

THE BRIDGE

Summer 2021
Norridgewock, Maine

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www.townofnorridgewock.com

Library Trustees Welcome Return of Chewonki on 9/25

The Library Board of Trustees is pleased to welcome back the Chewonki Traveling Natural History Program on September 25, featuring their *Mammals of Maine* program. The program is scheduled to begin at 11:00 am at the Grange Hall (9 Mercer Rd.); It is scheduled to last about one hour. And as with all library programs, this is FREE to attend!

This exciting and interactive program introduces attendees to our native warm-blooded vertebrates: Maine mammals. Participants can examine a mounted animal and observe its characteristics, such as teeth, feet, and fur. We use these observations as clues to understanding each mammal's adaptations, niche, and habitat. A collection of skulls, skins, and other specimens complements a discussion of adaptations and the role each animal plays in the food web. This program also features a living example of a non-releasable wild mammal!

In 2018, *Owls of Maine* was presented and later *Predators*; both were a great success. Surely this NEW presentation on *Mammals of Maine* will be exciting for folks of all ages! ♦



MAMMALS• A Chewonki teacher talks about bears during a recent presentation for Lakes Environmental Association

November 2 Referendum Elections: State and Local CMP Corridor and Local Alcohol Regulations Up for Vote

Tuesday, November 2, will mark a very busy election day, where no candidates are on the ballot, but there will be five total questions on which to vote. On the State ballot, the question likely to draw the most significant attention will be Question 1: Do you want to ban the construction of high-impact electric transmission lines in the Upper Kennebec Region and to require the Legislature to approve all other projects anywhere in Maine, both retroactively to 2020, and to need the Legislature, retroactively to 2014, to approve by a two-thirds vote such projects using public land?

Question 1 will likely determine the project's fate, commonly known as the CMP Corridor or the New England Clean Energy Corridor (NECEC). In addition, two other questions will appear on the State ballot. Question 2 is a bond issue regarding infrastructure improvements, and Question 3 proposes a constitutional amendment about food access.

Locally, there will be two questions regarding local options for beer, wine, and spirits. Both questions were put before voters in 1972 and did not pass. Since then, regulations have changed, and two petitions were filed seeking voters reconsider the issue. Sample ballots will be available at the Town Office

Polling will be held at Mill Stream Elementary School in the gymnasium on Tuesday, November 2, from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Absentee ballots are available for request online and at the Town Office. You are always encouraged to learn more about what is being voted on before Election Day. ♦



Library, Fire Department Partner Up for Children's Firefighting Program

Once again, the Norridgewock Public Library and Fire Department teamed up to host a remarkable family event recently. With nearly 40 in attendance, members of NFD welcomed the youngsters to learn more about the firefighting profession, their equipment, and they even had the chance to test some of it out!

Taking place in the lower lot at Mill Stream, this event has continued to be a growing success among youngsters in the area. Those attending this event also got a cool red fire hat, Norridgewock Fire sunglasses, and an activity book. Creating interest in firefighting, both as a career and a community service effort, is an integral part of helping to maintain (and, hopefully, grow) rural Maine departments.

The joint event between the library and NFD was the finale of the summer reading program. The six-week-long program, Tails and Tales, offered readers of all ages the opportunity to track reading throughout the summer and strive to reach their individual goals. Each week, the library supplied take-and-make craft bags for young readers to take home and enjoy.

Did you miss this great event? There will be a similar demonstration throughout the day at Central Maine Regional Airport on Sunday, September 5, as a part of Oosoola Days. If you can't join there, you'll have to stay tuned to your local library announcements where this event will be hosted next summer! For more information on upcoming programming, stop by the library and *check it out!* ♦



GIANT YARD SALE ! at Norridgewock Historical Society

Saturday, September 18
Rain or Shine
Opens at 8:30 am
No early birds, please



Planning Board Considers Subdivisions Proposals Received for Red Barn and Bigelow Hill Roads

For the first time in over five years, the Planning Board will be considering an application for subdivision. Not only is there one proposed on Red Barn Road, but a second was soon after received for a subdivision on Bigelow Hill Road.

The Planning Board has also issued a survey regarding the potential regulation of electronic signboards, similar to the corner of Main and Mechanic Streets. In addition, an online survey is available at the Town's website (www.townofnorridgewock.com) as the Board seeks preliminary feedback from the public.

All Planning Board meetings are open to the public and held at the Town Office; the public may view proceedings online via Zoom. ♦

The Town Office will be closed:

September 6- Labor Day
October 1- Regional training
October 11- Indigenous Peoples' Day
November 2- Election staffing

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



Investment Services Agreement Reached with Choice Wealth Advisors of Waterville

Norridgewock native Matt Libby to be primary advisor

In May, the Town Manager began developing a request for qualifications (RFQ) for investment management services. Largely motivated by the extremely low interest rates offered by local banks, this would provide an opportunity to safely and conservatively invest some of the treasury in order to generate greater returns for the Town. In May, the Select Board approved issuing the RFQ and the Town received a total of eight qualified submissions. After narrowing the pool to three finalists, the Board held in-person interviews with each firm to get a better understanding about service levels, fee structures, and unique offerings.

The successful proposer was Choice Wealth Advisors, based in Waterville. The Town's primary financial advisor with Choice will be Matt Libby, who is a native of Norridgewock. Born and raised in town, Matt is a magna cum laude graduate of Thomas College and has a strong background in financial services.

The Town's investments are governed by State Statute (Title 30-A, Chapter 223), which ensure the investments are conservative and guided by policy. ♦



NEW BUSINESS• Mill Stream Nutrition owner Ronnie Lavasseur holds the giant scissors at the recent grand opening. The business located at 65 Main Street is a nutrition shop featuring teas, shakes, and more.

\$15 each or 2 for \$25

Available at the Town Office

while supplies last

TIF Committee Continues Focus on Economy

The Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Advisory Committee continues to improve the condition of the local economy through various investments in the community. The TIF has supported many local investments, including support for the new fire station, signage at the town lines, improvements to the Oosoola Park boat launch, and recently, the investment in a regional broadband study.

One of the most attractive incentives for local businesses is the façade improvement program, which can assist with up to 50 percent of qualified improvement to business exteriors. Several local businesses have taken advantage of this program in the last few months:

- With grant support of \$1,950.00, Everett's Tire removed the fence on the corner and added the nice planters along the perimeter of the parking area. Additional landscape improvements are also pending as a part of the award.
- Frederick's Dar-I-Whip was awarded \$3,698.13 to support the parking lot resurfacing and striping, as well as the purchase of picnic tables and outdoor waste receptacles.
- Dr. Baker's grant was for cosmetic improvements to the exterior of the Main Street medical office, as well as parking lot repairs. The grant portion totaled \$4,333.50. ♦

WASTE MANAGEMENT

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 PUBLIC LIBRARY

invites you to meet local author

DEB BROWN, RSM

Saturday, September 18, 2021
10:30 am – 12:00 noon

In her book *Moving to a Higher Zip Code*, Brown shares the wisdom and experience that opened her to self-love and self-care, learning to believe and trust in synchronicity and the universe, finding her soul mate, and ultimately discovering inner peace along the way.

For more information, contact the librarian.
Norridgewock Public Library
40 Mercer Rd.
library@townofnorridgewock.com
(207) 634-2828

The Cemetery Committee Rolls Up Its Sleeves Once Again...

Recently, the Cemetery Committee reconvened to address several issues, including preservation and restoration-related maintenance, GIS/mapping needs, and potential, albeit minor, revisions of the Cemetery Ordinance. The Committee also touched upon financing avenues and possible grant opportunities. All aspects of the work present opportunities for volunteerism, too. The Committee hopes that both young and old community members will become engaged once work gets underway! There is so much history to learn from this experience, too.

The main focus of the first meeting was maintenance and, for the immediate short-term push, Riverview Cemetery specifically. Ultimately all cemeteries will undergo a review; some issues have already been identified for a few. Riverview is one of the three largest cemeteries maintained by the Town. Issues there (increased deterioration in general with many stones down/broken/leaning) were key factors that prompted the need to reconvene the Committee. A site review completed by some members of the Committee noted that, in addition to substantial maintenance problems with the stones and fencing, there is quite a bit of basic landscaping work that needs to be addressed (dead trees and limbs, overgrown shrubs, invasive plants, etc.). Completing these regular maintenance items would make a big difference as far as protecting /preserving the stones. (BREAKING NEWS: The morning after the meeting, Public Works contacted a member of the Committee to review the landscaping issues at Riverview, and then work began immediately!).

By way of background, prior to this meeting the Cemetery Committee had not been active since 2017 which was the year the new Cemetery Ordinance was drafted by the Committee and approved at the Town Meeting and new signs were designed and installed at each of the 11 cemeteries maintained by the Town. ♦ RFK



OLD CEMETERY STONES• Just a sampling of damage and wear to stones at Riverview Cemetery. Riverview Cemetery is located on Upper Main Street and hosts approximately 1,800 burials.



BACK TO SCHOOL.
BE SAFE.
DRIVE SMART.






*Don't miss this,
Mark your calendar!*

*Village Improvement
Society's*

BOOK SALE

Saturday, October 2
9:00am to 3:00pm
Grange Hall
Rain or Shine

Lots of good books!
Come and browse!
All proceeds to benefit VI initiatives



JIMMY GORDON
*Grand Marshal of the 2021
Oosoola Days Parade*

A 35-year veteran of Norridgewock Fire, Jim has dedicated himself to a life of community service. In addition to his traditional firefighting role, Jimmy has been Santa for decades, traveling to homes in the community at Christmas time delivering chocolate to seniors and those who may have limited accessibility.