

Hillsborough, New Hampshire

NEWS FROM THE TOWN

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August 2024

From the Town Administrator

It's been a busy summer and fall looks as if it will be the same. The Selectboard began meeting with the Police and Fire Chiefs, as well as the Town Administrator to discuss plans for new municipal facilities. Currently, the facilities and properties we own and/or use are either insufficient, outgrown or obsolete. We have been doing the best we can with what we have but it's time to responsibly plan for our current and future needs.

The downtown sidewalk project is still moving forward, and the plan is to finally construct in the spring of 2025. Unfortunately, there is one business owner along the route who is not in favor of the sidewalk and has so far refused to cooperate with the request for a drainage easement in spite of the fact they will be paid for that easement. As an abutter to the project, the business owner had been personally notified of the project and the hearings, they did not participate in any of the meetings and chose the eleventh hour to attempt to stall the project. Although it would be nice if they agreed to the plan, our engineer is looking into the feasibility of moving the drainage just beyond their property if they choose to continue to be uncooperative.

Another project that continues to advance is the Woods Woolen Mill site on Mill Street. We continue to work with the Department of Environmental Services, Sanborn and Head, Streamworks, pllc, and UCONN, on the reclamation plan for the site. The project completion date will be in 2025. To date, all the work done on the property has been completed via various grants and federally funded programs.

Through grant funding, we're also working with the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Environmental Services, Sanborn and Head, and UCONN on the old Associated Electric Property. Additional testing has been done on the property to find out if there is unknown contaminants in the soil and buildings. EPA will be removing barrels of fluids during the week of August 26th to clear them off the property. We have applied for a demolition grant through InvestNH to take the buildings down and are waiting to find out if the funds are approved.

Department heads have begun formulating their 2025 budgets and I'll start meeting with them in September to review budgets prior to them being presented to the Selectboard. As always, we will work diligently to try and keep the town's portion of the tax rate as level as possible.

The Board meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 6 p.m. at the Town Office Building and all meetings are open to the public.

Hillsborough Community Power Update

While we were hoping for a Fall Launch of Hillsborough Community Power, it looks as though we will not be launching until later than planned. The reason for this is that the electric rates for Eversource were delayed by them, which didn't make it possible to obtain a favorable rate for our program. This happens occasionally, but we are being diligent with checking supplier rates and if we're able to lock in one for the Fall that is lower than Eversource, we will do so.



State Primary - September 10, 2024

Hillsboro Deering Middle School

7:00 am to 7:00 pm

Presidential Election - November 5, 2024

Hillsboro Deering Middle School

7:00 am to 7:00 pm

From the Planning Director

Tax Increment Financing Districts

A primary goal of the Town of Hillsborough is to facilitate business development and help create jobs; we do this by establishing an environment that encourages private investment. Effectively performing this task helps ensure diversification and expansion of the tax base.

A Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district is a way to fund new infrastructure needed for development within a designated area without placing a burden on the existing tax base or current taxpayers. A TIF uses the increased property value generated by new development to finance infrastructure improvements needed for that development to occur.

One way it can work is for the Town to issue bonds, or otherwise to agree to fund public improvements needs for new development. The increase in tax revenue collected from the new development would be used to make bond payments. Another way it could work is for the developer, through a development agreement, to agree to pay for the infrastructure improvements up front, and the increased tax revenue (or increment) generated by the TIF can be used to “pay back” the developer for the costs of the infrastructure. The Town would need to require a performance guarantee for either scenario and would need approval from the voters at Town Meeting. Once the improvements have been paid for, the increment funds go into the General Fund.

There are both large and small towns in New Hampshire with successful TIF districts, including Londonderry, Concord, Keene and Bedford, as well as the smaller communities of Peterborough, Jaffrey, and Enfield.

There are two steps to adopting a TIF District:

1. Town Meeting must adopt the provisions of RSA 162-K, authorizing the creation of TIF Districts.
2. Town Meeting must also approve the establishment of the TIF District with boundaries, as well as a development program (plan for improvements), and a finance plan.

Watch for upcoming public meetings about the TIF where your questions will be answered.

Please feel free to contact Robyn Payson, Planning Director by phone 603-464-7971 or e-mail robyn@hillboroughnh.net with any questions.

From the Fire Department

Summer is over, school will be in session, and we are gearing up for the holiday season. So much to prepare for!



At the Fire Department, we are ready for Fire Prevention Month, with the week of October 6th through October 12th being Fire Prevention Week. This year we are going to strive to educate everyone about the importance of working smoke detectors in the home. The key thing you should remember is to install, test and replace.

Every year around this time we receive many calls about smoke detectors going off. One thing to remember is you should replace them around 10 years' time. Most detectors come with a replacement date on them. Also, you need to be sure to clean your detectors as cobwebs and dirt can make them go off. As a rule of thumb whenever we “Spring ahead or Fall Back” with our clocks you should always replace your batteries.

Remember as we store away all our summer lawnmowers, weed whackers etc., to remove the gas from them before we put them away and never store fuel in your garages. Another good reminder is with the colder weather coming that it is a good time to get your furnace cleaned and inspected by a certified HVAC contractor for the upcoming winter. Please make sure when you get your furnace inspected that if you have a gas furnace you also check that during the summer months nothing got stacked up or pushed in front of your vents outside your house as this will cause exhaust to back up inside.

One last note is to remember to dispose of smoking materials in proper receptacles and douse them in water, not in planters, beauty bark or out of your vehicle window.

Also, be sure chains and other metal parts are not dragging from your vehicle as they can throw sparks. Check your tire pressure - driving on an exposed wheel rim can cause sparks.

Have a safe and healthy Fall!



From the Planning Director

The Economic Development Commission and the Planning Board is working with the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission to develop a Gateway Overlay Zone and TIF District. The District will be on Route 202 on the Hillsborough/Antrim line.

The Gateway Zone will overlay the current Commercial Zone. This will increase development opportunities that include mixed use (housing and commercial development together). This will in no way eliminate any of the uses currently allowed in the Commercial Zone.

The other project is the development of a Tax Increment Financing District (TIF) in the Gateway Zone. A TIF is an economic development tool that incentivizes development by expanding infrastructure to make the properties more attractive to development. A TIF district is a way to fund new infrastructure needed for development within a designated area without placing a burden on the existing tax base or current taxpayers. A TIF uses the increased property value generated by new developments to finance infrastructure improvements needed for this development to occur.

The Economic Development Commission will be hosting a meeting for Town Boards about the Gateway and TIF District on Thursday September 19th at 6:00pm at the Fire Station. The public is welcome to attend.

The Economic Development is also developing a survey to gauge public opinion on these topics and others that relate to Economic Development in Town. Keep your eyes open, the survey will be available online and in hard copy located at specified locations.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via e-mail at robyn@hillsboroughnh.net, or by phone at 603-464-7971.

Reminder!

Be sure to pick up a Transfer Station sticker at the town offices when you register your car. If you have already registered your car bring in your registration to the Selectmen's office and a sticker will be provided to you. Seasonal residents can obtain a temporary permit from the Transfer Station.

From Fuller Library

Sept 2: Closed for Labor Day

Sept 3, 1pm or 6pm: How To's Day: How to make a Paper Dahlia – must register

Sept 5, 6:30pm: FPL Book Group-The Reading List by Sara Adams

Sept 6, 1pm: Tea & Conversation

Sept 9, 2pm: Military Book Group-The Last Campaign by H.W. Brands

Sept 10, 6pm: Haunted History of New England program – registration required

Sept 14, 10-11am: Seedy Saturday – fall gardening

Sept 17, 12:30pm: Cookbook Group-Moosewood Restaurant: New Classics

Sept 17, 1pm or 6:30pm: Mystery Book Group-Listen for the Lie by Amy Tintera

Oct 1, 1pm or 6pm: How To's Day – Diamond Art – must register

Oct. 3, 6:30pm: FPL Book Group

Oct 4, 1pm: Tea & Conversation

Oct 7, 2pm: Military Book Group

Oct 8, 6pm: Bear Happenings in NH (NH Fish & Game program)

Oct 10, 6-7:30pm: Meet our Artist of the Month Igeborg Seaboyer

Oct 14: Closed

Oct 15, 12:30pm: Cookbook Group

Oct 15, 1pm or 6:30pm: Mystery Book Group

Oct 31, 5-7pm: Trick or Treat at the Library!

Nov 1, 1pm: Tea & Conversation

Nov 4, 2pm: Military Book Group

Nov 5: Closed

Nov 7, 6:30pm: FPL Book Group

Nov 11: Closed

Nov 12, 1pm or 6pm: How To's Day – Needlefelting – must register

Nov 19, 12:30pm: Cookbook Group

Nov 19, 1pm or 6:30pm: Mystery Book Group

Happenings at the Police Department Chief Chris Parsons

We are just getting through the summer and school is back in session. Please give yourselves some extra time to get to places with school buses on the roadways. Here is some tips from our partners at NHTSA:

1. School safety starts at the bus stop. Share these tips with your children: Arrive at the bus stop five minutes early. Stand five giant steps away from the curb. Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says it's okay before stepping onto the bus. Be sure the bus driver can always see you, and you can see the bus driver.
2. School Bus Drivers : The greatest risk to a child isn't riding a school bus, but approaching or leaving one. Stay alert. Stay engaged. Keep them safe.
3. Yellow lights on a school bus indicate the bus is preparing to stop. If you're driving, slow down, stay alert, and watch out for children.
4. See the school bus stop-arm? Time to STOP. Racing past the arm puts young lives in jeopardy.
5. School is in session! That means more children are outside waiting for the bus during certain hours. Slow down and watch for children playing and gathering near the bus stop.

I would like to welcome Officer Keegan Finley to the Police Department. She just recently graduated from New England College. She currently is at the NH Police Academy completing her training. She will be graduating the academy in November and then she will start a 16-week training program with our Field Training Officers. Around March or April 2025, she will be on her own patrolling.

In August, Officer Normand was able to participate in the Heroes Cup baseball game at New Hampshire Fisher Cats stadium in Manchester. This was a fundraiser for Special Olympics New Hampshire. This annual baseball game between Police and Fire raised over \$100,000!

Thank you for all your support and if anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me.

NHDOT Reminder to Candidates Regarding Placement of Political Signs

Highway Safety is Paramount!

Another election year is upon us, and the Department of Transportation is once again reminding candidates and their campaign workers about proper placement of political signs:

- The law prohibits placement of political signs on the interstate highways, including the entrance and exit ramps.
- The law prohibits placement of political signs on or affixed to utility poles or highway signs, including delinquent.
- Signs that create a traffic hazard or obstruct the safe flow of traffic will be removed. Signs affixed to bridges create a traffic hazard and will be removed.
- Signs will be removed to perform maintenance, and this is prime mowing season.
- Placement of signs on private property requires permission from the landowner. **(Currently the Town of Hillsborough allows for signs outside the Transfer Station up to 30 days prior to an election and they must be removed the day after an election)**
- Signs on private property that obstruct traffic signs or signals, or restrict a motorist's field of view at an intersection, will be removed as a traffic hazard. (RSA 236:1, 236:73.)
- Candidates are required to remove all political signs by the second Friday following the election, unless the election is a primary and the advertising concerns a winning candidate. (RSA 664:17.)

In an effort to best use the Department's resources, NHDOT Commissioner William Cass has written to the political party chairs and political candidate regarding placement of political signs. In the event the Department needs to remove political signs for safety or maintenance, the signs will be held at the local patrol headquarters until one week after the election and then discarded. (RSA 664:17.)

Hillsborough Parks and Recreation Department

7 School St., Hillsborough NH, 03244

FALL PROGRAM GUIDE

Programs

Toddler Soccer

Learn the basics, score goals, and have a blast with friends during this toddler soccer program. Your Little Kicker will need sneakers and water. Guardians are expected to stay, play and cheer them on! Ages 2-5. Only 10 participants per age group so please register online ahead of time to secure a spot. Located at Grimes Field 4. 28 Preston St., Hillsborough NH

Group 1-Wednesdays

Ages 2-3 years old: 9-9:30am

Ages 4-5 years old: 9:30-10am

Session 1-September 4th- September 25th

Session 2- October 2nd- October 23rd

\$20 per session

Group 2-Saturdays

Ages 2-3 years old: 9-9:30am

Ages 4-5 years old: 9:30-10am

Session 1-August 31st- September 28th

No class September 7th

Session 2- October 5th- October 26th

\$20 per session

CoEd Soccer- Adult

Thursdays 5:30-6:30pm

September 12th-October 24th

Ages 18 & up pick-up soccer. Small-sided scrimmages. All skill-levels welcome. \$3 per session.

Located at Grimes Park- Field 4
28 Preston St., Hillsborough NH

Coffee Connections

1 Friday a month
10-12pm

September 20th

October 18th

November 22nd

Coffee, Tea, Pastries, Snacks & Activities provided. \$3 each

Located at Project Genesis- 7 School St., Hillsborough NH

Pickleball-Adult

Mondays 5:30-6:30pm

September 9th- October 28th

Come join us in learning and playing one of the fastest growing sports in America.

3 courts will be set up and sessions will include instruction and gameplay so

players of all experience are welcome! Recommended \$3 donation per session.

Located at Grimes Park Courts
28 Preston St., Hillsborough NH

Register for all programs at
hillsboro.recdesk.com

Contact Program Coordinator, Zoe Paige, at 603-680-4401 or zpaige@hillsboroughnh.net with any questions.

These are not Hillsborough-Deering School sponsored events

Hillsborough Parks and Recreation Department

7 School St., Hillsborough NH, 03244

FALL PROGRAM GUIDE

Events

Summer Concerts at Butler Park

6-7pm

Schedule:

8.01- Chris Voss
8.08- InClover
8.15- Baza Blues

8.22- The Bullseye Band
8.29- North River Band
9.05- Endless Skies Band
9.12- Sheep Dip

7th Annual Trunk-Or-Treat

Thursday, October 31st
5-7pm
Free Entry

Show off your costumes and trick-or-treat safely from trunk to trunk at our 7th annual Trunk-Or-Treat! This is held at Hillsborough-Deering Middle School parking lot and hosted by Project Genesis and the Hillsborough Parks and Recreation Department. If you or your business are interested in participating in this event please find contact information below.

Turkey Trot

Saturday, November 23rd
Check in at 8am. Race starts at 9am.
\$5 entry fee comes with
2 raffle tickets

Includes:

Turkey Trot- Kid & Adult Race
Chili Cookoff
Potato Sack Race
Pie-Eating Contest
Thanksgiving Raffle

*If you are interested in participating in the Chili Cookoff and/or the race please sign up at hillsboro.recdesk.com

Register and find more information at
hillsboro.recdesk.com

Contact Program Coordinator, Zoe Paige, at 603-680-4401 or zpaige@hillsboroughnh.net with any questions.
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