

THE BRIDGE

Spring 2022
Norridgewock, Maine

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www.townofnorridgewock.com

Rescue Plan Projects Gain Approval

Over the course of two years, the Town is slated to receive over \$340,000 in Federal aid, from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Initially, the funding had a wide array of restrictions; however, when final rules were released by U.S. Department of Treasury, nearly every relevant restriction was lifted. After a significant effort to solicit proposals, the Select Board considered the projects and approved funding a total of five initiatives so far: surveying Ashley Wing Park, replacing firefighter turnout gear, improvements to fencing at Barr Hatfield Athletic Park on Route 2, premium pay for Town employees, and façade improvements for the Grange Hall.

A public hearing was held in April to review submitted proposals; nearly all project proposals received broad support and each was approved in the requested amount. The chart below shows the amounts approved out of the entire allocation.

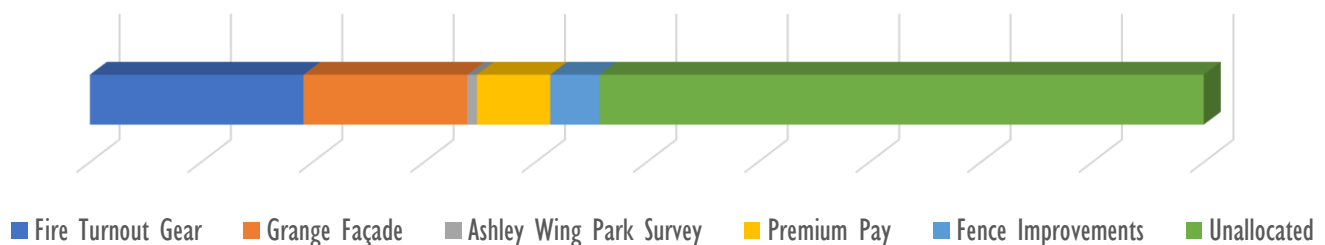
For your information, details about the Grange proposal for façade improvements is included later in the newsletter. Additional proposals are welcome and should be submitted to the Select Board through the Town Manager. Those wishing to propose projects may do so by emailing townmanager@townofnorridgewock.com. . ♦



GRANGE IMPROVEMENTS • Somerset Grange #18 is pictured above, approximately 20 years ago. Significant improvements to the building's exterior will be completed soon, with the support of ARPA funds.

ARPA Allocations

as of 05/13/2022



Mark your calendar for
OOSOOOLA DAYS

Sunday & Monday, September 4-5, 2022

Food vendors, live music, art/craft vendors, and more!
If you're interested in participating, please let us know.
We're looking to get all of our great attractions booked today!

Willing to volunteer? Call or email...

For more info, contact the Town Office at 634-2252 or
townmanager@townofnorridgewock.com

June 14 Elections: Select Board, School, and State Primary

Elections held at Mill Stream Elementary School Gymnasium, Polls open at 8:00 am

On June 14, voters will select their preferred candidates for office in the State primary, fill the vacant seat on the Select Board, and decide on four questions presented by MSAD 54 regarding the budget and financing of the proposed school in Skowhegan.

Three candidates returned nomination papers for the Town's Select Board seat: John Ames, Ronnie Blodgett, Jr., and Dylan Wentworth. The successful candidate will serve the remainder of the term, expiring at Town Meeting 2023. Each of the candidates was provided the same questions to be included in the *Meet the Candidates* section, which follows; two candidates provided such responses.

The school issues deal with two primary issues: the proposed elementary school in Skowhegan and the district's 2022-23 budget. Two questions pertain to the financing of the new school project; one question considers the proposed budget. The final question relates to the budget approval process: *Do you wish to continue the budget validation referendum process in Maine School Administrative District No. 54 for an additional three years?*

Sample ballots are available for viewing online at www.townofnorridgewock.com or at the Town Office. Absentee ballots are now available for request. Polling will be held at Mill Stream Elementary School, 26 Mercer Rd. For more information, you can contact the Town Office at 634-2252. ♦



Meet the Candidates

Ronnie L. Blodgett, Jr.

Work Experience: I have been a Certified Police Officer since 2002. Currently working for the Somerset County Sheriff's Office assigned to Maine Drug Enforcement since 2016. During this time, I have been a Patrolman, a Community Resource Officer, and a Detective. Prior to police work, I spent several years in the construction field, to include plumbing and pipe fitting. Prior to that, I spent time in Business Management for Shaw's Supermarkets, working in stores around the State of Maine. I owned by own lawncare business, which I ran for about 20 years before concluding this endeavor to pursue other career interests.

Political/Civic Experience: While working as the Community Resource Officer for the Skowhegan Police Dept., I had the opportunity to be on the Board of Directors of Youth and Family Services, I was involved with the local Domestic Violence groups, the Sexual Assault Response groups, youth outreach programs, and volunteered with the Maine Special Olympics.

Why am I running? I am running for this position on the Select Board as I want to be more involved here in Norridgewock which has given my family a place to live and grow. I feel this is an opportunity for me to help the community grow and provide this opportunity to others who choose to live/work here.

What qualifies me? I feel that my time spent in community governments (Sheriff's Office and Police Depts.) has given me the opportunity to work with the public for over 20 years and hear their thoughts/concerns on issues from multiple levels. As part of this process, I have been part of the resolutions instituted to rectify these issues.

What is the biggest challenge facing Norridgewock? I believe one of the biggest challenges facing residents is how we keep moving forward as a community while keeping the small town feel and affordable taxes.

How would I address this issue? I think by keeping essential needs met and staying current with equipment etc. we will not get behind and have lingering costs associated with trying to play "catch up".

Name two other priorities and proposal to address them. I have not been involved in town politics but try to stay abreast of items and believe roads and internet services are always on the radar for issues in most communities. I think proper planning and working with other government entities to address these issues is helpful.

What's one thing you want voters to know about you? I want voters to know that my main priority is to do what is right for the Town of Norridgewock and its Citizens while being fiscally responsible.

Meet the Candidates

continued

John Ames

Work Experience: 28 years construction work (progressed from laborer to project manager), multiple trade school classes, pastor, 2 years Bible college, 16 years volunteer at Somerset County Jail, 16 years volunteer at multiple nursing homes in the area, I have been a Bible teacher at the homeless shelter since it opened, Army veteran, owned and operated own construction company for 8 years

Political/Civic Experience: Planning Board Chairperson (2 years), Sewer Commission, multiple MMA seminars and workshops

Why am I running? 39-year resident; Norridgewock is changing and want to help the transition for the betterment of the residents

What qualifies me? Planning Board Chairperson, Sewer Commission, a desire that all residents are treated fairly and honestly

What is the biggest challenge facing Norridgewock? The change in the use of land from farming to land being subdivided, being used as solar farms, to encouraging new businesses to settle in Norridgewock

How would I address this issue? To see all parties involved and the Town of Norridgewock are treated with respect and that both short-term and future plans are considered

Name two other priorities and proposal to address them. I think that all things seem to tie together, if you invite businesses and new homes to be built in Norridgewock. You are also taking care of the decline in agriculture.

What's one thing you want voters to know about you? All lives matter!!!



In response to the Town's passage of the Moratorium Ordinance Regarding Commercial Solar Energy Facilities, *the Planning Board has been working to develop commercial and community solar regulations.* Stay up to date; working documents and information are available at www.townofnorridgewock.com. Regular Planning Board meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, 6:00 PM, at the Town Office.

Norridgewock Public Library

Library Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday
10am – 6pm

Wednesday & Saturday
10am – 2pm

Nina Pleasants, Librarian
40 Mercer Rd., 634-2828



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:

May 30- Memorial Day
July 4- Independence Day

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



Fire Department Successful with Grant

Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation Awards \$40,000

Norridgewock Fire Officers have been working diligently to seek grant funding support to help replace equipment in the most cost-effective way possible. The most recent success was the in securing funding to support the replacement of three extrication tools, often referred to as “jaws of life.”

These new tools are state of the art, lighter weight, portable, battery operated, and long overdue. With the good fortune shared by the King Foundation, the Department requested that the retired equipment be donated to a smaller department in need. After sharing the opportunity with other Somerset County departments, the Town was pleased to donate the retired equipment to Athens.

This is not the first time that Norridgewock has benefitted from the generosity of the Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation. In 2013, the Foundation awarded \$25,000 to the Town to support the renovation and restoration of the Sophie May Library. ♦

Grange Façade to See Improvements

As mentioned in the cover article, Somerset Grange received a \$50,000 grant from the Town, through ARPA funding, to complete façade improvements on the historic building. In its submission to the Select Board, the Grange cited the following upgrade plans:

- Repair, scrape, and paint all existing wood surfaces; remove old shakes on dormer and replace with clapboard (per original design) and paint; repair to front doors; fix signage on the face of the building (old wood carved sign and the void where the Masonic emblem used to be); removal/replacement/painting of four corner boards
- New slab wood doors (south side) and wood entry doors for access to the building from the ramp (north side)
- Remove and re-install ADA ramp
- Window sashes, replacement/repair
- Outside lighting and electrical work (front door, ramp)
- Landscaping and some fencing (near big Grange sign)
- Other miscellaneous (siding repairs, aesthetic appearance of bulkhead door, etc.). ♦



NEW EQUIPMENT IN SERVICE • Three new extrication tools were placed into service at Norridgewock Fire Department recently. The equipment was paid for through the grant support of the Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation. The retired equipment was donated to Athens Fire Department, a Somerset County mutual aid partner.

ROBERTA BRANCH 133

MAINE ANTIQUE TRACTOR CLUB

351 Waterville Road Norridgewock Maine

Annual

Antique Tractor Festival

facebook

www.maineantiquetractorclub.com

June 24, 25, & 26, 2022

Gate Opens Friday at Noon, Saturday and Sunday at 8:00

Antique Farm Tractor Pulls- Antique Lawn & Garden Tractor Pulls- Tractor Games-Auction-Food Vendors-Craft Vendors- Antique Machinery Demonstrations-Kids Tractor Playground-Kids Pedal Tractor Pulls-Antique Tool Displays-Antique Power Engine Displays-Cow Chip Bingo Fundraiser- Raffles-Giant Flea

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

NOW HIRING

NOW HIRING

NOW HIRING

NOW HIRING

PUBLIC WORKS OPERATOR/LABORER

Competitive starting wage, commensurate with experience.

Excellent benefits. Inquire at the Town Office.