



KENNEBUNKPORT Town Review

A newsletter for the residents of Kennebunkport

Number 39

Fall 2023

November Election Ballot Questions

QUESTION 1

Comprehensive Plan Update
By Michelle Radley, Town Planner

After the initial passage of the Comprehensive Plan update last November, Town Staff received comments and needed revisions from the State. These revisions are minor in nature but are required for Kennebunkport's Comprehensive Plan to be found complete and consistent by the State. Please find below a description of these revisions.

Revisions to Chapter 7 – Natural Resource

Revisions to this chapter include an update to the date of Chapter 7, and revisions to farm inventory. In response to a comment from a resident, we have removed an incorrectly identified farm and added Five Acre Farm to this list.

Revisions to Appendix A – Goals, Policies & Strategies

Revisions to this appendix include an update to the date of Appendix A, and the addition of 10 goals and strategies per state request. These revisions are minor and do not alter the spirit or major content of the plan. These changes are written to include that the town will maintain highlighted practices such as designated growth areas, providing training to the CEO, providing educational materials to the community, working collaboratively with land trusts, and so on. These practices are embodied throughout the plan and need to be added in the Goals, Policies, and Strategies Appendix to achieve state-level completeness and consistency. Subsequently, these additions have been numbered, and the following strategies have been renumbered as part of this revision.

QUESTION 2

Amendment to the Street Opening Ordinance
By Chris Simeoni, Director of Public Works

The Public Works Department has proposed several changes to the Street Opening Ordinance (Chapter 147, Article II). These changes are in the form of change to process, changes due to current construction costs and the clarification of repair standards to ensure adequate and satisfactory repairs to streets after openings to preserve the taxpayer's capital investment in our infrastructure.

The most notable amendments include:

- Clarification of the requirements for the repairs to pavement after opening
- Increasing the dollar value of the bond to more accurately reflect current costs.
- The approval for street openings is being transferred from the Selectboard to the Public Works Director, unless the street is under a 5-year moratorium, and then the authority for an opening falls within the scope of the Selectboard.
- Utility Companies would be allowed to perform their own repairs under the direction of the Public Works Director.

The full proposed amendments can be found on the Elections page on the Town Website.

QUESTION 3

Construction of a New Town Hall
By Laurie Smith, Town Manager

The Town Offices have been housed at 6 Elm Street for 63 years. Over the six 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
- The absence of room for public review of records
- No available meeting space with citizens
- The shortage of safe storage areas for historical documents
- The lack of needed staff office space
- Inadequate parking for the public and employees

The need to address safety concerns that exist in the modern municipal world is extremely important as is the need to have safe and appropriate parking for the public and employees. To address these issues the Town undertook a programming space analysis in 2019. It was determined that the five departments currently housed in the existing town hall would need about three times their current space including a large meeting room. The proposed town hall addresses existing needs and future growth including public meeting space which is currently housed at the town fire station on North Street.

Citizens have asked: What prevents us from building on the current Town Hall site? There are several factors affecting this decision:

Location - 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.

Size Constraints - Due to the age and construction of the current structure the Town would need to start from ground zero and build a two-story structure which wouldn't reduce construction costs.

Need for a new Town meeting space - Even though a new building could replace the current structure, it wouldn't accommodate a meeting space. Our current public meeting space is at the Village Fire Station but the needs of the Fire Department in the future will require the hiring of per diem firefighters soon. To prepare for these staffing needs the Fire Station will be renovated and the current meeting room will be converted into offices and staff support spaces.

Parking - The other main issue at 6 Elm Street is parking. Parking for over a dozen employees, customers, and meeting attendees creates a backlog of stacked vehicles around the building—especially during the summer months. A different site that accommodates safe parking needs for the public and employees is a necessity for future town hall operations. During the 2019 Village Parcel

Continued on Page 2



The proposed new town hall

How to Stay Informed

By Hope Mowry-Wall, Communications and Events Specialist

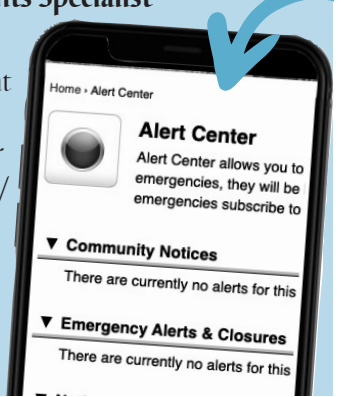
We share information through a variety of platforms including at meetings, on our website, through e-alerts sent to your e-mail, on social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, and on the Town cable channel. Sign up for e-alerts at www.kennebunkportme.gov/subscribe and/or follow us on



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November Election Ballot Questions (continued)

From Page 1

Vision study the North Street side 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 hired Sebago Technics and Grant Hayes Architects to assist with the plan and design phase. The Selectboard appointed a Town Hall building committee in October of 2022 comprised of seven residents, two selectboard members and six staff members to work with the consultants through the design phase. The committee met multiple times from October 2022 through June 2023 and reviewed over seven designs including both single and multi-story structures.

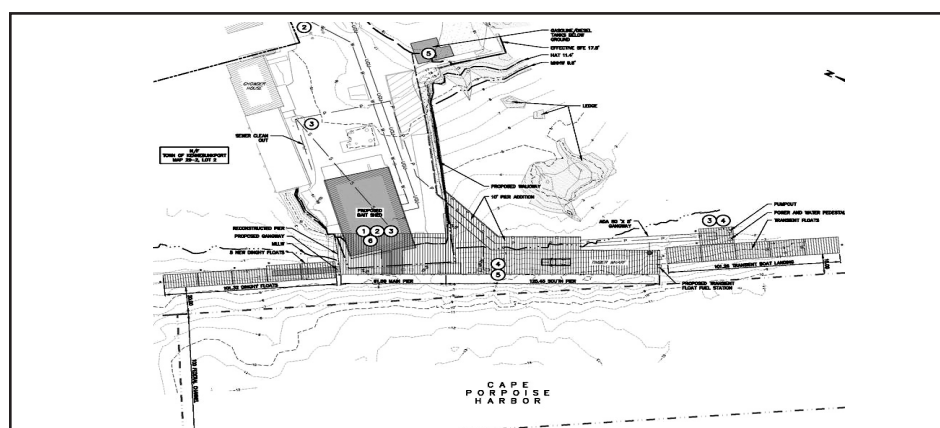
The committee selected the current single-story design that allows easy access for the public to all meeting spaces and departments within the proposed 12,661 square foot building.

The space is broken down as follows:

Office spaces.....	5,728 sq. ft.
Meeting rooms	2,128 sq. ft.
Functional Support ..	1,728 sq. ft.
Circulation	2,068 sq. ft.
Mechanicals	1,009 sq. ft.

The Town Hall Building Committee made their presentation to the Selectboard at the July 13, 2023, meeting. During the presentation the consultants reviewed the current cost estimate of \$8.8 million for the project assuming a 2024 construction start. During the next few meetings the Selectboard discussed ways to lower the property tax impact to its taxpayers. As a result of that dialogue the Selectboard is bringing forward the following proposal for voter consideration. The request is to bond the project and authorize the use of reserve funds, sale proceeds from two properties (including the current town hall) and to raise funds from public donations. The goal is to reduce the bond request from \$8.8 million to \$6.3 million by fundraising and the sale of property.

Town Hall	
Construction Cost	\$8,800,000
Sale of 6 Elm Street.....	\$(1,000,000)
Sale of 49	
Beachwood Ave.	\$(200,000)
Use of Reserves	\$(800,000)
Fundraising	\$(500,000)
<hr/>	
Bonds projected	
for project	\$ 6,300,000



6 Elm Street is the location of the current Town Hall. Once construction is completed and staff moved to the new offices on the new Town Hall, the former Town Hall could be sold.

49 Beachwood Avenue is a one acre parcel and is the location of the old Public Works garage. The property is currently used for storage by the Wastewater Department and is not necessary for current operations. The property could be sold with the proceeds going towards the cost of construction and the property being put back on the tax roll.

The above proposed actions, along with the sale of the property of School Street as outlined in Question 4 would result in a \$5.8 million bond. A \$5.8 million bond over 20 years would have a tax rate impact of \$0.11 or an annual tax increase of \$54.82 on a \$500,000 home. The budget will also see a \$482,000 annual decrease in debt payments from planned retirements between years of 2026 – 2029.

If voters approve this project the Select-board will move forward with the plans for a Town Hall and seek a reduction in the bonding amount by using these financial options.

Two open houses will be held at the current Town Hall on Thursday, October 5th and Tuesday, October 10th from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

QUESTION 4

Sale of School Street Property

One possibility for reducing the amount of bonds or notes issued for the Town Hall Construction Project, if approved, would be to sell the Town-owned property on School Street (Map 009-009-050). This is an 8 acre parcel adjacent Parson's Field. The parcel was purchased in 2014 for \$385,000, before the purchase of the Village Parcel. This parcel could be liquidated to further reduce the amount of bonds or notes issued. The Town does own an additional parcel adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant and the Parks and Recreation building and Parson's Field.

The price and terms of the sale would be approved by the Selectboard as deemed in the best interest of the Town. The net sale proceeds would be used to reduce the amount of bonds issued for the Town Hall Construction Project described in Question 3. If Question 3 is not approved, the Town would not sell the property.

QUESTION 5

Authorization of funding for Cape Porpoise Pier Project

By Mike Claus, Project Manager

Our engineer for the Cape Porpoise Reconstruction Project has developed an updated cost estimate for the Cape Porpoise Pier project. Our Construction Estimate included with our EDA grant award in March of 2021 was for a total project cost of \$2,704,359. Our current Cost Estimate based on completed contract documents with review by our engineering consultants (civil, structural, mechanical and electrical), a marine contractor estimator, and the MaineDOT SHIP program team in 2024 dollars is \$4,501,039. Note that this cost estimate includes a 15% contingency of \$566,875. Our cost estimate is conservative due to the uncertain maritime construction marketplace with high variability in the pricing of recently bid MaineDOT maritime projects.

In reviewing the project with our engineer and the MaineDOT SHIP program team, we developed a list of items that could be bid as an Add Alternate to a base construction cost that could ensure the completion of the project and support the project goals for the Cape Porpoise Pier commercial fishing fleet. The Add Alternated items include the South Gangway and Floats, Solar Panels on the bait shed roof, and a New Hoist (like the hoist provided for the Government Wharf project). The cost estimate for a Base Bid without the Add Alternate Items is \$4,107,234 (Add Alternate Items cost estimate is \$393,805, including 15% contingency). The MaineDOT Ship Program told us they would be supportive of a separate future project for the Add Alternate items if the Town was unable to fund these items within the current project.

Currently our available funding is:

EDA Grant:	\$2,163,482
MaineDOT	
SHIP Grant	\$ 500,000
Town Funding	\$ 737,000
Available Funds	\$3,400,482

To complete the project, our current funding gap is \$1,100,557. If the Add Alternate Items are removed from the current project for completion at a later date, the funding gap is reduced to \$706,752.

We expect bids to be received for the Cape Porpoise Pier Project by the end of February 2024. Typically, a construction contract would be signed within 4 to 6 weeks of receiving bids. Given the funding gaps shown in our current cost estimates, the Town would be unable to sign a construction contract without Special Town Meeting approval to fund the estimated project costs, with or without the Add Alternate. Waiting for the next June Town Meeting would require putting the project off until November 2025.

QUESTION 6

Easement Agreement with Green Marine Corporation

*By Jon Dykstra, Member of
the Selectboard*

In July, the Town took ownership of the former Mooney property on Langsford Road for the purpose of providing a Town boat launch. The Town purchased the property with the understanding that it did not include the marine railway located next to the Green Marine Corporation. As a part of the purchase and sale process, the Town ordered a survey of the Mooney property from Lower Village Survey. Lower Village has reported to the Town that the property purchased does include the majority of the land that the marine railway sits upon. Because the marine railways have been located on the Mooney property for thirty years and Mr. Green has operated the railway during that time, Mr. Green has a legal argument for rights under adverse possession. Our Town attorney has recommended that the best solution is to grant Mr. Green an easement so that he can maintain the railway and operations for the use of commercial fishermen and the Town can secure its rights in the property. The easement can be viewed on the elections webpage or by contacting the Town Clerk.

QUESTION 7

Acceptance of Cape Porpoise Fire Station

By Jay Everett, Fire Chief

Kennebunkport owns two out of the four fire stations in Town. The Port Village and Wildwood Fire Stations are owned and operated by the Town; whereas the Cape Porpoise Station belongs to the Atlantic Volunteer Engine Company and the Goose Rocks Beach Station belongs to the Goose Rocks Beach Fire Company. The Town pays an annual lease to each fire company to store our equipment in the stations. For FY24, the total lease payment for Cape Porpoise Station is \$22,192.00. The Atlantic Volunteer Engine Company has come forward and asked the Town if they would accept the Cape Porpoise station for \$1.00. The Town would then be responsible for utilities and maintenance but would no longer need a lease for the building. Currently, Kennebunkport Emergency Medical Services (KEMS) is also located in the Cape Porpoise Fire Station and pay a nominal lease to the Fire Company along with $\frac{3}{4}$ of the utility bills. The transfer of ownership of the Cape Porpoise Station to the Town is a win-win approach, as the Town will secure the use of the building and the Atlantic Volunteer Engine Company will be able to relinquish responsibility for maintenance and the liability that comes with ownership.

REFERENDUM ELECTION and SPECIAL TOWN MEETING NOVEMBER 7, 2023

To the voters of Kennebunkport: You are hereby notified that the **State of Maine Referendum Election** and a **Special Town Meeting** of this municipality will be held on **Tuesday, November 7th, 2023**, 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.

Tracey O'Roak
Town Clerk

Stuff the Bus on Election Day

By Alison Kenneway, Director of Public Health

Help us fill the Parks and Rec bus with non-perishable food and household / personal supplies on election day November 7th. Our goal is to stock the pantry shelves at Community Outreach Services (COS), so no resident goes hungry. We will also have a donation jar present to accept cash, or checks made out to Community Outreach Services. These funds allow COS to purchase food items from Good Shepherd Food Bank at a discounted rate. We were so glad to see

a great turnout at the June Election, even with the dreary, rainy day and we can't wait to see you on election day, Tuesday, November 7th!

If you find you are in need of food assistance, please reach out directly to Community Outreach Services online to schedule a date and time that works for your family to shop at the food pantry. Go to COSkennebunks.org and click on the food link to set up an appointment.



One of our Stuff the Bus volunteers during the June 2023 election

VILLAGE PARCEL PLAN UPDATE

By Laurie Smith, Town Manager

In the fall of 2018, the Town purchased an 87-acre parcel of land between North Street and School Street which came to be known as the Village Parcel. In the spring of 2019, the Selectboard appointed the Village Parcel Committee to undertake a visioning process with the community. Over the next year, the committee held stakeholder meetings, multiple public sessions, and a three day long visioning process, involving approximately 400 people over 14 meetings. At the end of the process, the committee presented the Selectboard with the report "A Vision for the Village Parcel." Unfortunately, the process was coming to completion at the same time the COVID-19 pandemic began, and much of the momentum and planning were put on hold to deal with more pressing issues. Even though the project was put on the back burner, it did not come to a complete stop. The Town has undertaken a variety of measures to move forward with the Village Parcel vision.

1. The main path was cleared of construction debris, and a small parking area and trail system were built at either entrance of the parcel.
2. The Town hired Acorn Engineering to develop an updated construction estimate for the infrastructure in 2021.
3. The Town entered negotiations with The Climate Initiative (TCI) to purchase a parcel of land for their headquarters. Ultimately, TCI decided to purchase a lot elsewhere in Town; however, the process was helpful for understanding how development could occur on the lot.
4. The Town has authorized the design and engineering for a new Town Hall building to be located at the North Street entrance to the parcel.
5. The Town authorized a study of a zoning layer initiating a form-based code for the parcel.

One of the most effective land-use tools for shaping pedestrian-scaled, mixed-use, and active urban environments is a form-based code. It is an alternative zoning tool that uses pictures, diagrams, and simple language to describe the look of a community that

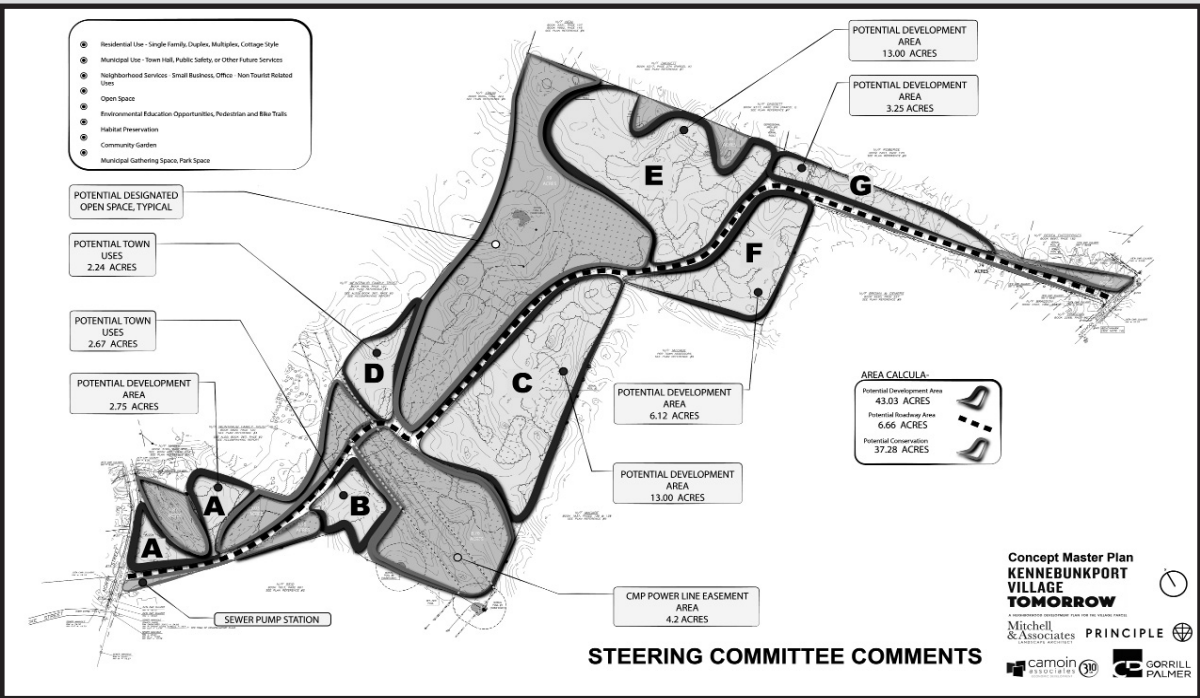
residents find desirable. During the many public listening sessions, we found people describing the areas they love and enjoy being in, most notably places like the Village area and Cape Porpoise. Currently, Kennebunkport's zoning does not allow for the creation of a vibrant, walkable village area. Our 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 Communities in the United States use some type of form-based code to allow for these traditional development patterns that notably exist throughout New England.

As Town staff undertook the form-based code proposal, they began to question whether more updated information needed to be gathered first to create a firm foundation of understanding on which to base the code. The original Town survey and visioning process occurred in 2019, and the market analysis is now four years old. This is especially concerning when we examine the vast changes that have arisen in the

real estate market since the pandemic. Questions have surfaced regarding the accuracy of this data in this new real estate world, as well as the citizens' desire to implement an updated zoning model that would create the village feel that so many were attracted to during the visioning process.

In order to develop the foundation for future actions, the Town has contracted with Camoin Associates and Principal Group to survey the community, analyze the financial feasibility for the development of various uses, and present the citizens with three development concepts that will lead to a preferred concept. This chosen development plan will be the basis for our zoning on the parcel. The estimated timeline is six months.

Between August and September, citizens have had the opportunity to complete a survey as the first step in the process. Survey results were due by September 11th and the consultants will then tally the findings and report back to the Selectboard and citizens as we begin to develop the vision for the Village Parcel.



Village Parcel Potential Development as proposed in "A Vision for the Village Parcel."

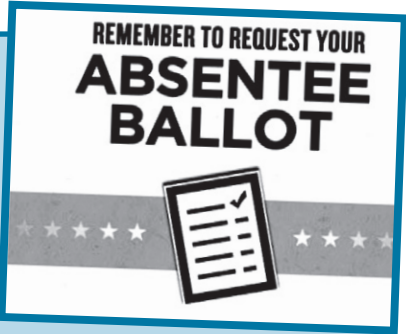
PLEASE NOTE:

The last day to request an absentee ballot is

Thursday, November 2nd

[TITLE 21-A §753-B.2]

Absentee ballots are now available at the Kennebunkport Town Clerk's Office for the upcoming State Referendum Election and Special Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. If you have any questions about absentee voting or to request a ballot, please call the Town Clerk at 967-1610.



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 Thursday, November 2, 2023, until 7:00 pm to conduct absentee voting, to register any person eligible to vote and to accept any enrollment/address changes.

Update to LD290

By Becky Nolette, Town Assessor

In August of 2022, the Legislature passed LD290 in an effort to alleviate the tax burden for seniors by freezing their tax bill, for tax year beginning April 1, 2023. Unfortunately, after much debate, the legislature repealed LD290. The program had allowed Maine seniors 65 and older who owned a permanent residence for at least 10 years to freeze taxes at the previous year's level regardless of income.

The legislature did not replace LD290, but instead expanded two existing programs to provide property tax relief, which will go into effect in 2024. The two programs are the State Property Tax Deferral Program and the Property Tax Fairness Credit. Further information can be found below. Please let us know if you have any questions, you can reach our Town Assessor at bnolette@kennebunkportme.gov or (207) 967-1603.



The State Property Tax Deferral Program

allows certain individuals to defer (postpone) payment of the property taxes on their primary home until they pass away, move, or sell the property. While the individual is in the Program, the State reimburses the municipality for the deferred taxes. The deferred tax, plus interest, must be repaid to the State by the individual or their estate when they pass away, move, or sell the property.

Eligibility: At least 65 years old; or Unable to work due to a permanent disability.

**In the case of joint owners, only one must meet the age/disability criteria. In addition to the age/disability criteria, to qualify you must meet certain other guidelines.*

Income. Your income during the previous calendar year must be less than \$80,000.

Assets. If you are single, your liquid assets must be less than \$100,000 (less than \$150,000 if more than one owner). Liquid assets are things that you own and can be turned into cash in a short period of time. This includes, for example, bank accounts and life insurance policies, but doesn't include your house or car.

Changes: The income limit on the program is \$80,000, with a liquid asset limit of \$100,000 (for a single person) or \$150,000 (for couples).



Maine Property Tax Deferral Program

Property Tax Fairness Credit Eligible Maine taxpayers may receive a portion of the property tax or rent paid during the tax year on the Maine individual income tax return whether they owe Maine income tax or not. If the credit exceeds the amount of your individual income tax due for the tax year, the excess amount of credit will be refunded to you.



Maine Property Tax Fairness Credit

Eligibility: Homeowners or renters who meet all of the following requirements:

1. Were Maine residents during any part of the tax year;
2. Owned or rented a home in Maine during any part of the tax year and lived in that home during the year as a primary residence;
3. Paid property tax* or rent on the primary residence in Maine during the tax year;
4. Meet certain income and property tax and/or rent paid limitations during the tax year; and
5. Are not married filing separately.

**For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2022, property tax paid includes amounts paid on the taxpayer's behalf during the tax year by the State to the municipality under the Property Tax Deferral Program.*

Changes: The Property Tax Fairness Credit, which currently allows eligible Mainers to take a \$1,500 credit, has increased to \$2,000; the limits on the program have also loosened in a way that allows the benefits to remain constant for a Mainer whose spouse passes away.

Is assistance available to apply for the credit?

Yes, Maine Revenue Services will assist taxpayers with Form 1040ME and Schedule PTEC/STFC. For help, call 207-624-9784 weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Closed on State recognized holidays.

It is important to note that these are State programs and while the Town plays a role in the administration of them, the Town is not responsible for the policy objectives of these initiatives. Any questions or concerns owners have regarding this program should be directed to your legislative representative.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THESE STATE ADMINISTERED PROGRAM IS AS FOLLOWS:

Taxpayer Contact Center: 624-9784 or, taxpayerassist@maine.gov

Income Tax Division: 626-8475 or, income.tax@maine.gov

Property Tax Division: 624-5600 or, prop.tax@maine.gov

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS:

STATE SENATOR (District 34) Re-elected November 2022:

Joseph Rafferty (D-York) Email: joe.rafferty@legislature.maine.gov

Daniel Sayre, State Representative (D-Kennebunk)

Email: daniel.sayre@legislature.maine.gov

NEW FACES

Marybeth Gilbert

1. Where were you born, and where did you grow up?

I was born in Utica, New York, considered “upstate” New York. I grew up in Utica, 30mins south of the Adirondack Park. My backyard and playground were the lakes and mountains of the Adirondack Park. At an early age, I developed a love and appreciation of the outdoors, a respect for the wilderness, and those that make their living from the land.

2. Tell us a little about your family.

I am the youngest of 8 children. My parents were of the “greatest generation.” They instilled in us a strong work ethic, respect for others, and the need to give back to the community and society. My husband and I do not have any children, but we treated our past three Labrador Retrievers as if they were. We do have nieces and nephews and now grand nieces and nephews.

3. What is your work history?

I went to Clarkson University and received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and later a graduate MBA. I had a 35-year career working at the Xerox Corporation. I started my career in Engineering, designing and developing products, worked in Corporate Strategy, and during the later part of my career, ran a global business for Xerox.

4. What is your favorite thing about being on the selectboard?

Working with very talented and dedicated people within the town government, town departments, and residents to deliver on the needs of the community.

5. Why is Kennebunkport your home?

I could not imagine another place where I would want to live. This is where I feel the most like “me.” Maine is where the woods meet the ocean, and the sense of peace that comes from these two natural resources. Kennebunkport exudes charm and warmth, given the friendliness and “realness” of its residents. I love the outdoors, and



I am a true northerner; I enjoy our winter season.

6. What inspires you?

There are three general themes that inspire me. First, the need to continue to learn and work to solve problems and challenges. Second, being surrounded by talented people from all vocations. Lastly, our United States flag and all that it symbolizes as freedom and justice for all. I have worked globally and seen those that struggle for freedoms, have ancestors that came to this Country for the opportunity, and have a parent that fought in WWII. I am very grateful for all the opportunities this Country has provided me.

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

I have worked hard to develop the art of listening. Everyone has something to add from their own life experiences or background. To prejudge someone for whatever reason leaves a resource underutilized and an opportunity lost. Working together, finding common ground is a strong collective way to move forward.

Isabella Smith

1. Where were you born?

Where did you grow up?

I am the 4th generation in Kennebunkport. I grew up around family who stayed in Kennebunkport their whole lives.

2. Please tell me a little bit about your family.

My family has lived here for generations and a lot of my family are on the fire department and are EMTs. I have a younger sister who goes to Kennebunk High School.

3. What is your work history?

I have worked at local businesses before but most recently was a pharmacy technician in Scarborough which opened the interest in health science for me. I also work part time at a golf course club house as a bartender.

4. What is your favorite thing about your position?

My favorite thing about my position is it gives me the opportunity to help the community in some way. I also get to get experience in first response.



5. Why did you choose to work in Kennebunkport?

I chose to work in Kennebunkport because I grew up in town and love Kennebunkport. I'm happy I got the opportunity to work here.

6. What do you like to do in your spare time?

In my spare time I like to make soaps and lotions for my small business Goose Rocks Goods. I like to attend local craft fairs for my business as well. I also enjoy playing volleyball and paddle boarding.

Erin Sullivan

This summer we welcomed a season employee, Erin Sullivan, as the Audubon Shore Bird Volunteer Coordinator. Erin is studying Marine Science but wants to focus on Conservation and Education Outreach. She works full time at a Veterinary Hospital, but when she's not working, she volunteers her time at wildlife rescues as well as monitoring the beaches and the plovers this summer. Erin's favorite thing about her position is being able to watch the chicks grow and educating people on the chicks. In her spare time she loves spending time with her pets, a 10-year-old Great Dane and a 5-year-old cat, as well as going on hikes, traveling, and exploring.



To learn more about Erin's experience this summer see page 6.

Meet Susan Holleran – New School Board Member

1. Where were you born?

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Poughkeepsie, NY. My family moved to Atlanta for a year or so and by the time I was 2 we moved back home to NH, which is where my parents were born and where my extended family lived.

2. Tell me a little about your family.

I am the youngest of five children. I have two daughters, both in RSU21. We also have a dog and two cats. And innumerable field mice :)

3. What is your work history?

I've worked in the public and private sectors for 25 plus years. Today I lead US communications for Mercer, which is a consulting firm with about 7k colleagues in the US and about 25k colleagues around the globe. Prior to Mercer, I led an ESG thought leadership program at the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, which is part of the United Nations system.

4. What is your favorite thing about being on the School Board?

Helping to solve challenges to provide the best possible experience for students of RSU21, while supporting teachers and the administration. Learning about what matters deeply to our community. I appreciate the perspectives that the community shares - in particular during the public

comment period of School Board meetings.

5. How are you connected to Kennebunkport?

We've had a family home in Wells, ME, for about 30 years so I've spent a lot of time in the greater KPT area. That's why I decided to move here with my children. I am so fortunate to be a part of this wonderful community and to raise my kids here.

6. What inspires you?

My children. The immensity of our universe. Nature. The dynamism and diversity of the world we live in.

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

Your voice and your input matters. Continue to engage with the Board, and I hope to see you at the next School Board meeting.



Piping Plovers – Small Actions, Big Impacts

Erin Sullivan, Audubon Shore Bird Volunteer Coordinator



A team of dedicated scientists and volunteers meet on the white sands of Goose Rocks Beach. Come rain or shine, they're setting up roped-off areas, walking up and down the beach with binoculars, and chatting with curious beachgoers. Between April and September, 28 different beaches across Maine are monitored by Maine Audubon's team of biologists and conservationists, who report and advocate for Piping Plovers. Piping Plovers are small, charismatic shorebirds who visit our beloved beaches in the spring and summer months to nest and raise their young. During the colder months, the nesting adults are searching the beach for the perfect spot to call home. Piping Plovers nest directly on the sand along the dune grass. Being sand-colored, this can make them difficult to see in the warmer months as the beaches become more crowded with tourists and locals alike, putting the Piping Plovers and their nests in danger.

Maine recognizes Piping Plovers as endangered, while they are federally recognized as threatened. Piping Plovers play an important role in maintaining the balance of our beautiful beaches. Their foraging behavior helps control the populations of insects and small invertebrates. These migratory birds face many threats including the loss of habitat due to coastal development, increased human interaction and pet disturbances, natural predators, and even rising sea levels due to climate change. Conservation efforts made by Maine Audubon through their Coastal Birds Project, Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, and other state and federal agencies have helped track the local population health of Piping Plovers since 1981. With the aid of local volunteers, monitors, and landowners, the Piping Plovers stand a fighting chance. The team conducts regular surveys of nesting sites, monitors chick survival rates, and educates the public about the importance of giving these birds the space they need to thrive.

Goose Rocks Beach had 15 nesting pairs for the 2023 season, and from those nesting pairs, 17 fledglings made it to their migration south for the winter.

The 2023 Piping Plover season was one filled with challenges and an uncharacteristically rainy summer, but that didn't keep our team away from the beaches. This season was my first working with the Piping Plovers. I moved to Maine a year ago from the landlocked Midwest, having never heard of the Piping Plovers. But it didn't take long for these little birds to steal my heart. Working closely with Maine Audubon and the Town of Kennebunkport, not only was I able to learn about the importance of Piping Plovers, but I was also given many opportunities to teach our local community about how we can all help protect them. Beyond the realm of research, community involvement has proven instrumental in the conservation of piping plovers. An amazing realization during this experience was how many people in our community banded together to learn and even volunteer to be a monitor for Goose Rocks Beach. Through outreach programs designed with the teams at Parks and Recreation, Maine Audubon, and the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee, I was able to present invaluable information to people of all ages and backgrounds, all of whom agree that the Piping Plovers are just so adorable!

This summer proved to be an exciting and educational adventure. While the Piping Plovers are well on their way down south for the winter, the teams up here in Maine will continue working to educate and plan for next season when they return. If I've learned anything this summer, it would be that no action is too small, even for small little birds.

For more information please visit Audubon – Coastal Birds Project, <https://maineaudubon.org/projects/plovers-terns/>



Erin teaching summer campers at Kennebunkport Parks & Rec about Piping Plovers (left) and the plovers made by some of the campers (right).



Firefighter Appreciation Banquet

Last night we were able to host the Kennebunkport Fire Department's Annual Firefighter Appreciation Banquet for the first time since COVID and it was a great evening honoring the firefighters who fearlessly protect our community. The banquet is an opportunity for appreciation and acknowledgement of all the hard work our firefighters do



Recipient of the 65 year longevity award: Freeland K Smith with Chief Everett.

throughout the year including training, community outreach, equipment maintenance, and responding to calls. In addition to a delicious dinner provided by The Nonantum Resort, awards were presented for longevity, top participants in training, and top responders.

Above all, the banquet served as a reminder of the immense gratitude we have for our firefighting community. To those in attendance and those who could not make it, we offer our appreciation and thanks for your courage, selflessness, and commitment to our community



Recipients of the 5 year longevity award

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):

1. Come into the Town Clerk's office Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM– 4:30 PM.
2. Mail your current rabies certificate and check to: Town Clerk, P.O. Box 566, Kennebunkport, ME 04046.
3. 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.



Chalk the Port – 5 Years of Creativity and Community Celebration!

Chalk the Port celebrated its fifth anniversary this year on September 9th. The fun began Saturday morning as chalk artists began and the first ever Chalk the Port Craft Fair opened. We were thrilled to have about 30 local vendors join us for our first year, many the same as those who join us for our Prelude Craft Fair. The turnout was great, and the first 150 people who came received a Chalk the Port Craft Fair shopping bag thanks to our Craft Fair Sponsor, Northeast Bank. Early shoppers enjoyed breakfast options from KPort Bagel and Congdon's Donuts. Creative Soul Art Studio provided a free Mini Open Studio from 10am-1pm.

We were graced with musical talent from 12-7pm with the Dock Squares, Paul Chase, Jr., and Ocean Avenue. A big thanks to Batson River Brewing & Distilling for sponsoring entertainment for the day. Food trucks provided tasty treats, we were joined by Maddie's Acai Bowl Truck, Bowllicious, and Moe's. Additional refreshments were provided by Batson River



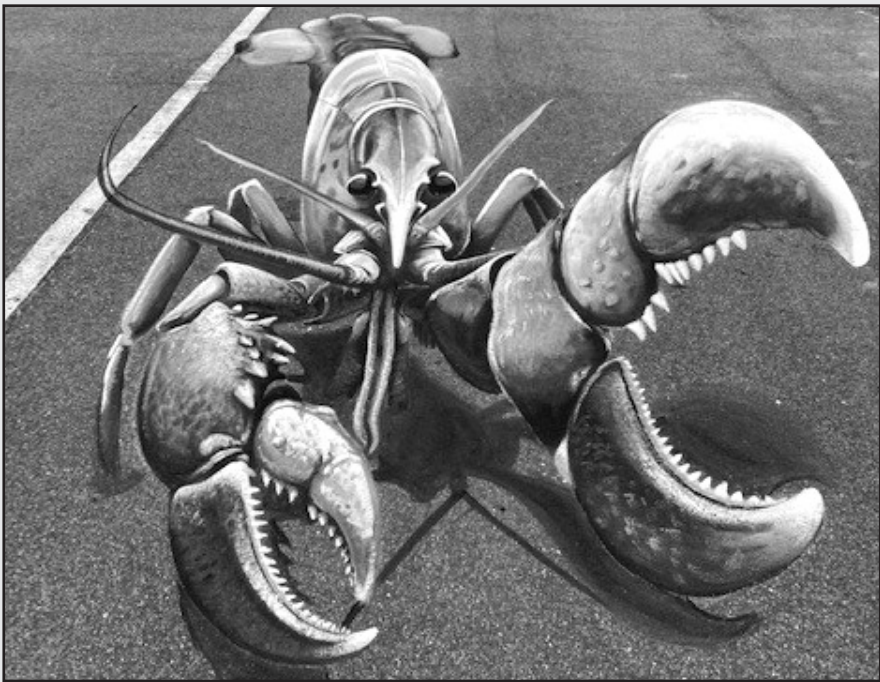
Brewing and Banded Brewing.

At 3pm, the Youth Art Bus, sponsored by Alisson's, rolled in and kids of all ages were invited to participate in fun art activities. In addition, a giant cube covered in chalk paint

was decorated art by creative spirits, young and old. As always, we topped the day off with the Carnival of Color, a family-friendly celebration with carnival games and prizes, bounce houses, live music, and food and drinks.

Chalk the 'Port is made possible through the generous support of local businesses and community organizations. Their commitment to nurturing the arts and promoting cultural events ensures the success of this vibrant celebration year after year. The event organizers would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to all of the sponsors and especially the Platinum sponsor, Port Lobster and Cape Pier Chowder House.

Thank you so much to everyone who has made this event possible for 5 years running, we couldn't do it without the support of our community.



Ki with the Selectboard after receiving her award.

Ki Leffler Receives 2023 Spirit of America Award

By Hope Mowry-Wall, Communications and Events Specialist

At the Kennebunkport Annual Town Meeting on June 17, 2023 the Spirit of America Award was given to Ki Leffler.

The Spirit of America Award is presented to local individuals, organizations and projects for commendable community service. It celebrates the spirit of giving back to our communities through volunteerism. A perfect example of this spirit is found in Ki Leffler.

Ki, or Kathryn, Leffler is well known for her deep commitment to her community. In addition to her busy schedule as a realtor for Coldwell Banker, she and her husband Bill are deeply passionate about supporting and giving back to their community.

She has served on the Budget Board since 2009 and was a long-time member of the Shade Tree Committee (from 1998-2015), a cause she truly loved and was devoted to during her many years on the committee. Ki does not just serve on these committees, but brings the same passion and drive that makes her successful in her professional efforts. While serving on the Budget Board, she was part of a sub-committee to create a new application form for non-profits and a new process for the Town to use to determine which groups they will contribute to.

In addition to her civic contributions, she is also a member of the Kennebunk Portside Rotary Club, living their motto, "service above self."

Congratulations Ki on this well-deserved recognition!



CITIZENS' ACADEMY 2023

First Ever Kennebunkport Citizens' Academy

By Yanina Nickless, Director of Municipal Support Services

The first Citizens' Academy has been launched by the Town of Kennebunkport, embodying an idea sparked by Jonathan Noyes, a resident and dedicated fisherman, during his involvement at Cape Porpoise Pier. Upon stepping into the Town Hall, he shared a revelation: "I've witnessed your work from a resident's standpoint, yet I never knew how much you were actually doing until now."

This elegantly simple notion had the potential to be deeply impactful - why not provide our residents an authentic glimpse into our daily undertak-

ings? Collaboratively, the Department of Support Services worked with Department Directors to orchestrate an encompassing program that illuminated the various facets of municipal governance. Over the course of five Wednesdays, beginning on September 13 and ending on October 11, 2023, participants delved into the municipal structure and Town's governance, embarked on facility tours, navigated diverse maps, and delved into the future envisioned for Kennebunkport. Most importantly, beyond the facts and figures of how the Town works, participants made connections with

Town staff members and with each other.

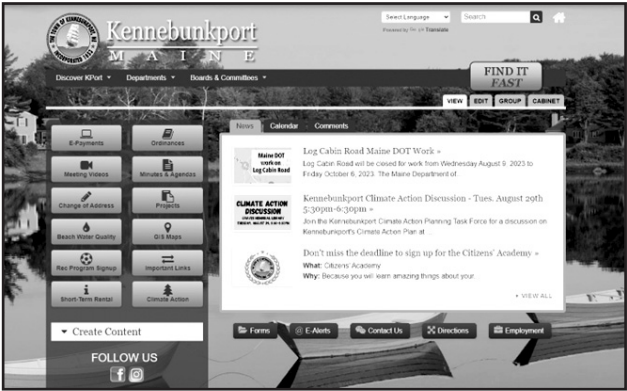
Admittedly, encapsulating a week's worth of dedicated effort over 40 hours into a single session is a formidable task. Nonetheless, we tackled relevant subjects and endeavored to address many questions. We hope this academy is a testament to our commitment to honesty, transparency, and nurturing our sense of community. Thank you so much to all who joined us, it was a pleasure working with you all. Join us for the next Citizens' Academy in Fall 2024!

One Click at a Time

By Yanina Nickless, Director of Municipal Support Services

The Town's current website, established in 2014, has remained largely unchanged since its inception, with only essential updates provided by employees. However, in the swiftly evolving realm of IT, a website's lifespan typically spans around five years, a reality felt acutely within our Town. The presence of limited tools and applications further compounds the challenges faced in day-to-day operations. Recognizing the need for improvements, Town employees initiated explorations into a new website in 2020. This quest began with a committee comprised of Town employees who conducted a series of vendor interviews. Although they successfully identified a top contender, the perspective remained predominantly internal. The project trajectory shifted when the Support

Services team assumed the reins. The new approach prioritized resident input, anchoring our efforts in the community's feedback and experience with the website. A diverse website committee, composed of professionals specializing in communications, marketing, public relations, and IT, was convened. With defined agendas and preparatory tasks, the committee convened twice to coalesce insights. Its mission encompassed the formulation of a comprehensive Request for Proposal (RFP) and the articulation of their vision for the new website. Throughout the process, we meticulously scrutinized analytics, tracked prevailing website trends, examined logistical nuances, and studied prevailing themes in municipal websites across the United States. Additionally, committee members delved into the existing website to assess its



user-friendliness and offer candid feedback. Drawing from these endeavors, we crafted a thorough RFP, which was subsequently dispatched to potential website vendors and the Maine Municipal Association in July. We received six proposals back, and, after a thorough process, the Committee chose Revize as a potential vendor to re-design, host, and maintain the Town's website. Stay tuned for more website updates and follow our step-by-step process, so we can see a new website in the summer of 2024.

Boat Ramp at Langsford Road

By Dave Powell, Technology Specialist

A public boat launch has long been identified as a need in the community. In October of 2022, a Boat Launch Committee was formed to find for an appropriate site. After examining about twenty potential sites, the Committee recommended that the Town purchase property on Langsford Road. The Langsford Road site rated the highest due to ease of access, Cape Porpoise proximity, and current use. In the June 2023 election, voters approved the purchase of the Langsford Road property and the purchase was finalized at the end of July.

A web application to schedule use of the boat ramp was launched the first week of August along with a page on the Town website with instructions on registration and reservations as well as answers to frequently asked questions. As of the end of August, there are more than 50 accounts on the web app and things have been running smoothly.

Use of the boat ramp is available to all Kennebunkport residential property owners, full-time residents, and all current Cape Porpoise area mooring holders. Please visit <https://kportboat.com> to schedule use of the boat launch.

When you first visit the site, you will fill out a registration form. The Kennebunkport Harbor Master will do a one-time confirmation that you are a taxpayer or mooring holder and approve your account.

Once your account is approved, you can log into the site to select a half-hour time slot to use the boat ramp. The site uses tide depth data to determine appropriate use times each day when the water depth is two feet or more. Each user is permitted two time slots per seven-day period. Reservations can be made up to seven days in advance. Once you have made your reservation, the site will provide you with the gate padlock's code. The code is changed frequently to limit unauthorized access. It is important to note that Langsford Road is small and narrow. Vehicle and trailer parking on Langsford Road is not permitted outside of your launch-time window.

The Town is excited to offer this boat ramp as a resource to the community. If you have any questions about its use, please contact Kennebunkport Harbor Master Frank Orr at 207-967-5040.



SECURITY CAMERAS AT GOVERNMENT WHARF

By Dave Powell, Technology Specialist

The Town was able to purchase and install security cameras at Government Wharf on the Kennebunk River in August of 2023. The cameras were purchased with grant funding the Town secured from the York County Emergency Management Agency.

The five cameras will provide visibility of the activities going on at the wharf and bait shed to the Harbormasters of Kennebunkport

(Frank Orr) and Kennebunk (Jamie Houtz) as well as the Kennebunkport Police.

One of the five cameras is a PTZ (pan, tilt, zoom) type that will be focused on the mouth of the Kennebunk River. The video from this camera will be streamed to a website that can be accessed by the public. We are excited to have this security camera system and public webcam in place in the near future!



Public Health Department Services:

Kennebunkport Public Health 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 events, classes we support locally as well as projects we are working on.

Please visit our website and subscribe.

Contact us directly 967-4401 with any nursing, health officer, or social service need. Office hours are: Mon-Fri 8-9:30am or by appointment.

Need a ride?

The Kennector is a service that provides rides for neighbors, by neighbors, door to door service. It is powered by ITNCountry. Rides are arranged by a ride coordinator. Affordable rates: \$2.00 base fee + \$0.50 a mile with \$5.00 minimum charge. Rides are not restricted to medical appointments! Call 207-604-1366 or visit www.kennebunkmaine.us/kennector for more information.



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).



Sergeant Jason Hafner Awarded Municipal Employee of the Year by The Chamber

We are proud to announce that Sergeant Jason Hafner of the Kennebunkport Police Department has been awarded the Municipal Employee of the Year Award by the Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, and Arundel Chamber of Commerce. He received his award at the DRIVE Annual Awards on Wednesday, September 13th.

Sergeant Hafner started his law enforcement career in Kennebunkport and served as the school resource officer at Mildred Day School in Arundel. Jason is a certified academy instructor as well as a field training officer and radar instructor. Jason has been instrumental in the yearly training for summer staff and was promoted to Sergeant in 2022. Congratulation to Sergeant Hafner on this well deserved recognition!



Sergeant Hafner and Chief Sanford after the awards ceremony.

New Programs at Parks & Rec



Don't miss out on new programs at Parks and Rec this fall!

Join us for **Family Meals with Flora!** While preparing a delicious meal for everyone to enjoy, Flora of Frinklepod Farm will share helpful tips, techniques, and ingredients for helping your family try new foods and broaden their palates.

Have you ever thought to yourself, "Wow, the Recreation Department puts on so many fun activities for children, I just wish they did something for adults." Well, you're in luck!

Adult's Night Out takes all the stress and decision

making out of figuring out what to do! This is an adult program that we are creating for ages 21+. This program will be running at the same time as Parent's Night Out so that parents with younger children can have the opportunity to join us for all the fun.

To sign up for programs at Kennebunkport Parks and Recreation visit our website at www.kennebunkportrec.com.

For any questions please contact the office at (207) 967-4304.

Parks Master Plan Update

By Stephanie Simpson, Director of Parks & Recreation

The Parks Master Plan is a comprehensive and inclusive initiative that aims to shape the future of community spaces here in Kennebunkport. The process commenced with a survey distributed to residents in January 2023, ensuring that their voices and preferences were at the forefront of the planning. Subsequently, stakeholder meetings in February engaged various interest groups, fostering collaboration, and aligning objectives. A public meeting took place in April, allowing the community to provide direct input and insights, further enriching the plan's vision. The nature of the plan involved additional stakeholder consultations to ensure a well-rounded approach. This culminated in the meticulous preparation of final drawings, encapsulating the collective aspirations and needs expressed throughout the process. This fall, these comprehensive drawings were thoughtfully presented to the Board of Selectmen, marking a significant milestone in realizing a vibrant and purposeful future for the community's recreational spaces.



Online Dog Registration is Available!

By Tracey O'Roak,
Town Clerk

As much as we enjoy having you come to town hall to register your dogs, we understand that it is not always easy to get here during our regular business hours (8:00 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 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)

NEW SPEED SIGNS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Craig Sanford, Chief of Police

Late this spring, the Town began a campaign effort to promote safer driving in Kennebunkport. At the center of the campaign were new digital signs displaying real-time vehicle speeds to drivers. An expansion of our enforcement tool kit, the signs are a traffic calming measure to get drivers to slow down while lowering the possibility of an accident and promoting safe road conditions for all. We have used the signs in our most traveled areas such as North Street, Goose Rocks Beach area, and Mills Road. Police officers have noticed improvements in speeds while conducting enforcement actions. We also see the need to conduct speed enforcement in conjunction with the signs due to some drivers ignoring the warnings displayed by the signs.

The signs also collect traffic count data to better understand high traffic times allowing us to make decisions in using additional resources as necessary. Unfortunately, we have been able to confirm that some folks have chosen to inappropriately skew the data collected by speeding past the signs to create a "speeding problem" that actually does not exist. It is sad that this happens and needs to be considered when reviewing the data from the signs. As an example of vehicle counts we have seen this summer, between July 19, 2023, and August 9, 2023, a total of 52,271 vehicles passed by the Village Fire Station on North Street heading towards Dock Square.

Over three months, from April 19, 2023 through July 19, 2023, 180,007 vehicles passed by the North Street fire station heading out of town with an average speed of 28 MPH. As of August 9, 2023, the Kennebunkport Police Department has conducted over 1,285 traffic stops in 2023 with a fine amount of \$13,240.00.

To help spread awareness of the campaign, lawn signs displaying the "No Need to Speed!" slogan were made available to residents. The first order of 150 signs were quickly adopted and seen all over town. We appreciate the support and commitment to community safety.

We all need to remember that while these signs are a great tool for improving road safety, they are just one



part of a traffic management strategy. If we want to promote safer driving habits and roadways it takes community support, good road design, educational opportunities, as well as enforcement to make it work.

PROJECT UPDATES

PROJECTS PAGE ON WEBSITE

To Town has worked to create a Projects page on the Town website where projects in progress will be posted and updated as available. In addition to updates posted on the Town’s website, social media, and in the Town Newsletters, this is a great way to learn more about proj-

ects going on in the town. This page of the website is in progress, but if there are any projects in particular you would like to have on this page contact our Communications Specialist, Hope Mowry-Wall at hmowry@kennebunkportme.gov or (207) 967-4304.



Wildes District Road

By Chris Simeoni, Director of Public Works

The Town has approved the funding for the first phase of the Wildes District Road reconstruction project (from Wildes District Fire Station to Ward Road). Through public discussions with residents it was decided to replace the deteriorating sidewalk leading from Cape Porpoise Square and widen the shoulders to improve walkability and safety. The first step in any road reconstruction project is to develop a sound drainage system to protect the road base. The Public Works crew are actively working on the drainage. They are replacing culverts and improving the ditches to accommodate the runoff. Additional infrastructure such as catch basins will also be installed. We are expecting to complete drain-

age work this year. Funding to reclaim the road will be part of the FY2025 budget request.



Pump Stations

By Chris Simeoni, Director of Public Works

As discussed in the Spring 2023 edition of the Town Newsletter, the work plan for three pump stations in town, approved by voters in 2021, is underway. The three pump stations currently in progress are the stations at Wildes District, Paddy Creek, and Cape Porpoise. Work is moving along as scheduled, the pump station at Wildes District is on track to be finished by the end

of 2023, with 75% of the work done by the end of August. The pump station at Paddy Creek was demolished in August with installation of the new pump station beginning in September. Reconstruction of the pump station at Cape Porpoise began in September and substantial completion of the project is expected, as planned, in Spring of 2024.

Cape Porpoise Causeway/Pier Road

By Chris Simeoni, Director of Public Works

The Town of Kennebunkport received a resiliency grant to raise the causeway to Bickford Island 4.5 feet. The final design and permitting phase of the project was completed in June. The project was advertised for bids on August 10 with bids opened August 31st. After a review of the bids the vendor

was chosen for the project at the September 14th Selectboard meeting. The project is on schedule with construction expected October, 2023 and be substantially completed in May 2024. The goal is to maintain accessibility to Cape Porpoise Pier and Bickford Island during construction.

Cape Porpoise Pier

By Chris Simeoni, Director of Public Works

The Cape Porpoise Pier project includes the replacement of the bait shed, the addition of a Harbor-master office, replacement of fuel tanks and fuel system, expansion of the pier, and a new float system for recreational boats, and a pump out station. Staff applied for both Maine DOT Small Harbor Improvement (SHIP) funds and Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding to offset the costs of the project. The Town successfully received a \$2.1 million Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant and a \$500,000 Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP) grant towards the project. The design, permitting and cost estimate portion of the Cape Por-

poise Pier Reconstruction project has been completed and submitted to the US Economic Development Administration and Maine DOT for review as part of their grant approval process. Currently the project is set to go to bid in January with bids received in late February. Reconstruction work would commence in November 2024 with the project substantially complete in the spring of 2025.



Town Wide Radio System Upgrade is Nearing Completion

By John Everett, Fire Chief

Back in early 2019, the Public Safety Committee, consisting of Chief Everett, Chief Sanford, Mike Claus and Chris Simeoni, started meeting to discuss shortcomings with the present town wide radio system. The issues we had were the same across the board, poor transmitting, poor receiving, and aging 20 plus year old equipment that was no longer supported by the manufacturer. We consulted with 2-Way Communications in Portsmouth, N.H., who have been maintaining our existing system for many years. They were shown our entire radio system and asked them to identify the best solutions for the Town. After an in-depth review of our current radio system, it was decided the best direction for the Town would be to replace our existing radio system with a more robust structure. The committee agreed that the goal would be to increase our radio range, both in transmitting and receiving ability and to allow for future expandability. Our consultants advised the best way to increase our radio range was to add two receive and transmit sites for a total of three

sites in town. We kept the receive and transmit site at Police Department and added sites at the Wastewater Plant and the Goose Rocks Beach fire station. Both new sites required the installation of a free standing 120-foot tower along with radio equipment installed in the buildings to operate the new system. The new equipment gives us the ability to communicate on different bands, VHF, UHF and Digital, and the new system uses all three of these bands. The way this is accomplished is each site consists of an antenna for each frequency and a microwave receiver and transmitter that links all three tower sites together. Here is an example of how this works, an employee working near the Biddeford town line on route 9, keys the microphone on their portable radio and sends a message to someone else working in Dock Square. The radio signal they send would most likely enter the radio system via the antenna at Goose Rock Beach Fire Station. It would then be transmitted via a microwave link to the water tower on Crow Hill

where it would be microwaved to Dispatch and the other receive and transmit site at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The receiving employee gets the message via the Wastewater antenna. The receiving employee’s message would return to the original sender in a reverse order through the radio system. This sounds like it would take noticeable time, meaning a delay in the intended recipient getting the message. All transmissions happen in milliseconds. In early July, we flipped the switch to using the entire radio system as designed. The change was very dramatic. Areas in town where radio coverage was not accessible by portable radio in the past were able to be heard by Dispatch. All employees that rely on a radio for the performance of their job are now safer, with a continuous link to Dispatch. Previously, many places in town, Dock Square, Cape Arundel area, Smith Preserve, New Biddeford Rd. to name a few, had no communication via a portable radio back to Dispatch. With the new system online, all areas are now radio accessible, even via portable radios, which have



The radio tower at the Goose Rocks Beach Fire Station.

the least range. The entire system is nearly complete, but all items on the final punch list are expected to be completed by the beginning of October.

PREPARING FOR WINTER

Time to think about the cold winter months ahead

By Craig Sanford, Chief of Police

Every year I hate to do this, but I must, it is time to think of winter and all it brings. The winter storms we have seen recently not only bring the usual power outages and tough travel conditions but also flooding in the usual areas (Dyke Road and Ocean Avenue). Now is the time to get your home and personal items ready as well as having a plan to leave your home should the need arise. Here are some items to focus on as you prepare:

- Have an emergency kit ready that you can take with you should you need to leave your home. In this kit should be extra food, clothing, money, medicines, water and a first aid kit. Plans should include what you are going to do with pets. Make plans with family members or friends to stay at their house. Hotels and Motels are an option but may be closed or full.
- Get your home ready to ride out the storm at home. Have heating sources maintained and fueled. Ensure you are following the manufacturers directions when using alternate heating sources and generators. Insulate water pipes and ensure doors and windows are sealed off from drafts. Have alternate lighting sources available should the power go out.
- Charge all required electrical devices BEFORE the storm! Make sure to have your car maintained and full of gas. Have a shovel and extra blankets in the trunk.
- Ensure you have extra blankets and warm winter clothing in case the power goes out.
- Stay inside during the storm. We consistently see folks out in the height of the storms in most cases just to get a picture. It is unnecessary and risks the lives of everyone involved.
- Avoid traveling. Unless necessary, you are just risking getting into an accident. DO NOT drive through large areas of water nor go around barricades and traffic cones.
- Listen to the local weather forecasters and officials. Should it be recommended you leave the area, do so. We may not be able to get to you in severe conditions.
- If you have neighbors or family members that may need some assistance, take the time to check on the before and during the storm.

We have small booklets available at the Police Station and at Town Hall as a check list for preparing for events like a winter storm. You can also visit Maine Emergency Management's website for more information - <https://www.maine.gov/mema/maine-prepares>. Safety is the top priority in any natural event. Plan now to avoid risking family and loved ones later.

Join the Confidential Call List

By Alison Kenneway, Director of Public Health

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 you are in your home or a shelter facility. As we saw during last winters' storms, extreme weather events can be difficult on all community members, but especially

those without additional supports. 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!

Holiday Food Baskets/Holiday Meals

By Alison Kenneway, Director of Public Health



Community Harvest and Community Outreach Services (COS)



will be working to provide families in need a holiday meal or supplies to make a holiday meal. An outline of the programs offered is below, but please call the Public Health office 967-4401 to request information or if you wish to sign up.

COS will be continuing their Holiday Food Basket Program in which they deliver the supplies to make a holiday meal. For more information visit their website coskennebunks.org/our-programs/food-programs/ If you are interested

in volunteering, please visit their website coskennebunks.org/volunteer



Community Harvest will once again be offering Project Pilgrimage and the Noel Dinner this holiday

season. They are excited to share that they will be offering delivery, pick-up, and dine-in options. Dine-in will be by reservation as there is limited space. If you are interested in volunteering with Community Harvest for these events or their general efforts, please call (207) 967-1911.

Do you need fuel assistance?

By Alison Kenneway, Director of Public Health

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 or go to yccac.org and click on the fuel assistance link. Kennebunkport residents are fortunate to have the Kennebunkport Emergency Fuel Pro-



HEATING ASSISTANCE

gram. 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 office in a timely manner if fuel is needed.



Secret Santa is making a list and checking it twice

By Alison Kenneway, Director of Public Health

The holidays are coming up! Please contact the Public Health Department for a Secret Santa Application, or find it on line on the Public Health Department page under the Town of Kennebunkport if you need help meeting your child's special wish list this

year. Applications are to be filled out by parents or legal guardians only. The child must reside in Kennebunkport, Arundel or Kennebunk to qualify for this program. Santa's goal is that every child in our tri-town area has a special holiday.

Flu vaccine - Covid vaccine update;

By Alison Kenneway, Director of Public Health

Plan accordingly to keep yourself healthy this coming flu season! Flu vaccines and covid boosters are available from many places including your physicians office, local pharmacies, walk-in clinics. For more information about flu vaccines and covid boosters visit: www.kennebunkportme.gov/public-health-department

Here is a list of locations offering flu and covid boosters this fall:

- Walgreens, Kennebunk, Wells, Biddeford
- CVS, Kennebunk, Wells, Biddeford
- Hannaford's, Kennebunk, Wells, Biddeford
- Walmart, Biddeford
- Target, Biddeford
- Wells Urgent Care
- York Hospital and affiliated physicians' offices



- Southern Maine Health Care, Biddeford and affiliated physicians' offices
- Southern Maine Walk In Care: Kennebunk, Saco
- Martins Point, Biddeford
- Community Pharmacy, Saco
- Local Roots, Kennebunk

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER

October 2nd

◆ Short Term Rental Portal Opens

October 4th & 5th

◆ Public Health Foot Clinics

October 5th

◆ Town Hall Open House

4 pm - 6pm

October 9th

◆ Town Offices Closed

October 10th

◆ Town Hall Open House

4 pm - 6pm

October 15th

◆ Dog Registration Opens

October 18th

◆ Death Café at Graves Library

October 19th

◆ Flu and Covid Vaccine and Booster Clinic - 4 pm - 6 pm at the Village Fire Station on 32 North Street

October 27th

◆ Zombie Dash

Zombie Dash

Don't forget to sign up for the **Zombie Dash on October 27th!** Join in the fun of this Nautical Nightmare in the family friendly wave or test your courage during the "x-treme" wave! Register online at www.kennebunkportrec.com.

NOVEMBER

November 1st & 2nd

◆ Public Health

Foot Clinics

November 2nd

◆ Last day to request an absentee ballot for the November 7th election

November 7th

◆ Election Day

November 10th

◆ Town Offices Closed in observance of Veterans Day

November 23rd and November 24th

◆ Town Offices Closed in observance of Thanksgiving

FOOT CLINICS;

Take advantage of our monthly foot care clinics offered by the Kennebunkport Public Health Department.

Clinics are by appointment from 9:30am to 3:00pm

on the days listed. The cost is \$35.00, payable in cash or check to the Town of Kennebunkport.

Schedule an appointment by calling: 207-967-4401

REMEMBER;

The last day to request an absentee ballot for the November 7th election is:
Thursday, November 2nd
Per State Law
(Title 21-A §753-B,2)

DECEMBER

December 1st

◆ Tree Lighting Ceremony in Dock Square & Cape Porpoise Lobster Trap Tree Lighting

December 2nd

◆ Prelude Craft Fair at KCS

December 6th & 7th

◆ Public Health Foot Clinics

December 8th

◆ Tree Lighting Ceremony in Dock Square

December 9th

◆ Prelude Craft Fair at KCS

December 24th

◆ Town Offices closed ½ day in observance of Christmas Eve

December 25th

◆ Town Offices closed in observance of Christmas Day

December 29th

◆ Last day to register dogs in person

December 31st

◆ Short Term Rental Applications Due

◆ Last day to register dogs online

JANUARY

January 1st

◆ Town Offices closed for New Year's Day

January 3rd & 4th

◆ Public Health Foot Clinics

January 15th

◆ Town Offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

FEBRUARY

February 19th

◆ Town Offices closed in observance of Presidents' Day

MARCH

TBA

◆ Kennebunkport Parks & Recreation Egg-Stravaganza

APRIL

April 15th

◆ Town Offices closed in observance of Patriots' Day

