



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Volume 18, Issue 3

www.bowdoinham.com

May-June 2020

Municipal Updates

By Tom Woodin, Town Manager

Although municipal buildings are closed, municipal business is being conducted on a regular, consistent basis only without direct face to face contact with others. Municipal employees are working modified shifts to minimize exposure to each other while at the same time performing their job functions. The recycling barn is closed but roadside trash pick-up continues; phone messages are being returned; business is being conducted via email; Public Works is working cautiously while observing physical distancing; and most business transactions can and are being conducted either through the mail or through various links on the town website (www.bowdoinham.com) under online services. For those of us working in municipal government, we are constantly gathering information from the state, Maine Municipal Association, Centers for Disease Control, our attorneys and others, and we are making decisions on an ongoing basis.

I appreciate everyone's efforts to limit and stop the spread of the virus. Please continue to be diligent in your social distancing when you have to leave your homes. If you don't have to leave, please stay home. And please help any elderly or immune-compromised neighbors as much as you can to keep them safe.

Town Meeting & Elections

On April 14th, the Select Board voted to postpone Town Meeting, previously scheduled for June 10th and the Election previously scheduled for June 9th. Elections will now be held on July 14th with the State's Election and Town Meeting will be on July 15th. This vote also au-

tomatically extends other deadlines such as the deadline for citizen petitions and any action on submitted petitions as well as the deadline for candidates to submit nomination papers for Select Board and School Board positions.

We are working to ensure both this events will be held in a safe manner that meets the State's guidelines.

Board & Committee Meetings

The Maine Legislature adopted changes to the public meetings law to allow for remote meeting participation including voting on issues. For the time being, the Town of Bowdoinham will be conducting public meetings via video conferencing. This is in accordance with emergency legislation (PL 2019, c. 617) enacted by the Maine legislature on March 17, 2020, which temporarily authorizes remote participation at municipal board and committee meetings by board members and the public.

The Select Board has arranged for the public to safely view or listen to various municipal board meetings such as the Select Board, Finance Advisory Committee and Planning Board via Zoom. The directions to join the meeting via Zoom are located in the meeting event on the Bowdoinham Calendar on the website. Additionally, the public will still be able to watch the Select Board meetings

through livestream (https://townhall-streams.com/towns/bowdoinham_me), this link to Town Hall Streams is also available on our website, on the Select Board's webpage.

Trash & Recycling Update

To protect the health and safety of Town residents and employees:

1. For the month of May, no trash tags are required for curbside trash pick-up in Bowdoinham. This will eliminate the need for residents to leave home in order to purchase tags. The Town will cover the cost of trash pick-up through the end of May. *(Please do not put out more trash than usual so we can avoid overwhelming the pickup service.)*
2. Curbside trash and recycling pick-up continue to happen on Thursday mornings.
3. For curbside recycling, the Town asks that you please hang on to your recyclables as long as possible to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure to Recycle Barn staff who sort the materials.
4. If you need to use curbside recycling, please be sure to use clear bags and sort the materials in accordance with our Waste Handling Guidelines.
5. Until further notice, the Recycle Barn remains CLOSED to the public; please do NOT leave trash or other materials on the premises.

INSIDE

Municipal Updates	1	Bowdoinham 1820 Trivia	4	Library News	9
Peary's Garden News	2	Merrymeeting Hall News	5	CPC News	10
Farmers' Market New	2	Morning Jo	5	Seeking Nominations	10
Election Information	3	Food Pantry News	6	Town Tax Club	10
Permitting Changes	3	Arts Center News	7	WasteHandlingGuidelines	11
Internet Project Update	3	BCDI News	8-9	Municipal Contacts	12

Peary's Garden News

By Lily Montgomery

Lots of exciting things are happening at Peary's as we prepare for our third season of community gardening! We've again expanded growing space this year to make room for new members and to shift existing plots to higher ground and more desirable soil. A huge thank you to Doug Tourtelotte for volunteering his time and equipment to remove stumps and get this new space ready for tilling!

We are also thrilled to share that Peary's is the recipient of one of BCDI's COVID-19 Community Response Grants. These funds will allow us to purchase an enormous load of compost to amend our soil and improve growing conditions for all our gardeners. Peary's was founded in an effort to provide increased food access and garden space for anyone in need and we continue to be blown away by the interest and support we've received from this community. Thank you to BCDI and all of Bowdoinham!

With this new open land and healthier soil, we're able to offer close to twenty garden plots this year. We expect to have several unclaimed spaces by the start of the growing season, and it is our intent to offer these uncommitted plots, at no charge, to anyone who would like to grow for the Bowdoinham Food Pantry. All we ask is for participating gardeners to agree to maintain and care for the plot for the full season.

Peary's garden is open to any and all who are interested in growing their own food. Plots are 10'x 25' and cost \$25 for the season. Half plots are available as well (\$15), and we are happy to waive the fee if cost is an issue. Membership includes water access, seeds, tools, spring/fall tilling, organic fertilizer, manure and advice if needed. Peary's is a family friendly place and we welcome gardeners of all ages and abilities. Please get in touch if you have any questions at all or are interested in gardening with us!

Lily Montgomery -

lilypmontgomery@gmail.com

Brian Smith - brian.luana@gmail.com

Farmers' Market News

By David Asmussen

The Bowdoinham Farmers' Market returns Saturdays starting June 13th, 8:30-12:00 at the Maily Waterfront Park! Come on down and stock up with produce, meats, bread, dairy and treats. I was going to write about how, like most places this spring, you will notice changes to keep everyone safe and healthy. How pre-ordered and grab n' go items will be prevalent, how we will ask you to keep 6+ foot distance from vendors and customers and thank you for wearing face coverings. Also how the plan is to follow the best practices recommended by the CDC and what functions well at other Farmers' Markets as we all work together to keep the community healthy and well fed. But I decided not to write about that...

Instead, I want to say how challenging it will be to not hang out and chat with everyone that comes to market. The social aspect of this market, or any public market, is one of the great joys of a fine community. It is an opportunity for serendipitous meetings, planning a weekend adventure, gossip, kids to scramble around, sitting and savoring some delicious snacks... you know, that markety stuff. When we met very early in the year, we had penciled in plans to get some card tables, and a checkerboard to encourage

the very opposite of what we all must do now. Now, we must hunker down as if it were a snow day to safely let the plow trucks clear the road. During this extended snow day, we can take this as an opportunity to pause and evaluate what we're doing, and what is truly valuable.



With our precautions the metaphorical (and real) snow will melt soon enough, and things will be "normal" again, but it is worthwhile considering what "normal" we want to return.

If I may relay sentiments from other farmers in town, we are so thankful for the amazing support and patience as we shift to different outlets and develop new systems. We recognize this is a difficult time, and hope that we can make access to food, one less thing you have to worry about. Stay tuned to the Bowdoinham Farmers' Market Facebook page for news on how the market will work this year. In the meantime check out the UMaine Extension website for a great map of local food options.

One thing is for sure, the vegetables keep growing, the cows keep eating grass to make milk, and flour, sugar and butter are still delicious. We look forward to seeing you at the market this year.

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Election Information

By Pam Ross, Town Clerk

Important dates to remember:

Tuesday, July 14th is the State Primary/Special Referendum, Municipal Referendum, and MSAD # 75 District Budget Referendum Election. This Election is planned to be held at the Bowdoinham Town Hall from 8:00am-8:00pm.

Monday, June 29th is the date voters changing Party Enrollment must do so by in order to participate in the July Primary Election. If you are unenrolled you can enroll in a qualified party anytime.

Absentee Ballots will be ready thirty days prior to the election. To request an absentee ballot, you can:

- call the Town Office 666-5531; or
- electronically complete the form provided on the Secretary of State's Website: <http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>; or
- print the application form the Town of Bowdoinham's website: www.bowdoinham.com.

Please go to www.bowdoinham.com to view the sample ballots for the July 14th election. If you have any questions, you can call Pam at the Town Office 666-5531.

Permitting Changes

By Nicole Briand, Planning & Development

While our municipal office is closed to the public, all Planning Board and CEO applications, Plumbing applications and application materials must be mailed to the Town Office at 13 School St, Bowdoinham, ME 04008. Planning Board applications should be mailed to the attention of Nicole Briand and CEO & Plumbing applications should be mailed to the attention of Darren Carey.

In addition, for Site Plan Review, Subdivision, Shoreland Zoning and Floodplain Management permit applications, an electronic copy of all application materials must be included for the purpose of public noticing.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Briand at nbriand@bowdoinham.com or Darren Carey at dcarey@bowdoinham.com. You may also leave us a message at 666-5531 and we will get back to you.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we navigate through this difficult time.

Internet Project Update

By Alan Hinsey

You may have noticed a flurry of activity on the roads in the northern part of Bowdoinham. The LCI Fiber Optic Internet crews are busy installing 25 miles of fiber optic cable to the utility poles in that area of town. The Town of Bowdoinham and LCI received a ConnectME grant, which when combined with investments by the Town and LCI, will result in blazing fast fiber optic broadband being made available to 216 addresses that previously had very slow, or no, internet. The final fiber placement, splicing, and testing will occur in May. To-date, LCI has received over 110 applications and anticipates activating the first customers in Bowdoinham in June.

There is still time to apply for the O.P.E.N.™ Fiber Optic Internet service and be included in the first wave of installations. If you live on one of the following roads just go to www.LCIFiber.net and enter your address to see if your location is included in the ConnectME Project area: Batchelder Road, Cranberry Way, Hatch Point Lane, River Road, Beechnut Ridge, Dingley Road, Hunter Lane, S. Pleasant Street, Carding Machine Road, Eagle Wing Lane, Island View Lane, Wallace Way, Carlson Cross Road, Fiddlehead Lane, Pioneer Road, White Road.

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Clothes Closet

When the Clothes Closet at the Nazarene Church (7 School Street- corner of School and Main Streets) opens again, we will have spring and summer clothes out. Our hours will once again be Wednesdays 3:30-6pm.

Until then, anyone with an immediate or urgent need can contact Christina Couch at 351-0289 or followingtheson@hotmail.com.

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

BHS Trivia Questions: Bowdoinham 1820

By Betsy Steen

Since we couldn't use these questions about Bowdoinham in 1820 at the Census Party (which didn't happen), we'll give them to you here... a sort of Mini-Research project. If you want to send me your answers, I'll let you know how you did. Answers in next month's newsletter.

1. What was the population of Bowdoinham in 1820? What was it in 2010?
2. What towns did Bowdoinham include in 1820?
3. Was there a bridge over the Cathance in 1820?
4. Name 3 buildings here still that were in Bowdoinham Village in 1820.
5. Name 3 other homes outside the village area of Bowdoinham in 1820.
6. Where was church held in 1820?
7. What was the main industry in 1820?
8. What means of transportation were there in 1820?
9. What did Bowdoinham have for fire equipment in 1820?
10. In what state was Bowdoinham at the beginning of 1820?

11. In what county was Bowdoinham in 1820?
12. Did Bowdoinham have a Post Office in 1820?
13. Was there a school in Bowdoinham Village in 1820? Where?
14. Were there Inns and Taverns in Bowdoinham in 1820? Name 2.
15. Name 5 roads which were in Bowdoinham in 1820.
16. Were there Fraternal Organizations in Bowdoinham in 1820? Which?
17. How much did the Town raise for schools in 1820?
18. What was every man's business in 1820?
19. Were there Cemeteries in Town in 1820? Where?
20. Name 5 families that were here in 1820 and that still have descendants here today?
21. By what name was Bowdoinham Village known in 1820 and until 1850-60?
22. Name 3 businesses in town in 1820 which we don't have today.
23. What sailing vessel was built in Bowdoinham in 1820?

25. What bill, passed in 1807 by congress, badly hurt New England's, (including Bowdoinham's) shipping (and shipbuilding) interests?
26. Did Bowdoinham have a doctor in 1820?
27. Who were the selectmen in 1820?
28. What were a Bowdoinham laborer's wages in 1820?
29. How could people communicate / get the word out in 1820?
30. How was time kept and viewed in Bowdoinham in 1820? Was there a 'Town Clock'?
31. How old was Bowdoinham in 1820?

Contact BHS

Mail:

PO Box 101, Bowdoinham

Email:

info@bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org

Website:

www.bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/thebowdoinhamhistoricalsociety

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Merrymeeting Hall News

By Betsy Steen

Like all of us, Merrymeeting Hall is waiting—waiting to hear again the buzz of saws and the sound of hammers, and the bantering of her dear Gentlemen of the Lower Level. She is waiting to hear the clatter of dishes in the sink, the swish of broom or vacuum, the voices of her loyal Friday Ladies. She misses the good smells from the kitchen, the singing bowl, the click of knitting needles, the soft sounds of conversations in French, the intense chatter of the game players. She misses the company of those who come mornings to chat or play cribbage, her artists who come to paint for others' causes. She is awaiting the day when at last she can welcome all to come again to use her cheerful spaces, when she can once again be a place of merry meetings.

The daffodils in the South wall garden will be opening their golden faces in the next day or so. Sampson's Brook (Carras Brook according to some) is dancing over its rocky bed, out back. Someday there will be benches where one can rest and watch it flow and hear its joyful rushing to the Bay.

Though the activity at Merrymeeting is stilled, the bills continue. Since all our 2020 fundraising efforts so far have been canceled, and money from rentals is no longer coming in, Merrymeeting Hall would be grateful for any donations you can afford.

Thank you, Bowdoinham. Be Well.

Morning Jo

By Jo Werther

How to Cope with Covid-19 Stress? One Day at a Time.

Feeling a little crazy by now? You are not alone. People, around the corner and around the world, are feeling scared, angry, and sad. We're socially-distancing. Uncertainty is looming. Stress is mounting. And we're suffering a hundred and one different kinds of loss.

In short, we are grieving. People tend to think of death when we use the word "grief," but the truth is that any kind of loss and change can trigger the experience of grief. That's what we're all feeling right now.

At the same time, there is a way to sustain (or regain) our emotional wellbeing no matter what is going on outside of us.

Start with the mind. Begin raising your awareness of what's going on in your head. Get familiar with your typical thoughts, especially the ones that recur, and most especially if they're negative. If you find yourself gripped by negative thoughts, consider making up an affirmation to the contrary and practicing saying it to yourself over and over again: things like, "I am safe. I can trust myself to know what to do. This too shall pass."

Consider your body. All of the stress you're feeling is neurochemically encoded. That means that it's circulating throughout your body and affecting every system in your body. So you have to get up and move. The more you move, the more you release it. Stand up, stretch, walk,

do some yoga or tai chi; put on music that gets you going and dance, or sing, or both! Break a sweat. You will feel a positive difference.

Your "spirit," or how you feel, follows from your mind and your body.



So when you find yourself feeling down, anxious, angry, or any combination of unpleasant feelings, take a look at what's going on in your head. And if you've been sedentary for too

long, get up and move.

Human beings are mind-body-spirit creatures, which just means that what we think, what we do, and how we feel are connected. Each one affects the other ones. So the trick is to practice simple self-care, in these simple ways, every day.

It All Comes Down to the ABCs of Emotional Wellbeing. Just remember ABC: Acceptance of the moment at hand, one **B**reath at a time, with **C**ompassion for yourself and for everyone else too. Over and over again. One day at a time.

To hear the podcasts I recorded about coping with the stress of Covid-19, copy these links into your web browser:

- Episode Fifty is for everyone bit.ly/3au4Y0S
- Episode Fifty-One is especially for teens and twenty-somethings bit.ly/39u1iLt

Questions/Comments, email me at jo@jowertherlcsw@gmail.com.

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Food Pantry News

By Hannah Burroughs

Greetings and THANK YOU from the Bowdoinham Food Pantry: as record numbers of our community use the pantry, others have responded in turn by donating goods, offering financial support, and helping out.

Many organizations have lent a hand, too: The Merrymeeting Arts Center has shared their space with us so that we can expand our staging area to set up rows of pre-packed food and maintain social distance between volunteers during prep work (pictured). Beyond their weekly donations of food, The Good Shepherd Food Bank recently sent the pantry, and each of their partnering food pantries, a \$700 grant in recognition of increased food insecurity across the region.

We continue to be open every Wednesday from 4-6pm at the waterfront, and all Bowdoin & Bowdoinham residents are welcome with no income verification required. Jenn Dwinal, the food pantry's new Volunteer Coordinator, has demonstrated flexibility, organization, and quick thinking as she oversees safe food

distribution in accordance with CDC guidelines. BCDI recently awarded The Food Pantry a grant to help pay for Jenn's added hours as she responds to changes and increased need. Jenn has moved us to the model of offering pre-packed boxes of food for each household, including two dinners, two lunches, and a breakfast option. Clients drive up to an outdoor table staffed by a volunteer to pick up their groceries.

Despite school closings, the backpack program continues, thanks to Caitlin Johnson and the volunteers who deliver



food to homes on Saturdays to supply children with healthy snacks and meals over the weekend, when MSAD 75's lunch pick-ups aren't available. The Food Pantry also continues to bring food to a weekly sharing table at Bowdoinham Estates and a Little Free Pantry at the Greenleaf Apartments.

Looking ahead, there are volunteer roles to be filled, from picking up donations to helping with distribution. Visit Facebook and our website to see updated volunteer needs.

Our annual meeting will be postponed until the fall.

We accept donations from 2-3pm on Wednesdays and 10-12 on Saturdays. Helpful food items include peanut butter/jelly, pasta/sauce, canned tuna/chicken, granola bars, macaroni & cheese, canned soup, cereal (low sugar), meat (hamburger/chicken), eggs, and fresh or shelf-stable milk.

To be in touch, email us at bowdo-inhamfoodpantry@gmail.com, call at 751-7779, or find us on Facebook. Donations can be made on our website at www.bowdo-inhamfoodpantry.org.

Last week's visitors amounted to nearly triple the pantry's pre-pandemic averages, but the community continues to respond in turn.

Thank you, Bowdoinham, and stay safe.



Assessor's Alley

Throughout the months of May and June, I will be visiting properties that obtained building permits over the course of the last two years. The purpose of the visit is to update property records, establish a true and accurate list of taxable real estate.

If you may any questions please contact me, Darren Carey at 666-5531 or dcarey@bowdoinham.com.

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News from Merrymeeting Arts Center

By Jan Marks

The Governor has just extended the stay at home order until May 31st, and for many of us responsible social distancing and isolation from friends, family and neighbors is becoming more challenging.

But spring is here, birds are chirping, plants are poking their heads up from the earth, and art is alive and well in Bowdoinham! Making art is a great way to express yourself and pass some time while you're not out doing other things.

Make Art

Use supplies you have at home, gather some interesting items brought to us by Mother Nature, either in your yard or while out on a walk. Let your imagination run wild. Make a sculpture out of branches, dried mud, moss, rocks, play dough or ??? Cut paper into shapes for a mosaic or collage.

Paint a picture. Use scraps of yarn or twine to knot a plant hanger. Knit, sew scraps of fabric into a tote bag, make a simple loom out of 4 pieces of wood and some small nails and do a weaving out



of yarn, vines, cut up strips of fabric or rags. Carve a walking stick out of a fallen branch. Take a camera

out on a walk and see what interesting, fun photos you can capture.

After you've finished your creation, take a picture of it and email the picture to MAC at merrymeetingartscenter@gmail.com. All submissions will be posted on a special Responsible Distancing Virtual Art Show page on our website at merrymeetingartscenter.org. So get out, or in there, make art, and share what you come up with with the Bowdoinham community and Merrymeeting Arts Center.

New and Improved Website

While the gallery and studio remain closed, in compliance with safe practices and Gov.Mills' order, MAC has been using the time to create a new and improved website. In addition to the special

Responsible Distancing Virtual Art Show, there is a calendar page with information and images about what's going on, including classes/workshops (once they resume), and there will be a link to Eventbrite to make signing up and paying for classes even easier. Check it out at merrymeetingartscenter.org.

Studio News

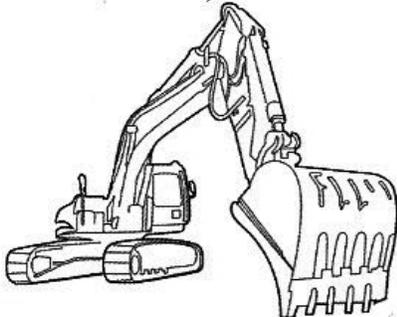
Although the studio remains closed for now, we are using this time to clean, reorganize, and plan for classes/workshops once it is safe to hold them again. Thanks to Fred Haer, we have a new, efficient heating system that will allow us to comfortably use the studio space year-round. As you walk by, check out the rainbows in the windows - rainbows are a symbol of hope, and a sure sign that art is still alive in Bowdoinham!

If you have ideas for future studio classes, workshops of other making art related ideas, please send them to merrymeetingartstudio@gmail.com.

We miss everyone and look forward to seeing you all again soon. In the meantime, please continue to practice responsible social distancing, stay safe, and stay healthy.

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BCDI Community Response Grants

By Ingrid Leschefske, BCDI Program Manager

We hope this finds you as well as you can be in this challenging time. We are all struggling to adjust as best we can, but we have been inspired by the strength of our community in the face of this public health and economic crisis. Bowdoinham is a town of great resilience, of neighbors helping neighbors, and of coming together through the best and the worst of times.

At the end of March, BCDI's Board of Directors met (via ZOOM) to discuss what BCDI could do to help address the current needs of our community. Through this discussion and the quick work of BCDI's volunteer Board members, a project was created with

the goal of helping to shoulder some of the financial burdens our small businesses are facing during this challenging time. BCDI decided to respond to the COVID-19 crisis by offering cash grants of up to \$1,000 intended for businesses, organizations, and individuals

whose work supports BCDI's core mission with a focus on providing access to food and/or other basic needs to the Bowdoinham community.

BCDI was pleased to announce the recipients of the first round of BCDI COVID-19 Community Response Grants in mid-April. There were many strong applicants and difficult decisions had to be made. Due to the very generous support of BCDI members Wayne and Lynn Sanford, by the time the first round application deadline approached BCDI had already raised \$5,000 toward a second round of COVID-19 Community Response grants. Anyone who missed out on the first round of funding is encour-

aged to reapply. You may apply for a grant here: <https://www.bcdimaine.org/covid19-grants>.

During the first round of the BCDI COVID-19 Community Response Grants, \$7,000 was awarded as follows:

- Apple Creek Farm: Apple Creek Farm will use the grant funds to accelerate plans to open a farm store given the need to buy food locally. They plan to offer their own products and collaborate with other farms in the community to offer Bowdoinham residents a safe place to get food.

- Bowdoinham Food Pantry: The Bowdoinham Food Pantry has already seen a significant increase in demand. The grant will support a temporary increase in hours

for the coordinator during the pandemic state of emergency and will help cover increased expenses such as gloves, sanitizer, masks, and other items needed for the safety of all.

- East of Eden Flower Farm: East of Eden Flower Farm has had to shift its business strategy in light

of the current crisis and is in need of short term assistance as a result. Grant funds will be used toward the farm's delivery van, which will in turn be used to make door-to-door deliveries for the Bowdoinham Public Library Annual Plant Sale.

- Left Field Farm: Left Field Farm is working to find alternative ways to get people vegetable and herb seedlings and will use grant funds to create an online system for ordering and to cover costs to manage this safely.

- Peary's Community Garden: Peary's Garden is a community garden in Bowdoinham. Given the increased interest in growing our own food, the grant funds will be used to significantly expand



available garden space. Because of this expansion of tillable area, any plots that are available after the Garden's regular gardeners have signed up and paid their fee, will be available at no cost, to any gardener who is will-

ing to plant and maintain a plot for the benefit of the Bowdoinham Food Pantry.

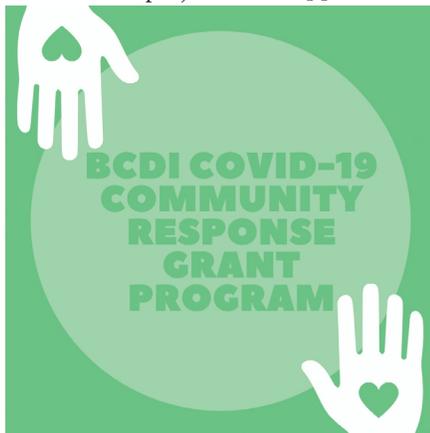
- Six River Farm: Six River Farm has opened a self serve farm stand in response to the current crisis. The grant will support improvements to the farm stand, specifically covering cooler rental and the purchase of tents and signage.

- Stonecipher Farm: Stonecipher Farm has generally sold exclusively to restaurants in the Portland area. Given the current state of emergency, they have shifted to selling food directly on their farm. The grant funds will support improvements to the new farm stand. The new farm stand has already created an opportunity to provide free vegetables, bagged as "seconds", for anyone who needs them. In a short time, Stonecipher Farm has already moved hundreds of pounds of free "seconds" into the Bowdoinham community.

- Tender Soles Farm: Tender Soles Farm is seeking support in continuing to provide safe access to food for the community. Grant funds will be used to defray some of the cost of current pandemic best practices including setting up an online ordering system and the cost of gloves, bags, and other materials to handle food safely.

Individuals wishing to contribute to this effort can do so until Giving Tuesday, May 5, 2020. Please visit our website (<https://www.bcdimaine.org/covid19-grants>) to find our online donation button or email bcdi.maine@gmail.com for more details. BCDI will use 100% of funds donated through May 5th to offer a second round of COVID-19 Community Response grants in May.

Story continued on next page.



In other exciting news, congratulations to Apple Creek Farm, the latest recipient in BCDI's Neighbors Investing In Neighbors Loan/Investment Program! This loan, funded directly by individual BCDI mem-



bers who serve as "investors", was fulfilled in just four days-record time! To say our members are community-minded is truly an understatement! Jake and Abby of Apple Creek Farm will pay back this low-interest loan over the next 36 months, and will use the funds to support the growth of their farm, including infrastructure investments and the purchase of larger equipment. (photo credit: Blue Horse Photography)

BCDI's Loan Program offers low-cost loans to Bowdoinham small businesses, including those that may be unable to obtain loans from commercial lending institutions for reasons such as insufficient credit history. Loan amounts range from \$500 to \$20,000, offer a low interest rate,

and are short-term with repayment expected within 1-3 years. Learn more about BCDI's Loan Program on our website: <https://www.bcdimaine.org/loan-investment>.

In an effort to streamline, last year BCDI decided to move its membership drive and renewal reminders to one month, May Membership Month. May has arrived, and though the world is a different one from when the decision was made to reach out to our community for financial support, we need your financial backing now more than ever. BCDI is a member-driven organization. As a small nonprofit based in a small (but mighty!) town, we rely on your membership to help cover the organizational costs it takes to run BCDI. We know that the work of BCDI is important to you. You tell us regularly that Neighbors Investing in Neighbors makes you feel good, that

Community Conversations was a remarkable coming together of the town, and that keeping Bowdoinham farm-friendly is critically important.

We are always eager to welcome new members, so please send along our information to your family, friends, and neighbors. If you have a business or customers in Bowdoinham please consider becoming a business member of BCDI (<https://www.bcdimaine.org/business-members>) and help support programs and initiatives designed to strengthen Bowdoinham's economy. Everyone benefits from a strong, vibrant, engaged community!

Your support matters, and we hope you will participate in our inaugural May Membership Month! Visit our website to renew or sign-up for membership and to learn more about the benefits of becoming a member: <https://www.bcdimaine.org/membership>. Prefer to connect by mail? Send us a letter, a note, or your membership via the USPS: P.O. Box 343 Bowdoinham, ME 04008!

Be well, Bowdoinham!

Library News

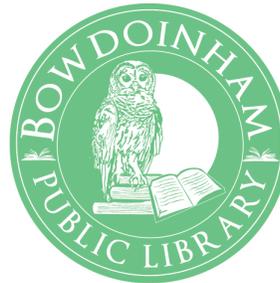
By *Kate Cutko*

By the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox, we hope that the library will have resumed some sort of circulation of its resources. Maybe we will be doing our own version of "curbside service" via our Little Free Library, or maybe we won't. Stay up to date by following the library website and the library Facebook Page. We miss you all and we know you miss your books. For now, hold on to the books you have borrowed and don't worry about fines or due dates. We'll sort it all out.

5th annual...3rd Annual...47th Annual...we here at the Bowdoinham Public Library know how to run strong programs and fundraisers. We bolster, we tweak, we strengthen, and we improve. You've all seen the amazing results of 47 years of running our Plant Sale. You've enjoyed 5 years of an Edible Book Competition and

6 years of "Foods Not Fines" in the month of May. The list goes on. This year has forced changes that none of us ever expected yet we still have found a way to bolster and strengthen, and improvise! This year, the 47th Annual Plant Sale will happen. Instead of enjoying the packed Town Hall, we invite customers to purchase annuals- flowers, vegetables and herbs- online at BowdoinhamPlantSale.com.

Until May 12 you can shop for plants and pay online. The seedlings will be delivered from the greenhouse at Sunset Farms in Bowdoin to individual Bowdoinham resident's homes on the weekend of May 16 and 17. For out-of-town customers we will pick a few convenient locations and arrange pick up there.



Perennial sales will happen in true Bowdoinham fashion- folksy, casual, creative and flexible! Volunteers will be digging and dividing their own perennials at their own homes and will be selling them roadside to benefit the library. Look out for "Library Plant Sale" signs all over town in the month of May. Put that money into those coffee cans and look ahead to the 48th sale next year when we will once again enjoy our community gathered together for a good cause.

The good news is that due to strong fundraising and fiscally responsible management over many years, the library is financially strong and will weather this storm with all of resources (human and otherwise) intact. We remain grateful and anxious to once again, fully engage in our library's mission :

"The Bowdoinham Public Library provides free and open access to informational, educational, and literary resources, promotes life-long learning, and connects our community."

Comprehensive Planning Committee Update

By Joanne Joy, Chair

The Bowdoinham Waterfront looks very different in the spring of 2020 than it did just a year ago. The public works buildings are gone and cleanup is well on its way.

During the past year, the Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) turned its attention from a primary focus on the Waterfront Plan to other elements of the 2014 Comprehensive Plan, as all of the sections need to be reviewed and updated. The next plan is due in 2024 so there is still a lot of work to do.

The Committee has completed some background work, had presentations and discussions related to three primary areas of the 2014 Comprehensive Plan; Land Use, Historic Resources, and Housing. The ways in which these three areas overlap and/or have an impact on the others has informed our thoughts about next steps. The meetings in the spring, summer and potentially the fall of 2020 will focus on land use including the historic nature of buildings in the village and beyond, as well as new construction throughout the town along with other topics that emerge.

The April meeting was cancelled as we all adjusted to the physical distancing that will keep Bowdoinham, the state, and the people we know and don't know, safe from COVID-19. The May meeting will be a distance/virtual meeting, and the link to be able to participate in all town meetings can be found on the website: www.bowdoinham.com at the usual date and time.

As always, our meetings are open to the public, and we generally meet at the Coombs Building on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8:00pm.

Members: Joanne Joy (Chair), David Asmussen (Vice Chair), Peggy Christian, Tom Deforest, Richard Morin, William Stanton, Patrick Thompson, Kevin Twine, and Reeve Wood

Seeking Nominations for Citizen of the Year Award

The Town is currently seeking nominations for Citizen of the Year. This award is presented to the selected nominee at the annual Celebrate Bowdoinham event in September.

The criteria for this award are as follows:

- The Citizen of the Year award recipient shall be an outstanding individual recognized for their impact on the lives of Bowdoinham citizens, a special individual who shows dedication and spirit beyond what is considered regular duty.
- The following characteristics will be considered: present activities, previous activities, charitable/philanthropic efforts, improvement in the quality of life for Bowdoinham residents, and commitment to the community.

If you would like to nominate someone to receive this award, please contact the Town Manager, Tom Woodin at 666-5531 or by email at twoodin@bowdoinham.com. All nominations will be confidential. An appointed committee will review nominations and forward a recommendation to the Select Board in August.

Have you heard of the Town's Tax Club?

The Town of Bowdoinham now offers a "Tax Club Plan" that allows property owners to pay their annual property tax bill in monthly installments without incurring interest. This plan was first authorized by a vote at the town meeting in June 2014 and is expected to be offered again this July after town meeting approval.

To be eligible to participate in this plan, the property owner must be current with their property taxes, must enroll no later than July 31, 2020 and must abide by the requirements of the plan. Automatic electronic payments are not offered under this plan, but property owners can schedule payments online through the Town's online payment system. For more information on the 2021 Tax Club Plan, please contact the Town Office at 666-5531, or email Melissa Halsey at assistant-clerk@bowdoinham.com.

This is an easier way to pay your property taxes in smaller monthly payments without incurring any interest. We are pleased to be able to offer this payment option to our residents.

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207 737-9365

Recycling Guidelines

By Bryan Benson, Solid Waste Director

The Recycling Barn is closed to the public at this time; materials may NOT be delivered to the Barn until it re-opens to the public.

Recyclable Materials: Picked up curbside or delivered to the Recycling Barn (once re-opens).

Must be CLEAN, DRY & SEPARATED into the following categories:

- Corrugated Cardboard – includes brown kraft (grocery) bags. Please break down boxes.
- Newsprint – includes anything that comes with the newspaper.
- Magazines – including catalogues and other similar glossy print.
- Mixed paper – any and all clean paper not included in previous categories including cereal and soap boxes, pasteboard containers, tissues, toweling, window envelopes, paper plates, cups, etc. **NO PLASTIC**
- Comingled Containers – any clean household containers of glass or metal. Any plastic marked #1-#7, #2 oil bottles must be completely drained. CAPS MUST BE REMOVED FROM ALL CONTAINERS.
- Styrofoam and packing peanuts ARE NOT picked up curbside but may be

brought to the recycling barn (*please bag peanuts separately*).

Other Materials Accepted – *Delivered to Barn only (once re-opens); NO curbside pick-up.*

- Food waste – all kitchen and sink waste, including bones, and meat scraps. Please deliver food waste in your pail or bucket which can be dumped and taken home. Please do not bring food waste in plastic bags (**NO PLASTIC**).
- Oversize Bulky Waste (OBW) – mattresses, chairs, couches, TV sets, etc. A disposal fee based on item's size and weight is required.
- Waste Oil and Antifreeze – deliver in 1 or 2 gallon capped containers. No oil filters or quart containers please.
- Waste Wood – used to heat Recycling Barn. Please deliver in lengths 48" or less, under 15" width. No chipboard or pressure treated lumber.
- Leaves and Grass Clippings – may be left on pile next to Post Road. No brush please.
- Tires – car tires 16" or smaller \$3.00 each; Pro rata fees for larger tires.
- Scrap Metal and White Goods – (appliances, etc.) \$14.00 processing fee for appliances utilizing Freon coolant. 20# propane tanks (valve must be removed). No charge for scrap metal.
- Household Hazardous Waste -Architectural paints and stains at no charge. lawn and garden chemicals, insecticides, pesticides, marine and automotive paints and other household chemicals have a fee.

• Asphalt shingles – small amounts of asphalt shingles (less than a 5 gallon bucket load) can be received at the Barn. For larger amounts, please call 666-3228 for further information.

Curbside Pick-up of Trash and Recycling

- Trash and recyclable material are picked up at curbside on Thursdays.
- Trash must be in securely tied bags no larger than 30 gallon capacity, weighing no more than 25 pounds and must have a trash tag attached.
- Recyclable materials, **PROPERLY SEPARATED AND BAGGED**, are picked up at no extra charge.
- Corrugated cardboard must be securely tied in bundles no larger than 2' x 3'.
- Recyclable materials **must be in clear plastic bags** for curbside pick-up. Bags must be securely tied and set out by 6am Thursday mornings.
- Tags and recycling bags are available at the Town Office, the Bowdoinham Hardware Store and the Recycling Barn. **Trash tags are NOT required for the month of May.**

For more information or if you have any trash or recycling questions, please contact Bryan Benson, Solid Waste and Recycling Director at 666-3228 (please leave a message) or email at recycling@bowdoinham.com.

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Vice President/Agent

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Town of Bowdoinham
13 School Street
Bowdoinham, ME 04008

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