



KENNEBUNKPORT Town Review

A newsletter for the residents of Kennebunkport

Number 34

Spring 2021

ecomaine

DO recycle

PAPER

- All clean cardboard, paperboard, & pizza boxes (NO FOOD)
- Newspaper & inserts
- Magazines
- Mail & catalogs
- Paper bags
- Office paper, envelopes, & window envelopes
- Wrapping paper
- Phone books
- Books
- Paper plates (clean)
- Milk & juice cartons
- Drink boxes & aseptic containers
- Shredded paper (put in clear plastic bags)

PLASTIC

- Water bottles
- Milk jugs
- Detergent bottles
- All rigid containers marked #1-7 (except Styrofoam)

METAL

- Tin cans
- Aerosol cans (empty)
- Aluminum cans & foil
- Pots & pans

GLASS (all colors)

- All glass bottles & jars

All rigid containers must be **EMPTY** (not perfectly clean)

This is not a complete list! Search more than 1,000 items at ecomaine.org/101

DON'T recycle

NO PLASTIC BAGS!



Plastic bags & wrap:

- Trash & shopping bags (empty or full)
- Plastic wrap or film
- Bubble wrap or mailers
- Tyvek or plastic envelopes
- Bread bags
- Potato chip & snack bags
- Sandwich baggies
- Animal food bags
- Frozen vegetable bags
- Pellet bags
- Newspaper bags
- Boat wrap or tarps

Styrofoam (even if it's #6)
Paper towels, napkins, or tissue
Needles & sharps
Large metal parts (car, boat, truck, etc.)
Gas tanks (propane, helium, oxygen, etc.)
Wood & lumber
Pipes (metal or plastic)
Clothing & shoes
Bedding & pillows
Batteries:
alkaline
button-cell
rechargeable & lithium-ion
Light bulbs (any type)
Garden hoses
Diapers (baby or adult)
Food or plants (compost these)
Kitty litter
Knives & blades
Toys
Vinyl siding
Wax-coated paper & boxes
Rope, string, chain

Learn more at ecomaine.org/101 or call 207-523-3100

Kennebunkport Recycling: Update and Spring Family Event

By Jon Dykstra, Solid Waste Committee



We are pleased to report that recycling is alive and well in Kennebunkport. Our first few months of recycling material delivered to ecomaine has remained under the contamination threshold at which we would be charged a penalty fee. We have come perilously close but have not gone over. The take-away is that our "Community Awareness" of what is recyclable and what is contamination (not recyclable) is good but needs to improve to ensure that recycling can continue in our Town.

To that end, we will be holding a **Spring Recycling Family Event** at the Town's Parks and Recreation Center (off School Street) on June 26th between the hours of 9:00 AM

and 2:00 PM. The education and outreach folks from ecomaine will be there to answer all your recycling questions, hand out recycling bins (while they last), recycling Do and Don't magnets, and other educational materials. Other surprises are planned - place it on your calendars and do not miss it.

Recycling success by the numbers shows that Kennebunkport is keeping 21 tons of recyclables out of solid waste sent to landfills and incinerators every month. We hope to increase that number as the vacation season starts this summer and we see an influx of residents and guests in town.

Our recycling contamination rate has been

See **RECYCLING** page 2

Electric Vehicles Assist Town in Reaching Climate Goals

During the fall of 2020, the Board of Selectmen discussed town climate change goals and adopted their priority list of goals. One of those goals was to reduce municipal fossil fuel consumption and

implement municipal energy efficiency measures. An opportunity developed this winter with Hyundai. The Town was offered the opportunity to lease an electric

See **GOALS** page 2



Public Health Director, Alison Kenneway, using the nurses' Hyundai Kona to visit patients throughout town.

TOWN OF KENNEBUNKPORT
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Proposed ordinance amendments for June 8, 2021 Annual Town Meeting

By Jamie L. Mitchell, Town Clerk

Question #1 on the ballot proposes to make amendments to the animal control ordinance, specifically as it pertains to the times dogs may be present on the beach, and when a leash must be utilized.

Question #2 on the ballot proposes to create an ordinance that will require disclosure and licensing of residential short-term rentals operating within the Town of Kennebunkport and require them to meet certain performance standards.

Question #3 on the ballot proposes to make a minor revision to the Land Use Ordinance in that it would add residential mixed use as a conditional use to the Dock Square Zone, increase the number of residential units from two to four.

Question #4 on the ballot proposes to make amendments to the Administrative Code, specifically as it pertains to the use of Assessors' Agent and authorize the Town to appoint a position of Assessor, along with all duties currently afforded the Board of Selectman in processing and approving requests for abatements, exemptions, and the like.

State extends deadline for late fees on licensing dogs

In continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Mills has enacted Executive Order 29 FY 20/21 which amends EO 35 FY 19/20 and extends the legal requirement to license dogs until June 2, 2021. Residents are urged to take advantage of this additional time and promptly register their four-legged friends online or in person at the Town Hall. Failure to properly license your dog after the June 2nd deadline may result in late fees being applied and referral to the municipal Animal Control Officer for enforcement.

Dog licensing is an important step in safeguarding animals against the spread of rabies and protecting your pet if he/she should get lost or find itself in trouble!



Goals

from page 1

vehicle through Hyundai at \$0 for three years. These vehicles will eliminate about 6 tons of carbon

dioxide emissions per year. The Selectmen authorized the lease of two vehicles: one for the Public Health Department and one for the Town Office.



Planning and Development Director, Werner Gilliam, heading out in the town office Kona to perform inspections.

Town of Kennebunkport Annual Town Meeting June 8, 2021

– PLEASE TAKE NOTICE –

To the voters of Kennebunkport: You are hereby notified that the Annual Town Meeting of this municipality will be held at the **Village Fire Station, 32 North Street**, in said Town on **Tuesday, the 8th day of June, AD 2021, at 8:00 AM**, for the purpose of acting on Articles numbered 1 and 1a (Election of Officers) as set forth in the Town Warrant.

The polls for voting shall be opened immediately after the election of the Moderator at 8:00 a.m. on June 8, 2021, and shall close at 8:00 p.m.

The continuation of said meeting will be held at the **Consolidated School, 25 School Street**, in said Town on **Saturday, the 12th day of June AD 2021, at 9:00 AM**, for the purposes of acting on the Articles (Funding and Non-Funding Articles), as set out in the Warrant.

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

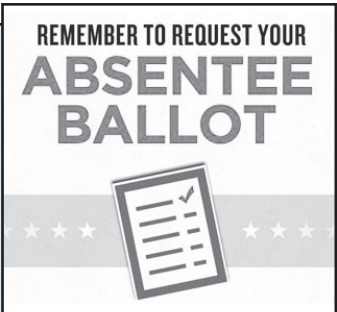
Attested copies of the Town Warrant as well as Sample Ballots are posted at the Town Offices, 6 Elm Street.

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

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

Jamie L. Mitchell
Town Clerk

Absentee Ballots are now available



Absentee ballots are now available at the Kennebunkport Town Clerk's Office for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021. 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, June 3rd [Title 21-A §753-B.2]

Recycling

from page 1

less than 5%. Contamination materials such as plastic film, Styrofoam, plastic bags, and molded plastic household items with no recycling number have been found in recycling bins in small amounts. To keep our recyclables marketable, we need to continue to have mate-



rial in our bins that is not mixed with solid waste. You can help by reading our recycling Do and Don't chart and using your computer search engine with the key words "ecomaine Recyclopedia" if you have a question about whether an item is trash or recyclable.

Proposed changes to the animal control ordinance

Town voters will have an opportunity on June 8th to vote on proposed changes to the rules regarding dogs on our Town's beaches. The proposed changes were designed by four members (all of whom are dog owners) of the Beach Advisory Committee and adopted unanimously by the BAC and subsequently by the Board of Selectmen.

Why change the existing dog ordinance?

The present ordinance was last amended in 2015. Since that time there have been several changes at our beaches, particularly at Goose Rocks Beach:

1. Much more intensive use of the beach, both summer and off-season. There simply are more people seeking to enjoy the beaches in the summer and, while not the same volume as in the summer, many more people enjoying the beach even on cold winter days. In the summer season, citations for violations of the dog rules have doubled just in the last two years (from 19 in 2019 to 38 in 2020).
2. Increased presence of endangered birds for whom GRB has been designated an "essential habitat" for over 30 years. When the present ordinance was enacted, piping plovers were found primarily in the west end of GRB. In recent years these protected birds have been found nesting as far east as Jeffrey's Way. The Town can be held liable by both federal and state environmental agencies if it does not take sufficient steps to protect the birds and the fines that can be levied against the Town (and dog owners) have increased substantially.

What are the goals of the proposed changes?

1. There are three constituencies for the beach – individuals/families, endangered birds, and dogs. Design a dog ordinance that protects the use of the beach for people and the

endangered species while keeping dogs a part of the beach.

2. Simplify the dog rules. Make it easier for the public to understand when and how they can have their dogs on the beach to encourage voluntary compliance. And make it easier for our Police Department to enforce compliance when voluntary compliance fails.

What are the changes?

Let's look at the existing and proposed rules season by season:

1. April 1 through June 14

Existing: Dogs can be on the beach any time of day – must always be on leash in the West End Plover Protection Area and anywhere on the beach within 200 feet of a marked plover nest – other parts of the beach dogs must be on leash but may be off leash (under voice/sight control) from 6:00-7:30 am.

Proposed: Dogs may be on the beach any time of day but must be on leash at all times.

What's the difference: Increases plover protection during nesting season (Apr 1–Sept 15) by eliminating 1½ hrs/day of off-leash time.

2. June 15 through Labor Day

Existing: Dogs are prohibited on the beach from 8:30am-6:00pm from June 15 through Sept 30. Dogs may be off leash from 6:00-7:30am. Dogs must be on leash 7:30-8:30 am and after 6:00pm.

Proposed: Dogs are prohibited on the beach from 9:00am-5:00pm from June 15 through Labor Day. Any time dogs are allowed on the beach they must be on leash.

What's the difference: Dogs gain an extra 1½ hrs of beach time each day and almost an additional month of being allowed on the beach at any time of day (Labor Day

through end of Sept). Increases plover protection by eliminating off-leash time.

3. Day after Labor Day through Sept 15

Existing: Through Sept 30 dogs must be off the beach from 8:30am-6:00pm. Must be on leash at all times except 6:00-7:30 am.

Proposed: Dogs may be on the beach any time of day but must be on leash at all times.

What's the difference: Dogs are allowed back on the beach at any time of day almost a month earlier than under present rules but must remain on leash during the first half of Sept to protect endangered birds during balance of nesting and migrating season.

4. Sept 16 through March 31

Existing: Through Sept 30 dogs must be off the beach from 8:30am-6:00pm. Must be on leash at all times except 6:00-7:30am. Beginning Oct 1 dogs can be on the beach any time of day – may be off-leash if under voice/sight control – except must be on leash from 12:00-2:00pm

Proposed: Dogs are permitted on beach any time of day – may be off leash if under voice/sight control – except must be on leash from 12:00-6:00 pm

What's the difference: Increases the amount of time from 2 to 6 hours when people can walk the beach without encountering unleashed dogs but allows the major part of the day for dogs to enjoy some off-leash time.

In summary, the BAC believes that the proposed changes to the dog ordinance recognize the changes in the beach over recent years, increase necessary protections for endangered species, simplify the rules and better balance the interests of people, endangered birds, and dogs.

Short-Term Rentals: To license or not?

By Werner Gilliam, Director of Planning and Development

The subject of short-term home rentals has become a rather explosive topic with the continued expansion of online rental platforms such as Airbnb, HomeAway, VRBO, etc. Short term rentals, or STR's, are generally understood to be the rental of a home or rooms within a private home to a single group for a period of less than 30 days. The opinions surrounding short term rentals are as varied and extreme as one can imagine. Opinions range from entitled economic use of one's own property to the cause of the loss of character and affordability in traditional neighborhoods. Regardless of the position one takes, it is by far one of the most well-known components of the everevolving shared economy, and unlikely to diminish in use. Shared economies allow individuals and groups to make money from under-used assets. Simply put, homes and other assets are shared as services.

As a popular coastal community, the Port has his-

torically had several areas that have had many short-term rentals. Goose Rocks beach, as an example, has historically been a popular short-term rental destination. Before the advent of the internet, local real estate agents handled many of the rental requests. How many were in town before the internet is not generally known, but we know that in 2018 we had approximately 248 short term rentals in the community impacting about 8.42% of the existing housing stock. That number has continued to increase over the past few years with around 280 being reported as of May 2021.

In 2020, the Board of Selectmen, amid growing concern, started the public conversation again with numerous meetings reviewing many drafts of proposed licensing language with this expressed purpose:

The purpose of this ordinance is to require the disclosure and licensing of short-term rentals

operated within the Town of Kennebunkport. Furthermore, this Ordinance is intended to ensure that residential neighborhoods are not unduly impacted by the operation of short-term rentals within the Town. This will be accomplished by a licensing program that enables the Town to monitor and track the proliferation of short-term rentals within its borders, includes modest performance standards intended to protect property owners, renters, and neighbors along with limits to the numbers of short-term rentals within the community. Due to the historic nature and longstanding tradition of short-term rentals within the Goose Rocks Beach neighborhood, this limited area will not be subject to licensing limits; it will, however, still be subject to all other requirements in this ordinance.

So, what does this ordinance generally contain?

See QUESTION #2 page 4

Question #2

from page 3

Here are some notable elements:

- Licensing will be available for legal residential units; current commercial lodging establishments are not part of this ordinance. Please note that some residential units, such as recently approved accessory apartments, may not be eligible, as they are intended for

long term residency.

- The licensing process will be primarily handled online via an internet-based service, with the goal of making the initial registration and subsequent reregistration as efficient as possible. A call-in hotline will be available to handle any potential complaints.
- Properties will need an inspection which will check for several basic life safety items.
- Initial rollout will give adequate opportunity

for all properties to register before Selectmen consider a cap on licenses. Goose Rocks beach area, due to its historic nature of being a predominantly short-term rental community has been exempted from any possible cap, however homes are still subject to licensing.

- Licenses can be revoked following a complaint process that is then reported to the Board of Selectmen.

– Question #3 –

Changes to Residential Mixed Use

By Werner Gilliam, Director of Planning and Development

Several years ago, the voters of Kennebunkport approved a residential mixed-use standard that would allow two residential units to be constructed above a commercial structure without triggering a larger lot size requirement. Since that was approved in 2015, we have yet to have any constructed. Based on some recent feedback and a review of potential properties, this warrant article would add Residential Mixed Use to the Dock Square Zone and increase the

number of residential units from two to four, as well as allowing multiple buildings, provided all applicable setbacks and coverage requirements are met. With these modest tweaks, this use could be made such that several existing properties could more easily be retrofitted to meet the intent while retaining the requirement that residential units be maintained and used as primary residences. Where Dock Square has a number of these currently, it seems to be a log-

ical revision that gives property owners more flexibility as well as continuing to provide some more year-round housing options. On site parking is required as part of this use. Housing remains an important topic for Kennebunkport, in particular finding ways to provide year-round housing opportunities for residents, these modifications will provide some needed regulatory relief to help assist in that goal.

– Question #4 –

Change to the Administrative Code

By Werner Gilliam, Director of Planning and Development

The assessor is a local government official who estimates the value of real property within a city, town, or village's boundaries. This value is converted into an assessment, which is one component in the computation of real property tax bills. The position and role of municipal assessors in the State of Maine can vary from town to town. In the beginnings of the legislature, many roles were often delegated to the Board of Selectmen, who in many small communities, carry on the day-to-day operations and work of the property assessor. This is typical in communities with small populations and little development. State law allows a variety of options for communities to handle the required duties when the job becomes too com-

plex, or the selectmen have no technical expertise in the field of assessing. These options are:

- Selectmen are the assessors and perform the job duties as assigned.
- Selectmen appoint an agent to operate on their behalf (assessors' agent). In this setup, the day-to-day operations are performed by the agent, but major decisions are still made by the selectmen.
- An appointed assessor who is certified by the state of Maine handles the day to day, as well as has the authority to make major decisions.

Kennebunkport has exercised all these options at

one point or another during its history. Some folks may remember Don Hempell who was the town's assessor until the 1990's. At that time, the town reverted to an agent status and utilized the services of Donna Moore Hayes, an independent contractor for many years. Most recently we have had on staff Becky Nolette, who is a certified Maine Assessor (CMA) performing the duties of assessor. The warrant article, as proposed, would allow the Board of Selectmen to appoint Becky to the position of assessor as opposed to agent, which will better reflect her actual role and work duties that she performs. The Selectmen fully support this amendment as Becky has proven to be an outstanding professional in her role.

Comprehensive Plan Update

By Werner Gilliam, Director of Planning and Development

In 2020, the Growth Planning Committee (GPC) continued the work on updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan but at a slower pace than originally planned. As part of the Town immediate response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many committees and projects were placed on hold including the update of the Plan. The GPC along with our consultants on this project, Thomas Morgan of TMZ Planning and Liz Durfee from EF Deign & Planning, were making excellent progress thru our meeting on March 20, 2020 prior to this stop.

The project resumed with our meeting on

October 6, 2020. The stoppage of work put us behind schedule. There were several outreach events planned in the late Spring and Summer of 2020 that had to be postponed until 2021. These outreach events are especially important to gain valuable insight from Town residents and other stakeholders on many aspects important to the Plan. The project schedule has been re-worked to hold these events in the late Spring and Summer of 2021. Additionally, we have added on-line surveys for 2021 to provide another method to garner your comments and ideas on different topics important to our Town.

This comprehensive plan is being drafted with Kennebunkport's climate future in mind. All chapters as they are being drafted have an emphasis and outlook towards the future of our climate as well as helping the community prepare for a resilient future. Please visit <https://kennebunkportcp.info/> to see all the chapters in their draft format as they are being worked on. Links to mini surveys are here as well. If you wish to hear about the work of the Growth Planning Committee, please sign up at <https://www.kennebunkportme.gov/subscribe> and select Growth Planning Committee to be alerted to their meeting agendas.

Wastewater Department Project update and capital funding request

By Christopher Simeoni, Deputy Director, Public Works

It has been a long time since our own Maine Senator Muskie introduced the Clean Water Act (CWA) which was enacted in 1972. The CWA led to Title II construction grants for the construction of Wastewater Treatment Facilities. At its introduction, the Federal government provided 75% of funding and 25% was provided by State and local agencies. Regulation combined with funding led to the construction of wastewater treatments plants and sewer system upgrades throughout the country including Kennebunkport in the early 1980s.

Federal funding subsided to 55% in 1981 and further reduced in 1987 to low interest loans we know today as State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans.

Most municipal infrastructure is designed with an anticipated life of 25 to 33 years. The system operates 24 hours per day and 365 days per year.

The collection system consists of 95,000 feet of gravity sewers, 14 major pump stations (including 30,000 feet of force mains), 3 minor pump stations, and 88 grinder pump stations. Operators mechanically maintain the plant, pump stations, and clean the sewers and force mains as solids may deposit.

The treatment facility is designed to accept and treat a million gallons per day of wastewater. Operators conduct lab analysis of the incoming flows and make operational and chemical adjustments in the treatment process to remove over 90% of the organics and disinfect the outgoing flow. Organics removed from the waste stream are composted and reused for its nutrients.

Our goal is to provide seamless service to our residents, merchants, and those visiting our community.

We are continuously planning and maintaining in an effort to balance risk and expenditures, also known as a criticality analysis.

Our 20-year Capital Improvement Plan, which is updated annually, now utilizes two studies, the **Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP)** and the **Fiscal Sustainability Plan (FSP)**. These studies assist us

in answering those criticality analysis questions. The CAP evaluates the resiliency of our infrastructure and the FSP evaluates the condition of our infrastructure and establishing a fiscally sustainable maintenance schedule. The plan outlined an investment of \$32,926,000 over the next 20 years to complete replacement of critical equipment and assets.

Current priorities

In the upcoming fiscal year, we will be requesting \$6M in capital funding through a bond resolution. This bond resolution will be voted on at the June 12th, 2021 Town Meeting. The funding will be used to upgrade and replace the following 40-year-old infrastructure that are currently showing signs of imminent failure:

- Secondary clarifier's mechanical systems-responsible for removing the floating and settleable solids from wastewater after biological treatment.
- Upgrade the sludge dewatering equipment-responsible for dewatering the wasted sludge. (necessary to meet regulatory requirements)
- Replace three major pump stations (Cape Porpoise, Paddy Creek and Wildes District)-These pump stations are a critical chain of stations responsible for conveying all untreated wastewater from Goose Rocks



Picture of rotted stilling well in one of the secondary clarifiers.

Beach and the Cape Porpoise areas of town back to the treatment plant for treatment.

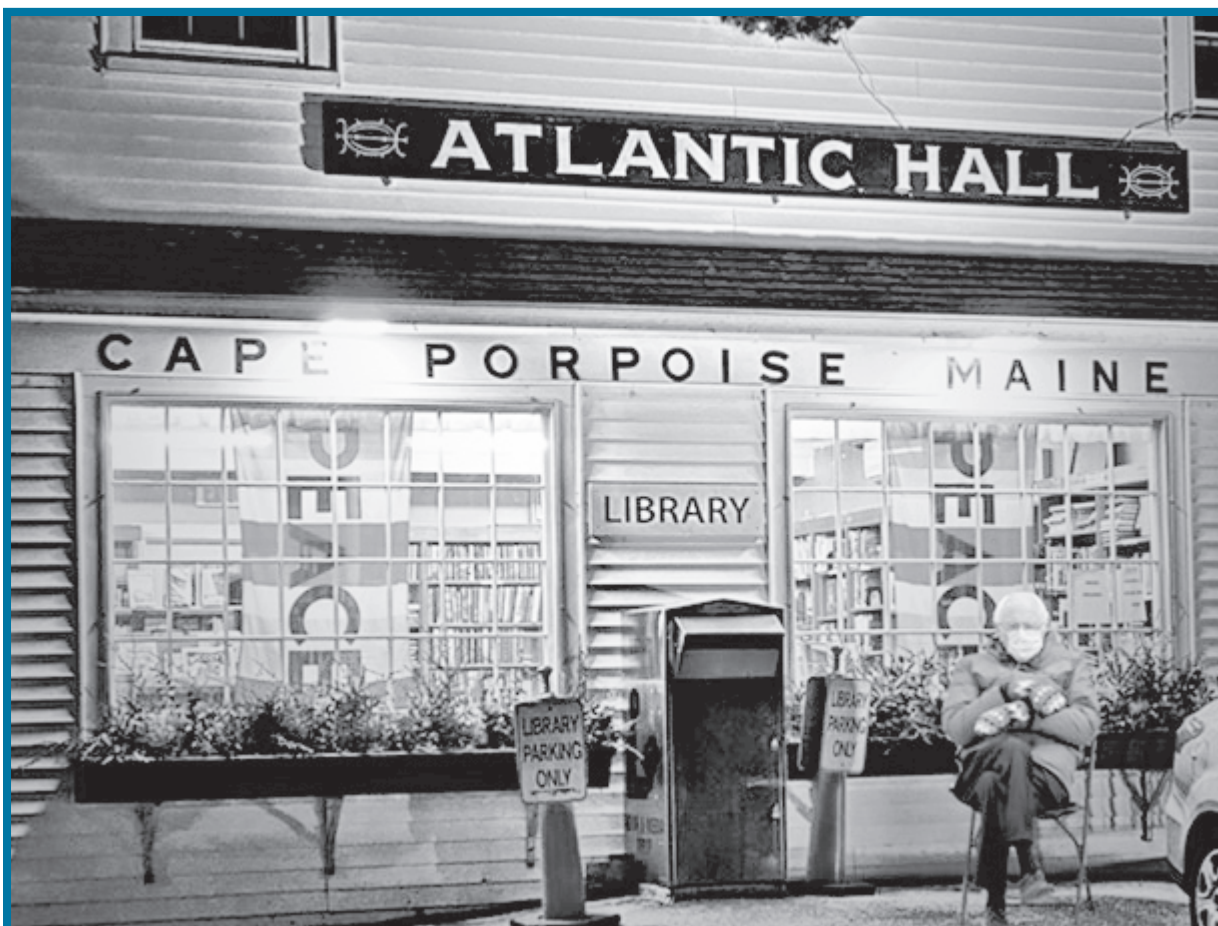
Failure to keep these assets functioning properly will deeply impair our ability to meet our MEPDES discharge permit requirements and possibly result in legal enforcement action by Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) and Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

It is imperative that we begin immediately replacing and/or upgrading these assets to prevent catastrophic failure. Systematically addressing our infrastructure needs will reduce undue financial, social and environmental risks to the Town of Kennebunkport and its rate payers.

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



Picture of rotted gate valve from Wildes District Pump Station resulting in \$11,000 emergency repair. See hole in bottom right-hand side of casting.




This past winter as Bernie was making his rounds, he found his way to the Cape Porpoise Library!






Selectmen Adopt Climate Change Goals


The Selectmen continue to discuss the importance of climate change in Kennebunkport's future planning. This resulted in the adoption of Climate Change Goals and priorities which the Selectmen adopted this past winter. To move these goals forward it will take the effort of all departments, leadership, and multiple committees and partners. The current comprehensive planning effort will include climate change throughout the document, and departments are integrating climate goals throughout the budgeting process.

In FY 22, the Police Department will be purchasing its first hybrid







police vehicle, the town entered into a lease for two electric vehicles, and we have budgeted for a climate change planning effort. Meanwhile the Town is still supporting the five-town cooperative with Southern Maine Planning Development Commission to employ our regional sustainability coordinator and has been accepting bids for a solar community cooperative project with five other towns.



The first set of goals include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, education, community resilience, and energy efficiency. The goals marked with a  are seen as a priority.

Climate and Resilience		
1. Establish a GHG emissions inventory, target, and plan		
	• Measure & Monitor GHG Emissions from Municipal Operations	Conservation Commission / Town Staff
	• Measure and Monitor GHG Emissions Community Wide	Conservation Commission
	• Develop a local climate action plan	Board of Selectmen
2. Ensure community resilience to climate change impacts		
	• Complete the Maine Flood resilience Checklist to assess coastal vulnerabilities	Planning and Codes / Sustainability Coordinator
	• Assess all other non-coastal vulnerabilities to create a comprehensive picture of current and future climate change impacts	Growth Planning Committee as part of Comprehensive Plan / Town Staff
	• Enact and enforce land use policies that protect valuable natural assets and support resiliency	Growth Planning Committee / Planning and Codes
	• Partner with other local governments to plan and achieve sustainability	Board of Selectmen / Town Manager






Education and Outreach		
1. Actively engage community members in local climate, sustainability, and resilience issues		
	• Educate community about steps they can do to reduce emissions and become more resilient	Kennebunkport Climate Initiative and Conservation Commission
	• Educate the community about clean energy options	Kennebunkport Climate Initiative and Conservation Commission
	• Promote native and sustainable landscaping initiatives community wide by connecting residents to plants and information	Kennebunkport Climate Initiative and Conservation Commission
	• Educate the community about the value of trees, native and sustainable landscaping	Conservation Commission / Shade Tree Committee
	• Educate city staff about forest, wetlands, and ecosystem best management practices	Department Directors / Town Manager
	• Educate community about steps they can do to reduce emissions and become more resilient	Kennebunkport Climate Initiative and Conservation Commission
	• Educate the community about clean energy options	Kennebunkport Climate Initiative and Conservation Commission

Green Economy		
1. Create and promote a community brand featuring natural resources or cultural characteristics of community		
	• Create and promote a community brand featuring natural resources or cultural characteristics of community	Kennebunkport Business Association, Chamber of Commerce, Town

Energy		
1. Reduce municipal fossil fuel consumption and implement municipal energy efficiency measures		
	• Collaborate with utilities and other agencies to upgrade streetlight equipment	Lighting Committee and Public Works
	• Utilize energy saving performance contracts (ESPC) to finance large energy efficiency projects	Town Departments
	• Budget and plan for long-term energy efficiency equipment upgrades	Town Departments/ BOS/ Budget Committee
	• Install and operate renewable energy systems at municipal facilities or serving municipal facilities	Town Departments/ BOS/ Budget Committee
	• Procure locally produced, renewable energy for public facilities using bundled or unbundled RECs	Town Manager / Board of Selectmen
	• Collaborate with other municipalities to install and operate renewable energy systems for municipal energy / community energy use	Town Manager/ Board of Selectmen
	• Track and benchmark building energy consumption and seek ways to improve energy efficiency in all facilities	Town Manager/ Department Directors
2. Support development of and access to renewable energy		
	• Adopt codes and permitting practices that support renewable energy systems in the community	Planning and Codes
	• Facilitate the adoption of renewable energy technologies (i.e. solar, geothermal) by adapting building and zoning codes	Planning and Codes

Land Ecosystems		
1. Promote and practice environmentally-friendly and sustainable landscape approaches		
	• Increase the quality and amount of sustainable landscaping in the community	Conservation Commission / Town Manager / Department Directors
	• Increase the amount of sustainable landscaping in the community through subdivision and development codes	Planning and Codes / Growth Planning Committee
	• Increase native and sustainable landscaping on municipal properties	Town Manager / Department Directors / Conservation Commission

Community forest management		
2. Practice sustainable community forest management to increase resilience		
	• Plant trees in locations where they make a direct, positive impact on the community or act as a buffer to filter air and water, limit storm runoff, and stabilize soil	Town Staff / Shade Tree Committee
	• Diversify the community forest for long term resilience	Town Staff / Town Forrester
	• Optimize tree planting and protect existing trees for maximum carbon storage/sequestration and energy savings	Shade Tree Committee

Municipal Operations		
1. Lead by demonstrating sustainable values and practices		
	• Achieve LEED certification for public building projects	Town Manager / Board of Selectmen
	• Manage special events sustainably	Department Directors / Town Manager
	• Integrate sustainability into capital planning	Department Directors / Town Manager / Board of Selectmen
	• Enact policies to preserve dark skies	Lighting Committee / Board of Selectmen
2. Operate a safe, clean, and efficient fleet		
	• Update fleet purchasing to prioritize electric vehicles	Department Directors / Town Manager / Board of Selectmen
	• Enact and enforce anti-idling policies for public fleet vehicles	Department Directors / Town Manager / Board of Selectmen
3. Engage the community in waste reduction and recycling		
	• Educate the community on recycling and composting practices	Solid Waste Committee
	• Educate the community to reduce waste by consuming less and reusing	Solid Waste Committee
	• Establish and strive for a residential recycling goal	Solid Waste Committee

Kennebunkport Heritage Housing Trust's First Neighborhood

By Patrick Briggs

Although 2020 was a challenging year, the Kennebunkport Heritage Housing Trust (KHHT) was hard at work and well on their way towards meeting the initial goal of 25 homes by 2025 and ensuring the mission of building sustainable housing options in Kennebunkport for individuals and families not served by the current housing market is being met.

Building Update

After receiving final subdivision approval in October 2020, the KHHT volunteer Board set to work finalizing the details on the six homes to be built within the first neighborhood, Heritage Woods, located on Main Street. The site, which was a former tax-acquired parcel will now be contributing more than \$10,000 per year in property taxes. As the snow started to melt, progress on the site began to move quickly. Two roads- Tigerlily Way and Briggs Way- that would provide access to the homes were established. Ground was unearthed to make way for the building footprints and the first home is scheduled for delivery in early May 2021. In the coming months, progress will continue to move quickly with homes being completed in July, August, September, and November- just in time for families to settle in before the cold does.



Lot 1:
Paddy Creek (two-story)



Lot 2:
Cleaves Cove (one-story) & Turbats Creek (two-story)



Lot 3:
Chicks Creek (one-story) & Beaver Pond (two-story)



Lot 4:
Tyler Brook (one-story)



KHHT house project in process.

Homeownership Update

In January 2021, the application period for Heritage Woods opened and KHHT was delighted (and overwhelmed) with the interest and support from individuals and families ready to become homeowners in Kennebunkport. The Trust is pleased to report that six families have been identified and are in the final stages of securing financing with Bangor Savings Bank for their new homes. Bangor Savings was chosen due to their experience with affordable housing projects and ability to partner with Maine Housing Authority and the Federal Home Loan Bank. Three of the six families are featured below.



Meet Briana, Kayden & Lilianna!

"My family and I have been searching for an affordable home to purchase in the Kennebunks for years but have gotten outbid on every home that we have submitted an offer on. I was starting to feel defeated with the housing market and thought we might end up renting an apartment forever, until we came across the Heritage Woods neighborhood in Kennebunkport. With this opportunity, I will be able to purchase the cozy childhood home for my kids that I always wish I had growing up in the Kennebunks. It truly is a dream come true for my little family of 3 and I am forever grateful for the home and the wonderful group of people that have been able to make this happen for us."



Meet Jen & Tanya!

Jen and Tanya are Kennebunkport business owners and have been searching for a home they can afford. "It still feels surreal that we are going to be able to live in one of these affordable new houses in the town we have chosen to call home. We do the work we love, together, and sometimes that means we struggle. As artisans and queer women, we have experienced some unique challenges in our 25 years together. This opportunity, created by the KHHT, offers new possibility, and eases our stress and anxiety, knowing that our next home will be our "forever home."

Meet the Knight Family!

The Knights have ties to the local area and were excited to move back home. "We had been exploring the traditional housing market, as well, and we ultimately agreed that what the KHHT was offering in terms of location and affordability was almost too good to be true," Knight said. "The idea that we could raise our son in an amazing coastal community, not unlike the one my mother was fortunate enough to grow up in 60 years ago, was too good to pass up."

Fundraising Update

Of the many things that 2020 and COVID-19 brought, the most surprising was a booming housing market. With an average home sale price of non-waterfront home at \$756,000 in 2020, the goal of making year-round, affordable housing an achievable reality in Kennebunkport became that much more important.

The Heritage Woods project is a little over \$2 million including the cost of homes, infrastructure, site work and development costs. Homeowners are purchasing the homes with a traditional mortgage at \$220,000 for the single story and \$297,500 for the two-story.

In order to achieve this goal KHHT worked diligently to secure additional support in the form of donations from grants, foundations, and community fundraising. Here are some highlights of how they are working to make this affordable neighborhood possible:

- **Foundations:** In addition to securing the donation of land (valued at \$160,500) the Trust secured \$135,000 in funding from Maine Housing Authority-critical financial support to reduce the costs of homes. Homeowners will also be able to access \$75,000 in Federal Home Loan Bank funds to lower home costs.
- **Individual Donor Support:** Since December 2020 through the generous support of individual donors, the Trust has raised over \$85,000 dollars to add to the over \$50,000 raised previously. The vast majority of that support coming from people living in or with connections to Kennebunkport.
- **Corporate Support:** Kennebunk Savings signed on as a partner in March and donated a \$15,000 matching grant. KHHT was able to secure the match within the next month totaling \$30,000 in contributions.

Supporting affordable housing has never been more important. Extensive research shows that affordable housing improves the financial, physical and social-emotional health and well-being of individuals and families. Safe, stable, affordable housing helps to create strong communities where people trust and rely on each other. A strong, vital community encourages job growth and reduces crime rates.

In Kennebunkport, supporting year-round, affordable housing means that together we will:

- strengthen our local workforce-first responders, teachers, town staff, business owners and employees, etc- can afford to live in the town where they work;
- grow enrollment at our local elementary school- the PRIDE of the 'Port;
- balance the aging and seasonal population of Kennebunkport;
- build on our deep historical roots to ensure our town remains strong, engaged and vital for years to come!

To follow along with KHHT's progress or learn how you can support the mission and work- visit www.khht.org or find them on Facebook at @heritage-housingtrust.

– KENNEBUNKPORT PUBLIC HEALTH –

By Alison Kenneway R.N., B.S.N.

Kennebunkport Public Health provides skilled nursing care, general assistance and social service needs for our town residents and guests. For more information call 967-4401 or visit the Public Health Department's web page through the town's web site. There is a lot of information there on support services, events and activities throughout our community, and local vicinity. We have a FREE durable medical equipment closet (LOAN CLOSET) filled with crutches, walkers, commodes, and shower chairs supported by the health council available to town residents and guests. Check with us before you buy! ☺ If you have any suggestions on how else we can help, please let us know. Kennebunkport Public Health is a department of the town of Kennebunkport. Our services are covered under your town taxes and private donations.

Covid 19 update:

This past year's pandemic has been a challenge for all due to covid 19. The Public Health department has been an important resource to the community. Point of care rapid molecular covid 19 testing began in October 2020. We continue providing covid testing to first responders, town employees, town businesses and town residents for a \$25.00 fee. Testing is for those who are experiencing symptoms or have had an exposure to a covid positive case. The vaccine is now open to those 16-year old and above. There are multiple sites throughout York County providing the vaccine. For more information on testing, travel testing and vaccine roll out please see the Town of Kennebunkport's website under the red banner- Covid 19. www.kennebunkportme.gov/covid-19-updates. We try to keep this site updated with the latest information for the community. Also visit Maine CDC: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/> for the most up to date information about covid 19.

Kennebunkport Emergency Preparedness Program:

One of the responsibilities of the Kennebunkport Public Health Department is to be part of the Town's disaster team. Our focus is to ensure that residents and guests medical and basic needs are met, whether you are in your home or a shelter facility. If you have difficulty getting out of your home, are on oxygen or any medical equipment requiring electricity, please contact the Public Health Office at 967-4401. We will add you to our confidential call of concern list. In the event of a severe storm, lengthy power outage

or an actual disaster this information will help us to help you!! If you have a home computer, sign on to the town website and sign up for email alerts.

Maine Healthy Beach Program:

Kennebunkport and Healthy Maine Beach Program will be monitoring Goose Rocks and Colony beaches again this summer. Weekly from Memorial Day –Labor Day, trained volunteers and town staff will be collecting water samples, testing for enterococci bacteria and site-specific data making sure the water is safe for contact. There has been no change in the EPA exceedance level of 104 enterococci (an indicator of fecal contamination) before an Advisory is posted. Again, this year a Precautionary Rainfall Advisory will be posted after an inch of rainfall within 24 hours. The posting will be in place for 24 hours after the rainfall ceases. This will allow two tidal cycles to flush out the contaminants. The mouths of the Batson and Little Rivers periodically experience elevated bacteria levels, especially during and after rainfall. It is advised to swim on the ocean side of Goose Rocks Beach and avoid water contact in the rivers for 24-48 hours following rainfall. Advisories will be posted at the beach, on the Public Health website, Maine healthy Beach website and where beach stickers are sold in town. This year beach stickers will be sold at town office, and at 2 kiosks at Goose Rocks Beach. Kennebunkport residents and guests are also reminded to please pick up after your dogs at the beach, at your homes and along the roadways to help prevent pet waste from making its way to the rivers, streams, and storm drains that feed the beach. Homeowners are also reminded to maintain their septic systems to protect their home, health, and the environment. Please follow this link for more information: www.epa.gov/septicmart. Kennebunkport is included in the 5-mile restricted area for boat pump outs.



–SAVE THE DATE–
Well Water Test Day
Saturday, June 5th
9:00–11:00 a.m.
32 North Street

WATER TESTING

Over 1000 Kennebunkport households rely on a well for their water supply. It is strongly recommended by the Department of Health & Human Services Well Water Division that you have your water supply tested periodically for bacteria, radon,

arsenic, copper and lead. Suggested test schedule: dug wells every year and artesian wells every three years. On June 5th, Nelson Analytical Laboratory along with Public Health Department are offering our annual Kennebunkport residents "Well Water Test Day". Pick up a free sample kit at the Public Health Office. Follow the quick and simple directions for obtaining the sample. Then deliver it to 32 North Street between 9-11 on June 5th. All results are confidential between you and the lab. This simple step can have a huge impact on the health of your family. Payment is expected at drop off in cash or check made out to Nelson Analytical and should be in your box with the water sample. NOTE: credit/debit cards will not be accepted.



Lawns for Lobster:

Now that winter is over, and we are busy fertilizing lawns and gardens, spraying for ants, ticks, slugs and bugs, remember all chemicals used leach into the soil. They can affect your or your neighbor's well water supply and eventually end up in lakes, rivers, and the ocean. Discuss options with your yard maintenance or garden center staff. Contact the Kennebunkport Conservation Commission for more information or check them out on the town website. www.kennebunkportme.gov/conservation-commission-0

Stuff The Bus:

Help us fill the Parks and Rec bus with nonperishable food and household /personal supplies on Election DAY, June 8th. Our goal is to stock the Community Outreach Services Pantry shelves, so no resident goes hungry. Also, we will have a donation jar present to accept cash or checks. Please make out your checks to Community Outreach Services. These funds are used to purchase food from the Good Shepherd Food bank. THANK YOU!!!!



Backpack program:

School supplies are costly! Please help us purchase and fill backpacks for our children in need. Our projected delivery date to the parents is August 12th. Please have donations to the Public Health office by

August 9th. Items we need this year are backpacks, paper, notebooks, 3 ring binders, pens, pencils, crayons for the younger students, markers, dry erase markers, rulers, index cards, and erasers, boxes of tissues, hand sanitizer, sanitizer wipes. When you are shopping, this summer pick up a few supplies and deliver them to the Public Health Office. Every little bit helps!

Drugs and sharps disposal:

The Kennebunkport Police Department accepts prescription, over the counter, and pet medications year-round. Please bring these items to Kennebunkport's secured collection green box located in the Police Department's lobby. Do not dispose of them in your trash. Medications flushed down your toilet or sink can have an adverse effect on a septic or sewer system as well as leach into our rivers and streams. Please deliver your sharps to the Public Health Department for safe disposal. The police and dispatchers are not allowed to accept the sharps. Sharps must be in a red plastic Haz-Mat box or a plastic container such as a milk jug, juice or laundry container with covers in place! Help us avoid accidental sticks. For more information on medication disposal: medreturn.com or <https://www.maine.gov/dep/waste/biomedical/sharps.html> are great resources.



Heart Safe Community:

Kennebunkport has earned the title: Maine Heart Safe Community. As part of this nationwide program the Public Health Department has joined with KEMS to offer cardiac prevention programs. Community CPR and first aid courses are being offered throughout the year. If you are interested in learning this lifesaving skill contact the Public Health Department or KEMS for more information on upcoming classes.

Baby Box Program:

Welcome babies of Kennebunkport! All new babies born in Kennebunkport will receive a baby box. This box provides a safe sleeping space for baby, it acts as a bassinet with a mattress. It also comes with resources on safe sleeping practices for babies, local resources, books, and hand made gifts. The health council is accepting monetary donations to keep this program going. Checks can be made out to the Kennebunkport Health Council. Mail them to Kennebunkport Public Health, 101A Main Street, Kennebunkport 04046. Thank You!

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

By Michael Claus, Public Works Director

Weather patterns this winter kept the southwest coast of Maine out of snow belt for much of the winter. Outside of a few weeks in February, our snow plows stayed inside for the most part. The lack of frozen ground this winter kept police, fire and public works busy with tree blow downs. We responded to numerous tree down issues this winter and cleaned up downed trees as quick as possible. Prock Marine has been doing some emergency repair work at Cape Porpoise Pier and the Public Works crew has been assisting them by bringing granite blocks to the pier from our Lanigan Bridge granite stockpile. Elsewhere, in Cape Porpoise the Public Works' crew made entrance, lighting and signage improvements at Firefighters' Park as well as improving the parking and turn around area for installation of Post Office boxes for Cape Porpoise residents.



We took advantage of an early spring to sweep sidewalks and roads as well as starting on several sidewalk projects. The Public Works' crew installed new granite curb and reconstructed the Maine Street sidewalk between Spring Street and North Street. This section of Maine Street is

also scheduled for paving in our current road-work plan. On Ocean Avenue, the brick sidewalk in front of the Breakwater Spa heaved in numerous areas due to street tree roots. Public Works removed the bricks and installed tree wells around the street trees. The sidewalk has been

repaved to eliminate trip hazard issues. We demolished part of the old seawall in front of the River Club and with the assistance of George Burr and Company installed new concrete curb in front of the River Club.

At the Edgewood Avenue entrance to Goose Rocks Beach, the Public Works crew installed a stone and bronze plaque to memorialize Stuart Barwise, who served the Town in various capacities for many years and passed away unexpectedly last spring. The Public Works crew is working with the Parks and Recreation Department to relocate the Parsons Field softball diamond and backstop. Look for the crew to be doing drainage work on Wildes District Road between the Fire Station and Cape Porpoise this spring as we hope to meet with residents this year to discuss reconstruction of Wilds District Road and the need for pedestrian improvements on this section of road.

If you would like to meet to discuss concerns or have questions on roadside mowing, street repair or other Public Works issues, please call Mike Claus, Kennebunkport Public Works Director at (207) 391-3239.

KENNEBUNKPORT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

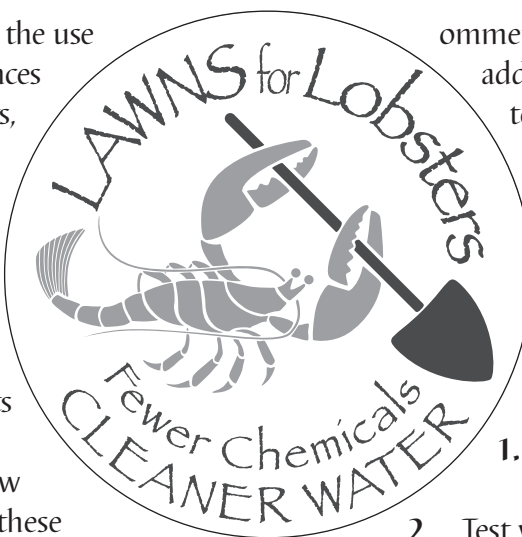
Let's talk about lawn care

Many towns are passing town ordinances regulating the use of pesticides and fertilizers. The goal of these ordinances is a mandate to protect the health of people and pets, and to protect the environment, the soil, drinking water, and waterways. Runoff of chemicals and high nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers into streams, rivers, and the ocean are of concern.

Incorporating best management practices for the use of pesticides and fertilizers is an important and impactful step to mitigate the negative impacts of these products. It is the responsibility of the homeowner and the treatment applicators to follow best management practices (BMP) when applying these products. The homeowner should inquire of the applicator about the schedule and type of treatment that is being proposed over the course of a lawn season. The homeowner should be aware of what the applications are for, i.e. pesticides, weed killers, high nitrogen and or phosphorus fertilizers. Weed control should be done by spot treatment only, and if only absolutely necessary.

A successful organic lawn can be achieved with proper methodology, especially in the installation process. New home lawns may have highly compacted gravel and blasted rock fill from the construction process. The first step is to loosen the compacted construction soil on site using mechanical means to a depth of 6-10 inches depending on the site. The key to a successful organic lawn is the development of a deep and thick root system, and that requires the right soil. The first step is a good soil mix of loam and compost, at least 4" deep over subsoil, and 6-7" deep over sandy base or rocky base. This soil depth and composition enables deep root growth and holds more moisture. A starter lawn fertilizer and a quality grass seed are a must to keep either the seed or a sod installation with sufficient watering.

Post new lawn installation and in the maintenance of an existing lawn, aerating the lawn, top dressing with compost and over seeding will help to add more organic matter to the soil and subsequent additional root growth. An organic fertilizer applied spring and fall are rec-



ommended based upon a soil test which may recommend additional amendments. Several years may be needed to accomplish a successful transition from a chemically treated lawn to an organically maintained lawn. The homeowner may also need some flexibility in tolerating a few weeds during this time. The Town of Kennebunkport developed a "Lawn for Lobsters" educational program, "10 Simple Steps toward a safe & healthy lawn for people, pets & lobsters". Here are some suggestions:

1. Leave at least a 25' buffer zone between lawn areas and sensitive vegetation and waterways.
2. Test your soil to determine what products your lawn really needs.
3. Know the size of your lawn and only use the quantity of fertilizer needed.
4. Water wisely and infrequently to encourage deep root growth.
5. Regularly over seed your lawn to develop dense roots to out compete weeds.
6. Mow high and leave clippings.
7. Apply fertilizer in the fall if only one application annually.
8. Apply fertilizer when rain is not predicted for 24 hours to avoid runoff.
9. Manage pest problems with targeted area applications.
10. Be patient for the transition from a chemical lawn to an organic lawn.

We hope that you will consider the health of your family, pets, and the environment when deciding on your lawn care. Visit the Kennebunkport Conservation Commission's page at kennebunkportme.gov (click "appointed boards") for more information on best management practices for lawn care. The Conservation Commission also has a Facebook page, which posts links on environmental issues and organic land care. You can also email the Conservation Commission at conservationcommission@kennebunkportme.gov

Kennebunkport Flag Challenge

❖
**What does Kennebunkport
mean to you?**

❖
**What do you think are the
town's most distinguishing
and charming features?**

❖
**How would you design a town
flag to represent our community
in a fun and distinctive way?**

❖
**We are seeking
submissions for an official
Town of Kennebunkport flag!**

❖
As we celebrate Kennebunkport's
bicentennial year, a flag would be a
symbol of our past, present, and future.
A beautifully designed town flag is an
opportunity to represent our community.
Something to be displayed by
residents and businesses alike.

Guidelines for creating a flag:

The five basic principles for flag design
(according to NAVA – North American
Vexillological Association) are:

- ◆ Keep it simple (so simple that a child can draw it from memory)
- ◆ Use meaningful symbolism representing our community
- ◆ Use 2-3 basic colors (red, blue, green, black, yellow, white, purple, gray, orange) that contrast well
- ◆ No lettering or seals (never use writing or the town seal)
- ◆ Be distinctive (never duplicate other flags)

Entries will be accepted by email to
kportbicentennial@gmail.com

*Entries must be received by 4:30 p.m.
on Monday, May 24.*

*Do not put your name or identifying information on
the image itself. Judging will be anonymous, and the
committee will assign a number to your entry.*

Meet Kennebunkport's new Town Clerk!

Next time you are at town hall, stop in to say hello to our new Town Clerk, Jamie Mitchell! You may recognize Jamie from her various community involvements. She leads the Kennebunk-Kennebunkport-Arundel Cheering Association for local young people. Jamie is also a member of the board of directors of the Kennebunkport Heritage Housing Trust, the organization that is aiming to build 25 new affordable homes in Kennebunkport by 2025. Jamie was raised in Kennebunkport and chose to return to her hometown when her daughter was born.



New Town Engineer

Eric Labelle is a Civil Engineer with over 30 years of experience in municipal management and operations. He comes to us with a wide range of technical abilities in the areas of public works, transportation, engineering, water, sewer, geographical information systems, and asset management.

Some of his former positions include Public Services Director, City Engineer, and Water Superintendent.

Eric grew up in Maine graduating from Cheverus High School and attending Northeastern University where he received his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. He currently lives in Portland with his wife, Mary, and their 18-year old daughter.

His strong belief in public service also leads him to volunteer his time to the American Public



Works Association (APWA) and Special Olympics. He is the Maine Chapter of APWA Delegate and serves on APWA's Government Affairs Committee. He also manages the Maine Special Olympics Sailing Program which lead to his being invited to coach at the 2019 Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi.

New Town Mechanic

Kennebunkport Public Works would like to welcome Rick Bleakney as our new Town Mechanic following the retirement of Bob Pappas last year. Rick lives in Acton Maine and comes to us from Cummins Sales and Service in Scarborough. Rick has an associate degree in Automotive Engineering from the University of Northwestern Ohio and is an ASCE Master Tech, has a Maine State Inspection License, is On-Highway and Off-Highway Cummins certified, and is MACS certified. Rick's favorite hobby is Dirt Bike Enduro racing. We are very happy to have him working here in town





Two New Police Officers on the beat in Kennebunkport

By Craig Sanford, Chief of Police

The Kennebunkport Police Department is pleased to announce that we have hired two new experienced officers. Officer Steven Townsend and Officer Stephen Hamilton were recently added to the ranks having more than 60 years of law enforcement experience between them.

Officer Steven Townsend was hired in November of 2020 and brings us over 20 years of law enforcement experience. He also is a self-employed dairy farmer and manages his own small beef cattle operation. Steven was born and raised in York County and has two grown sons. Prior to his career in law enforcement, he served as a Combat Medic in the U.S. Army. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and baseball.

Officer Stephen Hamilton was hired in January of 2021 and brings us over 40 years of law enforcement experience. He attended SMCC and received his degree in Law Enforcement. Stephen and his wife Laurie have three adult children and are proud grandparents to five amazing grandchildren. On his time off he enjoys spending time outdoors, fishing, hunting, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

They both are looking forward to being a part of the department and town and will be very noticeable. Each of them is well over 6 feet tall. They bring a wealth of professional knowledge and experience to the agency. Please help us welcome them to our town as they become familiar with the day-to-day activities of our community.

– Public Safety –

RadioTower Upgrades

As we see the advancement of technology in our homes and our daily lives, we can sometimes create unforeseen problems in other areas. I speak of the new wireless age of many household items we have in our homes today. Almost every physical item in our home that requires power can be wirelessly controlled in some form by our phone no matter where we are. Energy saving lights, wireless security systems and endless WIFI devices all give off Radio Frequency Interference or RFI. This RFI has been grown over the last ten years and has degraded the abilities of public safety entities to communicate with each other safely and effectively as well as with the dispatch center. We have attempted adjustments to limit the degradation such as putting an antenna on the water tower at Crow Hill, but we just cannot get the adequate service public safety employees need. Our radio equipment has continued to age to the point where the manufacturer cannot service or repair radios because parts are no longer available. Public safety personnel are currently unable to effectively talk with dispatch in many areas such as Dock Square and Goose Rocks Beach.

The town public safety committee along with our communications vendor came together to look at the current issues and devise a plan for our future. The communications plan would need to be something that could fit the needs of the people using it as well as last into the future with room to grow. A plan to construct two additional communication towers (one at Goose Rocks Beach Fire Station and one at the Sewer Plant) as well as upgrade the dispatch center and all emergency vehicles and personnel to a digital platform was decided as the best action to take. This system will allow for future expansion as well as abilities to improve as technology grows. A figure of \$1.5 million has been a baseline price to get us where we need to be for safe communications. As has been the practice of



Kennebunkport in the past, saving to complete a project is always the preferred method and we initially started down that path. In the 2021 budget, the town set aside \$250,000.00 toward the project and asked for the same in 2022. As we prepared for the budget process, we were hit with ever increasing costs associated with the project that if continued would out pace our current budgeting strategy. The bonding option was explored, and we found that going out to bond for \$1 million to immediately get the project completed would cost less than attempting to budget each year. The information was presented to the Select Board as well as the Budget Board and it was agreed that the bond option would be a better fit for the public safety communications project.

According to Maine Municipal Bond Bank, a 5-year bond of \$1 million would have an interest rate between .55% and .75% over the duration of the bond with annual payments between \$201,000 and \$206,000, with the total cost of the bond \$1,020,576.60. An important point to consider in the scenario is the annual payments are almost \$50,000 dollars less than the appropriation to the Capital account per year and the money saved by funding all at once could cover the interest paid on the bond.

A ten-year bond would have an annual interest rate between .55% and 1.52% over the duration of the bond with annual payments between \$101,000 and \$110,000, with the total cost of the bond at \$1,061,070.55.

Welcome aboard Hope!

By Breese Regal, Acting Parks & Recreation Director

We would like you to meet a new member of our Rec Family, Hope Mowry. She joined us as our new Program Coordinator this past November. Hope obtained her Bachelor's degree in Anthropology with a focus in Museum Studies from Smith College in Northampton, MA, and she is presently finishing her Master's degree in Adult and Higher Education at USM. Throughout her education and past experiences, community education and programming has been her core passion. She enjoys spending time outdoors camping, swimming, hiking and exploring.

Hope relishes working with community members of all ages and has been getting to know the community better and helping to ful-



fill the motto, "Community Happens Here." She has already been instrumental in offering new programs such as the well-received genealogy program, vacation activities in a bag, and Parents' Night Out childcare service.

Please join us in welcoming Hope!

COVID-19 Vaccine Sites in Maine



All people age 12 or older are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination.

If you are eligible, you may hear directly from your health care provider about getting a vaccine, or you may contact one of the vaccine sites for an appointment. Many locations are also offering drop-in vaccinations with no appointment necessary.

If you need help scheduling an appointment, or want to know if a site near you is offering vaccinations without an appointment, call the Maine COVID-19 Community Vaccination Line at 1-888-445-4111.

Please note:

- There is no charge for the COVID-19 vaccine, but you should be prepared to provide any insurance information and proof of eligibility at the vaccination site.

To find a vaccine site visit <https://www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines>



ecomaine works with towns in southern Maine to provide residents with information on what is - and isn't - recyclable. Help keep Kennebunkport recycling right with this information.

Or you can visit [KennebunkportRecycles.com](https://www.kennebunkportrecycles.com), [ecomaine.org](https://www.ecomaine.org) or even download the FREE ecomaine Recyclopeda app to search more than 1,300 common waste items!

ecomaine



[ecomaine.org/101](https://www.ecomaine.org/101)

Recycling DO's

Paper & Cardboard

Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Magazines & Junk Mail, Cartons & Boxes



Plastic

Bottles, Jars, Jugs, Cups & Tubs
rigid containers #1-7
(empty, please!)



Glass

Bottles and Jars
(empty, please!)



Metal

Food & Beverage Cans
Clean Foil, Pots & Pans
(empty, please!)



All other material should go into your trash!

Recycling DON'Ts



Do Not Bag Recyclables



No Styrofoam
of any kind



No Big Items
(no wood, furniture,
or scrap metal)



No Food or Liquid
(no garbage)



No Plastic Bags
or Plastic Wrap
(return to retail)



No Tangles
(no hoses, ropes,
chains, or cords)



No Clothing or Linens
(use donation programs)



No Electronics,
Batteries, or
Appliances

