

Madbury Musings

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Madbury, NH 03823

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www.townofmadbury.com

SELECT NOTES

Madbury's town solar array was commissioned on September 8, 2022 and is producing electricity! The 75kW AC system was designed by ReVision Energy to produce the equivalent amount of electricity used by Madbury's current town buildings. Funding came from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program, a part of the American Rescue Plan, and two grants from the Wentworth Family Trust Gift.

Times change and the Selectmen have an interest in exploring alternatives to how the town will handle public work tasks in the future. Recent Town Meetings have funded a capital reserve account to partially address a change, but what that change will be needs to be explored. In late September, a postcard requesting volunteers for a public works exploratory committee was sent to all Madbury postal addresses. More than 15 residents responded, and the Selectmen selected 5 (3 full and 2 alternate members) residents to join 4 town staff to comprise the committee. Thank you to all the residents that stepped forward for the committee. The Madbury Public Works Exploratory Committee is tasked with researching options such as continuing with contracted operations, establishing a department of public works, partnering with

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Madbury's town solar array next to the Safety Complex on Knox Marsh Road.

TOWN OFFICE NEWS

TOWN OFFICE CLOSURES

Thanksgiving Day, November 24th

Christmas Day (observed), December 26th

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 16th

TRICK OR TREATING in Madbury will be observed on Sunday, October 30th 2022, from 5:00 - 7:30pm.

GENERAL ELECTION DAY is November 8, 2022. Polls are open from 7am to 7pm.

TAX BILLS: There was a slight delay in issuing the 2022 second issue property tax bills. Please see the tax bill for the due date.

2023 Dog Licenses will be available in early January. A current rabies certificate is required.

MADBURY TRANSFER STATION will close for the season after the session on Saturday, November 19, 2022.

WINTER PARKING ORDINANCE will be in effect on November 1 and will remain in place until April 1. 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.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission (CC) generally concerns itself with trails on town owned lands and conservation properties. The CC's philosophy on trails has been in favor of multiple use/multiple user. Trails are generally not developed for a specific user group, but try to encompass all users. This also includes a strong consideration for the other benefits of conservation land such as scenic views and water and habitat protection.

In early 2022, a newly reformed mountain biking group approached the CC about repairing a boardwalk crossing a wet area and erosion issues on a trail traversing Hicks Hill. This section is near the single trailhead that serves what most folks know as the trail system that encompasses Town Hall land, UNH Kingman Farm, and the Hayes and Grimes lands that are under conservation easement.



After discussions, an agreement of understanding, monetary support from the England Mountain Biking Association and the CC, and some hard work, the improvements are complete. Thank you to Tim Mallard and the Seacoast Chapter of the NEMBA for their hard work. The improvements will be a benefit to all the users and help reduce impacts to a nice and well used local resource.

other towns, or other options as it might see fit to recommend. The committee will begin its work through public meetings beginning on Tuesday, November 1, 2022. A progress report will be provided for Town Meeting in March of 2023.

Speaking of public work accomplishments, the grinding and repaving of a large section of Nute Road was completed this summer. Unfortunately, it looks like the town's longtime roadside mowing contractor is facing equipment and labor shortages. This may mean that the town has to seek alternatives and prioritize vegetation management this fall. Line of site at intersections will be high on the list. We understand that Durham's Public Works Department has had some trouble securing the boom flail mower attachment they rent to mow their roadsides. Perhaps this is an illustration of the complications of executing of public works tasks.

Madbury, like other cities and towns in New Hampshire, has received an additional allotment of funds along with the State's annual contribution to the funding of local road projects. After a public hearing, the Selectmen decided to use the additional road funding to reconfigure the intersection of Cherry Lane and Town Hall Road. A sharp curve and the current narrow "Y" intersection make for a less than an ideal situation. Both of these roads are town roads, although the State does maintain Town Hall Road for access to the Bellamy Reservoir Dam. At least two other intersections in town, Old Stage and Rt. 9 and Madbury Road and Rt. 155, could also use redesign, but they are on the State's road list and cost far more dollars. Phase I of the Cherry Lane intersection will be complete this fall,

and there will be further discussions on any use of the excess land as the intersection goes from a "Y" to a safer "T" intersection.

Elsewhere in this publication one can read about the student scholarships funded by the Wentworth Family Trust Gift. Another component of the annual Gift is for projects of *"charitable, educational and recreational purposes 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."* If you have ideas, you can find more information at: townofmadbury.com/WFTG.html as well as an idea submission form and deadlines.

Over the next few months the Selectmen will work on the 2023 budget culminating in a public hearing in January. Economic conditions and growing pains create challenges.



Drivers Wanted

Stafford Nutrition and Meals on Wheels provides nutritious ready-to-eat meals delivered to homebound clients in Strafford County (including Madbury) who meet the eligibility requirements of their several programs. Meals are provided Monday thru Friday with provisions for evening and weeks for qualified individuals. Their clients include those with a disability, chronic disease, or recuperating from surgery or illness. During meal delivery, drivers provide a daily safety check and make note of changes that can be a sign of issues arising. If you would like to learn more about being a Meals on Wheels driver please contact their administration office by phone (603) 692-4211 or email at: admin@snmow.org

WATER RESOURCES BOARD

On September 22, 2022 the Madbury Water Resources Board partnered with the NH Department of Environmental Services to conduct a workshop on testing water from private wells. The initiative comes from the Seacoast Commission on Long-Term Goals and Requirements for Drinking Water, with funding coming from the NH Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund.

Residents filled town hall to learn about recommendations to test their private wells. NHDES staff explained which contaminants to look for and how to take water samples. About ninety sample kits were handed out to interested residents. Over the next few weeks, residents returned 84 well samples. The State lab is processing the samples for standard contaminants such as bacteria, lead and arsenic, and for radon and PFAS. While manmade PFAS or “forever chemicals” have been around for decades, a review of their maximum contaminate levels is an important current health topic. Thanks to Madbury residents for showing their interest in clean water and to Pat Bickford for being Madbury’s liaison to the initiative and for making three trips to Concord with the samples.

Recently, HB 1421 decreases the allowable level of lead in NH schools and licensed child care facilities from 15 parts per billion (ppb) to 5 ppb. In the summer of 2021, NH lowered maximum contaminant level for arsenic to 5 ppb in public water systems.

Lastly, you can search “nh dhhs radon test,” for a free airborne radon test kit for your home.

Madbury Post

The Madbury Post is an email notification service established in order to facilitate the timely distribution of important town information. You can sign up to receive the Madbury Post by visiting a webpage on the town website: www.townofmadbury.com/html/madburypostsignup.html



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society has a wonderful program scheduled for December 13, 2022, at 7 PM in the Madbury Town Hall. The presenter will be renowned NH storyteller, Rebecca Rule. The topic is “Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire” the present, past, and future based on Rebecca’s book of the same name. Rebecca Rule regales audiences with stories of the rituals, traditions, and history of town meeting, including the perennial characters, literature, humor, and wisdom of this uniquely New England institution. This program is made possible through a grant from the NH Humanities To Go program. What better way to look forward to our own Town Meeting on March 14, 2023!

The Historical Society and others in Town are still searching for a missing quilt which was completed by various quilters in Madbury with individual depictions of Madbury locations. It was last seen hanging on the wall in Town Hall during a Madbury Day celebration about 10 years ago. If you know of its whereabouts, please call Kathy Frid. 603-742-8376

MADBURY SCHOLARSHIPS



Pictured above is Linley Walker who received the Literary Trust Fund Scholarship from Trustee Diane Hodgson. Linley also received a Wentworth Trust Scholarship and is attending UNH majoring in Business and Exercise Science.

In 2015 Carl and Dorothy Wentworth bequeathed the Town of Madbury a Trust Fund that included a Scholarship allowance for Madbury resident students who seek a post secondary education. The application for this scholarship is available from the Oyster River High School Guidance Councilor and is intended for all resident high school students regardless of where they are schooled (including at home or out of district). The Selection Committee has been able to award multi scholarships each year. Deadline for submission is the end of March. Consideration will be given to financial need as well as academic excellence, and community service. Parents and students are encourage to take

advantage of this annual scholarship.

In addition to the Wentworth Scholarship the Trustees of the Trust Fund award an annual Literary Trust Fund scholarship that is selected from the applicants for the Wentworth Trust Scholarship.

MADBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

REGULAR HOURS

Monday: 10-7
Wednesday: 10-7
Thursday: 10-5
Saturday: 10-2

HOLIDAY HOURS

Election Day - Tuesday, Nov. 8
10:00-6:00 (See more below)

Thanksgiving Hours -

Wednesday, Nov. 23: 10:00-2:00
Thursday, Nov. 24: CLOSED
Saturday, Nov. 26: 10:00-2:00

Christmas and New Year's -

Saturday, Dec. 24: CLOSED
Monday, Dec. 26: CLOSED
Saturday, Dec. 31: CLOSED

A Grand Opening for our Pre School Playground and the Lorraine Morong Story Circle

Thank you to all who joined us on Madbury Day, September 10, and played on our new equipment from Concord's Natural Playgrounds. We held two story times to officially open the outdoor story circle, named in memory of Lorraine Morong, one of the library's founders and a passionate advocate of reading to young children. As winter arrives, please know the playground is open no matter the weather!

Our Story Trail is now open all year! Thanks to the hard work and skill of Eagle Scout candidate Andrew McEwan and a generous



donation from our Friends group for supplies, we now have sturdy weatherproof holders for our rotating stories. November's book is *Bear Snores On* by Karma Wilson, followed by *Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site* by Sherry Rinker. Thank you, Andrew and our Library Friends!

Election Day at the Library!

The Library will be open on Election Day. We will have coffee and treats to lure you in to see our beautiful interior.

Plus Friends of the Library Election Day Book Sale from 9:00-2:00 in the Community Room.

Mark your Calendars!

"Recipe for Success: Finding Women through Community Cookbooks," presented by Erin Moulton, Wednesday, November 9, 7:00pm.

This program is supported by the Friends of the Madbury Library and is in partnership with the Madbury Community Club. It is also one of the offerings of Oyster River Community Read 2022. This year's theme is "Come to Gather: Explore Ways We Create and Sustain our Public Spaces."

Once again we'll be dressed up for the holidays! Thanks to our Quilters, our tree—positioned in the front window of the Community Room—will be filled with

handmade ornaments. And once again Leslie Dunn will display her hand-painted wooden Santa collection, which was a big hit in 2021.

Preschool Story Times

Join Jacky Le Houillier on Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30 AM. These 30-45-minute sessions feature stories, crafts, songs, and movement.

Regular Meetings during November and December

Friends of the Madbury Library ~ This important group meets the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. The Friends have been essential in raising the funds to build our new library and play area. They also support programs of all kinds, including our museum passes. Our next two meetings are Thursday, November 10, and Thursday, December 8.

Daytime Book Discussion Group

~ Meets the fourth Monday of the month at 3:30 p.m. Our upcoming selections are: *On November 22, Great Harry: The Extravagant Life of Henry VII* by Carolly Erickson; *January 2, The Pioneers* by David McCullough; *January 30, House of Sticks* by Ly Tran.

Writing Group ~ New time and day! 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 2, December 7, and January 4. Newcomers welcome!

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!