



KENNEBUNKPORT Town Review

A newsletter for the residents of Kennebunkport

Number 37

Fall 2022

\$5 Million in Grants Assists in Needed Capital Work

By Christopher Simeoni, Public Works Director

In the past year, Kennebunkport has been awarded over \$5 million in grant funding to tackle two projects in Cape Porpoise. Included below are descriptions and updates on those projects.

- **Cape Porpoise Pier:** On April 26th, the Town of Kennebunkport was awarded funding in the amount of \$2,663,482. The amount came from two sources, a federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant of \$2,163,482 and a Maine Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP) grant of \$500,000. The scope of this project is to reconstruct the Cape Porpoise commercial pier to include widening of portions of the pier, replacement of the bait building with sewer service, installation of 8 floats and gangways, upgrades to electrical service, lighting, and communications, installation of solar panels, replacement and relocation of fuel tanks, and parking improvements. The design phase of the project is expected to be completed in early September. Once ap-

proval is gained from the EDA, the project will be placed out to bid. Construction is expected to begin sometime over the winter.

- **Cape Porpoise Causeway:** On July 19th, the Town of Kennebunkport was awarded funding in the amount of \$2.585 million. The grants were awarded by the Maine Department of Transportation through the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund. The Fund, first announced by Governor Mills in December 2021, was a recommendation of the state's climate action plan, Maine Won't Wait, to support community efforts to build climate resilience in Maine. Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund recipients will use the funds for projects to address flooding along ocean and riverfronts, protect stormwater and wastewater systems, install culverts to reduce flooding; and ensure energy availability during extreme storms. It is our current intention to raise the causeway four to six feet to maintain access



to Bickford Island. This project is currently in the design phase which is expected to be completed this winter. The project will then be placed out to bid after the final design.

In addition to the Cape Porpoise projects, the Public Works Department has undertaken multiple large capital projects in Wastewater infrastructure. They are all currently in different phases, and their current statuses can be found below.

Secondary clarifiers - This construction project has recently been completed by Northeast Earth Mechanics. Both rehabilitated clarifiers are currently online and functioning as expected.

Dewatering equipment up-

grade - We completed a more in-depth evaluation and life-cycle analysis of the equipment available from the three manufacturers. Ultimately, we selected centrifuges supplied by Westfalia. Design work has begun on the interior space to accept the new presses.

Pump stations - The design work has been completed for the three new pump stations. After an extensive bidding process, the contract for the pump station replacement was awarded to Apex Construction.

Thank you for the continued support in maintaining the integrity of the Town of Kennebunkport's wastewater infrastructure and a healthy environment.

Next steps with Village Parcel: Pursuing a Form-based Design

By Werner Gilliam, Director of Planning and Development

As the community moves along with planning for the Village Parcel, one of the tools that are available for Kennebunkport is to adopt a form-based code/design for the property. It is an alternative zoning tool that uses pictures, diagrams, and simple language to describe the look of a community that residents find desirable. During the many public listening sessions, we found people de-

scribing the areas that they love and enjoy being in, most notably places like the Village area, and Cape Porpoise.

Currently, Kennebunkport's zoning does not allow for the creation of a vibrant, walkable village area. Our goal is to put in place the tools for the Village Parcel that will help to create the look and feel of the historic village and Cape Porpoise areas. Over 700 commu-

nities in the United States use some type of form-based code to allow for these traditional development patterns that notably exist throughout New England. Communities such as Auburn, Belfast, Bridgeton, Freeport, and Scarborough are a number of Maine towns that use this tool. Recently this concept was introduced to the Board of Selectmen, who encouraged staff to pursue the next steps in this process.

So how will we do this? The staff is working on a request for professional services to assist with the development of this standard. We will do this by creating performance-based standards that replicate the traditional forms and functions of village areas that residents love. With these standards in place, it will create a clear path for future development to occur based on public feedback and the needs of the residential

community. Stay tuned for further discussion on how this zoning tool can create a walkable extension of Kennebunkport on the Village Parcel. For more information on learning what form-based codes/design can accomplish, check out the form-based code institute at: <https://formbased-codes.org/>



TOWN OF KENNEBUNKPORT
P.O. BOX 566
KENNEBUNKPORT, ME 04046

PRST STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #454
Portland, ME 04101

Town Hall is Planning for the Future

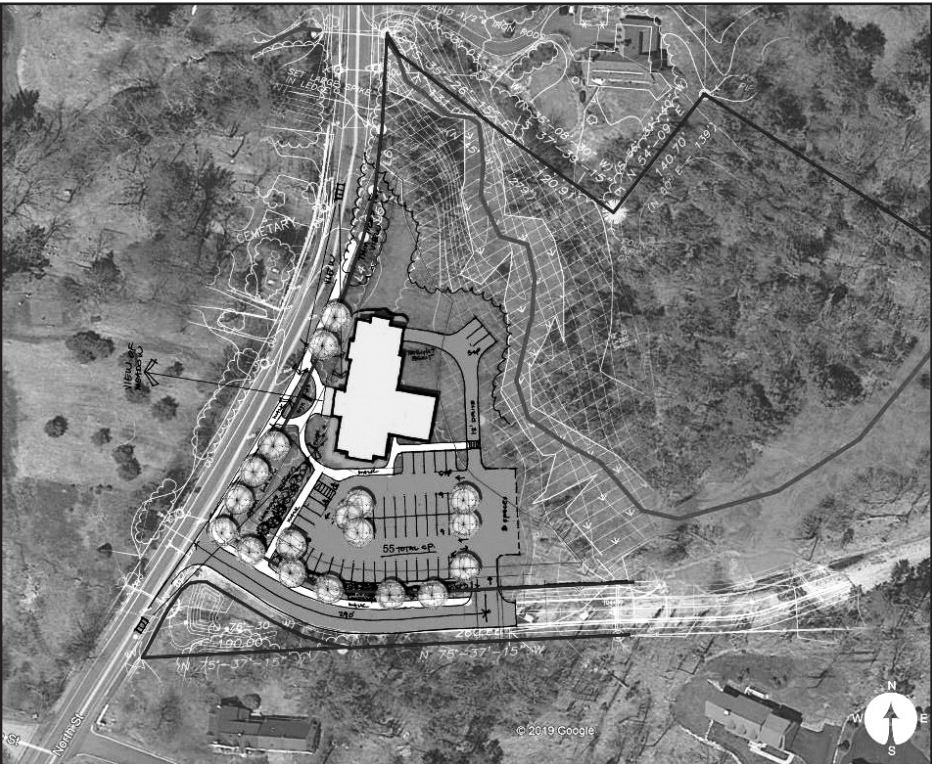
By Laurie Smith, Town Manager

The Town Offices have been housed at 6 Elm Street since 1960, 62 years. During that time, the Town considered rebuilding Town Hall at another location twice, once in the 1980s with a combined Police Department, and in 1999 with a combined Fire Department. For various reasons, the Town did not move forward with a new town hall but renovated 6 Elm Street in 2002. Over the decades, the Town has changed, and the town hall operations have outgrown the space. Some of the issues with the current building are the lack of waiting space for the public, no available absentee ballot service area, absence of room for public review of records, no available meeting space with citizens, shortage of safe storage areas for historical documents, and needed staff office space. More importantly, are a need to address safety concerns in a 2022 municipal world as well as parking for the public and employees. To address these issues, the Town undertook a programming space analysis in 2019, and it was determined that the five departments housed would need a little less than 10,000 square feet, versus the current 5,000 square foot facility. The new Town Hall would provide for existing needs and future growth, including public meeting space which is currently housed at the town fire station.

Citizens have asked what prevents us from building on the current Town Hall site. One of the challenges of our current site is that Chestnut Street borders our lot making it impossible to change the exterior dimensions or to increase parking. Although our current public meeting space is at the Village Fire Station, the needs of the Fire Department will require the hiring of per diem firefighters within the next few years. To prepare for these staff-

ing needs, the Fire Station will be renovated, and the current meeting room will be converted into offices and staff support spaces. The other main issue at 6 Elm Street is parking. Parking for over a dozen employees, customers, and meeting attendees create a backlog of stacked vehicles around the building, especially during the summer months. A different site that accommodates the parking needs of the public and employees is required for the future of town hall operations. During the 2019 study, the North Street end of the Village Parcel was identified as a prime location for a new building.

In June of 2022, funding was allocated for the design and construction plans for a new town hall and public meeting space. The Town has chosen Sebago Technics through a request for proposal process to assist with the plan and design phase. Sebago has a strong background in public building spaces and site plan development and is known for its work in the State. The process will begin this fall as the consultant reviews and verifies the findings of the previous programming study and begins to understand the functional relationships between departments and the public service needs at the Town Hall. The consultant shall, with the assistance of staff, and input from the public, analyze the town-owned site at the Village Parcel to determine the layout and location of the site, as well as the conceptual design and important architectural elements. This design process will include public meetings to gather input about design, site placement, and public wishes. The consultant will then work with staff and the Selectmen to determine cost estimates to bring back before the voters prior to final construction documents being completed.



NOVEMBER 8, 2022 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION and SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

By Tracey O’Roak, Town Clerk

To the voters of Kennebunkport: You are hereby notified that the **State of Maine Gubernatorial Election** and a **Special Town Meeting** of this municipality will be held on **Tuesday, November 8th, 2022**, at the **Village Fire Station, 32 North Street**. The polls will open immediately after the election of the Moderator at 8:00 a.m. and shall close at 8:00 p.m.

Please visit the Town’s website

www.kennebunkportme.gov/town-clerk/pages/elections-and-voting-for-additional-information.

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

Water Quality Testing at Goose Rocks Beach Continues



By Eli Rubin, Community Planner

Throughout the summer of 2022, Goose Rocks Beach and the associated watershed have been tested for water quality to determine if and what public health hazards may exist. Water samples are tested for the fecal indicator bacteria, *Enterococcus*, which can be used as an indicator for the possible presence of human-sourced fecal bacteria. Unfortunately, naturally occurring organic matter, decomposition, and animal-sourced fecal bacteria that occur naturally in marshes are not differentiated from human-sourced bacteria through this test method. Therefore, the town is engaged in further DNA analysis of *Bacteroides* to determine if or where any human-sourced, dog, or bird bacteria are present to inform any potential mitigation measures.

On the beach, bi-weekly testing of *Enterococcus* has continued as in past years. The results from these water samples are added to the larger watershed database. In the marsh, freshwater, and beach, bi-monthly DNA testing for *Bacteroides* occurred from June through September. While DNA testing has occurred on the beach and marsh for the past 4 years, this was the first year of testing within the upriver portions of the watershed that feed into the marsh. With assistance from Maine Healthy Beaches, Americorps Marine Conservation Corps members, Kennebunkport Public Health, and dedicated citizen volunteers, water samples were collected at 17 locations: one on each end of the beach, nine in the marsh, and six in the freshwater. While no human sources were found this year, further analysis is being conducted to inform monitoring plans for next year.

In addition, several EPA “kits” are being deployed by Maine DEP to test alternative measures of human influence, including Optical Brighteners, Ammonia, Total Chlorine, Surfactants, and Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products.

Maine DEP staff will run these tests in storm-water basins after heavy rain events.

This year, the East and West ends of Goose Rocks Beach were declared an impaired water body by Maine DEP because of a change in federal EPA impairment standards. Based on data from the past 4 years, the town does not believe there is a current risk of human-sourced bacteria entering the watershed and beach. However, further data collection is necessary for three purposes:

If there is contamination, the current water sampling is an effective way to identify and mitigate any issues.

The composition of a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan is often the first step in attempting to repair impaired water quality. Preparation of the plan and subsequent implementation is a costly and time-consuming process for which State grant funds are available each year. We have been advised that the town would likely be eligible for a matching grant; however, more data on the freshwater is needed before applying. At this time, it is not clear yet if a Watershed Management Plan is the best use of funds or time; however, we know further data collection will inform this decision.

Consultants, technical experts, and local DEP administrators have opined that it is possible that the new EPA standards may be inappropriate measures of public health safety in environments like Goose Rocks Beach, where a marsh with high organic matter meets a recreational beach. However, for a legitimate appeal to be made to EPA, extensive data is needed.

For these reasons, testing will continue at Goose Rocks Beach, the marsh, and now in the watershed. Further questions are welcome and can be sent to Alison Kenneway, Director of Public Health. If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know!

Planning and Codes Updates on Short Term Rentals, Climate Action Planning, and Comp Plan Adoption

By Werner Gilliam, Director of Planning and Development

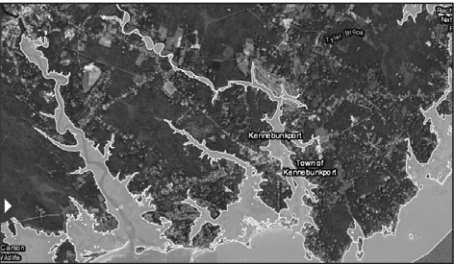
Short term rental

Registrations and Renewals for Short-Term Licenses will begin at 8:30 AM on Oct 3rd and close at 4:30 pm on Dec 30. The registration link can be found by clicking on the Short-Term Rental button on the left side of the homepage: <https://www.kennebunkportme.gov/>

Issuance of renewal licenses will be granted to all existing license holders that apply for a renewal by December 30th and that are in good standing. Licenses not renewed by December 30th will be issued to new applicants. Issuance of new licenses will be limited and issued on a first-come, first-served basis. New applications are processed in the order submitted during the application period. If there are more applications than available licenses, those applications will be carried over in the order they were submitted for the subsequent application review period next fall. If the application list is exhausted and there are remaining unissued licenses available, new applicants can apply throughout the year until all remaining licenses are issued. However, staff will input their applications manually, and the fee will not be discounted. Fees will not be charged until applications have been approved. For all properties outside of the designated Goose Rocks Beach Neighborhood, the maximum number of Short-Term rental licenses that will be issued is 230.

Properties owners who wish to rent Short-Term within the designated Goose Rocks Beach Neighborhood are required to obtain a license; however, they are exempt from the license cap. There will no longer be proof of prior rental history required for new applicants, as that was only a requirement during the first year of implementation; however other standards will apply. Please visit the Short-Term rental website for more information.

Fees remain unchanged from last year: Homes with 3 bedrooms or smaller cost \$325. Homes with 4 bedrooms or larger cost \$475.



Climate Action Plan Task Force

The Climate Action Plan Taskforce has been established, and grant funds have been secured to fund a year-long Community-wide Climate Action Plan. The Taskforce, with support from planning consultants, technical experts, and regional partners, will be hosting community events throughout the year to facilitate discussions around the impacts of climate change and appropriate community responses. Be on the lookout for surveys, participatory events, and exercises to help the town develop its short- and long-term strategies for dealing with the effects of a changing climate. Stay up-to-date with meetings and reports and join the forum on the Taskforce website: <https://www.somainecapcohort.com/kennebunkport>

Comp Plan

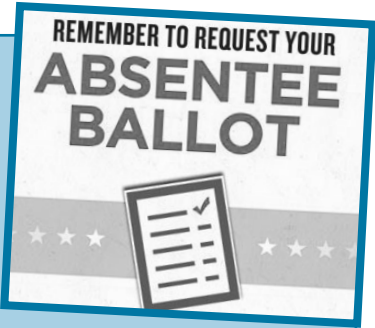
Due to staffing shortages at the State review office, the Kennebunkport 2022 Comprehensive Plan Update has been delayed, along with many other communities in Maine. The plan, as composed by the Growth Planning Committee and approved by the Selectboard, will appear on the November ballot for voters to officially adopt. Should the State review office require any substantive changes, those changes will be brought back to the voters at a future regular or special town meeting. The plan can be viewed online at <https://kennebunkportcp.info/> or hard copies can be found at both libraries and at the town hall.

REMEMBER:

The last day to request an absentee ballot for the November 8th election is:

Thursday, November 3rd

Per State Law (Title 21-A §753-B.2)



NOVEMBER 8, 2022 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING BALLOT QUESTIONS

By Tracey O'Roak, Town Clerk

On Tuesday, November 8, 2022, the registered voters of Kennebunkport will be asked to vote on five referendum questions. Polls will open at 8 am (after the election of a moderator) at Village Fire Station, 32 North Street, and will close at 8 pm.

The five ballot questions are listed below:

- i. **Amendment to the Administrative Code.** There are two proposed revisions to the Administrative Code.
 - i. Remove the qualification that the Town Meeting Moderator be a registered voter of the town. The position of a moderator is an important role in our town meeting form of government that requires specific knowledge and skillset. Removing the requirement that the Moderator be a registered voter in Kennebunkport would allow the Town to have more options for finding a qualified person to moderate town meetings.
 - ii. The 2nd revision is at the recommendation of the Town's attorney and clarifies the current language regarding RSU #21 Directors representing Kennebunkport as elected officials that may be removed from office by the voters of Kennebunkport through a recall process.
- ii. **Shellfish Conservation Ordinance.** There are two proposed revisions to this ordinance.
 - i. The first clarifies the requirement that any person applying for a shellfish license must appear in person in the Town Clerk's Office to purchase the license.
 - ii. The second explains that a digger under 12 years of age can dig when accompanied by an adult holding a valid recreational shellfish license. Each adult license will only allow one peck per day, regardless of how many children are digging under that license.
- iii. **Kennebunk River Ordinance.** The revisions were brought forward by the Harbormaster to clarify the definitions of Commercial Vessel and Commercial Fishing. The new language amends the definition from a percentage of income to fishing that enters commerce for the purpose of sale, barter, or trade.
- iv. **Land Use Ordinance – Residential Rental Accommodations.** This proposed revision relates to how Residential Rental Accommodations (Roomers) are reviewed, approved, and denied. Currently, applications are reviewed by the Zoning Board of Appeals as well as the Code Enforcement Officer. The Zoning Board of Appeals has recommended this amendment that would streamline the review process by assigning it to the CEO and removing the Board of Appeals from the initial review process. All other performance and appeal standards and processes will remain unchanged.
- v. **Comprehensive Plan Update.** The work on the Kennebunkport 2030 Comprehensive Plan is now complete. The final step is to have the Plan approved by the voters. The plan can be viewed on our website (www.kennebunkportme.gov), at the town hall, Graves Memorial Library, and Cape Porpoise Library.

Please visit the Town's website

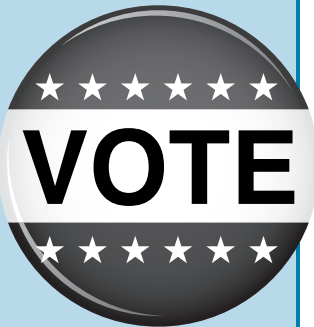
www.kennebunkportme.gov/town-clerk/pages/elections-and-voting
for sample ballots and additional information.

Town Clerk will hold extra office hours for voter registration and absentee voting

The Kennebunkport Town Clerk/Registrar of Voters will hold extra hours at the **Kennebunkport Town Hall** on the following dates to conduct absentee voting, register any person eligible to vote and accept any enrollment/address changes:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022,
from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022,
until 7:00 p.m.



Get to Know Your Selectboard!

For this issue of the semi-annual newsletter, we want you to get to know your Selectboard!

Where were you born? Where did you grow up?

Edward Hutchins (EH): I was born in Biddeford at the Webber hospital, but if people ask me, I say I was born in Kennebunkport, like my father, and my mother, and my grandparents, and their parents. I had to marry a woman from Massachusetts, so my kids' family tree wasn't a telephone pole!

Mike Weston (MW): I was born and raised in Bangor, ME.

Jon Dykstra (JD): I was born in Kingston, NY, and, at age 10, moved to Schenectady, NY. I spent every summer at Goose Rocks Beach.

Sheila Matthews-Bull (SM-B): I was born in Lowell, MA, and attended parochial schools right through high school. I received my teaching degrees from UMass Salem and Boston University.

Allen Daggett (AD): I was born in Charlottesville, Virginia, but moved to Kennebunkport when I was three. My dad and grandfather were both from Kennebunkport.

Tell me a little about your family.

EH: I grew up here; I'm an only child. I've been married twenty-eight years, and although my wife is from Massachusetts, she's been here since the mid-80s, when she went to UNE. We have one daughter in her mid-twenties, and she lives in Portland.

MW: I've been married to my wife, Janet, for 55 years. I have two sons who live in Atlanta, and each has two daughters. My daughter lives in West Hartford, CT, and has two sons.

JD: Connie and I met in Washington, DC (on a blind date) and were married in 1981. Our son Peter was born in 1984, and our daughter Katie in 1987. Now, Peter's family lives in Bow, NH, and Katie's family are in Bluffton, SC. We have five beautiful granddaughters, three in NH and two in SC. Our two youngest are "twin cousins"—born 23 hours and 1,000 miles apart.

SM-B: I have four children and three grandchildren (soon to be four). My three boys live locally, but my daughter is in New York.

AD: I'm married to Wanda Daggett, my partner in love and business. We have four children. Michael is a pharmaceutical engineer in Midland, Texas; Laura is a second-grade school teacher in Odessa, Texas; Kenny is a Mechanical Engineer at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard; and Valerie is Assistant Principal in New Hampshire.

What is your work history?

EH: I went to college and graduated with a degree in Political Science. For a while, I was trying to figure out if



From left to right: Allen Daggett, Edward Hutchins, Sheila Matthews-Bull, Michael Weston, Jon Dykstra

I wanted to go to law school or not. Then, the Gulf War happened, so I got called to active duty with the Army Reserve. When I got home, I took a job out of state, where I worked for about six months. One day, I woke up and said, "I don't like this! This isn't who I am. I don't like living away from Maine and my family. I'm not happy here." So, I quit and came back to Kennebunkport. I worked for a friend of mine on his lobster boat, worked for a few other guys, and filled in. I saved money and bought a boat—I've been lobstering since then. It will be thirty years next year.

JD: I am a geologist by training. My first job was in Washington, DC, as an exploration geologist with a consulting firm specializing in satellite remote sensing. In 1987 we moved to Huntsville, AL, where I designed and managed the development of image-based Geographic Information Systems. In 1995 we went to Denver, CO, where I led a product development team for the first commercial high-resolution imaging satellite. In the late '90s, we moved back to the Washington, DC, area to work on defense mapping programs until my retirement in 2015.

SM-B: I began teaching at a community college in MA, then married and moved to Ringe, NH, where I took a teaching position at the high school. My husband grew up in Cape Porpoise, so when a coaching position opened at UNE, he took it, and we moved up here. I taught at Sanford HS while the Rhumb Line was being built. Once we opened, the Rhumb Line became my full-time job, along with taking care of my growing family.

MW: I started as an accountant at Textron Automotive Interiors, where I later became the VP of Purchasing and eventually President of the company. Following my tenure there, I relocated to Germany for two years as the President of European Operations for Collins and Aikman. After retiring from corporate life and leaving Germany, I had my automotive industry consulting business for six years. Along the way, I also served as chair of the Georgia Southwestern University Foundation Board for three years as part of

my civic activities.

AD: I have done everything related to lobsters, from catching them to selling them. I currently own Cape Porpoise Lobster and Port Lobster, shipping lobsters nationwide.

What is your favorite thing about being on the selectboard?

EH: My favorite part is being able to contribute to the town where I have such deep roots. The town is more than just what you see today: it has a unique history and bright future. While I can't change history, I can help shape the town's direction. Because, as I said ten years ago during my selectmen run, 'If you don't know where you've been, how do you know where you're going?' That's the best part of being on the Board of Selectmen.

MW: I like being able to work on the issues that constructively impact our community and being able to work directly with the people these issues affect.

JD: My professional career focused solely on materialistic, science-based activities. Although I was active in my church community, little else of what I did immediately affected people's lives. Now, my work as a selectperson allows me to contribute to decisions and actions that directly affect the lives of Kennebunkport residents and visitors. It's a beautiful, and humbling experience.

SM-B: I enjoy being on the selectboard because I care about this town. I felt the board needed a voice from the business community, so I decided to run. I'm also a strong supporter of keeping our Consolidated School open. I can't say enough about the people I have worked with over the years. Every one, from the different boards to the town staff, has been a pleasure. We have always worked for the betterment of our community.

AD: I have met many people I would never have met from all walks of life. Usually, people stay in their own circle, but being a Selectman has introduced me to a wide variety of people in Town.

Why is Kennebunkport your home?

EH: If it was good enough for eight generations before me, it's good

enough for me.

MW: When Janet and I moved from Detroit, MI, to Wiesbaden, Germany, in 1999, we no longer owned a house in the U.S. We had lived in South Berwick at one time for nine years and knew we wanted to be back in Maine when we returned. Some of my ancestors were from Kennebunk and Kennebunkport, so we zeroed in on the area, bought a house in Cape Porpoise, and rented it until we returned in late 2000.

JD: My parents began renting on Goose Rocks Beach in 1950. We purchased that home in 1960, my parents retired there in 1987, and it remained in our family until 2003. I have never had a year of my life pass without standing on Goose Rocks Beach sand. Connie has identified with Maine since 1976, and we brought our children here every summer. Thus, Kennebunkport has always been in our hearts, and now, following retirement, it is our home.

SM-B: Having lived in the hustle and bustle of the city, coming to Kennebunkport was a dream come true. Not only is our town one of the prettiest in the state, but our residents are also friendly, thoughtful, and helpful. I feel truly blessed.

AD: I grew up and always loved it. I started a small business and kept growing it to stay here. Simply said, this is my home.

What inspires you?

EH: I take great pride in being a commercial fisherman and having to get up at four o'clock in the morning to get myself out to the ocean and make a living doing that. It can be rewarding both personally and financially, but my self-reliance is what inspires me. I don't look for outside inspiration most of the time because if you don't have it inside you, nobody's going to ignite it. I'd say that I'm pretty much self-motivated and driven, sometimes to my own detriment.

MW: I get inspiration from people. There are many wonderful people in the world, and I love talking to and learning more about them—their families, their lives, etc. You can learn a lot from listening to people—even if you don't necessarily agree with their points of view.

JD: My love of geology remains a constant inspiration. I enjoy teaching and volunteering with KCT youth education programs. Informed by my love of geology and earth processes, I am interested in the effects of climate change, especially on increased storm surges and sea level rise. Our community is particularly vulnerable to these inevitable challenges; working to mitigate their impact keeps me motivated.

**Continued
on Page 5**

- PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS -

By Alison Kenneway RN, BSN, Director of Public Health

Public Health Department overview:

Our department's focus is to provide for the medical and social service needs of our residents and guests. Our services are covered under your town taxes and private donations. Our website has educational information, resources available in our community, upcoming classes we support locally, and projects we are working on. Please visit our website and subscribe!! Contact the Public Health Office @ 967-4401, with any nursing, health officer, or social service needs. Office hours: Mon-Fri 8-9:30 am or by appointment.



of the virus. Kennebunkport Public Health department will continue to provide Covid 19 testing at the office for those who have had exposure or have symptoms of Covid 19. We are not providing testing for travel. You must call the office for an appointment first. Each test costs \$25.00 cash/check and is for town residents and businesses only.

Maine Healthy Beach Program and watershed monitoring project:

Kennebunkport has participated in the Maine Healthy Beach program, monitoring the water quality at Goose Rocks and Colony Beaches weekly since 2005. This summer, we continued to monitor our beaches twice weekly. We also continued to monitor and test the watershed that surrounds Goose Rocks Beach. Subscribe to the Public Health website, and you will get weekly alerts on the water quality of our beaches through the summer. You can visit <https://www.maine.gov/dep/water/beaches/beach-status.html> for the status of our beaches or any other beach along the coast of Maine that participates.



Keeping Septic Tanks Healthy:

Do you know when your septic tank was last pumped? As part of your fall



Meeting on 08/09/2022 at the Kennebunk Town Hall. Present in Photo (from left to right): Nancy Beardsley, Deputy Director Maine CDC; Tina, York LHO; Alison Kenneway RN BSN, Director of Kennebunkport Public Health Department, LHO; Dr. Nirav Shah Maine CDC; John Brady, Kennebunk EMS Division Chief, LHO.

preparations, have your septic system pumped and inspected. This is an important preventative task that could protect our watershed and save you money in the long run.

FMI: <https://www.epa.gov/septic/how-care-your-septic-system>



Secret Santa is making a list and checking it twice: The holidays are coming up. Please contact the Public Health Department for a Secret Santa application if you need some help meeting your child's special wish list. Applications are to be completed by parents or legal guardians only. The child must reside in Arundel, Kennebunk, or Kennebunkport to qualify for this program. Secret Santa's goal is that every child in our tri-town area has a special holiday.

Stuff the Bus on Election Day:

Help us fill the shelves of the local food pantry, on November 8th, Election Day. Please bring non-perishable food or household/personal care items with you to the polls. YES, we do accept cash donations. All checks are to be made out to Community Outreach Services. Cash donations are used to purchase food from the Good Shepherd Food Pantry.



Do you need fuel assistance?:

Have you signed up for the Low Income Fuel Assistance Program yet?

If you need help meeting your winter heating expenses, please contact York County Community Action, at 1-800-965-5762 for an appointment. Kennebunkport residents are fortunate to have the Kennebunkport Emergency Fuel Program. Remember, this is an **emergency-only** program. This program is **not** intended to cover your entire winter heating needs. Residents are responsible for monitoring the level of fuel in their tanks and notifying the General Assistance Administrator in a timely manner if fuel is needed.



Our Home Medical Equipment Loan Closet is open with free rentals:

Are you in need of a walker, wheelchair, cane, or commode? Visit our FREE, durable medical equipment closet. Kennebunkport residents only, please.

Need a ride in town? There is a new service in our 3-town community called The Kennector powered by ITNCountry. It is a service that provides rides for neighbors, by neighbors, door to door service. Since it is a new service, it is starting small and building. For more information, call 207-604-1366. Email: thekennector@kennebunkmaine.us or visit www.kennebunkmaine.us/kennector Rides are arranged through the ride coordinator. Affordable rates: \$2.00 base fee + \$0.50 per mile with \$5.00 minimum. Rides are not restricted to medical appointments.

Get to Know Your Selectboard!

From Page 4

SM-B: my inspiration comes from other businesses: I love learning about them and trying to find ways to support them and their needs. I am inspired by keeping Kennebunkport a prosperous and affluent community with a unique spirit.

AD: I get my inspiration from my work ethic and my businesses. It connects me to my family roots which have all been related to commercial fishing and lobstering.

Is there any message that you would like to share with our citizens?

EH: I'd like them to know that I'm approachable and that I care about the community as much as any resident here. I appreciate it when people come in or reach out and ask me questions about the things we're doing and why we're doing them. We have a vision for the Town, so be patient with us. All of us are work in progress, especially myself, but we have good people on the Board with unique specialties.

MW: We live in one of the best towns in Maine—or anywhere. There are a lot of important issues facing our town now and in the immediate future. Not every-

one will agree with the decisions made by Selectboard in addressing the issues. Still, the board always has the interests of the whole town at the forefront of our decision-making process.

JD: We live in a very desirable part of the U.S. As global temperatures increase, the population pressures on Kennebunkport will inevitably grow as folks move northward. Our family-oriented beaches and our Town's infrastructure will be significantly challenged. I feel we need to remain vigilant in our planning for and reactions to these increasing pressures as they continue to evolve. We should always welcome visitors, as we keep a critical eye on preserving our Town's heritage and identity.

SM-B: Kennebunkport should strive to remain a close-knit community, where people watch out for one another, neighbors talk and discuss ideas, and people support local businesses.

AD: I would like to see this town grow some but remain home and community. We need to take care of our older citizens, as we are aging, and to keep our workforce intact so that Kennebunkport can remain the home we love.

What Should You Know About Pesticides?

By the Kennebunkport Conservation Commission, town research, advisory, and advocacy group on environmental and conservation issues.

Five Things to Understand About Pesticides

- i. **Most pesticides are poisonous to a wide range of insects and do not just eliminate those you are trying to kill.** This is why scientists are concerned about the use of pesticides contributing nationwide to the reduction of pollinators such as bees and butterflies.
- ii. **Organic solutions - which are less harmful to humans, other insects, birds, fish, and other aquatic creatures - are readily available** and can keep your lawns and gardens healthier and your kids and pets free from toxic chemicals.
- iii. **Pesticides that are applied on your property do not stay on your property.** They are dispersed via groundwater to streams, rivers, the ocean, and private wells, and via the atmosphere to adjoining properties.
- iv. **While the federal and state DEP does provide oversight on pesticides, many chemicals that are currently legal in the U.S. have already been banned in Europe and other countries.** (For example, glyphosate, the key ingredient in Roundup, has been banned in Argentina; Australia (in some states); Belgium; Bermuda; Bahrain; Barbados; Brazil; Canada (8 out of 10 provinces); Colombia; Costa Rica; Czech Republic; Denmark; El Salvador; Fiji; France; Germany; India; Italy; Luxembourg; Malta; Netherlands; Oman; Qatar; St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Saudi Arabia; Portugal; Scotland; Slovenia; Spain; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Vietnam; Austria.)
- v. **Therefore, to protect our environment and ecosystem, the Commission encourages you to make the choice to go organic as much as you can.** For more details on how and why go to <https://www.kennebunkportme.gov/conservation-commission-0>



References: **State Policy: Public and Private Initiatives to Minimize Reliance on Pesticides (MRSa 22 §1471-X)** The regulation that assures your right to notification, is: **Chapter 28: Notification Provisions for Outdoor Pesticide Applications (DOC).**

Kennebunkport Healthy Ecosystem Survey: Widespread Concern on Pesticides

In the spring of 2022, the Commission issued a town survey to better understand the community’s opinions on the use of pesticides and fertilizers, a concern earlier identified in the town’s 2018 survey. The 2022 Healthy Ecosystem survey again indicated ongoing concern about the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers in our town. A compelling 85% had “lots or some concern” about the effects that pesticide use is having on air and water quality, human health, pollinators, or general ecological health. About the level of action, the town should take, 72% wanted the town to take “some” or “a lot” of action to protect water, pollinators, and the environment. Full results are at <https://www.kennebunkportme.gov/conservation-commission-0>

The Conservation Commission web page is at <https://www.kennebunkportme.gov/conservation-commission-0>, where you can get lots of valuable information and sign up for updates on our work. And we’re on Facebook at @KPTCC and Instagram at kport_conservation_commission.

Pesticide Use Near You? You Can Be Informed!

Introducing the Maine Pesticide Notification Registry

According to the Maine State Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, “It is the policy of the State to work to find ways to use the minimum amount of pesticides.” The Maine Pesticide Notification Registry exists in support of citizens who are concerned about pesticide applications near their homes. The registry contains a list of individuals who have requested notification of outdoor, non-agricultural pesticide applications within 250 feet of their property.

The list of residents’ names and addresses is distributed to licensed commercial pesticide applicators. Once on the list, you as a resident can expect applicators to provide pretreatment notification via telephone, personal contact, or mail. This communication must occur between six hours and 14 days ahead of outdoor pesticide use within 250 feet of a registrant’s property.

The deadline to be included on the registry for 2023 is December 31st, so before you ring in the New Year, you can join the registry in one of these three ways:

- By phone call, contact the Board of Pesticide Control at 207-287-2731
- By emailing pesticides@maine.gov,
- By filling out the **Online Pesticide Notification Registry Application**, (<https://appengine.egov.com/apps/me/dacf/bpcregistry>) OR place your smartphone camera over the QR Code below:



The annual application fee to be on the Maine Pesticide Notification Registry is \$20. However, the fee may be waived due to financial hardship

Finally, as the Board of Pesticides suggests, having an open line of communication with your neighbors is key. They suggest talking with neighbors about your concerns, asking questions, expressing your needs, and developing a plan that can work for all.

Recycling Rebate Tops \$30,000!

When your recycling travels from your curb to the ecomaine facility, it is assessed on arrival for any non-recyclable items, referred to as contamination. The Town pays a yearly, flat fee to ecomaine to process any of these contaminants and fortunately will receive much of that money back when few contaminants are present, and the market is good. We are excited to announce that due to the diligence of Kennebunkport’s citizens in properly sorting their recycling, ecomaine has refunded the Town \$31,000 of the prepaid processing costs, a whopping 80%. These funds will go back into the town budget to lower costs in the future. Although this rebate is not guaranteed, we are grateful for the work of our citizens, and congratulations are in order for the entire Town. We encourage you all to keep up the good work and rest assured your efforts in limiting contaminants are noted and appreciated.



Kennebunkport Recreation Updates

Prelude Craft Fair Returns!

The Prelude Craft Fair at Consolidated School is on for 2022! The Parks and Recreation Department will host this annual tradition on December 3, and December 10 from 9:00 am– 3:00 pm. Crafters are busy making their items and hoping for a big crowd this year, since the fair had to be canceled the past two years due to the pandemic. Prelude is the most festive time of the year, and we look forward to celebrating with everyone at this holiday event.

Parks Master Plan Underway

The Parks and Recreation department oversees a variety of parks in partnership with the Public Works Department. The goal of the department has been to create neighborhood recreation areas for all residents to enjoy. The most heavily used areas are Parson's Field, located next to the Recreation building, and Rotary Park, adjacent to the Public Works garage. Firefighters' Park in Cape Porpoise has traditionally been a little league field for youth, but with the addition of other regional sports fields and the



change in resident needs, the field has fallen into disrepair.

As Rotary Park has been built out to its maximum use, the staff's focus is on the future of Parson's Field and Firefighters' Park. Before the Town invests in new playgrounds, fields, trails, or pickleball courts, the staff is recommending a master planning process that will be a public engagement process to gather feedback on the future of parks and recreation in the neigh-

borhoods of Kennebunkport. In August of 2022, a request for proposal went out for a master planning process for Firefighters' Park and Parson's Field.

After a review of all proposals, T,J, D&A was selected to do the work for the plan. Soon, the community will be asked to participate in the public input process, which is essential in creating a plan for these parks. We want the parks to be used by people of all ages and be a place where the community gathers. Be sure to watch for these important announcements. The entire process of the Master Plan work will take approximately eight months. The goal is to begin implementing this plan with the next fiscal year and continue over the course of the next several years.

Chalk The Port Celebrates Community Artists

Chalk the Port was held on September 23 & 24, to benefit the Recreation Scholarship fund. This event brought in artists from across the country and several local artists to create murals on the pavement at the Recreation Building. The community came out not only to view the masterpieces, but also to enjoy music by the Dock Squares and Radio Revival; food from Mainely Treats, Momma Baldacci's, and The Salty Moose; and adult beverages from Batson River. The day started out with a pancake breakfast hosted by the Kennebunk Portside Rotary and a 5K Col-



or Run. The afternoon had people enjoying the food, beverages, and music, which transitioned into the Carnival of Color in the evening. The kids were able to enjoy themselves with games, bounce house, and face painting. This event brings the community together to celebrate Kennebunkport, and we successfully raised over \$14,000 for the scholarship fund! We would like to thank the many sponsors for this event: Cape Porpoise Lobster, Kennebunkport Resort Collection (KRC), The Nonantum Resort, Kennebunk Savings Bank, Alisson's Restaurant, Camden National Bank, Sandy Pines Campground, Batson River Brewing & Distilling, Rhumb Line Resort, The Wanderer, The Lodge on the Cove, and The Chamber-Kennebunk-Kennebunkport-Arundel. We would also like to thank the many restaurants and eateries that graciously donated to feeding the artists while they stayed in Kennebunkport. Lastly, I would like to thank the many staff and volunteers from the community that made this



event happen. With out the help of the community, we could not put on an event like this one. We appreciate the time, talents and funds that everyone contributed.

Don't Miss the Halloween Zombie Dash!

As the temperature starts to level off and the days become shorter, we head into the most wonderful time of year, Fall. With Halloween approaching quickly, and families being presented with an overabundance of opportunities to fill their bags with various sweets, we at the Rec Department want to offer something out of the ordinary.



For this reason, we ask that you save the date for October 28th . In collaboration with the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust and our sponsor, the Kennebunkport Resort Collection, we invite you to the 2nd Annual Great Zombie Dash! At this truly unique event, you will run through the education trail at The Emmons Preserve while trying to keep the two flags attached to you safe from the gauntlet of roaming zombies in the forest. Make it out with one of your lives and you will be entered in a raffle to win a variety of prizes. 5:45PM, we will kick off the family friendly wave with the extreme wave following at 6:15. Register at kennebunkportrec.com *Hope to see you there!*

Time to Register Your Dog!

By Tracey O'Roak, Town Clerk



All dogs kept within the State of Maine for more than 10 days are required to be licensed. An owner of a dog that is 6 months of age or older and kept in Kennebunkport must obtain a license from the Town Clerk **between October 15th and December 31st each year**. The fee to license your dog is \$11.00 if capable of producing young or \$6.00 if the dog has been spayed or neutered.

Stop by Town Office with your dog's most recent rabies certificate to obtain a new license and tag. If you are licensing the dog for the first time and the dog has been spayed or neutered, please bring proof from your vet.

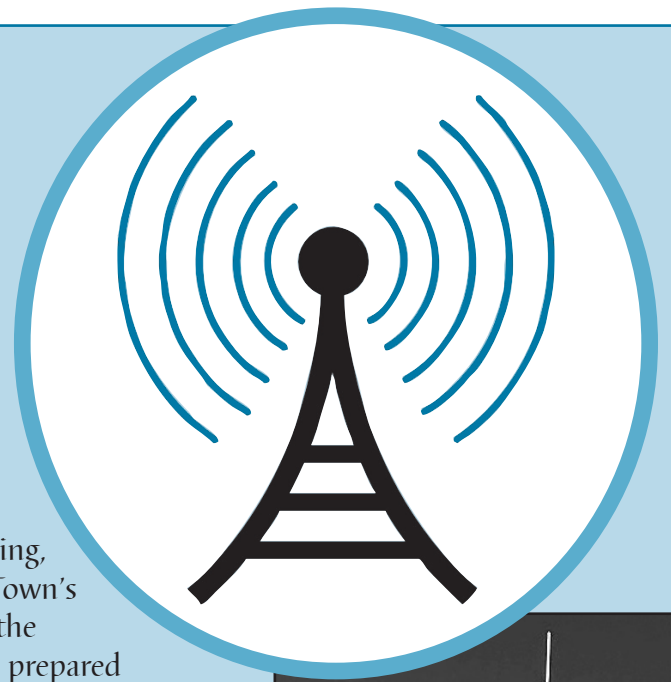
If you apply for a dog license after January 31st, a late fee of \$25.00 (in addition to the annual license fee) will be charged per dog. This is State law, and the fee cannot be waived for any reason.

There are three convenient options for registering your dog(s):

- Come into the Town Clerk's office Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM– 4:30 PM.
- Mail your current rabies certificate and check to Town Clerk, P.O. Box 566, Kennebunkport, ME 04046.
- Register online - go to www.maine.gov/dog_license and follow the prompts. You will receive your license and tags through the mail within 30 days.

Communication is Key in Public Safety

By John Everett, Fire Chief



Pre-Covid, the stakeholders in the Town's radio system started to meet to discuss issues with radio communications involving Police, Fire, EMS, Public Works, and Wastewater. It was discovered that all users were having significant communication issues that impacted emergency operations.

The Public Safety Committee invited our system vendor, Two-Way Communication out of Portsmouth, NH, to meet with us, and hear our concerns, as well as inspect and inventory our equipment. It was decided that the best solution for our reception problem areas in town was essentially a new radio system. We would continue to use our current transmit and receive site at the Police Station and add two more of these sites, to be located at Goose Rocks Beach Fire Station and the Wastewater Treatment Plant, to facilitate better coverage.

The total cost for the project came in at just under \$1.2 million. Our approach to financing this upgrade was going to appropriate \$250,000 annually into a capital reserve account. Given what we thought the price increases would be over the years, this funding formula was expected to take about six years.

After the first-year installment passed through the budget

process and we started to work on the next year's budget, we discovered that the costs were going up far faster than initially anticipated. The cost of the project in one year rose by over \$125,000, cutting the value of our initial reserve funding in half. Due to these cost increases, a recommendation of another \$250,000 into the capital account and bonding the remaining \$1 million was brought to the voters. This financing plan was approved at the June 2021 Town Meeting.

Over the next few months, we finalized a partnership with Motorola and Two-Way Communications. Motorola is responsible for the new radios for all vehicles and dispatch consoles, along with system design. Two Way is responsible for the other three parts, which are as follows: the tower builds, the microwave system, and the Ultra High Frequency (UHF) system. The microwave system will transmit and receive the communications from Dispatch at the Police Department and send it out to the other towers. Three towers will increase our radio range, making communication easier across town. The last piece is the UHF system, which the Highway and Wastewater departments will use for operations.

Earlier this spring, as part of the Town's commitment, the Highway Dept. prepared for the tower installments by digging holes for the concrete bases, digging trenches, and installing conduit, which allowed the tower bases to be installed in early July. Before the holes for the bases were back-filled, the conduit was run from the base of the tower to where the radio antenna cables will enter the building. All radio equipment will be installed in cabinets located inside the fire station and the office building at Wastewater. After curing time, the bases were back-filled by the Highway Dept., and the building of the towers could begin. The conduit was also run at the water tower site on Crow Hill for the microwave cables.

The week of August 22nd, the towers were erected over a two-day period. Both towers are completely built with two arms for the needed antennae, one on each arm and one on the very top. There will also be small microwave antennae mounted on the tower. While both towers do not currently look alike, they will be very similar upon completion. The installation will be completed when all of the remaining equipment for the towers arrives to avoid costs incurred by having the



installers return multiple times. Although a date has not yet been set for the final work, we hope the new system will be in place before the end of the calendar year.

Message from the Kennebunk River Harbormaster

By Jamie Houtz, Harbormaster for the Kennebunk River

As summer fades and transitions to fall, it seems like a good time for some summer reflection and boating etiquette reminders. At the peak of summer in July, my rough count of boats in slips or on moorings with motors was around 450. This did not include canoes, supboards, kayaks, etc. Sizes varied from a 125' MV down to a 6' inflatable kayak, not including swimmers!

Here is a summary of events etc. thus far this season:

- No moorings have parted, or boats become adrift.
- Three recreational moorings have been transferred to waitlist participants, and two recreational moorings have been retired to ease navigation.
- Our transient mooring (T-1) has had three occupants thus far this season.
- While cruising the river, I interrupted "divers" at Government Wharf and Gooch's bridge and

warned them that they are in violation of local ordinances and that this activity is extremely dangerous.

- I've also taken numerous phone, text, and email complaints from property owners along the upper Kennebunk River as well as along the banks of Gooch's Creek about reckless powerboaters/jet skis who were exceeding the speed limits, endangering others in/on the water as well as creating wakes that possibly erode shoreline property.
- From the details in those complaints, I was able to locate the operators and occupants of three small powerboats. I warned them that they were in violation of the local ordinance but also educated them on the river ordinance language about wakes, safety, and the speed limit of 5 knots only (5.7 MPH) on the entire river.
- An outcome of last month's River Committee

meeting was to implement a two-pronged approach to the increase of powerboat traffic violating the ordinances. These are:

- Additional 5 mph speed limit buoys to be placed in these areas.
- Additional patrolling on the water in these same areas.

These steps have been partially implemented for the remainder of this season and will be fully incorporated by next summer. I will continue to monitor the impact these actions have on the problem by keeping communication open with the public.

In closing, I want to remind all to be safe on the water, wear your life jacket, and remember that there are many people who visit our town just so they can enjoy their time on the river. It's a cherished natural resource that is shared by all.

Headstones Moved – Why – When – Stone Haven

by Ruth Fernandez, Kennebunkport Cemetery Committee

Recently someone inquired about a cemetery on Stone Haven Hill. Well, it is no longer on Stone Haven Hill. The stones were moved to the Arundel Cemetery in 1896, so we are talking about a long time ago. Why were they moved? Were the bodies moved or just the headstones? Where exactly was the cemetery on Stone Haven Hill?

After the Arundel Cemetery opened in 1893, a number of families in town opted to move the headstones of their family members from the family plots to the new Arundel Cemetery. I am not a historian, so I had to lean on our town treasures, Tom Bradbury and Sharon Cummins, with trips to the Kennebunkport Historical Society and Graves Library and the invaluable book Kennebunkport by Joyce Butler.

Clement Stone took in summer boarders at his home (probably where the name Stone Haven comes from). It was a place to come if you were seeking “absolute quiet, excellent fishing, safe boating, and quaint surrounding.” In 1897 the Cape Porpoise Land Company began to purchase land for development. The first site they bought was Stone Haven, which then became Stone Haven Hotel. Alas, it burned in 1931. The two yellow houses you can see from the causeway today were built around 1898. In 1896, perhaps in anticipation of the sale and development of the hill, the gravestones marking ancient burials on the site had been moved to the Arundel Cemetery.

It doesn’t sound like this was a happy time for those involved.

One report said “Headstones in the old Brown burying ground were so rudely torn from their places by some uncharitable person.” There is an explanatory stone in the Arundel Cemetery that says, “These headstones were wrested from their position on the westerly slope of Stone Haven Hill, were placed here for safety by Frank Huff, a descendant of the Brown Family in the year 1896. Around this time, it was decided to put in a trestle from the mainland to Bickford Island (where the pier and Chowder House are now) to bring people and goods to and from the island. Tom found an article once where the representative to Congress was here trying to mediate because the families of those to be moved, where the new trestle tracks to Bickford Island were going to go, were very upset.

If you approach the Arundel Cemetery from Walkers Lane (across from the Kennebunkport Historical Society), the explanatory stone can be seen on the 3rd row in. The headstones wrested from Stone Haven Hill are behind it on the 4th row in. They are mostly Browns and Smiths. We still don’t know if the bodies were moved or just the headstones, nor do we know where the cemetery actually was on Stone Haven Hill. Andrew Walker mentions in his diary (1866) that the cemetery was near the water in front of the house of Clement Stone. The town is presently looking for input on the causeway between Cape Porpoise and Bickford Island (Pier) because of rising tide concerns. History is still happening around Stone Haven Hill.



STONE HAVEN. On the far right is the Stone Haven Hotel, built by Thomas G. Stone in the mid-1800s onto the ell seen in back. To the left were summer cottages, and to the left of the cottages was the building known as the Stone Haven Annex, built in 1905. The Stone Haven, and later the Annex, were among the area’s most popular summer hotels. The Stone Haven burned in 1931. The Annex is also gone. (Huff Family)



Kennebunkport Housing Trust Celebrates First Project Success!

Larissa Crockett, KHHT Executive Director

Thanks to the generous support of the Town of Kennebunkport, Virginia Hodgkins Somers Foundation, MaineHousing, and many others, our first neighborhood, Heritage Woods, is complete. We are delighted to welcome six new families into our amazing community! Thank you to George Burr and Son and Billy Goat Landscaping for finishing the landscaping and site work this summer.

Our second annual Scoop-Off was a great success. The wonderful folks at Kennebunkport Parks and Recreation welcomed us to join them for a Concert on the Lawn/Scoop-Off event that featured live music, fun for kids, food trucks, and ice cream donated by Shaker Pond Ice Cream. A special thank you to our event sponsor, Allison’s Restaurant, for their generous donation. Thanks also to the Port Lobster Company and the Nonantum for their contributions to the event.

We are gearing up for our next project and hope that you will join us in making attainable homes a reality here in Kennebunkport. We have a fundraising goal of \$70,000 by the end of

2022. Your donations make our work possible! Here are a few reasons why attainable housing is imperative to the success of Kennebunkport:

There has been a 49% housing cost increase since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, from a median home price of \$665,000 in February 2020 to \$990,000 in May 2022. Kennebunkport is on a path to being the first town in the State of Maine with a median home price of \$1M

To afford a \$750,000 home, a household would need to earn over \$182,000 annually. This income far exceeds the median area income.

45% of homes are vacant much of the year. Only 55% of homes are owned by year-round residents. We value our seasonal residents, but towns need year-round residents to serve on boards and committees and to keep our local businesses open.

Please help us reach our goal of 100 monthly donors who make donations of between \$5 and \$100 a month by becoming a monthly donor today at www.khht.org.

The QR code at right will take you to our donations page, where you can sign up for a monthly, annual, or one-time donation. Thank you for your support!



Climate Action Plan Task Force

By Michelle Radley, Planner

Kennebunkport is creating a Climate Action Plan through the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission’s Climate Action Planning Cohort – a group of southern Maine communities coordinating climate planning efforts. The group is composed of Kennebunkport, Kennebunk, Biddeford, and Kittery.

Southern Maine’s Climate Action Planning Cohort is led by SMPDC in partnership with Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) and Fourth Economy Consulting. The CAP Cohort is a year-long, community-driven process that will generate local climate action

plans developed through a robust planning and public engagement process with each of the four participating southern Maine communities. Additionally, each participating community has a Task Force of dedicated volunteers, subject matter experts, and municipal staff that are tasked with overseeing the climate action planning process and inviting public engagement that will lead to the development of a climate action plan.

The Climate Action Plan developed through this process will be a roadmap outlining specific activities Kennebunkport will undertake to address the causes and impacts of climate change. We want your help in ensuring this plan reflects the community’s vision for a sustainable and resilient Kennebunkport. Business owners, community groups, non-profit leaders, committee members,



educators, as well as residents at-large are encouraged to get involved.

The Regional Climate Action Plan Cohort Kickoff was held on September 28th. This event began the process of hearing community members’ hopes for climate change action and sharing the various ways local residents, community groups, business leaders, and other stakeholders can get involved.

This event was but one opportunity for community

members who are interested in participating in the planning process to meet, share their visions for the future, and learn more about how to get involved in climate action planning.

Learn more about the plan and how to get involved on the project website, www.somainecapcohort.com. This website is the home for information on the cohort, the communities involved, events you can attend, and message boards to join in on the conversation.



HomeAboutResourcesCAP CommunitiesEventsContact Us

Log In

Kennebunkport Climate Action Plan

The Town of Kennebunkport is taking steps to reduce municipal and community-wide emissions, including purchasing solar energy credits, leasing electric municipal vehicles, and incorporating LED streetlights. [Read More](#)

Join the Conversation

Join our online group to keep up to date with Task Force activities and join the conversation or use our sign up form below to keep in touch!

[Go to Message Board](#)

Why Climate Change

Opportunities in the Town

By Yanina Nickless, Assistant to the Town Manager

The Town of Kennebunkport is always looking for any public engagement not only through work on the committees but also through its open employment opportunities. The last year, 2021, was labeled ‘the Great Resignation’ year, which explained the economic trend of quitting at the time. The Town did not lose many employees due to that movement, but a few people still have retired or changed employment. More so, because of so

many available jobs, it became harder to compete with the private sector; yet the Town keeps offering an excellent benefits packet and competitive wages. If you feel like you could be an asset to the Town and could put your skills into municipal work, please visit our Employment Opportunities page on the Town’s HR website: <https://www.kennebunkportme.gov/human-resources/pages/employment-opportunities>



Piping Plover Final Report 2022

It was a good year for the Piping Plovers at Goose Rocks Beach this year. Again, the birds nested the whole length of our beach, with the west end having the majority of nests. Our final data from Maine Audubon stated that we had 12 pairs with 24 fledglings!

The Piping Plovers are in the south now but will be back at the end of March. We are so fortunate to be able to enjoy so many birds here at Goose Rocks, especially an endangered species. Unfortunately, we lost all our Least Tern nests and chicks. Hopefully, they will do better next year.

Thank you to all that were watchful and attentive to our Plovers. Thank you for sharing the beach, and a special thank you to the considerate dog people.





We Need Your Help to Communicate Effectively

By Yanina Nickless, Assistant to the Town Manager

Often we hear citizens say, “I’ve read on your website that...” During the past few years, when the whole world was undergoing countless changes, our website became a crucial tool for communication between the employees and the community. We are constantly receiving requests for more online services, records of all types, and easier links. Although the staff does their best to keep everything updated, we often feel our efforts remain inadequate. Part of the reason for this is our website is more like a library of answers, records, and resources trying to meet everyone’s needs. Unlike a business website that may be focused on selling products in a particular category, the town’s website houses public records, videos, educational material as well as information for eleven departments and numerous committees and boards.

The Town’s website is not just a URL address, it is the face of the town and the first introduction to Kennebunkport. Looking through departments, boards, and services, one can easily grasp the idea of the town’s culture. More so, the website does not just provide access to information, it also creates a space for emergency notification: there is no faster way to get important information out

than post it through an e-blast to our subscribers.

Understanding its importance, staff are dedicated to improving the customer experience on the website. Although this is a large project which may take a year to complete, we want to be mindful of residents’ needs and concerns. To accomplish this goal, the project has broken down into four stages: survey, research, conversation, and implementation.

Currently, we are in the survey stage of the process. The staff has requested resident feedback and ideas through a questionnaire format. So far, citizens have submitted meaningful answers that will serve as a strong foundation for the next stage – research. During the research phase, we will dive into the web world, searching for the best web consultants with reputable backgrounds in the municipal world. Once we find the best partner, we will begin the process of revamping our current site. In the meantime, we are still seeking feedback from our users. You can fill out the survey below, check out our questions online <https://www.kennebunkportme.gov/home/news/help-us-improve-website>, or email April Fortier at AFortier@kennebunkportme.gov.

1. Select all that describe you:

☐ I am a resident of Kennebunkport

☐ I am re-locating to Kennebunkport

☐ I am an elected official or member of a Town Board or Committee

☐ I work in Kennebunkport

☐ I am a contractor or service provider

☐ Other (please specify):

☐ I am visiting or plan to visit Kennebunkport

☐ I am a Kennebunkport business owner or potential business owner

2. What is your age?

☐ 18-24 years old

☐ 25-34 years old

☐ 35-44 years old

☐ 45-54 years old

☐ 55-64 years old

☐ 65-74 years old

☐ 75 years or older

3. How often do you visit the Town’s website?

☐ Daily

☐ Two or more times a week

☐ A few times a month

☐ Once a month or less

☐ Only when I am looking for specific information

4. List the top reasons for visiting the website?

5. How do you feel about your ability to navigate within our site?

☐ Very easy

☐ Easy

☐ Neither easy nor difficult

☐ Difficult

☐ Very difficult

6. How do you feel about the organization of information?

☐ Very easy

☐ Easy

☐ Neither easy nor difficult

☐ Difficult

☐ Very difficult

7. How can we improve the navigation of the website?

☐ Less information on drop-down menu

☐ Better search results

☐ More apparent department buttons

☐ Other (please specify):

8. What do you like the most about the Town’s website?

9. Are there any additional features or services you would like us to add to the Town’s website?

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO PURCHASE A CUSTOM-MADE, LIMITED-EDITION

SEA BAG

with the Kennebunkport Bicentennial Design including a commemorative patch sewn inside the bag.

Buy one as a Christmas Gift for someone special!

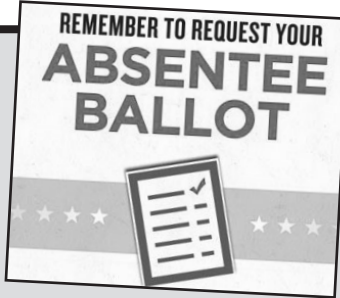
For ordering information, please call Tracey at 207-967-1610



SEA BAGS
MAINE



ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE at the Kennebunkport Town Clerk’s Office for the upcoming Gubernatorial Election and Special Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. If you have any questions about absentee voting or to request a ballot, please call the Town Clerk at 967-1610.



PLEASE NOTE:
The last day to request an absentee ballot is Thursday, November 3rd [Title 21-A §753-B.2]

Tax Exemptions for Property Owners

The State of Maine recently passed an act to stabilize property taxes for senior citizens. The law (LD 290) went into effect on August 8, 2022, and applies to property tax years beginning April 1, 2023.

This new law allows certain senior residents to stabilize, or freeze, the property taxes on their homestead.

An applicant must be:

- At least 65 years old
- A permanent resident of the State
- Owned a Maine homestead for at least ten years.

Interested taxpayers will need to apply with the municipality where their homestead is located on or before **December 1**. As long as the individual files an application each year, the tax on their homestead is fixed at the amount assessed in the year prior to the initial application. Eligible residents may transfer the fixed tax amount to a new homestead, even between municipalities.

In addition to this new law, the State of Maine has several property tax exemptions for residents of Maine. They are as follows:

- **Homestead Exemption** -This program provides a measure of property tax relief for certain individuals that have owned homestead property in Maine for at least 12 months and make the property they occupy on April 1 their permanent residence. Property owners would receive an exemption of \$25,000.
- **Veteran Exemption** - A veteran who served during a recognized war period and is 62 years or older; or, is receiving 100% disability as a Veteran; or became 100% disabled while serving, is eligible for \$6,000.
- **Paraplegic Veteran** - A veteran who received a federal grant for a specially adapted housing unit may receive \$50,000.
- **Blind Exemption** - An individual who is determined to be legally blind receives \$4,000.

Applications are available online at the Town of Kennebunkport’s website at [kennebunkportme.gov/assessing-department](https://www.kennebunkportme.gov/assessing-department)

Online Dog Registration is Available!

By Tracey O’Roak, Town Clerk

As much as we enjoy having you come to the town hall to register your dogs, we understand that it is not always easy to get here during our regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) But no need to worry; Kennebunkport offers online dog registration. You can register 24/7 from the convenience of your own home! Your pup’s new license and the tag will be mailed to you.

Please visit www.maine.gov/dog_license. It’s quick and easy! All you will need is:

- Credit card
- Rabies Certificate
- Veterinarian’s Info
- Tag number (if a renewal)
- Spay or neuter Certification (for new registrations, if applicable)

