



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 1

www.bowdoinham.com

May 2011

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

By Mary Stride



THE BOWDOINHAM FARMER'S MARKET WILL BE OPEN FOR FOURTH SEASON

It's that time of year again . . . time for the opening of the Bowdoinham Farmer's Market. The fourth season will kick off May 21st, which also happens to be the day of the Plant Sale. Hours are Saturdays, from 8:30–12:30.

Fairwinds Farm will offer hanging baskets, annuals, and vegetable and flower seedlings to start off your spring plantings. They will also bring their own dried beans and cornmeal, along with winter storage carrots, cabbage and potatoes. Their season progresses into an extensive selection of vegetables, with strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries.

Apple Creek Farm returns with pastured lamb, free range eggs, wool fiber products, and new this year will be their pastured beef.

Dancing Cricket Farm is one of our newer farms, specializing in organic vegetables. They also market beautiful craft items from their travels to Ecuador.

Phoenix Farm will be on hand intermittently, with organic vegetables, seedlings, herbs, baked goods, vinegars, jams, and salsas.

The Sprouts Table will feature our town's young entrepreneurs, with a variety of goods made with Maine ingredients. In the past shoppers have enjoyed pies, scones, and jumbo healthy breakfast muffins. Parents of potential Sprouts may call Mary Stride at 666-8823 for more information and to reserve a space on a first come, first serve basis.

If you are interested in joining the Market please contact Nicole Briand at 666-5531.



Come chat with friends, meet your farmers, support your local economy, and eat well!

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WANTED

Input for Bowdoinham's 250th Anniversary— All Ideas Welcome

2012 is the 250th Anniversary of the Town of Bowdoinham. An ad hoc steering committee has been meeting monthly to start planning a yearlong series of exciting events. Meeting minutes and proposals are distributed by e-mail to anyone requesting them and will be on the town website.

Themed festivities being considered throughout the year include: a Chicken Barbecue, Ice and Smelt Festival, Bowdoinham History Exhibit, Bowdoinham Art & Literature Exhibit/Presentation, Firemen's Muster, and a Drama Production, as well as an extended three-day Celebrate Bowdoinham Event in September 2012.

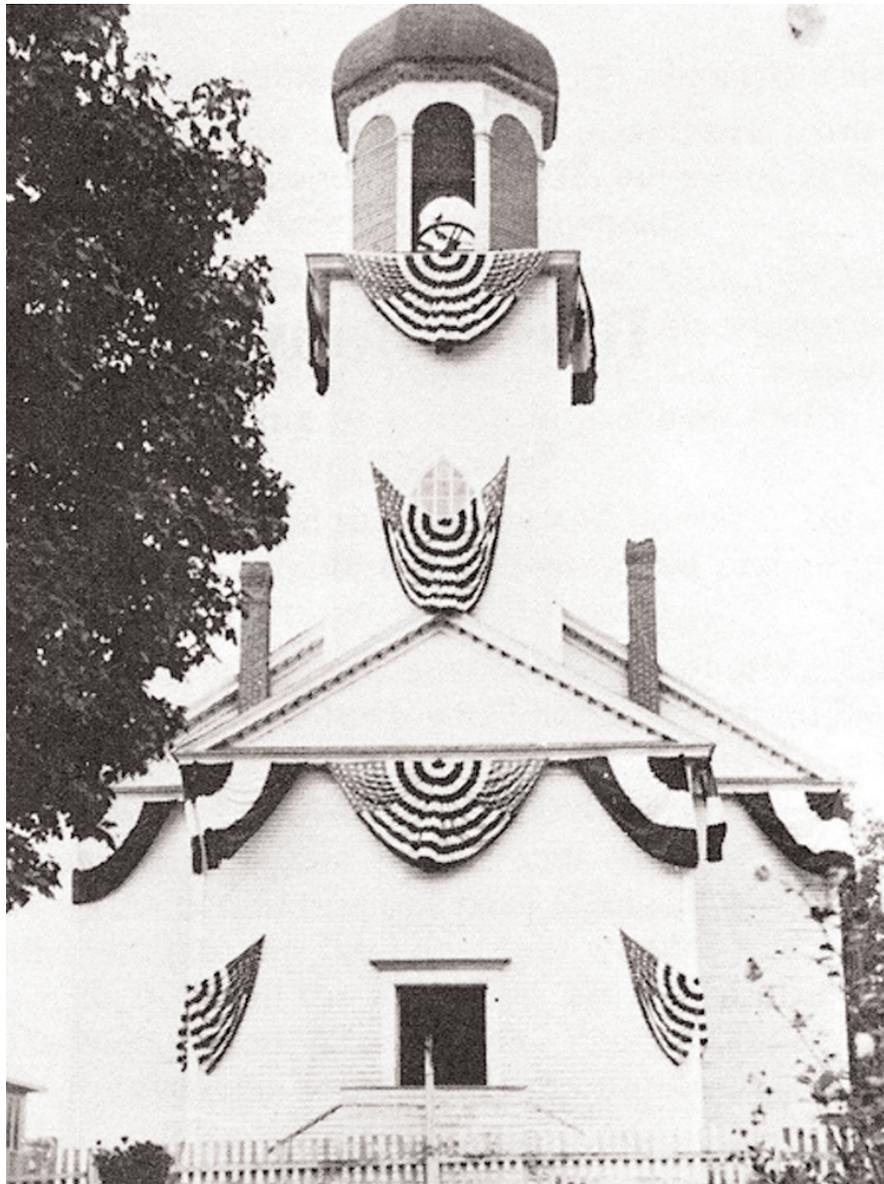
Commemorative items and activities will include publication of a 2012 Bowdoinham Past & Present Book, a Cookbook and other texts; creation of a Bowdoinham Quilt, a Bowdoinham Memory Project, commemorative memorabilia for sale; and restoration of Jellerson School, Bowdoinham's only remaining one-room school.

Trust funds established in 1912 will pay for part of these activities. We will also be seeking other fundraising ideas, as well as contributions from citizens and businesses. The committee may also apply for appropriate grants.

We need individuals, families, organizations, businesses! You can play a part, large or small, in this yearlong celebration!

The sky is the limit for our planning. Please join us!

Anyone interested in being a part of this adventure should come to the meetings or sign up for a committee at the Bowdoinham Town Meeting, June 15th.



Town Hall

Photo Contest Winner

The winning photograph for this year's photo contest is Sunflowers, submitted by Susan Tuttle. The picture is of Tabitha and Ian Jerolmack farm on the River Road. To see all of the contest finalists please visit our website at

www.bowdoinham.com/2011-photo-contest-results



Cultivate the Arts

By Leah Parker

With Summer on the horizon Merrymeeting Arts Center is preparing for the 3rd Annual “Members Exhibit which opens with a reception on May 20th from 5:30 to 7. This exhibit for artists who are current members of the center will feature several who are new to exhibiting. This show is an opportunity for area artists to demonstrate their talents. Come to the opening reception and meet the artists who will be excited to discuss their art with you.

“MACSloup” is a soup and bread dinner based on an idea that originated in St. Louis. MACSloup supports artistic projects that need a little funding and belief. MAC held its first “Sloup” on March 20. Twenty five people attended (along with 9 very cool kids) and Kathy Goddu, Shibori artist, won the prize

money. She will show us the progress on her project when we hold the next MACSloup in the fall. What a wonderful way to enjoy a delicious meal of soup and bread while helping a local artist!

Merrymeeting Arts Center will offer an exciting summer program during the month of July. Children 8 and up will attend three mornings a week while those under eight, accompanied by an adult, will be able to attend a shorter program. Each week we will explore the art and culture of a different people, traveling from Japan to India, French New World and Wabanaki. The central theme is “Masks and Myths” and Fridays we celebrate with the people. Guests artists will lead the sessions. Additionally, during July there will be a Mask Exhibit, featuring masks by Bryce Muir, Nanette Giacomini and others. For

information on the programs please go to www.merrymeetingartscenter.org.

In addition to the formal summer program we will offer Open Studio on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9–12. Members of the center will be able to work on projects during this time. Storage for projects in the making will be available. While no formal instruction will be available artists will likely drop in from time to time to offer their expertise.

Rehearsals for Fafalo! being July 5th in preparation for the Opening on July 29. Fafalo! will run for three week ends with performances on Friday and Saturdays nights and Sunday afternoons. A special preview for Bowdoinham residents will be offered on Thursday, July 28. Admission to that performance will be free.



Bowdoinham Public Library Plant Sale

WHEN: May 21, 2011 from 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

PLACE: Bowdoinham Town Hall, School Street.

Recognized by the Maine State Legislature as the Longest Running Plant Sale in the State of Maine, this sale marks number 38. Locally grown annuals, herbs, vegetables, trees, shrubs, and over 120 species of perennials, in various varieties and colors, will be available. Lupines, daylilies, iris, roses, sedum and phlox are just a sample of the hardy plants offered in the past. To learn more, contact the Bowdoinham Public Library at (207) 666-8405; www.bowdoinham.lib.me.us.



Comprehensive Plan—Update

We, the Comprehensive Planning Committee members, want to create a Comprehensive Plan that represents what the Town wants. Why is the Comprehensive Plan important? The Comprehensive Plan is a ten-year plan for the Town that lays out the work the Town should undertake in order to meet its goals and is the basis for the Town's land use ordinances. To start the Comprehensive Planning process we are working to create a shared vision for Bowdoinham's future. This visioning process is very important as it sets the basis for the goals of and recommendations for the Comprehensive Plan. Please help us in shaping our community's future by coming to our visioning workshops on:

- Wednesday, May 18th at 7pm at the John C. Coombs Municipal Building
- Wednesday, June 22nd at 7pm, location to be announced.



Left to right, Back row: David Whittlesey, Richard Morin (Secretary), Brian Smith, Brad Foley, Paul Baines, Heather Cox, Felicity Beede, Paul Beltramini; Middle row: Cyndie Lamoreau (Chair), Brant Miller, Albert Stehle, Joanne Joy (Vice Chair), Pete Galle, Sally Martinez, Tom Deforest; Front row: Jeff Wing and Lola (the cat)

All age 11 and older are invited to attend these workshops. Childcare will be provided for younger children at the Bowdoinham Public Library. We will have snacks too. If you can't attend a meeting please give us input via our Visioning Survey, at www.bowdoinham.com, the Town Landing, Country Store, Bowdoinham Library or Town Office.

To ensure a fair, efficient, and productive process we have hired Craig Freshley of Good Group Decisions in Brunswick

to facilitate these workshops and help us develop our Vision for the future of Bowdoinham.

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 History in Our Cemeteries

By Albert Stehle

Being a Town on the verge of its 250th Birthday means one thing; there have been a lot of people that have made Bowdoinham their home. Our fifty-three cemeteries tell stories of sea captains, war veterans, tragedies; written within the fences of family plots.

Do you have a cemetery on your land? Is it over grown? The most important thing you can do is rake out the leaves and remove the brush. Cleaning our cemeteries is the start of learning the stories of those that have live here before us. It is important that you do not try to stand or prop up fallen stones; they are heavier than they look and if they fall over they can break easily. There is a method for restoring stones and even locating fallen stones buried under decades of leaves. Please call me (666-3493) to help with the restoration process for the fallen stones.

For our 250th Birthday present to Bowdoinham let's take the time to rake and clean our cemeteries. And in the process we will learn more about Bowdoinham's history.

Skateboard Update

A new location for the Skateboard Park has been identified at 6 Main Street, parallel to the railroad tracks and Maily Waterfront Park. In order for us to move forward will this new location, we need approval to sign two lease agreements at Town Meeting, on June 15, 2011. Town approval is required, because when the Skateboard Park was originally approved in June 2004 it was approved to be located on Town waterfront property. We had to find a new location for the Skateboard Park because the original location interfered with an existing septic system. We explored a second located on Town waterfront property, but it interfered with the use of Maily Waterfront Park for boaters. The new location is in the same vicinity originally approved by voters, but it is not on Town owned land. The new location will require a lease



from Maine Department of Transportation and Frederick and Jill Haer; both of which have graciously offered the Town use of their properties at no cost.

We are just beginning the design phase of the Skateboard Park, so if you like to skate or know someone that does PLEASE help us to create your Skateboard Park. For more information please contact Nicole Briand at 666-5531 or nbriand@bowdoinham.com.

Proposed Revisions to the Land Use Ordinance

Upon completing their annual review of the Town's Land Use Ordinance the Planning Board is recommending the following revisions to the Ordinance:

Order of Articles. For flow and clarity, the Board is recommending that Article 4 become Article 5, Article 5 become Article 6, and Article 6 become Article 4.

Substantial/Substantially. The Board found that these two words were over used throughout the Ordinance, revised definitions and added more specific language where possible

Permit Timeframes. The Board found that the various permits referred to used different definitions to define the start of construction and end of construction AND had different allowances for the start and end of construction.

The Board is recommending that the language regarding the permits' timeframes be revised to be consistent with one another.

Subdivision Amendments. The Board has found that applications for amendments to approved subdivisions vary greatly in terms of the scope of the request. The Board is recommending that the Ordinance recognize the different types of amendments and enact situation-appropriate handling and review processes.

Subdivision—Utilities. The Board found that the standard for waiving the requirement of underground utilities is based only on cost. The Board is recommending that the visual impact should also be a consideration.

Subdivision—Inspections. The Board has found that the Ordinance places the responsibility of inspections on the Town. The Board is recommending that the process be revised so that the responsibility to have inspections completed is

that of the developer.

Site Plan Review—Classification of Projects. The Board found that the Ordinance requires any creation of impervious surfaces to be a Tier II or III project. The Board is recommending that there be an opportunity for a smaller project to be reviewed under a Tier I project.

The Selectboard has approved the Planning Board's recommended revisions to go before voters at Annual Town Meeting 2011. A copy of the proposed revisions can be obtained at the Town Office or on Town's website at www.bowdoinham.com/planning-board. Please contact Nicole Briand at 666-5531 or nbriand@bowdoinham.com if you have any questions Maine Uniform Building & Energy Code. The Board is recommending that the Ordinance made reference to the Maine Uniform Building & Energy Code.

Bowdoinham's Brochure

The Community Development Advisory Committee will be busy this year as our first project is moving forward, The Bowdoinham Brochure, with printing to be ready by the end of 2011. A booklet idea presented to bring together and promote the myriad of businesses within Bowdoinham, the vast community of artists, woodworkers and farmers, in addition to the community which is at the heart of it all. We are busy gathering written stories about the Town, and requesting the submissions of pictures that will tell the story of the Bowdoinham we call home. We will highlight the celebration of Bowdoinham's 250th Anniversary, we are looking forward to sharing with everyone the excitement we feel about bringing people to a town nestled in and among the streaming farmlands, tidal rivers, and the natural beauty surround it of Merrymeeting Bay. Enhancing and promoting the 'Buy Local, Buy

Bowdoinham' program, and working with incoming and developing businesses to help streamline their beginnings, promoting the local events and celebrations we as a town share throughout the year.

We have created an outline of highlights for the town, and enlisted the writing skills of various persons throughout the town in promoting what we as residents enjoy on a daily basis. We will have a calendar of events section within the brochure, as well as a map of the area, and information regarding Bowdoinham. This being a 'Town' brochure, we are looking forward to the work of the Bowdoinham Community Elementary School's fourth graders in writing about the great History of Bowdoinham.

The brochure will be published by Direct Display Publishing of Bath. With some funding provided through the TIF budget, and the remainder to be funded through local advertisements, Spencer Richie of Direct Display will be contacting the local businesses throughout May and into June with advertising rates and

examples. His company will provide local businesses with graphic assistance, and final approval of all ads placed within the brochure.

Any scheduled events and photos to be included within the brochure are welcome, and can be submitted to Nicole Briand at nbriand@bowdoinham.com or 666-5531.

Get Involved! Town of Bowdoinham Committee Openings

Community Development Advisory Committee

1 member

Planning Board

1 alternate member

Biking Walking Paddling Group

1 member & 1 alternate member

250th Anniversary Committee

Comprehensive Planning
Committee—3 members

Cruise 'In

Now in its' third year, Cruise 'In on the Cathance isn't just an activity, it is an event. Hosted by The Town Landing Restaurant, located at 12 Main Street Bowdoinham, Maine, owner Lynn Spiro, her daughter Anna, and a host of employees, bring together the memories of yesterday with the generation of today. Bowdoinham with a long list of generational residents, known for its history of ship building, duck hunting, and filled with community spirit, is a haven of antique auto enthusiasts.

Those who don't own one or two classic cars, smile at the memories brought back as they marvel at the pristine motors, and custom paint jobs on the classic, and collectible vehicles.

Lynn states, "This has become a great way of enjoying the beauty and work that goes into these customized and tricked out cars, supporting and promoting the local businesses, and Bowdoinham's own 'Buy Local, Buy Bowdoinham' program." All items for the door prize raffles are donated by local businesses, all monies raised go back to local town organizations. Each one supporting the other, a tradition that began in 1762, when the town was first incorporated. A community of friends, family, and car enthusiasts.

This year's events to take place on June 25th, July 30th, and August 27th, will once again, host live music, T-shirts, door prize raffles, 50/50 raffles, and a taste of old home Maine cooking, filled with tradition and offered with the best of Maine hospitality. Again this year, following the August 27th cruise in will be a Sock Hop, with music by DJ Jason Everett, a hoola hop contest, the hand jive, and fun and laughter. All monies raised in 2011 will be donated to support the Bowdoinham Fire Department's Association, a volunteer group established on long standing tradition and sacrifice. Join us as we celebrate the car, the memories, the traditions.



Cruise' Ins 2010



Merrymeeting Arts Center

By Leleah Parker

Merrymeeting Arts Center presents Ziggurat Theatre Ensemble's **Fafalo!**, an original theatrical comedy, Friday, Saturday and Sundays from July 29th through August 14th in Bowdoinham's historic Town Hall. The play tells the story of Fafalo, a devil-may-care janitor who accidentally becomes ruler of his country. His wits are tested when he must save his people from a marauding warlord. Inspired by the Italian commedia dell'arte, the play is performed entirely in mask by a troupe of six professional actors who perform over 18 roles. The masks, hand-carved by Balinese master craftsman I Nyoman Setiawan, were commissioned specifically for this play. Maine artist Libby Marcus

will design and build four giant puppets for this production. **Fafalo!** is written and directed by Stephen Legawiec, with mask and movement training led by Dana Wieluns. Stephen Legawiec and Dana Wieluns, both new residents to Bowdoinham, are co-Artistic Directors of Ziggurat Theatre Ensemble.

Originally produced in Los Angeles, **Fafalo!** was described as "a visually dazzling, utterly charming tour-de-force" by the Los Angeles

Times. Ziggurat Theatre Ensemble will tailor this summer's production to reflect the unique venue and showcase the talents of local artists. **Fafalo!** will transport Town Hall and its surroundings to the mythical kingdom of Galliantra, treating audiences to a fantastical experience from the moment they approach the theatre, creating a topsy-turvy world of eccentric merchants, exotic acrobats, roving clowns, young lovers, charming charlatans and marauding warlords . . .

the world of **Fafalo!**

Fafalo! draws upon vaudeville and physical comedy to entertain adult audiences and families with children ages six and up. Due to the show's running time of 90 minutes—and a truly terrifying villain—younger children will not be allowed. A special program will be created for young children (ages 0–5) and performed outside in the gazebo in Bowdoinham's waterfront park on July 30th and August 6th.

Hosts Needed



This summer 6 actors will temporarily relocate to Bowdoinham for six weeks. They will be here rehearsing for **Fafalo!** a theatrical comedy that will open at the Town Hall on July 29.

Merrymeeting Arts Center is looking for people with extra rooms to help out by hosting an actor. We will be carefully matching the actors to their hosts to ensure a successful experience.

Please call 710-0349 for more information.

Merrymeeting Arts Center
and
Ziggurat Theatre Ensemble
present
FAFALO!
A new theatrical comedy
coming to Bowdoinham in summer of 2011

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Merrymeeting Community Shares

Investigate and join Merrymeeting Community Shares, our local "Service Exchange Network". Save money, exchange services, and strengthen our local economy while building community.

Merrymeeting Community Shares is an hour for an hour service exchange membership organization locally run and maintained. For every hour you spend doing something for a member you earn one "share". Record it in your account, and you can spend it to buy an hour of another member's time! Need some lawn work or a ride to the doctors office? These are a few of the current offerings from members. Would you like to offer your special skills? The more members

that join the network the more sustainable it becomes.

The service exchange system is based on the age-old principles of compassion, mutual responsibility and respect, known as the "Core Economy". This system is fundamentally different from a cash economy. When using social currency, your capital is never restricted to the numbers on your bank statement. Rather than being completely dependent on the financial fluctuations of your employer, Wall Street, and international business, your wealth is bolstered by the use of your own talents and that of the membership.

In our current economic model we must constantly juggle the use of our time, talent and money. By participating in Merrymeeting Community Shares and reducing one third of that equation, you

have time to do more of the things you love. At the same time, you are allowing other members to do for you those things that they enjoy far more than you do. This approach is grounded in the principle of abundance. As expressed by Edgar Cahn, the founder of this system commonly known as 'time banking', "We have what we need when we use what we have".

There is much talent in our community and every individual has something to offer. Let's enable this resource to circulate.

Will Zell of Bowdoinham is a local contact for this organization and is available to answer any questions or to help support ones use of this network. He can be contacted through the website at: www.merrymeetingshares.com

Notes from the Recycling Barn

Composter Unit Awarded

Each year the town surveys residents regarding recycling. This year, Brett Thompson, owner of the Worm Firm (a tenant of the Recycling Barn), and Fred Horch, of F.C.Horch in Brunswick, offered to sweeten up the survey by offering a composting bin to the winner of a raffle held along with the survey. The winner of the composting unit, Tessa Kingsley, has been bringing her family's food waste in to the Barn for us to compost, but now will be able to do it in her own backyard. Congratulations, Tessa!

Remember that even if you don't have a backyard compost setup, you can still bring your food waste in to the Barn for us to compost. A five-gallon bucket with a cover is ideal for transporting food waste. Please don't bring anything in plastic bags and then leave the bags behind.

Record Year for Solid Waste Program Cost to Taxpayers

Solid Waste Program costs to Bowdoinham's taxpayers for calendar year 2010,

as reported to the State Planning Office, were the lowest they have been in the last five years. After deducting recycling income and user fees from total program expenses, Bowdoinham taxpayers paid a little over \$69,000 for the program in 2010. Taxpayer cost for the program has averaged around \$77,000 over the past five years. Strong demand for recycled paper and metal (the two biggest export materials leaving the U.S. are scrap metal and secondary fiber (recycled paper) has

brought prices for these materials up to and even exceeding price levels in 2008, before the economy crashed.

Recycling Barn Blog

The Recycling Barn has entered cyberspace! Kate Cutko, Bowdoinham's Town Librarian, has begun writing a blog about different aspects of the Barn which is both entertaining and informational. Check it out at barnofportunity.blogspot.com

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Plumbing Tip from Peggy the Plumber

Is Your Toilet Running?

It could be silent and costing you over 50 gallons a day. One way to check is to put a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If the color appears in the bowl in about thirty minutes your toilet is running. Another way is to shut the water supply off and see if the tank slowly drains.

If you are on town water you may save money on your water bill by repairing your toilet, but water is not free if you are on a well. The more your well pump cycles on and off the faster it will wear out, and with a running toilet your pump will be working hard. Financially and environmentally a running toilet is costly.

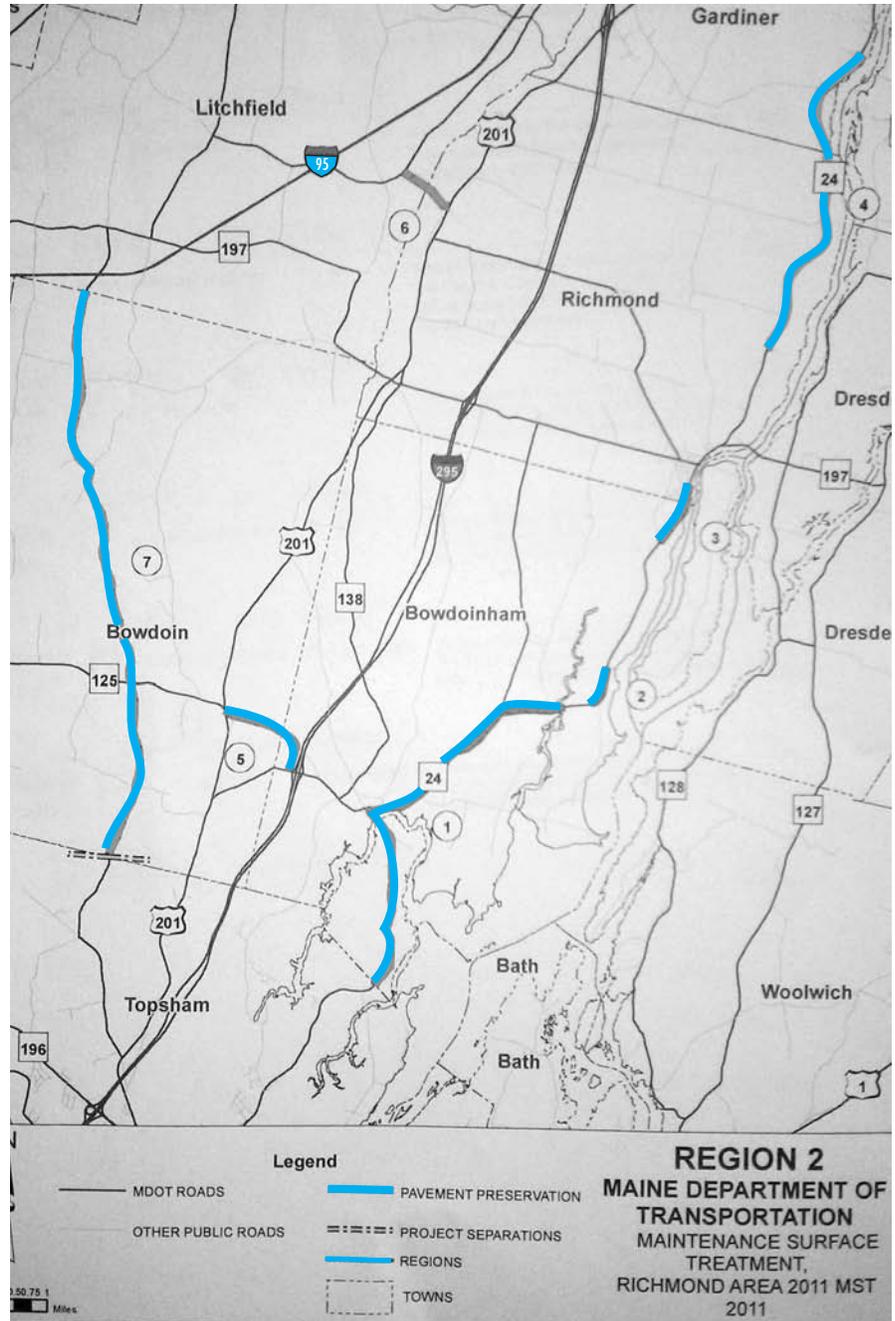
Commissioner and Residents Want Repairs to Route 24 and other Local Roads

By Rep. Seth Berry

With roads, the choice is often to pay less now or pay more later. Reduced roads maintenance due to low auto sales and gas tax revenues means far more expensive road and car repairs down the line. So here is some good news: a brief update on local, planned-for road repairs, and on the strong support from people in our area for continued transportation funding.

To let Maine's new Commissioner of Transportation experience the tough condition of certain roads in our area, I recently took the very dedicated Commissioner Bernhardt on an after-work joy ride. He met me at the park-and-ride in Bowdoinham along with Mike Burns, the Department (DOT) region manager. Together, we spent almost two hours driving through Bowdoinham, Richmond and Bowdoin roads in my car. Though it was late in the day, both men went out of their way to ask questions, note the bumps and potholes, and get to know the area.

I was pleased when the Commissioner later let me know that a number of roads would see immediate attention, and that a mailbox I'd shown him, downed by a



DOT plow, would be fixed as well. Roads repaved this summer will include most of Route 24 in Bowdoinham and Richmond, Route 125 from the park-and-ride to Route 201, and all of Meadow and Litchfield Roads in Bowdoin.

The following photograph shows the scope of this work:

In addition, DOT's recently released Biennial Work Plan proposes work for fiscal years '12 and '13. If funding is approved, some of this work could start

as early as this summer, but most would happen in the following two years. This repaving plan includes repaving significant portions of two major roads in our area: Route 201 in Bowdoin and Richmond, and Route 197 in Richmond.

Looking even further ahead, the town of Bowdoinham has been in regular contact for many months with DOT officials regarding the long-term future

Continued on page 10

BRIAN SMITH
SURVEYING, INC.

BRIAN B. SMITH, PLS#1175
bss@briansmithsurveying.com

213 Main Street
Bowdoinham, ME 04008
Tel. 666-3268

Commissioner and Residents Want Repairs to Route 24 and other Local Roads

Continued from page 10

of Route 24. Not surprisingly, studies have concluded that the base of Route 24 is inadequate. The Town continues to work with the State regarding how to work together to come up with the resources to properly build up this section of road, improving safety and reducing future costs. In addition, the Town continues planning with DOT for the sidewalks approved by the townspeople last year, which will likely be built late this summer or fall.

In my view, we should be doing all we can to encourage alternative transportation such as biking, walking and trains, while also improving our existing infrastructure in a more lasting way. This is not cheap: most state roads in Maine were built poorly many decades ago, and would require significant and costly upgrades to build to today's stan-

dards. Also, bike lanes and improvements to rail tracks, while nowhere near as expensive as the roads themselves, do have an additional cost.

To gauge public support for investing in our transportation infrastructure, I recently asked constituents in an online poll if they preferred to reduce the gas tax or to fund the roads. Specifically, I asked "do you support the Governor's proposal to stop indexing the gas tax to inflation?" The vast majority of local respondents opposed the idea, with comments expressing concern about the impact on future funding and passing costs on to our grandchildren. Specifically, 78% opposed the proposal completely, while 12% were not sure and only 9% supported the proposal.

I agree with the majority. Much of our state highway funding comes from

the gas tax, which increases at the rate of inflation and is a per-gallon rather than a percent surcharge. Every 8 years, the inflation factor alone accounts for about 1 _ years' worth of state highway funding. As the majority understands, ending indexing will not reduce taxes, but shift them to our kids and grandkids at a greater cost.

I will continue to work with townspeople, the DOT, Senator Seth Goodall, and local Selectboards to bring attention to the state of our roads. When it comes to Maine's transportation needs, we can pay now or pay later.

Thanks for the honor of representing you in Augusta, and please contact me any time with questions or to be added to my monthly email update/opinion poll list. I can be reached at 522-1609, on Facebook, or at seth@sethberry.org

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Future of Bowdoinham

By Albert Stehle, Member of Comprehensive Planning Committee

Bowdoinham has set forth the process of reviewing and updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Required by the State, the Comprehensive is to address how the Town will manage growth in an "orderly fashion" and manage our open land, shorelines and forest floors. Towns in Maine, like Bowdoinham are also revising or completing there plans now. As residents of Bowdoinham, we have all enjoyed the same thing, Bowdoinham "itself." With the people of Bowdoinham's help this process can be made to fit the needs and wants of the residents of Bowdoinham in the future. The process of updating our Comprehensive Plan begins with the Visioning Survey sent to you. Filling out this sur-

vey along with attending Visioning Workshops (schedule for May 18th and June 22nd) is very important.

Our Town Fathers from years ago had their own "Bowdoinham Version" of a Comprehensive Plan. Their formula to manage growth and keep local government small was really quite simple. Starting in the 1930's Bowdoinham quietly and slowly abandoned and discontinued its' cross roads; eliminating many miles of road frontage and a lot of house lots. There are still deeds of landlocked house lots throughout Bowdoinham. Cemeteries deep in the woods, old bridge abutments and double stone walls are all part of Bowdoinham's vast cross road network. There is even a road in Bowdoinham that crossed under the railroad tracks, that still remains today. Closing cross roads allowed these spaces to once again become wild and habit flourish,

deer yards deep in Bowdoinham's woods have kept hundreds of deer safe during the winter months. Small local government and slow growth allowed Bowdoinham residents and non-residents alike the ability to own (and hold for generations) large tracts of land for farming, raising sheep and cattle, timber harvesting, relaxing and of course hunting. Recently, a tract of land in Bowdoinham changed hands for the first time since 1700s. From my house I've seen snow owls, moose, bobcats, bear, deer and for the first time in 28 years, I now can see a house in the winter. I know I'm not alone. Do you think their Comprehensive Plan worked? Do you think their Plan gave us the Town of Bowdoinham we know today?

Fill out a Visioning Survey and be involved in the process for the future of Bowdoinham.

Ethanol and Boats

By John McMullen, Harbor Master

Recent initiatives aimed at improving air quality have negatively impacted many boaters. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires the use of oxygenated gasoline to improve air quality. Ethanol use as a powerboat fuel can cause a number of headaches including fiberglass fuel tank failure, fuel system blockages, engine damage, and increased fuel contamination.

Ethanol is a blend of gasoline and ethyl alcohol. Ethyl alcohol is an excellent solvent and is hydroscopic, that is it adsorbs water. Acting as a solvent, ethanol can damage the sealants used on older fiberglass fuel tanks. The dissolved sealants can be ingested by the engine which can cause damage and fuel leaking from a tank into the bilge is a fire hazard. Fuel tanks built of other materials are not immune to having a problem. Ethanol has a cleaning effect on tanks that releases fine metallic particles which will pass through most fuel filters. The dissolved metals will clog fuel injector nozzles and carburetors. Ethanol added to a fuel tank contaminated with water will cause expen-

sive repairs. The water in the tank will combine with the ethyl alcohol to produce a noncombustible layer of liquid in the tanks that will stop most engines cold.

The jury is still out on the definitive protection plan for ethanol fuel use. The following are some suggestions that have helped other boaters:

- Boats built prior to 1984 should have their fiberglass fuel tanks and lines replaced with modern equivalents before ever using ethanol. This will immediately eliminate almost certain failure of these older fuel tanks and components.
- Historically boaters were told to leave their fuel tanks full in the winter. Initially the industry thought that it might be more prudent to empty the tanks and thoroughly clean them prior use in the following boating season. BoatU.S. is recommending that this practice not be followed.
- Use a good water separating fuel filter and carry several spare cartridges for it. There are now many good products for this purpose.
- Ethanol fuel has a very short shelf life compared to the gas we are used to burning. Limit your fuel onboard to what's

needed in the next two weeks.

It appears the best defense for boaters in the use of ethanol fuel is to keep your fuel tank clean of water and use adequate filters. There may be more improvements in engine and fuel system technology that will address this problem. While you're fueling your vessel, remember to review accepted industry Safe Boat Fueling practices.

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919 Ridge Road
Bowdoinham
666-5601 or 807-8813

AGGRESSIVE REPRESENTATION:
PERSONAL INJURY,
CRIMINAL DEFENSE
REAL ESTATE LITIGATION
AND DIVORCE

Community Calendar

MAY

18

Visioning Workshop will be located at the John C. Coombs Municipal Building

21

Farmers Market – Opening Day, at the Merrymeeting Grange from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Bowdoinham Library Plant Sale, at Town Hall from 9 am to 4 pm

27

11th Annual Giant Rummage Sale to benefit the Bowdoinham Community School — 9–3 at Town Hall

JUNE

14

Voting at Town Hall

15

Town Meeting – 7 pm at the Bowdoinham Community School

22

Visioning Workshop at 7 pm, location to be announced

27

Seaspray Kayaking Camp
June 27–July 1, 9:00–12:00 pm at Maily Park.

AUGUST

13

Ducks Unlimited – at Maily Waterfront Park (rain date August 20th)

SEPTEMBER

10

Celebrate Bowdoinham

We want to hear from you

Please go to our website www.bowdoinham.com, the Town Landing, Country Store, Bowdoinham Library or Town Office to complete our **Visioning** and **Credit Union Surveys** by May 25th. *Thank you!!!*

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