

Hillsborough, New Hampshire

NEWS FROM THE TOWN

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October - December 2022

From the Town Administrator

I would like to start by welcoming Richard Pelletier to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Pelletier submitted his name, along with three other residents, to be considered to fill the vacant position on the Board and was recently appointed by Chairman Bailey and Selectwoman Campbell. Mr. Pelletier brings with him many years of volunteer experience within Hillsborough, as well as years of serving on the HDSB School Board.

I'd also like to recognize and congratulate David Roarick on his recent retirement as Police Chief. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Dave for the last 10 years and found him to be open and genuine while serving in that role.

Further congratulations go out to Chris Parsons who has been appointed as Hillsborough's new Police Chief (or "Hillsboro" as the PD likes to spell it). Chris brings many years of experience to the position and was previously serving as the Lieutenant of the Department. I look forward to working with Chris in his new role as Chief and watching him grow as he brings his vision for the Department forward.

With the final quarter of the year comes our budget season. During this time, Department Heads are busy formulate their budgets for the following year and work with me to make sure we're bringing forward the best possible budget to the Board of Selectmen. This year we're conscious of the never-ending rise in prices as well as the unpredictable months to come. Nevertheless, we will continue to strive for as minimal of an impact to the town's portion of the tax rate as possible.

Some updates on projects we've been working on:

Woods Woolen Mill – If you've driven down Mill Street, you've noticed the mill building and old office have been completely removed. EPA also removed contaminated soil and smoothed the area out as well as planting some grass. We're currently working to hopefully be approved for grant money to start reclaiming the site into a waterfront park. The State of NH owns the old railroad bed which runs through the middle of our two lots at that site which may hopefully one day be used as a rail trail. There is still much work

to be done but by having the buildings and contaminated soil removed, we're heading in the right direction.

Kemp Park – This summer we worked at having the Hanson Cottage repaired, sided, and painted. We've also been working with the Department of Environmental Services to obtain a Shoreland Protection Permit so that the gazebo that was donated to the Town by the Masons can be placed on the site. Initially we thought we could simply place the gazebo far enough away from the shoreland to not need a permit however, we found that the entire lot is within the protection setback. NHDES has 45 days upon submittal of a permit application to review permits and either approve them or ask for further information and unfortunately, they asked for further information plus came out for a site visit in order to get a better understanding as to the current condition of the lot. We have submitted the additional information and we expect to have our approval soon!

Main Street Sidewalk Project – The sidewalk project is moving forward at a decent rate right now although it's not easy for the public to see that. We've worked with the Engineers and have submitted the necessary permits to NHDES and NHDOT so that when we're ready for the construction phase next year, those will already be in place. We have also worked with our municipal attorney to get the various easements together so we can meet with the property owners and have the proper paperwork in place. Most of the easements for this project are temporary and needed during the construction phase but there are a couple which are permanent such as those for drainage for example.

Project Genesis – During the last big rainstorm, our Project Genesis building sustained water damage which lead to us discovering several areas of mold. The mold wasn't simply a result of the rainstorm but in some areas a result of ground water/moisture over time coupled with the age and condition of the building. For several years, we have been repairing various things within those buildings as they come up but there are some issues that will take a more extensive amount of work. We've been told by the company we're working with on the mold that they will only come in to remove the mold once we rectify the situations that are causing it to grow

because if we don't, it will begin to grow again within 72 hours after removal. Currently we cannot use the PG side of the building because of the mold and discussions are taking place for a plan of action in order to keep Project Genesis and our Diversion Program running. None of the options are inexpensive, but we want to bring the best possible cost-effective solution forward.

Please check out our website at town.hillsborough.nh.us or our Facebook page Town of Hillsborough NH to keep informed. We wish you all a happy and healthy end of the year and holiday season. Our next edition of the newsletter will come out in January.

Office of Community Planning

Fall is the time that the Planning Board starts to consider amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. This year there is a wide variety of topics under consideration.

Definitions

Over the past year the Board has become aware of the fact that the Zoning Ordinance was lacking in certain definitions and permissions for some uses. Any use that is not in the Zoning Ordinance is not permitted so the Board is considering defining and permitting the following uses. Construction Services, Contractor's Storage Yard, Entertainment Establishment, Entertainment, Live, Event Venue, Manufacturing, and Pet Grooming. Also, Residential Solar Energy Systems and Commercial Solar Energy Systems are to be added to the Table 4 chart of permitted uses. These uses are already in the Solar Ordinance, but this will clarify and show that they are allowed.

Minimum Dwelling Size

The Board is considering instituting a minimum size for dwellings to be 300 square feet for a one-bedroom dwelling with an additional 120 sq feet per additional bedroom.

Gateway Zone

The Gateway Zone being considered in the Antrim Road area. A Gateway Zone includes development standards that will make the entrance to town more attractive and increases development opportunity by allowing multifamily housing like condominiums to be built. All the uses currently allowed in the Commercial Zone will remain permitted. Currently, residential development in the Commercial Zone is only permitted as a secondary use in conjunction with a commercial use and must comprise less than 50% of the square footage of the structure. The Planning Board will be developing this zone with support from Matt Taylor of the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission.

Dark Skies Ordinance

The Planning Board is considering bring forward a Dark Skies Ordinance this year.

The International Dark Sky Places Program was founded to encourage communities, parks and protected areas around the world to preserve and protect dark sites through responsible lighting policies and public education. An IDA International Dark Sky Community is a town, city or municipality that has shown exceptional dedication to the preservation of the night sky through the implementation and enforcement of a quality outdoor lighting ordinance, dark sky education and citizen support of dark skies. Dark Sky Communities excel in their efforts to promote responsible lighting and dark sky stewardship and set good examples for surrounding communities.

Being home to the New Hampshire Astronomical Society's observatory, Hillsborough is a prime candidate for IDA designation with its already natural dark skies. Upon certification, the IDA works with communities to promote their work through media relations, member communications, and social media. An IDA Community designation will help enhance the reputation of Hillsborough and foster increased tourism and local economic activity. The achievement of this designation would make Hillsborough one of only 37 IDA Dark Sky Communities in the world and help conserve our treasured dark skies for future generations.

All of these proposed changes will be presented at a public hearing whose date is yet to be determined. Keep an eye on the town website for more information. Feel free to e-mail me robyn@hillsboroughnh.net with your questions.

The Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment are always looking for alternate members. If you have an interest in serving on either of these boards, please send an e-mail stating your interest in the board you are interested in to robyn@hillsboroughnh.net.

Fuller Public Library News

**603-464-3595, fullerlibrary.info,
follow us on Facebook too**

Fall happenings at the library: Preschool Storytime has begun again for the school year. Tuesday or Thursday at 10am, join Ms. Laura for stories, songs, playtime, and a craft. Registration is required.

Five Book Groups meet monthly: Popular Fiction, Military History, Cookbook, Mystery and Teens. Call the library to find out what is being read and how you can join!

How To's Day: Monthly on the first Tuesday of the month, learn something new! Upcoming classes – Pumpkin Whoopie Pies, Needlefelting, and Holidays! Call to reserve a spot!

Book Donations: we will be accepting donations, indoors only, of DVDs (no VHS), music CDs, and books in very good condition the week of **November 7-12**. Due to storage space we will be checking donations as they come in and may have to refuse some. We do not accept: dictionaries, encyclopedias, textbooks, or books that have yellowed.

Other Programs Happening:

October 25: Understanding Bobcats in NH at 6:30pm, presented by NH Fish & Game Stewards. A brief history of wildlife in NH, bobcat natural history, research, and management in NH.

November 29: Winter Backyard Birds with Steve Hale, starts at 6:30pm.

December 10: 10am-12pm, Silver Tea and Marimba Music, join us for cookies and tea or coffee while you listen to beautiful music. Bring the kids by at noon for the reading of The Night Before Christmas by Heidi Doyle.

Hillsborough's 250th Events

November 12: "Being Thankful" Reading of the Town Charter at the Franklin Pierce Homestead. November is also the birth month of the 14th President so please join us for an anniversary cupcake. Tours of the Homestead may also be available. 2-5pm

December 10: Hillsborough for the Holidays (formerly Old Fashioned Christmas). Festivities all over town, music, food, shopping, raffles, the tree lighting, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, something for all ages! 9am-5pm

December 24: "Auld Lang Syne" Hogmanay (Scottish New Year's activities) will begin with a Progressive Scottish High Tea, then a torchlight parade followed by fireworks and a bonfire at Grimes Field. Join us as we wrap up our full year of festivities, celebrating 250 years of our special town. Thank you for the support, we hope you have enjoyed all of the festivities! 3:30-8pm

Check our website HillsboroughNH250.org for updated event information and to look at photos from past events. Special thanks to Maryanne Cheung for her beautiful photos and for attending all of our events!

The Building Inspectors "Code Enforcement Corner" Solar Power

Greetings from the Building Department. We want to take this opportunity to share what we have learned about solar energy. I hear many folks ask if it is

affordable and is it worth the investment. In simple terms the average cost of installation is about \$4.00 per kilowatt of energy produced. That is a one-time cost in theory with the life span of a panel being 25-30 years. The average residence uses approximately 600 kilowatts of power per month. That equates to 7200 kilowatts per year and there is typically a 25% increase in the size of the system to cover increased usage or cloudy days and NH winters, to make up for losses.

If we are looking at a 10,000-kilowatt system installed that is going to be about \$40,000.00. Wow upfront that's a lot of cost, but if you consider the fact that currently you can write off 26% of the cost on your taxes and can finance these systems at 3% or less it starts to make some sense. In most municipalities you are allowed a taxation credit on the assessed value of the solar array, so you're investing in your property which makes the resale value more, but you're not being taxed on that home improvement. Please check with your local municipality to verify what you need to do for tax exemption.

I would also like to point out that New Hampshire does have some of the highest electric rates in the country and we recently heard our rates may be going up as much as 40%. The solar investment is a long-term value with fixed pricing, in a world where the cost of running a home in the future is uncertain at best. There are many excellent Solar companies out there and I would encourage you to check into a few different companies if it sounds of interest to you.

As the cost of energy skyrockets in all the things we do, drive our cars, recreation, heat and cool our homes, it's important to look for ways that we can invest in our own futures and remain safe and comfortable in our NH way of life. The other thing to consider is how electric vehicles can play into the use of our solar production and storage of that power if we produce more than we use. There is a lot of food for thought in considering the Solar alternative and I hope this is helpful for you to start considering it as a real possibility in your own lives.

Thanks for reading, Mike Borden, Code Enforcement

****Voting****



Voting in the general election is on November 8th from 7am to 7 pm at the Middle School (6 Hillcat Dr.)

**** Winter Parking Ban****

No overnight parking on town streets
from
November 1 – April 1



PROJECT GENESIS COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTER

FREE PROGRAMMING FOR 8TH-12TH GRADERS

TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
2:00PM-6:00PM
DINNER SERVED DAILY

COOKING, MEAL PLANNING AND LIFE SKILLS

- learn the basics of cooking and how to meal plan around a budget
- work with staff to prepare a "family style meal" for everyone!
- learn what it takes to live alone and take care of your own space!
- learn how to effectively clean dishes, vacuum, organize household items and complete other independent living skills

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- learn about basic self-care and the importance of learning more about yourself
- learn coping skills
- learn to manage stress, have healthy relationships with others, conflict resolution and more.
- spend time with our on-site therapy dog, Olive!

GOAL SETTING, TRANSITIONAL PLANNING, AND BUDGETING

- work with staff to explore options following high school
- create short- and long-term plans with support of staff and the community
- learn the basics of budgeting and beginner finance management

RECREATION AND SOCIALIZING

- spend time with peers, explore new interests and hobbies, get homework help, or just simply relax after school.
- enjoy our pool table, foosball, Nintendo Switch, Playstation, fully stocked arts and crafts area and more!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- key requirement for our attendees
- specialize in yard cleanup, managing our community wood bank, helping those in our community, and helping local groups with events!

OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

- help us care for our beehives, learn to garden, and harvest and can food for later use
- explore the outdoors and the beauty of New England!

CONTACT US!

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Hillsborough

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COMMIT. EMPOWER. SUCCEED