

THE

# BRIDGE

Winter 2018-19  
Norridgewock, Maine

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townofnorridgewock.com

## TIF Committee Introduces Business Incentive

New programs, projects aim to move town forward

The Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Advisory Committee has been working diligently to maximize the impact of the TIF funding in the community. Recently, the committee endorsed a new program, the Town of Norridgewock Façade Improvement Program. The program offers the potential for a 50 percent grant to complete exterior upgrades to commercial properties within Norridgewock. This program is not only intended to improve curb appeal, but also to strengthen values. Full program details are available on the Town website or at the Town Office.

The TIF Committee has also endorsed the conversion of downtown street lighting to LED. This process will include the upgrade and replacement of existing light poles in the downtown and the likely addition of fixtures in the vicinity of Emery Town Square. The lighting conversion is set to take place with consideration given to a revitalization plan being developed.

Lastly, the committee has endorsed the development of a Downtown Revitalization Plan. Partnering with the firm Wright-Pierce, which has demonstrated, highly qualified experience in the field, the intention is to create a guide for revitalization. The plan ultimately sets the course for future TIF expenditures to make sure the plan is cohesive. Public input will be sought in order to gauge demand and expectations. As more information becomes available, it will be made available at [townofnorridgewock.com/tif](http://townofnorridgewock.com/tif) ♦

## Boat Launch Rehab Project Back on Track

Oosoola Park project clears bureaucratic hurdles

In July 2017, Town Manager Richard LaBelle submitted a grant application to help fund the rehabilitation of the Oosoola Park Boat Launch on the Kennebec River. The grant application was successful, and in September 2017, the Town received notice that the grant of \$35,000 was awarded. In addition to the cash assistance, the grant also allowed for engineering services and replacement planks.

Permitting processes can be difficult and this was fully realized on this project. Since March 2018, the Town has been working with A.E. Hodsdon Consulting Engineers to secure the appropriate permits from State and Federal agencies. After nearly 18 months, we have received notice of approval to proceed with the launch rehabilitation project.

With consideration given to water levels in the spring and the need to draw down the river in order to complete the work, the tentative date to begin the project is June 17. If this timeline is maintained, the project will be substantially completed prior to July 4. In the event water flows are high, it is likely that the project will be delayed until fall. Updates will be provided as the timeline becomes clearer. ♦



2018 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR: Norridgewock Fire Chief David Jones (left) presented Firefighter Aaron Gordon (right) with the award to recognize his service to the Department. Aaron has taken on an expanded administrative role and was instrumental in the SAFER grant application for expanded staffing, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

### REMINDER FROM THE TAX ASSESSOR

All taxes are assessed based on April 1 values. State Law requires you to declare values of your personal property each year. Applications for exemptions are also due April 1.

If you have questions or concerns about tax assessments, the Assessing Agent is in the Town Office the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month from 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM. *Appointments are encouraged*

## Lower Municipal Budget Approved

Adjusted Plans in Roadwork Lead Budget Drop of -18%

Town Meeting voters approved a budget that represented a drop of approximately 18 percent at the meeting on March 4. The source of this decrease was a planned postponement of major road reconstruction in 2019 to focus on overlay. The arrangement would also allow the Town a period of time to review engineering contracts and bid the service back out for future years. All articles passed swiftly; departmental increases were driven by rising wages and benefit expenses. The Fire Department requested an increase to \$50,000 in the capital equipment account to more appropriately save for future expenses, while also considering Mercer's proportionate contribution.

The sewer upgrade project, which was originally approved in 2017 required expanded funding in the amount of \$325,000 in order to cover an increase in project pricing. This expanded funding was approved at town meeting, with the USDA funding package which is to consist of an \$85,000 grant. ♦

## NORRIDGEWOCK COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD



Open the First and Third Tuesday of each month  
9:00 – 11:00 AM

277 Waterville Rd., Norridgewock

## THE MONTH OF APRIL IS DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH



# STOP Distracted Driving

# Town Enhances Focus on Employee Safety

## Voluntary Labor Department Inspections Protect Employees

Over the last several months, Town officials have worked with the Maine Department of Labor SafetyWorks! Program to ensure safe workplaces are being maintained. SafetyWorks! is a voluntary program that helps prevent work-related injuries, illnesses, and deaths; it also helps reduce related costs.

Comprehensive inspections were conducted by a consultant at no cost to the Town. The results of the inspections were used to correct deficiencies and grow safety programs. Throughout the course of the review, the Town reviewed many policies and procedures to ensure that they fully supported the spirit of safety regulations. The tremendous value in this program is that the inspections are free and confidential; there aren't any fines or citations. This program assists employers in achieving compliance.

Town employees gathered for a day-long, in-depth training session on a variety of safety topics. A variety of medium were used to conduct the training; the ultimate goal is to maintain a safe environment for employees while minimizing costs to the taxpayers. At the end of December, all Departments documented as having deficiencies were corrected.

Steve Ireland of the Norridgewock Fire Department was instrumental in coordinating the inspections and assisting in implementing corrective measures. Many thanks to Steve for his dedication to safety within our community and for his many hours dedicated to ensuring the safety of his co-workers!

A new initiative within the Town also includes establishing a contractual relationship with Verizon Connect. This service offers real-time vehicle information which can include speed, location, excessive acceleration, and braking, among other indicators. Vehicles at Public Works and Sewer will be equipped with this new technology. While the program will strengthen efficiency and productivity, it will also help to ensure that employees are maintaining safe driving habits. These driving habits will better take care of the vehicles, but more importantly, make drivers safer on the roads. ♦

# Airport Projects Face Permitting Delays

## Taxiway reconstruction planned for 2019 delayed by DEP hurdles

Central Maine Regional Airport had planned to construct taxiways this construction season, but these plans have been stifled by unforeseen permitting delays with Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Taxiways between the 100/200 and 600/700 hangar blocks were to be reconstructed, but the project was trimmed to only include the 100/200 block due to budget constraints.

Plans were drawn up for the revised reconstruction, yet with the tailoring of the project and adjustments made by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), additional permits are now required. These permits must be in-hand prior to construction; this prevents us from guaranteeing that construction would be complete in 2019. Being unable to guarantee the completion of the project could put grant monies from the Federal government in jeopardy.

As a result of the delays, we are working to secure the appropriate permits so that construction can take place in 2020 on both hangar blocks. In order to prevent discretionary funding from the Federal government from expiring, a tentative agreement with the City of Old Town will be signed in order to loan the money and have it paid back to us in 2020.

In other airport news, the Maine State Police will continue to utilize the airport to assist in their emergency vehicle operation and control (EVOC) training. This relationship generates additional revenue for the airport which helps to offset expenses. ♦

# Town Meeting Election Results

## 2 contested races resolved, many write-in candidates

Town Meeting 2019 offered only two contested races: Board of Selectmen and Board of Assessors. All other offices open for election were either uncontested or offered no qualified candidate on the ballot.

The Board of Selectmen race returned the five incumbents to office: Josh Chartrand, Matt Everett, Ron Frederick, Jim Lyman, and Sallie Wilder. Hoping to regain a seat that she narrowly lost one year ago, Charlotte Curtis fell short, only tallying 78 votes.

The Board of Assessors race was very similar. The three incumbents, Ron Frederick, Jim Lyman, and Sallie Wilder were returned to office while the challenger, Ms. Curtis, only received 66 votes.



In what developed to be an interesting contest, Kathy Wilder was elected to serve a three-year term as SAD 54 School Board Director, in a seat vacated by longtime member Heidi Chartrand. Both seeking write-ins, Wilder topped Valerie Columbe by a tally of 52-31.

In other races, Bob Hopkins was elected to the Planning Board with 30 write-in votes; Josh Chartrand and Bruce Obert were elected as Sewer Commissioners; Sallie Wilder, Marnie Bottesch, and Margaret O'Connell were elected to serve on the Library Board of Trustees; Kay Laney was elected to the Budget Committee.

Your participation in government is important. If you are interested in being appointed to a board or committee, you are encouraged to submit a volunteer application and/or a cover letter to the Town Office for future consideration by the Board of Selectmen. ♦

# Volunteer, Service Recognitions

## Spirit of America and Service Awards

Each Town Meeting provides an opportunity for the community to recognize those among us who are dedicated to strengthening the community.

Matt and Kerri Everett were recognized at Town Meeting with the Town of Norridgewock 2019 Spirit of America Award. State Senator Brad Farrin and State Representative Phil Curtis were on hand to present Matt and Kerri with a Legislative Sentiment from the State House. The award, intended to recognize exceptional volunteers within the community, noted the Everett's long-standing dedication to bettering the Norridgewock community. They have dedicated a countless amount of time to Norridgewock Recreation Department and to other athletic programs throughout the town and the school district.

Years of service to the Town were also recognized. Norridgewock Fire Captain Steve Ireland was not in attendance but received a strong round of applause from his neighbors and fellow townspeople in recognition of his 30 years of service to the department. Firefighters Josh Corson and Matt Everett were each presented with a plaque honoring ten years of service with NFD. ♦



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

**The Town Office will be closed:**

**April 15 in observance of Patriots Day**  
**June 11 to staff the June Referendum Election**  
**July 4 in observance of Independence Day**

*\*Subject to change, office is open weather-permitting*

