

the bRidge

Winter 2017-18
Norridgewock, Maine

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townofnorridgewock.com

Downtown Stroll and Tree Lighting Brightens Up Downtown

On December 9, the public was invited to join area businesses and organizations along Main Street for the first Downtown Stroll and Tree Lighting. Sponsored by the Norridgewock Area Chamber of Commerce, the event was well attended. Bob Gilcott, President of the Chamber and local business owner, donated the planted tree downtown and former resident Leroy Jones donated a large fresh cut tree from his Sandy River Road tree farm.

As snow fell from the sky, the sidewalks were lined with luminarias; the poles were decorated with flags and swags. There was face painting, crafts galore, treats, snacks, cocoa, cookie and donut decorating, and much, much more! Norridgewock Historical Society decked the halls with antique decorations and Everett's Tire helped children mail their Christmas lists to Santa.

As guests arrived in the area of the downtown trees, Town Manager Richard LaBelle welcomed people to the Alice E. Emery Town Square for the very first time. Santa arrived by fire truck, visited with children young and old, and then helped light the trees.

In a true showing of community and Christmas spirit, Norridgewock area businesses and organizations showed people the importance of giving back and the excitement of gathering as a community. ♦



Sherri Lewis of Franklin Savings Bank, Jessica Everett and Molly Chapman of Skowhegan Savings Bank, visit with guests at the Downtown Stroll and Tree Lighting. The afternoon event was well-attended and over 20 local businesses and organizations participated. Many thanks to the organizations and volunteers for making this event possible.

Fire Department Requests New Truck, to Replace '89 FMC

Appropriation of \$350,000 to be considered at Town Meeting

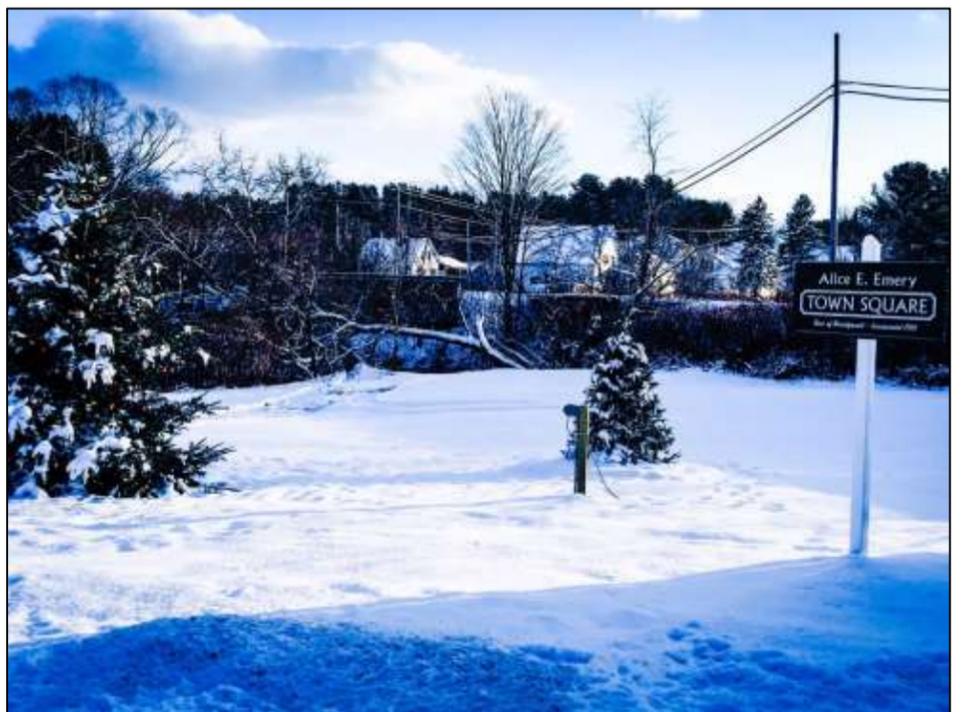
Fire Chief David Jones has submitted a request to the Board of Selectmen for \$350,000 to purchase a new fire truck; \$100,000 would be drawn from the Department's equipment account and \$250,000 from the Town's surplus. The new truck would replace the 1989 FMC pumper truck, which Department officials have stated is old, lacking modern safety equipment, and will require body work in the coming year to repair rust.

Department officials estimate that another new truck will be needed within 5 to 7 years. It has also been recommended that officials from the Department and Selectboard set up a committee to create and maintain a long-term capital plan for the Department.

The Board of Selectmen authored a warrant article allowing for the Department's full request, and has recommended its approval by a 4-1 margin.

The Budget Committee voted to recommend against the purchase of a new fire truck by a 5-0 vote, and to instead recommend appropriating \$75,000 from surplus to the Department's equipment account to go towards a future purchase. Voters will be asked to weigh in on the issue during the 7:30 p.m. open town meeting on March 5. ♦

Introducing the Alice E. Emery Town Square



In 2014, Norridgewock resident Alice Emery purchased the lot located at 67 Main Street. She cleaned the lot and donated the parcel to the Town. After a period of inactivity, the Town moved forward with creating a downtown center for community gatherings. On the eve of the Downtown Stroll and Tree Lighting, a sign was unveiled and the community was welcomed to the newly named Alice E. Emery Town Square.

State Bureau of Parks & Lands Announces Oosoola Park Boat Launch Grant

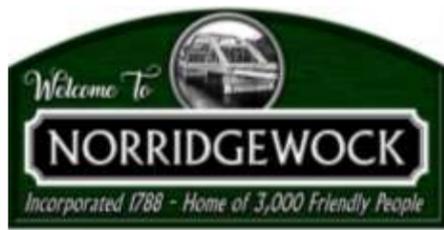
Thomas Linscott, Director of Boating Facilities Division of Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands announced a matching grant award of up to \$35,000 for the rehabilitation of the Oosoola Park Boat Launch. In addition to the cash grant, the State has also committed to providing planks, floats, and engineering services. Up to \$30,000 in local tax increment financing (TIF) funds are earmarked for this project.

The long overdue project will improve the facility by expanding the launch area, add a hand launch facility, and provide a new float/dock that is more appropriate for a boat launch facility. Added or restored boat traffic will provide economic improvement as sales of fuel, supplies, food/drink, and more may be purchased from local vendors. Better access to the river will strengthen Oosoola Park as a destination within the region. Planning and design phase is scheduled to begin late winter 2018 and construction will take place during the summer/early fall when river levels drop. ♦

TIF Committee leads gateway sign project

BriDesigns, of Oakland, to complete signage project

The TIF Committee, after reviewing proposals for the old fire station, took on the task of seeking a vendor to design, fabricate, and install signage throughout the Town. The committee selected BriDesigns of Oakland to complete the project with a total cost of \$12,061.50.



The green, woodgrain-style signs were selected to enhance the Town's visibility, but to minimize the aesthetic impact on the landscape. Gateway signage has been installed on roads entering Norridgewock. Signs will also be installed at Town buildings, fields, and parks. ♦



Cross-over desks from NextDesk were purchased with grant funding assistance.

Town Receives Safety Enhancement Grant

\$1,490 from Maine Municipal Association funds two-thirds of purchase

Maine Municipal Association awarded the Town with a grant of \$1,490 to purchase sit-stand desks for the Town Office and Wastewater Treatment Facility. These desks foster a healthier, more active workplace, which should ultimately reduce the chance of workplace injuries and/or reduce the long-term cost of healthcare. ♦

Airport Continues with Master Plan Update

Central Maine Regional Airport is in the process of updating the master plan, which sets the goals and long-term plans for the airport. The Airport Advisory Committee works closely with the Town Manager and Gale Associates, the current airport consultant, to identify goals and plan accordingly.

The revised master plan will consider needs of the airport, in terms of capacity, basic infrastructure needs, and equipment needs. When considering these potential projects, demand must be justified. Assessments within this study include pavement evaluation, environmental assessment, and traffic data study.

Airport projects, like the Master Plan Update, are funded with Federal and State assistance. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) contributes 90% of project costs; Maine Department of Transportation (DOT) contributes 5%, while the local share is 5%. ♦

Town Meeting to be Held March 5

Contested Races for Selectman and Tax Assessor on Ballot

The 2018 Annual Town Meeting is slated for Monday, March 5, 2018 at Mill Stream Elementary School. Voting for elected officials by secret ballot will take place in the gymnasium from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The open town meeting will begin in the gymnasium at 7:30 p.m.

The only contested races on this year's ballot are Selectmen and Tax Assessor. Each of those positions has one additional candidate than there are seats for office.

In compliance with State law, one may request absentee ballots for this election beginning February 6, 2018. Requests may be submitted by phone or written application with the Town Clerk. Questions or concerns may be directed to Town Clerk Sharon Dodge or Deputy Kelly Green at 634-2252 or sharon@townofnorridgewock.com. ♦

SAMPLE TOWN MEETING BALLOT MARCH 5, 2018

Selectman and Overseer of the Poor

One Year Term
(Vote for no more than 5)

- Chartrand, Joshua
- Curtis, Charlotte
- Everett, Matthew
- Frederick, Ronald
- Lyman, James
- Wilder, Sara

MSAD #54 Director

Three Year Term
(Vote for no more than 1)

Library Trustee

Five Year Term
(Vote for no more than 1)

Board of Tax Assessors

One Year Term
(Vote for no more than 3)

- Curtis, Charlotte
- Frederick, Ronald
- Lyman, James
- Wilder, Sara

Planning Board

Three Year Term
(Vote for no more than 2)

- Aubry, Brian
- _____

Budget Committee

Three Year Term
(Vote for no more than 1)

- Ketchum, Rebecca

Planning Board

One Year Term
(Vote for no more than 1)

- Chartrand, Joshua

Budget Committee

Two Year Term
(Vote for no more than 1)

Planning Board, alternate member

One Year Term
(Vote for no more than 2)

Please note: This ballot is for informational purposes only. Specimen ballots will be posted in accordance with State and local regulations.



Airport Rd.
634-2714

Waste Management is a private business.
As a convenience to residents, we provide
their back gate hours.

Sun, Mon, Tues Closed
Weds, Thurs, Fri 9:30am - 6:00pm
Sat 7:30am - 4:00pm



**Norridgewock Fire
reminds you...**

**Test your smoke
detectors monthly!**

For a free smoke detector, call
634-2208 or stop by the Fire
Station at 22 Upper Main Street



**Working
SMOKE ALARMS
SAVE LIVES**

Norridgewock Board of Selectmen

The Board meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.
Meetings begin at 6:00 pm at the Town Office.

Want to know what's going on? Get on the agenda e-mail list!
Call the Town Office or e-mail sharon@townofnorridgewock.com
to be added to the distribution list.

The Town Office will be closed:
February 19 in observance of President's Day
April 16 in observance of Patriots' Day