already be past the house with the emergency.

Usually, if the call is an actual fire, we can see that as we approach, but not always. Police and Emergency Medical Services can have a harder time because the emergency calls that they usually respond to do not have an obvious sign like smoke coming from a building. The fire department also responds to many calls that are serious that may not produce any smoke or produces very little. An example may be a broken water pipe inside a building. The quicker we can get there and secure the water and start cleaning it up, the less damage overall to the structure. Sometimes weather conditions, thick fog, heavy rain, and snow make it harder to see the numbers.

When responding to a high stress call, the level of stress is ramped up when it is hard to find the location. Precious minutes can be wasted looking for the right address. Serious medical emergencies need prompt care and transport to have a positive outcome. A fire can double in size each minute. A police officer needs to catch a suspect in the act or shortly after. Some residents have their house numbers on their mailboxes, but sometimes the mailboxes are across the street from



their houses. That is why it is important to make sure you still have your address number on your house so responders can quickly find the right house.

The following is an excerpt from the Town of Kennebunkport Street Ordinance. The parts below are currently in the ordinance and are not part of the sections of the ordinance that currently have changes pending.

**All owners of structures shall display and maintain in a conspicuous place on said structure, assigned numbers in the following manner:**

1. Number on the Structure or Residence. Where the residence or structure is within 50 (fifty) feet of the edge of the road right-of-way, the assigned number shall be displayed on the front of the residence or structure near the front door or entry.
2. Number at the Road Line. Where the residence or structure is over 50 (fifty) feet from the edge of the road right-of-way, the assigned number shall be displayed on a post, fence, wall, the mail box, or on some structure at the property line adjacent to the walk or access drive to the residence or structure.
3. Size, Color, and Location of Number. Numbers shall be of a color that contrasts with their background color and shall be a minimum of four (4) inches in height. Numbers shall be located to be visible from the road any time of the year.
4. Proper number. Every person whose duty is to display an assigned number shall remove any different number which might be mistaken for, or confused with, the number assigned in conformance with this ordinance.

Please check your residences and businesses for compliance. If you need more motivation, think of the person needing immediate help as a loved one. Put yourself in a first responder's shoes and think of how difficult it is to know someone needs help, and you cannot find them. Thank you.

## – Registrar of Voters holds evening hours –

The Kennebunkport Town Clerk/Registrar of Voters will hold evening hours at the Kennebunkport town hall on **Thursday, June 6, 2019, from 4:30–6:30 p.m.** in order to conduct absentee voting, to register any person eligible to vote, and to accept any enrollment/address changes.

# The Kennebunkport Fire Department STILL NEEDS YOU



By John "Jay" Everett, Fire Chief

Have you ever considered what it might feel like to make a big difference in a neighbor's life; or, be part of a team that takes a situation that is the worst day a person could have and make it better? The feeling is tremendous.

The Kennebunkport Fire Department is looking for new members. The department is comprised of local men and women from town, and a few from neighboring towns. The department responds to 241 calls a year.

The department provides all necessary protective equipment and training. The training will be tailored to the individual and their desires. There are many levels of training that an individual can attain. The department has a **great need** for qualified and trained **interior firefighters**.

Ideally, these individuals will be in the 18-50ish age range and be in good physical shape. While the training to become an interior firefighter is rigorous, it is not something that happens quickly. The quickest way to complete the training is by taking a Firefighter 1+2 certified class. Typically, this class will meet once or twice a week in the evenings and some weekend days for four or five months. The training can also take place through the twice a month training the department offers plus a series of weekend trainings to get you to an interior qualified status. This path will take quite a bit longer to become certified.

The next level of need the department has is members that are qualified or would like to become qualified fire apparatus drivers. This job entails not only driving the vehicles but operating the pumps and/or the aerial ladder. This individual needs to be at least 18 years old and possess a valid drivers license. The training can be at the department level with one or two weekend certified pumps classes.

While the needs of the department right now are specific, we can and will take anyone willing to help and become trained. There is a minimal amount of training that is required to operate at an emergency scene. All certified levels of training have specific objectives that must be met.

If this is something you are interested in and would like to further explore the possibilities, please contact Fire Chief John Everett at [jeverett@kennebunkportme.gov](mailto:jeverett@kennebunkportme.gov) or Fire Administrator Dick Stedman at [rstedman@kennebunkportme.gov](mailto:rstedman@kennebunkportme.gov). You can also stop by the Port Village Station, Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM, and pick up an application.

*An update to this originally printed article. The Kennebunkport Fire Department now has six new firefighters. They are all currently receiving their training and can already respond to emergency calls. While these new firefighters will be a much-needed boost to our department, we always need more for the future. We are (I want to pick my words carefully) a senior department, so we need to have people in the pipeline. I am happy to speak to anyone that has any questions about joining the fire department. Thank you.*

## Pedestrian safety is everyone's responsibility

By Craig Sanford, Police Chief

Kennebunkport is a community full of beauty and sites that people travel from afar to see. For those of us that live and work here, we realize this and enjoy it. Our community continues to grow in popularity drawing large numbers of visitors in the warm summer months. For those of us familiar with the area, we already know that Dock Square is usually full of wandering shoppers. Goose Rocks Beach will pulse with beachgoers, and our narrow roads will be filled with vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians all distracted by that beauty and enjoyment of warm weather fun. This is a true recipe for an unfortunate accident if we are not dedicated to the responsibilities associated with operating or using a public way. Those of us that operate a motor vehicle have had to successfully pass the testing phases to get the privilege to drive a motor vehicle. In the testing phase, we were required to learn the "rules of the road" as well as become familiar with the laws associated with operating a motor vehicle. Operating a bicycle has its own set of unique principles that keep the rider safe, many of which are the same as if operating a motor vehicle. Stopping at stop signs is a law police officers see violated on a regular basis.

My focus of this article is our pedestrian traffic which we see explode when the weather is warm. For motor vehicle operators, it is important to remember:

- Give pedestrians three feet of clearance when moving around them.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and when turning at intersections.
- Slow down when approaching walkers. They may need to enter the roadway to avoid a hazard.
- Be courteous and respectful.



Pedestrians need to remember that they must follow by state law and guidelines that will keep them safe.

- Maine State law requires pedestrians to use the sidewalk when one is available. A fine of \$152.00 could be issued to those not using a sidewalk. Think of this as you walk in Dock Square, on Ocean Avenue, or along Kings Highway at Goose Rocks Beach.
- Pedestrians **MUST** yield the right-of-way to a vehicle when crossing a way unless in a crosswalk. A fine of \$152.00 could be issued for this type of violation.
- Pedestrians are required to walk against the flow of traffic if not using a sidewalk. Again, a fine of \$152.00 could be issued.
- Pedestrians should wear clothing that makes them visible. Dark clothing at night on a pedestrian is dangerous.
- When crossing a way, look both ways and make sure vehicle operators have seen you before you enter the roadway.

No matter the reason you are using a roadway, it is everyone's responsibility to be focused and not distracted in some way. The police department will be conducting safety operations throughout the summer to ensure we are all sharing the road and abiding by the laws and guidelines associated with particular activities.

## KEMS celebrates 40 years of service

By Joseph B. Carroll, Chief of Operations and James M. Stockman, KEMS Board President

In the 40 years KEMS has been providing service to the Town of Kennebunkport, we have experienced a large amount of growth and change. In 2019, KEMS will be celebrating their 40th year anniversary of providing emergency medical care to the residents and guests of Kennebunkport. This year as part of our anniversary, we are excited to announce a new Subscription Program for individuals and families that utilize our service. The purpose of the program is to defray the costs associated with treatment and transport that are uncovered by Medicare, Medicaid, and pri-



vate insurance once billing for service use has been processed.

With the use of an annual fee, the Kennebunkport EMS subscription is a membership program that will reduce out-of-pocket costs in the event of a medical emergency. All residents both full-time and seasonal within our service area are eligible for this program.

This tax-deductible subscription program is not only a benefit to our patients, but also helps to fund our service, equipment needs, educational programs, and staffing so that we can continue to provide the best service possible now and into the future.

### The Importance of a KEMS Subscription

The average cost of an ambulance transport is \$1,200 dollars. Thus, a subscription can provide a tremendous savings. Annual membership covers the subscriber for all medical procedures, medicines, and trans-

portation during a 911 emergency.

- If there is a balance on your ambulance bill after we receive the insurance reimbursement, active participants in the subscription will have their remaining balance **waived**.
- Once your insurance is applied toward your deductible, KEMS will cover the remaining portion that is normally the patient's responsibility.

### Subscription Levels

1. **Individual Membership:** \$150.00 dollars. Covers only the **individual**

See KEMS page 8

# Public works news

By Michael Claus, Public Works Director

Last fall, our public works crew wrapped up shoulder work on North Street between River Road and Arundel Road in conjunction with KKWWD to replace the water main on this section of road. Look for reconstruction of this section of road in the spring to complete our multi-year work with MaineDOT on North Street and on vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements in Kennebunkport.

After our usual fall leaf clean-up of public spaces, the crew used a rented man-lift to trim trees on Wildes District Road and Turbats Creek Road.

Winter made an early appearance with 16 inches of snow over several storms before Thanksgiving. Our new sidewalk tractor arrived this winter which allowed us to make quick work of sidewalk clearing and Dock Square snow removal following snowstorms.

Thanks to Robert Zuke Builders for helping us move and set the Dock Square Christmas tree following Mark Dufoe's retirement from Kennebunk Light and Power. Dufoe is continuing his Christmas volunteer work with his lobster trap tree in Cape Porpoise Square.

KKWWD has extended water to the



**Dock Square.**

triangle at North Street and Arundel Road to allow for landscaping improvements at this town gateway. After spring cleanup, we hope to improve landscaping at the triangles at the South Main Street/Main Street/Wildes District Road and Arundel Road/North Street/Walkers Lane. Bob Pappas from public works and Bill Perkins from wastewater have plans for planting perennials in these areas and making improvements to flower beds in public spaces throughout town. Look for the public works crew to complete shoulder work on Mills Road between Marshall Point Road and Cape Square as we look to complete Mills Road reconstruction work this year.

## Cape Porpoise welcomes new harbormaster

By Craig Sanford, Police Chief

The community welcomed new Harbormaster Chris Mayo at the beginning of 2019. Mayo may be familiar with some in the boating and fishing community. He served as the harbormaster in Wells for several years and has family roots in the fishing community both in the Kennebunk River and Cape Porpoise. Mayo was a commercial fisherman himself in the harsh environment on the west coast for a period and has served with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He brings a great depth of knowledge and experience to the pier to assist not just the fishing community, but the citizens of Kennebunkport. He has been involved in several large grant projects in Wells and has made connections with a wide range of agencies and their personnel to help forward the inspirations of the Cape Porpoise community.

Mayo is working closely with the Cape Porpoise Pier Committee to



ensure the working infrastructure of the harbor is developed and maintained to allow the rich fishing culture to prosper. He has quickly become familiar with the proposed dredging project and is working with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure a successful project outcome. He is a hardworking individual and very open to ideas and input from the community. He is currently working Tuesday through Saturday, 9 AM to 5 PM. He is a devoted family man and is quickly becoming an important part of the team that serves the Kennebunkport community. Please stop by and speak with him when you have a moment.

## Meet Mandy

By Jen Lord, Treasurer

Sitting at the corner desk in the finance department at town hall is a new smiling face. Meet Mandy Grenier, an Arundel resident, who joined the town hall team on October 9, 2018. Her knowledge and five years' experience in municipal operations, municipal accounting, and customer service skills makes her a great addition to the finance department in her current position as deputy treasurer/human resources assistant.

Grenier left her position as finance director for the town of South Berwick to come to the Port. She previously served as town clerk/tax collector in



the town of Lebanon, as well as serving in the social services department in the city of Portland. She has an associate degree in business administration and a bachelor's degree in accounting.

## New to the crew—Brandon Jones

By Michael Claus, Director of Public Works

We would like everyone to welcome Brandon Jones to our public works crew as an equipment operator. Jones did a great job plowing the North Street/School Street route this winter, and we appreciate his contributions to our public works services for the town. Jones brings to the town previous experience with Falmouth Wastewater and Saco Public Works. Jones has a Class A CDL, a Maine Wastewater Operators License, and a NEWEA Voluntary Collections License. His weekend hobby is working on and



driving race cars on New England tracks. His mechanical talent along with street and sewer experience will be greatly appreciated in our infrastructure maintenance and operations work.

Have you noticed that your car headlights don't seem to light the road as they did when you first began driving it? If your car is 3 years old or more, it is not your imagination. As with your own eyes, headlights also show deterioration due to normal aging. The following article by AAA is an explanation of what happens to the light from our headlights and how to fix it. We might call this issue "cataract headlights." When the headlight shield gets etched, as much as 80 percent of the light never exits the light assembly. And since it happens slowly, you may not be aware, unless you inspect the light shield. Preventative maintenance is available and critical to safe driving at night.

## The case of the missing light

By George Acker, Senior Advisory Committee

### Are your headlights failing you?

Properly functioning headlights are key to safe nighttime driving. With 50 percent of crashes occurring at night, drivers cannot afford any reduction in visibility. Yet, research by AAA shows that deteriorated headlights—found on millions of vehicles on the road today—reduce the amount of light output by nearly 80 percent as compared to new lenses.

Most of today's cars use halogen reflector headlights, which have covers typi-

cally made of plastic with a protective coating to prevent scratching and sunlight damage. Exposure to sunlight breaks down this coating, causing yellowing and clouding that noticeably lessens the headlight's ability to provide enough light on dark roadways. Depending on where and how the car is used, headlights can begin to show signs of deterioration within three to five years before requiring maintenance from a professional mechanic.

Replacing headlights with original

equipment parts is the most effective method to restore light output back to 100 percent. Replacement can cost anywhere from \$130 to \$430 depending on the type of part selected (original or aftermarket) and method of installation (professional versus do-it-yourself).

Restoring headlights offers less of an improvement in light output than replacement. This cost-effective option can return light output to about 70 percent of that of new lights. This process can cost between \$20 and \$190 depending on whether it is done professionally or by the driver with a kit that can be purchased at a local automotive parts store.



### New logo

We are excited to introduce our new logo to our community!

### Staff changes

Carinne Avigail joined the department in December as our new program coordinator. Originally from Colorado, she received her Bachelors in Human Development and Elementary Education. After completing her Masters in Counseling, she spent several years in Denver as a Mental Health Counselor for children, adolescents, and families. Since moving to Maine in 2014, Avigail has worked in Outdoor Adventure Education and Youth Development. She brings lots of knowledge and experience to the department, and we are sure you will enjoy having her here!



### New programs for everyone

Whether young or old, we at the recreation department have been striving to make programs for all age groups. Through our partnership with S.M.A.A., we have been able to offer Tai Chi as well as A

# PARKS & RECREATION

By Carol Cook, Director of Parks and Recreation

Matter of Balance. Other programs, spawned through collaborating with community members include programs like Zumba, Chair and All Levels Yoga, A Walk Through History, a Smart Phone Photography Workshop, Sushi Rolling Workshop, Senior Luncheons, Slow Pitch Softball, Adult Tennis Lessons, and more.

### Summer day camp

Our day camp will open on June 25 and run through August 17 with programs and activities for those entering pre-K through 8th grade. We will hold field trips on Wednesdays for the younger children and on Thursdays for the older children. However, for a small fee, kids are welcome to go on both trips. Water-filled Mondays will be an all camp trip, where we will visit a beach, pond, lake, or park where kids will have the chance to have fun in the sun or shade. Compare our program, our flexibility, and our price with anyone, and you'll be amazed at what we offer. We are the only recreation department in the area that takes children (including PK) on a daily or weekly basis, without the need to commit to several weeks or the entire summer; it is perfect for grandchildren or summer visitors.

### Weekly specialty camps

We have a variety of special opportunities for kids to enjoy on single weeks throughout the summer. Adventures with the Conservation Trust will consist of two forest-focused days and two shore/water focused days, where youth will learn about biodiversity, navi-

gation, and survival. At Police Cadet Camp, participants will have the opportunity to train with local police officers and other law enforcement to give them a "behind the scenes" look at how law enforcement operates and what steps are taken to become a police officer. STEM Camp is designed to foster valuable 21st-century life skills like problem-solving, creativity, and collaboration in a fun environment through growth mindset learning. Theater Camp will immerse your child in the arts and allow them to flourish at our summer theater program. Finally, Travel Back in Time will allow children to experience life as they did in Colonial Kennebunkport.

### Trips

Getting on the road in our rec. bus, we are preparing to travel to a host of destinations. We are excited for our May 11 trip to Peaks Island, where we will be offered a golf cart tour of the island. Once back on the mainland, on May 19, we will make a trip north to Biddeford's beautiful City Theater for a showing of Calendar Girls. Then, when June rolls around, we will make an overnight trip to the Quechee Balloon Festival, where participants will have the opportunity to have a tethered balloon ride. Keep an eye out for more trips by visiting [www.kennebunkportrec.com](http://www.kennebunkportrec.com) or cable channel 1301 for details. We are also visible on Facebook and Instagram when searching Kennebunkport Parks and Rec.

FMI: 967-4304

[www.kennebunkportrec.com](http://www.kennebunkportrec.com)

## Ribbon cutting ceremony for new parks and rec. building

By Laurie Smith, Town Manager

In 2017, the voters approved a note for the construction of the first parks and recreation building to be located at Parsons Field. Risbara Brothers, of Scarborough, was chosen as the contractor in the spring of 2018, and the project was soon underway. The 2,700 square foot building was completed during the fall, and the town held a ribbon cutting ceremony on November 9. The building will house the offices for the parks and recreation department, restroom facilities, community recreation space, and a concession/kitchen area to complement programming on the field and in the building. The programming room was dedicated in honor of

Carol Cook who has served the department for 37 years.

The ceremony also served as an opportunity to rededicate the Parsons Field. In 1916, Henry Parsons donated this four-acre field in his desire to ensure to the town of Kennebunkport a suitable athletic field and playground. This property, conveniently situated next to the elementary school, has been a resource for youth and adults for a variety of sports programming as well as family play. Our community is grateful for his foresight and generosity. Since its opening, the building has been busy with programming for youth, adults, and seniors.



In the center, Parks and Recreation Director Carol Cook cutting the ribbon.

# - KENNEBUNKPORT PUBLIC HEALTH -

By Alison Kenneway R.N., B.S.N. and Angela Jenks, R.N.

Kennebunkport Public Health provides skilled nursing care, general assistance, and social service needs for our town residents and guests. For more information, call 967-4401 or visit the public health department's webpage through the town's website. There is a lot of information there on support services, events, and activities throughout our community and local vicinity. We have a FREE durable medical equipment closet (LOAN CLOSET) filled with crutches, walkers, commodes, and shower chairs supported by the Health Council. Check

with us before you buy! © If you have any suggestions on how else we can help, please let us know. Kennebunkport Public Health is a department of the town of Kennebunkport. Our services are covered under your town taxes and private donations.

**Flu clinic news:** Last October, the Kennebunkport Public Health teamed up with Rite Aid pharmacy to provide



a community wide flu clinic at 32 North Street. It was a big success! We plan on working with Rite Aid again this fall to provide this service to you! A big THANK YOU to the Rite Aid team!!! See you next fall!

**Senior news:** Last year, the Senior Committee sent out an extensive questionnaire to town residents 65 years and older. We have taken that information and put it to work—SENIORS WANT MORE STUFF TO DO! We have been collaborating with parks and recreation, Graves Library, the Senior Center,

Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging, local churches, and the Alzheimer's Association all to provide more events, activities, and education for seniors. Tai Chi, Yoga, informational coffee and conversation classes at Graves Library, monthly Community Café are just a few of these offerings to seniors. Please check our website along with the parks and recreation's website for senior activities! Please feel free to make suggestions on activities you would like to see. We will do our best to bring them to you.

See HEALTH page 6

from page 5



**Kennebunkport emergency preparedness program:** One of the responsibilities of the Kennebunkport Public Health Department is to be part of the town's disaster team. Our focus is to ensure that residents' and guests' medical and basic needs are met, whether they are in their home or a shelter facility. If you have difficulty getting out of your home, are on oxygen, or any medical equipment requiring electricity, please contact the public health office at 967-4401. We will add you to our confidential call-of-concern list. In the event of a severe storm, lengthy power outage, or an actual disaster, this information will help us to help you!! If you have email or a home computer, sign on to the town's website and sign up for email alerts. Information about storm-related issues are posted here.

**Maine healthy beach program:**

Kennebunkport and Healthy Maine Beach Program will be monitoring Goose Rocks and Colony beaches again this summer. Weekly, from Memorial Day-Labor Day, trained volunteers and town staff will be collecting water samples, testing for enterococci bacteria, and site-specific data making sure the water is safe for contact. There has been no change in the EPA exceedance level of 104 enterococci (an indicator of fecal contamination) before an Advisory is posted. Again, this year a Precautionary Rainfall Advisory will be posted after an inch of rainfall within 24 hours. The posting will be in place for 24 hours after the rainfall ceases. This will allow two tidal cycles to flush out the contaminants. Advisories will be posted at the beach, on the pub-



lic health website, Maine Healthy Beach website, and where beach stickers are sold in town (police dept, town office, and Goose Rocks Beach General Store). Kennebunkport is included in the 5-mile restricted area for boat pump outs.

**-SAVE THE DATE-**  
**Well Water Test Day**  
**Saturday, June 1**  
**9:00-11:00 a.m.**  
**32 North Street**

**WATER TESTING**

**Water testing:** Over 1,000 Kennebunkport households rely on a well for their water supply. It is strongly recommended by the Department of Health & Human Services Well Water Division that you have your water supply tested periodically for bacteria, radon, arsenic, copper, and lead. Suggested test schedule: dug wells every year and artesian wells every three years. **On June 1**, Nelson Analytical Laboratory along with the public health department are offering our annual Kennebunkport residents "Well Water Test Day." Pick up a free sample kit either at the public health office, town office, or in the police department lobby. Follow the quick and simple directions for obtaining the sample. Then, deliver it to 32 North Street, between 9-11 AM, on June 1. All results are confidential between you and the lab. This simple step can have a huge impact on the health of your family. At drop off, payment is expected in cash or check made out to Nelson Analytical and should be in your box with the water sample. NOTE: credit/debit cards will not be accepted.

**Stuff the bus:** Help us fill the parks and rec. bus with nonperishable food and household/personal supplies on Election DAY, June 11. Our goal is to stock the Community Outreach Services Pantry shelves, so no resident goes hun-

gry. Also, we will have a donation jar present to accept cash or checks. Please make out your checks to Community Outreach Services. These funds are used to purchase food from the Good Shepherd Food bank. **THANK YOU!!!!!!**



**Stuff the backpacks:** School supplies are costly! Please help us purchase and fill backpacks for our children in need. Our projected delivery date to the parents is August 12. Please have donations to the public health office by August 9. Items we need this year are paper, notebooks, three-ring binders, pens, pencils, crayons for the younger students, markers, dry erase markers, rulers, index cards, and erasers, boxes of tissues, hand sanitizers, and sanitizer wipes. When you are shopping this summer, pick up a few supplies and deliver them to the public health office. Every little bit helps!

**Drug abuse epidemic:** Drug abuse is on the rise in the state of Maine. Kennebunkport is not immune to the adverse effects that drug abuse has on families and the community. Resources are available through the Kennebunkport Public Health Department, Kennebunkport Police Department, local churches, and libraries. Please go to our website for many local referrals, support groups, and assistance with drug/alcohol related supports, or please call our office with any questions and concerns at 967-4401.

**Heart safe community:** Kennebunkport has earned the title: Maine Heart Safe Community. As part of this nationwide program, the public health department has joined with KEMS to offer cardiac prevention programs.

Community CPR and first aid courses are being offered throughout the year. If you are interested in learning this life-saving skill, contact the public health department or KEMS for more information on upcoming classes.



This winter, we participated in the third annual "Little Hats, Big Hearts" program through the American Heart Association. Community knitters and crocheters gathered together and provided over 78 little red hats from Kennebunk/Kennebunkport for newborn babies born in the month of February (heart health month) to help spread heart health awareness to the new families! Little Hats, Big Hearts, honors babies, moms, and heart healthy lives in a very special way. Supporters are knitting and crocheting red hats to be given out to thousands of babies during American Heart Month to empower moms to live heart healthy lives and to help their children do the same. This program was so fun, and a huge success, we will support it again next fall! Contact us for more information on how you can get involved!

**Baby box program:** Welcome babies of Kennebunkport! This year as of Jan. 1, 2019, the public health department in collaboration with the Health Council have kicked off the "Baby Box Program." All new babies born in Kennebunkport will receive a baby box. This box provides a safe sleeping space for baby, it acts as a bassinet with a mattress. It also comes with resources on safe sleeping practices for babies, local resources, books, and handmade gifts. We are accepting monetary donations to keep this program going. Checks can be made out to the Kennebunkport Health Council. Mail them to Kennebunkport Public Health, 101A Main Street, Kennebunkport 04046.

## Lawns for lobsters: helping to protect Kennebunkport's natural resources

By the Kennebunkport Conservation Commission

Rachel Carson was one of the first people to write about the dangers of pesticides. *Silent Spring* published in 1963 describes the threat of pesticides and its impact on our food, people, and waterways. Despite the increased awareness regarding the environmental impact that Rachel's writings explored, pesticide use on our lawns is still a common occurrence.

In an effort to encourage organic land care, the Kennebunkport Conservation Commission developed an educational program called, "Lawns for Lobsters." Here are the 10 simple steps of the program:

1. Leave at least a 25' buffer zone (This will act as a filter to help protect the water.)
2. Test your soil (request your free soil testing kit by visiting: <https://umaine.edu/soiltestinglab/home/kit-request/>).
3. Know the size of your lawn (Follow directions and apply only the amount needed.)
4. Water wisely and infrequently (Only soak your lawn if absolutely necessary.)
5. Regularly over seed your lawn (provides a dense lawn which minimizes weeds).
6. Mow high and leave the clippings (Make 3" high grass the new normal.)



7. Apply fertilizer only the in fall (between late-August and Columbus Day).
8. Apply fertilizer only when rain is not predicted for 24 hours.
9. Manage pest problems with spot applications when necessary.
10. Be patient! (It takes time to transition to a naturally healthy lawn.)

If you currently participate in the "Lawns for Lobsters" program, please let the Commission know. We would love to provide you with a lawn sign to show that you care about our environment and minimizing your impact on our waterways.

Visit the Kennebunkport Conservation Commission's page at [kennebunkportme.gov](http://kennebunkportme.gov) (click "appointed boards") for more information on best management practices for lawn care. The Conservation Commission also has a Facebook page which posts links on environmental issues and organic land care.

Interested in conserving Kennebunkport's natural resources? We are currently looking to fill two openings on the Kennebunkport Conservation Commission. Please email the commission by visiting: <https://www.kennebunkportme.gov/conservation-commission-0>.

# Shade Tree Committee

By John Ripton, Shade Tree Committee

In February and March, the Shade Tree Committee and Kennebunkport Conservation Trust co-sponsored the series "Kennebunkport Trees" in the Graves Library Community Room. These were public presentations focusing on the significance of trees and forest ecology in the town of Kennebunkport.

In the first program on February 23, Leia Lowery, director of education at Kennebunkport Conservation Trust, stressed the recreational, educational, and environmental value of tree conservation in Kennebunkport. John Ripton, Shade Tree Committee member and Elm Watch coordinator, offered a brief historical overview of the town's forest and addressed some of the economic and cultural benefits of Kennebunkport's trees. Noah Tucker of Bartlett Tree Experts spoke to the environmental benefits of trees and the ongoing care of Kennebunkport's trees. (KPT contracts with Bartlett Tree Experts to assist in protecting, pruning and removing trees.)

Jeff Tarling, Portland City arborist, was the guest speaker on March 2 at the second presentation, "Portland's Historic Trees & Management of 'Forest City.'" Tarling's talk focused on the rewards and challenges of managing trees in Portland. The city has approximately 20,000 trees. In the 19th century, however, its trees were largely felled to make way for agriculture. Munjoy Hill was a meadow with an orchard and few houses.

Tarling knows Kennebunkport well and applauded its efforts to preserve its arboreal character.

The third presentation featured Nina Pearlmutter, a Shade Tree Committee member with a Ph.D. in botany and plant pathology. Pearlmutter's presentation "Envisioning Kennebunkport as an Arboretum" on March 16 drew 25 town residents. She outlined new opportunities to update the town's tree database to make it available to residents and visitors to enjoy self-guided walking tours into the history and ecology of the town's trees. She pointed out the potential use of QR codes that would enable visitors to quickly see information about the town's trees on their telephones. She also offered suggestions of how the newly-acquired 84-acre town parcel could be incorporated into the town arboretum vision, e.g., a pedestrian walkway along the conserved wetlands as a public recreational and educational resource.

While the "Kennebunkport Trees" presentations were not recorded, each presenter shared a PowerPoint of images as they addressed the topics. One or more of the series' presenters could share their "talks" with groups in town. If there is interest, contact John Ripton to make arrangements: [jartphotos@gmail.com](mailto:jartphotos@gmail.com) or (908) 399-2706.

The Shade Tree Committee also plans to create a "memorial tree" program



Pier Road in Cape Porpoise.

for Kennebunkport. Such a program would offer opportunities to dedicate specific trees to individuals and groups. A memorial plaque would be set at the base of each tree. Specific details on the "memorial tree" program will be posted later in the spring or summer.

It's spring!!! Check out these facts about the ecological and economic benefits of trees.

## 1. TREES COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Excess carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is building up in our atmosphere, contributing to climate change. Trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, removing and storing the carbon while releasing oxygen back into the air. In one year, an acre of mature trees absorbs the same amount of CO<sub>2</sub> produced when you drive your car 26,000 miles.

## 2. TREES CLEAN THE AIR

Trees absorb odors and pollutant gases (nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and ozone) and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.

## 3. TREES PROVIDE OXYGEN

In one year, an acre of mature trees can provide enough oxygen for 18 people.

## 4. TREES COOL THE STREETS AND THE CITY

Average temperatures in Los Angeles have risen 6°F in the last 50 years as tree coverage has declined and the number of heat-absorbing roads and buildings has increased.

Trees cool the city by up to 10°F, by shading our homes and streets, breaking up urban "heat islands," and releasing water vapor into the air through their leaves.

## 5. TREES CONSERVE ENERGY

Three trees placed strategically around a single-family home can cut summer air conditioning needs by up to 50 percent. By reducing the energy demand for cooling our houses, we reduce carbon dioxide and other pollution emissions from power plants.

\*\*\*For all top 22 ways trees benefit us, visit <https://www.treepeople.org/tree-benefits>

## Elm tree watch

Do you love Kennebunkport? Do you love the trees that line our streets and give our town its unique charm? The Shade Tree Committee is seeking volunteers to help identify elm disease. If spotted early, it can be treated and save our trees! Volunteers would spend an hour, twice a week, inspecting trees (from the ground) for any signs of the disease. Volunteers are trained and are asked to conduct the inspections from mid-June through Labor Day, when the trees are most vulnerable. If you would like to help the town and trees, please contact John Ripton at [jartphotos@gmail.com](mailto:jartphotos@gmail.com) for more information. Interested volunteers should attend the June 1, 2019, orientation meeting at 10:00 AM, at the Graves Library Community Room.

## Ezra Thompson and his two headstones

By Ruth Fernandez, Cemetery Committee Chair

This is an account of the life and death of Ezra Thompson and his two headstones, gleaned from historical accounts by Charles Bradbury, Joyce Butler, Jim Steele, Henrietta Schmidt, and Ann Peabody Brooks.

Ezra Thompson was the schoolmaster in town from 1772 until 1798. At that time, Kennebunkport was still called Arundel. He was a graduate of Harvard. The town paid his room and board and a salary, which was not always constant. Because of the scattered population of the town, he taught in different homes at different times, one being the Robinson Farm, now called Old Schoolhouse Farm on Goose Rocks Road, (more recently owned by the Steeles). He was an excellent teacher and was well liked. He was indeed a treasure to Arundel (Kennebunkport) and left his imprint on the town.

However, sad to relate, over the years, Master Thompson became an alcoholic. He became intemperate and destitute, being dependent on charity for his clothing. It is recorded that at one time, falling down in a state of intoxication, and not being discovered for awhile, he

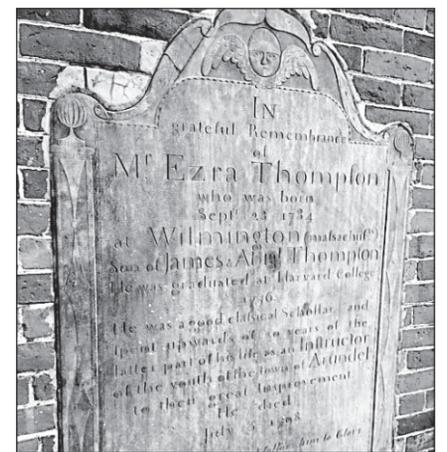


Slate headstone in Robinson Cemetery.

contracted a violent cold from which he died on July 5, 1798, age 64.

It is recorded that Edwin Smith, who later owned the Old Schoolhouse Farm on Goose Rocks Road, found a gravestone for Ezra Thompson lying face down in his pasture. Abbott Graves (1859-1936) encouraged the library trustees to clean it off and install it on the wall of the Graves library (named after Abbott's deceased son, Louis T. Graves) as a reminder of the importance of learning and presumably to honor Master Thompson. Some believe that this is Ezra's headstone.

Ah, but there is another headstone for Ezra Thompson. It is a very simple slate



Headstone on library wall.

headstone with his name carved in as was common in those days. It is in an old cemetery called the Robinson Cemetery which is located in the woods, on the edge of a field, behind the old Robinson Farm on Goose Rocks Road.

Some people think the headstone at the library is his real headstone. Others feel that the headstone in the Robinson Cemetery is the real one, and the library one was made to honor Ezra Thompson at some time after his death. The jury is still out on this issue.

# 2018 Community survey observations



By Werner Gilliam, Director of Planning and Development

It's hard to believe that we are getting ready to work on a rewrite/update to the 2012 Comprehensive Plan. Comprehensive Plans serve communities best when they become an integral part of determining direction for the community. I hope that as we begin this process, you will join us in determining the priorities and direction for Kennebunkport in the coming years.

To kick this process off, the Growth Planning Committee (GPC) wanted to get a sense of community issues and concerns. Looking at that goal, we carefully reviewed the community survey from 2001 that was used heavily for past comprehensive plans. Questions were weighed and discussed. Which ones did we want to ask again? Were there new issues? Had residents changed their minds? With the assistance of Abbie Sherwin from Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission, GPC pulled together a set of questions that followed up on past concerns and introduced a few new ones. Below are some notable things that we observed.

## Interesting results:

- We had 486 responses or about a 14% return rate.
- 74.5% of respondents classified themselves as year-round residents.
- 55% have lived here longer than 20 years (19% were between 11 and 20 years).
- The largest response came from Goose Rocks (31.7%). Next, was Village (20%) and then Cape Porpoise (18%).
- The most important town characteristics were low crime rate (78%) and access to coast and recreational opportunities (69%).

The most important issue was natural resources and the environment (70%), and second was housing for young families (32%).

- 66% think there is a lack of affordable housing in Kennebunkport.
- 59% think we need to encourage a broad mix and diversity of housing types to enhance diversity and affordability.
- User fees (beach stickers, building

permits, etc.) garnered a lot of support at 94%.

- Support was also strong for the Consolidated elementary school with 82% of respondents wanting to maintain and preserve its high quality.
- 69% want us to explore regional transportation alternatives during high traffic months.
- Trails, bike paths, and sidewalks are still deemed very important with 88% wanting us to develop more, and 80% specifically calling for more sidewalks.
- Preservation of the commercial fishing industry received support from 96% of respondents.
- 82% want us to play a stronger role in regulating environmental issues such as septic systems, fertilizer, and pesticide.
- 75% are willing to support a town land acquisition program using tax dollars (1% or \$190,000 per year) to purchase areas of critical environment as public access to water. In fact, 67% want us to provide access for small recreational water craft.

- Regarding short-term rentals, 45% think we should regulate them.
- Sea level rise and a changing climate are a large concern to residents as 76% think we should plan for local impacts.
- The environmental factor was voiced as 50% want us to protect wetlands and 85% think we should reduce our energy consumption of town buildings.
- 80% are concerned about sustainability, meaning that we meet the needs of present residents without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

What has emerged is that Kennebunkport residents love their community! The clear message is that the things that make it special should be protected such as its natural resources, its fishing industry, and recreational opportunities, as well as opportunities for its future generations. How we make those things happen will be the focus of Kennebunkport's 2022 Comprehensive Plan. Join us in the conversation as we look to the future!

## KEMS

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listed as a current subscriber for the current calendar year.

2. **Family of Two Memberships:** \$300.00 dollars. Covers the **individual** and **spouse/partner** in the household listed as current subscribers for the current year.
3. **Family Membership:** \$400.00 dollars. Covers ALL permanent residents of the home listed as current subscribers for current year.
4. **Seasonal Membership:** \$100.00 dollars/person. Covers **only individuals** of home that have paid the \$100.00/person fee. (Must have permanent address outside of Kennebunkport).

Our new Subscription Service went live in January 2019 and runs through the calendar year. This subscription

service must be renewed annually to be eligible for the associated benefits. If you have not yet signed up, you still have time to be covered for the remainder of this calendar year. If you have not received your subscription application by mail, feel free to contact KEMS directly via phone at 207-967-9704, or stop into the Cape station for a subscription information packet.

*On behalf of the KEMS Organization, I would like to thank the citizens of Kennebunkport for their continued support. This organization is able to provide high quality care, due to your generous contributions each and every year.*



## Short-term rental committee update

By Werner Gilliam, Director of Planning and Development

The topic of short-term home rentals has become a rather explosive topic with the continued expansion of online rental platforms such as Airbnb, HomeAway, VRBO, etc. Short-term rentals or STR are generally understood to be the rental of a home or rooms within a private home to a single group for a period of less than 30 days. In early 2018 amidst concerns surrounding the impact of STR, the Board of Selectmen appointed an ad hoc committee of residents to investigate STR and report back to the Selectmen regarding what should be done with them, if anything.

Meetings began in March 2018 and continued through January 2019. The committee engaged in reviews of other Maine communities' regulations and permitting structures, research into local and national trends, numerous public meetings, and ultimately the development and execution of a community survey intended to gather greater community opinions regarding the matter. The survey consisted of nine questions and included demo-

graphic as well as opinion questions. We received almost a 30% response rate with most respondents identifying themselves from the Goose Rocks area. Most did not believe they had been negatively affected by STR with a narrow majority believing that the town should not regulate STR. Not surprisingly, opinions did differ depending upon which area of town participants identified with.

Overall, the public opinion regarding potential regulation of STR was split with a slight majority favoring not regulating. The committee also found that there was not enough data to support conclusions that STR present a significant negative effect on the issues that were presented. Recommendations did include trend monitoring of STR to determine rates of increase or decrease in the community. The committee reported its findings to the Board of Selectmen at their February 28 meeting. To see the report, please visit [www.kennebunkportme.gov](http://www.kennebunkportme.gov) and check the short-term rental committee webpage.

## Housing

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**What we create:** The Kennebunkport Heritage Housing Trust maintains high standards for design and construction by building energy efficient, permanently affordable homes to assure a quality living environment.

We believe that this is the single biggest issue facing Kennebunkport now and in the years to come. Over 36% of Kennebunkport's population is over the age of 60, far higher than the state or county average. Our elementary school

population has decreased by 33% in the past 10 years, while the regional school unit as a whole has only dropped by 3%. Our volunteer fire department's median age is 55, with the heaviest responders over the age of 65. Meanwhile, 25% of the town's employees will retire in the next five years. Providing housing for young families and seniors seeking to downsize will create the multi-generational mix for Kennebunkport that will establish it long term as a community, not just a political subdivision. It takes a strong, viable community to run the fire department; man the EMS team; help

to maintain a fully enrolled student body; enable key public safety personnel to reside within Kennebunkport's boundaries; and retain our lifelong residents unable to downsize and retire in town. It takes quality, permanently affordable housing to combat the changing tides of year-round home sales into seasonal resident homes. It takes the newly formed Kennebunkport Heritage Housing Trust to step forward and meet these needs.

The Trust was pleased to receive their first donation of land from the Board of Selectmen in March. The land was a tax-acquired parcel on Main Street and is

suitable for 3-4 single family homes. This is a great start, but there is lots more work to be done. The Kennebunkport Heritage Housing Trust is actively looking for people interested in supporting the mission and vision of Kennebunkport Heritage Homes through financial investment and volunteerism. Together, we will endeavor to provide homes for our teachers, first responders, lobstermen, civic volunteers, year-round work force, families, and Kennebunkport retiring residents. To learn more about the goals or how you can get involved with the Kennebunkport Heritage Housing Trust, email [infokhht@gmail.com](mailto:infokhht@gmail.com)