



# Moultonborough Town News

**Fall 2023**

## **BROADBAND NEWS**

Exciting times are ahead for Moultonborough residents as high-speed broadband improvements are on the horizon! In addition to the existing services from Spectrum Cable, residents will soon have even faster options to choose from. Thanks to the successful grant awards to both New Hampshire Broadband (NHEC) and Fidium (Consolidated), fiber-to-the-home installations will commence in 2024 and are anticipated to conclude in 2025. These new offerings will provide lightning-fast connectivity with speeds of at least 1 gigabit/second for both uploads and downloads—significantly more capacity than many are accustomed to. The town encourages those that can't get wired high-speed internet or are reliant on DSL from Consolidated to reach out, by sending your address and situation to the Town Administrator, Charles Smith, [csmith@moultonboroughnh.gov](mailto:csmith@moultonboroughnh.gov). Sharing your address ensures that no home is overlooked during the planning stages. Be assured, informing the town of your interest incurs no obligation to subscribe to the service. Let's gear up for a more connected and faster Moultonborough!

## **NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERK**

The Moultonborough Town Clerk's office is gearing up for what we suspect will be our busiest year ever! We will have four elections on top of our usual work which has been steadily increasing for years as people continue to be drawn to our beautiful town. Moultonborough residents who are eligible to vote should keep an eye on our website ([Moultonboroughnh.gov](http://Moultonboroughnh.gov)) for the most up-to-date election information as the year progresses. We will share election dates, deadlines, locations, and information as it becomes available.

The NH Secretary of State's website ([app.sos.nh.gov](http://app.sos.nh.gov)) is also a helpful resource where New Hampshire voters can check their registration status, party affiliation, and even track their absentee ballot if they've applied for one. Although New Hampshire does allow election day registration for qualified voters, we recommend that voters don't wait until the last minute to register or make necessary changes.

To register to vote in New Hampshire, individuals will have to provide proof of their identity, age, domicile, and citizenship. The Town Clerk's office is ready to help answer your questions regarding elections, motor vehicle and boat registrations, dog licensing, vital records, and more at [TownClerk@Moultonboroughnh.gov](mailto:TownClerk@Moultonboroughnh.gov) or (603) 476-2347.

## **MILFOIL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The 2023 season was very favorable for variable milfoil growth, with high, warm water causing rapid growth in many areas. Very limited herbicide treatment and marginally successful DASH activity in 2022 also contributed to explosive growth this year. In the 2023 season, a greatly expanded area was treated with herbicide – 75 acres in Lake Winnepessaukee (the maximum allowed by the current permit) and 3.6 acres in Lee's Pond, including the stream channel to prevent spread from upstream waters. Diving activity for the 2023 season included a new DASH contractor, as well as several divers hired specifically for harvesting by hand in areas of sparse growth. Spring survey activity will verify the success of the treatment and harvesting activities and identify areas that require further attention.

Lake Hosts concluded another busy season of boat and trailer inspections with 3,331 inspections carried out during weekends and holidays. No known invasives were detected this year, however boater education activity continues and remains an important measure for prevention of further infestation.

Late in the season a new invasive species was identified and confirmed in Lake Winnepessaukee – Spiny Naiad. A large growth of this plant species was identified near the Lee's Mills launch by divers and the area was hand harvested. The committee will work with divers next year to identify any other areas of Spiny Naiad and will coordinate with NHDES to monitor the issue.

## NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The goal of the Assessor's Office is to ensure that all properties are assessed equitably and fairly, both within neighborhoods and throughout the town. We strive to keep the assessing process transparent, open, and in accordance with the New Hampshire Laws and Rules. We work closely with our contractors and taxpayers to achieve our goals, while developing and maintaining amicable relationships.

The results of the 2023 revaluation indicate an approximate overall increase of 15.8% in the town-wide value. When considering this overall increase in value it is important to consider that changes in individual property values are not based on averages. The assessing model incorporates many different factors all of which are weighted accordingly for each property. Therefore, the change in value of any given property is likely not equal to the 15.8% weighted average. The update was based on 271 qualified sales from a date range of April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2023. Our assessing contractor, Whitney Consulting Group, is in the final year of their 5-year cyclical inspection work and projects to have the contract inspection work completed, by the year's end. These inspection visits include measuring all the buildings to ensure dimensions and data are correct. They also attempt to gain interior access to ensure the data (bedroom, bathroom count, heat etc.) is accurate. The town plans to complete a revaluation again in 2024, as of April 1, to keep the assessed values current with market values.

The Assessing page on the town's website is an excellent source for additional information, such as: qualification guidelines and applications for tax exemptions and tax credits; current use & preservation easement enrollment applications; timber and gravel tax forms; as well as abatement and appeal forms. Our page also has a link to our on-line GIS database, where you can find copies of your property record card and tax map. The GIS database also has many useful layers such as wetland and flood zone layers, as well as useful tools that allow for measuring distances and areas. If you are looking for a copy of your deed the Carroll County Registry of Deeds is also on-line. You can search for recorded documents at <https://www.carrollcountynhdeeds.gov>. Please feel free to contact our office if we can assist you in any way. We look forward to continuing to work with you and for you.

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION NEWS

What is the Moultonborough Conservation Commission? The Commission is an appointed volunteer body that works for the proper recognition, use, and protection of natural resources and of watershed resources in the Town of Moultonborough. This means the Commission's focus is on protecting water quality in Moultonborough's lakes, ponds and streams and protecting its wetlands and watershed areas that drain into them. We deal in the language of wetlands, stormwater runoff, buffers, stormwater management plans, dredging, vernal pools.

In the Commission's effort to protect Moultonborough's prime asset, its water bodies, we recommend two outstanding programs to property owners that focus on minimizing impacts from stormwater runoff through simple actions such as

- planting native vegetation along the shoreline,
- installing stone driplines along roof edges,
- making sure that path and driveway runoff is filtered into the ground rather than running over the land and into the lake.

Best – these are **free**, non-regulatory, and voluntary education and recognition programs whose goal is to encourage property owners to maintain their homes and property in ways that protect lake water quality, wildlife habitat, and property values.

The LakeSmart Program is offered by NH Lakes Association their website address is <https://nhlakes.org/lakesmart/> and the Winni Blue/LakeSmart Program run by the Lake Winnepesaukee Association 1-603-581-6632, or email at [brossiter@winnepesaukee.org](mailto:brossiter@winnepesaukee.org).

The Commission would also like to thank the community and the Town Land Use Department for its help with our site visits when an application for a Wetlands or Shoreland permit is submitted to the NH Department of Environmental Services. Your help supports the Commission's efforts to maintain the quality of Moultonborough lakes and wetlands.

## MOULTONBOROUGH BOARD OF SELECTMEN NEWS

The Board of Selectmen are requesting that any landowner with land that could be suitable for the future use of a town cemetery to please reach out to the Town Administrator, Charles Smith, [csmith@moultonboroughnh.gov](mailto:csmith@moultonboroughnh.gov) or call (603) 476-2347.