

Madbury Musings

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Madbury, NH 03823

May 2017

www.townofmadbury.com

SELECT NOTES

The year 2017 is off to a busy start. A few noteworthy events have passed already:

- The Powder Major conservation deal closed conserving more than 200 acres of forest.
- Town Meeting happened a couple days late thanks to Mother Nature's disregard for the requirements of voting law (the legislature has proposed a ratification method).
- We got a good deal on a fire truck (it's ordered!).
- The voters approved a large installment toward the cost of a new library
- Bruce Hodsdon retired from his long-term post as selectman. Many thanks to Bruce for decades of his service. We elected Fritz Green to take Bruce's place. Congratulations Fritz! We anticipate more Selectman turnover in coming years...
- Several new volunteers have stepped forward this year to fill seats on the various boards that keep the Town functioning. This is a big deal in a small town.

Thank you volunteers!

About that fire truck: At Town Meeting the Selectmen thought a special town meeting might be needed to authorize the purchase under state law. We were able to negotiate terms that precluded the need for a special meeting. We

anticipate a warrant item in 2018 to authorize a 4-year lease-purchase contract with payments starting after delivery in the fall of 2018.

Assessor activity: This summer our property assessment contractor will be performing "data verification". This means they will visit properties to verify that our assessing data is correct and current. This is a required routine activity. Don't be alarmed if you see someone from Avitar Associates checking out the neighborhood. You will receive a letter in advance if they plan to visit your property.

Water Study Commission: The State Legislature has passed a bill to establish "a commission to study long term goals and requirements for drinking water in the seacoast area". House Bill 431 lists commission representation, which would include a member from Madbury! (Nice of them to think of us when planning the use of all that Madbury water). The bill hasn't become law at this writing but we may need someone with an interest in water use to represent the town if/when it does.

Mailboxes: A snowy winter highlights the mailbox paradox:

TOWN OFFICE NEWS

HAPPY TRAILS to Kitty & Gray Cornwell as they move to Montana! We will miss Kitty at Town Hall. Lisa Amarosa is the newly appointed Town Clerk/Tax Collector, and Amy Avery is the new Deputy TC/TC.

ROAD CLOSURE: Town Hall Rd will be closed from Rt. 155 to the Moharimet School bus access lane on Madbury Day, Saturday, June 3. See page 4 for more details.

DOVER RECYCLING CENTER is open year round and available to all Madbury residents. The Center is currently open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8:30am to 3:30pm. Additional information can be accessed through their website: www.ci.dover.nh.us.

MADBURY TRANSFER STATION opens on the last Saturday in April and closes on the third Saturday in November. Monthly hours are 9:00am to 4:00pm on 1st & 3rd Saturdays, as well as 4:00pm to dusk on the 2nd Wednesdays.

DOG LICENSES: NH state law requires all dogs to be licensed. Dog licenses expired on April 30. Late fees begin to accrue on June 1. Please be sure your dogs rabies vaccination is up-to-date and renew (or get a new license) for your dog during regular business hours. You may call the Town Clerk's Office for more information (742-5131)

TAX BILLS: It is anticipated that tax bills will be mailed on May 23 and due by July 3.



Ken Morrow and Frank Drew work on a mailbox. Photo: H Corrow Date: back in the day

Mailboxes must be in the right of way to receive mail and snowplows must clear the right of way of snow. Our plowing contractor does a good job of dodging mailboxes but inevitably, some mailboxes succumb to a hit either from the plow itself or from the heavy snow thrown up by it. When yours takes the fall, remember this: The Town is not responsible for damage to personal property (e.g. mailboxes) in the right of way. Keep this in mind if you are thinking about that expensive granite mailbox post! The Town may be able to help you stand up the box that was knocked over but it will not reimburse for that ornate post you might have planted in the right of way! Keep it simple. Check the Town policy online at the Road Agent page. The policy shows USPS recommendations for rural mailboxes.

Solar exemptions: In 2014, the Town voted to adopt property tax exemptions for solar energy systems (see RSA 72:27-a and 72:62). Until now, the Town has not assessed these systems because there was not sufficient data to quantify their impact on

property value. Starting with 2017 these systems will affect property assessment. If you have qualifying equipment and you would like to avoid paying property tax on its value, you must apply for an exemption. Sorry for the red tape. State law says we must do it that way. See Eric at the Town Hall for the application or open it here:

www.revenue.nh.gov/forms/2017/documents/pa-29-2016.pdf

Road priorities for 2017:

By the time you receive this, new pavement should be in place on Pudding Hill Road from the top of the hill to Freshet Road and on a short stretch of Freshet Road too. This is the big budget road item for this year.

Problem culverts will receive some attention too. Hayes Road is due for a renewed surface (grind up old pavement, put down new) in the near future so we want to do any work that upsets the roadbed well in advance, allowing the disturbed area to stabilize before paving. Some culverts may need replacement; some will need improvements to the water entry and exit areas. Anticipated effects of climate change may dictate im-

provements (enlargements) to some culverts too.

The Town has already done some brush and tree control work this spring. Eversource also plans to continue clearing lines on several roads including Nute Road and Cherry Lane. The Town may hire arborists to work the other side of some roads too (where Eversource doesn't clear).

Master Plan Update Committee

You can impact Madbury's future. Madbury is updating its Master Plan and needs your input.

Why does it matter? A Master Plan is a guide to the overall character, growth, and development of a community. It gives town officials direction for zoning, subdivision and building regulations, town spending, other community programs, etc. In other words, it helps set priorities for how the town will develop and be run.

Madbury's Master Plan: Madbury's current vision "is to be a quality residential community that preserves and maintains the Town's historic and rural character." Key priorities include water and land protection, stable taxes, the civic district, and diverse housing.

What can you do? The Master Plan Update Committee is currently revising the plan and needs to know if this is the right vision for Madbury. Tell us what you think.

- What do you like about Madbury?
- What would you change about Madbury?
- What are your ideas and desires for the town's future?

- What new things should Madbury do?
- What should Madbury not do?

Your ideas can be:

1. Submitted at:
townofmadbury.com/MasterPlanUpdate.php

2. Offered directly at future public hearings and collaborative forums for the plan. Watch the “Meeting Notices” link on the town’s website for announcements of such opportunities at:
townofmadbury.com/PublicNotices.html

Where can I get more information? Current Master Plan:
townofmadbury.com/PlanningBoard.html
 Master Plan Update Committee:
www.madburynh.org/show_mpuc.php

Mark Avery and Marcia Goodnow. Co-Chairs, Master Plan Update Committee

Madbury Public Library

There is so much to do at the library on Madbury Day: Shop for great books for all ages at the Friends of the Library annual book sale starting at 9am. Then, between 10 and 2, sign up for the Summer Reading Program (children, teens, and adults). Just for signing up, you’ll be eligible for Madbury Day-only raffle prizes, winners chosen at the end of the day. Last year’s Madbury Day-only prizes included passes to Water Country and movie tickets for the Music Hall in Portsmouth.

This year’s Summer Reading theme, “Build a Better World at

Your Library” guides readers of all ages to learn more about construction, art, design, planning, architecture—whatever the word “build” might include, which is almost everything when you think of it.

The kick-off will be jointly sponsored by the Durham, Lee, and Madbury libraries and held at the Durham Public Library. Don’t miss Cactus Head Puppets on Wednesday, June 28, 10:30 am. The three libraries will also sponsor the always-popular Wildlife Encounters at Madbury Town Hall on July 13, 10:30am. Our finale will feature award-winning British storyteller Simon Brooks at Madbury Town Hall on Thursday, July 27, 10:30. This performance will be followed by the drawing of the Summer Reading raffle prize winners and there will be a special Build a Better cake.

In between the summer’s special performances, there will be weekly drop-in storytime and C.L.I.M.B. (Children Learning, Inventing, Making, and Building) sessions, as well as a DIY Saturday workshop, and the return of library mini-golf.

What Other Fun Things Are Available at the Library?

Museum passes to the Children’s Museum in Dover, the Seacoast Science Center, Museum of Science, Boston, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. And new this year, thanks to a generous grant from the Friends of the Library, we offer passes to Bedrock Gardens in Lee. This pass allows admission for two to any of the Open House days this summer, held on the first and third weekends beginning May 6.

What else is going on? Oh, did

we mention that in March our Children’s Librarian Kayla Morin, who divides her time between Madbury and the Goodwin Library, Farmington, was named New Hampshire’s Children’s Librarian of the Year? We’re just a little proud of her.

New Library Building Update

Thank you to all who have supported the effort to build a new library through early campaign donations and pledges as well as your support for the library warrent articles at Town Meeting. With your help, we continue to make progress toward the goal of a new library building which will serve all residents as a vibrant educational center for learning, socializing and creating.

Funding for the new building is a public-private partnership. The proposed public contribution is \$750,000. There will not be a bond for the project. To make the new library a reality in 2018, we need your help now to raise \$400,000.

With the Summer Reading Theme: Build A Better World; it is our hope is that Together We Can Build A Better Library!

Join the Campaign, your ideas, energy and enthusiasm are needed to make this long overdue new library a reality. Check out the MPL website and Facebook Page and Contact: mplsteeringcommittee@gmail.com to find out how you can help.

Other Exciting Events @MPL

June 5, 3-5pm – Read with Grover. Beginning and experienced readers are invited to spend time with Grover, a charming English setter, either reading or being read to. Children can sign

<i>Tentative Schedule</i>	Madbury Day ~ Saturday, June 3, 2017	<i>Subject to change</i>
Time	Activity	Location
9:00 – 11:00am	Music in the Morning Cafe - Music, coffee and desserts.	Town Hall
9:00am - 2pm	Friends of Library Book Sale & Open House	Madbury Public Library
9:00am - 2pm	Historical Society (raffle), Water, and Conservation exhibits, school displays, spinning, homemade goods, critters, and antique cars, and a racing lawnmower!	Town Hall and beyond
	Church yard sale, Plant sale, American and Indonesian food concessions, Roberta's Clown, balloons & bubbles	Madbury Church
10:15am	Martial arts demo	Town Hall
11:30am	Parade Line-up at Cherry Lane (cars at Madbury Woods)	Cherry Lane
12 noon	Parade! - Everyone is welcome to join in!	Town Hall Rd
12:30pm	Oyster River Middle School Jazz Band. (Raffle winners, after.)	Town Hall
5 pm	FAST Squad Dessert Auction	Town Hall
6 pm	Madbury Fire Department Chicken Barbecue Tickets available from any firefighter, the Town Clerk or Town Library. Reserve now! Adults \$12.00 Children \$6.00	Town Hall

Road Closure and Parking for Madbury Day

From 8:00am until after the 12:30 Jazz Band concert, Town Hall Rd will be **closed** from Rt. 155 to the Moharimet School bus access lane. A detour route will be available through the School parking lot. Parking will be at the School, and the lower Demeritt and Tibbetts fields off Rt. 155. The upper Demeritt field lot (by the Library) will be for official handicapped placard holders only. The newly paved expansion lot is available for display folk. Additional parking may be available near the Cemetery on Town Hall Rd, if conditions permit. Shuttle vans will make rounds from the Tibbetts lot.

up for 20- minute sessions. Call, e-mail, or stop in to get the time slot you want. This will be Grover's last visit to the library until the first week of October. June 19 and July 17, 3-5pm – Read with Digby. Beginning and experienced readers are invited to spend time with Digby, an outgoing Cavalier King Charles spaniel, either reading or being read to. Children can sign up for 20-minute sessions. Friends of the Madbury Library ~ will meet Thursday, June 15 at 7pm. The Friends support the library through book sales, a basket raffle, and an annual appeal. In the

past, they have donated funds that supported summer reading programs, purchased the Children's Room rug, our wireless printer, and provided the start-up funds for our website. Also, the Friends of the Library now have their own Facebook page! Visit us at www.facebook.com/friendsofthemadburylibrary. Daytime Book Discussion Group ~ meets the fourth Monday of the month at 3, September through June. We will discuss Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly on May 22. On June 26 the group will talk about The Story of Lucy Gault by William Trevor.

Evening Book Discussion Group ~ The group will meet on Monday, June 5, 7pm to discuss Songs of Willow Frost by Jamie Ford. The group will not meet during July and August. Writing Group ~ meets the second Monday of the month at 5:15 pm. Writers are invited to share their works and receive constructive input from other members. The group will meet Monday, June 12, and then not again until September 11. Quilting Group ~ generally meets Mondays from 1-3. Come in and see examples of their beautiful work throughout the library.