



Moultonborough Town News

Fall 2017



TOWN WELCOMES NEW PLANNER

Our new Town Planner for the Town of Moultonborough is Robert "Bob" Ward. Here is an introduction to who he is in his own words. I started this new job as Town Planner on June 19, 2017. I came to Moultonborough from my previous position as Town Planner for the Town of Sanbornton, where I served as Town Planner and Zoning Administrator for eleven years. Prior to my job in Sanbornton, I had worked in various planning positions at the New Hampshire Office of State Planning and at the Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. Prior to my planning career in New Hampshire, I served as Planner for the State of New York, Hudson River Valley Commission and also as City Planner for the San Francisco City Planning Department. I hold a degree in planning from Syracuse University and in landscape architecture from the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry. I received certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners in 1994 and from the American Society of Landscape Architects in 2002. I have served on town planning boards in Andover as an appointed member and in Sunapee as an elected member. Also at the local level, I served as a member of the Andover Conservation Commission and Andover Budget Committee.

NEW HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER JOINS TOWN MANAGEMENT TEAM

Norman O'Neil was recently hired by the Select Board as the Town's part time Human Resource Manager. Norm has more than twenty-five years of human resources management experience working with municipal and county governments for most of his professional career, including the City of Laconia and the City of Concord. Prior to his recent retirement, Norm worked as HR Director for Belknap County. Norm will be working approximately 16 hours per week assisting the Administration Department with several HR duties and responsibilities. With over 50 full and part time year-round staff and another 35 to 40 part time seasonal staff, managing Human Resources accurately and effectively has become a significant responsibility for our Town. Norm will also be working with SAU 45 the other three days a week. Norm lives in Laconia near Lake Winnisquam and enjoys golf, boating and other outdoor recreational activities.

WELCOME JOSEPHINE BELVILLE OUR NEW TOWN ASSESSOR

On November 6, 2017, Josephine Belville assumed the duties as our new Town Assessor. Josephine comes to Moultonborough after working with the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Municipal and Property Division for the past 15 years. Prior to that Josephine worked for the towns of Gilford and Ossipee, New Hampshire as an assessing assistant. She is a Certified New Hampshire Assessor and a Certified Property Assessor Supervisor. Josephine rose rapidly in her career at the NH-DRA leaving her position as the Assistant Director of Municipal and Property Division to come to Moultonborough. Josephine replaces long time Assessor Gary Karp who retired in 2016, but has continued with the Town on a part time basis until a suitable replacement could be found. We wish Gary the very best in his retirement and thank him for his 7 years' service.



**REMAINING
2017
HOLIDAYS**

Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 23rd

Christmas Day
Monday, December 25th

Day After Thanksgiving
Friday, November 24th

New Year's Day
Monday, January 1, 2018



MOULTONBOROUGH ACADEMY NEWS

For the 2nd year in a row, Moultonborough Academy ranked in the Top 10 Schools in NH by US News and World Report. Thank you, Moultonborough, for supporting the opportunity for an excellent education!

MOULTONBOROUGH ACADEMY STUDENTS GRADUATE WITH COLLEGE CREDITS

This year, Moultonborough Academy is offering nine classes through the Running Start collaboration with Lakes Region Community College. Students have the opportunity to receive credit in the following courses: Topics in Applied College Math, Statistics, Psychology, Business Management, Marketing, College Composition, Spanish III and Spanish IV. Public Speaking will be offered second semester.

Math teacher, Ann Koniszewski; social studies teacher, Kelsie Eckert; business teacher, Whitney Sullivan; English teacher, Julie Bruneau; and Spanish teacher, Lindsay Bliznik submitted transcripts to receive approval as instructors at the college level. They have aligned their curriculum with the college courses.

Currently, MA has 52 students enrolled in these classes. Another way to look at this opportunity? When the class of 2018 walks across the stage in June, 38 out of 48 members will graduate with college credit! These 38 students will have completed over 78 courses during their years at MA!



MOULTONBOROUGH ACADEMY GRADUATES RECEIVE NH ELECTRIC CO-OP SCHOLARSHIPS

Three of the seven recipients of this year's \$1500 scholarships from NH Electric Co-op are graduates of Moultonborough Academy. Eric DuBois, who is studying Biomedical Engineering at Brown University; Meghan Hurley, who is studying Environmental Policy at Colby College; and Dylan McLaughlin, who is studying Mechanical Engineering at UNH. These three students were chosen from nearly 100 candidates for the seven scholarships. Congratulations to Eric, Meghan, Dylan and their families!



INVASIVE VARIABLE MILFOIL STILL PRESENT IN MOULTONBOROUGH

Although significant progress has been made by the Moultonborough Milfoil Committee and its many volunteers to combat the spread of milfoil in our lakes and ponds, these tenacious weeds still challenge us.

Diver Harvesting and Quality Control: Still the most effective way to remove milfoil, certified divers have already harvested over 15,880 gallons of milfoil totaling over 79,139 rooted plants from Moultonborough waters in 2017. This compares to approximately 14,000 gallons in all of 2016. Diver harvesting work started in May and weather permitting, will continue thru October. In 2018, the harvesting effort will use live feed underwater cameras as well as more GPS technology to determine the exact location and size of milfoil growth areas.

Herbicide Treatments: When an area of milfoil growth is too large and dense for the cost effective use of divers, NHDES approved herbicide treatment is undertaken. Over time we have worked to reduce the need for these treatments. In 2017 it was limited to a single fall treatment of only 24.5 acres compared to a total of 42 acres in 2016. In 2018, we hope for NHDES approval of a new, more effective, less restrictive herbicide.

Lake Hosts: Lake Hosts staff the 3 most active launch ramps in town and are essential to our boat inspection and education effort to prevent the spread of milfoil. This year they performed 2,932 boat inspections compared to 2,783 in 2016. Lake Hosts identified and removed milfoil from 9 departing boats, 3 more than last year. To continue our containment and education effort, we need volunteers in 2018. Please consider volunteering a weekend morning or afternoon once a month next summer to help us. It's easy and you'd be actively working to protect our lakes.

Weed Watchers: Weed Watcher volunteers continue to be an essential element of our work. These "eyes on the water" monitor areas near their homes for milfoil growth on a regular basis during the growing season. They report their findings and this information is used for dive harvesting operations. New volunteers are always needed. Volunteers receive training on what to look for and who to contact if milfoil is suspected. The only equipment needed is a boat, kayak, paddle board or canoe. Now...doesn't that give you a good reason to get out on the water in 2018...? Please help us. Contact: weedwatchers.moultonborough@gmail.com.

REMINDER OF ONLINE SERVICES OFFERED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

Just a reminder that we offer PAPERLESS BILLING and ONLINE Payments through our tax kiosk. These features have proven to be of great help, especially to our seasonal folks. It helps to avoid the frustration of the mail forwarding process and the potential delay/lost in the mail syndrome for all taxpayers. You want to opt-in for paperless billing but do not wish to pay online, no problem! Just send an email to taxcollector@moultonboroughnh.gov and we can enter the information to your account once you have signed an authorization. The tax kiosk also provides online real estate tax information. Want to know what you paid for real estate taxes when you file your income taxes, obtain a copy of your tax bill, find out the balance due, or make a payment by credit/debit card or electronic check? You can get all that information online at your convenience, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Simply go to the Town's website and click on the Online Payments button located to the left of the home page, select Tax Collector Payments, click the Property Tax Review/Payments button and follow the prompts, or go directly to www.nhtaxkiosk.com. As always, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.



NEWS FROM THE TOWN ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The 2017 statistical update is complete and we submitted the MS-1 report to the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration. They will use our new value, plus budget information from town meeting, the county budget information and the school budget information to determine our tax rate for the fall bill.

The results of the update show a 3% overall increase in values. This does not mean that your property value went up 3%, as some went up more and some went up less, but the total for the town is 3%. The update was based on 329 qualified sales, 91 of which are residential waterfront properties.

This year 12 Veterans who previously did not qualify for a Veterans Credit were able to take advantage of the All Veteran Tax Credit (RSA 72-28-b). This new law allows veterans with at least 90 days of active service to receive a tax credit, whether they were in the service during a time of war or not.

We also have 16 elderly persons who qualify for the elderly exemption. The total elderly exemption amount we are giving is \$1,261,500. We also now have 9 property owners who are taking advantage of RSA 79-D, the so-called barn easement. If you have any questions regarding a credit or an exemption, please check out our website at www.moultonboroughnh.gov, or give us a call.

FIRE SAFETY TIPS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The easiest fire for your Fire Department to handle is the fire that never happens. Here are some helpful fall and winter Fire Safety Tips.

- Service oil and propane heating systems.
- Fireplaces and Woodstoves: Burn only seasoned wood, have chimney cleaned and inspected each year prior to use, open flue before starting fire, use spark screens, keep combustible materials (wood, newspapers, clothing etc.) away from unit.
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, change batteries if you already have detectors. Never use gas grills or generators inside the house or garage, generator should be at least 10 feet from the building.
- Keep access and egress paths to house shoveled and sanded.
- Never run your car in the garage to warm it up, pull vehicle outside and close garage door.

Make sure your home or business is properly numbered, we can't help you if we can't find you. For more info go to https://www.moultonboroughnh.gov/sites/moultonboroughnh/files/uploads/ord_20_buildingnumbsystem031415.pdf

- Portable space heaters use only UL or ETL list appliances, leave 3 feet of clearance around heater, use only when in the room, never leave unattended or with children in the room, never use to dry clothing or blankets.
- Be prepared if the power goes out, stock up on batteries, flashlights, portable radios, canned foods, manual can openers, bottled water and blankets. Be prepared to leave if you need to, keep a "go bag" ready with essential items you will need if you have to leave your home.
- Use flashlights instead of candles to avoid fire hazards.
- If you have no heat and the temperature is below freezing and your home has no heat, run water at a trickle to help prevent pipes from freezing and breaking.





LIBRARY NEWS

Our library offers a wide variety of great materials for our patrons. Books, of course, are the cornerstone of every public library collection. We have thousands of books in many forms: regular print, large print, on CD, MP3 and e-books (through the NH State Library) for all ages. Don't know what to read next? We'll be glad to make some worthy recommendations. Can't find the special book you're looking for? We can usually borrow it from another library.

Also available to check out are the latest movies, miniseries and documentaries on DVD, magazines, jigsaw puzzles, board games, music CDs, and a telescope. Technology services include 14 computers with Microsoft Office, 24/7 Wi-Fi, wireless printers, faxing, color printing, copying and scanning to email or a thumb drive. Feeling overwhelmed by technology? We offer classes, user groups, and even one-on-one sessions to help you get the most out of your own devices.

Our children's area has a wonderful assortment of picture books, stuffed animals, educational games and toys. We offer story times, read-a-thons (ice cream and pizza and reading!), crafts, author visits, and special holiday events. This year's very popular Holiday Sing-A-Long and visit with Santa is on December 8.

Our Friends of the Library organization makes amazing contributions to the library. The Friends underwrite most of our free and discounted passes to local museums. They have proven that there really is such a thing as a "Free Lunch." The Friends provide one every spring at their fantastic Soup and Sweets event. They sponsor an elegant Book and Author Luncheon at Bald Peak Colony Club; a delicious Chocolate Fare fundraiser (all the homemade chocolate treats you can eat for \$5.00), and book discussions with scholars several times a year. Brand new books are donated to every child in Kindergarten through 6th grade in town through the Friends' generous One Book/ One Child program.

The library schedules numerous programs for adults throughout the year, including: NH Humanities Council lectures, cooking workshops, talks on local and NH history, paint nights, and needle-felting. Poetry lovers meet on the first Tuesday of the month, and handcrafters meet every Friday morning. Everyone is welcome to attend. Stop by for a visit or check out our website at www.moultonboroughlibrary.org. Please join us for our annual Holiday Open House on Friday, December 8th. We look forward to seeing you!



RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Moultonborough Recreation Department is gearing up for a busy winter season offering a variety of programs, activities and special events for residents and visitors of all ages. These include but are not limited to: Youth Basketball, Beyond the Bell (after school program), a trip to the Palace Theater in Manchester to see A Christmas Carol; our Holiday Open House held in collaboration with the Library, A Teen "First Night" Trip, vacation camp, skating instructions, family skating party, "Totally Toddler" drop in program for parents and toddlers and more! We'll have our annual Cardboard Sled Derby in February as well as our Moonlight Hike. Both of these events are held in collaboration with the Castle in the Clouds, and on the Castle grounds. We will do our best again this year to get the ice rink open by Christmas vacation, which, of course, is dependent on the weather. All of these events, and others, as well as information regarding our facilities and staff, can be found by going to the town's website and then clicking on the Recreation button under Departments and Boards.



NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

As winter is fast approaching, the highway crew would ask all residents to please check your roadside mailboxes to help minimize the chance of mailbox damage by the wing plow and the winter plowing operation. This can be done by checking that the mailbox is at least 42" above the roadway surface when the mailbox door is open, and that the mailbox support be 3' off the edge of the pavement or traveled surface. These guidelines can be found under the Public Works web page on the Town's website by clicking on Department & Boards, then clicking on Public Works, under additional links, click on Suggestions for Placement of Roadside Mailboxes. The department also has a web based "Service Request Form." This form assists the various divisions in responding more efficiently to service requests made by the residents.

We would like to thank our "Adopt-a-Spot" gardeners, for their beautiful flower beds at our facilities and Town line borders. We would also like to thank our "Adopt-a-Facility" participants for their adoption of the mowing and trimming efforts at our public buildings. This is truly a "Community in Partnership". If you have any concerns, questions or complaints, please feel free to contact the DPW office at 603-253-7445, via e-mail at dpw@moultonboroughnh.gov, or by stopping by the Highway Garage.