

Madbury Musings

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Madbury, NH 03823

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www.townofmadbury.com

SELECT NOTES

The Board of Selectmen has a new name ... we are now the Select Board! Thank you Peggy Wolcott for making this suggestion at Town Meeting. We welcome suggestions on how to be more inclusive. The Select Board has also changed our meeting schedule. We now meet the first and third Fridays of each month (8:30 am) and the second and fourth Thursdays of each month (7:00 pm). Please contact Town Administrator Eric Fiegenbaum if you would like to appear on a meeting agenda. All are welcome to attend Select Board meetings.

As we look forward to warmer spring weather, the Select Board is busy implementing some important changes. Mathew Paugh has been hired as the town's Expert Highway Agent. This part time position replaces the former Road Agent position. Historically, the Select Board took care of Road Agent duties. In 2018, upon stepping down from serving over 43 years on the Select Board, Joseph "Jay" Moriarty agreed to "temporarily" continue the vital role of Road Agent, but recently announced his wish to step down. Over six years later, we are finally able to give Jay his well-deserved retirement! When you see Jay, please make sure to thank him for all he has done for our town! Mat Paugh, who lives in Madbury, comes to us with lots

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Welcome to Mat Paugh (left) Madbury's new Road Agent, Above, he and Jay Moriarty (right) survey the newly completed grinding and grading job on Madbury Woods Rd. Mr. Moriarty has been taking care of Madbury roads, either as a Selectman or the Road Agent for at least 40 years. Thank you, Jay!

TOWN OFFICE NEWS

OFFICE CLOSURES: Town Offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4, 2024.

TAX BILLS: The first issue tax bills for 2024 have been mailed and are due by Monday, July 1, 2024.

DOG LICENSES: 2023 licenses expired on April 30. You are encouraged to license your dog prior to June 1 to avoid penalties. A male or female dog license is \$9.00 and spayed or neutered dogs are \$6.50. Owners over 65 years old may register one dog for \$2.00. A current rabies certificate is required. Licensed dogs with a current rabies vaccination on file may be renewed online at www.townofmadbury.com.

MADBURY TRANSFER STATION is open. Monthly hours are 9:00am to 4:00pm on the 1st and third Saturdays, as well as 4pm to dusk on 2nd Wednesdays.

DOVER RECYCLING CENTER is open year round and available to Madbury residents. The center is currently open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8:30am to 3:30pm. www.dover.nh.gov

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of Public Works experience and is eager to get to work. The Select Board will work with Mat to develop a long term road maintenance plan and to make sure he has what he needs to do all the projects that come with being our Road Agent. Welcome Mat!

Speaking of Public Works... the Public Works Exploratory Committee finished its work last fall, and the next committee is being formed to explore the next steps in developing our Public Works needs. It recommended beginning a move to a Public Works Department in the long term while working to maintain contract operation for as long as possible. Contact Town Administrator Eric Fiegenbaum if you would like to be considered for this important committee.

Pursuant to a vote held at Town Meeting on March 28, 2023, Municipal Resources, Inc (MRI) was hired to “conduct a Fire Department needs assessment... and develop a plan... for future fire protection”. The report has been accepted by the Select Board and can be found on the town website. Please note: The recommendations in this report are not necessarily those of Chief Perley or the Select Board. The information contained in this report will be used in future discussions about how to improve Madbury’s fire protection services. If you have an interest in joining our Fire Department, contact Chief Perley.

Do you have an idea that would benefit our town? Consider submitting a proposal for funding from the Wentworth Family Trust Fund! Carl and Dorothy Wentworth left a generous trust ...

“... for the use of the Town of Madbury and or its inhabitants for charitable, educational and recreational purposes to the benefit of the Town of Madbury and

its inhabitants and for the acquisition, repair and or replacement of maintenance, fire safety or other equipment necessary or desirable for the safe, efficient operation of the Town of Madbury.”

Last year, new curtains were purchased and hung in Town Hall thanks to a proposal to the Wentworth Family Trust by Jeannette Fones. You can find the application form on the town’s website.

The Select Board has made a concerted effort to improve the efficiency and transparency of town government. All approved minutes from Select Board meetings can be found on the town website. The Select Board has been researching a new website and a new town email service, with ease of use and open government in mind. It is our hope that a new website will improve communication with our residents and among town employees. Stay tuned!

As always, we continue to thank all of our dedicated town employees and our wonderful volunteers. We currently are looking for Planning, Zoning, Recreation, and Conservation members, a substitute transfer station attendant, a representative to the Strafford Regional Planning Commission (planning and transportation needs), a Deputy Treasurer, someone to work in the accounting office (good with numbers and details) and volunteer gardeners. Our town may be small, but our community is mighty. We continue to adapt to our changing times, but we always try to be mindful of Madbury’s core character and values. If you have not taken an opportunity to help our community in some way, please consider doing so. Whether it’s helping at Madbury Day, cleaning up roadside trash, or volunteering on a committee, Madbury needs us all to pitch in!

Transfer Station

The Transfer Station is open from the last Saturday in April to the third Saturday in November. Monthly hours are 9:00am – 4:00pm on 1st & 3rd Saturdays, as well as 4:00pm to dusk on the 2nd Wednesdays.

With the departure of Chad Walker, Jr, Alan Cade has stepped up to be the head transfer station attendant. We are still seeking a substitute attendant. The substitute attendant will need to be certified by the State through their Solid Waste Facility Operator Training and Certification program. Contact the Town Hall if you are interested or have questions.

Also, there is a bush pile at the Transfer Station which is burned once a year, if we obtain a permit. The permit cannot be issued if there are limb’s larger than 5” in diameter. And it is no longer acceptable to burn clean building materials. So no building materials or pallets are allowed in the pile. Only small brush, less than 5” in diameter is allowed in the brush pile.

Planning Board

The Planning Board is in the final stages of drafting the Housing & Demographics Master Plan Chapter. Board members will be reviewing the recommendations and implementation table with other Madbury boards and commissions this month. A public hearing to consider adoption of the chapter will be held in July. Please reach out to the Planning Board with any questions about the Master Plan.

Special Town Meeting

Madbury will need to hold a Special Town Meeting

The Town of Madbury operates under the traditional town meeting-select board form of government, consisting of the governing body (select board) and legislative body (town meeting)

The town meeting may exercise all powers of the town except those that are assigned specifically by statute to the select board or other officers or boards. The select board calls the town voters to annual or special meetings by drafting and posting the document called the "warrant". The warrant is the legal document that creates the agenda for the meeting and contains written statements of the issues to be considered by the voters, known as "warrant articles".

The select board's budgetary advice is presented to the town meeting in the form of the proposed operating budget and other appropriation articles. As part of its advisory role, the select board presents an annual financial report of the town and is responsible for publishing the reports of all other officers. The annual report must be available seven days before the annual town meeting. The town meeting votes on the warrant articles.

The Madbury operating budget period is a calendar year from January 1 to December 31. The budget is adopted at the annual town meeting in March.

The 2024 Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at the Madbury Town Hall. The warrant, budget and minutes of town meeting are available at Town Hall and on the Town website.

The State of New Hampshire Department of Revenue (DRA), Municipal and Property Division that oversees tax rate setting, discovered a minor procedural irregularity during its review of the annual town meeting held on March 12, 2024. The DRA noted that the Warrant for Town Meeting was posted in a timely manner. Although the proposed budget as presented in the Town Report was posted with the Warrant, DRA noted the MS-636 Budget Form was not posted with the warrant 14 days before the town meeting, as required by Administrative Rule 1707.12. The DRA notified the town that to remedy the issue that RSA 31:5-b Legalization of Meetings, allows a process to cure the irregularity. In accordance with that RSA a public hearing will be held on Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 7:00pm to explain the irregularity and at that time the Select Board will vote to hold a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 7:00pm.

The following documents are posted at town hall, Library and town website.

2024 Town Warrant
2024 MS-636 Budget
2024 Town Meeting Minutes
Special Town Meeting Warrant



Cemetery Trustees

The Madbury Cemetery Trustees are looking for a gravedigger to dig the graves for cremains. The pay is \$200 to open and close a grave. Contact Sandy O'Neill to find out more details:
sandy_oneill@comcast.net

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT 2024

**Town of Madbury,
New Hampshire**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Madbury in the County of Strafford, and the State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town Affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Madbury Town Hall,

13 Town Hall Road, Madbury NH 03823

on Tuesday the Twenty Fifth (25th) day of June 2024, at 7:00pm o'clock in the evening to act upon the following:

- 1. To see if the town will vote to ratify the results of the March 12, 2024, annual meeting even though the posting requirements were not met.***

Recommended by the Select Board.
(Majority vote required)

The 2024 Town Meeting Warrant and Minutes and 2024 Budget of the Town (MS-636) are posted at the Town Hall, Library and website.

Supervisors of the Checklist

June 4 is the deadline for changing party affiliations prior to the state primary in September. The Town Clerk is open on June 3 for anyone wishing to change their party affiliation.

The Supervisors of the Checklist will hold a session on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, from 7 to 7:30pm at the Madbury Town Hall.

Applicants should bring with them proofs of identity, age, citizenship, and domicile in Madbury. You can check your registration at the Secretary of State's website at: app.sos.nh.gov

Madbury Public Library

Library Hours – Monday & Wednesday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

UPCOMING HOLIDAY HOURS

Monday, May 27: Closed
Wednesday, July 3, 10:00-2:00
Thursday, July 3: Closed

Address - 11 Town Hall Road.
Phone - 603.743.1400. You can find out about upcoming events at the library's website, www.madburylibrary.org. Visit us on Facebook!

2024 Summer Reading Program: Adventure Begins at your Library

This year's Summer Reading Program, "Adventure Begins at your Library," is about both exploring and taking care of the world around you. The program's special guest is Smokey the Bear ("only you can prevent forest fires"), who is celebrating his eightieth birthday this year. We will be honoring Smokey with a special firepit "Smorey Time," on July 17, 3:00 PM. We have many activities, including the four joint programs with our fellow Oyster River libraries, three weekly story times, and Wednesday S.T.E.A.M sessions.

Sign-ups begin Monday, June 17!

Our Official Summer Reading Kick-Off ~Thursday, June 27, 10:30AM, Durham Public Library, featuring Steve Blunt and Marty Kelley.

Wildlife Encounters ~ Thursday, July 11, 10:30, Madbury Public Library. The always-popular live animal show will return again this summer. Come early, bring chairs and blankets!

Foam Party! ~ Thursday, July 18, 10:30, Little River Park, Lee. Presented by Foam Invasion.

Summer Reading Finale: Magic by Fred ~ Thursday, July 27, 10:30 @ Little River Park, Lee.

Plus On the Story Trail: June: *Dragons Love Tacos*; July: *Finding Wild*; August: *Not quite Narwhal*

Story times for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and big kids! On Mondays during June and July, Miss Sheryl will host lap-sit story time (0-24 months) at 9:15, with preschoolers (2-6) at 10:30. We will have Yoga Story Time on Wednesdays at 11:00, and preschool story time Thursday mornings at 10:30 with Miss Kayla. *Please note:* there will be no Thursday story time, June 27 through July 25. Come to the joint programs instead!

Anything for Adults?

"The Real Eastern Coyote" with Project Coyote's Chris Schadler ~ Wednesday, July 17, 6:00. Chris Schader, a wild canid ecologist, will help us understand and appreciate this often maligned canine.

Evening Book Group for all ages! (Suggested 10 & up) ~ Thursday, July 25, 6:00 PM. Let's discuss the 2024 Newbury Award winner, *The Eyes and the Impossible* by Dave Eggers! Eggers, a well-known adult author, won this prestigious children's prize for a story about

"friendship, beauty, liberation, and running very, very fast."

How About Museum Passes?

Passes to the Children's Museum, Dover; the Seacoast Science Center, Rye; Bedrock Gardens, Lee; Museum of Science, Boston; Boston Children's Museum, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and New England Aquarium are available. We also have seasonal passes to Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Holderness, and NH State Parks. Plus *new!* Strawberry Banke and the Portsmouth Historical Society (which includes the John Paul Jones House)! See our website for more information or call us, 603-743-1400.

Regular Programs @MPL

Writer's Group ~ Wednesday, June 5, 5:30. The group will not meet during July & August.

Quilting Group will meet most Mondays, 1-3.

Madbury Genealogists will meet Wednesday, June 12, 7:00 PM. Drop in to chat about your searches. Beginners are encouraged to join!

Friends of the Library meeting, June 13, 7:00 pm ~ The Friends support the library in many ways and are always looking for more friends.

Daytime Book Discussion Group, Monday, June 24, 3:30 ~ The group will discuss Kristin Hannah's *The Women*.

Evening Book Discussion, Thursday, June 26, 6:00 PM.

Thank you to the Friends of Madbury Library for sponsoring Summer Reading 2024!