



# Moultonborough Town News

Fall 2024

## LIBRARY NEWS

2024 has been a very busy year for the library. We have had a record number of programs for adults and youth, have embarked on a strategic planning process to help us chart out the next 5 years, have updated our furniture throughout the library, and have collaborated with the Granite VNA, the Moultonborough Historical Society, Castle in the Clouds, and our very generous and supportive Friends of the Moultonborough Public Library group.

Our monthly programs continue to be popular for adults and youth. We have 4 different book clubs for our adult patrons, and all will continue into 2025. Consider joining us for one or several.

- Mystery Book Club on the 3rd Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.
- Evening Page Turners on the 4th Thursday, 5:30 p.m.
- Wellness Reads (a collaboration with the Granite VNA), on the 2nd Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. through March 2025
- Friends' Literature Discussion series - dates to be announced

We now have 4 Storytimes for our younger readers: PJ Storytime on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.; Baby Time: Board Books and Nursery Rhymes on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.; Friday Stories at 10:30 a.m., and Special Guest Readers from the Moultonborough Women's Club on Thursdays at 3:30 pm. The Youth Services Department also offers Wednesday Afterschool Drop-ins that feature crafts, puzzles and games, and Lego building at 3:30 p.m.

Some of the many special programs we will enjoy in 2025 include "NH's Own Dr. Doolittle: Ernest Harold Baynes" on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m., then photographer Joe Callanan's "A Yellowstone Spring" on April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Our popular Open Mic Night and a monthly craft workshop will be part of a new Tuesday Evening Series which aims to give our patrons a weekly program to enjoy on Tuesday nights.

Please note that the library will close at noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve this year. We will be closed on Christmas Day and on New Year's Day.

Many of our programs require registration. To register for a program, and to keep up to date on all that is happening at the library, visit [the library's website](#), follow [the library's Facebook](#) and [Instagram pages](#) and [sign up for the monthly email newsletter](#). Library hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Tuesday & Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

Is your pup the Top Dog in town? All dogs that were licensed on time this year have been automatically entered into Moultonborough's first annual Top Dog contest! This two-part contest consists of the following:

**Dog of the Month Drawing:** Each month, the Town Clerk's office will select a tag number that was issued between January 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup> using a random number generator. This lucky canine (if the owner accepts) will have their photo and bio hanging in the Town Clerk's office for the whole month and will be entered as a candidate in the Dog of the Year Election!

**Dog of the Year Election:** In early 2025, the Town Clerk's office, in collaboration with Moultonborough Central School, will organize a mock election where Fifth Graders get to elect a Dog of the Year. The winner will have their photo and bio hanging in the Town Clerk's office for the whole year and win a gift basket made up of dog-themed items generously donated by local sponsors such as Meadow Pond Animal Clinic and Interware Development!

Per state law, all dogs four months of age and older must be licensed annually with the Town Clerk by April 30th. If you'd like your pup to be entered into next year's contest, don't wait for a visit from the Police Department to license them—purchase your tag on time and they may be our next Top Dog! For any questions, please reach out to the Town Clerk's office at (603) 476-2347 or [TownClerk@MoultonboroughNH.gov](mailto:TownClerk@MoultonboroughNH.gov)

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION NEWS

This year the Conservation Commission continues to focus on water quality. Several initiatives have begun that are directed at improving and maintaining water quality in Moultonborough's lakes, streams and wetlands.

In the Spring of 2024, the Moultonborough Cyanobacteria Committee was formed under the guidance of Kevin Kelly, resident of Lake Kanasatka. The Committee was established by the Conservation Commission for the purpose of developing a town-wide strategy to address the environmental, social and economic impacts of cyanobacteria blooms within the town's surface waters.

Lake Kanasatka received an alum treatment in the spring of 2024. Water clarity has increased significantly. Lake Kanasatka Watershed Association's (LKWA) work is far from over. The commitment that led up to the alum treatment will continue forever. Grant monies will allow LKWA to work with civil engineers and contractors to work on larger projects, such as repair work on private roads. A stream expert will be brought in to study the impacts of the various tributaries flowing into the lake. LKWA implemented a Septic Inspection Assistance Program, reimbursing 50% of the cost of a residential septic system inspection.

We have a cadre of cyanobacteria bloom watchers on Lake Kanasatka, Lake Winnepesaukee and Lee's Pond, but are looking for additional volunteers. To become a cyanobacteria watcher please contact us at [cyanobacteria.kevinkelly@gmail.org](mailto:cyanobacteria.kevinkelly@gmail.org) or "like" our Facebook page.

The Conservation Commission is supporting a partnership with Lakes Region Planning Commission to secure a USDA grant for evaluating and planning the best way forward to establish a food waste reduction program in Moultonborough. The objective of this pilot program is to reduce food waste, create usable compost, and reduce municipal disposal costs.

The Conservation Commission is working to secure conserving a property. Conservation of undeveloped properties near our lakes and streams helps to slow and absorb stormwater runoff. Direct stormwater runoff into our lakes is one of the causes of cyanobacteria blooms.

The Commission makes site visits to review Wetland and Shoreland Applications that are submitted to the town. The Commission makes recommendations to the NH Department of Environmental Services, when applicable, to ensure that the projects follow best practices and state and town regulations that protect the shorefront, protected shoreland (land 250 feet back from the water's edge) and wetlands.

The Commission has discussed creating an ADA Nature Trail around Mud Pond. Planning is still in the initial stages.

## 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 2024 revaluation indicate an approximate overall increase of 12.2% 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 12.2% weighted average. The revaluation was based on 225 qualified sales from a date range of April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2024. Our assessing contractor, Whitney Consulting Group, is in the first year of their 5-year cyclical inspection project and expects to have approximately 1,650 cyclical inspections complete 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 2025, in order to keep the assessed values fair, equitable and current with market values.

The Assessing page (<https://www.moultonboroughnh.gov/182/Assessor>) 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 (<https://www.carrollcountynhdeeds.gov>) allows for searching recorded documents by grantor, grantee or book/page. 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.