



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Volume 20, Issue 2

bowdoinham.com

March - April 2022

Darren and Kelly Carey • The Barn at Hatch Point

There is a new driveway off Route 24 just before Hatch Point Lane near the Richmond town line. It winds past open meadow, through new growth trees, and down towards a mature woods along the Kennebec River. This 32 acre parcel is where Darren and Kelly Carey are preparing the ground for their new business, The Barn at Hatch Point. This lovely location, looking east across the Kennebec to Swan Island, will provide the setting for an event facility designed to host weddings, meetings, and special events. “We are already getting inquiries for future events, so we hope to have the barn finished by late fall,” Darren says.

Weddings will be the primary event for The Barn at Hatch Point. Kelly is an experienced wedding photographer having

done over 200 weddings in the last 10 years. Several years ago, she brought Darren in as a “second shooter” to serve as her back-up. As a result of this experience, they are both well acquainted with the wedding industry and have done extensive research on the type of venue that couples are looking for. “We want the barn to be elegant, private, and with full-service catering. Having the water views is a real asset,” Kelly says.

Plans for the property have been approved by the Planning Board. Town Planner Jenn Curtis noted that the thoughtful plans minimize impacts to the natural and cultural resources on the property, and instead, treats them as assets. Features of the facility will include a dock, 2 patios (one covered), an auxiliary building, and a small cabin where a couple can conveniently stay before or after their wedding. An open house in late summer or early fall will give everyone a chance to

look over the property and to see the new developments.

Darren and Kelly have received lots of encouragement from colleagues in the wedding industry and from folks in Bowdoinham. “People who have heard about our plans have told us to go for it,” says Darren, who has held various positions in the town over the years and is well-known locally. “We want this place to be an asset that will be embraced.” Because the facility will be able to host gatherings of all types, it can serve as a draw for business meetings, reunions, picnics, and retreats. “We are grateful for the support we have received,” says Kelly.

While the website for the business is still in development, there are photos of the property on Instagram at The Barn at Hatch Point (@hatch_point) • Instagram photos and videos. If you have any questions, you can always contact Darren at dpcarey1226@gmail.com.

Peary’s Garden

Lily Montgomery

It’s hard to believe that we are already heading into our fifth season at Peary’s Community Garden! Last summer our plots were bursting with produce and flowers—squash, corn, tomatoes, melons, giant sunflowers, cardoons— and so much more. Our membership has grown steadily since the garden started in 2018, and we are proud to now have space for about 25 plots within our fenced area. We still have room for a few more gardeners this season, so if you are curious, please get in touch!

Peary’s garden is open to any and all who are interested in growing their own food.

Plots are 10’x 25’ and cost \$25 for the season. Half plots are available as well (\$15), and we are happy to waive the fee if cost is an issue. Membership includes water access, seeds, tools, spring/fall tilling, organic fertilizer and compost, manure and advice if needed. Peary’s is a family friendly place and we welcome gardeners of all ages and abilities.

Thank you to all who continue to make this garden a reality!

Peary’s is located on Sadie Lane, behind the Harvest Tide Farmstand.

Email lilypmontgomery@gmail.com for more info or to sign up!



Darren and Kelly Carey.

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Bowdoinham Snowbirds

We had a late start to the year, but finally got a great base late January. We can only hope that this year will be better than last.

A lot of work was put into the trails over the past year. Our largest effort of the year was a re-route around the intersections of Trail 17 and 18. This is the "Access Road" across from Apple Blossom Orchards, please be cautious around this section of new trail. We also rebuilt a few bridges and cleaned up countless blowdowns. Unfortunately, Trail 1 (the trail between Curtis Farm Road and Post Road) had to be closed, we hope to have it re-open next year for use.

The new and existing trail system wouldn't be here without the many generous landowners allowing us to use their property, as well as helping build and improve the system. We are guests on their property, and we ask you to be respectful of the trail system, so we may continue to have one. When riding, please be a good neighbor and

- stay on the marked trails,
- leave trails as you found them,

- stay off trails with ATV's unless you have landowner permission,
- be mindful of your speed,
- be familiar with State snowmobile laws (a copy may be found here: <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/atv-snowmobile/snowmobile/laws-rules.html>)

Should any landowners or anyone else have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us. We can be best reached on our Facebook page, or visit us at www.mesnowbirds.com for additional contact information.

If anyone is new to Town and the trail system, maps may be found at many of the local business in the area, and also the Town Office. Additionally, you may reach out to us. If anyone is interested in joining the club, or helping on the trail system, we welcome you to reach out. We meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Membership information may be found on our website as well.

*Ride Safe,
Paul Denis
Bowdoinham Snowbirds - President*

Keep and Eye out for Clogged culverts

As we get into spring cleaning please keep your culverts in mind! Clogged culverts can result in flooding or even a road collapse! Please do not shovel snow or deposit yard trimmings and other debris that would disrupt the flow of water or otherwise obstruct the way.

When culverts are clogged water gets redirected, eroding the surrounding structures, like roads or driveways, eventually causing a collapse.

Ensuring culverts are clear of snow and debris will prevent flooding and enable Public Works to direct resources to the clearing of roadways and other priority maintenance activities during weather related operations.

If a drain is still clogged after clearing surface debris or If you have questions or concerns about a culvert near your property, please contact Public Works at (207) 666-3503 or pworks@bowdoinham.com



A road washout in Ellsworth, ME caused by a clogged culvert left residents stranded for several hours. Photo by Steve Fuller, 2015, The Ellsworth American

Assessor's Alley:

If you own a business in Bowdoinham, you must declare your personal property to the assessor by May 1st, 2022. The business may qualify for the BETR (Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement) or BETE (Business Equipment Tax Exemption) programs. If you did not receive a declaration form, visit the Assessor's page on the Town website.

ASSESSOR'S NOTICE April 1, 2022

Effective Tax Year 7/1/2021-6/30/2022

36 MRSA Sec. 706: TAXPAYERS TO LIST PROPERTY, NOTICE, PENALTY, VERIFICATION. Before making an assessment, the Assessor shall give reasonable notice in writing to all persons liable to taxation, of which they were in possession of the first day of April of the same year. If any person after such notice does not furnish such list, that person is barred of the right to make application to the assessor of any appeal from any abatement of taxes, unless the taxpayer furnishes the required list with the application and satisfies the assessor that the list could not be provided at the appointed date and time. Deadline to furnish list is May 1, 2022.

Successful Holiday Show and Sale

The Bowdoinham Guild of Artisans would like to thank our neighbors and friends for their wonderful support of the 2021 Holiday Show and Sale. Over 20 artisans participated in the show which extended its schedule over the first two weekends of December.

The show attracted customers from both near and far. On the first Saturday, there were several people who had flown to Maine from North Carolina to specifically attend the show. It was also lovely to catch up with neighbors and townspeople, many of whom visited on multiple days. People very graciously adhered to the Covid guidelines so that everyone could safely "shop local."

The Guild is looking forward to the 2022 show in December. In the meantime, The Cathance River Gallery on Main Street in Bowdoinham Village has frequent art shows and displays of works by Guild members. You can visit their Facebook business page, "Cathance River Gallery," for more information. To view works by Guild members or to contact them directly, please visit our web page, www.bowdoinhamartisans.com.

Allen Acker • Acker's Acres

When Allen Acker left the military at 21 years of age, he became so caught up in playing disc golf that it filled all his free time. After 3 years of talking with his parents about how perfect their 62 acre parcel in Bowdoinham was for a course, they took up his challenge and started creating what is now Acker's Acres. Over the next 20 years, the Ackers slowly improved, expanded, and built a reputation for their drop-in, self-serve course.

By April, 2021, Allen's mother was interested in turning the course over to him and his wife, Kate, to manage and run as a business. Since then, Allen has incorporated the business, obtained insurance, redesigned the logo, and has set out a plan for expansion. Acker's Acres recently received a loan from the Bowdoinham Community Development Initiative to forward these plans by upgrading the Pro Shop and building product inventory.

Located on the Dingley Road in the northwest sliver of Bowdoinham, the disc course may seem a bit out of the way. In the world of disc golf, however, it is a brilliant star. The original course is now ranked #64 out of 11,000 courses in the world while

the newer "twisted" course is ranked #80 in the world. The City of Lewiston and its surrounding area is ranked as the #1 city in the United States for disc golf courses. Because Acker's Acres is located just a hop from the Richmond exit of I-295, their secluded area is really very accessible to the public.

Allen enjoys talking about the many benefits of this sport. "It is a great way for the whole family to get outdoors and enjoy a fun sport at a very reasonable cost. It is only \$7 for one game or \$10 for the whole day to use the course, so it is affordable for everyone. A new disc is only \$25 or someone can go ahead and borrow one of our used discs for free." While summer is the busiest season, many people show up every day throughout the winter to walk the 1.5 mile course, get some exercise, and enjoy the outdoors. "I have a group of seniors here every morning," Allen says, "and many like to drop in after work to get a round in before supper."

One of the ways Allen will be promoting the course will be by sponsoring top disc players in tournaments. The #1 female player in Maine, Jessica Beckett, is actively involved with maintaining Acker's Acres in the summer and will be participating in state and regional tournaments this year. Allen also plans on sponsoring the #2 male player in Maine who lives in Topsham. There are disc golf network apps that carry tournament coverage, so anyone can tune in to see past tournaments and the huge crowds they attract. Today, top players can earn significant money on the tournament circuit.

Now that Allen and Kate are focused on improving the business, they have a

lot of plans for future expansion. They are exploring possible cross country ski trails, mountain bike trails and races, expanded food service, a full schedule of tournaments, and making the property available for events. "We have a world-ranked course that we are striving to make better," Allen says. They would love to have more Bowdoinham neighbors come and join all their visitors from away.

"Disc golfers have to be the best people. Many regulars have turned into friends," Allen says.

To find out more about Acker's Acres, visit their Facebook business page at (1) Acker's Acres Disc Golf | Facebook. You can contact Allen directly by calling 666-7003 or by emailing him at chefallen24@gmail.com.

TOWN OF BOWDOINHAM BULKY WASTE DAY APRIL 23, 2022

We will be holding a Bulky waste day on April 23rd from 8am to 2pm at the Public Works facility located at 121 Pond Rd.

The following items will be accepted on this day for a fee.

Box spring/Mattress each piece:

Twin	\$5.00
Full	\$7.00
Queen	\$8.00
King	\$10.00

Carpet:

\$1.00/foot, priced at the lesser of the size i.e. 5'x8' = \$5.00

Furniture:

Chair	\$5.00
Chair- recliner	\$7.00
Couch- small	\$7.00
Couch- large	\$12.00
Couch-recliner	\$14.00
Couch-pull out	\$14.00

Construction debris including sheetrock, insulation

¼ yard of debris	\$30.00
½ yard of debris	\$50.00

Large and/or heavy quantities of construction debris should be taken to one of the following locations:

Grimmel Industries in Topsham

Pine Tree waste in W. Bath

Maine Waste to energy in Auburn



Allen Acker

Congratulations to Acker's Acres, BCDI's latest "Neighbors Investing in Neighbors" Loan Program recipient!

Acker's Acres is a world-ranked, recreational disc golf course located on the Dingley Road in Bowdoinham. This is a multi-generational, family business, which has been in operation for nearly twenty years. Allen and Kate Acker, who have taken over the business from Allen's parents, have their sights on expansion: they plan to create a four-seasons operation by offering winter disc golf play, groomed cross country skiing trails, and fat tire biking, as well as to offer food service, catering, an outdoor events site, and live music.

Allen grew up in Bowdoinham, and he and Kate are now proudly raising their three children in Bowdoinham. Allen is a member of the Bowdoinham Comprehensive Planning Committee, as well as a member of the Planning Board. Allen is also a United States Navy Veteran, having served aboard nuclear submarines. With a deep family history rooted in Bowdoinham's soil, Allen is not short on Bowdoinham pride. He believes the Bowdoinham community to be perfectly unique, and "loves this town for what it is, what it has been, and what it could be". He is also proud of the work and investment his family has put into their

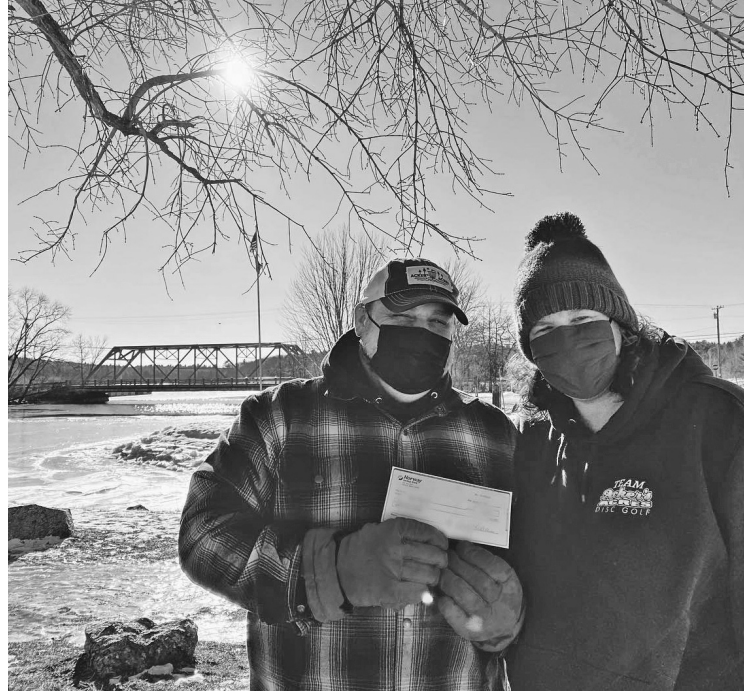
business over the last twenty years, and hopes to make all who have been involved in the success of the business proud by continuing its legacy.

With Allen's varied business experience and the course's excellent success and reputation, Allen plans to continue working to increase their business's presence on the national disc golf scene. Bringing people

to Bowdoinham from all over the country, not just to play their courses, but to support other businesses in the community as a benefit for all. Allen also seeks to involve other local businesses with advertising and sponsorship opportunities. By getting a loan through BCDI's Neighbors Investing in Neighbors, Acker's Acres will be able to finish their planned renovations and stock their Pro-Shop with new and updated inventory, thus providing a better customer experience whilst increasing sales.

Congratulations again to Allen and his family!

Through its member-only loan program, "Neighbors Investing In Neighbors", BCDI aims to meet local needs with local capital. The fund's investment opportunities have provided over \$130,000 to support expanding businesses in Bowdoinham. While the Loan Program is coordinated by BCDI, the funds come directly from individual BCDI members who are the "investors." BCDI members who are interested in helping to invest in the growth and development of local businesses can provide financial support toward the loan provided to the business. In other words, residents who choose to support the local businesses seeking loan financing will lend their personal money to the business.



Allen and Kate Acker

BCDI's role is to coordinate and administer the process between the business seeking the loan and the numerous individual investors who help to fund a loan in full.

Interested in applying for a loan or learning more about the process? Interested in investing in BCDI's next offering? Please check out our website at www.bcdimaine.org for more information or reach out by email to bcdi.maine@gmail.com.

Nazarene News

By Marilyn Davis

As we look to spring, we are hoping that much of what the last two years have brought to all of us, will have settled down.

Palm Sunday on April 10, and Easter on April 17, will come quickly and give us hope for warm weather and time with family. In the meantime, our service is live every Sunday at 11am on Facebook, "Bowdoinham Church of the Nazarene" and in person. Your prayer requests are important to us. Call Pastor Christina at 207-351-0289, or email at followingtheson@hotmail.com If a family could use a warm meal, email at FeedtheLot@gmail.com Feed the birds, watch the sunsets, and before long the tulips will be up. Church of the Nazarene 7 School St Bowdoinham.

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Cold Water Paddle Craft Safety

By Wes Baden, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Boothbay Harbor Flotilla 25

The following January 2 Associated Press news story is a good reminder about the dangers of paddling in cold water: “The New Hampshire Marine Patrol says that a man is dead after the paddle craft he was in overturned on Lake Winnepesaukee. ...The investigation found that a two-person kayak and a canoe, both with two people in them, left the Wolfeboro shoreline attempting to reach Grant Island. None of the occupants were wearing life jackets. Both vessels capsized.”

As Spring arrives, especially when we have that wonderful day when it's 60+ degrees, it's oh-so tempting to pull a kayak, canoe or rowboat out of the garage and go for a paddle on one of our local rivers or Merrymeeting Bay. This, however, can be very dangerous, particularly if you accidentally capsize. The water temperature may not be as cold as it was on Lake Winnepesaukee in January, but it can still kill. Cold shock, negatively impacting your cardio-respiratory system, can occur immediately after capsizing. Hypothermia can render you immobile and unconscious in a short period of time.

Area Coast Guard Auxiliary members, along with active duty personnel at Coast Guard Station Boothbay Harbor, would like to remind local paddlers about a number of ways to stay safe when paddling in cold water.

Dress for immersion, not air temperature. Jeans and a t-shirt are not protective clothing. Especially avoid clothing made from cotton. Wear a wetsuit or dry suit. Keep your extremities warm too—head, hands, and feet.

Wear a personal flotation device (life jacket). Many paddlers think that simply carrying a life jacket on board with them

will keep them safe. Capsizing, however, can result in not only your paddle craft but your life jacket floating away from you and quickly being out of reach. National statistics are quite sobering on this point. In 80% of drowning cases, boaters were not wearing life jackets. Always put on your life jacket before setting out in your kayak, canoe or rowboat.

Attach or carry a sound-producing device on your life jacket. This could be a whistle, attached to your life jacket by means of a lanyard, or a small air horn carried in a jacket pocket. No one onshore or elsewhere on the water may hear a yell for help, but they are more likely to hear a whistle or air horn.

Don't paddle alone. Paddling with others in a group, and staying together, greatly increases the odds of survival following a capsize.

Locally, carry a cellphone in a waterproof phone case. Attach it to your life jacket or zip it in a jacket pocket. Use it to call for help if necessary. Recreational boaters in this area often have a marine band radio on board their vessels, but there are many radio “dead spots” in and around Bowdoinham. You are much better off having a cellphone with you rather than a hand-held radio.

Let others know when you're setting off, where you're going, and when you'll be back. In other words, “file a float plan” with a family member or friend. This is especially important if you have decided to paddle alone.

Free recreational boating safety literature, on this and other subjects, is available in Coast Guard plastic display cases located in the Bowdoinham Town Office, the Bowdoinham Library, the Bowdoinham Post Office, Long Branch School, and Top Tech Auto.



New England

Loans for Bowdoinham Businesses

~ Are you a small business owner?

~Do you have limited capital for growth?

~BCDI's loan program can help!



We're a group of Bowdoinham neighbors who have come together to help fund local businesses.

Since 2011 Bowdoinham Community Development Initiative has coordinated and administered over \$100,000 in loans from Bowdoinham residents to small businesses in town.

The funds for these loans come from your Bowdoinham neighbors; it's Neighbors Investing in Neighbors!

Loan amounts range from \$500 up to \$20,000. To find out more about applying for a loan, or becoming an investor, contact BCDI online or by email.

www.bcdimaine.org

bcdi.maine@gmail.com

BMV Alerts:

- Please make sure your vehicle registration is current. You may conveniently re-register your vehicle by clicking on the link at <https://www.bowdoinham.com/online-service/vehicle-trailer-re-registration>, or you may visit our office.
- Check your Trailers >3,000 lb!! Your registration may have expired in February.
- Motorcycle Registration Renewal due in March.

News from the Bowdoinham Food Pantry

by Hannah Burroughs, volunteer

Greetings from the pantry! Pictured here is Board member and Volunteer Carol Lenna, expertly maneuvering almost 900 pounds of produce donated from Harvest Tide Organics. Generosity from local farms like Harvest Tide comprises one piece of the BFP's food puzzle. Director Jenn Stonebreaker used part of her monthly "Shelf Notes" newsletter to address commonly asked questions about the BFP's food sources and costs, and I thought I'd share her super informational response: "Currently we acquire our food from five main sources: Good Shepherd Food Bank (GSFB) and their partner agency Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program (MCHPP), food drives/collection boxes, local farms, individual community members and the local grocery store."

Jenn continues with information about the cost: "We are able to purchase food from GSFB and MCHPP at very low cost; last week I ordered about 500lbs of food for \$181.00. The order included frozen fish, some meat, canned vegetables, soup, peanut butter, household items, etc. Donations from farms and community members are free to us, and then there's "The Shop". Each week

two volunteers pop over to the pantry early Wednesday morning and scan the shelves for holes, then hit the road and head to the local grocery store. An additional shopper "fills" the holes in our Backpack Program menu on Thursday mornings. "Providing healthy and sustaining food" is the cornerstone of our Mission. And we all know that healthy choices are often not the least expensive, nor the most accessible. With these additional purchases we are able to provide nourishing food to our community, and when you break down the numbers, a little goes a long way. Currently we have 26 kiddos enrolled in our Backpack Program...that means we spend roughly \$7.70/kiddo each week. And what do they get? Six meals and lots of snacks to see them through the weekend! A small price to pay to fill a little tummy."

As you can see, a number of organizations, farms, and volunteers help the BFP keep purchasing costs low and shelves stocked. We are thankful to all of them.

The pantry is open every Wednesday from 4-6pm for in person shopping. ALL Bowdoin and Bowdoinham residents are welcome at the pantry, no income verification required! The pantry is located down by the waterfront, in the gray building.

To contact the Bowdoinham Food Pantry, email bowdoinhamfoodpantry@gmail.com,




Carol Lenna

call 751-7779, or find us on Facebook. Donations can be made on our website at www.bowdoinhamfoodpantry.org. You can also drop off donations at the Bowdoinham Country Store and the Post Office. This month, the pantry would especially appreciate:

- Paper Bags
- Kid Friendly Snacks
- Sugar
- Paper Towels
- Eggs
- Ground Coffee
- Flour



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Morning Joe

By Jo Werther

With Spring just around the corner, it's a great time to check in with ourselves. Did you make any New Year's resolutions on January 1st? How are they going?

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

A new year (or a new season) can re-energize our resolve to make changes. Sometimes we make some real headway! But when we don't, it's easy to feel discouraged and fall back into the very habits we were hoping to change. Why is it so dang hard?

Human Beings Are Creatures Of Habit.

A habit is simply 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 keys?) and of body (which arm do you put into your coat first?). We're on auto-pilot so much of the time, aren't we? That's why habits can be hard to break. But they can also easy to make.

Another Winter Is Almost Behind Us!

If Nothing Changes, Nothing Changes.

To make new habits, we must first raise our awareness of our old habits and the ways we unintentionally perpetuate them. The more self-aware we are, the better we get at interrupting our patterns before we repeat them yet again.

You don't have to do it perfectly. Nobody bats .1000, right? But your "batting average" will improve every time you do succeed. So you just stay in the game and keep at it.

The Radio Dial

You know that running commentary in the back of your head? It's like a radio playing in the other room. Even if you're not actively listening to it, it still affects your mood and overall sense of well-being. So if you want to feel better and increase your odds of actually making some positive changes, raising your awareness of your "chatter" is key.

What's Playing On Your Radio?

Turn up your "radio" and listen to how you talk to yourself. Is your inner voice encouraging? Critical? Or even downright mean? Spoiler alert: if your self-talk is unkind, it will impede rather than facilitate the changes you're trying to make.

If your inner voice tends to be harsh ("I'll never change! What's the point of trying?" "I'm too lazy!"), try substituting an affirmation ("Small changes lead to bigger changes!", "I'm a work in progress!", "I'm doing the best I can and I can do even better!").

Progress, Not Perfection.

Keep 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 Spring!

Questions/Comments? Email me at jowertherlcs@gmail.com.

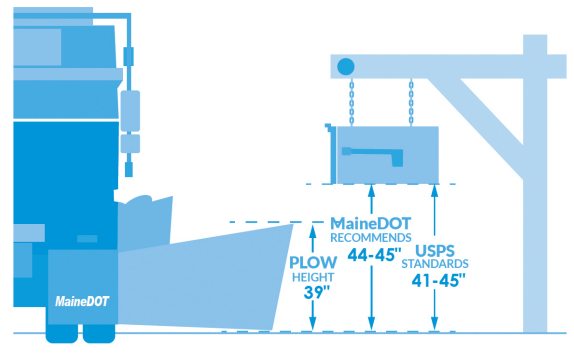
Mail Box Reminder



Daylily

The Bowdoinham Post Office would like to remind you to please make sure your mailbox has clear and visible numbers easily seen from the road in either direction. This is crucial for both first responders and mail carriers to locate your address. Thank You,

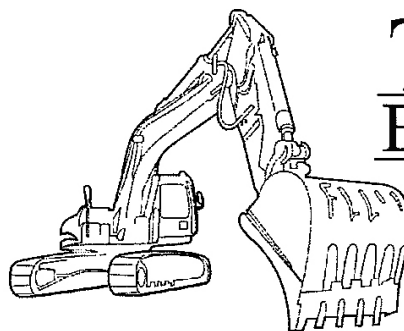
The Bowdoinham Post Office



Maine mailbox height recommendations.

Earth Day 2022

This year Bowdoinham will conduct its annual Earth Day roadside clean up on Saturday April 23rd . All roadside trash collected can be brought to Public Works between the hours of 8am and 2pm for disposal. For more information contact Bryan Benson at 666-3228 or stop by on Thursdays and Saturdays.



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Bowdoinham Public Library Proposes New Entrance to Coombs Building

A survey of Bowdoinham's older residents in 2016 informed the library leadership that many people were not visiting the due to accessibility issues with the library's current space. There is a wooden flight of stairs to enter the Coombs Building and another interior stairway to reach the library and public meeting rooms on the second floor. While improvements have been made since the survey was collected, the difficulty with stairs remains a barrier for many.

In 2018, library representatives met with Select Board Chair Tony Lewis and then Town Manager Bill Post and agreed to share the cost of an initial building assessment. The Town contracted with the architectural firm 44 North. A design was created for a ground level entrance that would be located in the northwest corner of the Coombs Building, where the current

wheelchair ramp exists. The proposed design creates a lobby, with interior doors to both the library and the Kendall Room, where many community meetings and activities take place. Library Board co-chair Joan Knight said, "This project is a great opportunity to make the Coombs Building more accessible not only for the library but for community events and public meetings." The library was not looking to expand. The motivation for this project was rooted in improving the building's accessibility.

Exploration of the systems and structure of the Coombs Building in 2019 exposed areas where the building doesn't meet current fire codes and would thus prohibit the library from moving forward with its project. The Select Board agreed to bring the entire Coombs Building up to code for the safety of its staff and the citizens who use the building. Those improvements

have begun with the construction of new fire escapes to the library and town office. The library has received a financial bequest to support the construction of the new entrance, and plans a subsequent fundraising effort.

The town staff and Select Board are proposing that the Coombs Building have its building systems updated and office and public spaces be brought into compliance with accessibility standards and building codes as well as addressing the fire code issues. The library plans to use the same contractor and engineers as the Town, while drawing from its own funding sources for its portion of the project.

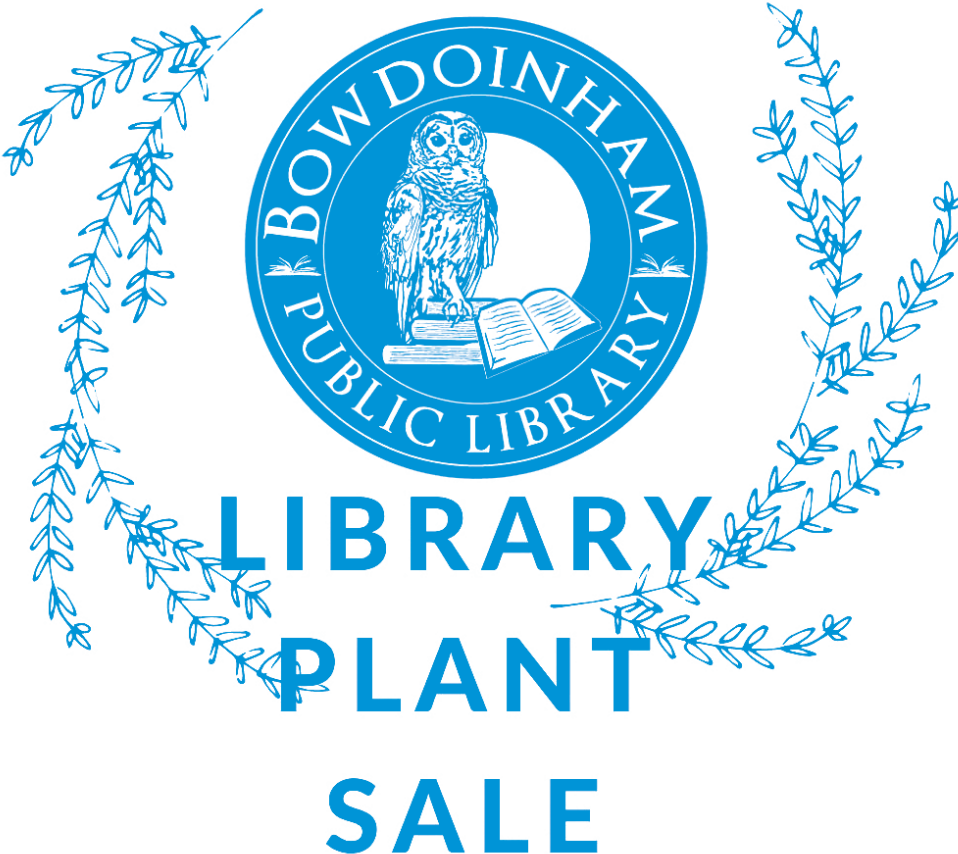
The voters of the town will have a chance to support this building upgrade in June at Town Meeting. If anyone would like to see the proposed design of the Coombs Building entrance, or ask questions about the library's intentions, please come to the library!

Interlibrary Loan

The library now can take advantage of the statewide Interlibrary loan service at no cost to its patrons. In the past we have needed to use the mail and ask for \$2 to offset the postage cost. Thanks to a recent grant from the Maine State Library we are now a stop on the weekly van delivery service. If there is a book that you would like to borrow from another library, please call or stop in and we will arrange to get it for you.

Library Hours:

*Tuesdays 10-2, Wednesdays 2-6,
Fridays 2-6, and Saturdays 10-2.
StoryTime: Tuesdays at 10.*



APRIL 1-MAY 14 ONLINE
WWW.BOWDOINHAMPLANTSALE.COM

Property Tax Alerts:

- The second half of your property tax payment is due by May 2, 2022 if you have not already paid it – no notices will be mailed out. You may conveniently pay your property tax online by clicking the link at <https://www.bowdoinham.com/tax-payment>, or you may mail a check or visit our office.

Comprehensive Planning Update

Committee Members: Joanne Joy, Chair; David Asmussen, Co-Chair; Allen Acker, Laura Arnold, Peggy Christian, Jan Marks, Robert Schott, William Stanton.

Regular participant: PJ O'Hanlon

Creating a community-informed Vision for the 2024 Comprehensive Plan is a must to identify what the community members would like to see in their town over a 10-year period. The vision guides the strategies and goals for the town. I am pleased to report that the Visioning Process is making progress – If you are reading this before March 15, 2022, please plan to join the 2nd Community Listening Session at 6:30. Details of the meeting are on the Bowdoinham website; www.bowdoinham.com.

A recap of the process to date:

- Craig Freshley, of Good Group Decisions, is engaged to work with the Comprehensive Planning Committee to design the visioning process. Craig is the facilitator for public meetings and he served that role for the 2014 Comprehensive Plan.

- The first Community Listening Session was held in person on November 16, 2021 with excellent participation. Two questions guided the input and discussions.

1. What do you love about the community and want to keep?

2. What about the community would you like to change?

- Committee members and Craig reviewed the input and identified topic areas that needed more input. To reach more people for their input we developed a survey. The survey questions follow including the two from November's discussion:

1. What do you love about the community and want to keep?

2. What about the community would you like to change?

3. Measures you would support to improve traffic safety on our roads, recognizing that each would result in costs to the Town. Share your ideas.

4. Where traffic calming measures should be focused and the area(s) or description of intersections or road segments.

5. Strategies you would support to make housing more affordable to lower and moderate income families and individuals in

Town. Share your ideas.

6. Specific types of businesses you would like to see encouraged or discouraged in the community.

7. Parts of the community where commercial development should be especially encouraged or discouraged.

8. On a scale from 1 (min) to 10 (max) how much zoning and/or regulation should the Town have in order to deliberately preserve and develop the community that we envision.

9. Ways the community can engage more people to participate in volunteer and community efforts.

- Paper copies were available at several town locations (Library, Hardware Store, Country Store) and online. The link was shared in the Bowdoinham Newsletter, the Town website and on several Bowdoinham-related Facebook pages. The survey allowed many more community members to add their thoughts to the visioning process.

Other interesting discussions at recent meetings include:

- Ways to integrate solar installations, marijuana establishments, and PFAS issues into existing sections of the Comprehensive Plan format.

- Staying up-to-date on what is happening now with Land Use and other planning topics that are directly related to the current 2014 Comprehensive Plan still in effect until June of 2024. There are topics that the Land Use and CPC committees benefit by sharing information such as exceptions to Bowdoinham's shoreland zoning issues. The Bowdoinham plan considers Merrymeeting Bay differently than the State of Maine, which just considers it part of the Kennebec River. Another in-depth discussion at several meetings is related to commercial development and well water safety.

Thanks for your interest in what is going on with the Comprehensive Plan – a challenging but interesting task of looking into the future and creating our best ideas of a future with a quality of life that continues to make Bowdoinham a great place to live.

We 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, a quick check of the www.bowdoinham.com website will provide more information. Jennifer Curtis, Director of Planning and Development staffs this process. We can have up to 17 members, and currently have 9 active participants, one application is pending.

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

Joanne Joy, Chair

Attention Bowdoinham Business Owners

The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) has been working to update information about Bowdoinham businesses on the town website. CDAC member, Jean de Bellefeuille, has been emailing and calling businesses to be sure the website has updated information about the services and products you offer and to confirm that we have the most current contact information. Out of the 106 businesses listed on the town website, he has been unable to reach 40.

You can help us out. Please either respond to the email you have received from Jean, or you may use the new email account we have set up for your convenience. It is businessdirectory@bowdoinham.com. You also might want to check out your listing on the town website to see if we have everything right!

Given how frequently residents in Bowdoinham ask for referrals to area businesses on the Bowdoinham Friends and Family Facebook page, it is clear that our neighbors want to do turn to local businesses. The Bowdoinham town website is a great way they can find you—and it is free promotion.

If you are a Bowdoinham business that is not yet on the Business Directory at the town website, feel free to sign up. Simply use this link: [Bowdoinham Business Directory: Submit a New Listing](#) | Town of Bowdoinham or search for the New Listing under the "Local Business" tab at the website.

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Bowdoinham Historical Society News

By Betsy Steen

PO Box 101 • www.bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org/ • Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/thebowdoinhamhistoricalsociety

Theme for 2022

“Bowdoinham and Beyond 1930 to 1960”

LOOKING FOR (To Borrow): Felt Circle Skirt: (often poodle), Saddle Shoes, Crinoline, Nylon Stockings, Maryellen Larkin American Girl Doll, Early Barbie Doll (1960s) (dated on back-side), Dick & Jane Books, Yellow Paper (landscape orientation) blue lines sometimes sticks which cause your dip pen to make a blot., MEMORIES of 1947 FIRE or 1938 Great Hurricane

Help research, speak / present on a topic re 1930-1960

Help with the fashion show, etc.

TOWN HALL FUND

BHS will match the first \$5000 in donations to help restore and preserve Bowdoinham's Town Hall

The Town and BHS will be selling The Pandemic Quilt Calendar for 2022 (\$10.00) and Note Cards featuring blocks from the quilt. (\$2.50 each, 5 for \$10)

It's a NEW Year! 2022 is here.

Please join or renew your MEMBERSHIP in BOWDOINHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Family - \$15.00; Individual - \$10.00

These membership moneys help us actually run BHS:

Stationary, printer ink, and other products for the BHS Research Center, Purchases of Bowdoinham-related artifacts, such as the Daybook which records the building of the Union Church (Town Hall) in 1823.

Thank for Your Support!!

OUR TOWN HALL

If you get a chance, borrow from the Library Frank Connors' Book Atop that Hill,



a Social History of Bowdoinham's School House Hill, a dandy revelation about one our treasured town centers.

The Town Hall was built in 1823 as a Union Church, to give the Baptists, The Methodist Episcopalians, and the Universalists a place of worship.

From the Union Church Record which BHS was able to purchase last year.

“Bowdoinham, March 13, 1823

The incorporated Religious Society in the Village of Bowdoinham for the purpose of building a House for Public Worship met according to the adjournment.

John Potter, Esq. Moderator, received the following named persons by vote as members of this Society.

Bowdoinham, March 15, 1823

The Religious Society for Building Village Meeting House met according to the Adjournment.

Voted John Potter, Esq. be released from the service of Moderator.

Chose Israel Millet Moderator.

Voted Reuben Blake, Samuel Gray, Esq., ———Patten, John Fulton, Charles Curtis, And David Storey be admitted members of this Society.

Voted that the House shall be built with a Porch and a handsome Dome over the belfry.

Voted that the windows shall be arched in elliptic form.

Voted that the business respecting the inside for of the House be adjourned until next meeting

Voted that the Committee be authorized to contract for a frame forty-two feet wide and fifty four feet long with twenty feet Porch.

Voted that Israel Millet, & Samuel Gray Esq. be added to the forms committee for building Said House.

Voted the Committee proceed forthwith to draw a draft for Said House & proceed immediately to procure the timber and materials to erect the frame.

Voted Samuel Gray, Esq. write Mr. Davis for the land to erect Said House on.

Voted this meeting be adjourned two weeks at 6 o'clock P.M. at this place.

Uriel Huntington. Clerk

The Union Church originally had a typical pointed spire.

The arrangement among the three



September 18, 1912 All dressed up for Bowdoinham's 150th Birthday. Note the two chimneys and the bell still in the tower.

religious groups continued until 1837, when Capt. William Purington declared that if his next ship came in with a good profit, he would build a church for the Baptists. It did, and he did: the Second Baptist Church. By 1849 the Methodist Episcopalians decided they wanted their own place of worship and built a lovely building on the corner of Main and Center Streets, where Margaret Temple lives. (It burned on Dec. 1935) The Universalists continued in the old church until about 1856, when they declared the building unfit for worship and moved to Brunswick. In 1882, the Town bought the old Union Church. They replaced the steeple, considered unsafe, with the 'onion dome' we know today. Unfortunately, no record has been found to explain this change. Perhaps it was an attempt to make the building look less like a church and more like the Town Hall it became.

Since then the Town Hall has served the town and its citizens in many ways. meetings, voting, dances, theatrical and musical productions, basketball court, assorted shows by the Historical Society and others, private parties, the Plant sale and the Rummage Sale, Guild of Artisans Sale, and more. In the late 1980s and early '90s a Town Hall Restoration Committee was formed and did much to restore the building. The original onion dome, in bad shape, was copied and

Continued on page 11

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Bowdoinham Historical Society

replaced the old dome. A modern bathroom was added, among other things.

After 30 years it is again time to care for this treasured building which crowns the highest place in Bowdoinham Village, watching over all. A new Town Hall Restoration and Preservation Committee has been formed and is at work discovering what needs to be done. All interested people are invited to attend the meetings of this committee. Meanwhile, we are working to raise money to help with this

project.. A calendar and note cards created with pictures of the Pandemic Quilt blocks are for sale. The Bowdoinham Historical Society has allotted \$5000 from our Rideout Fund to match the first \$5000 in donations. (Checks to Bowdoinham Historical Society (501 (c) 3) and clearly marked TOWN HALL Fund.

Lets all work to see that our Town Hall is looking (and feeling) fine for her 200th Birthday in 2023!



Plant Sale Line after addition of Bathroom in 2000.

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Bowdoinham Municipal Directory

Town Office

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

Monday: 8:30am-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

March

Motorcycle registration renewal

April

18^h

Town Office closed for Patriot's Day

23rd

Bulky Waste & Roadside
Clean-up Day

May

2nd

Property taxes due

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 5:30pm

Planning Board

4th Thursday of Month at 7:00pm

Advisory Committee on Age Friendly Bowdoinham

2nd Monday of Month at 2:30pm

Comprehensive Planning Committee

2nd Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Community Development Advisory Committee

1st Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Cemetery Advisory Committee

1st Monday of Month at 4:30pm

Solid Waste Committee

Every other Wednesday at 5:30pm

Town of Bowdoinham
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Bowdoinham, ME 04008

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