

Hillsborough, New Hampshire

NEWS FROM THE TOWN

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March 2024

From the Town Administrator

I'd like to thank the residents who came to the Town Meeting that was held on the evening of March 12th. Understandably, not everyone is able to make the meeting due to busy schedules, work, or other commitments but it was nice to see so many attend and take part in the process. Town Meeting is always the second Tuesday of March each year, and the Selectboard holds a public hearing on the operating budget and individual warrant articles in mid-February of each year.


Here is a recap of what was voted on and passed at the meeting:

- Our annual operating budget, which covers all expenses to run all our municipal departments (police, fire, library, highway, transfer station, etc.).
 - Water and Sewer Department budgets which are separate from our operating budget since those expenses are covered by user fees.
 - Capital Reserve Funds (CRFs) that we rely on for expenses for equipment purchases in various departments, building, sidewalk and bridge repairs, etc. These funds help us in keeping our portion of the tax rate from spiking when these large purchases and expenses come up.
 - Our annual road work warrant article, which will be used this year for Whitney Road, Bog Road, and if there is enough money and parts of E. Washington Road. We are also participating in a combined project with the water and sewer department on Park and Whittemore Street.
 - Bridge work on Stowe Mountain Road Bridge which is another of our red listed bridges. The expense to do this work is partially offset by one-time funds from the State of NH.
 - Three-year collective bargaining agreements for both the Employees Union and the Police Union.
- The purchase of two highway trucks, in which we received a total of \$432,712.00 in grant funding toward the purchase prices of these two vehicles, with only \$108,178.00 needed to be paid by the Town.
 - A 5-year lease purchase for a new highway department grader to replace our current 10-year-old piece of equipment, which is being traded in toward the price of the new grader.
 - The establishment of a Recreation Revolving Fund, which will be used to deposit recreation income from programs (other than summer camp), and which the expenses of those programs will be paid out of. This is a goal to have the new additional recreation programs the Town will be offering to be self-sustaining.
 - Voters also approved the adoption of Hillsborough Community Power Plan which authorizes the Selectboard to develop and implement Hillsborough Community Power for any and all residents who wish to participate in lowering their electrical rates.

As a reminder, we have various committees who have openings for volunteers such as the Conservation Commission, Economic Development Committee, Energy Commission, and alternates on the Planning and Zoning Boards. If you are interested in finding out more information, please email Laura@Hillsboroughnh.net.

As you can see from the information in this newsletter, there is a lot going on over the next few months in Hillsborough. Please make sure to check out the various events and programs we offer and get out and enjoy as springtime unfolds!

Sparks from the Energy Commission

NHsaves®  Check out NHsaves.com to get rebates on appliances, check if you qualify for a free energy audit, and energy efficiency tips. NHsaves is a collaboration of New Hampshire's electric and natural gas utilities working together to provide NH customers with information, incentives, and support designed to save energy, reduce costs, and protect the environment statewide.

Want to learn more about solar? ReVision energy has a monthly newsletter that is always informative, never a sales pitch, and covers a wide variety of topics. You can sign up for the newsletter and read their Under the Sun blog at revisionenergy.com.


Curious about getting an electric vehicle (EV), but not sure where to start? Green Energy Consumer Alliance hosts their popular Electric Vehicles 101 webinar, Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 12:00 pm. Environmental and consumer benefits, information about batteries and charging, state and federal incentives will be covered, with plenty of time for Q & A.

<https://www.greenenergyconsumers.org/event/electricvehicles1013>

From the Fire Department

Once again it is that time of year, everyone is required by state law to have a burn permit to kindle any kind of fire pit or brush pile on their property. If you are not the homeowner, then you need to have the homeowner's written permission for a fire pit or brush pile burn.



 When we turn our clocks ahead for the spring it is always a good reminder to check our smoke detectors and CO detectors as well. Make sure they are clear of all dust and dirt and change your batteries in them. You may also want to check the expiration date on them. Most are good for 10 years; we recommend getting new ones every 5 years for your safety.

Clean out your dryer vents, at the minimum dryer vents need to be cleaned out at least once a year and ideally every six months for larger family sizes. You should always hire a professional to clean them out to make sure it is done correctly. You should also make sure that the air exhaust vent pipe outside your house is not restricted and the



flap opens when the dryer is running. Keep all flammable supplies away from the dryer. (boxes, cleaning supplies etc.)

This is a good time to inspect your grills by checking for grease or fat build up. There can be spider webs and any other kind of nests or debris that were built during the winter months. If you use a gas grill, make sure your hose has no leaks in it before you use it. Remember grills need to be 10 feet away from the house and any other structure when in use.



Properly dispose of yard waste, like dead branches, pine needles, fallen leaves and pulled weeds as they can be fuel for a fire. You don't want to store these near your house. Remove all dead plants or flammable materials within 5 feet of your home and pine needles from your roof as well.



One last reminder is to please make sure we can see your street number from a distance. It makes it very difficult in the evening if we must respond to an emergency and we can't find your home. The Hillsboro Rescue Department has a fund raiser where they make numbered mailbox/house signs that can be seen at night for \$15.00.

All you have to do is fill out the form either at the station or print it off our website, prepay and it will be made for you to pick up right at the fire dept. We even put the number on both sides if you would like so it can be seen if driving from either direction on your road.

From the Town Clerk

Reminder! Dogs need to be registered by April 30th, 2024.

There will be a rabies clinic in Henniker on April 20th located at the fire station on 21 Maple Street from 1:30 pm until 4:00 pm. The Hillsborough Town Clerk will be there to register any dog from Hillsborough receiving the shot.



From the Library

Seed Library: Join Robin for Seedy Saturdays to learn more about gardening. Check our Facebook page or website calendar for dates and topics.

April 2: How To's Day, 6pm- Sourdough Starter – RSVP for a spot

April 4: FPL Book Group meets at 6:30pm

April 7-13: National Library Week – celebrate by stopping in for a library card!

April 8: Military History Book Group meets from 2-3pm

April 8: Solar Eclipse Party 2-3:15pm – we will have special glasses so you can view the eclipse safely.

April 13: Seedy Saturday – Container Gardening, 10-11am

April 16: Cookbook Club meets at 12:30pm

April 16: Mystery Book Group meets at 1pm & 6:30pm

April 23: Piano Bar Favorites, 6pm – sing along to all your favorite piano bar songs

April 27: Seedy Saturday – When to Plant Outside, 10-11am

May 2: FPL Book Group meets at 6:30pm

May 7: How To's Day, 6pm- TBD

May 11: Seedy Saturday – Companion Gardening, 10-11am

May 13: Military History Book Group meets from 2-3pm

May 21: Cookbook Club meets at 12:30pm

May 21: Mystery Book Group meets at 1pm & 6:30pm

May 25: Seedy Saturday – Good Bugs and Pollinator Friendly Gardens, 10-11am

May 28: NH Covered Bridges with Tim Caswell, 6pm

June 4: How To's Day, 6pm – TBD

June 6: FPL Book Group meets at 6:30pm

June 8: Seedy Saturday – Bad Bugs, 10-11am

June 10: Military History Book Group meets from 2-3pm

June 18: Cookbook Club meets at 12:30pm

June 18: Mystery Book Group meets at 1pm & 6:30pm

June 22: Seedy Saturday – Weeds, 10-11am

June 29: Local Author Meet & Greet, 10am-12pm

June 17: Sign up for Summer Reading!

From Parks & Recreation

Important Notice

As of 2024, the Parks and Recreation Department has updated the manner in which participants register to attend Camp Manahan, as well as how town-owned fields and parks are reserved, and fees for events have been implemented.

First and foremost, all residents are allowed to use our facilities, tennis courts, pickleball court, parks, etc. at no charge. The only time a charge is implemented is if someone requests to reserve any of these facilities for a private event.

Summer Camp and Facility Usage Rates are as follows:

Camp Manahan – Resident Rate \$50/Week & Non-Resident Rate \$150/Week (Hardship waivers are available for residents who qualify financially)

Field Reservations (non-profits can apply for the waiver but must be able to provide proof of non-profit status)

- Grimes (All Fields) - \$500/ Event
- Baseball or Softball Field - \$25/Hour or \$125/Day
- Butler Park - \$25/Hour or \$125/Day
- Pavilion at Manahan - \$25/Hour or \$125/Day
- Pickleball or Tennis Court – Resident Rate \$10/Hour
Non-Resident Rate \$25/ Hour or \$125/Day

As noted above, residents do not have to rent these facilities in order to use them. These fees are simply if you wish to have a dedicated time or event



From the Planning Office

Happy Spring!

First, I would like to congratulate Andrew Morris on being the newest member of the Planning Board. The Board welcomes him and will enjoy his contributions. I would also like to congratulate Susanne White on her re-election!

The Town Meeting was very successful with all the zoning articles passing.

Among the articles approved was the article pertaining to Accessory Dwelling Units. Now anyone owning a single-family home can place a Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit on their property. This opens the door for “Granny Pods”, Guest House or Tiny Homes that are attached to a foundation (not on wheels) on the same property as a single-family home as an accessory.

The Historic District has an ordinance which gives them the authority to guide building and updating homes in their zone. We are looking forward to the regulations the Commission has worked so hard on being finalized and adopted this spring.

Among the other articles are several definitions that have been updated and clarified. Changes of Use have been added to the zoning ordinance to locate all the information in one place. The Flood Plain Ordinance is now updated per FEMA Floodplain Management Program requirements and the required square footage for residences in the Central Business District was reduced from 600 to 450 square feet for a one-bedroom apartment. Apartments that have two or more bedrooms will require an additional 120 square feet per additional bedroom.

Moving forward, the Planning Board will be holding a public hearing to approve the updated Capital Improvements Plan. This is a plan that anticipates capital needs so they can be planned for and costs can be spread across a period of time instead of making a significant impact on the tax rate. The Board will also continue working on developing a Planned Unit Development overlay ordinance that will allow mixed-use development in the Antrim Road area. As in every year more things come up that warrant the Planning Board’s attention and I am looking forward to seeing where the year takes us.

Alternates:

The Zoning Board of Adjustment is in need of Alternate members. Being an alternate is a great way to learn about the Zoning Ordinance and the approval or disapproval process of Zoning Variances, Special Exceptions, Equitable Waivers of Dimensional Requirements, and appeals to from the decisions made by administrative officials.

The Planning Board is also looking for alternates. The Planning Board is in charge of carrying out the future wants, needs and vision of a community. Serving on the Planning Board gives you an up close view of how the Town is developed. You develop experience with the Town’s Regulations and Zoning Ordinances. You will also have the opportunity to weigh in on changes and amendments.

Being an alternate on either of these board’s gives you a great opportunity to learn how Town government works. Please send a letter or send an e-mail to ask questions or express interest in participating on either board. I am happy to answer any questions you may have,

Respectfully submitted,
Robyn L. Payson, Planning Director
603-464-7971
robyn@hillsboroughnh.net

Happenings at the Police Department

Chief Chris Parsons



First, I want to thank all residents for supporting the Police Department at the Town Meeting. The support will provide the department with 2 more full-time officers that will help with burnout and the wellness of the officers we already have. The approval of the Union Contract will make sure we maintain the great staff we have and keep us competitive with most agencies in New Hampshire for pay and benefits. This is particularly important because most of the departments in New Hampshire are shorthanded and are offering sign on bonuses to attract already certified police officers from other agencies. I appreciate the support received and thank you for approving the budget and the union contract.

As we are a quarter way through the year so far, we have hosted 3 training sessions from outside vendors where we acquired free seats for the training because we allowed the company to use the Police Department Training Room. This saved the Town approximately \$5,000 in training costs.

I would like to welcome Officer Cody Lacombe to the Police Department. He comes to us already full time certified from the Antrim Police Department. He will complete our in-house training with our Field Training Officers and will be on his own by June.

In March, Officer Normand, Officer Patten, and I were able to participate in the Law Enforcement Winni Dip at Lake Winnepesaukee to benefit Special Olympics. The dip took place in Laconia with water that was 33 degrees....brrrrrr. New Hampshire Law Enforcement was able to raise \$160,000 in donations for the Special Olympics. If anyone would still like to donate the link is still open at <https://fundraising.sonh.org/fundraisers/hillsboroughpd>.

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

From the Water & Sewer Commission

System Development Charge (SDC) Implemented for New and Expanding Sewer Users

On February 27 the Hillsborough Water & Sewer Commission instituted a System Development Charge (SDC) for new and expanding sewer users. Under the SDC, new and expanding users will be charged a "buy-in" fee to achieve an equity position with currently existing users. New and expanding customers will make an initial one-time payment that will cover their share of the value of the existing infrastructure already paid for by the existing users.

The SDC of \$6.71 per gallon per day (gpd) of estimated flow was calculated by the commission's engineers by dividing the sewer system's total asset value of \$4,028,269 by the current system capacity of 600,000 gpd to derive an existing asset per gallon capacity of \$6.71. The Commissioners believe this new fee system will more adequately reflect a new or expanded use's actual impact on the sewer system than the previous three-tier fee format.

In the past, sewer connection fees were \$2500 for a single-family home; \$7,500 for multi-family or commercial and \$10,000 for industrial facilities or other complexes. Under the SDC, fees will be based on projected flow into the system. As an example, a typical three-bedroom house producing an estimated 450 gpd of inflow to the system, based on the NHDES Table 1008-1 for Septic System Design, will pay an SDC of \$3,019.50, an increase of \$519.50 over the current charge. A 50-unit residential development with two bedrooms per unit, however, will pay \$100,650, a fee more accurately reflecting the proposed use's impact on the existing system.

All fees collected under the SDC will be placed in the Sewer System I/I Removal Capital Reserve and earmarked for infrastructure improvements.



TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH WATER & SEWER COMMISSION 2024 WATER QUALITY REPORT

**THE 2024 WATER QUALITY REPORT IS
AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING AT THE
FOLLOWING WEB ADDRESS:**

<http://tiny.cc/Hillsborough2024CCRreport>

PLEASE NOTE THE URL IS CASE SENSITIVE

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PAPER COPY OF THE
REPORT MAILED TO YOU PLEASE CONTACT
THE OFFICE AT 603-464-7982.**

*******NOTICE*******

Throughout April, May and June

**The Hillsborough Water Department will be
flushing water mains via fire hydrants**



**BE ADVISED THAT YOU MAY
EXPERIENCE POSSIBLE SERVICE
INTERRUPTIONS AND/OR
TEMPORARY WATER
DISCOLORATION!**

If you have any questions please call 603-464-7982

From the Conservation Commission

The Hillsborough Conservation Commission currently has one full membership opening as well as alternate member openings. If you are interested in conservation and conserving Hillsborough's natural resource, you would like to join the Commission, we currently meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the town offices located at 27 School St. beginning at 7:00 pm. You must be a resident of Hillsborough to become a commission member



TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH REDUCED WEIGHT LIMITS ON TOWN ROADS

As of March 1, 2024 all municipal roads within the Town of Hillsborough, are open to vehicles in excess of 6 tons except for County Road, Robbins Road and Windsor Road. Please call the Highway Department at 464-7986 for permission to travel on the closed roads in vehicles that exceed 6 tons.