



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Volume 18 Issue 5

www.bowdoinham.com

September & October 2020

MAC is BACK!

By Laleah Parker

Merrymeeting Arts Center is resuming Exhibits and Events and the Studio is once again offering classes. Working within current Maine CDC guidelines we have instituted enhanced cleaning and are limiting attendance to 4, plus 1 staff, at a time. Face masks are required (we have some on hand if you have forgotten yours) and hand sanitizer is available at both locations and its use encouraged. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Events

As you are all aware, Celebrate Bowdoinham has been canceled for 2020 due to Covid19. However, Covid19 does not seem to affect zucchinis! After the huge success of our first zucchini races, we are looking forward to an even more intense competition this year. The race will be held at the Matthew Townsend Parker Skatepark on Saturday, September 12th.

Interested in competing? Email us at merrymeetingartscenter@gmail.com no later than September 9. We will respond to your email with instructions and your race number. We hope to be able to allow the “driver” and 2 guests on site and the race will be filmed and available online.

The rules are simple, and as last year, the judges’ decisions are final:

- All “vehicles” must be built from a zucchini (sorry no cucumbers, squash, gourds allowed).
- There will be four categories (with a prize for each category): under 14”, over 14”, mounted on a skateboard and “best decorated”.

May the best and fastest zucchinis win!

Exhibits in the Gallery

Our annual community show based on the Local Myth - “Smelt Makes the Ice”. The show, which will open September 12 will feature all the Local Myths and showcase the Smelt Dancer. The community has been invited to submit a piece of art in any medium, with the subject being Smelt or even Ice! Copies of “Local Myths” by Bryce Muir are available for a \$15 donation at the Gallery. The Gallery is open Saturdays from 10-1 and the show will run through the October 3.

Masks: Live, Love, Laugh

10/10 through 11/3

We all know what it means to wear a mask during this Covid Period but what about other times and reasons in history? Come be entertained and enlightened while viewing this timely and clever show. The show will open on October 10th and run through November 3rd.

Merrymeeting Arts Center Studio

Isabel Stearns, in collaboration with MAC, has created a series of online and in person felting classes for people of all ages. Felting is fun and stress relieving!

We offer a starter kit for purchase to go along with the classes. See our Merrymeeting Arts Center calendar at

merrymeetingartscenter.org or email the studio at merrymeetingartstudio@gmail.com for more information on purchasing a felting kit. Each kit is \$10 and includes a felting pad, two needles, wool for the project and a step-by-step, illustrated instruction booklet. You can also purchase a kit with just the instructions and materials if you have your own pad and felting needles. Kits are suggested for age 8 and up.

Isabel has also put together a non-needle class for the fall which is great for families and kids making a rainbow felted acorn garland. This class will be held outside to provide an opportunity for families to create art together on September 19th at 10am outside the studio building at 9 Main Street in Bowdoinham. As with all MAC classes, for your safety, we request your registration ahead of time. We will be limited to the State of Maine restrictions for our classes, whatever that may be at the time. Registration for all classes is available at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

MAC studio is also offering Dry-Air clay kits to take home and make your own pottery. The kits include dry-air clay, pottery tools, acrylic paint, paint brushes and instructions and ideas for making a clay project at home. Kits can be picked up at the studio for a suggested donation of \$10 per kit. We do offer the Heron Fund for anyone not able to pay the full amount of the kit.

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THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

MAC is Back! (Continued)

The fund was established to provide art for everyone, and we will gladly help anyone supplement or provide payment for their kits and/or classes.

The Studio's hand-thrown clay class schedule will be announced soon. Watch for our www.merrymeetingartscenter.org calendar for dates and times. Registration will be required and limited, and you will need to wear a mask, and practice safe social distancing guidelines while in the studio. Future plans for a weekly wheel thrown studio time are in the works, so keep checking our website or email the studio at merrymeetingartstudio@gmail.com.

Holiday Pop-up Sale

Building on last year's successful sale, which was held in December at the Merrymeeting Arts Center Gallery, will offer Holiday Pop Up 2020. We will be coordinating this sale with our community and business partners and are convening a committee to help us implement both in-person and online shopping! If you are interested in helping, selling or shopping please email us at merrymeetingartscenter@gmail.org and check our website www.merrymeetingartscenter.org for the most up to date information.

News from the Scouts

By Cathy Curtis

Scout Troop 699 is starting to meet more regularly in recent months. The pandemic put many things on hold last spring but we have managed a few outdoor activities. Cleaning out the bottle box has been accomplished at different times—we appreciate folks who let us know when it is full and the Bowdoinham Country Store for accepting the bottles. Proceeds support our troop activities, equipment, recharter fees and scouts attending camp.

One of our scouts, Jake Morrell, was able to attend two weekend sessions at Camp Hinds this summer. He worked on merit badges for rifle shooting, lifesaving, rowing, orienteering and motor boating. Some of the COVID-19 safety measures



Jake Morrell

included temperature checks upon arrival, scouts bringing their own tent, wearing a mask, hand sanitizing across the day, and meals eaten in the camp site as opposed to the dining hall.

The scouts have been biking and fishing with all landing catfish or perch from

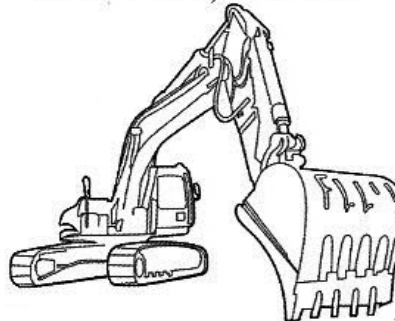
Merrymeeting Bay.

We will be meeting more regularly in the fall with a focus on outdoor events and volunteer activities. Students ages 11-17 are welcome to join scouting at any time. Contact Scout Master Fred Czerwinski or Cathy Curtis at curtisc@link75.org or 207-666-8434.

We can't wait to see you there!

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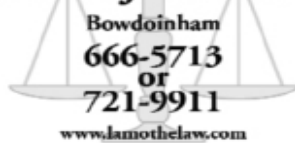
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Age-Friendly News

By Peggy Muir

The Committee on Age-Friendly Bowdoinham (ACOA) would like to thank the staff of the USPS Bowdoinham for relocating the outside mailbox at the post office so that it is accessible from a car. This solves the past challenge of having to walk to the box from a parked car to the outside box to deposit outgoing mail when there is some ice.

This is an example of small changes in our world that can greatly benefit older people (in fact, everyone). Thank you, staff of the USPS Bowdoinham!

A subcommittee of Age-Friendly Bowdoinham is working on a pamphlet to enable people to assess and improve the safety of their homes. Assessments by other communities and organizations have been researched and incorporated. The pamphlet is laid out by areas of the house and surroundings and includes very specific equipment and ideas from entrance lighting to stoves and bathtubs. The pamphlet will be available to townspeople online and in paper form at many places in the village. For each town newsletter we hope to include one tip that is part of our home assessment.

TIP: Be sure that your stove cannot be turned on by mistake if you lean against the knobs!

Maine 200th Birthday Cake Decorating Contest

Join our cake decorating contest! Decorated cakes will need to be dropped off on Tuesday, September 8th, then we will photograph them and post the pictures online for voting. Cakes that receive the most votes in each category will receive a prize. To join the contest, email nbriand@bowdoinham.com. For more information, visit www.bowdoinham.com.

Comprehensive Planning Committee Update

By Joanne Joy, Chair

I start this article by thanking the Comprehensive Planning Committee Members: David Asmussen, Peggy Christian, Tom Deforest, Richard Morin, Patrick Thompson, Kevin Twine, Bill Stanton, Reeve Wood; this summer's intern, Rodger Heidgerken working on mapping; and of course Bowdoinham's Nicole Briand, Director of Planning and Development for their ongoing engagement in the committee's work. Switching to online Zoom meetings has been a relatively easy transition for some members, but not for everyone. And we are all missing the interactions that only happen in person.

In the past few months the committee has been looking at the overlaps between the historic nature of the village and beyond with Betsy Steen of our Historic Society, had a summary review of land use ordinances by Reeve Wood who serves on both the Planning and Comprehensive Planning Committees, a presentation of BCDI's Farm Land Inventory process, and mapping/photo presentations by Bill Stanton and Kevin Twine that identify views of significance to preserve. All of these presentations provided some form of mapping and location specific informa-

tion across Bowdoinham.

The committee voted to not meet during the month of August, so will be returning in September to integrate what we have learned from the presentations and mapping projects to update and add actionable details to recommendations of the 2014 Comprehensive Plan for 1) issues of cluster housing, 2) conservation of agricultural land/soils, and 3) view shed preservation primarily.

The Cathance Meadows has been bush hogged, the Gully Trail behind the school has shade, the Cathance River provides opportunities for both people-propelled and motorized boating, and there are many other locations around Bowdoinham that provide wonderful opportunities to be outside, social distanced, and safe. We look forward to the non-motorized boat launch at the Waterfront, which is in the advanced planning stages.

Looking to the future, watch in the spring for opportunities to provide input to update the Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement and hopefully to gather together to learn more about the topics the committee has been discussing.

Remember, the Comprehensive Planning Committee meetings are open to the public and continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month, 6:30-8:00. The Zoom link is on the website.

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Solid Waste Committee Update

By Cathy Curtis, Chair

The town has formed a Solid Waste Committee with the following members: Susan Brown, Michael Smith, Pat McDonough, Tessa Kingsly, Susan Drucker-secretary, Lisa Wesel-vice-chair and Cathy Curtis-chair.

We have been tasked with: a. Overseeing protocols for keeping the Recycling Barn open during the pandemic. b. Containing expenses for the recycling program and problem-solving curbside pick-up contamination. c. Addressing the condition of the barn after the Select Board has reviewed inspections and reports and discussed their findings with David Berry. The Committee has been meeting every two weeks, since June 30th. A schedule of meetings can be found on the Town Calendar with agendas. A Public Google folder with agendas, approved minutes and documents we are reviewing is linked on the Bowdoinham Town website under Town Government-Boards and Committees-Solid Waste Committee.

The Committee has adopted the following mission statement: "the goal of the Solid Waste Committee is to provide a resource for residents to reduce household solid waste, reuse and repurpose unwanted

materials, and facilitate recycling as current markets allow. The Committee strives to seek revenue sources and cost savings for the town by staying current with market trends, and to encourage environmental stewardship through innovative and proactive practices."

The Committee has toured the recycling barn and is in the process of gathering financial information for the past five years. We are working collaboratively with Bryan Benson, Director of Solid Waste & Recycling to understand the current state of affairs in order to make recommendations to the town. We welcome public participation at meetings. We are attempting to meet in person, outside, weather permitting or via ZOOM. Thank you to David Berry, Betsy Steen and Jeremy Cluchey for your public participation. A special thank you to Bryan Benson who serves as our liaison with the town, helps set-up meetings and gathers information for the committee in addition to his other duties as Director of Solid Waste & Recycling.

One thing residents can do now to lower costs for the town: there is not a market for glass right now so that can be put in your trash instead of mixed recyclables which will save the Town in weight costs.

Internet Project Update

By Alan Hinsey

Of the 105 signed applications received from Bowdoinham residents, 73 will have been installed and fully activated as of this week. The remaining 32 will be installed between now and 9/30 (approx. 4-5 new installs each week).

We are dedicating every Wednesday to



Bowdoinham installs. The remaining 32 locations are ones that require additional customer action before we can hook them up (i.e. installation of underground conduit, special inside wiring needed, tree trimming work need for aerial fiber drops, payment by customer of additional charges for fiber beyond the first 250' of drop fiber, etc.).

Beginning in September, we will resume marketing to the remaining addresses in that project area that have not yet applied for LCI fiber service (our goal is to achieve 75% take rate by end of year). In September we will also be marketing our new live streaming video product, O.P.E.N. View TV™, to all of the 217 ConnectME project addresses in Bowdoinham.

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"All men are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent and inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness." Article One, Section 1.
Maine Constitution

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BCDI News

By Ingrid Leschefske

BCDI Loan Program Available For Bowdoinham Businesses Are you a small business owner? Do you need funding for growth? BCDI's Loan Program can help! We want to remind Bowdoinham residents that BCDI's Loan Program, Neighbors Investing In Neighbors, 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. The aim of Neighbors Investing in Neighbors is to make funding available through local investment. Here's how it works: The Neighbors Investing in Neighbors loan program is coordinated by BCDI, but funded directly and exclusively by individual, BCDI member "investors," who wish to invest in the growth and development of our local, Bowdoinham businesses. When the loans are paid back, our member investors receive their original funding contribution amount back with interest. Our model truly is "neighbors investing in neighbors".

So, who can apply? While it's true that we have made several loans to farmers in town, these loans are available to ALL types of small businesses in Bowdoin-

ham. Since 2012, we have made well over \$100,000 of loan funding available to Bowdoinham businesses for a wide range of needs. Some of these needs include a loan to purchase a saw for a wood products business; a loan to purchase materials and equipment needed to launch two online businesses; a loan for partial financing for purchasing a business; and a loan to put a new roof on a business in town. Our loans have also helped finance the purchase of several greenhouses, lots and lots of farm fencing, a number of tractors, and even twenty breeding ewes! The Neighbors Investing in Neighbors Loan Program offers low interest, short-term small business loans in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$20,000. Generally, repayment is expected within 1-3 years. Additionally, BCDI works to connect local business owners with resources that can help establish, sustain, and grow their businesses. For example, loan recipients have been connected with business counselors, accountants, legal resources, website developers, and other community or regional resources. Ready to apply for a loan? Learn more about BCDI's Loan Program on our website: <https://www.bcdimaine.org/loan-investment> or email bcdi.maine@gmail.com to set up a phone meeting and get your application rolling today!

2nd Baptist Church News

By Rev. John P Ross, Pastor

What a journey this has been! This year marks the 200th anniversary of our church that was founded on December 21, 1820. The huge banner on the front of the church says it well, "Celebrating God's Faithfulness for 200 Years." While many of our celebrations have been put on hold until 2021 we are continuing to remember our rich heritage in the Bowdoinham community and beyond.

Like most churches we had to suspend public gatherings and Worship Services in mid-March due to Covid-19. For several weeks our Services were held on line either by Facebook Live, Youtube or our website (www.bowdoinhamsecondbaptist.org). On Mothers Day we began Drive in Services and then on June 7th we once again resumed in person public Worship Services. We are complying with the CDC recommendations and are limited to 50 people per service. We are working hard at all our 10am Sunday Services by making our gatherings safe for all and by strongly encouraging face coverings and physical distancing. For those who choose not to come in the building you can sit in your car or at home within a mile radius of the church by listening to our broadcast on AM 1690 radio.

On Sunday, September 20th during our 10AM Worship we will be burying a time capsule filled with pictures, notes and letters, clippings and other items to be uncovered by a future generation in 2050. There certainly will be some interesting stories to tell.

Going forward our goal continues to be "Loving God...Loving People...Making Disciples" and sharing hope in these unprecedented times. We are here to serve Christ in our community and desire to minister to any in need. You are invited to join us any Sunday and can be reached at (207) 666-5523 or the Pastor at (207) 232-4520.

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Historical Society News

By Betsy Steen

Fifty Years, and Counting! Two dozen people meeting in the Town Hall on a warm evening in April, 1970, formed what was soon to become our Bowdoinham Historical Society. Dr. Robert Cummins moderated that initial session, which produced a By-Laws and an officer nominating committee.

The purpose of the Historical Society is to collect and to preserve records and physical objects relating to the history of Bowdoinham. By-Laws as adopted on May 18, 1970, said the Society may establish and operate a local history museum, a library, and one or more historic sites in pursuit of its purpose... the Society may otherwise preserve, advance, and disseminate knowledge of the aforesaid locale [Bowdoinham] in any manner prescribed." The first slate of officers elected were Frank Connors, president; Linwood Rideout, vice president; Leslie Anderson, secretary; and Fred Temple, treasurer. Three trustees named were Priscilla Berry,



Zina Maxwell, and Howard Peckworth." Other names mentioned in this first Bowdoinham Advertiser by Frank Connors, included Thelma Pratt, Eva Palmer, Jane Connors, and Patti Blake. By the 3rd Annual Meeting held at the Merrymeeting Grange on May 10, 1972, BHS had 226 members and had raised \$1,165 to fund our goals.

And so it has gone. BHS has had lean years and years of great progress and

activity, we have had quiet times, and even times of hibernation, but all the time we have been saving and collecting and researching Bowdoinham's past as a gift to our future citizens.

What, indeed, has Bowdoinham Historical Society achieved in its first fifty years? Read the full article, Bowdoinham Historical Society, Fifty Years & Counting at www.bowdoinham.com.

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Library News

By Kate Cutko

The library reopened on June 2, with limited hours – Tuesdays 10-2 and Fridays 2-6. Things have been running smoothly with limited capacity and mask-wearing. There is an alternative for those not comfortable coming inside the building- patrons can use our curbside service, where they put a “Reserve hold” on an item through our website’s online catalog and the book is left inside the “Little Germ Free Library” box outside the library entrance. This service runs daily, with a 24-hour lag time to fill the hold.

The library was awarded a COVID-Response grant from BCDI (Bowdoinham Community Development Initiative) to extend library offerings during the summer. Funds were used to purchase four “StoryWalks” which are picture book pages, waterproofed and mounted on stakes such that a child or adult can read the story while taking a short walk. The first Story walk was shared along the Cathance River Trail and now there is one allow the Gully Trail at the Red Rose Preserve. Two more are planned. In addition to the Storywalks, the BCDI grant funded the building of a cart to fill with used books and carry down to the

Farmer’s Market on Saturday mornings throughout the summer. Please come see the “Story Dory” and help yourself to a free book. Special thanks to Steven Bunn for donating the small-scale dory that now rides – or should we say it floats- atop the book cart. Thanks also to Brian Staid who built the cart, and to Joan and Bruce Knight who have been storing it each week in their garage.

In response to the killing of George Floyd and the increased attention on systemic racial inequities in our country, the library has increased its resources in that subject area. Please call or come into the library to learn and see the growing collection. The list of titles can be found on the library’s website: bowdoinhamlibrary.org.

If there are parents, educators or students who need help accessing educational resources or need a space to study with strong internet access, please contact Kate at the library to see what can be arranged. Need help accessing Zoom? Need to print something? Need to gather a small study group or tutoring session? Call and ask and we would love to help. The library has access to two meeting room, a public printer and several computers, not to mention string WiFi. The WiFi is available inside and outside the building 24-hours a day. Call to get the password.

Merrymeeting Hall News

By Betsy Steen

Work continues at a measured pace. Brett Thompson has worked wonders with the bathroom on the theater floor, and the Friday Ladies have been painting: the office, the main floor bathroom and the back hall & pantry. We are looking forward to beginning work on the new BHS Research Room on the lower level where it will be cool in summer, warm in winter, and easily accessible.

Meanwhile, if you want to research, there will soon be a temporary research area in the back of the main floor. Contact us and tell us what you are looking for, we’ll assemble materials and set up time for you.

“Bread and Hyacinths” the 10th Annual BHS Yard Sale, to benefit Merrymeeting Hall Utility Fund and Research Room Fund, will happen (as long as all continues to go well) on Sunday afternoons, 1-5pm, in late August, September, and possibly October. Masks required, social distancing maintained, limited numbers in the Meeting House and the Carriage Shed at one time, Windows and doors open. This way we should be able to avoid crowded situations.

We also welcome townfolk to bring their own table to set up and sell their own treasures. (\$10 to BHS) on one or more Sundays.

We will also be accepting donations for this sale on Sunday afternoons or by appointment. Please help us by being sure that what you donate is clean and in good repair (or easily repairable). No clothing, unless pre 1970 vintage. No books, unless they are antiques. No outdated electronics, unless you have a really early Apple, like a ‘Lisa’.

Come and enjoy the adventure!! And maybe see some neighbors —at a distance!!

Please contact Betsy at bayviewess@comcast.net or 737-9460.

“If thou of fortune be bereft, and in thy store there be but left two loaves, sell one, and with the dole, buy hyacinths to feed thy soul.” - John Greenleaf Whittier

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Community Calendar

September

7th
Town Office Closed

12th
Zucchini Races

200th Birthday Cake Virtual Contest

October

12th
Town Office Closed

Town Office

Hours:

Mon, Tues, Thurs: 8:30am-4pm
Wed: 9am-6pm

Contact Information:

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Website: www.bowdoinham.com

Town Board & Committee Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and held online via Zoom

Select Board

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of Month at 5:30pm

Planning Board

4th Thursday of Month at 7:00pm

Community Development Committee

2nd Tuesday of the Month at 6:30pm

Comprehensive Planning Committee

1st Tuesday of the Month at 6:30pm

Age-Friendly Committee

2nd Monday of the Month at 2:30pm

Solid Waste Committee

Every other Wednesday at 6:30pm



Open Saturdays - 8:30am to 12:00pm

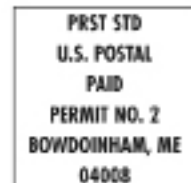
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For a complete listing of events, please visit the Town's Calendar at www.bowdoinham.com/calendar.

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