



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

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www.bowdoinham.com

March-April 2021

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Businesses Owned by Bowdoinham Residents

By Wendy Rose

AD Painting

Andy and Josh Desjardins

Andy Desjardins is an experienced painter who started his own business in 1999 after working as a supervisor for another company. He takes on all kinds of painting projects from interior to exterior. Because of the quality paint he uses, he can even do outside jobs in weather as cold as 35 degrees. While in the first years of his business he worked largely in the Brunswick area, his customer base has spread throughout the area. "I especially like to help elderly folks keep things up and make sure I offer a reasonable price," Andy says.

The business has become a family endeavor since Andy's son, Josh, has joined



Josh, Kim, and Andy

his dad. Josh's skills as a carpenter has expanded the kinds of jobs they will take on. If a project includes repairing flooring or woodwork along with painting, they are able to do it all. They will even take on handyman projects including cutting wood, and cleaning out barns and rental property. While Andy's wife, Kim, used to help him on the painting jobs, she now handles all the paperwork so that Andy and Josh can concentrate on the projects.

There are a number of challenges that Andy has learned to handle in his line of work. If a job includes carpentry or repair, he will do an initial estimate based on a first look. He has learned to leave room for additional fees if unexpected surprises arise once the project gets underway. Another challenge has been a rise in prices since the pandemic hit. It is hard to pass on the greater expense to his customers, but Andy tries to keep things as reasonable as possible.

Andy and Josh emphasize some fundamental practices. These include: keeping a job site clean as they work, doing a quality job, dealing right away with any issues that come up, and making their customers happy. "Don't be afraid to ask if you have a possible job," Andy says. "No job is too small."

If you want to get in touch with the Desjardins, you call them at 666-8131 or 841-0739. You can email them at adpainting_1@yahoo.com.

Peak Greenhouse Builders

Liam Cohen

When Liam Cohen started his business, Peak Greenhouse Builders, four years ago, he combined all the skills he had acquired as a builder with his deep commitment to gardening and healthy eating. Most of his construction experience was developed on residential projects over a 15 year period. His gardening experience was greatly expanded when he worked on an organic farm. "I got a crash course in edibles," he says.

Bringing these two interests together has been a satisfying development for him.

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The Second Half of your
2021 Real Estate Taxes
are due May 1, 2021

You can pay your taxes online
at www.bowdoinham.com.

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Business Spotlight

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Many of Liam's customers are hobby gardeners or homesteaders who want to extend their growing season. He can build structures from scratch, repair aging greenhouses, re-glaze or retrofit older greenhouses, restore collapsed structures, or create an attached greenhouse or sunroom to a home. He works with both twin wall polycarbonate coverings or the more traditional glass panels. One of his most interesting projects was working with a team of students at the Hinkley School in Skowhegan to re-cover a greenhouse on that property.



Liam Cohen

These projects and customers have come to Liam largely through word of mouth. While he used to advertise in the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners publications, he hasn't needed to do much promotion lately since he has been fully booked. He is gratified that if someone is looking for a Maine greenhouse builder, his website appears at the top of a Google search. The website has a number of helpful photos and background information (www.peakgreenhouse.com).

In spite of the challenges that Liam has faced during the pandemic—including more expensive materials and a longer wait time for supplies—his business has been steady throughout this time. A bigger challenge, however, is working at great heights in awkward and precarious situations. “The fragile materials demand great care, and 25 foot heights can be intimidating,” he says.

The satisfactions that balance out these challenges make it worth it for Liam. “Seeing the structures put to use—full of plants and functioning as they are meant to—is very satisfying,” Liam comments. “I'd like to see more people prioritize their gardening and make it year-around.” He is encouraged to see increasing seed sales and greater gardening activity during the

pandemic.

“I'd like my potential customers to know that I can make a project more affordable by using local cedar and hemlock,” Liam says. “I like to work with a customer to make a project practical and affordable.” Liam can start on new structures as early as March and he often builds into December. “I am always open to making a project a team effort,” Liam says. “Many of my jobs are a collaboration with my customer.”

You can reach Liam by calling 207-632-1376 or emailing liam@peakgreenhouse.com.

Masonry

Rick and Jennifer Leech

Rick Leech's timing for the start-up of his business couldn't have been more awkward. He was just wrapping up his regular job of 9 years, was committed to his new business, and was returning the company truck when he heard about the terrorist attack in New York City. It was Sept. 11, 2001. Fortunately, the upheaval that followed didn't stop Rick from a successful launch, and the financial ups and downs that have followed haven't stopped its ongoing progress.

Over the years, Rick has worked on all kinds of residential masonry projects—stone fireplaces, brick chimneys, walls, patios, pizza ovens, and landscape features like waterfalls. Recently, he has seen a greater demand for what are called outdoor living spaces. With the pandemic, many families are staying close to home and are interested in extending their outdoor season. To meet this need, he works with other professionals to include such things refrigerators, heaters, and lights to make these spaces livable. “It is very satisfying for me to see the homeowners enjoy

what's been done,” he says.

Rick especially likes to work with people to bring creative solutions to different projects. “I do custom, quality work and enjoy being creative,” he says. Some assignments demand a structural approach, and Rick has learned to tackle these challenges using his experience and the construction skills he has developed. An example of this is shown in the photo of the brick fireplace at John Ouellette's new house that rises through the center of the open living space. It has a spacious fireplace on one side for the living room and a wood stove hook up/hearth for the kitchen side.

Jobs have been so numerous that Rick hasn't had to do much advertising. His network of contractors, satisfied customers, and professionals has kept a steady stream of customers coming his way. This has enabled him to work year-around. About 75% of his jobs take him out of town as far away as the islands and Prouts Neck in Scarborough. Return customers make up about 25% of his jobs.

Rick often works with a team of 3 others to do his projects. His wife, Jennifer, handles all the paperwork for the business so Rick is able to be present on the job site. “I like to be there until the job is done, and I do as much as any employee,” he says. Being at the site helps Rick to focus on the quality of the work. Over the last 4 years, Rick scaled back his crew in order to balance family demands. Now that the children are older, he feels he may be ready to take on a crew once again. The challenge is finding young people with masonry skills. While his own training came through the Region 10 Vocational High School, but they don't have a masonry program anymore.

Something Rick wants everyone to know is that no job is too small. “We don't want to necessarily be the biggest—we want to be the best,” he says. You can reach Rick via phone at 207-666-5873.



Rick in front of his handiwork

Watercraft Storage Space Rentals

Watercraft storage rack spaces are now available for the 2021 boating season! The rental period is from April 1 to Nov 1. The fee per space is \$30.00 for Residents and \$100.00 for Non-Residents.

Rentals are limited to one per household in advance of the rental season. If space is available after April 1, Town residents may request additional rental spaces. If space is available after April 15, non-residents may rent at an annual cost of \$100 per space.

A total of 24 spaces are available on a first come, first served basis. Each rack slot is designed to support watercraft not exceeding 80 pounds and, 18 feet in length, 36 inches in width and 20 inches in height.

For the rental policy and application please visit the town office or the town website at: www.bowdoinham.com/Watercraft-Storage-Rental

Questions? Please contact Madeline Winston at assistantclerk@bowdoinham.com

Peary's Garden

By Lily Montgomery

It's hard to believe that we are heading into our fourth season of gardening 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 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.

Located on Sadie Lane, behind the Harvest Tide Farmstand. Questions? Please contact Lily Montgomery at lilypmontgomery@gmail.com

Message from the Town Manager

Working for the Town of Bowdoinham for more than a decade as Planning Director has been a great experience. It has given me a real understanding of and appreciation for Bowdoinham. This is a wonderful community, and I'm proud of all the projects we've accomplished together over the years.

Now, as I officially step into the role of Town Manager, I am looking forward to all the important work still to come. My initial focus will be on working with the Select Board to define clear goals so I can assist the Town in accomplishing them. Some of our first priorities will be sorting out the Town's recycling program, continuing to provide Town services during the pandemic, and planning to hold Town Meeting safely.

As I begin this role, I am also looking forward to hearing from the community about your priorities, questions, and hopes for Bowdoinham. You can always contact me through the Town Office or by email.

I want to thank the Town staff, whose assistance and support has been invaluable to me as I get up to speed. I also appreciate all the kind words I've received from the community. Thank you! I'm excited for the road ahead.

Nicole Briand, Town Manager
townmanager@bowdoinham.com
207-666-5531

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Snowbird News

By Paul Denis, Club President

This certainly hasn't been much of a snowmobile season so far. As I write this on a rainy 45° Saturday in January, and it doesn't appear to be improving anytime soon. Unfortunately, the past couple years haven't been terribly great for the sport. Of all times, we were really hoping this would be a great year so that people may get an opportunity to get out of the house, travel the trails, and see some of the great countryside this town has to offer.

Considering there isn't much to be said about the status of the trail system other than they're currently impassable (as of mid-January), we figured we'd take the time again thank the landowners for allowing the trail system to pass through their property.

About 100 landowners grant us the privilege ride on their property. In the last

newsletter we tried to communicate the general guidelines when using the trails.

This time, we'd like riders to empathize from the perspective of the landowners and to elaborate a little bit on some of them.

Staying on the marked trails:

This is perhaps the largest complaint we receive. There are a number reasons why it is important to stay on the trails. Here is just a partial list: There could be hazardous under the snow, the frost under the tracks is driven deeper and will prolong the mud season (this is especially important with our agricultural neighbors), there may be crops planted not far off a designated trail, or they landowner may just find it disrespectful. For some, there is a fear of potential lawsuit if riders go off the trail and injure themselves. Whatever the reason, we ask that you to please stay on the marked trails.

Noise: We all know that snowmobiles do make a fair degree of noise, however it's the responsibility of the rider

to be aware that how they are riding can quickly change the narrative on trail use. In a few instances, we have a trail that passes all but a few feet from people's residences. Please consider that while they have allowed us to ride past their homes, we should be respectful.

Leave the trails as you find them:

Based on the amount of support and focus of this town on recycling and picking up litter on the side of the road. Let's extend that to the trails, please refrain from leaving any litter behind. Additionally, be mindful of the trail conditions, should there be a minimal amount of snow cover and frost, please refrain from damaging the property. I know we call get a little excited when we see a chance to ride, but sometimes this can make a pretty good mess.

We can only hope that the trails improve over the next few weeks so everyone can take the chance to enjoy them.

Cemetery Committee News

By Elaine Diaz

The Cemetery Committee did not meet from 9/21/20 until 2/1/21, due to Holidays, etc. However, we had a very productive meeting in February and will continue to meet the first Monday of each month at 4:30 PM. We encourage volunteers, keepers, and other members of the community to join us via Zoom or telephone. You can get the numbers needed by calling the Town Office. Three regular volunteers joined the last meeting and helped provide strong impetus in developing ongoing plans and projects.

Condition of The Village Burying Ground: Joanne Snowdeal, who has frequently volunteered to do stone cleaning there, called in to express strong disappointment regarding it's current dilapidated and uncared for appearance in the area across from The Community School, where it is so visible to all. Dennis Temple also wrote a letter to The Town, expressing similar concerns, and especially regard-

ing the increased number of fallen and damaged stones at the Vine Street end. Since the end of 2018, there has been no one available trained and skilled in stone restoration available to us. Stone had been restored and much cleaning done at the other end of the cemetery, and removal of threatening limbs in the middle. Stone cleaning continued in the summer of 2019; but was cancelled last summer due to the pandemic. We will be assessing need for fence repair and painting and other work which can be done by volunteers, when snow is gone.

Tree Removal: We are obtaining estimates for tree removal by licensed arborists in the Village Burying Ground and the Curtis-Jennings-Anderton Cemetery on Dingley Road. Gordon Curtis and Bret Thompson are getting those estimates, and we can use some of the dedicated funds that we are not able to spend on stone restoration to pay for this work. There is a large twin pine tree down in the Adams-Starbird Cemetery on the Millay Road. It did not hit any stones, and lies along the rock wall by the road. If anyone is interested in removing the tree, contact the Town of Bowdoin.

M.O.C.A. Training: This year the Maine Old Cemetery Association will be providing cemetery restoration projects, which include training in stone and monument restoration among other skills. One of them will be in South Thomaston in late July, and the other in August at a site not selected yet. We will be trying to sign up as many people as possible. Please contact Pam Ross at the Town Office or Elaine Diaz at (207) 666-8255.

A Reminder from the Post Office

Please make sure your mailbox has clear and visible numbers easily seen from the road in either direction and is installed at the recommended height.

This is crucial for both first responders and mail carriers to locate your address.

Thank You,

The Bowdoinham Post Office

Bowdoinham Food Pantry

By Hannah Burroughs, Board Member

Greetings from the Bowdoinham Food Pantry! In our first board meeting of 2021, one statistic from treasurer David Zellinger's 2020 financial report stopped us in our tracks: 70% of all donations came from private individuals in our community. You fuel our operation, and we are so thankful.

Thanks also for your food donation drop-offs! For those of you who can't get to the Food Pantry's dedicated drop-off hour from 2-3pm on Wednesdays, you can also donate non perishable food items at the Bowdoinham Post Office or Downeast Credit Union in Topsham. Please note that we are unable to accept any items that are expired, opened, or have a seal that has been tampered with.

If this newsletter catches you as you are decluttering, unfortunately the Food Pantry cannot accept non-food donations. Clothing, toys, and household items can all go to the Goodwill, which has a convenient and Covid-safe drive-through donation system.

To close off this brief entry: do you have a neighbor who could use some help? You are welcome to pick up food for them on Wednesday, or you can put them in touch with us by calling or texting 751-7779, or emailing bowdoinhamfoodpantry@gmail.com. Thank you again for your generosity!

Municipal Directory

Town Office
13 School St
Phone: 666-5531
Fax: 666-5532

Recycling
121 Pond Rd
666-3228

Animal Control
522-8816

Fire & Rescue
666-3505 (*non-emergencies*)

Water District
737-4721

Public Library
666-8405

Community School
666-5546

Find us on Facebook:

- Town of Bowdoinham
- Town of Bowdoinham Solid Waste Department
- Bowdoinham Recreation Dept.
- Bowdoinham Fire/Rescue

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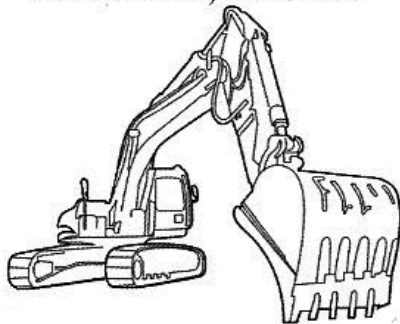
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Bicentennial Grant

By Dana Legawiec, Teaching Artist

Maine School Administrative District 75 was awarded a grant from the Maine 200 Bicentennial Commission for an arts-based community collaboration between Bowdoinham Community School and Bowdoin Central School. Working with town historians, nature-based educators and a theatre teaching artist, children from the towns of Bowdoinham and Bowdoin will research their respective local histories and lead a variety of creative interactive activities to engage the broader community. Planning is underway for virtual and live outdoor events beginning this spring, extending through the summer months, and culminating in a community celebration in the fall.

Local History Full of Mysteries

School-based activities include a History Detective Club, in which students from both schools meet remotely after school and work together to uncover and solve local mysteries. Students will identify topics of curiosity, search virtual town archives for clues, design interview questions, explore local landmarks and initiate their investigations. Student sleuths will interview experts (Experts wanted! See “Historical Wisdom,” below), embark on self-guided scavenger hunts and enjoy guided interactive nature walks - when COVID-safe and comfortable to do so.

Taking Care

With the arrival of spring, outdoor activities abound. Families will be invited to join nature-based activities of trail mapping, trail building and maintenance; and building and installing bird, bat, and pollinator houses for the Red Rose Preserve. Who knows? If one of the local mysteries to emerge involves the woods behind the Bowdoinham Community School, our detectives might share their discoveries regarding the lost, hidden amphitheater rumored to have hosted fiddle contests long ago!

There's a Map for That

Did you know there are millions more maps than meets the eye? Secret maps, treasure maps, mind maps, time maps,

memory maps. Our History Detectives will receive instruction in reading and making maps to assist our guides in mapping mysterious areas of local fields and forests. They will also use their imaginations to create maps of favorite memories, friendships, and places. Our collection of real and imaginary maps will inspire worldbuilding for stories to weave into a performance as we move through summer.

Our guides include professional educators Renee Keul and Libby Bischof from the Osher Map Library, Carrie Kinne and Becky Kolak from Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, and Angela Wheeler and Betsy Steen from the Bowdoin and Bowdoinham Historical Societies.

Seeking “Historical” Wisdom!

Do you have a story, memory or object relating to what life was like in Bowdoinham, Bowdoin or the surrounding areas ‘in the old days’? We want to hear from you! Student History Detectives are brushing up on local legends and have questions that can only be answered by you. Join a letter-writing exchange or sign up for scheduled telephone and/or video-conference calls for facilitated interviews with school children. Your words could become part of an exhibit and performance created by the children to commemorate local history.

For more information contact Dana at 666-5662 or email: legawiecd@link75.org

News from ACOA

By Gracia Woodward

The Advisory Committee on Age Friendly Bowdoinham (ACOA) has been making phone calls to older adults in Bowdoinham. With the help of Seth Berry, we set up a phone bank that includes all people 75 and over here in town. We call to see if they are prepared for winter: we offer to put them in touch with RIDES INC (Rides in Neighbors’ Cars) for trips for grocery shopping, flu shots and other errands; sand from the fire department for icy dooryards; food from the food pantry (they will deliver if necessary); and periodic “check up” calls. We get a lot of voice mails when we call, but we always leave a message detailing the services available. People we’ve spoken to in person are always appreciative of our calls. If you need any of these services, call the town office (666-5531) and ask to speak to our new Older Adult Services Coordinator, Mason Griffin.

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Library News

By Kate Cutko

Introducing the new Bowdoinham-Library.org!!! The library recently redesigned its website to highlight some services and increase the ease of use for website visitors. Please let us highlight a few improvements. Central to the homepage is important information on Library Hours and any emergency closings. We know this is a common reason people go to our website!

We wanted to highlight the virtual programming happening in our library and libraries across the state, so we put an events section on the homepage as well. We encourage anyone who feels a bit of cabin fever (or quarantine fatigue) to check the calendar for virtual events related to books, the arts, and other interesting topics. Thank you to the Maine Humanities Council for the grant that supported our web redesign.

Want to check our library catalog for an item to borrow? Go to the drop-down menu titled BORROW and the first option is "Books, Movies, Audiobooks". That leads you to our own library catalog (enter the library name "Bowdoinham". No password is needed.) Search for the item you need by using the title, the author, or the subject. If we have it, we are happy to loan it to you using our curbside service. Just email or call with the title and we will put it outside for pickup.

Please contact the library with any questions or suggestions at

Bowdoinham@gmail.com or 666-8405



Scholarships Available to Bowdoinham Students

The Maine Community Foundation's Richard Ferrier Scholarship offers financial assistance to Bowdoinham residents between the ages of 13 and 18 as of June 1, 2021, to pursue their artistic, academic, athletic and vocational or life's passion outside of the traditional school environment. 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 year. Awards are not retroactive; the student's program must start after June 1 of the application year. The fund does not pay for equipment, instruments, transportation, or Drivers' Ed.

Over the years the committee has awarded many scholarships to

Bowdoinham Community School and Bowdoinham students who used the funds to participate in activities including sports camps, theater camp, clown camp, dog agility lessons, educational tours, workshops and the Bath Area YMCA trips.

The application deadline for the Ferrier Scholarship is June 1, 2021. Paper applications are available at the Bowdoinham Town Office, the Bowdoinham Public Library, and at the Maine Community Foundation website, www.mainecef.org to download and print. Please contact Mason Griffin, recreation@bowdoinham.com or Liz Fickett at Maine Community Foundation, efickett@mainecf.org if you have any questions.

A statewide organization with offices in

Ellsworth and Portland, the Maine Community Foundation has worked with donors and educators since 1983 to provide Maine students with access to educational opportunities. The community foundation manages more than 600 scholarship funds.

Assessor's Notice

April 1, 2021

Effective Tax Year
7/1/2020-6/30/2021

36 MRSA Sec. 706:
TAXPAYERS TO LIST
PROPERTY, NOTICE, PENALTY,
VERIFICATION.

Before making an assessment, the Assessor shall give seasonable 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, 2021.

Daren Carey,
Assessor's Agent

dcarey@bowdoinhmam.com

Bilodeau
INSURANCE AGENCY

Ann Tourtelotte
Vice President/Agent

92 Pleasant St.
Brunswick, ME 04011
ann@bilodeauins.com

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"Best of the Midcoast"
by Times Record

Historical Society News

By Betsy Steen

Thirty-three years ago, David Berry, at the time, Solid Waste Manager for the Town of Bowdoinham, desperately needed to slow down the volume of material arriving at the rapidly filling Town Dump. The nation was beginning to talk about a 'new' concept called 'Recycling.' Read Bert Dunlap's *Life on the Abbagadasset: Memories of Boyhood on a Bowdoinham Farm* to see what they did in 1910. It's in the library catalog or for sale at the Town Office and the Library. It's a great read even apart from Chapter 27 "Waste and Recycling."

In 1989 David proposed to try a pilot program in which recyclables were picked up curbside by him and his crew and then hand sorted and sold to keep the material out of the dump. And it worked! "With half of the town participating on a voluntary basis, nearly 25% of the total waste stream was recycled. A town ordinance was passed establishing user fees for bags of trash taken to the dump. Bags of recyclables were taken for free. The Town signed a lease with David for the use of his former chicken barn on the Post Road, which we now know as the Recycling Barn. His study gave solid figures on how much the citizens recycled and what it cost to process, and what it could be sold for. The percentage of material recycled and kept out of The Dump increased substantially.

Fast forward to 2020, when the pandemic curtailed activity at "the Barn" and then suddenly it was deemed unsafe and closed by the Town. The Town and David have been negotiating ever since. Now the lease has been terminated, at least until June.

So, David has a NEW PILOT PROGRAM which he, as Sagadahoc Recycling Company, will start at the Recycling Barn April 3, 2021, once again to study an alternate method of disposing of that which we no longer want. But he says it so well, I'll let him explain.

Free, Source-Separated Recycling Pilot Program to Begin April 3rd

A new, all-volunteer effort will soon offer you new options to recycle! This temporary, source-separated recycling program at the Recycling Barn on Post Rd. will be free to all town residents.

From April 3rd to June 5th, in addition to the town program, you may also bring certain recyclable materials to the Recycling Barn between 8 am and 4 pm each Saturday. Materials will be deposited from outside the Barn, through clearly marked windows and doors.

These clean, separated materials will be accepted:

- #2 HDPE plastic, colored
- #2 HDPE plastic, natural (e.g., milk jugs)
- steel cans
- aluminum cans
- glass containers
- newspaper
- magazines
- 5 & 15-cent deposit containers, to benefit a local charity
- waste wood, no longer than 4 feet

For all other materials, please continue to use the town program on Pond Rd. as detailed at bowdoinham.com/solid-waste-and-recycling.

I believe the town will benefit financially from this separate, volunteer-led pilot program because these materials will not enter the town's current single-stream program. This could save taxpayers both the trucking and the tip fee costs for these items.

Another benefit will be cost data to help inform the town's future decisions. Volunteers will record statistics such as weights of material received, handling time required, and number of residents participating.

All materials will be held in storage for future sale, to benefit the town or to fund recommended improvements to the Recycling Barn. While it costs the town to dispose of our single-stream mixed materials, it can be profitable to sell our pre-sorted materials.

To learn more about this free pilot program or to offer to help, please contact David Berry at 751-2809.

Support BHS

It's Still That Time of Year!

Please join or renew your
MEMBERSHIP in BOWDOINHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

If you haven't already,
Family - \$15.00 Individual - \$10.00

These membership moneys help us run BHS. Stationary, printer ink, and other products for the BHS Research Center, purchases of Bowdoinham-related artifacts, such as the Daybook with records the building of the Union Church (Town Hall) in 1823.

Thanks for Your Support!!

Merrymeeting Hall News

By Besty Steen

ANNOUNCING

A New Bowdoinham
Commemorative Quilt!

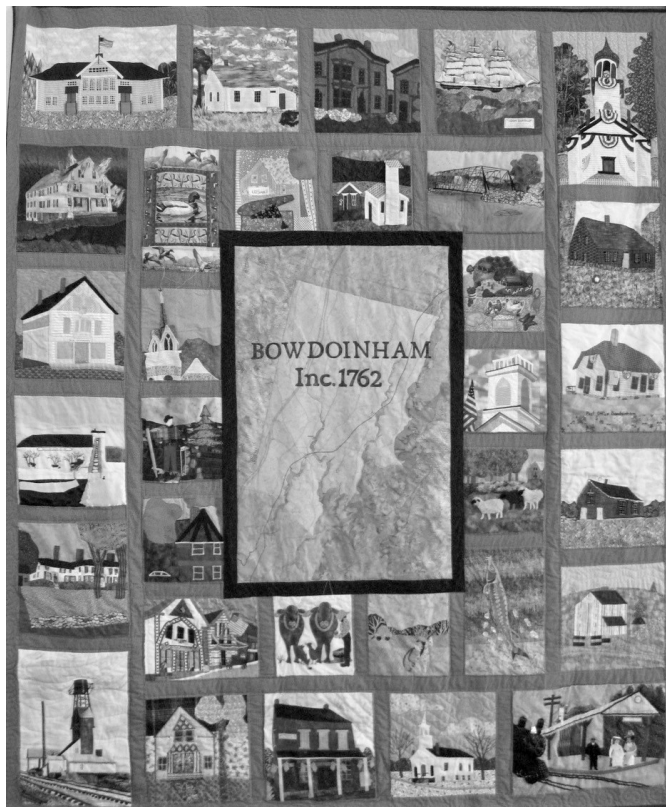
“Bowdoinham, Maine 1912-2012

Created by the Women of Bowdoinham
During the Pandemic Winter of 2020-
2021”

BHS had always planned to do a second quilt after the one we did in honor of Bowdoinham’s 250th Birthday in 2012. It was (is) a beauty featuring Bowdoinham between its incorporation in 1762 and its 150th Birthday in 1912. It won Judge’s Choice prize in the Maine Quilt Show.

The children of the Community School also did a wonderful quilt titled I Love Bowdoinham. Some of those little kids are now juniors and seniors at Mt. Ararat, and I think some are even in college!

The current quilt, spearheaded by Joanne Savoie, Organizer in Chief and Nan Curtis, Quilt Expert, and me, has 35 blocks, two of which are doubles and three for the title. It was really hard to decide on which of the buildings and events that have happened since 1912 to commemorate. In some cases, we are even representing two things on the same



block. (The Gazebo and the Waterfront Concerts, The new Fire Station and the Water Witch; The Farmers Markets, c1979 to the present and the Organic Farms; Merrymeeting Arts, Town Landing Place, the Masonic Hall, the cannon, and the stoplight, for instance.) This quilt will have the same tiny red checked backing as the 1762-1912 quilt. We are using the “Quilt as You Go” method under Nan’s leadership.

We hope to have all the packets of material, designs, etc, in the hands of the quilters by mid-February. Once the blocks are all finished and returned– sometime in May– Nan Curtis will assemble them and finish any quilting left undone. We hope it will be completed in the summer. We may be able to “officially” present it to the citizens of Bowdoinham at Celebrate Bowdoinham in the fall. (All fingers crossed!!)

Meanwhile think good designing, sewing thoughts for us. I’ll keep you posted in the BHS/MMH eLetter. Remember, if you don’t currently receive that, just email me at

bayviewess@comcast.net to get added to

the list.

At Merrymeeting Hall, Brett Thompson, bless him, continues working. He has created incredibly beautiful finials for the MMH’s handicapped ramp out of assorted woods. The apple wood ones are gorgeous... much too pretty to be painted. He has completed modifying the ‘cupboard-found-by-the-side-of-the-road’ into the perfect storage cabinet for our huge Tax Valuation Books. Now he is cutting the very long and unwieldy pews from the theater into 2 benches each. And recreating the extra arms and legs required. (He really IS a magician). Now they are easier to move without

scratching the beautiful floor and will fit spaces much better!

The Fridays Ladies and Tom DeForeest will all have had their first doses of Covid Vaccine by 2/5, so maybe we can get back to work in mid-March. YeeHa!!!

An advertisement for Maine 211. It features the text "Maine 211 Get Connected. Get Answers. United Ways of Maine" at the top. Below that is a large circle containing the text "free. confidential. always ready to help." To the left of the circle is an illustration of a hand holding a smartphone with "211" on the screen. At the bottom, it says "DIAL 211 VISIT 211MAINE.ORG TEXT YOUR ZIP CODE TO 898-211".

Contact BHS

Mail:
PO Box 101
Bowdoinham, ME 04008

Website:
bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org/

Like us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/thebowdoinhamhistoricalsociety

BCDI Updates

By Ingrid Leschefske, Program Manager

Hello, to our ever-strong Bowdoinham Community! At the end of 2020 one of our Organization's early board members, Andy Cutko, transitioned off the Board of Directors after six years of service. Andy's drive to make Bowdoinham an even better place to live and work, his institutional knowledge, and his extraordinary writing and editing skills will be sorely missed. Thank you for all the time you put into BCDI over these past six years Andy!

As we bid farewell to Andy, we welcome a new board member to the organization, Eric Ferguson. Eric, along with his partner Bethany, own and operate Harvest Tide Organics and the FarmCart, both located in Bowdoinham. We are pleased to have Eric on the board and look forward to all the energy and insight he will bring to the work we do in Bowdoinham!

There was a good chunk of time at our January Board meeting dedicated to open discussion around BCDI's focus in the coming year. We continue to communicate with the Town of Bowdoinham about their undertakings, finding projects that align with our own mission and with which BCDI may collaborate with the Town. The coming months will also find us gearing up to offer another opportunity to apply for a BCDI COVID-19 Community Response Grant.

Last spring and summer, BCDI shifted its focus to better support businesses and individuals in Bowdoinham facing the difficult realities of the COVID-19 pandemic. We quickly rolled out a grant program, BCDI's COVID-19 Community Response Grant Program. Thanks to the extremely generous support of our members and friends in the community, in just over one month, we awarded \$19,000 to people in the Bowdoinham community whose work supports BCDI's core mission with a focus on increasing access to food, improving the health and safety, and/or otherwise meeting the basic needs of the

Bowdoinham community.

Grant funding is not something BCDI has ever done before. Again, it is thanks to supporters like the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, Abbagadasset Foundation, and other individuals in Bowdoinham and our surrounding communities that we have been able to offer this Community Response Grant Program. Check out our website for a list of some of the people who have generously contributed to this work, a list of recipients from round one and round two and their project goals, or for more general details about this Program: <https://www.bcdimaine.org/covid19-grants>.

During February, BCDI also hopes to launch an online platform for the Farmland Inventory project. BCDI's Farmland Inventory project is designed to ensure that working lands within the town of Bowdoinham remain available for farming activities as well as benefit the townspeople by preserving the town's rural character. Once the online platform is ready to launch, we will begin another round of outreach to our originally identified landowners with prime agricultural soils located on their property.

The goals of the Farmland Inventory project are two-fold. First to help understand the availability of farmland in town (current use, use restrictions, etc.) and second to identify and support landowners interested in making their land available for farming. If landowners want to make their property available for use by a farmer, then with this new website, they will be able to set-up their own property listing with the support of Land For Good. Likewise, farm seekers will be invited to create a profile where they can detail the type of farmland they are seeking. Our goal is to make this searchable database a match-making site, connecting needs while preserving farmland. Check out our Farmland Inventory webpage for more details! <https://www.bcdimaine.org/farmland-inventory>

We continue to work on the Organization's main undertaking, which has been

the establishment of a lending mechanism to meet local needs with local capital, BCDI's Neighbors Investing In Neighbors Loan/Investment Program. This program offers low-cost loans to Bowdoinham businesses, including those that may be unable to obtain loans from commercial lending institutions for reasons such as insufficient credit history.

There are currently two active loans being paid off through this Loan Program, one from Apple Creek Farm and one from Harvest Tide Organics. A three-year loan taken for partial financing for purchasing a business was fully repaid in September, 2020. Interested to see if a BCDI loan might be right for you? Check out our website for more information (<https://www.bcdimaine.org/loan-investment>), or reach out at bcdi.maine@gmail.com.

We hope you find the returning light to be nourishing. Summer's warmth will be here before we know it. Be well, Bowdoinham!

Guild of Artisans

By Wendy Rose

The Bowdoinham Guild of Artisans is being featured at the March art show located at the Chocolate Church Art Gallery, 804 Washington Street in Bath. The Opening Reception was on Friday, February 26 from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. and the show will run through March 29. Gallery hours are from 10-1 Tuesday through Saturday.

Nine members of the Guild will be displaying and selling their creations. The array of work will include photography, wood sculpture, jewelry, and several forms of fiber art. "We are all so pleased to have this opportunity to show our work in the Bath community," says Wendy Rose, who helped coordinate the Guild's participation. "I have been excited to see the new artistic paths our members have been taking as we have expanded our show venues. I hope our Bowdoinham neighbors will get a chance to visit."

Entrance to the Gallery is through the Ticket Office at the Chocolate Church. Covid safety standards are maintained at all times.



News for Arts Center

By Lee Parker

Merrymeeting Arts Center continues to offer Exhibits and Events and the Studio has been offering classes. While it has been challenging working within current Maine CDC guidelines, we have instituted enhanced cleaning and have limited attendance to 4 people, plus 1 (Gallery sitter or Teacher) at a time. Face masks are required (we have some on hand if you have forgotten yours) and hand sanitizer is available, and its use encouraged, at both locations. We want you to feel safe and comfortable and most importantly we want you to come and do art!

Events at MAC

Holiday Pop-up 2020 was a tremendous success! Over 40 artists and local businesses participated in this event from November 20 to December 19. While following all CDC guidelines (thank you everyone for your cheerful cooperation) almost \$10,000 was made in sales...all of which went directly to the vendors. Thanks to the Town of Bowdoinham for sponsoring our use of the Town Hall, to the Bowdoinham Artisans Guild and the Farmer's Market for joining us in this venture. Thank you to the many who volunteered their time to staff the hours we were open, to Kate Cutko for her support and especially to Susan Brown and Camilla MacFadyen for their vision and for making it happen! Feedback from the community and the artists has been resoundingly positive and planning for Holiday Pop-up 2021 will begin soon.

Ice & Smelt 2021

Coordinated by the Recreation Department and Public Library, happened despite challenges from weather and COVID-19. MAC again participated, offering Snow Globe Making (with Sally Kent) and opened the Gallery to invite folks to visit the Exhibit "Masks: Live, Love, Laugh at the Merrymeeting Arts Center".

Exhibits in the Gallery

(Grey building at 9 Main Street)

The Gallery will be closed during the months of March and April to allow us the opportunity to clean and paint in anticipation of Exhibits during the summer months. We would like to invite artists who might like to exhibit their work – either by themselves or as part of a larger Exhibit – to contact us during this time. We are open to new ideas and to new artists and will provide support as needed to make your show successful.



Merrymeeting Arts Center Studio

Please check our website for information on classes. Studio hand thrown clay classes will continue through March. Watch our www.merrymeetingartscenter.org calendar for dates and times. Registration will be required and limited to 4 per class. You will need to wear a mask, and practice safe social distancing guidelines while in the studio.

Merrymeeting Take & Make Kits!

The "Merrymeeting Take & Make" project is a partnership between the Merrymeeting Arts Center (MAC) and the Bowdoinham Public Library, funded by The Anonimo Foundation.

Each month, a new "Take & Make" kit is distributed, containing supplies and instructions for a single art project. Forty kits are available, at no charge, to children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. (Additional kits may be available for purchase beyond the 40 free kits, depending on supplies). Kits are distributed by the library, the arts center, and the food pantry. Please contact us if you are interested and we will see that you get one as supplies allow.

Merrymeeting Arts Center encourages art, education and community celebrating the cultural heritage and natural environment of Merrymeeting Bay. Inspired and guided by the eclectic values of the life and spirit of Bryce Muir, the Center joyfully promotes egalitarianism, whimsy, en-

vironmental consciousness, and diversity through its artists, programs and projects. The center is located in Bowdoinham, Maine at 9 Main Street adjacent to Maily Park and the Cathance River boat launch. For more information on the Merrymeeting Arts Center, its history and current doings, please visit www.merrymeetingartscenter.org, email us at

merrymeetingartscenter@gmail.com or leave us a message at 207-370-5002.

Letter from the Recreation Director

Hello Bowdoinham,

My name is Mason Griffin and I have recently started as the new Recreation Director and Older Adult Services Coordinator here for the town! I am very excited to get started and be a part of the community.

We have a lot of great programs being planned for our residents of all ages, and we are working hard to find ways to get our programs back up and running in a way that is safe for all. We were able to offer programs during the Ice & Smelt Festival, have had many residents enjoying the ice-skating rink, and been successful renting out cross-country skis and ice skates.

Keep your eyes open for information on participating in our spring and summer programs or, if you would like to volunteer, please contact us at the info listed below.

I am excited to start meeting many of you soon!

Mason Griffin
Recreation Director and
Older Adult Services Coordinator
recreation@bowdoinham.com
(207) 666-5531

Earth Day 2021

Saturday April 17th
Public Works
121 Pond Road

The Town will be hosting a Road Clean Up and Bulky Waste Collection Day!

Participate in the Roadside Clean Up:
Stop by in the morning to check in and pick up trash bags & gloves. return all collected roadside waste by 1:00PM, Saturday.

Participate in Bulky Waste Day:
The following items will be accepted Saturday Only from 8:00AM to 4:00PM at the Public Works facility.

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

Questions? Contact Bryan Benson at 207-666-3228



Friends of Merrymeeting Bay 2021 Zoom Speaker Series

7:00 PM: LOG IN LINK POSTED AT WWW.FOMB.ORG PRIOR TO EACH PROGRAM

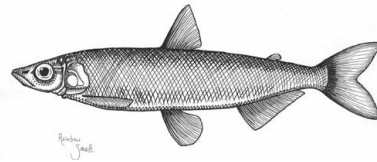
- MARCH 10** The Sonic Sea – Voices of the Deep
Chris Clark, Sr. Scientist & Researcher, Dept. of Neurobiology & Behavior, Cornell University
- APRIL 14** Native Fish Coalition: Protecting, Preserving & Restoring Native Fish
Emily Bastian, National Vice-Chair & Bob Mallard, Exec. Director, NFC
- MAY 12** River History & the New Environmental Movement
Scot McFarlane, River Historian

FREE • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • FREE

Sponsored by: Friends of Merrymeeting Bay

Contact Ed Friedman, 666-3372 or edfomb@comcast.net for more information.

www.friendsofmerrymeetingbay.org



Rainbow Smelt: Isabella-Zoe Cioffi

Morning Jo

By Jo Werther

A Pessimist And An Optimist Walk Into A Bar...

The pessimist says, "Things can't possibly get any worse." The optimist replies, "Sure they can!" Haha, groan. If you are tired, tired, tired of the Heinz-57 varieties of stress you've been enduring for a whole year now, it makes perfect sense. And you are not alone.

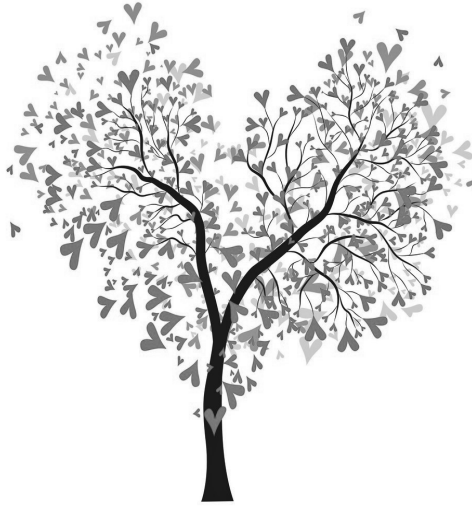
The "Turbo" Button on The Blender

I like to bake and often use a hand mixer which has three speeds as well as well as a "turbo" button. The instructions say that this button is intended to be used only sparingly. Why? Because otherwise it will likely fry the motor.

The human nervous system is hard-wired to handle emergencies. We have our very own built-in "turbo button" to get through a crisis. "Crisis mode" is meant to be temporary. We are not wired for emergencies or crises to become chronic.

Feeling a Little Fried? It's No Wonder.

When stress becomes chronic, we begin to burn out. And the thing about stress is that it's a function of two things: what's happening externally (in the world, in the neighborhood, in the home) and internally (our thoughts and feelings about it and our reactions to it). While we cannot always control the former, we can learn how to change the latter.



The Four Ps of Inner Peace

The Four Ps of Inner Peace are how you do it. Practice ("Be a Balloon" and others; see previous Bowdoinham News issues for a refresher), Perspective ("When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change"), Perseverance (keep on keepin' on), and Patience (Rome wasn't built in a day). One breath, one moment, one step, and one day at a time.

Rinse and Repeat.

Stress can't always be avoided. But we can learn to change the way we respond to it. Change takes time. And The Four Ps are the secret superpower.

You'll be surprised at what a big difference a few simple practices can make! Got a minute? Give them a try.

Questions? Something else you'd like me to address next time? Email me at jowertherlcs@gmail.com.

Lawn Clean Up

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



Andrews B. Campbell , Attorney

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Comprehensive Planning Committee News

By Joann Joy, Chair

The Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) is presently studying how to preserve one of Bowdoinham's most important and fast-disappearing resources: its scenic rural views. We are asking for public input to identify the rural views that are most distinctive and what they would like to see the town focus on preserving. Scenic rural can be any rural views along roadway corridors, or areas of the town where open spaces still dominate. Specific viewsheds like the panoramic view of the bay from Bay Road and views from trails will be taken up in later studies.

Bowdoinham's rural landscape consists of fields, farmland, and large wooded tracts. In this study we are concerned primarily with fields and farmland, what we call "open space". Bowdoinham has a great deal of wooded land, but a rapidly diminishing quantity of fields and farmland. Up until the 1950's, there were a great many open spaces. However, between 1957 and 2012, nearly two thirds of them disappeared. Several factors were the cause, most importantly the changing economics of farming, which resulted in large areas of farmland reverting to shrubs and woodlands. The one-by-one development of house lots has also been a significant factor. Despite this, several rural road corridors with distinctive scenic views and open spaces remain. The purpose of the current study is to identify these road sections as a first step toward preserving them for future generations. Without such an effort, Bowdoinham's beautiful rural scenery is very likely to completely disappear over the course of the next few decades, and along with it the town's rural character which we are so proud of.

What is a distinctive scenic rural landscape? Towns throughout Maine and New England have been answering this question in various ways, depending on their geography and population density. In general, most studies agree that the

following features contribute to beauty in a rural landscape: (1) the presence of farmland (especially actively used farmland), (2) open fields with gently rolling topography, (3) water views, (4) Vintage housing and farm buildings, stonewalls, and old apple orchards, and (5) distant views of hills. Factors that detract from scenic beauty can include commercial development, housing subdivisions in open spaces, and closely spaced house lots.

CPC members Bill Stanton and Kevin Twine surveyed Bowdoinham's rural landscape and identified several road sections that could potentially be designated as scenic corridors. They are shown on the accompanying map and listed on the next page. In the next stage of the study, we plan to further evaluate these areas, and other scenic areas that the public might think important, to determine which should be identified in the Comprehensive Plan as critical resources to preserve. It is hoped that this awareness will lead to finding ways to accommodate future development while retaining the town's rural character.

Below are two ways for you to contribute your ideas. We will collect this information in March and April.

1. For those who would like their voices heard in detail, please fill out the Bowdoinham Scenic Route Evaluation Form printed on the last page of this newsletter and drop it off at the library or town office. Or pick up a copy from the Town

Office. Alternatively, you can fill out the form online at

Bowdoinham.com/scenicrouteeval

On the form you can evaluate any of the areas listed, or add other areas of particular interest. All the answers will be reviewed by the full Comprehensive Planning Committee.

2. For others who prefer not to use the form, simply send us photos. For many of us, a picture is worth a thousand words! Upload your photos and the locations where they were taken to:

Bowdoinham.com/scenic submissions or email them to assistantclerk@bowdoinham.com with the subject line "Scenic Photo Submission".

We are evaluating scenic roadway sections in all seasons, so send us winter photos as well as ones taken in spring, summer, or fall. Remember to tell us which roadway corridor (Route 24, White Road, etc.) and other details of the location, so we can easily locate them.

The Comprehensive Planning Committee will be asking for more feedback and ideas about this important topic in the months ahead. In these present days of limited personal contact, it is more important than ever that we hear from you. Thank you in advance for your attention and participation.

Did you know.....

TOURTELOTTE EXCAVATION

Does....

Buy small & large parcels of land

Logging

Whole tree chipping

Land clearing

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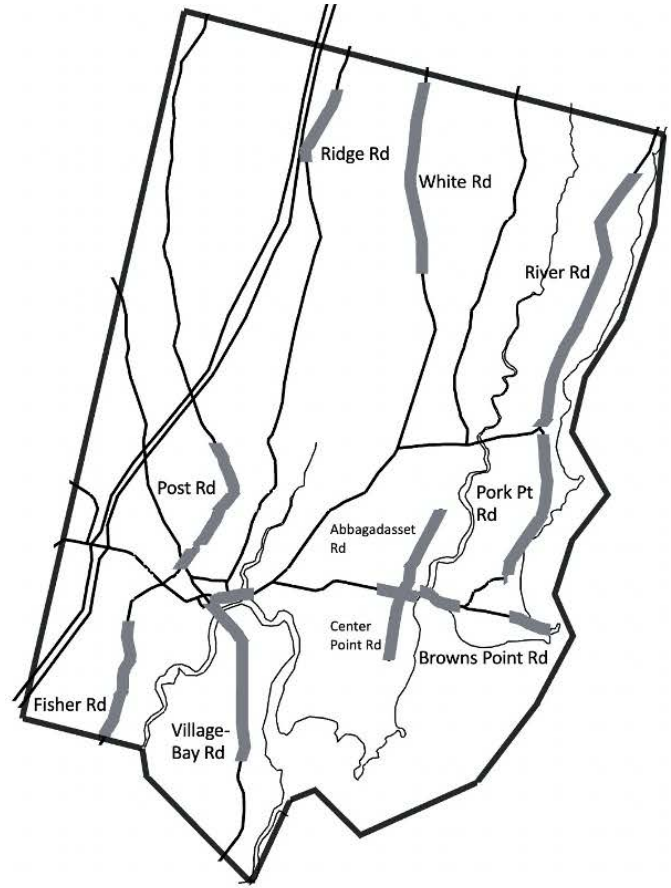
Call Doug if you are interested in any of these!

Doug's cell – 729-2445

Office – 666-5941

Bowdoinham Scenic Routes

- Ridge Rd:** 800 to 1170
- White Rd:** 400 to 800
- River Rd:** Pork Pt Rd to 1575
- Pork Pt Rd:** River Rd to 100
- Browns Pt Rd:** 239-400, 637 to end
- Abbagadasset Rd:** all
- Center Pt Rd:** all
- River Rd:** Pork Pt Rd to Richmond
- Village to Bayview Cemetery (Bay Rd)**
- Fisher Rd:** 70 to Topsham Line
- Post Rd:** 32-437



Other routes you think should be Included:

Bowdoinham Scenic Route Evaluation Form

Name of Road:			
Route Length in Miles:			

Area Characteristics (check one)	Many	Some	None	Comments
Views of Hills?				
Views of Water Bodies?				
Gently Rolling Fields?				
Active Farmland or Hayland?				
Vintage houses or farm buildings Visible?				
Modern Structures Visible?				

Indicate other factors you think are important:

Would seeing views on this route require extensive trimming of nearby vegetation? (Yes or No. Describe if yes)

Yes	Maybe	No	Reason for your answer

Do you think this is distinctive rural scenery worth preserving (check one)?

Evaluator: Date:

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Community Calendar

March

10th

Waterfront Design Workshop, 6:30pm
Online via Zoom

April

17th

Earth Day Roadside Clean-up
and Bulky Waste Day

19th

Town Office closed for Patriot's Day

Town Hours

Town Office:

John C. Coombs
Municipal Building
13 School St

Monday: 8:30am-4:00pm

Tuesday: 8:30am-4:00pm

Wednesday: 9:00am-6:00pm

Thursday: 8:30am-4:00pm

Friday: Closed to the Public

Recycling:

Public Works

121 Pond Road

Tue: Noon-6:00pm

Thu: 8:00am-4:00pm

Sat: 8:00am-4:00pm

Trash pick-up:

Thursdays

(no curbside recycling pick-up).

Town Board & Committee Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and held online via Zoom, please visit www.bowdoinham.com/calendar for meeting login information.

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

For a complete listing of events, please visit the Town's Calendar at www.bowdoinham.com/calendar.

Town of Bowdoinham
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