



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

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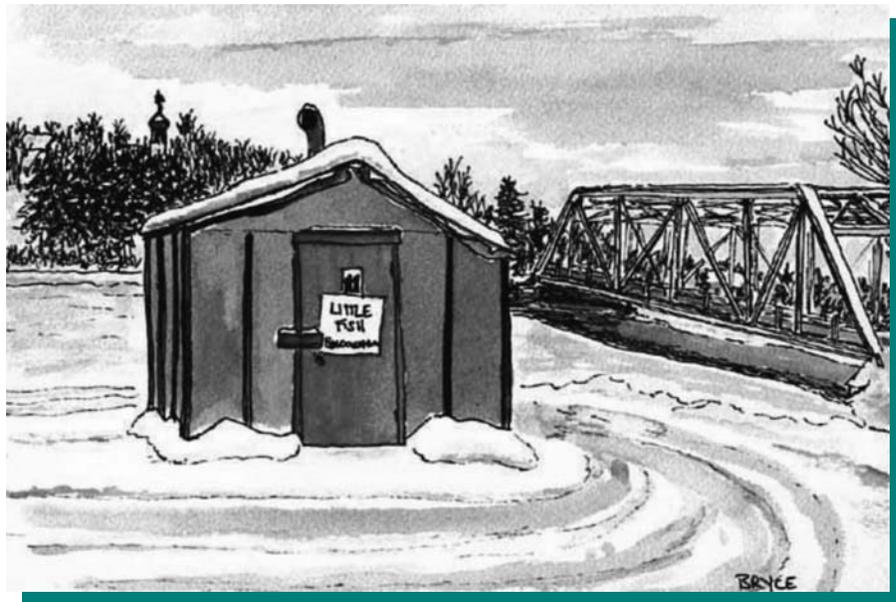
250TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

“A Birthday Gift to Bowdoinham” William Kendall’s Wonderful Plan

It was 1912, Bowdoinham’s 150th birthday, and William B. Kendall, Bowdoinham mill owner, sheep farmer, and forward thinker developed an idea that would benefit the people living in Bowdoinham 100 years later. A great believer in the power of compound interest, he proposed raising a sum to be put at interest and remain untouched until 2012, Bowdoinham’s 250th birthday. A committee was authorized by the selectmen, and some \$555.31 was raised through donations from 382 citizens and deposited in 5 separate banks. This money was given the name Bowdoinham Century Fund. On September 18, 2012 all but \$2500 (5 times the original amount) which was to remain for another century, was to be used for educational and charitable purposes for the citizens of Bowdoinham.

By 1930, the money had doubled. It had tripled by 1940. Today there is approximately \$67,000 in the account. The 250th Anniversary Committee is charged with using this money appropriately for the good of Bowdoinham and its citizens. To date money has been approved to help renovate Jellerson School, to reset the cannon and create a Veteran’s Park, and to help open the 250th Year festivities with a festival celebrating Bowdoinham’s smelt fishing and ice harvesting heritage. A book celebrating Bowdoinham’s 250 years is also planned and will likely use money from this fund.

Thank you Mr. Kendall!



See Ice & Smelt Festival story on page 2.

Connected with this plan is a steel chest, some 20 x 14 x 14 inches, on which is riveted a plate bearing the inscription: Valuable Records Town of Bowdoinham, not to be opened until September 18, 1962. Preserve Inviolable, Seal Again With

Your Messages and Tokens for the Year 2012. The opening of this chest and viewing and recording its contents will be an exciting part of our September Program. Then we will add our own ‘messages and tokens’ for the people of Bowdoinham in 2062 and 3012.

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Ice and Smelt Festival

By Lee Parker

Merrymeeting Arts Center is honored and excited to coordinate and host the first official event of the Bowdoinham 250th Anniversary Celebration. The “Ice and Smelt Festival” will be held February 3rd and 4th at the Maily Waterfront.

Events will begin Friday evening, from 5:30 to 8, with an Open House and reception at the Merrymeeting Arts Center. The exhibit, “Ice Cutting and Smelt Fishing: Winter on the Bay”, offers work by local artists in many different genre. In collaboration with the Bowdoinham Historical Society the exhibit depicts the ice industry in Bowdoinham in the late 1800’s. There will be refreshments and music and a dramatic reading of “Smelt Makes Ice” from Local Myths, followed by a community dance from 8–10 at the Town Hall.

Saturday’s events will run from 10–4 and will include an ice cutting demonstration, showing of an historical film of Ice Cutting, and a variety of winter sports

events. Several contests are planned including Best Beard (a repeat from the 200th Anniversary Celebration), Best Dressed Smelt and Smelt Fishing. Children’s art activities will be offered in Cathance Place all day and will include making luminaries, building smelt shacks from Legos and a Storyteller.

A Masked Carnivale staged by Ziggurat Theatre Ensemble will conclude the day’s events as costumed residents parade from Long Branch School past the bonfire by the river to the Gazebo where lit luminaries will light up the dark.

MAC is busy planning events for spring and summer. This year our “Young at Art” exhibit will feature works by young and emerging artists related to the theme “Food, Farm and Family”. Check our website (www.merrymeetingartscenter.org) for announcements about our May Day Celebration, a 2012 Special Exhibit featuring works by Carlo Pittore, Bryce Muir and Carter Smith which will run from June through September, and in July, Ziggurat Theatre Ensemble presents “Aquitania” (www.ziggurattheatre.org).

Bowdoinham Cemeteries

By Albert Stehle

Bowdoinham is the 17th Town in the State of Maine to turn 250 years old. We know many residents have made their livelihoods here and many have prospered. The evidence of their lives, their stories of triumphs, tragedies, seas sailed and wars fought is in our own back yard. This past summer I went out to find as many Bowdoinham Cemeteries as I could. In two days, I found 58 of 62 cemeteries. I photographed and recorded what they needed. Some haven’t been recorded and one had no stones, they were packed up and moved away. Some are in such bad shape that it took months to figure out the layout pattern and just how many stones are there. I had this information on display at Celebrate Bowdoinham this past September. Not all Bowdoinham cemeteries are in poor shape. Many residents that have already stepped forward and done an excellent job keeping cemeteries mowed

and cleaned. These residents are the unsung heroes of Bowdoinham.

There was a time in Bowdoinham when residents took the time to clean and maintain these cemeteries and then gathered for a meal after the work was done. I joined the 250th Anniversary Committee with the thought of reviving this tradition. Wouldn’t this be a nice 250th birthday gift for the Town that has given us so much?

On April 14th please bring a cooked casserole or dessert to the fire station, before we head out to designated cemeteries for cleaning. All we need to do is rake, clear away dead branches and old blow downs, and make simple fence repairs. Then we can come back for lunch well deserved. There would be no better 250th birthday present, than to see all residents come together to help clean 60 cemeteries all at the same time.

For more information on how you can help, please visit the Town’s website or contact Albert Stehle 666-3493 or Nicole Briand at nbriand@bowdoinham.com or 666-5531.

News from the Long Branch School

By Nanette Giacomia

Come celebrate with us Friday and Saturday, February 3rd and 4th as Long Branch joins the Smelt & Ice Festival. On Friday, we will feature a presentation and book signing by author Arthur Haines “Wild Food; Understanding the Environment and Your Health” from 7pm to 8pm. On Saturday, Tom Seymour will be at Long Branch for a book signing and a presentation on “Wild Plants of Maine” from 4pm to 5pm. Then from 5pm to 6pm we will have a potluck, followed by The Big Dipper String Band from 6pm to 7pm. The music portion will also feature students of our recent Bluegrass Band class, “The Long Branch Bluegrass Boys” who will open for The Big Dipper. The event is free, and donations will be gratefully accepted for the band. Please bring a dish to share.

Come and experience the healing benefits of Reiki. Reiki Share is a free community event held the second Saturday each month from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Got the winter blues? Get out and enjoy a class at Long Branch. Most of our classes can be taken in the evening or on a weekend during the day, and are easy to fit into a busy working lifestyle. We get new class submissions frequently, so keep checking with us.

Classes, Instructors, Vendors, Questions, Ideas? Contact us at 666-8900, info@longbranchschool.com or www.longbranchschool.com.

Fundraising for Bowdoinham

A small group is currently working on a variety of fundraisers to support the heating program in Bowdoinham as well as raising funds for those in need in our Town. If you are interested in donating or would like to be part of the group, please email or call Kathy Tome at ktome@bowdoinham.com or 751-0080.

News from the Bowdoinham Historical Society

By Betsy Steen



To support the rebuilding of the Jellerson School we are selling the Jellerson School Mug for \$8.00.

FALL 2011 EVENTS

BHS 2nd Annual Super Yard Sale in October was a huge success and brought in \$1300 for the restoration of Jellerson School. Thanks to Jeanne Gillis and all who helped, had tables, and came and bought treasures. It's not too soon to begin thinking about next year's sale.

In November we held a **BHS Antiques Street Show** in the town hall. Thanks to everyone who brought in their interesting items. We all learned a lot and had a good deal of fun. Special thanks to our experts Jeanine Beaudoin, Brigid Palmer, and Steve Bunn, and to Lara Ashouwak who organized a delicious and beautiful harvest luncheon for experts and volunteers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

'Hand Planes to Tall Clocks: An Evening with Bowdoinham's Steve Bunn'

January 26, 2012 at 7pm in Steve's workshop at 22 Center Street

We will learn about hand planes, old tools, windsor chairs, tall clocks, and more. Bring along your antique hand planes or old tools. We are really looking forward to this event which will include a brief business meeting and election of officers.

BHS CELEBRATES BOWDOINHAM'S 250TH IN 2012

250th Quilt: We have well over half the blocks completed. They are indeed wonderful! We have decided not to raffle this quilt; instead we are selling 'lines', the opportunity to have a name (individual's, family, or business) on the back of the quilt for \$5.00.

Jellerson School: BHS's 250th Birthday present to the Town of Bowdoinham. Our goal is to create a one room school and museum of Merrymeeting Bay which will provide a 1900 school experience, as well as studies in nature and the history of Merrymeeting Bay, to area students in both class visits and a summer curriculum. We will have a dedication in September 2012.

What's going on up at Jellerson School?

Jellerson School now has a strong roof structure and a newly shingled roof. The south wall has been clapboarded and painted and the rest of the building has been scraped, primed and finish coated. Tom DeForeest built a frame for and installed the original door, rebuilt by Tony Cox, and is working on frames for the south windows. Daphne White, Leslie Anderson and Betsy Steen have been working on restoring the windows. Jellerson looks splendid!!

What's being built off the back of the school?

BHS's Merrymeeting Bay Museum. Tom DeForeest has taken on the job of reconstructing the old woodshed with volunteer help, and the shed-museum will soon be closed in. We are very excited about having all of BHS's collection of items relating to Merrymeeting Bay in one place, where people can see and study them, and where we can look out and see the Bay from the big east windows!

What can we do to be a part of this?

Donate money, building materials, items relating to Merrymeeting Bay or Bowdoinham's one-room schools, time, and/or memories. We are looking for:

- Your MEMORIES & STORIES if you attended Jellerson or if a member your family went to school there, please interview them for us and bring them by to enjoy the progress. We would especially like stories that illustrate a connection to Merrymeeting Bay.
- PHOTOS of Jellerson or any Bowdoinham one room school - We will scan them and return them to you.
- OLD SCHOOL ITEMS and materials 1946 and before.
- BUILDING MATERIALS such as greenboard drywall and black insulated stove pipe.

Many thanks to all who have donated building materials, money, time and memories to this project. For a more specific list, please see our website.

To help with a project or give materials or items or loan photos, contact us on our website or leave your name and phone number with Pam in the Town Office or Kate in the Library, and we'll get back to you.

For more information, please go to www.bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org



Completed Blocks of the 250th Anniversary Quilt

Thanks to all who have joined BHS or renewed your membership for 2011. As we begin a new year, we hope you will continue to support the Bowdoinham Historical Society. Renew or join online at <http://www.bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org> or mail to Bowdoinham Historical Society, PO Box 101, Bowdoinham, ME 04008.

Spirit of America Award

By Rep. Seth Berry, December 2011

Since moving to town in the 1990s, Steve and Brooke Cox have become keystones of Bowdoinham's community spirit.

An engineer, Steve serves as a trustee of the town water district, where he has seen it through key improvements. Thanks to his mapping skills and planning knowledge, Steve was also essential to the creation of Bowdoinham's first-ever Waterfront Plan, which has helped lead to important improvements at the town waterfront.

As parents, Brooke and Steve have always been willing to step up and volunteer before, during and after school. Brooke has coordinated the Walk to School day, participated in the school's electives program, and led several math enrichment groups. She has coordinated food for the Halloween Festival and directed traffic for the Halloween Parade. She has donated to and worked at the Giant Rummage Sale at the Town Hall, co-chaired the Staff Appreciation Breakfast at the school, and supported the student "Food Freaks" gardening/ cooking group, up to and including their free-to-the-community Harvest Dinner.

Since becoming the town's part-time recreation director, Brooke has consistently gone beyond the call of duty. She has been a model coach, sharing best practices with other parents. For the last few years, she has offered incoming Kindergarteners a summer program to help children new to the school meet classmates and learn how to use the playground equipment. This fall, she offered kick-ball as an after-school program.

She and Steve have served as coaches, referees and umpires, announced and provided the music for the annual Grade



5/Staff Basketball Game, and supported the annual Chicken Run/Fun, as well as many other events at our annual Celebrate Bowdoinham festival.

On a typical Saturday during spring or fall, Brooke can be found staffing the snack shack, grilling burgers for hungry players, or doling out equipment or assignments to the many coaches and players who have swelled our rosters. Steve can be found mowing the lawns, raking the infield, striping the lines, or even setting up a sound system to announce players. His tractor, since it spends as much time at the town rec fields as at the Cox residence, is often mistaken for town equipment.

Without them, Bowdoinham would likely not have seen the addition of a batting cage, new dugouts, and a brand-new garage for ground equipment.

When the school needs a new playground, when the town needs help making the wreaths or designing a Walkable Village plan, when local seniors need a ride, a cleared driveway, more firewood, or a special lunch, when the public works crew needs a hot meal during a snow-storm, when the library plant sale needs extra hands, when the snowmobile club needs trails help, or when a community cleanup day is held, Brooke, Steve and their two children can always be counted on to be involved.

Through their volunteerism and leadership year after year and season after season, Brooke and Steve have made Bowdoinham a more active, healthy, and vibrant community.

Thank you Steve and Brooke!

purchased with proceeds from the bond approved at the June 2011 Annual Town Meeting, plus the proceeds from the sale of the old Fire Station and a \$50,000 grant received from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation (thanks again to Jen Foley for writing that successful grant application!).

Masonic Grant Award

The Masonic Lodge in Bowdoinham awarded two \$1,000 grants in May 2011. The first went to Katrina Hedgpeth of Richmond who is attending the University of Southern Maine at Portland, Maine; the second went to David K. Thomas Towne of Bowdoin who is attending Colby College at Waterville, Maine.

The Masonic Lodge in Bowdoinham will again be awarding two \$1,000 grants in May 2012. One will go to a student who lives in Bowdoin, Bowdoinham or Topsham. The other will go to a student in Richmond. These grants are for high school students pursuing advanced education beyond grade 12, have good moral character, have a financial need, and have a GPA of 2.5 or higher. Applications must be received by May 1, 2012.

For an application and/or more information, e-mail avchapman3@gmail.com

Heating Assistance Fund

The cold weather is here and there are members of our community that need our help to keep warm this winter. Please donate to our Heating Assistance Fund so that we can help members of our community keep warm this winter.

The Town would like to thank the Knights of Pythias for their generous donation of \$500, it is very much appreciated!

New Fire Truck Arrives

By William Post, Town Manager

The new E-One Typhoon Pumper arrived at the Fire Station on December 28, 2011 from Greenwood Emergency Vehicles of North Attleboro, Massachusetts and Brunswick, Maine. The vehicle was

Cable & Internet Committee Update

As many residents know, cable and internet service is not available to everyone in Bowdoinham. Our contract for cable service with Comcast expired in 2008 and has never been renewed. The Committee has met with Comcast a couple of times to discuss the renewal of our contract. These discussions are ongoing.

Members of the Committee made a field trip to Harpswell to see and learn about that operation. We learned that we could have a local access channel, which could broadcast local happenings such as the various town meetings, local sports events, and other community hap-

penings. Some Committee members met with James Marshall from Maine Video Systems about what equipment we will need and the costs.

As to broadcasting and recording local events, the Committee is also looking into available options so that meetings and other events can be broadcast live and archived using the Town's web site. This past week, the Muskie presentation to the Comprehensive Planning Committee was videotaped. You can see the presentation by going on line to Justin.tv/Bowdoinham/videos.

The Committee is also looking into other possible providers of Internet service. We met with a representative of Red Zone, Jim McGrath. Red Zone is a high-speed wireless provider, which

represents an exciting alternative, however, Red Zone itself is not at this time able to work with us and so we are pursuing other similar providers.

As the Chair of this Committee I want to thank all the members for their ongoing work for Bowdoinham. Those members are Bert Singer, Ray Hall, Monika Ullian, and Jarod Johnson plus new members Tony Lewis and Sally Martinez. I also want to thank David Mann, Ed Ferranti and Cynthia Harkleroad who worked with us but had to resign because of time conflicts.

Theresa Turgeon, Chair, Cable/Internet Committee

Proposed Amendments to Land Use Ordinance

By Nicole Briand

The Planning Board has scheduled a Public Hearing on Thursday, March 22, 2012 at 7pm to discuss their proposed amendments to the Land Use Ordinance. The Public Hearing will be held in the 2nd floor meeting room in the John C. Coombs Municipal Building at 13 School Street.

The Planning Board is proposing amendments to the Land Use Ordinance to address the following issues:

- Variances. The ordinance is not clear on which dimensional requirements one may seek a variance from. Article 12.C specifies that the Board of Appeals may only give variances from

dimensional requirements and the Ordinance defines dimensional requirements as "numerical standards relating to spatial relationships including but not limited to setback, lot area, shore frontage and height." The Board is suggesting that the Ordinance be amended to specify which dimensional requirements a variance may be sought from.

- Authority to Waive Submission Requirements. Adding this authority for Shoreland Zoning applications, Building Permit applications, Land Use applications and all Site Plan Review applications.
- Applications to amend approved Site Plans. Not all changes to an approved site plan are listed within the Tier categories, therefore the Board is suggesting

the review process for amendments be specified so that it is clear.

- Tier I Site Plan Review applications. The CEO should have the authority to refer a Tier I application to the Planning Board for review.
- Violations. The Board is suggesting charging a fine for violations to cover the Town's costs of enforcing the Land Use Ordinance.

Copies of the proposed amendments to the Land Use Ordinance can be viewed at www.bowdoinham.com/plan-land-use-ord_proposed-revisions or at the Town Office. For more information or questions, please contact Nicole Briand at 666-5531 or nbriand@bowdoinham.com.

New at the Public Works Department

By William Post, Town Manager

I am pleased to announce that Chadd Mayo has been hired as Public Works Foreman. Chadd has worked for the Town of Bowdoinham for eight years as a driver/laborer with the department and brings a great deal of knowledge about the town's streets and roads. To replace

Chadd, the Town has hired George Halsey of Bowdoinham to join the Public Works team. In addition, the Town has hired Alan Walsh of Brunswick as the on-call plow driver. Congratulations to all three.

Knights of Pythias

The Knights of Pythias are looking for new members. Meetings are held at 7:30pm on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month. For more information, please contact Allen Frizzle at 666-8847 or Michael Sanborn at 666-5505.

Recycling Barn News

By William Post, Town Manager

I am pleased to announce that the Town of Bowdoinham has acquired workers' compensation insurance for the year 2012. As a result, the Select Board approved a six-month lease extension for the Recycling Barn property with David Berry and a six-month contract extension with Richard Plummer & Son, Inc. for curbside pick-up of solid waste and recyclable materials. These six month extensions will expire June 30, 2012.

In the meantime, I have assembled a Task Force consisting of Tade Mahoney, Kathy Gallant, Kathy Tome and David Berry that I have tasked with assisting me in reviewing the Town's options for either repairing or replacing the Recycling Barn.

The Task Force is currently reviewing all the previous information gathered by

the Solid Waste Committee as well as some of their own. This information will be presented to the public in an informational meeting that will be scheduled to discuss the options with the residents to get your input. After that meeting, the list of options will be narrowed down, and researched further so that a final recommendation of two or three options can be presented at another public informational meeting. The ultimate goal is to present the final option/solution to the annual town meeting in June 2012.

In the meantime, the recycling program continues as it always has, and the Recycling Barn is open its usual hours. If you have a question, concern or an idea about either facility and/or program, please contact Town Manager Bill Post (wpost@bowdoinham.com) or any member of the Select Board.

Comprehensive Planning Committee Update

As this winter begins the Comprehensive Planning Committee is beginning the process of collecting and analyzing data. Considerable input by townspeople through surveys, public forums and community organizations has resulted in the development of the Vision Statement and Goals, which will serve as a guide as we develop the Plan.

As we begin developing the strategies for Bowdoinham, we are looking forward to continuing to get your input. The purpose of the strategies is to layout how Bowdoinham will attain its Goals and our Vision for the future. Please help us in shaping our community's future by joining us at one or all of the following workshops:

- Agriculture Workshop—Tuesday, February 28th at 6pm at Bowdoinham Community School
- Economy Workshop—Tuesday, March 20th at 6pm in the Select Board Meeting Room in the John C. Coombs Municipal Building.

- Resources Workshop—Wednesday, April 18th at 6pm at the Town Hall (Focus will be on the following sections: Forest, Natural Resources, Water Resources, Marine Resources, Historic & Archaeological Resources)
- Infrastructure/Program Workshop—Wednesday, April 25th at 6pm at the Town Hall (Focus will be on the following sections: Recreation, Transportation, Housing, Public Facilities & Services and Fiscal Capacity & Capital Investment Plan)

It is our hope that the participation we have experienced so far will continue. If you are interested in helping to shape Bowdoinham's future, you can get involved in any (or all) of the following ways: join our Committee, sign-up to receive Committee emails, sign-up for our email newsletter (with project updates) and/or join us on Facebook. Please contact Nicole Briand at 666-5531 or nbriand@bowdoinham.com for more information.

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in the Selectboard Meeting Room in the John C. Coombs Municipal Building.

You can still Buy Bowdoinham this winter!

At the Long Branch General Store, their motto is "Buy Local". They carry a variety of local products from local vendors and crafts people. They have a great selection of handmade items by our Bowdoinham artisans: upcycled tote bags by Kate Cutko, knitted sweaters by Patti Stratton, hot pads by Linda Estabrook, jewelry by Sam Cook and Ursula Pinett, ceramics by Sarah Cox, wood crafts by Gus Frank, Steven Bunn and Paul Baines and much more. They also have food crafters that make incredible edibles: Jam from Fresh, Gelato from Gelato Fiasco, BBQ sauce from Circling The Ring, spices from Gryffon Ridge, bread and frozen meals from Annabella's Café, cookies and pie from The Town Landing Restaurant, and wine and beer from several local wineries and breweries. They are working with area farmers to supply milk, eggs, beans, meat and some seasonal vegetables. Some of their vendors include: Balfour Farm, Eastern River Cattle Company, Turning Wheel Farm, Fairwinds Farm, and Stonecipher Farm. In "The Back" of the store they carry a selection of hardware, previously owned tools and animal feeds. And now they have a seamstress available for your repair needs, alterations, hemming and much more. The Thrifty Seamstress (Laurie Sims) will pick up and deliver your mending items at Long Branch General Store.

In addition to the Long Branch General Store, many of our Bowdoinham farmers are selling their products the following winter Farmers' Markets:

- Midcoast Winter Farmers' Market at the Topsham Grange, Saturdays 9am to 12:30pm
- Brunswick Winter Market at Fort Andross in Brunswick, Saturdays 9am to 12:30pm
- Bath Winter Market at 150 Congress Avenue, Saturdays 9am to 12pm

Community Calendar

FEBRUARY

3rd & 4th

Smelt and Ice Festival

20

Town Office Closed in observance of Presidents Day

28

Comprehensive Planning Workshop on Agriculture—6:00 pm at the Bowdoinham Community School

MARCH

20

Comprehensive Planning Workshop on Economy—6:00 pm in the 2nd floor meeting room at the John C. Coombs Building

22

Public Hearing—Proposed Amendments to Land Use Ordinance—7 pm in the 2nd floor meeting room at the John C. Coombs Building

APRIL

14

Cemetery Clean-up Day

16

Town Office Closed in observance of Patriots Day

18th & 25th

Comprehensive Planning Workshop—6:00 pm at the Town Hall

For more information, please visit our website at www.bowdoinham.com.

Attention Businesses

We need your help, so that we can better serve you! What could the Town do to support you and your business? What do you need to grow your business? Please join us in answering these questions on Tuesday, March 20th at 6pm in the John C. Coombs Municipal Building at 13 School St for a joint workshop focused on our economy with the Comprehensive Planning Committee and the Community Development Advisory Committee.

**Town of Bowdoinham
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