



# KENNEBUNKPORT Town Review

A newsletter for the residents of Kennebunkport

Number 32

Fall 2019

## Chalk the 'Port a huge success

By Laurie A. Smith, Town Manager

Residents and visitors of all ages enjoyed Kennebunkport's third annual Chalk the 'Port event on September 13 and 14. This year's event was expanded to include a 5K race, carnival games, beer tent, bands, fire pits, and food throughout the festivities. The event was created to connect community while also raising funds for the town's recreation scholarship fund. This year's event raised close to \$6,000 to benefit young people in summer camp, programs, and after-school care.

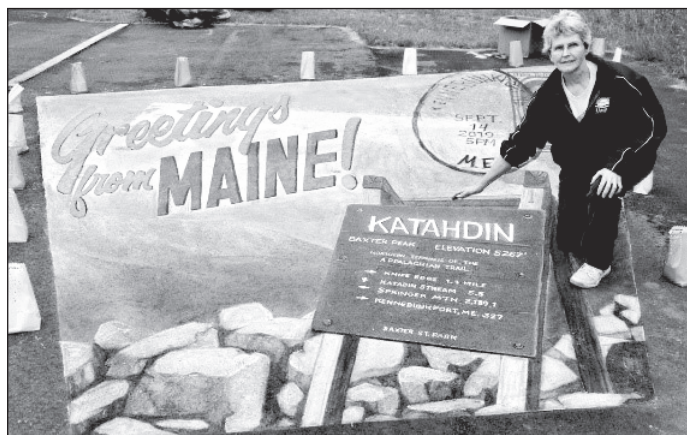
The five featured artists Aislynn Mullen, Beth Shistle, and Janet Tombros from Florida; and Erica Anderson and Jesse LuBerra from Pennsylvania; were joined by 10 local artists on Saturday morning. By late afternoon they had completed a wide variety of masterpieces from nature, to outer space, to fantasy. The art was completed by Saturday evening when all the artwork was highlighted with luminaries. Visitors took the opportunity to chat with the artists as they worked and marveled at the talents on display. To view more of the finished masterpieces, go to the town website at <https://www.kennebunkportme.gov/parks-and-recreation>.

Early visitors were treated to a Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Kennebunk Portside Rotary, while volunteers served hot dogs, lobster rolls, chowder, and homemade treats the rest of the day. The Block Party from 4-8 p.m. was the highlight of the event. Visitors and community members enjoyed the art, carnival games, fire pits, and a beer tent provided by Batson Brewing. Partygoers were treated to the music of two local bands, Dock Squares and Northern Charm.

The event would not have been possible without the generosity of sponsors, including Alisson's Restaurant,



Friday featured artists began chalking large masterpieces in the Kennebunkport Parks and Recreation Department parking lot.



Director of Parks and Rec. Carol Cook posing on a masterpiece.



Young participants in the event.

Arundel Machine and Tool, Batson River Brewing, The Boathouse Hotel and Restaurant, Cape Porpoise Lobster and Chowder House, the Clam Shack, Daytrip Society, Gowen Power Systems, Kennebunk Savings, Live Café, The Nonantum Resort, Pack Maynard, Quest Fitness, Rhumbline Resort, Sandy Pines Campground, Terrapin Landscapes, and Vinegar Hill Music Theater. Planning is already underway for the fourth annual Chalk the Port event to be held in September 2020. Any businesses interested in choosing their sponsorship opportunity for next year's event should contact Carol Cook at [CCook@kennebunkportme.gov](mailto:CCook@kennebunkportme.gov) or 207-967-4304.

Saturday began with a 5K color run with almost 90 runners completing the course chalked in red, blue, green, and orange.



## Traffic management

### A year-round concern for every community

By the Kennebunkport Police and Public Works Departments

A continuous source of concern in every community is how to best manage the ever-increasing volume of traffic that comes to not only our town but every town that is associated with tourism. The topic of traffic management is complex to say the least and involves many town departments. The Town of Kennebunkport Police and Public Works Departments have listened to several growing concerns regarding traffic management in the

town. Vehicle speed, as well as the volume of vehicles on a roadway, can be influenced by many variables. Road design, weather, population density, and operator experience are just a few factors that can affect traffic flow.

Kennebunkport is no different than any other tourist-based community. There is an increase in both traffic volume and visitors during the warm

See TRAFFIC page 3

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## Vote for selectman on November 5

Selectman Stuart E. Barwise was unable to complete his term on the Board of Selectmen. As a result, a Special Town Meeting will be held on November 5, 2019, in which voters can select either D. Michael Weston or Charles Sullivan to replace Barwise's term expiring in June 2021.

### – PLEASE NOTE –

## The last day to request an absentee ballot is Thursday, October 31

Per state law, the last day to request an absentee ballot for the November 5 election is **Thursday, October 31, 2019**. Requests must be received by the Town Clerk, by 4:30 p.m., on October 31.

## Town of Kennebunkport Town Clerk holds evening hours for voter registration and absentee voting

The Kennebunkport Town Clerk/Registrar of Voters will hold extra hours at the Kennebunkport Town Hall on Tuesday, October 29, 2019, until 7:00 p.m. to conduct absentee voting, to register any person eligible to vote, and to accept any enrollment/address changes.



## Your library needs you!

By Mary-Lou Boucouvalas,  
Graves Library Director

If you've been to our Graves Memorial Public Library, you know it's a valuable community asset that provides much more than books. It's a meeting space, a learning place, a warm retreat on cold days, a used bookstore, a business center, a young mother's friend, and so much more.

It's also a place that makes all this possible largely through the support of committed volunteers. If you have a few extra hours to spare weekly or only occasionally, the library wants to hear from you.

Volunteers are needed to assist with a wide variety of tasks, including greeting visitors at the front desk, shelving books, doing data entry, preparing mailings, staffing special events, and helping with children's activities. If you have a specific skill or interest, let us know so we can find a way to



match that with our needs.

We are especially seeking added volunteers to help deliver books to shut-ins, provide snacks for special events, and staff the Book Cellar—our used books and gift shop.

We know everyone's time is limited, and there are many ways to consider giving back to our community. Fortunately, these are all low-skill, high-reward opportunities! Schedules are flexible, and you can sign up for as few or many hours as you have available. Best of all, you will see old friends and make new ones while spending time in an environment that's warm, welcoming—and quiet!

For more information about the many ways you can get involved, contact Mary-Lou Boucouvalas at 207-967-2778 or [ml.graves.lib.me.us](mailto:ml.graves.lib.me.us).

## Town of Kennebunkport Special Town Meeting November 5, 2019

### – PLEASE TAKE NOTICE –

To the voters of Kennebunkport: You are hereby notified that a **Special Town Meeting** of this municipality will be held at the **Village Fire Station, 32 North Street, in said Town on Tuesday, the 5th day of November, AD 2019, at 8:00 a.m.** for the purpose of acting on Articles 1 and 1a (Election of Officer) as set forth in the Town Warrant. The polls for voting on Election of Officer shall be opened immediately after the election of the Moderator at 8:00 a.m. on November 5, 2019, and shall close at 8:00 p.m.

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.

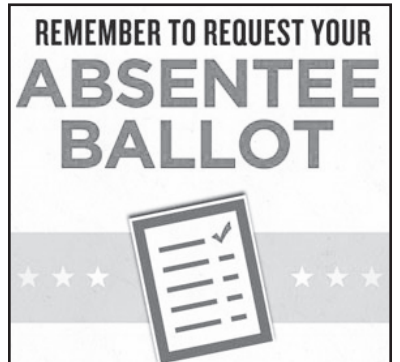
An attested copy of the Town Warrant is posted at the United States Post Office, Temple Street; Atlantic Hall, Main Street, Cape Porpoise; Louis T. Graves Memorial Library, Maine Street; Goose Rocks Beach Fire Company, Winter Harbor Road; and at the Town Offices, 6 Elm Street.

Sample ballots are available from the Town Clerk or on the town's website [www.kennebunkportme.gov/town-clerk/pages/elections-and-voting](http://www.kennebunkportme.gov/town-clerk/pages/elections-and-voting).

O'Roak, Town Clerk

## Absentee ballots now available

Absentee ballots are now available at the Kennebunkport Town Clerk's Office for the upcoming State Referendum and Special Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, at the Village Fire Station, 32 North Street, in Kennebunkport. If you have any questions about absentee voting or about this election, please call the Town Clerk at 967-1610.



*The last day to request an absentee ballot is Thursday, October 31.*

## Time to register your dog!

By Tracey O'Roak, Town Clerk

State law requires all dogs kept within the State of Maine for more than 10 days 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 15 and December 31 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 the 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 31, 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](http://www.maine.gov/dog_license) and follow the prompts. You will receive your license and tags through the mail within 30 days.



## Traffic

from page 1

months and a dramatic drop as soon as the snow starts to fall. According to a recent traffic study we conducted on North Street near the fire station, on an average summer day, 12,100 vehicles use North Street. The median speed of the vehicles was 28 mph. Since North Street is posted at 30 mph, it was good to see that most vehicles were traveling at or below the posted speed limit.

Unfortunately, folks walking in the area may have a perception that most vehicles are speeding. After spending many years standing in the road directing traffic, dealing with a motorist, or having a vehicle stopped, being that close to the road does give one the sense a vehicle is traveling fast. When you are in your own vehicle, you do not get the full effect of the wind caused by the passing vehicle or the noise made by the engine and the tires.

In the police department, once a complaint is taken by the dispatch center, we assign an officer to go to the complainant's home to get more detail. We will then visit with the neighbors to see if they can offer more information. This not only helps in our investigation but also puts them on notice that we are looking into possible speeding issues. We all have had that neighbor who may drive too fast.

After the information is gathered from the interviews, it is examined, and the assigned police department supervisor will devise a plan to address the complaint. The supervisor will look at traffic stop and traffic crash data as well as possibly request a traffic study. Once all of this is done, special enforcement details may be assigned, or regular on-duty traffic enforcement may be carried out. We may then follow-up with the original complainant to inform them of our actions and see if the situation has improved.

This year, we took a proactive approach and programed into the daily patrol function a plan to address the repeat locations where speed is a concern to residents. Officers were rotated each day to those areas, and our number of traffic stops doubled from the previous year. From January 1, 2018, through August 1, 2018, the police department stopped 816 vehicles. During the same period this year, the police department stopped 1,465 vehicles.

Certain traffic calming measures are another piece of the puzzle to successful traffic management. Currently, the public works department is working

with Maine DOT on bike and pedestrian signage. Approximately a dozen new bike and pedestrian related signs have been erected in areas to include Mills Road, Dyke Road, and North Street. As roads are reconstructed or repaved, narrower lane striping is being utilized to slow traffic. Also, speed humps were installed on New Biddeford Road. The police department frequently monitors the area and the consensus is that the speed humps do force most vehicle operators to slow down.

Other available resources at our disposal are the use of portable traffic control signs. We currently have two which are used in areas that can accommodate their size and function. One signboard can display vehicle speed and public messaging. The second trailer can display vehicle speed only. These signs are deployed not only to put folks on notice of their speed but also help aid in voluntary compliance with traffic regulations.

While these measures are not the answer to all traffic issues, they are options and beginning points to help address the traffic management issue that the town faces. Going forward as a community, we will need to be open minded and examine alternative ideas for managing traffic volumes in areas such as Dock Square. Pedestrian traffic has a direct effect on vehicular traffic in this very congested area. There is no easy way of making improvements to the vehicle flow without changing from "the way it always has been" to something that is new and pedestrian friendly for the summer months.

With society becoming more reliant on our phones, they are another distraction that causes people to miss the speed limit signs or the pedestrian in the crosswalk. It is every vehicle operator's responsibility to pay attention to operating their vehicle and watching their surroundings. Increased safety through voluntary compliance with laws, regulations, and ordinances is every community's hope.

For now, the Kennebunkport Police and Public Works Departments will do their parts to assist in addressing the concerns the public has through the utilization of resources and measures we have at our disposal. The public works department will be part of the traffic management team through planning, signage, and traffic calming measures. The police department will continue to be a part of the traffic management team as well through education, deterrence, and traffic enforcement.



Front Left-Right: Laurie Smith, Sarah Dore, Eileen Lang. Back Left-Right: Werner Gilliam, Patrick Clancy, Geoff Bowley, Jim Fitzgerald, David Kling, Patrick Briggs, Sue Ellen Stavrand. Missing from photo: Jamie Mitchell.

## Heritage Housing Trust update

By Sue Ellen Stavrand, Board Member

The Kennebunkport Heritage Housing Trust has made significant progress in their efforts to build homes which will be key to maintaining the economic vitality and character of our year round community. In order to maximize both land and building resources, the Housing Trust has contracted with Steve Doe of Sebago Technics and Caleb Johnson of Caleb Johnson Architects to help design "neighborhoods of quality-built homes maximizing open space, superior design, and energy efficiencies." Hallmark Homes Corp. in Topsham, Maine, has been contracted to build these three and four bedroom homes. Our first neighborhood will be built on the former ice skating rink property located on Route 9. (The current ice skating rink will be rebuilt next to the new Kennebunkport Park and Rec. building closer to town on Route 9) This tax acquired property was recently transferred from the town to the Trust by the Board of Selectmen this past spring and will once again become part of the town's income producing taxable property upon the sale of each Heritage Home.

The Kennebunkport Heritage Housing Trust will begin taking applications for home ownership later this year realizing home ownership/occupancy in fall/winter of 2020. With an ever-watchful eye toward keeping the purchase price of Heritage Homes attainable, the Housing Trust has submitted an application for the "First Time Home Buyers" program with Maine Housing. If approved, this grant will capture \$22,500 infrastructure cost assistance for each Heritage Home and \$3,500 down payment assistance for each Heritage Home buyer.

The Housing Trust's board members continue to seek organizations and individuals eager to hear more about our mission, application process, and how to become a "Heritage Home Builder" supporter. Please email us direct at [infokhht@gmail.com](mailto:infokhht@gmail.com). Additionally, check our website for upcoming community events at [www.khht.org](http://www.khht.org).

The Kennebunkport Heritage Housing Trust has been recognized as a 501 (c) (3) charity by the IRS and may accept donations of land, services, and currency that could be considered tax deductible for the donor.

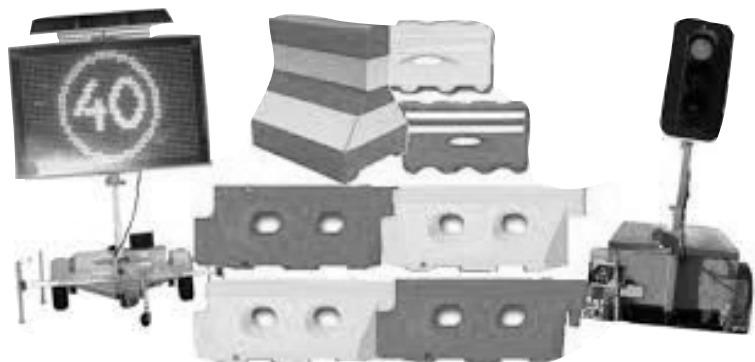
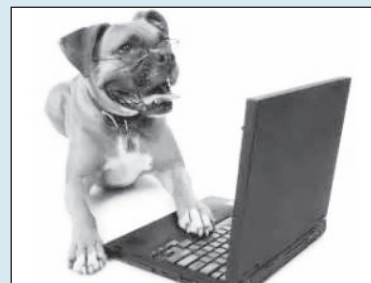
## Online dog registration is available!

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's not always easy to get here during our regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) But, no need to worry, Kennebunkport offers online dog registration. You can register 24/7 from the convenience of your own home! Your new license and tag will be mailed to you.

Please visit [www.maine.gov/dog\\_license](http://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)



# KENNEBUNKPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT

## A look to the future: stations and staffing

By John “Jay” Everett, Fire Chief



A constant struggle that small-town fire departments face is having enough qualified personnel to respond when a call comes in. The solution is usually moving to per diem or full-time staff. With this solution, there are infrastructure changes that need to be addressed before that move takes place.

The Kennebunkport Fire Department (KPF) has always had four fire stations with four fire companies built in the village areas of town. It was assumed that each village was just far enough away from each other that local fire protection was needed. Each station operated with its own chief until 2008 when the town formed one municipal fire department with one fire chief. Since then, the KPF has operated with a chief, a fire administrator, and a call company. When there is a call, call company members respond to the scene or the station from wherever they may be. This system works very well when you have qualified, locally, available firefighters.

One of the challenges for the future of the KPF is a decreasing number of qualified responders available when we receive most of our calls. We see our highest run volume during the day, between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. during the week. Unfortunately, our busy time is when most responders are at work and less likely to be available. In 2018, almost two-thirds of our calls or 64% occurred during this time.

All firefighters must complete recurrent and refresher training annually. Even if a firefighter is out on an extended medical leave, for example, they must be caught up with their training to be cleared to begin responding again. Each year in the eyes of Maine Bureau of Labor Standards, that firefighter basically starts the same training again when they come back, unless they are receiving training from a fire department where they live in the off season. This makes it difficult for a part-time resident to grow within the organization. Presently, we do not have any firefighters in that category.

The town has three demographic obstacles that work against the continued use of a call force. First, is the seasonal nature of the town. Historically, the KPF has not had very many seasonal members, and it takes more time and energy to train a firefighter that only lives in town 6 months or less per year. That firefighter is also not responding during the times they are at their other residence.

Recently, as a pilot program, I have added one seasonal firefighter who is not affiliated with another department to get training year-round. I am trying this to be proactive to continue with the current

call company system for as long as possible.

Second, is the median age of our firefighters and the age of our population. Both are aging which is a challenge for keeping the KPF the community-based resource it is today. Our median age on the KPF is just over 55 years old with our most active members being over the age of 60.

Third, is the changing world in terms of volunteerism. Thirty years ago, every fire department had plenty of responders coming out to calls. The members were usually contractors and worked in the town they lived and served. Most were available during the day and during the week. Today, many responders work out of town and contractors have too much work to be called away for the *smells and bells* calls. That term refers to most of the calls which are odor investigations and fire or CO alarm activations.

During the budget process for fiscal year 2020, I spoke to the need for responders during the day/week. I presented run data for the past three years and spoke about 29CFR1910.134 (Code of Federal Regulations) that we must abide by. This law specifically deals with fire ground staffing and is referred to as the *two in, two out rule*. In a nutshell, this regulation states that you must have a minimum of four interior, qualified firefighters on scene before an interior attack of the fire can begin. Two firefighters go inside the burning building while the other two are their rescuers should they get into trouble.

Any call that could put the responders in an immediate danger to life and health has the potential to fall into the required *two in, two out rule*. These calls would be a reported building fire, smoke inside, and fire and CO alarms. The only exception to this rule is if someone is in immediate danger and needs to be rescued. Year to date, our calls that could require meeting that regulation have been met in just over 60% of the time. I believe that my presence in the office boosts that percentage slightly.

While we have had recent success with our recruit-

ment of eight new members, it will be a few years to see if we are successful with retention. We are a senior department that needs to pass on the firefighting knowledge of our experienced staff to a younger generation of firefighters. It is my intention to stay with the present model for as long as possible; however, we do need to plan for our future, which will probably start with per diem firefighters at least during the day, Monday through Friday.

It is important to understand that as we start down the per diem road, that marks the beginning of the end for the community-based resource we are today. Unfortunately, there is no crystal ball that can tell us when it is going to happen, but if we are prepared with facilities in place, that will make the transition smoother.

As we prepare to house personnel in our stations and examine our future equipment needs, we need to consider downsizing the number of stations. As part of this process, we analyzed our run data to understand where in town the service calls are being generated as well as response times.

The calls were mapped using our GIS system to determine the response times from various stations. We then reviewed the response times subtracting certain stations from the mix. We determined that the Port Village Station and the Goose Rocks Beach Station are the two that handled the call volume without negatively impacting response times.

In the planning process for future personnel and a reduced number of stations, we also need to examine the programming space for both personnel and equipment. Currently, KPF has no living space for per diem or full-time staff. If our station model stays the same, we would need to renovate a station, probably Port Village, to house the per diem or full-time staff. There is a possibility that per diem staff could go into Cape Porpoise, but as the town's staffing needs grow, it could create conflicts with the needs of the Kennebunkport Emergency Medical Services (KEMS) staff. Any renovation or new build that could happen for the future should include spaces for KEMS to share, if they choose.

Kennebunkport is a small town and needs to be responsive to many infrastructure needs including the fire department. We have started a programming needs assessment to look at space needed for KPF's future. Whatever the number of stations the town supports in the future, there is no denying that a sizeable investment is going to be needed in the not-so-distant future.

## Carbon monoxide detectors and Amazon reviews

By Susan Boak, Senior Advisory Committee

Our committee recognized the need for weatherization of some homes in Kennebunkport due to comments from the senior survey. When this effort was delayed due to the short supply of energy audit contractors, we decided to explore funding for a limited number of carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. The Kidde 3010-D is a candidate due to its high rating of customer satisfaction. High does not mean

perfect, however, and much useful information was gleaned from customer reviews in *italics* below.

### How to install this Kidde detector?

The manufacturer recommends installing it on each floor; but, if there is only one detector, then outside the bedroom area. It is recommended to be installed on the wall at eye level of the house-

holder as weekly checks are expected. It may also be laid on a table, but that doesn't seem to be a good idea, as horizontal surfaces are often covered with stuff, impeding performance.

### Why have a separate CO detector?

We all know CO kills. *"After my family was*

*See DETECTORS page 7*

## PARKS & RECREATION

# The Great Zombie Dash

By Carinne Avigail,  
Program Coordinator



The Kennebunkport Recreation Department and the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust are partnering together to offer you this evening of community fun and adventure! Your goal will be to navigate the trail, overcome the obstacles, and make it out of the course with all of your lives (football flags) intact! Throughout the course, zombies will attempt to grab your flag as you attempt to avoid them. If you lose all of your flags, you become "infected" and complete the course as an "infected" person. However, if you complete the course with one or two of your lives intact, you will receive a raffle ticket per life and be entered into a drawing to win one of three prizes!

There will be two different waves to choose from. At 5:45 p.m., there will be a family friendly wave and at 6:15 p.m., there will be an "X-treme" wave.

You may complete the course as an individual, family, or team. Bonfire, s'mores, music, and cider will be available after you have completed the course. The course will be on the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust's Learning Trail which is approximately 1 mile long.

**When:** Friday, October 25, 5:30–8:30 p.m.

**Where:** The Kennebunkport Conservation Trust's Headquarters at the Emmons Preserve

**How much:** \$10/child and \$15/adult

**Who:** The family-friendly wave is open to families with kids ages 5–10. The "X-treme" wave is open to anyone age 10 and up. Anyone under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Please register for which wave you would like to participate in.

All participants will receive a participant waiver that they must read and sign in order to participate in the event.

**Note:** It will be dark, so all participants are encouraged to bring their own flashlights or headlamps.

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

# Improvements update

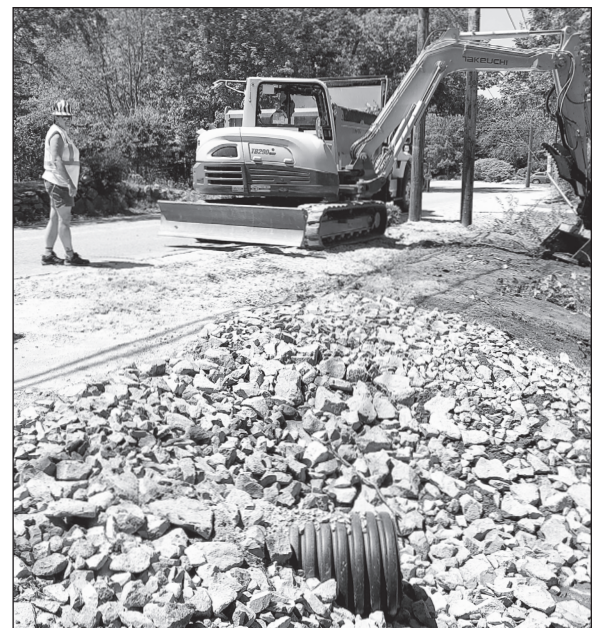
By Michael Claus, Public Works Director

After an early April Saturday snowstorm, our crew was happy to pull the wings and plows from our five dump trucks and get started on construction season. Our five-person crew has tried to balance maintenance needs with doing prep work for our road reconstruction projects. During construction season, the town can extend the value of our capital funding by using the public works crew for shoulder reconstruction and drainage projects. For this work, only materials and subcontractor costs are charged to capital funding, allowing the town to reconstruct about 25% more roadwork than if all labor and trucking were outsourced.

This spring, we had nice weather to get an early start on sweeping and crosswalk painting. We have been out sweeping on a weekly basis at Dock Square and Goose Rocks Beach to keep those high traffic areas clean. We refreshed our Dock Square crosswalks in the summer and will paint one more time in Dock Square to make sure crosswalks are visible for Prelude season. Our crew worked on Parsons Field drainage improvements to prevent winter ice jams from flooding the new parks and recreation building. At resident's request, we ditched areas of Goose Rocks Road where road shoulders and winter sand had slowed drainage.

A damp spring encouraged roadside vegetation, and we received requests for early mowing to reduce pedestrian exposure to ticks. Our public works crew utilized both of our trackless boom, flail mowers to clear shoulder areas and made extra passes in areas of high vegetation.

We completed work on North Street this summer with widened shoulders and drainage improvements between Arundel Road and River Road. Shoulders have been widened on Mills Road between Cape Square and Marshall Point Road. Working with MaineDOT, the top-



Michelle Martel and Kevin Paradis (in excavator) work on Mills Road drainage improvements and shoulder widening.

coat paving work on travel lanes and shoulders of Mills Road were completed in September with new paving from the Biddeford city line to Sandy Pines Campground. From Marshall Point Road to Cape Porpoise Square, our crew reconstructed Mills Road cross culverts and based in widened shoulders with new gravel. The road was milled to allow topcoat paving without creating driveway drainage issues. The public works crew hauled about 200 yards of millings to our Beachwood Avenue yard and mixed it with gravel to make reclaim material for future road projects. In town, we paved the town hall parking area, Towne Street, Chestnut Street, and Mast Cove Lane.

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

## Wastewater project update

By Christopher Simeoni, Deputy Director of Public Works

The Town of Kennebunkport Wastewater Department initiated several projects in July of 2018 with bond funds obtained through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Two documents required by the fund are known as the Climate Adaptability Plan (CAP) and Fiscal Sustainability Plan (FSP). Both documents were completed by Wright-Pierce in June of 2019 and will drive a 20-year capital plan for the department.

The CAP is an analysis of the town's critical assets and identifies hazards associated with climate change. Some impacts to critical assets will develop slowly over time (sea level rise, air and water temperature changes, precipitation changes, etc.) and other impacts may happen suddenly (storms, tidal surge, ice jams, etc.). After identifying critical assets, the town will build resilient systems to offset these cli-



Wastewater crew L–R: Rodney Gagne, Brice Bond, David Roberge, Bill Perkins, Dale Wermenchuk, and Steve Bryant.

mate changes. The CAP must be prepared by a licensed engineer and completed and submitted to the department within one year from the loan commitment date.

The FSP is a study to determine the conditions of the town's critical assets

at the wastewater treatment plant and at the town's collections system (pump stations and sewer mains). Each system is identified and scored based on these questions: What is the likelihood of failure? What is the consequence of failure? The answers to

these questions will help us to determine when these systems may fail.

This prioritization will be placed into the wastewater capital budget for consideration from 0 to 20-year projects. The intent of these plans/projects is to maintain and improve the integrity and functionality of the wastewater infrastructure within the Town of Kennebunkport for the future.

Other projects recently completed were the replacement of the influent/effluent pumps/valves at headworks (the major pump room at the wastewater plant) and the shut-off valves at the Cape Porpoise pump station which were so severely corroded the crew could not safely shut off flow and isolate pumps for maintenance. These replacements were critical to maintaining reliability of the plant

See WASTEWATER page 6

# – KENNEBUNKPORT PUBLIC HEALTH –

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

**Public health department:** Our department's focus is to provide for the medical and social service needs of our residents and guests. Our services are covered under your town taxes and private donations. Our website has educational information, resources available in our community, upcoming classes we support locally, and projects we are working on. Please visit our website and subscribe!! Contact the public health office at 967-4401 with any nursing, health officer complaints, or social service needs. **Office hours:** Monday–Friday, 8:00–9:30 AM, and 1:00–2:00 PM.

**Be prepared:** Please visit our public health department's website for up-to-date information on disaster tips and planning at [www.kennebunkport.me.gov](http://www.kennebunkport.me.gov). Visit the town's website, and sign up for email alerts. Storm-related issues are posted here. If you or a loved one are medically fragile, on home oxygen, live alone, etc. and would like to be on our "call of concern" list, please contact our office and let us know. We want all our community members safe and sound. This information will help us to help you in an emergency!

## Maine healthy beach program:

Kennebunkport has participated in the Maine Healthy Beach program, monitoring the water quality at Goose Rocks and Colony Beaches weekly since 2005. This summer, we continued to monitor our beaches twice weekly. We also continued testing up the rivers that feed Goose Rocks Beach, monitoring the watershed. This is an ongoing process through the spring, summer, and fall and into next year 2020. You can visit [www.maine-healthybeaches.org/](http://www.maine-healthybeaches.org/) for the status of our beaches or any other beach along the coast of Maine that participates. We would like to thank our volunteers who have tested this summer at the beach from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Thank you to: Judy Barrett, Harvey Flashen, John



Barbour, Seth Kenneway, Don Tarr, Barbara Emmons, Linda and Steve Hanna, Paul Hogan, Pete Bennett, and John Kraeuter. Thank you all for your help this season!!!

**Septic tanks:** Do you know when your septic tank was last pumped? As part of your fall preparations, have your septic system pumped and inspected. This is an important preventative task which could protect our watershed and save you money in the long run.

**Baby box program:** Welcome babies of Kennebunkport! This year as of January 1, 2019, the public health department in collaboration with the Health Council have kicked off the "Baby Box program." All new babies born in Kennebunkport will receive a baby box. This box provides a safe sleeping space for baby. It acts as a bassinet with a mattress. It also comes with resources on safe-sleeping practices for babies, local resources, books, and handmade gifts. 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, ME 04046. Thank You! FMI: <https://www.finnbin.com/>



**Little hats, big hearts:** We are supporting the "Little Hats, Big Hearts" program again this year through the American Heart Association. If you knit or crochet and want to partici-

pate in making RED premie/newborn baby hats, call our office or check out our website for more information! All hats need to be back to our office by December 1! Supporters are knitting and crocheting red hats to be given out to babies during February, American Heart Month, to empower families to live heart healthy lives and to help their children do the same.



**Stuff the backpack:** A special **THANK YOU** to the Health Council and all those who helped us reach our goal of purchasing and filling backpacks for our local children in need. Thank you for supporting our school children!



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

**Stuff the bus:** Help us fill the shelves of the local food pantry, On November 5, Election Day. Please bring nonperishable



food or household/personal care items with you to the polls. **YES**, we do accept cash donations. All checks are to be made out to the Community Outreach Services. Cash donations are used to purchase food from the Good Shepherd Food Pantry.

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

## Holiday dinners:

Community Harvest volunteers are again providing holiday dinner baskets. The volunteers are also offering a free community dinner on Thanksgiving and Christmas at Saint Martha's Church, Route One, Kennebunk. Please contact the public health department if you wish to sign up for these programs. For more information go to: <http://coskennebunks.org/our-programs/food-programs/> or <https://communityharvestonline.org/>



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

## Wastewater

from page 5

operation. The influent pumps are in service 24 hours a day and are responsible for pumping all raw influent received by the plant to the various processes within the plant. The effluent pumps are also in service 24 hours a day and are responsible for pumping all treated effluent out of the plant to the Kennebunk River where it is discharged. The old pumps were leaking

and having difficulty keeping up during high flow and heavy rain events.

For the coming year, we have plans to remove and replace the existing wastewater plant generator. This generator has been in service for 40 years, well beyond its projected life expectancy. Maintenance issues and reliability concerns have increased with age. This generator is being replaced with a new unit as it is a single source of failure for critical plant operations in the event of power failure. We expect this project to

be completed by spring of 2020.

In addition to the recent projects completed and the upcoming generator replacement, we have started looking ahead to the future. As it stands, much of the wastewater infrastructure is original to the wastewater department's inception. In order to preserve the town's investment in the wastewater system that was made in the 1970s, upgrades and equipment replacement are necessary to maintain the integrity and reliability of the sys-

tem and to prepare for operational concerns associated with climate change. With a limited number of users, much consideration will have to be given to available funding means as it relates to a 20-year capital improvement plan for the department. We expect this picture to become clearer over the next six months. In the meantime, the dedicated crew at the wastewater department will continue to provide quality service for the residents and visitors of Kennebunkport.

# Keeping Kennebunkport green

By John Ripton, Kennebunkport Tree Warden

The Shade Tree Committee continues to maintain the town's many shade trees. Elm Watch volunteers are in the front line of this effort in the summer months. This year's group of 16 volunteers identified four elms with Dutch elm disease, and these trees were removed to protect our healthy elms. We still have scores of elms and perhaps a dozen very large elms with extraordinary canopies.

Kennebunkport is one of two towns in Maine with scores of elms shading its streets. Two great elms stand as sentinels between People's United Bank and the house at 2 Elm Street. There is also another truly majestic elm at the back of the bank parking lot. Trees of this size may be as much as 200 years old. On your next drive down Ocean Avenue, it is easy to see a massive elm's beautiful broad canopy over Stripers Waterside Restaurant on its ocean-side lawn. The Graves Library, too, has a stately elm on its back lawn.

The Committee and town also engage Bartlett Tree Experts to inject large elms. These injections help to fortify the elms against Dutch elm disease. This is the second year of the elm injection program. We have now injected two-thirds of Kennebunkport's approximately 90 street elms. One-third of the trees are injected each year in a three-year cycle.

The town also has many other beautiful and important species of trees including chestnuts, maples, oaks, and ashes. We make significant efforts to care for these trees, too, as well as all other shade trees



Remarkable elm at Stripers on Ocean Ave. Credit: tripadvisor.com

in town. In the case of town-tagged trees on private property, we also share costs of the management of trees with homeowners.

To manage the town's shade trees even more effectively, the Committee works with Bartlett Tree Experts to improve an electronic database into which location, characteristics, history, and other information on each tree may be recorded and easily accessed. We also coordinate our efforts with the Kennebunkport Public Works Department. We further provide an annual Arbor Day program for children at Consolidated School. This year, members Kim Gurski and Nina Pearlmuter presented saplings to students as part of the Arbor Day program. For these and other reasons, Kennebunkport has been designated Tree City U.S.A. for 42 years consecutively, only one of three communities in Maine with such

distinction and longevity.

In an age of climate change and with fires across much of the Amazon this summer, it is imperative that we preserve our arboreal heritage everywhere, including Kennebunkport. In the coming year, the Shade Tree Committee will make planting new trees as much of a priority as possible. The following link to a "Science Daily" article on how shade trees can play a role in lowering temperatures in homes, towns, and cities provides information and inspiration for what all of us can do for the future of the planet and what succeeding generations must do: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/03/190325173305.htm>. For more information on the Shade Tree Committee, go to the following link: <https://www.kennebunkportme.gov/shade-tree-committee>.



Bartlett Tree Experts removing a tree.



Ethan Gouzie and Lexi Stockwell with saplings.

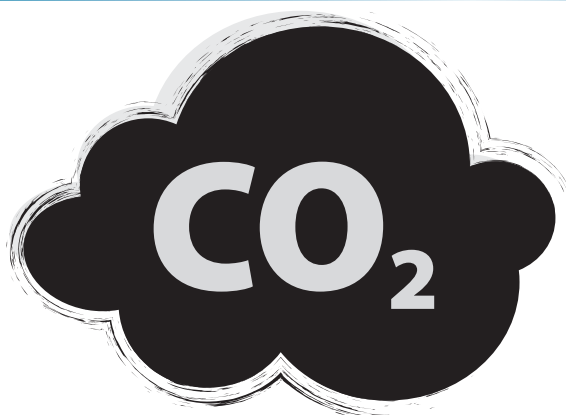
## DETECTORS

from page 4

*diagnosed with CO poisoning (long term at low rates over a period of a couple of years, resulting in several ER trips and doctor visits before diagnosis), I did a ton of research on CO detectors. We had a generic detector that previously NEVER sounded." Also, one's response to a CO alarm should be immediate versus a sniff for smoke and walk about when the smoke alarm sounds.*

### How do you know your CO detector is working?

The Kidde unit has a test button for weekly testing. Then, there are those who don't trust a zero reading or have older units. "I wanted to be **ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN** the CO sensor was working properly so I did the candle test. I placed the unit in a stainless-steel kitchen pot



*along with a lighted tea candle. Placed a pan over the lid to create an air tight environment. And waited about 3-4 minutes. When I opened it back up, the sensor was reading 90. Over the next 2-3 minutes, it rapidly went back down to 0. After it went back down to 0, I pressed the peak level button and it showed 90. So now I feel confident."*

### What can go wrong?

While there is a sealed, 10-year lithium battery with this unit, it is possible to have a failure. In this case, work with Amazon or the manufacturer for replacement.

Fog can set off the alarm. This has happened to us with our very expensive built in units. While one of the pleasures of living near the coast of Maine used to be waking up at night to the sound of fog alarms and bells, these are rare now. On foggy nights, it helps to keep the windows shut.

### How much does it cost?

The current price from Amazon Prime is around \$35. This model has a display (D) to view current and previous CO levels. It also has a comprehensive users guide and a Consumer Hotline for technical questions.

# Kennebunkport's 2019 water quality monitoring at Goose Rocks and Colony Beaches

By Meagan Sims, Maine Healthy Beaches Coordinator/Maine DEP

Since 2004, Kennebunkport has partnered with the Maine Healthy Beaches (MHB) program to monitor water quality and notify the public of unsafe swimming conditions at Goose Rocks and Colony Beaches. In 2019, samples were collected two times per week at three Goose Rocks Beach (GRB) sites and one Colony Beach site over 13 weeks (approximately Memorial Day to Labor Day). Monitoring sites include the mouth of the Batson River (GR-5), near the Proctor Road beach access (GR-2), the mouth of the Little River (GR-1), and the mid-point of Colony Beach (Colony-1) (Figure 2).

In 2019, 88% of samples at Goose Rocks Beach and 92% of samples at Colony Beach were below Maine's EPA-approved enterococci bacteria safety threshold for recreation in marine waters (104 MPN/100 mL). The majority of exceedances at Goose Rocks Beach were at sites located at the mouths of the Little and Batson Rivers (GR-1 & GR-5) (Figure 1). These sites located at freshwater inputs (streams, rivers, storm drains) are more susceptible to elevated bacteria levels because pollutants are transported from upland areas during all weather conditions but especially when it rains. Typically, there are few to no bacteria exceedances observed for the center site of Goose Rocks Beach (GR-2).

In 2006, the town with field support

from MHB staff contracted with several consultants to assist with determining the potential sources of fecal pollution contributing to unsafe bacteria levels at the beach, and to provide solutions prioritizing removal of those sources and prevention of new ones. Findings from that study indicate portions of the GRB watershed may be impacted by human fecal contamination. Although efforts were taken to address chronic fecal bacteria contamination, levels have remained elevated at the beach for recent years.

As a result, MHB partnered with the town again in 2018 (efforts ongoing) to design an intensified pollution source monitoring plan for the GRB watershed to better understand potential sources of persistent contamination within the watershed and evaluate if hot spots of fecal bacteria have changed over the past 12 years (Figure 2). As part of this work, an applied research partnership was established with UNH to further pinpoint bacteria source(s) utilizing microbial source tracking (MST) techniques. MHB and Kennebunkport are currently working collaboratively with UNH and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to find and address these persistent bacterial pollution sources. Monitoring efforts in 2019 will continue through October, and MHB plans to continue collaborating with Kennebunkport to address these issues in 2020.

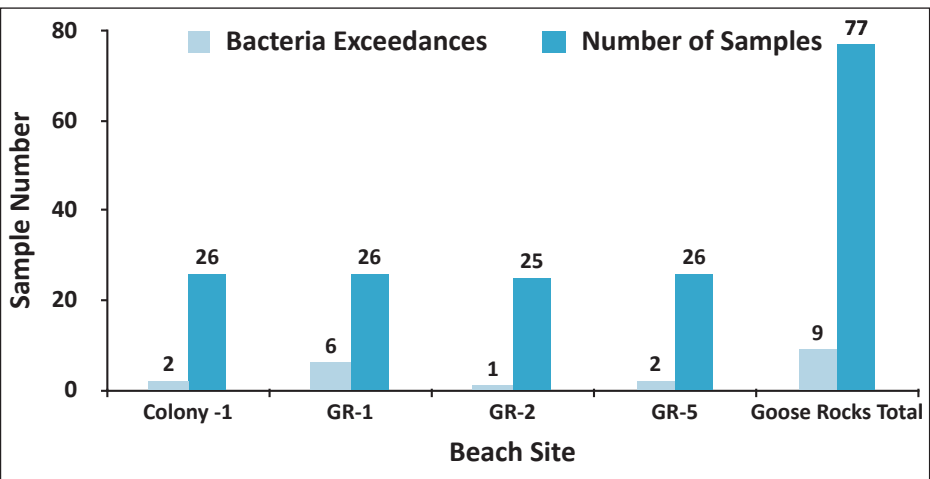


Figure 1. Bacteria exceedances of Maine's safety threshold (104 MPN/100mL) for the 2019 season.

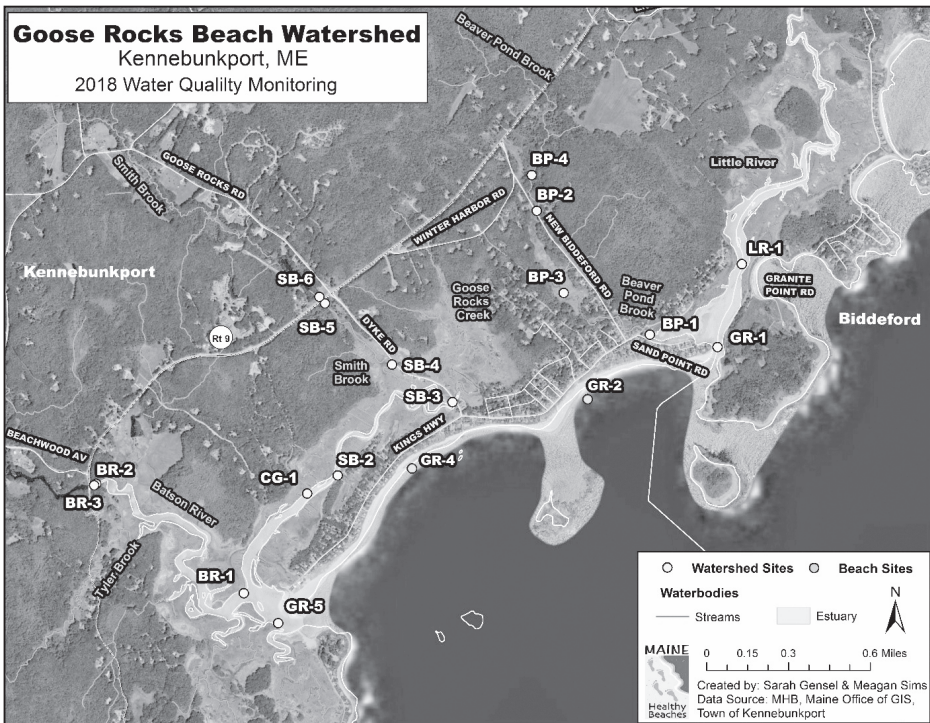


Figure 2. 2018-2019 water quality monitoring sites at Goose Rocks Beach and within the watershed (beach site GR-4 monitored once a month in 2019).

## Planning for the village parcel

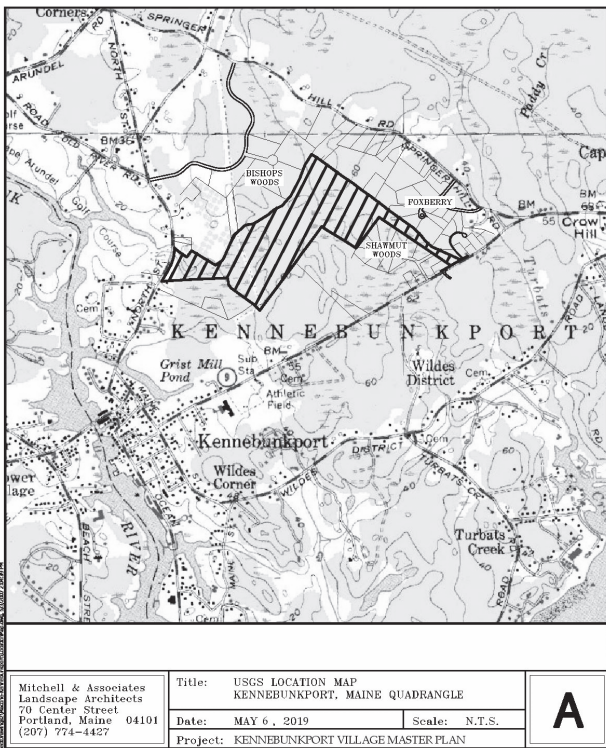
By Werner Gilliam, Director of Planning and Development

Last year, the Town of Kennebunkport had an unprecedented opportunity to obtain what we now commonly refer to as the village parcel. The Kennebunkport village parcel is a unique parcel that connects both North Street and School Street. This parcel over the years has been heavily reviewed by multiple authorities including the Kennebunkport Planning Board, Maine DEP, and US Army Corps of Engineers. In the early 2000s, it was considered as a future school site but eventually was purchased by a private developer who had received approvals to construct 80 condo units throughout the property. The developer had begun the process of roughing in the road, constructing the wetland crossings, and clearing the building sites when the town offered to purchase the property, believing that it offered unique opportunities to the community as a whole that would be forever missed had it been developed as a private subdivision.

The immediate question came forward, and it is the question that drives us today. Now that we own it, what are we going to do with it? While this idea of towns acting as developers may be shocking to some, it is not without precedent. Throughout New

England and even in Kennebunkport, our town records are filled with instances where our political forefathers negotiated land purchases with private property owners and even used the tools of eminent domain to develop many of the roads that our residents today use and travel on. Ironically, it has only been since the enactment of zoning in the early 70s that the development of our neighborhoods has been designed and created by private development.

We have since entered in this journey to engage you, the residents of this community, in helping us answer this question about how this parcel should be best used. Our consultant team consisting of landscape architects, engineers, planners, and economic advisors have been working since May of this year with a Selectmen appointed steering committee. We have had numerous public meetings, along with a long weekend of open design studio work and an engaging hands-on design workshop. We have heard from you a strong desire for land preservation; public spaces that allow those who live here to rest, relax, and play; a need for affordable housing to give a place for the next generation of year round residents to live; places



for our senior generation to gracefully age in the community that they love; and the municipal needs necessary in order to serve our residents well. How exactly we will accomplish that has yet to be determined as we move from vision to practical reality. Please continue to follow our progress at <https://www.kennebunkportme.gov/village-parcel-master-plan-committee>.