

Madbury Musings

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Madbury, NH 03823

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www.townofmadbury.com

SELECT NOTES

The Select Board continues to move forward with several major long-term projects.

The development of a basic public works facility has begun. A committee of citizens and town officials is leading this effort. They are currently working on selecting a site for the facility. Action on site preparation and building a salt shed will follow. More information is available on the town website under the "Select Board" link. If you would like to help, please contact Town Administrator Eric Fiegenbaum at Town Hall.

Work also continues on how to improve Madbury's fire protection services for the future. Currently, the Board is working with Chief Perley exploring organizational options while the Chief is in contact with surrounding towns discussing collaboration possibilities. These efforts are informed by the Municipal Resources Inc. report on fire protection in Madbury which we received earlier this year. The report is available on the town website under the "Fire" link.

Speaking of websites, the Select Board is also moving forward with building a new town website. The new website is currently in its development phase and should be rolled out in the near future. It is our hope that the new site will improve information sharing and communication.

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The Madbury Fire Department helps celebrate Assistant Fire Chief William "Jim" Davis' more than 50 year career in the fire service, and Jim's retirement as Madbury's Assistant Fire Chief on October 24, 2024 after 32 years in Madbury.

TOWN OFFICE NEWS

Starting January 1, 2025, the Town Clerk's office hours will change to align with the Department of Motor Vehicles Help Desk, so we can better assist residents. The new hours will be:

Monday - Closed
Tuesday - 2-7pm
Wednesday - 8-1pm
Thursday - 8-1pm
Friday - Closed

TOWN OFFICE CLOSURES

Thanksgiving Day, November 28th
Christmas Day, December 25th
New Years Day, January 1st

TAX BILLS: Tax bills will be due in December. Please see your bill for the exact date.

2025 Dog Licenses will be available in January. A current rabies certificate is required. They are due by April 30, 2025.

MADBURY TRANSFER STATION will close for the season after the session on Saturday, November 16, 2024.

WINTER PARKING ORDINANCE will be in effect on November 1st and will remain in place until April 1st. It prohibits parking on streets and roads during snow plowing and removal operations. Any vehicle parked will be towed at the owner's expense. Placing of snow in the town road right of way during personal snow removal is prohibited as well. Your cooperation will help keep the roadways open and safe for all travelers.

The Board has also initiated an update to Town operations. Currently, the Town does not have a wage schedule for its employees. This means that if someone is to be hired for a particular position, there is no established pay range for that position. The Select Board is working to develop a wage schedule for the Town by collecting data from other communities that can be used for comparison. With a set wage schedule, the Town aims to ensure that employees are paid equitably for their work. This process is in the beginning stages.

Substantial maintenance was completed on Town buildings. Sections of the roofs of both the Town Hall and Safety Complex building needed to be replaced due to normal aging and wear. Several bids were obtained for the work in September, and the work was completed by early October. There was adequate funding in the Capital Reserve for the projects. Many thanks to Jim Davis for coordinating all aspects of the project.

As a reminder, next year the Town will conduct its once every five year reappraisal of all real estate within the Town. The reappraisal is required by RSA 75:8, "...so that the assessments are at full and true value." Based on recent reappraisals in area towns and increases in real estate values, we may see considerable increases in valuations in Madbury.

This is also budget season. The Select Board is currently meeting with all departments for line by line reviews of their budget proposals and capital plans. The resulting budget will be presented to the voters at the March Town Meeting. But before then, we will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget in January. We welcome your attendance at the hearing and invite your input. Please

watch the Town website for notification of the hearing.

Finally, we would like to thank the Town's dedicated employees and steadfast volunteers. They accomplish truly amazing things with limited resources and keep us moving forward. Many thanks to all!

As always, residents are welcome to attend Select Board meetings and offer questions and comments. Notices of the meetings are available on the town website.

PROPERTY TAX CREDITS AND EXEMPTIONS

If adopted by the Town, the State of New Hampshire authorizes tax credits and exemptions to property taxpayers. In Madbury, these include credits for veterans and solar energy systems, and exemptions for the elderly or blind. In certain circumstances, a tax deferral can be considered by the assessors.

A credit is an amount credited to reduce a tax bill. An exemption is an amount which reduces the assessed value of a property.

Each credit or exemption requires an application to the town. Programs are governed by qualifications and documentation requirements.

The elderly exemption has qualifications on age, residency, and income and asset levels. Veterans credits have qualifications on residency, discharge status, length of service, and disability depending on the credit.

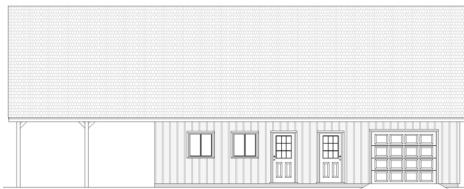
Applications have a deadline of April 15 in the tax year the credit is applied for. The property tax year is from April 1 to March 31. Most programs are permanent; however they are subject to periodic audits.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the Town Hall.

TIBBETTS FIELD

The Select Board would like to recognize the efforts of the Recreation Commission and in particular its Chair, Gordon Davenport, for the completion of the extension of the fitness trail at Tibbetts Field. A lot of legwork, coordination, and supervision of the project was necessary and the project has now been successfully completed. Great job, Gordon and the Recreation Commission!

Also at Tibbetts, the Oyster River Youth Association (ORYA) is preparing to start construction on a concession/pavilion/storage building in early November on Tibbetts Field. It will be a 60 x 24 ft building and replace the two existing sheds. Associated improvements include the construction of a gravel dumpster enclosure, gravel access to the new building, septic and leach field system, and a new well. The ORYA holds a lease until 2032 to use the Tibbetts Field to further its non-profit youth recreational sports activities.



Field side elevation of concession stand.

VOLUNTEERS

Madbury counts on volunteers! We currently are looking for Planning, Zoning, Recreation, and Conservation members.

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 commission or board, Madbury needs us all to pitch in!

TOWN OFFICE HOUR CHANGE

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Wednesday - 8-1pm

Thursday - 8-1pm

Friday - Closed

The Building Inspector's Office will also change to Tuesday evenings from 6-7pm and Thursday mornings 8-9am.

MCGREGOR EMS

McGregor EMS recently received funding from the NH Asthma Control Program to support people with asthma through free home visits. Visits can be for adults or children and are tailored to the needs of the individual. Services include (1) help identifying or minimizing triggers in the home (2) review of symptoms and treatments (3) help with existing asthma action plans (4) help with how to take your asthma medications. Visits are funded entirely through the grant and are offered at no cost to the patient or community. Insurance is not required. Questions regarding the program can be emailed to:

asthma@mcgregorems.org

To sign up for a visit, please fill out the secure form available at: forms.gle/LEhDwsexsF1ThZA3A. We will contact you to schedule an appointment.

WENTWORTH FAMILY TRUST

In 2024 Bar Harbor Wealth Management, Trustee of the Wentworth Family Trust approved recommendations from Matt Bacon, Madbury Representative to the School Board. Four scholarships were awarded to Madbury students with an intent and desire to pursue a post-secondary education.

In 2024, the town received the ninth disbursement from the Trust for town purposes. The projects submitted were:

- * \$6,000 for Tibbetts Field Trail Extension by the Recreation Commission
- * \$7,685 for environmental testing at the Safety Complex.

2025 project ideas should be submitted by December 31, 2024. Information and the form for project consideration is available at: townofmadbury.com/WFT.html

Scholarship information will be available for all graduating high school seniors residing in Madbury on the ORHS Counseling Office webpage.

MADBURY DAY

Madbury Day will be on Saturday June 7, 2025. If you would like to volunteer to make it a success, or be a vendor, please reach out to Morgan Daigle at: morganrdaigle@gmail.com.

Thanks to RCH Pavement Maintenance for donating time and materials to repaint the parking lines at the Town Hall and Library. Rich Hiltunen, the owner, is a Madbury resident and routinely repaints our lines every year.

MADBURY SCHOLARSHIPS



Colin Klein (ORHS '24) was named the final recipient of the Madbury Literary Fund Scholarship this summer. Klein is a first year student at UNH, studying Biomedical Sciences.

The Literary Fund was first established in 1910 when the Madbury School District loaned the Town of Madbury \$228 from their Literary Funds, which were state funds earmarked for education from a tax on banks. This money was placed in a Fund at the Stratford savings Bank with interest from this fund to be paid to the Madbury Schools. This continued until the 1920s when state receipts ceased. Interest earned on the Literary Fund continued to be paid to the schools until 1949, when the last Madbury School was closed. Interest continued to accumulate with few withdrawals until 2012, when discussion with the State Attorney's Office advised Trustees that the fund could be expended in full. Since that time, the Trustees have used that fund to award scholarships to graduating high school seniors for use toward their higher education. With 2024's award, the fund has been fully expended and is now closed.

MADBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

HOLIDAY HOURS

Veterans Day

Monday, November 11: CLOSED

Thanksgiving

Wednesday, November 27: 10:00-2:00

Thursday, November 28: CLOSED

Saturday, November 30: 10:00-2:00

Christmas and New Year's

Monday, December 23 through Saturday, December 28: CLOSED

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025: CLOSED

The library will be closed for five straight days between Monday, December 23, and Saturday, December 27, and again on New Year's Day, January 1. Closing for that entire was decided last January by the Library Director, Trustees, and Select Board as a way to maintain adequate levels of staffing and programming while staying within the town's budget guidelines. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to greeting you on Monday, December 30. Our normal hours will resume on Thursday, January 2, 2025.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

The Election Day Book Sale will take place between 9:00 to 2:00 on Tuesday, November 5. Donations of gently used books will be accepted in the library October 30 - November 2. *Please do not bring donations during the sale!* If you miss your chance to donate this time, the next opportunity will be during the week before Madbury Day in early June.

Two NH Humanities Programs!

Thursday, November 21, 6:00 pm ~ "New Hampshire's One-Room Rural Schools: Romance and Reality" presented by Stephen Taylor. We are happy to

share this program with the Madbury Community Club, who will hold their annual Pie Potluck after the talk.

Wednesday, January 22, 6:00 pm ~ "History and Mystery: A Genealogy Starter Guide" presented by Erin Moulton. Let this program guide you as you research your own family's story. Thanks to New Hampshire Humanities and the Friends of the Madbury Library for supporting these two evenings.

For Children

Story Times

These 45-minute sessions feature stories, songs, movement and crafts. There will be no story time the weeks of December 23 & 30.

Mondays, 9:15 ~ Babies & Toddlers

Mondays, 10:30 ~ Preschool (3-5)

Thursdays, 10:30 ~ Preschool (3-5)

Yoga

Join Sheryl Horton, a certified ChildLight Yoga instructor, for our next five-week session starting November 20.

Wednesdays, 10:00 ~ Crawlers & Toddlers

Wednesdays, 11:00 ~ 0 to Almost Crawling

Our Story Trail is now open all year! *Extra Yarn* by Mac Barnett will be the featured book for November and December. In January and February, you'll be able to read *All Right Already!* by Jory John.

Regular Meetings during November, December, and January

Friends of the Madbury Library ~ This essential group meets the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. They support programs of all kinds, including Summer Reading, museum passes, and any fun thing that

comes along. **Their next three meetings are November 14, December 12, January 9.**

Daytime Book Discussion Group

~ Meets the fourth Monday of the month at 3:30 p.m. Upcoming selections are: November 25, *West with the Night* by Beryl Markham; December 16, *A Light in Life* by Mary Pipher; January 25, *Four Treasures in the Sky* by Jenny Tinghui Zhang.

Evening Book Discussion Group

~ Normally meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. but the November/December discussion will take place on Thursday, December 5. The book for November is *Dept. of Speculation* by Jenny Offill.

Writing Group ~ The Writers will meet the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Participants are invited to share their works and receive constructive comments from other members. Upcoming meetings will take place November 6, December 4, and January 8. Join us in person or via Zoom.

Quilting Group ~ Generally meets each Monday from 1:00-3:00. Come in and see examples of their beautiful work throughout the library. New members are always welcome!

Library Hours:

Monday & Wednesday, 10:00-7:00; Thursday 10:00-5:00; Saturday 10:00-2:00.

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!