



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Volume 21, Issue 1

bowdoinham.com

January - February 2023

Bowdoinham Rowing

In 1768, the Merrymeeting was the first ship built and launched here in Bowdoinham. For well over a century our little town was the birthplace of many more vessels but it all started with that one boat.

Bowdoinham Rowing is a local club that builds community by connecting people through fixed seat rowing on the Cathance River and Merrymeeting Bay. The rowing group presently has approximately thirty-six active rowers and it is steadily growing. The club is also participating in rowing events around New England. Although the boats are off the water for the winter, there is plenty of activity still going on. During the 2022 season, it was a club decision to build a third rowing craft. Several different options were considered for the additional boat. The choice ended up being to procure and build a Cornish Pilot Gig from a stitch and glue kit manufactured by Chesapeake Light Craft (clcboats.com). The assembled Whitby Pilot Gig kit measures 32-feet long with a breadth of 4 feet, 10 inches. In honor of the first ship built here in Bowdoinham, the boat is going to be christened the Merrymeeting II.



the community. The goal is to complete the 6-oared gig by February and have it ready to race in the annual Snow Row in Hull, Massachusetts that typically takes place on the first Saturday in March.

Historically, a common way to fund the building of ships was by multiple people owning a small percentage of each vessel. The term used to describe this financing system was “selling planks” and it is where the phrase “plank owner” is derived. In the same vein, the Merrymeeting II is being funded by rowers and supporters who are buying individuals plank shares. It is fitting that there are approximately one hundred twenty components making up Merrymeeting II and the same number of planks are being sold.

The boat is being built at the Long Branch Workshop located at 25 Main

Street. If you would like to come check out the progress or get involved with its construction, please swing by for a visit. You can also check out the progress and other club details by joining the Bowdoinham Rowing group on Facebook. For further information, you can contact Pete Feeny at 319-6324 or e-mail him at Bowdoinham.Pete@gmail.com.



The assembly and construction of the Merrymeeting II is well underway. The “shipwrights” in this process are the rowers themselves as well as other volunteers from

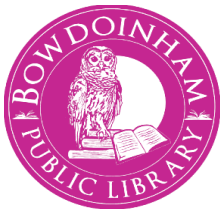


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Merryreading Books



The Bowdoinham Public Library is happy to report of a successful launch to Merryreading Books! You may have seen the new sign on the sidewalk in front of Merrymeeting Hall! We opened the doors to this used bookstore on November first and have been open three days a week since then. Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 5pm and Saturdays from 9 to 4. The location is ground level, wheelchair accessible, around the back of the hall with plenty of parking. We are accepting donated books, one box per visit. Please donate books that are current, in good shape, with no mildew or smell. We won't sell outdated manuals or health books. We have installed internet to the building to be able to accept credit card purchases. The WiFi connection is a real benefit to those who use the building



for other events. Thank you to everyone who has shopped for books and to the 29 volunteers who are staffing the store. If you would like to join the fun, please contact Kate at the library to get a simple training. Otherwise, come in a browse! New (used) books being added every week!

Town Ambulance Services at a Crossroads

*By Town Manager,
Nicole Briand*

The Town needs to make changes to its ambulance services – either in terms of cost, and/or service provider. North East Mobile Health (North East), our current ambulance provider has informed the Town that it can no longer be our provider without a substantial increase in our contract.

Our current contract is \$50,000 per year, which runs July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. They are requesting a very substantial increase, to \$65,500 per month starting January 1, 2023. The Select Board reviewed this request at their December 13th meeting and requested additional information from North East. At the time of writing this, North East is scheduled to meet with the Select Board for further discussion at their December 27th meeting. In case North East is not able to cover the Town for the remainder of the contract year (to June 30, 2023), the Town is talking with Gardiner and Topsham about gap coverage.

Staff are also talking with potential partners in Gardiner and Richmond, about the possibility of securing ambulance service for next year (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024) and hopefully future years. Staff have also talked with Topsham, who indicated that while they are willing to be mutual aid for Bowdoinham, they are not able to be a primary provider. Gardiner can cover Bowdoinham, but they would need to increase their capacity by placing an ambulance in Richmond (or Bowdoinham). If Richmond is willing to host the ambulance station, Bowdoinham would split the annual host fee cost with them of approximately \$400,000. If Richmond is not willing to host a new station, Bowdoinham would be solely responsible for the host fee. The host fee is the cost of the wages and benefits for four of the eight staff needed to staff an ambulance truck.

In addition to the host fee, Bowdoinham would also be responsibility for its membership fee, of approximately \$100,000 per year. Gardiner would be looking to have a 3-5 year contract with Bowdoinham.

Welcome Two New Faces to The Town Office

Help us welcome two new bright shiny faces to the staff at the Town Office, Code Enforcement Officer, Matthew James; and Assistant Clerk, Candi Bolton. Both of our new members came aboard in November to anxious be part a small-town municipality and get to know the members they will serve.



Matt moved to Maine from Hingham, MA in 2015 to pursue his undergraduate in anthropology at UMO. Since then, he has worked a variety of jobs including doing work for the University of Maine and SEARCH Inc. doing surveys and monitoring construction. Matt loves, art, hiking and

photography. His desire is to work with the community and help educate residents on ordinances and policies. He is in the office Monday through Friday ready to answer questions and assist with permits.

Candi is a mother of 4 from Lisbon. She previously worked for Aegis Science Corp in Lewiston. She loves helping people and feeling part of the community. She feels this position is a good opportunity for her to do just that, regardless if that is registering a vehicle, answering questions or just being a smiling face to talk with when you visit the office. Candi has a can-do attitude and connection to people that makes her a good addition to the office staff.

We know there has been a lot of changes over the last several months, but we are confident that we have a crew that are excited about their jobs with a desire to get to know the community they now serve. If you haven't been in the office in a while, we welcome you to stop by, introduce yourself, and say hello to the crew.

Reminder

Trash Tags are sold at
The Bowdoinham Country Store
and at the Town Office.

Comprehensive Planning Committee

There are so many things about Bowdoinham to learn about and include in a Comprehensive Plan for the decade of 2024-2034!! In addition to a deep dive into housing needs, wants, funding, possible sites, etc. the Comprehensive Planning Committee currently and in the next few months are or will be tackling transportation, land use ordinances and possible changes, and a review of town owned facilities, and more. Some of these conversations were topics last fall and will expand with new data and presentations in the January through March meetings. At this writing, one topic for the December meeting is the Bowdoinham Water District – probably in more detail than most of you want to know!

You will continue to hear more about housing interests with a second Housing Community Conversation (HCC) scheduled for February 1, 2023 with a snow/ice alternative date of February 8th. The October 26, 2022 HCC was well attended, participants provided a lot of valuable input, and posed more questions that will be addressed in February. The guests from Maine Housing, Midcoast Council of Governments (MCOG), and Genesis added data, new perspectives, and a glimpse into opportunities possible in the future. There will continue to be lots of opportunities for discussion, research, deeper considerations of several topics, and other ways to receive input from you all.

Please plan to attend if you can.

The Housing Community Conversations are a partnership between BCDI and the Comprehensive Planning Committee. The two groups have different but compatible goals for the meetings. Ours include:

- Community Engagement to gain a deeper understanding of the needs, interests and opinions of community members of all ages, incomes, family size, length of time in town, etc. We strive to get varied opinions in group meetings, surveys, and interviews. You can also add your voices as guests at our meetings or by email to Jenn Curtis, planning@bowdoinham.com at the Town Office.
- Expert input and accurate data to gain knowledge of a what may be possible in the future for affordable and attainable housing like new technology in septic systems, heating, other ways to build 'green' and sustainable homes, alternative options for funding, ways to share

expenses and resources and probably more.

- Sorting these two sets of information so they fit with Bowdoinham's culture, values, districts, rural nature, farming and outdoor industry, interest in who moves into and out of the community, our school, children, older community members, our history and of course – more.

Recently the committee reviewed issues related to transportation in town which included Bowdoinham specific data on road status and when upgrades were completed and those still pending as well as volume of traffic on Bowdoinham streets. You may remember from prior newsletters and last winter's surveys that traffic and safety are very important issues to community members so two bits of information might be of interest to many of you. The number of vehicles driven to and through the intersection of Main Street, Post Road, and Fisher Road was over 2,000 a day in a 2020 analysis. High accident locations for 2021 included 2 fairly straight and flat sections of Route 24, likely related to speed issues. These facts get added to the mix for planning.

Trails and sidewalks are also part of local transportation issues. The Walkable Bowdoinham map and plan was reviewed and will be updated and available to the committee to indicate progress to date and reassign priority status. The map will also be included in the final plan. The town continues to plan for implementation of the Waterfront Plan as well, even as costs have increased dramatically since the first estimates were provided.

There also has long been interest in painting a crosswalk at the intersection of Rt 24 and Main Street, although this is not something that is an option to ask Maine DOT to do

because it does not fit the state's criteria for sidewalks, so the town would need to put this into our own plan. This is identified by many community members as a very high safety issue that should be addressed ASAP.

The CPC really appreciates hearing from other town committees and community members that have a deeper and broader understanding of specific issues. As I mentioned above, representatives of The Water District will have presented in December.

We also continue our shameless pitch for more members! This is a great time to join the Comprehensive Planning Committee. You can sit in on a couple of meetings without making a long-term commitment. We want to include more perspectives and voices.

Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month, 6:30-8:15. We may be meeting in person or on-line if COVID or other concerns require distance meetings, a quick check of the www.bowdoinham.com website will provide more information. In person meetings are in the Graduates Room of the Town Office building. Jennifer Curtis, Director of Planning and Development staffs this process; her email is planning@bowdoinham.com. We can have up to 17 members and more perspectives are always welcome.

Committee Members: Joanne Joy, Chair; David Asmussen, Co-Chair; Laura Arnold, Kimberly Bedard, Peggy Christian, Jan Marks, PJ O'Hanlon, Robert Schott, and William Stanton. With Allen Acker moving to the Select Board, it would be great to have someone with long term roots in town join the committee along with others. If that's you, contact Jenn.

Learn more, share more, and add your voice to the Comprehensive Plan.

Joanne Joy, Chair



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THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Age Friendly Bowdoinham

by Peggy Muir

We've had a busy fall!

NEW DIRECTOR - We welcomed Jason Lamoreau, the Town's new Recreation Director/Adult Services Coordinator. Jason is a local businessman, Fire and Rescue volunteer and lifelong resident of Bowdoinham. With lots of enthusiasm and ideas, Jason will be updating the Age Friendly website as one of his first priorities. You can contact Jason with any questions or concerns at the Town Office (207-666-5531) or email him at age-friendly@bowdoinham.com.

LUNCHEONS - Our monthly luncheons at the Bowdoinham Fire House have been well attended and beautifully catered by a group of wonderful volunteers! Upcoming luncheons are January 12th and February 9th. Around 40-50 people join the midday meal combined with socialization, speakers and fun activities afterwards. Longtime cooks Judy Hardin and Leslie Anderson produce delicious and plentiful meals. George Hardin usually runs a raffle of donated gifts (the most recent raffle included a gorgeous handmade cutting board made by Jason). BUT, we need more volunteers to share the load by offering to shop, prep, cook, serve or clean.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER to help out at our luncheons by calling Jason at 207-666-5531.

Dates for the upcoming luncheons will be announced on our Facebook page at AgeFriendlyBowdoinham and the town website www.bowdoinham.com.



NEED A RIDE to the luncheon, to shop or to visit your health provider? Call Rides in Neighbors' Cars at 207-837-9577.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND ADAPTIVE AIDS - Whether your need is short term or more permanent, our Medical Equipment Loan Program lends out crutches, wheelchairs, walkers, toilet seats and other devices to make life easier for you. To visit our storage area or to request needed equipment, call the Town Office at 207-666-5531.

GRANTS TO HELP BREAK THE ISOLATION OF WINTER - The Age Friendly Committee was delighted to receive

grants from the University of Maine Center on Aging and Home Care for Maine in part to help residents prepare for the inevitable power outages and winter storms this winter. These grants, as well as donations from the Fire Station, Food Pantry, and Home Depot, will provide supplies to help cope in emergencies to potentially at-risk residents. The grants will also be used to better coordinate efforts within town to help residents find and access needed services.

THANKS to the crews which have so improved the intersection in the middle of the village where Route 24 and Main Street cross! Many people are walking on our sidewalks and trails and all improvements are very welcomed!

TIPS FOR WINTER SAFETY - Test your footing if you are using cram-p-ons or any kind of attached shoe devices for good footing on snow or ice. Remember to test them on different kinds of surfaces. A brand that works on snow and ice may be terrible on concrete! Also...

- Create a sitting space just inside your door to the outside with good lighting where you can safely take off/dry crampons or boots and put on your slippers or inside shoes
- Arrange for snow plowing. It's not just for you to get OUT in a car, it's for friends-neighbors-emergency vehicles to get IN. And even with snowplowing, a walk to your mailbox may still be a hazardous journey. Sometimes it's best to wait a day to get your mail or ask someone else to bring it to you!



Morning Jo

The Double-Edged Sword of New Year's Resolutions.

For lots of us, there is something irresistible about the prospect of turning over a new leaf on January 1st. If we didn't make the changes we'd hoped to make last year, the new year re-energizes our intentions. We make our list. And sometimes, the changes we want actually start sticking to our ribs! But sometimes, they don't.

The More Things Change, The More They Stay The Same.

Human beings are nothing if not creatures of habit. A habit is just something we've done enough times to have it be automatic. We have habits of mind (what's the first thing you think when you can't find your car keys?) and of body (which arm do you put into your coat first?). Habits can be hard to break. But they can also be surprisingly easy to make.

If Nothing Changes, Nothing Changes.

If we want to break old habits and make some new ones, the first thing we have to do is to raise our awareness of our "default" patterns. That's how we will interrupt



them (and thus have the opportunity to do something different) rather than mindlessly perpetuate them.

A Little Practice Can Go A Long Way.

Raising our awareness can be unexpectedly challenging! But a little practice can make an amazing difference.

Try this.

Get comfortable, close your eyes, and take three "Be a Balloon" (deep) breaths. Next, with your eyes still closed, take an "inventory" of your mind (what thoughts are you thinking?) and of your body (what sensations are you feeling?). Pretend you're a scientist, just observing (with non-judgmental curiosity) whatever comes into your awareness. Last, take three more "Be a Balloon" breaths. And that's it.

Progress, Not Perfection.

There's no way to get it wrong. If you do it at all, you're doing it perfectly. Hold your nose to the grindstone. But cut yourself some slack too. Because you're only human! Turn over a new leaf as many times as you need to. As always, remember to breathe.

Happy New Year!

Questions/Comments? Anything particular you'd like me to address next time? Email me at jowtherlcsu@gmail.com.



Founded in 2010, the FHC Communities Education Foundation was created to foster and encourage members of FHC's surrounding communities to seek post-high school educational opportunities. This includes 2- or 4-year undergraduate degrees, vocational programs and graduate studies. The Scholarship is offered twice a year. Fall and Spring Semesters. Applicants can apply and be awarded more than once! We are now accepting applications for the Spring 2023 semester. For more information on the scholarship requirements, necessary documents, and application form, please visit, <https://www.fh-co.com/community-involvement> Completed Applications can be emailed to hr@fh-co.com. Essays are judged anonymously based on academic progress, financial need, GPA, as well as content and presentation of the required short essays. Applications are due no later than January 20th.

Cathance Fitness Center

Create your memberships and handle payment information right on this website: CathanceFitness.com

Access to the gym fitness center requires an active membership.

Please note we are no longer allowing members to bring **guests** - everyone must sign up for a membership to use the facility. One-month memberships are available!

FHC, Inc., Cathance Children's Center & the Cathance Fitness Center is located at 1201 Main St. Bowdoin, Maine. This route 125 address is the old Bowdoin elementary school. Speed limit through the drive-way is 10mph while passing the daycare & entering the parking lot. *Thank you!*

Community Health Message: Reset & Revitalize in the New Year!

What will your small step be toward lasting change?

Break down a broad goal into small steps toward a larger vision. An example would be, "I want to reduce my waist circumference" could be broken down to "I want to increase my steps to 2000 per week in Jan" OR choose higher fiber foods to replace processed foods 4 times this week.

Choose a step that you connect with, that is important to you personally to make it stick throughout the year!



Ice and Smelt Festival

Check the Town website for information on Ice and Smelt Festival events to be held over February School Vacation week (February 18th-26th)!



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

BCDI and Comprehensive Planning Committee Co-host Housing Community Conversation

On October 26th more than 60 people met at the Community School to discuss housing in Bowdoinham. The agenda included a presentation of housing statistics by Michael Martone of MidCoast Council of Governments (MCCOG), local regulations regarding housing presented by Bowdoinham's Director of Planning and Development, Jenn Curtis, and breakout sessions to discuss the housing challenges in Bowdoinham, including ideas for solving challenges now and in the future.

John Egan of the Genesis Community Loan Fund, genesishfund.org, and Adam Krea of the Maine State Housing Authority,

www.mainehousing.org, offered insights into available funding sources and their knowledge of various types of housing used in Maine to address some of the challenges raised.

The six breakout groups were fairly consistent in their description of the housing challenges currently being encountered in Bowdoinham, most notably affordability and availability. Even more impressive was that ideas for how to solve these challenges with the goal to serve Bowdoinham now and into the future were equally consistent, with increased density being the common thread.

We ended the forum in agreement that a second meeting would provide

an opportunity to further explore the possibilities and challenges identified. BCDI and the CPC have set Wednesday, February 1st (snow date Wednesday, February 8th) for the follow-up conversation, which will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Community School. All are welcome to attend!

BCDI's ultimate goal for the Housing Community Conversations is to define what housing the people of Bowdoinham want, explore and recommend changes to town ordinances which might prohibit that housing, find creative solutions for problems such as sewer, and excite potential buyers, developers, and funders about building, buying, or renovating in Bowdoinham.

Happy New Year from the Bowdoinham Food Pantry!

BFP Director Jenn Stonebreaker

We're coming off of a busy Holiday season during which we served a record number of households.

Thanks to all who helped make that possible! Many locals baked pies for the "Pies for Neighbors" initiative, folks put together incredible boxes of homemade cookies, and clients baked for us. Harvest Tide Organics, Six River Farm, and Dandelion Spring Farm provided generous donations of produce to allow folks the fresh vegetables they needed to make those delicious sides! We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our neighbors as they dropped off all the fixings and a record number of turkeys. And a shout out to folks who came down to the pantry to

volunteer their time - we had folks as young as 3 helping us; there are so many ways to give!



Midcoast Hospitals Surgical Prep Team raised a significant donation for us, Downeast Credit Union collected a copious amount of food for the pantry, and the Bowdoinham Community School collected 501.2 pounds of food for our Backpack Program!

Without this support we COULD NOT do what we do. We are eternally grateful.

In Board news, the pantry welcomes long-time volunteer Jan Hayward and Linda Jariz, who is rejoining the Board and will be taking over as treasurer.

We're open for in-person shopping each Wednesday from 4-6PM. Come shop with us!

Here are some volunteer opportunities If you'd like to get involved:

WEDNESDAY - Pack Deliveries/Deliver
WEDNESDAY - Distribution Prep, Donation, Processing & Distribution
THURSDAY - Backpack Shopper and Packers
THURSDAY or SATURDAY - Recycling Help

The pantry's soup supper will be coming up in February - look out for details!

Wishlist:

- Soups
- Eggs
- Meat
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Shampoo
- Detergent (dish and laundry)



Merrymeeting Arts Center

This fall was a great season at Merrymeeting Arts Center with a fantastic collaboration with Spindleworks we hope to see repeated and expanded, a wave of gallery goes for Halloween, volunteers a plenty, wonderful community connections, new studio offerings, and a festive Holiday Art Fair supporting local artists. The new activity just keeps growing as does the number of community members visiting our exhibits, events, and educational opportunities!

Our studio has recently welcomed Ashleigh Feeney for Friday Art Labs, we'll be introducing Katie Hudak in January for an after school program, and we are mid-series in offering a private pottery class to a local homeschool group. We would love to connect with other private groups looking to meet artistic needs and any area artists interested in sharing their craft with the community as either workshops, a class series, or opening the doors to host the studio as a makerspace. Our website calendar is a great resource to see what's happening with MAC and see where we could fit new programs!

We have launched the first two of four vacation art kits- a large scale art opportunity impacting every student at Bowdoinham Community School made possible by grant funding and the volunteer support of the Bowdoinham Parent Partnership. Our first project (place card instructions designed by Manon Whittlesey) hopefully found its way to many Thanksgiving tables. Look forward to another seasonal project for February vacation featuring the artwork of Jane Page-Conway.

We are so thankful Mt. Ararat High School senior, Addison Kennedy, reached out to MAC for her capstone project. Addison was our winter vacation featured artist with a mini art mural project to be displayed in our gallery for the Ice and Smelt Festival. The Ice and Smelt Festival will also be the reveal of our 4th annual Myth of the Year! We hope to see many students and the community at the gallery to support her exhibit in February and many artists in our studio for a mini art camp in the works with our newest studio host!

The Heron Fund is made possible by the generosity of the Muir Family and donations from MAC friends and supporters like you. Donations can be made on our website and



allow us to compensate instructors, build programming that fills creative needs in our community, and ensure that everyone can participate- Art for Everyone! www.merrymeetingartscenter.org

MAC is looking to grow our Executive Board with two individuals focused on expanding studio programming or grant writing and development. There has been great momentum over the past year and having new board members dedicated to these two areas will enrich the positive community impact established by the current members. Merrymeeting Arts Center is a volunteer-led organization so the time commitment is flexible beyond monthly meetings, but a successful board member will be passionate about providing artistic opportunities in our community and connecting with local artists and organizations. Please reach out to merrymeetingartcenter@gmail.com for more information.



Friends of Merrymeeting Bay 2022-2023 Zoom Speaker Series

7:00pm: Log in link posted at www.fomb.org prior to each program.

JAN. 11 Where the Wild Things Were
Will Stolzenburg, Author & Ed Friedman, FOMB Chair

FEB. 09 Running Silver!
John Waldman, Aquatic Conservation Biologist, CUNY

MAR. 08 My Life for the Birds & Bats
Al Manville, Senior Wildlife Biologist, USFWS, Ret.

APR. 12 Agro-acoustics: Listening to the Sounds of Soil
Louise Roberts, Asst. Prof. Marine Biology, U. of Liverpool

MAY 10 Order in the Pownalborough Court House, 1761-2023
Jay Robbins, Place-Based Historian

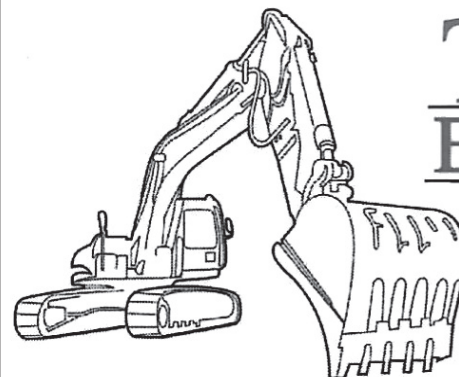
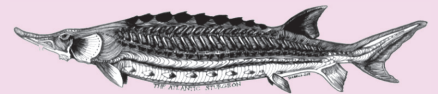
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or edfomb@comcast.net for more information.

www.fomb.org



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THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Cemetery News

Greetings! Hope you all had a lovely Holiday! Over the past 4 months we have completed the updated policy for Superintendence and Maintenance of Bowdoinham Cemeteries and presented it to the Select Board for approval to replace the current policy of 1999. We have also updated the list of burial grounds in Bowdoinham for which the town bears some, not all of the responsibility. This information should soon be available on the town website for complete data (current) on all the cemeteries.

Linda Williams and Pete Mendall are committed to working with the Town Office to have this up and accessible very soon. Linda Temple finished assessing the cemeteries on Post Road, Bay Road, White Road and added that information to current data. Ron Emmons, the keeper for the beautifully maintained Pioneer-Knight- Small Cemetery, attended the November 3rd BCAC meeting and gave us much history of that family-maintained cemetery.

The committee has focused on budgeting and prioritizing under Nina Mendall's leadership. The current top 2 projects, budget wise, are tree removal and securing fragile monuments in the Ridge Cemetery and Village Burying Ground.

We, the BCAC, would like to pay tribute to our foreman member, Sam Tome, who died Oct 23, 2022. Sam not only served 3 years on the committee, but was the keeper for The Pratt Cemetery, The Sedgley Plot and The Read Tomb all on Wildes Road,

where he lived. Sam was descended from some of the earliest Bowdoinham Settlers, including Pratts and Temples. Wildes Road was named for his great grandfather. Sam's commitment to the cemeteries came from his interests in these roots and desire to honor them. He was well known for his kindness and generosity to family, neighbors, and friends. We will miss him!

During the winter months we will be working on the projects described above, but in the spring, we plan to do the following:

1. Upgrade the fencing in The Pratt Cemetery on Wildes Road. Hopefully in a gathering to honor Sam, who didn't get to finish his project.
2. Access and work on the McFadden Yard, off the old dump road.
3. Work on and gradually restore The Village Burying Ground, our most visible cemetery, right across from the school. We need 2 more Committee members, lots of Volunteers and Keepers.

Please contact The Town Clerk, Tina Magno if applying for Committee Membership. Call the Volunteer Coordinator to volunteer for any project or to be a keeper. Town Clerk Tina Magno: 207-666-5531. BCAC Chair Nina Mendall: 207-666-8838. Volunteer Coordinator Linda Temple: 207-666-3343. Volunteer Coordinator Elaine Diaz: 207-666-8255.

BCAC meetings are (usually) the first Thursday of the month at 4pm. Our next meeting will be January 12, 2023.

Richard A. Ferrier Scholarship Fund

This fund was established by the estate of Richard Ferrier to encourage students to explore the less traditional pathways to an education. Assistance will be provided to students between the ages of 13 and 18 by April 1 of the application year. Applicants must be residents of Bowdoinham who want to pursue their artistic, academic, athletic and vocational or life's passion outside of the traditional school environment (i.e., experiential education, summer programs or studies, or special athletic instruction).

Eligible applicants must be residents of Bowdoinham who clearly demonstrate a need for financial assistance. Preference is for applicants who have resided in Bowdoinham for at least one full year.

Contact:

Maine Community Foundation

Application Deadline:

June 1

Holiday Recycling

Wrapping paper

Wrapping paper is a mixed paper product. Paper can be torn and leaves rough edges. Wrapping paper can be balled up in your hands and remains balled up. Wrapping paper with foil or plastic coatings are not recyclable and should be placed in your trash.

Gift boxes

Gift boxes such as an article of clothing would come in are mixed paper and should be recycled as you would with any other paper product.

Christmas trees

Christmas trees after all decorations have been removed can be brought to Solid Waste/Recycling for disposal.

Food Waste

You can bring any leftover food to our recycling facility and place it in our food waste barrel. Please remove any plastic wrap or bags from the waste as it will not compost.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Drivers are needed to take those unable to drive to errands, shopping and medical appointments.



Contact Diana Mosher for more information. Diana.mosher@gmail.com

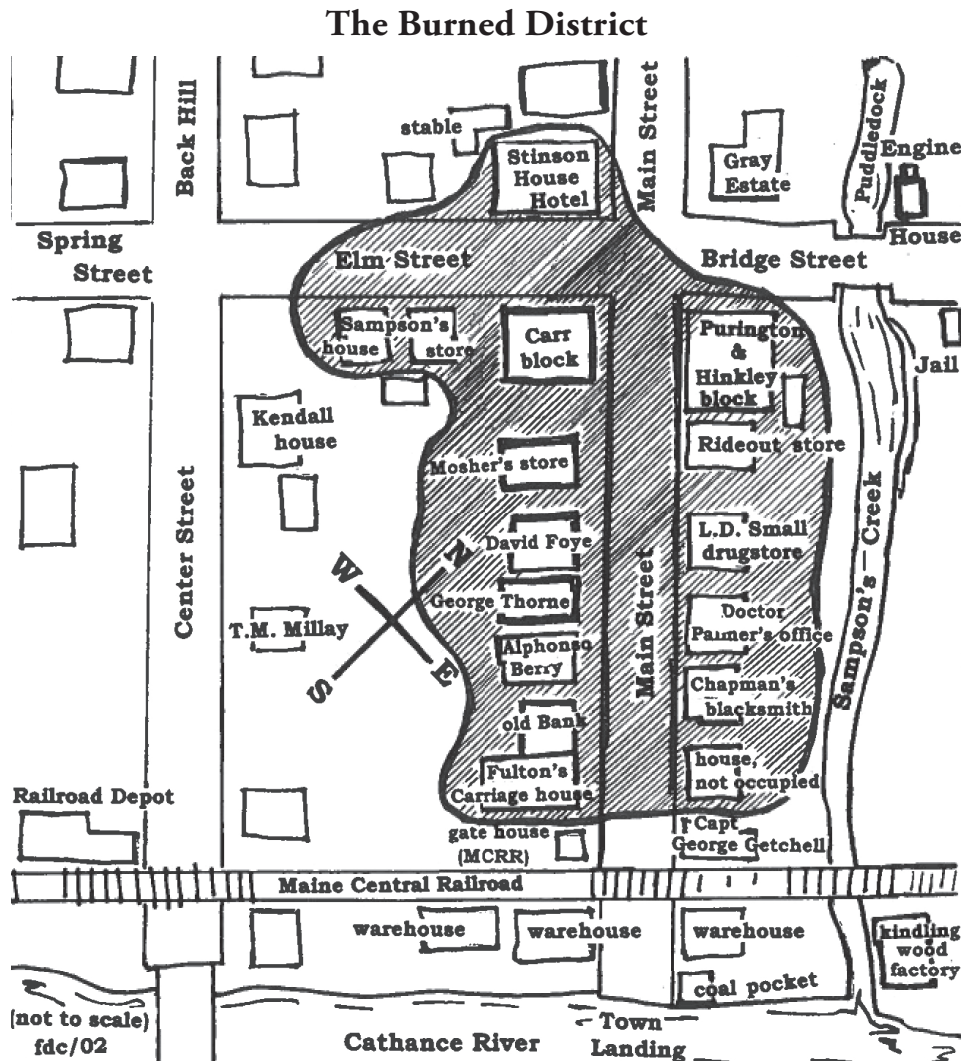
1902 Fire History: Part II

By Frank Connors

The Carr coat factory, corner of Main & Elm streets (where the Three Robbers Pub is today) was the next building consumed by flames. State Insurance Commissioner Stephen Carr had his business offices in the building, and a shop where he'd operated a coat factory since before the Civil War. Other tenants in the building were fire chief McEwen's barber shop (he managed to save several shaving mugs as the place burned), the meeting rooms of Bowdoinham's Modern Woodsmen Assoc., a sales office for Capt. Ben Adams (a dealer in coal and wood), and a corporate office for the Standard Wood Company, managers of the kindling wood mill.

The fire blew next into and consumed Mosher's store on Main Street, then jumped to the Sampson's Store on Elm. L.D. Small's drug store "exploded" at 1:45 a.m., and flames moved next to Dr. Charles Palmer's office. Both places were leveled in minutes. Small was also Bowdoinham's long-serving Town Clerk. His quick action to save official Clerk's records was some of the first and only good news the Town would receive this awful night. John Carney's cigar manufacturing shop, with its prized stock of domestic and Cuban tobacco leaves, was lost with Small's drug store.

Flames from the Carr block doomed the three-story Stinson House Hotel (where the Town's Soldier's Memorial stands today) Innkeeper George Hinkley watched helpless from the street as the famous, 25 room hostelry, "where liquor was never sold," flattened in just minutes. Fire Chief McEwen led his tired brigade of firefighters to the long carriage house behind the hotel where they decided they had to stop the fire or lose the homes and businesses beyond. The Richmond Bee reported, "those harried men knew if the flames were allowed to pass that stable, then the greater part of this beautiful village would be wiped out of existence before the sun came up on the next fateful morning." Men soaked horse blankets in the river and carried them in freezing hands to be draped across the stable roof and walls. The squat old stable steamed but never burned.



Boys and girls ran among houses on the hill, swatting out sparks that lit hungrily on many of the Town's old, wood-framed buildings. For the moment at least, the upper town seemed safe.

But weary firefighters had no time to cheer or rest. Flames consumed the large, old Sampson house, and threatened the depot of the Maine Central Railroad, and the elaborate residence of local businessman Edward P. Kendall. Inside the railroad station, telegraph operator Emma Snell was busy sending desperate telegraph appeals for assistance from other towns. "Our town is ablaze," she wrote, "send help!" Everyone knew if the telegraph lines went down, contact with the outside world would be lost, though next day's reports claimed the flames were visible in Topsham, Bath, Richmond, even Gardiner!

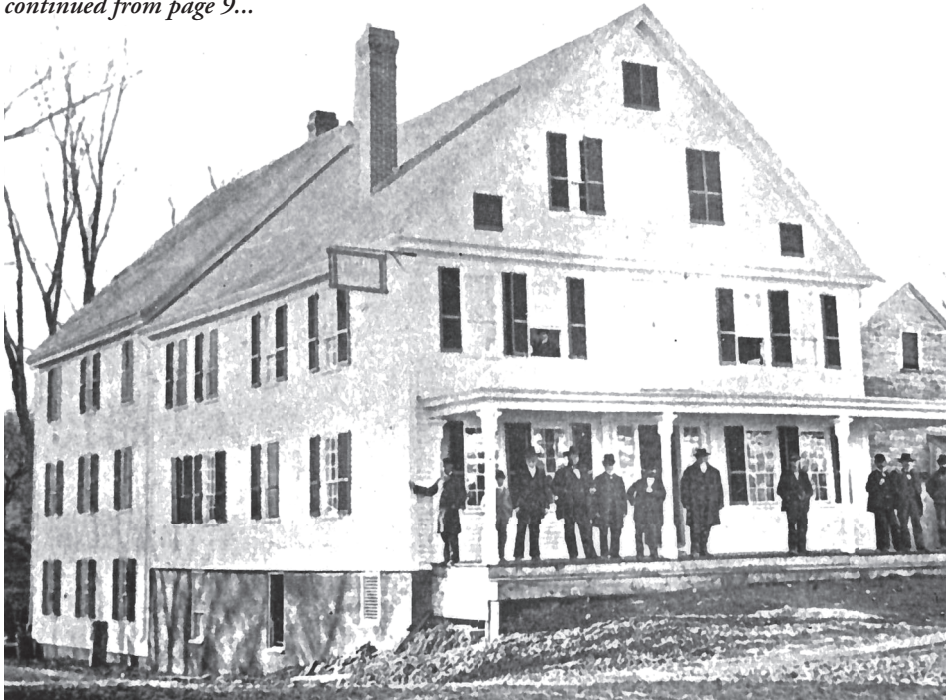
Bath responded immediately, saying help would be sent, "as soon as we can locate a locomotive," Augusta rang an alarm for Bowdoinham, and crews dutifully pushed their fire engine onto a flat car, but they also had to wait for a locomotive to run down from Waterville. Topsham rang an alarm, but no crews or equipment started up the dark and slippery road. Gardiner was wired, but the fire chief lamented that, "equipment could not go out of town without Council approval." Brunswick loaded two hand tubs and 50 men onto flat cars about 3:15 a.m., but the only locomotive in town had been dispatched to Bath to pick up that City's steamer! Old Bowdoinham was on her own.

The Kendall house, a local show-place called "the Red Castle" was the only place

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STINSON HOUSE

in town with interior plumbing and its own water source. Men climbed onto the roof of the place, making sure it did not burn. Most guessed if the Kendall house went, sparks would spread to the fertilizer mill, its warehouses, and the residences on Spring and Center streets.

A Lewiston Journal report said: "The scene was like a great forest fire. The business section of Bowdoinham was a solid mass of flame. No one could pass up or down Main Street, or along certain portions of Bridge or Elm street. Men whose property was going up in flames could not stand and grieve, there was simply no time. They all knew the loss of a moment's time might spell doom for the whole village."

Firemen finally checked the fire's progress around 4 a.m., or maybe there was little left to burn. The weather cleared some, and a hose from the sawmills was pulled under the train track, finally offered enough river water to relieve the exhausted crews. Bath's steamer number three made Bowdoinham about 5 a.m. on a relief train through Brunswick. Fresh volunteers were reported stunned by what they saw. Sunrise brought men from Bowdoin, Richmond, Topsham and Brunswick, all offering their services to victims of the fires. Belongings that some people had saved by piling them

in the streets were loaded on wagons, and carried to homes and barns of friends for safe-keeping.

Church services in the village that Sunday were cancelled.

No cause for the fire was ever proved, though many residents suggested arson was the initial cause, that a fire was set to destroy evidence of a robbery at Gould's

store. The December 15th summary in the Lewiston Daily Sun was typical: "this little village was visited in the middle of night with the worst fire (imaginable)... but for the way in which the wind was blowing, the whole town would have been destroyed." The Kennebec Journal added, "such a fire loss to such a small village is considered a calamity, and the citizens are much depressed, especially as the Town before was not one of the most thriving."

Bowdoinham residents were always thankful that no lives were lost in this "greatest of conflagrations," but most also agreed, "... old Bowdoinham would never again be the same!"

Town Office

Considering starting a commercial project? Come talk to your Town Planner and Code Enforcement officer (CEO). Your project may require Site Plan or other review. Staff workshops are free, and are sometimes required prior to submitting an application. We'll listen to your vision, talk through the project constraints and opportunities, make recommendations, answer questions, and explain the review and approval process. We take pride in demystifying the review process and helping applicants navigate it.



Winter Tips

Here are a few winter tips for you to consider:

Who plows what roads?

The Town is responsible for plowing, sanding and treating most streets and roads in Bowdoinham. The exceptions are Main Street (from Fisher Road to Bowdoin) and Post Road. These two roads are NOT plowed, sanded or treated by the Town – in fact, Main Street from Fisher Road to the Bowdoin town line and the entire length of Post Road are plowed, sanded and treated by the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) or their contractor.

Snow in your Driveway

The Town's crew is not done clearing the roads of snow, slush and ice until well after storms have stopped. In order to get to clear pavement, the plow trucks scrape the roads after the storm. This results in snow and slush being pushed back into driveways after they have been cleared.

One way to help eliminate this issue for your driveway is to clear an area on the right side of your driveway (the right side if you are entering your driveway). If this is done, the snow and slush being scraped off the road will be deposited in this area and not into your driveway entrance. (See illustration)

Courtesy sand pile

The Town maintains a courtesy sand pile for residents at Maily Waterfront Park. Please keep to the two five-gallon bucket limit per visit. It is very important that we stay within this limit to assure there is sand for everyone. No pickup truck loads or commercial haulers.



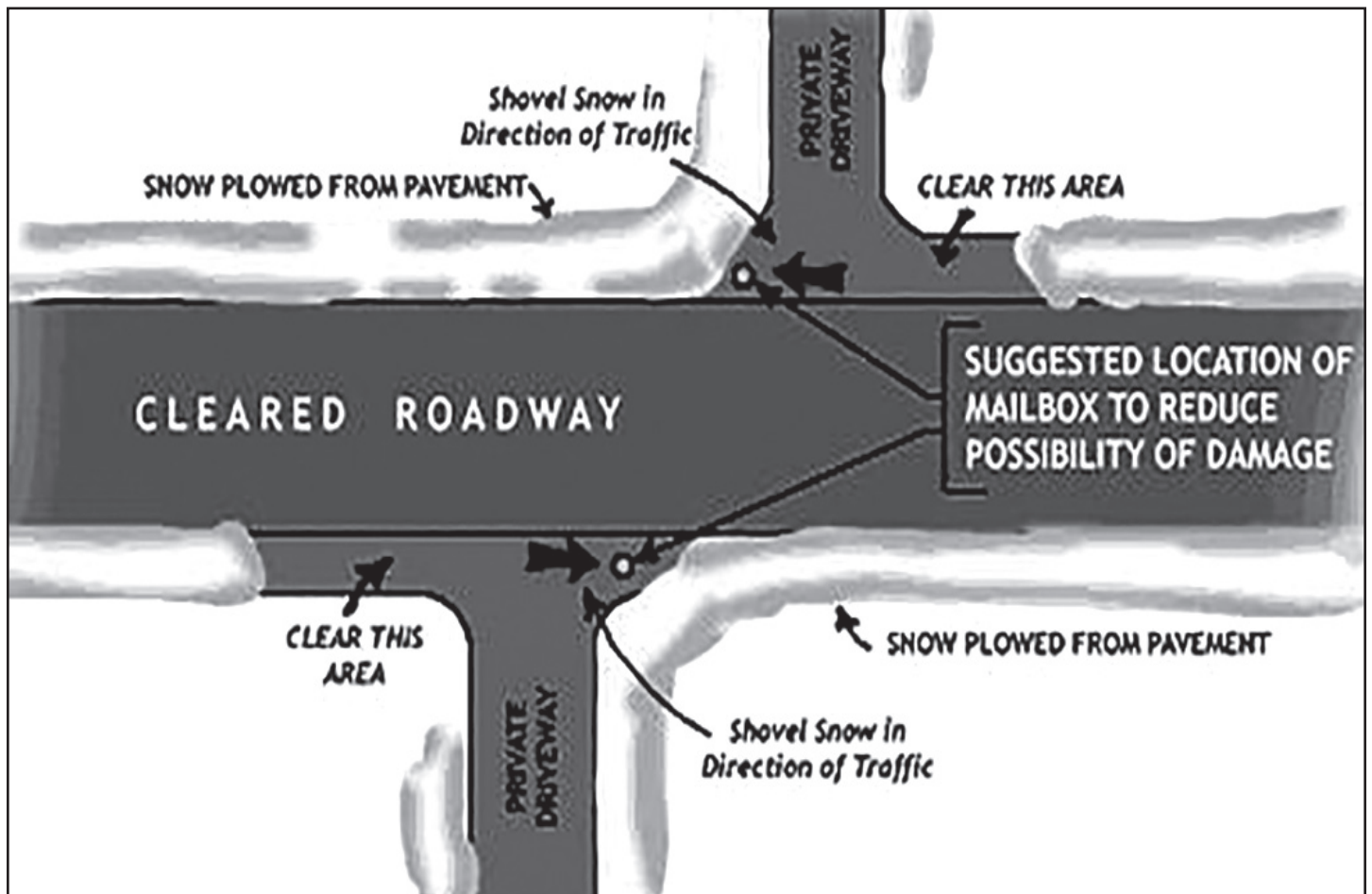
Recycling Dos and Don'ts

This segment of Recycling Dos and Don'ts is about corrugated cardboard. We all know now that corrugated cardboard needs to be dry, the boxes need to be flattened and in pieces no larger than 3 feet x 5 feet, but did you know that corrugated cardboard has ridges? Just like Ruffles, it has ridges.

DO make sure your cardboard is corrugated by checking for ridges. We're here to help if you have questions.

DON'T assume that all the paper pieces in a corrugated box are also corrugated. Some boxes have thick, pressed paper corners to help stabilize the box, and those get recycled in with mixed paper. In addition, pressed paper tubes also aren't corrugated, they go in with mixed paper too.

Stay tuned for more DOs and DON'Ts in the next issue.



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Planning & Development Department Updates:

Town Office and Library Parking Lot Expansion

The Planning Board approved a minor expansion of the parking lot serving the Town Office, Town Hall, and Public Library. The expansion will allow for nine additional parking spaces, and better handicap accessibility to the second floor of the Coombs building (where the Library and many public meetings are located). The cost to develop the project will need to be approved at Town meeting.

Bowdoinham Joined the Maine Climate Resilience Partnership

Bowdoinham is a member of the Maine Community Resilience Partnership (CRP), allowing us to apply for funding to help implement the Maine Climate Action Plan locally. After reviewing priorities, the Town passed a resolution in support of the resilience effort, listing our priorities that coincide with approved resilience actions. The Select Board directed staff to apply for funds to upgrade streetlight equipment to LEDs, and swap out the

town office lighting for LEDs. In late November, the Town was notified that the application was tentatively approved. By the time this article is published, the Town should have a contract for the project work. Once completed, the projects will result in net CO2 emission abatement of approximately 20 tons, and over \$9,000 per year in cost savings.

Staff have been in touch with the regional CRP coordinator, Gabe McPhail, to discuss future options for collaborating with other communities in the region.

Waterfront Redevelopment Project Update

The Town's application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been approved by the State. It still needs to be submitted for approval to the Department of Interior. Hopefully, the funding request will continue to be successful and allow funding of core park development in 2024.

The Town will be putting the boat launch project back out to bid in the first part of 2022 in hopes of receiving more favorable bids.

Other

Thanks to all who participated in a very well-attended and reviewed Holiday Fest!

There will be a follow-up forum on the topic of housing, again co-hosted by the Comprehensive Planning Committee and BCDI, taking place on February 1 (snow date Feb 8 – see Town website for updates).



TIDEWATER TREE CARE



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- Tree preservation
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tidewatertreeservice@gmail.com

207 613-5458

Recreation News:

Our BIGGEST News: Our BRAND NEW Recreation Website!! After months of hard work, our new site is live and now supports online registrations for the whole family! Simply create your “household” at www.bowdoinhamrec.com, fill in all the info for your family members, and anyone in your household can register for any of our programs, kids and adults alike, with the click of a button. Securely store medical information and sign waivers one time to cover any program anyone in your family wants to participate in. Registration fees can be paid online with a credit/debit card. Or, print off an “invoice” to pay by card, check or cash at the Town Office. Registrations, team rosters, schedule of event/games, communication with coaches/instructors, photos of events, cancellations or changes can all be found online....24 hours a day! You can even add funds to your family account to use to purchase food in the snack shack or Recreation gear from our teams store!

Village Seniors: Most of the activities happen on Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout each month including bridge, cribbage and yoga. The 2nd Thursday of every month there is a luncheon at the Bowdoinham Fire Station. Social time begins at 11:30 and lunch is usually served around noon. A speaker or fun activity always follows lunch and dessert.

Youth Basketball: We have 4 teams in the Ararat Youth Basketball League. This program is for 3rd through 6th grades. There are a total of 40 players and 10 volunteer coaches. Huge thank you to Ackers Acres, Holloway Concrete Construction, Five County Credit Union and Main Street Fuel for sponsoring each of teams as well as Counter Point Bread for donating 40 basketballs for the athletes to keep at the end of the season! Registration is open for our K-2 “Little Dribblers” program will start after February break.



Adult Activities: Modern Line Dancing takes place at 5:30 pm each Tuesday at Merrymeeting Hall and is open to all ages. Plans have started to develop a Couples Dancing Class as well as Adult Basketball. Anyone wishing to help organize these activities should please reach out. Adult Volleyball takes place on Friday nights at Bowdoinham Community School.

Ice Skating and Cross Country Skiing: Skating is open at the Recreation Fields Rink weather permitting. See the Recreation website www.bowdoinhamrec.com for organized skating times for “Learn to Skate”. Skates and Cross Country Skis are available to “check out” at the Town Office.

Baseball, Softball, T-Ball: Please be watching for these registrations to come out mid-February and will be due on or before **March 10th**. Please register on time as teams need to be formed and uniforms need to be ordered; late registrations will be accepted only if space is available. You can register online at www.bowdoinhamrec.com.

Cross Country Running: We will be running this year as part of the Coastal Runners League for students in grades 1st through 5th. Meets take place throughout Southern Maine in May with a Championship June 3rd. Register at

www.bowdoinhamrec.com by March 8th. We are looking for coaching volunteers for this program as well.

Are you a new business in Town or have you been here for years? We are looking for Sponsors for our Baseball/Softball teams this year. Forms can be found online. We would love to show off your company on the back of our shirts or maybe even make a wonderful sign for the homerun fence.

Volunteer Opportunities in the Recreation Department: Currently, I am looking for someone who is willing to take the role of the Snack Shack Coordinator. This person would be responsible for opening the snack shack and locking it up for home baseball/softball games. They would work with me to set the schedule of the volunteers in the snack shack.

Grounds Maintenance: Are you handy with dirt and grass and want to help out your community? Keeping our ballfields in beautiful, playing condition throughout the year takes a great crew of volunteers. Our fields were mostly constructed by volunteers and some of those same amazing folks have put in hundreds of hours to keep them looking great through the years. We want to continue this tradition with the help

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Age Friendly Luncheons

January 12th and February 9th

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of more volunteers. Infields need to be dragged very regularly, and throughout the year. Not just in the early summer during the games. And, there is always some mowing/trimming that needs to be done. If you'd love to get outside this summer and help, please reach out!

Umpires: We need volunteers for Minor and Major baseball and softball games. This is a wonderful opportunity for kids in high school who are looking for volunteer opportunities. Please let me know if any of these things are of interest to you.

Coaches: We will be looking for coaches for T-ball, Baseball and Softball as well as the Cross Country Running program. Please reach out if you are interested!

Please refer to the Recreation website www.bowdoinhamrec.com for the programs above and please check it periodically for updates! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email Jason at recreation@bowdoinham.com and follow the Bowdoinham Recreation Facebook page for updates and photos!

Volunteers Winterize Windows at Low Cost

by George Oliver

A volunteer organization called WindowDressers, which began in Rockland in 2010, is committed to a community-based solution: volunteers creating custom-built inside window inserts constructed of pine frames wrapped in two layers of tightly-sealed, clear plastic film. Since WindowDressers' beginning, they have done many thousands of such windows in Maine, and have expanded to Vermont and New Hampshire.

Bowdoinham's local contact is Jeff Deblieu, who's been a volunteer for 3 years.

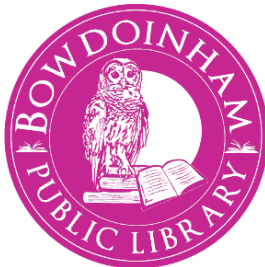
Jeff said that they are looking for more volunteers who want to help assemble. Anyone of any age are encouraged. Volunteers are trained in the assembly process, which is easy.

You can request window inserts from WindowDressing by going to their website at windowdressers.org, where you can find a calendar of dates for measuring, ordering, and assembly. You can also call them at (207) 596-3073, or send Jeff Deblieu an email at jeff.deblieu@icloud.com.



Bowdoinham Public Library

In December 2022, the LooseLadies Book Group celebrated 20 years of coming together to talk about books. Joanne



Savoie has been their unofficial-but-can't-live-without leader since the very first meeting. Joanne explained "I was new to town then and didn't know anyone except my daughter and her family. I was so desperate to meet new people that I volunteered to send out the email after that very first meeting so that I was sure to keep it going!" And going it has.

The Loose Ladies have met every month, even throughout COVID via Zoom. Not only have they hosted their monthly discussions, but they have organized speakers on topics such as Margaret Chase Smith and factory workers in Maine's mill towns. Individual members donate

each year to support the library and its programming. One year they offered Kate the financial support to travel to an out-of-state library conference. In a show of appreciation, the library's other book group and its director, Kate Cutko hosted

the members for a luncheon on December 15. Joanne was given a gift in appreciation of her dedication to the group. Joanne and her Loose Ladies are the best of what the library is. We are grateful for all they have offered for so many years.



BOWDOINHAM COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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- * On-the-job training provided
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Contact: Chris Lajoie, Principal
(207) 666-5546 lajoiec@link75.org



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(C) 207.251.8835

carataggersell@portsidereg.com

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59 PLEASANT STREET,
BRUNSWICK, ME
www.portsidereg.com
207.607.5965

Bowdoinham Municipal Directory

Town Office

13 School St
Bowdoinham, ME 04008
Phone: 666-5531
Fax: 666-5532
Website: bowdoinham.com

Hours:

Monday: 8:30am-4:00pm
Tuesday: 8:30am-4:00pm
Wednesday: 9:00am-6:00pm
Thursday: 8:30am-4:00pm
Friday: 8:30am-4:00pm

Recycling

121 Pond Rd
666-3228

Website: bowdoinham.com/SWR

Recycling Hours:

Tuesday: Noon-6:00pm
Thursday: 8:00am-4:00pm
Saturday: 8:00am-4:00pm

Trash Pick Up:

Thursday Mornings
(or the following Saturday morning
when Thursday is a Holiday)

Bowdoinham Public Library

13a School St
Bowdoinham, ME 04008
Phone: 666-8405
Website: bowdoinhamlibrary.org
Hours:

Tuesday: 10:00am-2:00pm
Wednesday: 2:00pm-6:00pm
Friday: 2:00pm-6:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am-2:00pm

AnimalControl

522-8816

Fire & Rescue

666-3505 (non-emergencies)

Public Works

666-3505

Sagadahoc Sheriff Dept.

443-8201

Water District

(Payments Due Quarterly)
737-4721

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Community Calendar

January

- 2nd *Town Office Closed*
- 4th *Community Development Advisory Committee Meeting, 3pm-4pm Zoom*
- 11th *Friends of Merrymeeting Bay - Where the Wild Things Were, 7pm Zoom*
- 12th *Age Friendly Bowdoinham Luncheon 12pm-3:30pm*
- 17th *Water District Board of Trustees Meeting, 6pm*

February

- 1st *BCDI & Comprehensive Planning Committee co-host Housing Community Conversation 6pm - 8pm at Community School (Snow Date Feb 8th)*
- 9th *Age Friendly Bowdoinham Luncheon, 12pm-3:30pm*
- 9th *Friends of Merrymeeting Bay- Running Silver, 7pm Zoom*
- 21st *Water District Board of Trustees Meeting, 6pm*

March

- 8th *Friends of Merrymeeting Bay- My life for the Birds & Bats, 7pm Zoom*

Town Board and Committee Meetings

*All meetings are open to the public.
For more information please visit:
www.bowdoinham.com/calendar*

Select Board

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of Month at 6:30pm

Planning Board

4th Thursday of Month at 6:00pm
(November will be on the 3rd Thursday)

Advisory Committee on Age Friendly Bowdoinham

2nd Monday of Month at 1:30pm

Community Development Advisory Committee

1st Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Comprehensive Planning Committee

2nd Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Cemetery Advisory Committee

1st Thursday of Month at 6:00pm

**Town of Bowdoinham
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