

THE BRIDGE

Winter 2021-2022
Norridgewock, Maine

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www.townofnorridgewock.com

NFD Chief Jones Recognized for 50 Years *Town, Fire Department present commemorative silver axe*

At this year's annual town meeting, Norridgewock Fire Chief David Jones was recognized for 50 years of service to the Department. Chief began back in 1972 as firefighter and has remained in service to the NFD since. In 1976, he was promoted to Fire Chief, replacing Winton "Wint" Keene.

Among the speakers recognizing Jones were Ellie Espling from the Office of United States Senator Susan Collins, State Senator Brad Farrin, State Representative Jack Ducharme, and Deputy Fire Chief Todd Pineo. A congratulatory letter was read on behalf of United States Representative Jared Golden. Many commemorative gifts were received, including a Congressional coin, an American flag flown over the United States Capitol, State and American flags flown over the State House in Augusta, as well as a commemorative silver axe and mount from the Town and Fire Department.

Chief Jones was joined in celebration by well over 100 folks from Norridgewock, as well as friends and family from across the State. Town Manager Richard LaBelle noted that, "Dave and his family have given unconditionally over the years... That's the call that firefighters answer. It is a unique person, with a special family, that is willing to give unconditionally." In his thanks, Chief Jones announced his intention to retire from the fire service on October 5, 2022. ♦



HALF-CENTURY MILESTONE • Chief Jones poses after being presented with a silver axe, a token of appreciation marking 50 years of service to Norridgewock Fire.

Welcome Back, Nina Pleasants, Librarian at Norridgewock Public Library

A note from Norridgewock Public Library's new librarian, who is familiar to many



You may remember me. I was librarian here from 2009 to 2011. My name is Nina Pleasants, but you may call me "Miss Nina" (or "Marion the Librarian" as some have called me in the past). I am so honored to be back at this Library and look forward to seeing old friends and new ones.

My priority is to continue to supply you with your favorite authors and to introduce you to new books and new writers. We have more resources now: interlibrary loans, cloudLibrary – a free app that can be loaded on any iPad, tablet, and/or phone for reading ease – I can show you how to load it by using your library card number.

"Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are." Do we dare to open our doors to book clubs, seminars, children's story hours, afternoon tutoring, spinners of wool and sales? You bet! We welcome your ideas and your participation. ♦ NP

Select Board Orders Special Election to Fill Vacancy Left by Frederick

Former Select Board Member Ron Frederick Respectfully Declines Election by Write-In

At their March 16 meeting, the Select Board voted unanimously to order a special election to fill the vacancy that was left when long-time Select Board Member, Ron Frederick, declined to be seated after earning his seat by write-in. Garnering a write-in vote from nearly one in four voters, the 17-year Board veteran came about his decision after much deliberation.

In accordance with State Law (30-A M.R.S.A. §2602), the Select Board could either leave the seat empty and operate with a board of four members, or send the seat back to voters. The election to fill this seat will be held on June 14, in conjunction with the school referendum and any ballot measures or primaries required by the State of Maine.

Anyone wishing to appear on the ballot to fill this vacant seat must complete nomination papers, collecting a minimum of 25 signatures of qualified Norridgewock voters. Completed nomination papers must be submitted no later than close of business on Friday, April 29. Absentee ballots may be requested at any time, but they won't be available until approximately May 13. ♦



Town Meeting Enacts Solar Moratorium

Voters enacted a commercial solar facility moratorium at town meeting, which pauses any relevant applications from being considered for 180 days, while officials review current regulations and consider the possibility of developing an ordinance. Initiated by the Planning Board, the moratorium was passed with overwhelming support from those present.

The Planning Board will begin its work of reviewing regulations at its meeting on April 14 and will continue until the process is finished. Should officials need additional time, the Select Board may approve an additional 180 day extension. Current project permits will not be impacted by this moratorium. Projects already permitted are located on River Road, Upper Main Street/Winding Hill Road, and Martin Stream Road. The full moratorium is available online at www.townofnorridgewock.com or at the Town Office. ♦

Norridgewock Public Library
presents

**Local tapper, Iver Lofving and
showing of the short film
*The Music of the Sugar Bush***

**Saturday, March 26
10:30 AM
40 Mercer Rd.**

*For more information, contact
the Library at 634-2828*

The logo for Waste Management, featuring the letters "WM" in a stylized, bold font. The "W" is green and the "M" is yellow. Below the letters, the words "WASTE MANAGEMENT" are written in a smaller, green, sans-serif font.

*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

**Airport Rd.
634-2714**

The Town Office will be closed:

April 18- Patriots Day
April 29- Closing at noon
May 30- Memorial Day
June 20- Juneteenth

A stylized illustration of the United States flag, showing the stars and stripes in a waving motion.

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

Walter Booker to Retire in May

Public Works Employee Hangs Up Jacket After Over 16 Years

For over 16 years, Walter Booker has been a fixture at the Norridgewock Public Works Garage. A remarkable mechanic and talented welder with a great sense of humor, Walt has enjoyed working for the Town through the years.

Walter joined the Town of Norridgewock in September 2005 after a long career with Solon Manufacturing. The Town Garage gave Walter a place where he could continue to do the work he enjoyed, while making a living. His positive attitude is most helpful, especially amid the winters when the storms seem endless and there seems to be no light at the end of the tunnel.

Walt is looking forward to his retirement, spending time with his family, catching up on his honey-do list, helping his son restore an old pickup, and tinkering in his garage. Likely our most charismatic Public Works employee, Walt will truly be missed. One of the first times he met the current Town Manager, he was quick to point out, "Boy, I've got shoes older than you!" All in good fun, he always keeps us laughing. Our best wishes for a *Happy Retirement*, and *Thank You* on behalf of the Town of Norridgewock. ♦



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE UPCOMING ELECTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022, 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM
MILL STREAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
REQUEST YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT TODAY!

Earth Day is April 22. How will you do your part to help out?

PROTECTING OUR PLANET STARTS WITH YOU



**BIKE MORE
DRIVE LESS**



**reduce
REUSE
recycle**

Cut down on what you throw away. Follow the three "R's" to conserve natural resources and landfill space.

choose sustainable



Learn how to make smart seafood choices at www.FishWatch.gov.

Trees provide food and oxygen. They help save energy, clean the air, and help combat climate change.



**PLANT
A TREE**



EDUCATE

When you further your own education, you can help others understand the importance and value of our natural resources.

CONSERVE WATER



The less water you use, the less runoff and wastewater that eventually end up in the ocean.



Buy less plastic and bring a reusable shopping bag.



Don't send chemicals into our waterways.

Choose nontoxic chemicals in the home and office.



Volunteer!

Volunteer for cleanups in your community. You can get involved in protecting your watershed too!



**Long-lasting
light bulbs
- ARE A -
BRIGHT
IDEA**

Energy efficient light bulbs reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also flip the light switch off when you leave the room!

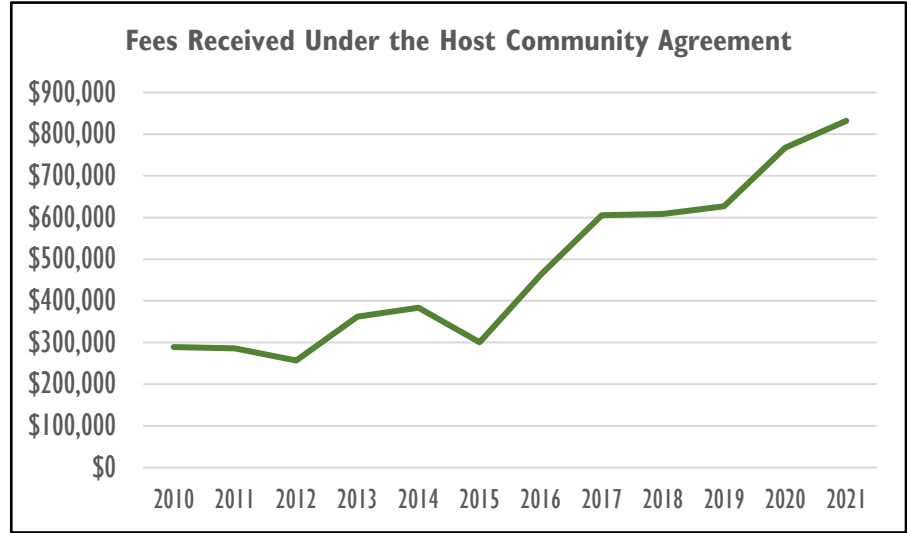


Waste Management's expansion finalized

Host community fees increase by 30 percent

Waste Management Disposal Services of Maine (WMDSM) has been active in the permitting process for the proposed Phase 14 expansion at their Crossroads Landfill in Norridgewock. As a part of that expansion, WMDSM was required to renegotiate the fees paid to Norridgewock, as host community. There were a series of triggers to increase the rate, one being the receipt of final, non-appealable permits. In late February 2022, that process finally concluded, following an appeal by the Conservation Law Foundation. As of March 1, the rate per ton, paid to the Town on waste brought in and landfilled, increased by 30 percent, to \$3.25.

The next increase, in accordance with the Host Community Agreement is when disposal begins in Phase 14, which is tentatively expected in 2023-2024. The rate will then increase to \$3.80 per ton. Thereafter, the rate will increase at 3 percent or CPI, whichever is greater. For some historical perspective, the chart below shows the annual revenues received by the Town from Waste Management. Since 2010, the Town has received \$6,174,682.72 in host fees. ♦



PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT • Chief Jones recently announced the promotion of a new Officer; Firefighter/EMT Joshua Corson has been promoted to Lieutenant. Josh has been with NFD since 2009, full-time since 2020.

New Board Membership

As a result of the 2022 Town Meeting Election, Boards and Committees changed. Here's what your elected committees look like:

Select Board & Overseers

Matt Everett (chair), Jim Lyman (vice chair)
Charlotte Curtis, Lindsey Lynch

Tax Assessors

Charlotte Curtis, Ron Frederick, Jim Lyman

Budget Committee

Tara Desroches, Melannie Keister,
Ruth Keister, Becky Ketchum, John Lynch,
Skip Viles, Sallie Wilder

Sewer Commission

John Ames, Robbie Bickford
Kristina Gossman, Ruth Keister

Library Board of Trustees

Mary Ann Anderson, Marnie Bottesch,
Becky Ketchum, Jill Lawrence,
Gloria Nicholson

Planning Board

John Ames, Charlotte Curtis, Matt Keister,
Margaret O'Connell, Mike Shute

SAD 54 School Board Directors (Norridgewock only)

Sam Delorie, Desiree Libby,
Brandy Morgan, Kathy Wilder



SPECIAL ELECTION NOMINATION PAPERS NOW AVAILABLE

Due to a vacancy on the Select Board, a special election will be held on June 14 to fill that seat.

Nomination papers for that seat are available now; completed papers must be returned no later than close of business on April 29.