
Madbury Musings

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Madbury, NH 03823

October 2011

www.townofmadbury.com

SELECT NOTES

The days are getting shorter and colder, and winter is getting closer. This is the time of year that we tend to stay a little closer to home. It's also when the town Boards are the busiest. We have wonderful volunteers in this town who keep these boards actively conducting the town's business, but we could use a few more volunteers. We currently have openings for alternates on every board. Alternates play an important role – they need to be informed and ready to step in to deal with issues if regular members are absent and a quorum cannot be reached. If you would like to take a more active role in the governance of Madbury, please contact Colette at 742-5131 and volunteer.

In our last Musings, I sent out a request for a volunteer to take responsibility for producing our Town Report. I am happy to report that Eric Fiegenbaum has graciously consented to assume this responsibility. Many thanks to Eric, who already does so much for the town.

When Hurricane Irene came to visit, our volunteer fire fighters and part-time police officers were actively monitoring the situation and were prepared to respond to any issues caused by the hurricane. Arthur Hartford and his

crew were busy throughout the storm keeping the roads in town clear and passable. Our thanks to all of these dedicated people. They keep us safe and secure, and we truly appreciate their efforts.

Our thanks to Dan Gordon and Landcare for assuming responsibility for maintaining the Public Safety Complex landscaping. This is a great help to the town. We have wonderful volunteers who maintain the Town Hall and the cemetery, the small parks and the library plantings, but there are few volunteers and a lot of

planted areas! In taking responsibility for the area around the Safety Complex, Landcare has assured that this area will continue to be well-maintained and a source of pride for the community.

When the last tax bills were sent out, a survey was included regarding electronic payment of property taxes, motor vehicle registrations, and dog licenses. There were 126 responses to this survey. While there were some who favored adding an electronic payment option, the overwhelm-

TOWN OFFICE NEWS

TAX BILLS – As of this printing, the tax rate has not been set. We hope to mail out the second issue bill by October 28 and, if we do, payment will be due by December 1. PLEASE CHECK THE DUE DATE ON THE TAX BILL ENCLOSED AS LATE FEES ARE ASSESSED.

DOVER RECYCLING CENTER – The Center, located at 265 Mast Road, is available to Madbury residents: be prepared to show documentation that you are a town resident. As hours of operation are periodically adjusted, call 516-6450 or visit their website at dover.nh.gov for updated changes.

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

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.

OFFICE CLOSINGS:

Thanksgiving Day ~ November 24

Christmas Day ~ December 26

ing majority of respondents were opposed to this. Therefore, electronic payment will not be offered as an option at this time.

There have been requests for a bike rack to be installed at Town Hall. This is not in the budget, but we would be more than happy to accept donations toward the purchase and installation of a bike rack. If you see the need and would like to contribute, a bike rack fund will be set up.

The Oyster River Youth Association has approached the Board of Selectmen to request permission to construct a second playing field adjacent to the current field at Tibbetts Field. The Selectmen have given permission to ORYA to proceed with site plans and a feasibility study. Additional information regarding this project will be made available as it is provided to the Board. You can expect discussion of this issue at the next Town Meeting, as the Selectmen request a "sense of the town" regarding this project.

Joan Sundberg

WINTER PARKING ORDINANCE

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Recreation Commission

Did you know there are many miles of walking/jogging trails throughout the town of Madbury? Some are grass surface trails that are kept mowed and some are natural cut trails through wooded areas. The trails behind town hall lead over to the Kingman Farm trails and are quite extensive. There is a trail map located behind town hall as well as on the Town Website under the Conservation Commission tab. Another trail system, which is less known about, winds through the Tibbetts' property and Madbury Memorial Park near the Cemetery.

The Recreation Commission is planning the installation of a fitness trail system around the perimeter of the Tibbetts' playing fields. The trail will have various fitness stations for stretching and exercise combined with a walking/jogging trail. Anyone who has any experience with fitness trails and would like to share their knowledge with the Recreation Commission, please contact Susan Cilia at: 343-1283 or cilianh@comcast.net.

The 3rd annual "Paws 4 A Cause" snowshoe race sponsored by Acidotic Racing will be held on Saturday February 18th. Advance registration is required. This race will raise funds for the CVHS, starting out with a Paws 4 A Cause guided snowshoe trek and finishing in the evening with a 5K course through the woods behind town hall.

Lastly, just a friendly reminder that no dogs are allowed on or around the Madbury playing fields.

Madbury Historical Society

I first met Folksinger Jeff Warner when he was an Artist-in-Residence at the Maple Street School in Hopkinton. I was working at NHPTV and looking to feature an educator using innovative ways to reach students. I spent some time with Jeff in that 4th grade classroom as he engaged students in what he called the "oral literature" of early American Life. A folklorist and scholar from Portsmouth, Jeff literally brings the history and culture of rural America to life using humor, age old instruments and song. He likes to call it teaching the history of real people; the stories you won't find in the text books. Jeff uses the traditional music to connect people to the past. I can tell you first hand that the stories he shares and the music he features are long remembered.

Jeff has worked for museums up and down the East Coast including the Smithsonian and today is among the nation's foremost performer/interpreters of traditional music.

The Madbury Historical Society and the Madbury Public Library have teamed up with the NH Humanities Council to bring you Jeff Warner's presentation of **"Banjos, Bones, and Ballads", Tuesday, Nov., 8th, 7pm at the Town Hall.** We hope you'll join us and bring the kids; it should be educational and entertaining.

By the way, The Madbury Historical Society is having our annual potluck dinner at 6pm preceding Jeff's presentation. All are welcome; just bring a food item of your choice.

Beth Goss

Conservation Commission

When Helen and Wesley Brett moved their family from Durham to a small farm in Madbury back in 1946 it had a profound change. No longer did the children occupy free time by just inventing and playing games. There was important work to be done. Cows had to be milked and there was equipment to maintain. The tasks drove home the motivation behind the move - man is connected to the land and there are contributions to be made by all. It is interesting that this concern has regained prominence in our current time with movements that seek to highlight the connection between man and the land, and address questions of sustainability.

On a bright blustery October 5, 2011, the conservation community came together to mark the completion of the 100th conservation project to protect the Great Bay. Under the direction of the Great Bay Protection Partnership, the Brett's 54.6 acre farm on Gerrish Brook has been protected for future generations by a conservation easement. The Partnership, a diverse coalition of conservation organizations, federal and state agencies, worked through the Na-

ture Conservancy with Nick Brett, representing the family, to secure the easement.

The 53 acre easement prohibits subdivision and development of the property, and protects its natural resources and contributions to the integrity of the Great Bay. The property straddles 1,300 feet of Gerrish Brook, which drains to Johnson Creek and the Bay. The brook has a State designated Species of Concern, the red fin pickerel, and an occurrence of a State designated endangered plant species. Ed Robinson from NH Fish and Game highlighted the connection to the Great Bay by reminding the attendees that waterfowl seen on the Great Bay also depend on interior wetlands.

The Brett farm is just downstream from the town owned 37 acre Hoyt Pond Conservation/Recreation Area. The whole area is valuable for its sedge meadows and active and inactive beaver flowages.

Funding for the easement came from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's North American Wetlands Conservation Fund. The Nature Conservancy holds and will administer the conservation easement.



Redfin pickerel "rescued" from the wet grass, and documented on the Brett farm during a Oyster River Watershed Association riverwalk in March, 2004.

Madbury Public Library

The Madbury Library is delighted to welcome two new staff members:

Katherine Marr is our new assistant librarian. As such she has responsibility for cataloging new materials, assisting us with our FaceBook page, helping with collection development and working at the circulation desk two evenings a week and two Saturdays a month. You may also see her at the library filling in for other staff members as needed. Katherine is a graduate of Simmons College with a Masters Degree in Library Science. She worked at the Webster Middle School in Massachusetts before moving to New Hampshire. (Elanor Pickens, our former assistant librarian was able to give Katherine an orientation to the library before Elanor moved on to her new position as Medical Librarian at the Portsmouth Hospital.)

Hilary Dow, a Madbury resident, has joined our staff as children's librarian. Hilary has planned and run story times for many years at Barnes and Noble in Newington and we are delighted that she will be able to share her time and many talents with the families of Madbury. Hilary loves kids, books and reading! Growing up in Newmarket, Hilary is familiar with small town life and enjoys all the wonderful features that living in Madbury offers. From running the quiet back roads, to meditating and practicing yoga in her yard, to raising her son with her husband of 16 years, she embraces the nurturing and supportive community

of Madbury. "Ms Shawna" was able to introduce Hilary to our story time families before Shawna moved on to her new position as Reading Specialist at the Rollinsford Grade School.

The fall promises to be a busy one at the library with weekly tutoring with the UNH Seacoast Tutors, Open Chess Wednesday nights with Steve Diamond, monthly reading time for new and emerging readers with English Setter Rosa (our wonderful Reading Education Assistance Dog who was trained by the Delta Society Pet Partners and arrives with her trainer, Marsha Barden), Wednesday arts and crafts with art teacher Eileen Streeter and our twice-weekly story times.

Our book groups are very active and you can join in the reading by checking out the next book on their schedules (posted on our web site). Our writing group read some of their work at a recent Community Club meeting. A sampling of their writing is available at the library. A showing of *Lost in Laconia*, with discussion to follow with the movie's producer, will happen at the Madbury Church with the date to be announced. We are co-hosting Jeff Warner's *Banjoes, Bones, and Ballads* with the Madbury Historical Society at the Town Hall on November 8 at 7 pm. It promises to be a wonderful family event. Please check our web calendar and pages for details, additions and changes for any or all of the above.

If you see scarecrows on the library lawn in November you should know that they are the creations of our local Girl Scouts.

We would like to send a special thanks to the Madbury Firefight-

ers who brought a pumper truck to a Fire-Prevention-Week-story-time and taught us all about fire safety. They did a wonderful job!

Our fall Friends of the Library Book Sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 5 from 9 am to 2 pm. People fill up bags and make a fair donation to support library programs and museum passes that the Friends fund for the library. Donations of good quality and condition books and DVDs are always welcome. Text books and National Geographic magazines are best donated elsewhere.

The Friends of the Madbury Library have formed a very active Fund Raising Committee. The committee is working on a community survey regarding Library Community Center needs, meeting with area professionals and consultants for guidance, and investigating ways to obtain grant funding for a new library building. The Town has set aside property between the present Library and the Town Hall for a future Library/Community Center. For more information or to assist the committee please contact Joan Valentine at 742-3063. To make a donation to the Friends of the Library Building Fund checks can be made out to the Friends of the Madbury Library with Building Fund in the notation line.

Statistics – this time last year I reported to you that as of October 18 we had circulated 11,510 items



from our collection. As of October 17, 2011 we have circulated 14,524 items, a 24% increase over last year's circulation to date.

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We welcome donations of books, audio books, or movies on DVDs. Your empty toner cartridges are most welcome (we get credit for them to use at Staples). We thank Peggy and Ken Wolcott for their donation of new shelving for our audio collection and for shelving in the children's room. Thank all of you for your continued support of the library, its services and its programs!

We will honor our many volunteers at a breakfast coffee at 9 am on Thursday, November, 17th. Hours: Mon. and Wed. 10 to 8 pm; Thursday 10 to 4 pm; Saturday 10 to 2 pm.

www.madburylibrary.org

Nancy Bergeron, Director
Madbury Public Library.