



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

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January-February 2018

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

News from the Community School: Did you know?

By Chris Lajoie, Principal



Our school was built from the ground up in 1954, paid for by a series of chicken barbecues in three successive years. (While cleaning out a storage room last year, I was delighted to find a newspaper clipping from the Brunswick Record detailing these events.) We added additions to the school building in 1979 and 1992. Initially serving students in grades K-8, our community school – now one of five K-5 schools in our MSAD 75 school district – serves about 170 kids. As far as I can tell I am the ninth or tenth principal; (further research is needed.) You also might not know:

- * 44% of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch, currently the highest rate of poverty in the school district;

- * 23% of our students qualify for special education services because of a documented disability, among the highest rates in the state;

- * In 2017, our students performed best amongst all MSAD 75 schools in English Language Arts achievement; our fifth graders reached an 80% proficiency rate, a first for the school;

- * Our teachers are notable for their leadership in the district, serving on numerous committees and leadership groups, and being at the forefront of best, research-based practices to help students learn better;

- * Last year a Bowdoinham student represented Sagadahoc County in the Maine State Spelling Bee;

- * We have earned numerous grants and accolades for our school garden program and outdoor classroom for place-based learning;

- * Our students are currently participating in the final stages of a community art project to create a mural for the new Matthew Townsend Parker Memorial

Skatepark downtown;

- * We have a district-level goal to improve community involvement and participation in our school.

If you watch the news, you might be under the impression that there is a war on a broken public education system in this country. Don't believe it. The dozens of volunteers in our school each week are there to help continue the tradition of growing the best and brightest students in the state of Maine. We have been incredibly lucky to benefit from the support of our community, and its leadership including business leaders, the Town Select Board, our Town Planner and Town Manager. We invite you to be a part of this vision. Be in touch with me to share your passion for helping Bowdoinham's children succeed!

Dog Licenses Due

State Law requires all dogs six months and older to be licensed by January 1st, however there is a grace period of January 31st before a late fee is incurred.

Neutered/Spayed Dog - \$6.00
Not Neutered Dog - \$11.00

After January 31st there is a \$25.00 late fee.

INSIDE

Community School News	1	BCDI News	4	Comprehensive Planning Committee Update	9
Fire & Rescue News	2	News from ACOA	4	Perry's Garden	10
Thankyou/Congratulations	2	Recreation News	5	Garden Club	11
Public Works Update	2	CAC News	5	Food Pantry News	11
Recreational Marijuana	3	Historical Society News	6	FOMB Speaker Series	10
Assessor's Alley	3	News from Arts Center	7	Community Calendar	12
Recycling Barn Reminders	3	Library News	8		

Fire & Rescue News

By Arthur "Fudd" Frizzle, *Captian*

We are in the midst of Eastern Standard time with the clocks "falling back" in November. That is typically the time to remember to test and change the batteries in your carbon monoxide and smoke alarms. If you forgot, PLEASE, take the time to make sure your alarms are working properly and have fresh batteries it only takes a moment and is a simple step in the safety of you and your family.

While you have that safety mindset going it is also a good time to remember to check your chimney. If you burn wood, you should have already cleaned it at the beginning of the heating season but make sure you conduct regular visual inspections throughout the winter. The fire-

fighters are always eager to respond when the need arises but we are much happier staying home knowing you are safe. Finally, members of public safety have always said "If we can't find you, we can't help you". This time of year with the snowbanks starting to pile up mailboxes become covered and when seconds matter we want to get you the help you need as soon as possible. Make sure your house number is fully visible from both directions on your road.

Bowdoinham Fire and Rescue provides fire and EMS services to Bowdoinham. If you or anybody you know is interested in joining, we meet every Monday evening beginning at 6:30pm at the Fire Station.

Town's Website

The Town is beginning to explore a re-design of our www.bowdoinham.com website. This website is intended to serve residents, prospective residents, and businesses, among others. We are excited to improve the user experience for all our audiences.

If you have thoughts about the Town website -- including what you like currently or what you hope to see improved -- we want to hear them!

You can share your input by contacting Nicole Briand at 666-5531 or nbriand@bowdoinham.com or by dropping off a note at the Town Office.

Thank you David Berry, Congratulations Bryan!

By William Post, *Town Manager*

After serving the Town of Bowdoinham for over 28 years as Solid Waste & Recycling Director, David Berry has decided to retire. The recycling programs created with David's help over the years have been very successful in Bowdoinham. David's hard work and dedication to the Town is greatly appreciated. We wish David the best in his retirement. Thank you David!

Bryan Benson was promoted in November to Solid Waste & Recycling Director to replace David. Bryan is a Bowdoinham resident and has worked for the Town at the Recycling Facility for the last 9 years. He has a solid understanding of the solid waste and recycling operations. While he has big shoes to fill, I am very confident that he will be successful. Congratulations Bryan!

Public Works Facility Project Update

By William Post, *Town Manager*

The Town's need and desire for a new Public Works Facility is long-standing. Over the last 11 years, the citizens of Bowdoinham have repeatedly expressed their interest in and support for transitioning the Public Works operation to a more adequate property. Following years of searching, a property at 121 Pond Road was purchased by the Town in early 2017 after a special town meeting vote approved the purchase on December 14, 2016.

Since March, the Town has been working with Pine Tree Engineering to prepare a site plan and building designs for a new Public Works Garage and a sand/salt storage building to be constructed at 121 Pond Road. A Building Design Committee consisting of residents David Jones and Brant Miller, Select Board members Tom Walling and David Engler, Public Works Foreman Chadd Mayo and Town Manager Bill Post have been working with the engineers to ensure the facility meets the needs of the Public Works Department.

The Building Design Committee provided a recommendation to the Select Board in December 2017. After the Board reviews this recommendation and approves the design plans in January, the engineers will solicit bids for the construction of the project. An informational meeting will be held so that residents can learn more about the project, and a special town meeting to request approval for funding the construction will be scheduled, most likely in March 2018. Once funding is approved, construction would begin in Spring 2018.

While the engineering work has been continuing for the Public Works Facility, the Comprehensive Planning Committee has been discussing concepts and ideas for the redevelopment of the current location of the Public Works Facility at 8 River Road. For information on that project, please contact Planning & Development Director Nicole Briand at nbriand@bowdoinham.com or 666-5531.

For more information on the Public Works Facility Project, please contact Town Manager Bill Post at 666-5531, wpost@bowdoinham.com or visit the Town's website at www.bowdoinham.com.

Recreational Marijuana in Bowdoinham

By Nicole Briand

At Town Meeting in June of 2017, the Town adopted a moratorium to prohibit retail marijuana products manufacturing facilities, retail marijuana testing facilities and retail marijuana stores and marijuana social clubs. This moratorium gave the Town 180 days to see how the state would address these uses and consider the potential impacts these establishments may have on the Town. However, the State did not pass new regulations as was expected, so the Select Board extended the moratorium for another 180 days, until June 2018.

Now the Planning Board is considering how to regulate these uses in Bowdoinham. Should they be allowed? Should there be any restrictions on where they can be located? What performance standards should they have to meet? These are the questions the Planning Board would like your help in answering!

Please join the Planning Board on Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 7pm for a Public Hearing to discuss Recreational Marijuana Establishments & Social Clubs in Bowdoinham.

For more information, please contact Nicole Briand at 666-5531 or nbriand@bowdoinham.com.

Assessor's Alley - Homestead Exemptions

By Darren Carey

Are you a permanent resident of the Town of Bowdoinham? Have you owned your home in town for 12 months on April 1st, 2018? If you answered yes to both of these questions you may be entitled to a homestead exemption.

The Homestead Exemption currently exempts \$20,000 of assessed value from residential property owned by Maine residents that permanently reside in Bowdoinham. Applications are available at www.bowdoinham.com/tax-assessor. The exemption is not a true exemption because the cost is split between the State of Maine and the municipality, this is outlined in Title 36 §683 of the Maine Revised State Statute.

It should also be noted that there are exemptions for veterans and veterans' families.

If you are unsure if you have the homestead exemption and believe you are entitled to it, please email me at dcarey@bowdoinham.com or call 666-5531 and ask for Darren.

Recycling Barn Reminders

By David Berry

With winter here, it's time to remember that things get a little more difficult for the curbside trash hauler on Thursday mornings, especially if it's snowing, or has just snowed. Try to leave trash bags in a place where they are easily visible, and as near the edge of the road as possible. Make sure bags are well tied so that they will not blow open. Also, please be careful not to overload your bags, the limit is 25 pounds.

Another persistent problem in curbside pickup are bags which have been torn open. The easiest way to solve this is to leave your trash bag in a closed container - a metal or plastic trash can with a lid is ideal. A rock or a couple of bricks will keep the container in place after the trash has been picked up.

Trash tags for curbside pickup are available at the Recycling Barn, Town Office, Bowdoinham Hardware, and Town Landing Café. Bags for curbside recycling are also available at these locations.

Residents who take advantage of our "gift shop" section of the Barn should be especially careful to remember that small children are often present there and to be careful to avoid leaving potentially dangerous items. We have found large sharp kitchen knives as well as over-the-counter and prescription drugs.

There's a great old song by Fats Waller that came out during the Second World War, called "Get Some Cash For Your Trash", when people were trying to get by in hard times, and recycling paper and metals helped many out financially. We can all save money by taking advantage of our recycling program. The average family will only produce one bag of trash per week if all recyclable materials are either picked up curbside or delivered to the Recycling Barn. That's a savings of around \$30 per month if you have a dumpster! And on top of that, most of the material that comes to the Barn is sold, and the resulting income helps the Town as a whole.

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BCDI News

By Andy Cutko

After BCDI's "Village Community Conversations," held in September and October 2017, solicited robust resident participation in the exchange of creative

ideas and candid discussion about the future of Bow-

doinham's village area. More than 100 community members participated over the course of two meetings, exceeding all expectations in terms of engagement, enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to the town's future. Thanks to those who attended and shared your thoughts and aspirations! A wide range of more than 50 ideas were initially generated, ranging from the creation of a community center to the establishment of a community garden. A subset of possible actions was further refined for community action by the residents and BCDI Board. Copies of our final report on the meetings are available at the library and on BCDI's web site, <http://bcdi.us/>

As 2018 unfolds, BCDI hopes to build on the success of the village meetings by shepherding next steps and continuing to work with the Town, interested citizens, and other stakeholders to make progress on some of the "high feasibility, high impact" ideas that emerged. Good progress is already being made in a number of areas.

BCDI continues to evolve and grow, and we welcome two new Board members, Doug Tourtelotte and Lily Montgomery. We also bid a fond farewell to three pillars of the organization, David Whittlesey, Brian Smith, and Laurel Lopez. While they are leaving BCDI's Board, we know we will be able to draw on their expertise and sound judgement as needed. Thanks to David, Brian, and Laurel for their wisdom, guidance, and perseverance!



ACOA News

By Rachelle Tome

Winter is here and the Advisory Committee on Aging continues to assist the town's efforts in developing Age Friendly Bowdoinham. Working with 50+ volunteers and many local partners, the committee coordinates activities designed to provide services and advocacy designed to enable our older residents to live in their homes for as long as possible as well as provide programs geared to keeping older adults active and engaged in the community.

The ACOA wants to recognize Patricia Oh, LMSW, MS, who was instrumental in assisting Bowdoinham's journey to becoming an age friendly community. Oh downplays her role in the town's transition, instead calling it a perfect storm created by an increased focus on aging. Community members had been reading about elder care and options for staying at home while the town's selectboard were also discussing the the needs of Bowdoinham's aging community as part of the Comprehensive Plan. Simultaneously, Patricia Oh, in the midst of pursuing a degree in gerontology from UMASS-Boston, had been talking with many community members as part of her graduate studies. The result was a formation of a committed group of individuals focused on topics critical to making the community more aging friendly.

Patricia Oh continued her work with the group, which became the Advisory Committee on Aging. The town soon added Thursday morning activities, which allowed citizens to gather. Later, exercise programs were added. One pivotal class offering-"A Matter of Balance" which helps teach provides training to prevent falls and increase activity, led to an accessibility survey of the town offices and provided a number of recommendations. These findings were shared with the ACOA and then the select board.

Oh joined the town's staff as the Coordinator of Older Adult Services and helped provide information and coordination between the ACOA and SelectBoard.

As the Committee began to explore the 8 domains of livability, members soon realized that the town had actually addressed many components with little to no cost. Conversations continued around fostering volunteerism, respect for all and increased social inclusion. One concrete outcome was suggestions for improving accessibility to Celebrate Bowdoinham.

With her continued guidance and support, Bowdoinham became the first municipality in northern New England to be accepted as a member of the World Health Organization-Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. The town was one of two communities in the United States and one of 13 municipalities in the world asked to help the World Health Organization develop a set of indicators that communities can use to measure progress toward making their communities more age-friendly.

Later, Oh assisted in the Committee's efforts to successfully pursue an AARP grant to develop an age friendly library. The Bowdoinham Public Library is the first library in Maine that has made a commitment to accessibility by residents of all abilities and includes an aging and accessibility lens in all of its planning. This fall, Bowdoinham received a grant from AARP to build elevated garden beds for selected citizens.

Patricia Oh recently resigned her position as Coordinator of Older Adult Services and has started a new chapter as the Age-Friendly Consultant for AARP. Please join us in thanking Patricia Oh for her support and impact on Bowdoinham's Age Friendly efforts. We wish her well in her new position and hope she will stay connected.

For more information about upcoming events follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AgeFriendlyBowdoinham. You can also call Missy at the Town Office to be added to our mailing list: 207-666-5531. If you are interested in the Committee's work, please consider attending our monthly meeting. Meeting details as well as a hard copy calendar of the many activities offered each month are available at the Town Landing, Bowdoinham Public Library, and at the Town Office.

Recreation News

By Lisa West

It's time for all your favorite fun winter activities!

Women's Volleyball is on Wednesdays at 7pm at Williams-Cone School. There is also Adult Volleyball at Co-Ed Cathance Fitness Center on Wednesdays 7-9pm.

Adult Pickleball continues on the Bowdoinham school basketball court Monday evenings, but the time is now 6-7:15pm until mid-February, then return to 5:30-7:15pm. See "Bowdoinham Pickleball" facebook page for updates & closures.

Adult Basketball: This has moved to TUESDAYS 7-9pm at the Cathance Fit-

ness Center.

Walking Group at the Bowdoinham Community School is back on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 4-7pm, except on non-school days. Please come in the door to the furthest left of the school (next to gym) and sign in at the desk on the right (green notebook). Take a right up the stairs to walk all the way to the office/main entrance, turn around and head back, you may circle the gym and start over.

Community Swim starts up again Sunday, January 7th at the Bowdoin College pool. 4:30-5:30pm is our SAD 75 hour free to the community. \$2 for non-district members so bring a friend or family member! Dates are: Jan 7, 14, 21, & 28 and Feb 4, 11, & 18 and March 4, 11, & 25.

Youth Basketball games for 3-6th grade started December 9th and run until February 10th. Home games are scheduled in the Bowdoinham Community Gym. K-2nd grade Basketball registration forms will be out early January for a February-March season. This is typically an after school program 3:30-4:30pm. Coaches/volunteers are needed!

Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine passes are available at the town office.

Indoor Winter Soccer Tennis! Registration now available for 6-8th graders within our district, February 7th to June 8th. Form available in Bowdoinham, Bowdoin & Middle school as well as Bowdoinham town office & <http://www.bowdoinham.com/recreation>.

Cemetery Advisory Committee News

By Tony Lewis

This was another busy and productive year for the Cemetery Advisory Committee. We have been working diligently on cataloging all the cemeteries within town limits, as well as determine the appropriate name and location for each. Through the good weather of the Spring, Summer and Fall seasons, the Committee, with help from volunteers in the community, worked hard to cleanup and restore two complete cemeteries that were in very poor condition.

In the Spring, the Committee tackled the Maxwell Family Cemetery on Carding Machine Road. This cemetery, like many in our Town, was in a desperate state of disrepair due to lack of maintenance. The first order of business was to clean up fallen trees, over grown brush and layers of leaves left behind over the years. The Maxwell Family Cemetery was had all but disappeared beneath the vegetation save for the rock wall bordering the grounds indicating an intentionally cordoned off plot of land. After spending the better part of a day clearing the grounds, the Committee turned its attention to the stones. Several stones had been covered by the leaves, overgrowth of vegetation

and even some buried in the soil. Once uncovered we set out to place the stones in the proper locations to begin cleaning and preparing for repair and resetting on their respective bases. Several days were spent completing repairs and settings of stones. What stands today are upright stones, clean grounds and a welcoming space for visitors from the community and families of those buried in the Maxwell Family Cemetery.

In late summer, the Committee next tackled the Curtis Alderton Jennings Cemetery on Dingley Road. This cemetery, like many we plan to work on in the future, was also in rough shape. Toppled and broken stones, overgrown vegetation, fallen trees, and layers of leaves left behind over the years. We even found one stone, originally thought to be missing, that had been buried in the soil for so long, when uncovered and stood upright, appeared so well preserved it could have been mistaken for having been erected anew (almost). Also discovered in this cemetery, in areas thought to have been unused, we found more stones that were buried and covered with soil. One of the more special aspects of the restoration of this cemetery was being able to have members of the Curtis Alderton Jennings family assist with the cleaning and resetting of stones that belonged to some of their ancestors buried here.

In the fall, the Committee had the pleasures of having a member of a local Boy Scout troupe, Jacob Ross, volunteer to do a restoration of a cemetery as part of his work toward attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Members of the Committee worked alongside many volunteers from the Town and astonishingly completed the restoration of the Hill Cemetery on River Road in a single weekend. The season was getting late and the deadline for completing the project was drawing close. A call to the community for assistance resulted in an outpouring of volunteers. So many that what typically takes the committee several weekends to accomplish, was completed in just two days!

The community has recognized the need for preserving our history as represented in our many town cemeteries. Town meeting this summer was just one of the excellent displays of support from the members of the community when a warrant article was approved to establish a Capital Fund for use by the Cemetery Advisory Committee for future restoration efforts. Volunteers readily contribute their time and hard work to assist with cleanup and restoration. As Chair of the Committee I am honored to be a part of something so special and needed in our Town. Keep up the good work Bowdoinham and be proud of what we have accomplished.

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

BHS News

By Betsy Steen

Our 2018 Theme: 'Bowdoinham Fires, and the Men, Women, and Equipment that Fight Them' We need YOUR input of anything fire related: information, photos, artifacts/equipment. Please, please, please identify and date all your own personal photos and documents!!!! It will make life for your descendants much easier and more interesting.

If you didn't get a copy for Christmas, give yourself or someone you love a Bowdoinham NEW YEARS PRESENT: NEW in 2017, Gill Hoffs, The Lost Story of the William and Mary— Bowdoinham built, her master Timothy Stinson, Bowdoinham born and raised. It's quite a tale. \$30.00 at the library or the BHS Room upstairs.

BHS Annual Meeting: Due to a scheduling conflict, we will hold the Annual Meeting Wednesday, January 24th at 7:00pm in the Kendall Room of the Coombs Building. After a very brief business meeting, we will introduce Bowdoinham's Online Cemetery-Card-Collection (<http://www.bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org>), and Bowdoinham's Cemetery Committee and the important work they are doing. We will especially honor Marilyn

Hinkley whose devoted labor in the late 1970s made all we are doing today possible and Todd Woofenden & DonnaLee Jason who put the cemetery records online with funding from a MAC-BHS Grant from Maine Arts & Humanities Council. Tom DeForest and Dave Piccuito have built a fine new set of shelves in the BHS Coombs Room for the use of the Cemetery Committee (which you can visit.) There will, of course, be Yummy Refreshments and good company!!

BHS is eagerly awaiting word that the title has been cleared and we can go forward with our purchase of the Merrymeeting Grange hall. Rather than close for lack of numbers, the remaining members of Merrymeeting Grange joined Enterprise Grange of Richmond. They are selling this building in order to put the money realized into the Richmond Grange Hall. BHS is able to buy this historic treasure because Eva Palmer, long Bowdoinham's librarian, left the Historical Society \$30,000 when she died in 1987. This was put into stock, where it prospered, and over the years has helped us with some of our other restoration proj-

ects. Eva loved history and Bowdoinham and was a Grange member herself. We like to think that she would be pleased.

Our intention is to maintain the building as 'Merry-meeting Center,' a community center for Bowdoinham. We will begin active fundraising as soon as we own it. And we hope there will be donations of time, talents, expertise, materials, furnishings, as



well as money to complete the needed repairs and upgrades. It will provide two excellent meeting areas, larger than the Kendall Room but smaller than the Town Hall, a cozy place to join friends for coffee, an ongoing jigsaw puzzle, a warm, supervised place for teens on winter afternoons, a certified kitchen (eventually), a lovely small theater, a place for family or town events, and so much more. Please help make this a reality for Bowdoinham! Email Betsy Steen— bayviewess@comcast.net. Feel free to stop in when you see the building is open.

Contact BHS

Mail:
PO Box 101, Bowdoinham

Email:
info@bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org

Website:
www.bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/thebowdoinhamhistoricalsociety

Office Hours:
in the Lancaster-Bishop Archive & Research Room, 13 School Street
on Tuesdays, 10am-12pm & 2-5pm

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News from Merrymeeting Arts Center

By Lee Parker

The 7th Annual Ice & Smelt Festival will be held on February 10th this year. The planning is underway. Art activities in the Green Building, outdoors activities (weather dependent), soup supper, beer tasting and Local Myth storytelling will round out the day's events, please check our website and FB page for final details.

Exhibits in the Gallery

Bowdoinham Guild of Artisans Merrymeeting Arts Center was delighted to partner with members of the Bowdoinham Guild of Artisans who were featured artists at MAC's October show, "Favorites from the Studio." Works included photography, pottery, fiber art, jewelry, and paintings chosen by the artists to represent their current work.

Vernal Pools & Ribbon Snakes

The Merrymeeting Arts Center is issuing a Call for Art for its April 2018 "Vernal Pools & Ribbons Snakes." Artists 18 and under are encouraged to submit original art in any medium. Each year our April "vernal pools" show focuses on a plant or an animal that is part of this unique springtime Maine woods habitat. This year's focus is ribbon snakes, a vernal pool denizen with three distinctive stripes.

Two and three dimensional works of all sizes about ribbon snakes and their habitat can be submitted. Every piece of

art should have the artist's name, medium/media, title, price or NFS (not for sale) clearly written on the underside or back. If the artwork sells, the artists will receive 70% of the sale price.

The show will open with a reception on Friday, April 6th from 5-7pm and will run to Saturday, May 19th. The gallery will be open Saturdays 10-1 during that time. Artwork may be brought to the Merrymeeting Arts Center on Sunday, April 1st from 2-4 pm or on Monday, April 2nd from 4-6 pm and picked up on Sunday May 20 from 1-4 pm. To make other arrangements or for questions please call Peggy Muir at 207-504-1132.

Education in the Arts Studio

Open Studio is a fun place to spend Saturday mornings during winter between 10am and 1pm. Friends of MAC and local artists are on hand to help those new to art and those reconnecting with skills learned long ago. Check our website for dates and offerings.

Continuing Classes with Susan Mendes-Brown on Saturday mornings at 9, music for preschoolers and their parents. A fun class filled with movement, music and stories. Check our website for more information.

New classes beginning in January, please check MAC's website for information on registering.

MAC invites artists 0-5, along with their caregivers, to explore and express themselves through the process of creat-

ing. Children will be given the opportunity to experiment myriad materials and methods with a focus on the experiential process of making. Experiences aim to accommodate various ages and interest, while developing fine and gross motor skills and fostering a lifelong love of the arts.

Teens - join us at MAC beginning in January to delve into a variety of artistic experiences. You will have the unique opportunity to explore media and processes at your own pace in a supportive and experiential environment. Create your own graffiti stencil, try your hand at printmaking, screen print an article of clothing using your very own design, dabble in jewelry making, and much more! Worried about transportation? We have you covered - simply take the bus to the studio and catch your own ride home. Open to grades 6-12.

About the instructor, Jennifer Stonebraker holds an M Ed in Studio Art Education and has been an art teacher for over ten years in both private and public schools. She is committed to providing a secure and challenging environment for her students. Extremely passionate about the arts and energetic in her teaching, Jennifer inspires students to develop their individual creative voice by emphasizing and instilling an appreciation for the arts and independent creative thinking through high quality, individualized, and student centered instruction.

For more information on the Merrymeeting Arts Center, its history and current doings, please visit www.merrymeetingartscenter.org.

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Library News

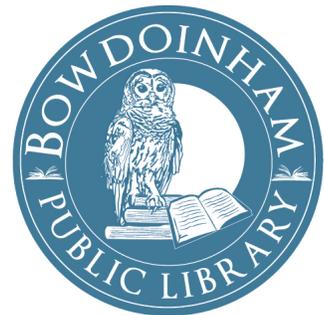
By Kate Cutko

In November, the Bowdoinham Community School hosted Maine author-illustrator Anne Sibley O'Brien for 3 events aimed at welcoming diversity. Anne led a schoolwide assembly and visited each grade to talk about her work and how books are useful tools to connect people across differences. Anne also led a workshop called "Books as Bridges" for

MSAD 75 parents and teachers on why diverse books matter and how to use them. She shared exciting research that shows how exposure to diverse characters in children's picture books can increase empathy and that cross-racial scenes in picture books build acceptance. The evening ended with a community conversation about how Bowdoinham as a whole can welcome diversity.

These events were organized by a parent led group at the Bowdoinham Community School called Caring Kids. The group received a grant from the Maine Humanities Council and received private donations from community members.

Bowdoinham Library received a grant from the Maine State Library Fund to create a special book project that had its debut during the O'Brien author visit.



The "I'm Your Neighbor Welcoming Library" is a portable book collection of acclaimed picture books featuring the immigrant, refugee, or "new arrival" experience. This traveling library has just been made available to Maine school and public libraries for monthly loan. The travelling set is not only the hardcover collection of 25 books, but also includes a modular wooden bookcase that can easily be erected in the host library setting. "We tried to remove every obstacle we could think of that might deter librarians from accessing these important books: time

spent selecting titles, cost of purchasing books and even limited shelf space", says Library Director Kate Cutko, who created the library along with Kirsten Cappy of CuriousCity in Portland.

Each book contains a discussion guide affixed to the inside back cover to facilitate engagement in the topics of diversity and welcoming. Whether it is a parent discussing a picture book with a child or a classroom gathered for a read-aloud, these books will foster crucial discussions of what it means to arrive in a new culture, country, or community.

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Comprehensive Planning Committee Update

By Joanne Joy, Chair

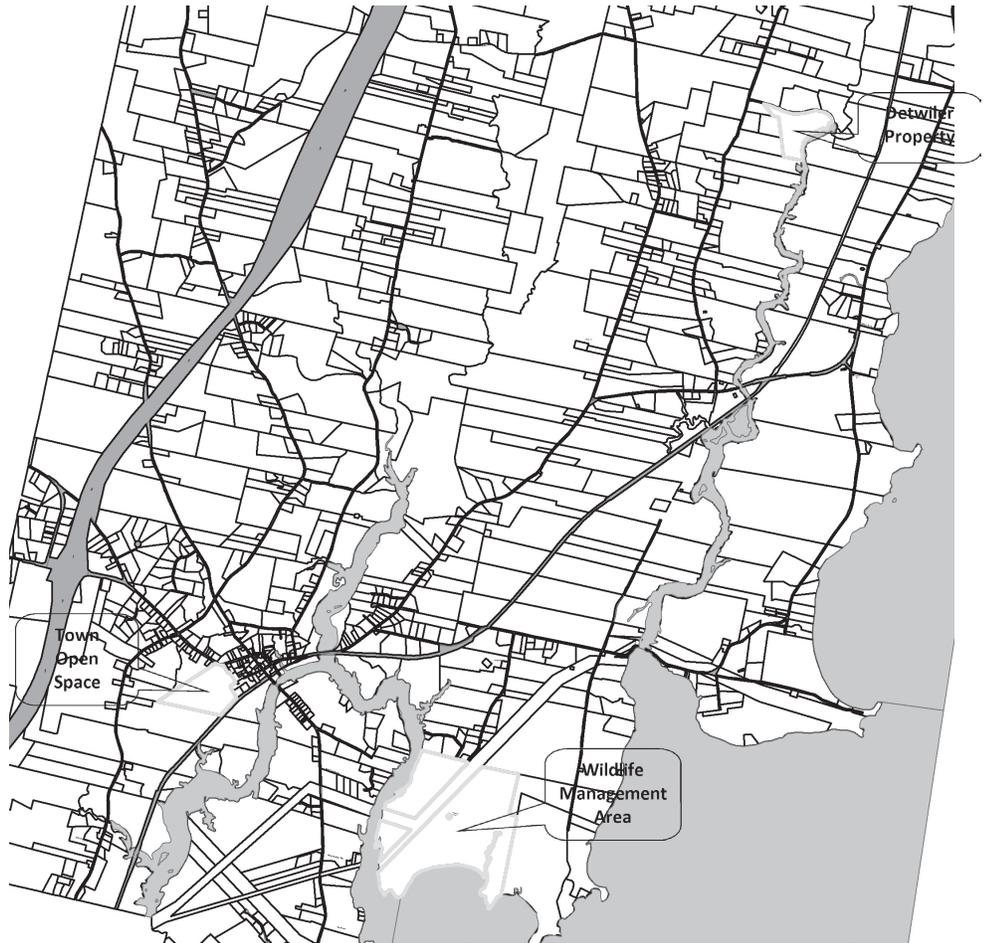
The Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) is charged with overseeing implementation of the 10-Year Comprehensive Plan approved in 2014. With the proposed relocation of the Public Works from the waterfront, implementing the Waterfront Plan was determined to be the logical starting place. The process of that move, however, takes a lot of time! We have added other strategies so now are working on implementing the Comprehensive Plan in three areas; 1) the Waterfront, 2) starting an inventory of Bowdoinham's awesome outdoor resources, and 3) just recently discussions have branched out to include something like a virtual tour of historic landmarks and buildings.

The committee has had some great discussions about ways to implement the community member generated existing Waterfront Plan approved in 2005. This spring, the CPC will be asking for more input, holding sessions and inviting all community members to share and advocate for their priorities.

Highlighting Awesome Places in town is easy for this group! Access to the bay, the rivers, the trees, for many kinds of recreating in our own town is a gift! We are trying to be realistic about our volunteer capacities to promote the outdoors, so have agreed to initially promote three outdoor public access spaces, Wildes Road Wildlife Management Area, Detwiler Trail (by the old dump), and the new Cathance Meadows which starts by the current public works area. This also provides an opportunity for your input!

The questionnaire can be filled out online at www.bowdoinham.com or paper copies are available at the Town Office.

We would like more members! The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, 6:30-8:00pm at the Coombs Municipal Building and all are welcome. Contact Nicole Briand, Director of Planning & Development at nbriand@bowdoinham.com or call 666-5531.



Information Sheet for Bowdoinham Public Recreation Areas

Please help the Comprehensive Plan Committee let our community know about outdoor recreational opportunities in Bowdoinham by telling us what you know about the public land in our town.

Recreation Area Visited (Refer to Map):

Is the Recreation Area marked? Describe any landmarks:

Is parking available? Describe parking options:

If there are any paths, trails or roads in the Recreation Area, describe their condition and where they lead:

Are there any hazards located in the Recreation Area that you are aware of? If so, describe them and their location:

If you regularly use the Recreation Area, what do you do there in different seasons? (e.g. birdwatching, hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing, etc.) What other uses of the Recreation Area are you aware of?

Is there anything else that you think it is important to know about this Recreation Area?

Perry's Garden A Community Garden

By Brian Smith

Perry was a senior citizen who lived at Bowdoinham Estates. Perry came to me in 2015 and asked if he could use my land for a garden to supply the residents with fresh produce. The land had not been used in 30 years and was not easy to prepare for a garden. Despite poor health and failing knees, Perry worked tirelessly to establish the garden, and provided his neighboring residents of Bowdoinham Estates with fresh produce. His garden was sizable, located up the driveway behind "FARMCART 04008", with much emphasis on vegetables that could be preserved.

Perry passed away this past July and the garden has been neglected ever since his death. I would like to make the plot available for residents of Bowdoinham, and others, to use for their own individual garden plots. My goal is to have it available to anyone willing to put in the time and effort to grow their own vegetables. Individual small portions of the larger plot will be made available to prospective participants. A committee of four local residents is in place to set up the operating rules and guidelines of the garden. It is expected that we will need such things as a tool shed and tools, hoses for the existing water well, some pump maintenance, compost, and some fence and stakes to mark the plots. I have a tractor and will do the initial tilling, but will need to borrow a tiller to use on my tractor. Through SeedMoney.org, an on line funding site, and the generous support of Bowdoinham residents and the non profit status of Bowdoinham Community Development Initiative, (BCDI), \$1075 has been raised to help support the cost of this project.

My goal is to continue "PERRY'S GARDEN" as a tribute to Perry and his vision for helping feed his neighbors and friends. As the garden has not been maintained since Perry's death in July, I have no photos of a robust and thriving



garden, only those of a neglected plot of vegetables and weeds that I would like

to resurrect into a thriving community garden for those willing to grow their own produce. You can see in one of the photos, Perry's walker, just where he left it on the day before he passed away.

BCDI will be administering the funds associated with this project. People interested in having a garden plot, or otherwise helping with this project, can contact

Brian Smith at "brian.luana@gmail.com" or by calling 666-3383.

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay 2017 – 2018 Speaker Series

ALL TALKS 7:00 PM AT CURTIS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, BRUNSWICK, UNLESS NOTED

- OCTOBER 11** **Be Tick Smart**
Emer Smith, Field Epidemiologist, Maine CDC
- NOVEMBER 08** **Of Sturgeon, Crocodiles & Ice**
Jon Turk, Chemist, Environmental Scientist, Author & Expeditioneer
•Beam Classroom, Visual Arts Bldg., Bowdoin College•
Co-sponsored by Bowdoin Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum
- DECEMBER 13** **The Amazing Sea Lamprey**
Steve Coghlin, Fisheries Ecologist, UMO
- JANUARY 10** **A Tale of Three Privies**
Lee Crammer, Historic Archaeologist, MHPC, Ret.
FOMB Annual Meeting & Potluck: 6:00pm, Public Welcome
•Cram Alumni House, Bowdoin College•
83 Federal St., Brunswick
- FEBRUARY 14** **We Love Maine Bats**
Steve Pelletier, Wildlife Biologist, Stantec
- MARCH 14** **Solar Energy for ME**
Dylan Voorhees, Climate & Clean Energy Director, NRCM & Rep. Seth Berry
- APRIL 11** **Rewilding the East**
John Davis, Conservation Athlete & Advocate, Wildlands Network
- MAY 09** **Charles Allen's Kennebec in Photos: 1898-1907**
Earle Shettleworth, Architectural Historian, MHPC, Ret.

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Contact Kathleen McGee, 666-3598 or fomb@comcast.net for more information.

www.friendsofmerrymeetingbay.org

Garden Club

By Betsy Steen

There's a new kid in town! In June 2017, Bowdoinham's ACOA (Advisory Committee on Aging) applied for a "Quick Challenge Grant" from AARP to see what our town could do in 90 days to create change and improve the quality of life here at the community level. There were 1200 applications from across America. Eighty-seven won, and Bowdoinham ACOA was one of them!

Bowdoinham ACOA's proposal was to help people who have difficulty gardening on the ground, but who still want to raise their own vegetables, by purchasing 6 raised garden beds. The overall goals of the grant were to increase food security and decrease social isolation. Meant to be a pilot project, it could be continued in

the future. Two people each from Bowdoinham, Richmond, and Bowdoin were chosen to receive the beds, which were assembled and delivered by the Handy Brigade of the Bowdoinham Masonic Lodge. Country Fare donated the tested soil. To address the social aspect of the grant, there were three meetings, open to the public of all 3 communities, to see if there was interest in a garden club and two educational meetings. There was also a community meal featuring fresh local produce.

After bringing together interested people, the first teaching meeting, "Raised Bed Basics", presented by Sagadahoc County Co-operative Extension, was held Oct. 17, in the Kendall Room. The second "How to Put Your Raised Beds to Bed for the Winter" was Nov. 14, at the Enterprise Grange in Richmond.

It was decided at these meetings to con-

tinue as a tri-town group. Diana Mosher suggested the name "Not Your Mother's Garden Club" to emphasize that our goals and interests were more of the 'play in the dirt' sort than flower arranging and prize rose competitions.

Though still evolving, for now we propose to have meetings the 1st Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise specified, from 1-2:30, rotating the hosting and planning responsibilities between the three towns. Our dues will be \$10 a person per year. The next meeting, All About Seeds and Seed Catalogs will be hosted by Bowdoin in the Kendall Room, Coombs Municipal Building, Tuesday, January 9th from 1-2:30.

Our goal is to encourage and educate on all types of gardening, from raised beds to large home gardens (vegetable or flower), and on to farming. All are welcome. Please join us!! Bring a friend.

Food Pantry News

By Linda Jariz

The week before Thanksgiving I stopped in at the Food Pantry (open on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 5:00 pm). I had a couple of questions and knew someone would be working there who might help answer them. Margie McMullen was working that day. Margie is a dedicated volunteer who has been with the Food Pantry from the beginning and is also on the Board of Directors. She is one of the consistent people clients see routinely (along with Edna Seeley). As it turned out Margie needed some help that day and I became her assistant; working at the Food Pantry for the first time. I usually do other things on behalf of the Pantry so this was a new experience.

Many of you know that the Food Pantry has turkeys and fixings available during this holiday. And the Food Pantry was also giving out turkey and fixings for the families who participate in the School Backpack Program (which provides weekend food assistance for the kids participating).

Demand that Wednesday was pretty



high. However, the process remains the same every week. Clients wait patiently for their turn to come into the small space where the food is kept. Each person indicates what food items they would like to have for the week. We do this because it allows for individual and family food choices and needs. Prepackaged boxes of food often contain items that a family simply can't use. When one client is finished then the next client comes in and the process is repeated. With Thanksgiving coming up, additional items were available for the holiday. Each client could select from juices, canned vegetables, stuffing mixes, soups, cereals, olives to name a few. There were also baking supplies like flour and sugar. There were fresh vegetables: potatoes, carrots, leeks, broccoli and parsnip. There were dinner rolls, butter/margarine and eggs – and, finally, the turkey.

The food pantry also had other regular items such as some bathroom and clean-

ing supplies and pet food. And many more food items.

ing supplies and pet food. And many more food items.

Clients bring their own bags (or we have some for those who don't) and leave with bags filled to help meet their food needs for the week. Signing up to use the Food Pantry is simple but on that day, we did not have any new sign-ups.

Margie was a wonderful teacher – showing me the ropes and we had provided food for everyone by 5:00 pm.

I was struck by the gratefulness and kindness of the clients, the generosity of the community and my own gratitude for being part of the wonderful effort.

The Food Pantry thanks everyone who donated food and money to help make the holiday season a bit brighter for us all – those giving, those receiving and those doing both. May the new year bring you all many blessings!

Please note that donation drop-off spots are the Town Office, the Town Landing Café and the Food Pantry. The recycling barn is not able to accept food donations – please do not drop Food Pantry items there. Thank you.

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Community Calendar

January

15th

Town Office Closed

25th

Public Hearing - Recreational Marijuana
Kendall Meeting Room, 7pm

February

10th

Ice & Smelt Festival

19th

Town Office Closed

Town Board & Committee Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and held in 2nd Floor Meeting Room at John C. Coombs Municipal Building, 13 School Street.

Select Board

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

Planning Board

4th Thursday of Month at 7:00pm

Committee on Aging

3rd Monday of Month at 2:30pm

Community Development Advisory Committee

1st Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Comprehensive Planning Committee

2nd Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Reminder - Sand Bucket Brigade

The Bowdoinham Fire and Rescue Department will be distributing 5-gallon buckets of winter sand this winter. This program is designed for those residents that cannot pick up their own winter sand from the courtesy sand pile located at the Public Works Facility.

If you would like a bucket of sand dropped at your residence, please contact Missy Halsey at the Town Office, 666-5531, or assistantclerk@bowdoinham.com. Missy will then forward your information to the Fire & Rescue Department. After you have received your first bucket, please contact the Fire & Rescue Department for a refill at 666-3505 and leave a message.

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

Town of Bowdoinham
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Bowdoinham, ME 04008

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