



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

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March & April 2014

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Think Spring!

By Wendy Rose

Believe it or not, spring is (just) around the corner. Bowdoinham is full of businesses to help you with your yard & garden improvements.

Alder Stream Fence

David Tome

David's family has been in Bowdoinham for many generations, and he has lived near his current location on the River Road all his life. Even though he is employed full-time, he enjoys keeping busy. Years ago, he took on extra work such as building decks and doing home improvement projects for customers. When a customer asked him to build a fence, it intrigued him, so he did a lot of research on the types of fences that were available and the special techniques needed for creating a lasting, attractive product.

This initial work led him and his wife Kathy to start Alder Stream Fence in 1998. The business has kept several family members busy during summer seasons ever since. While their primary product is wood fencing (Eastern White Cedar), they also install chain link, vinyl, and ornamental iron fences. About 70% of the business comes from residential customers and about 30% from commercial contracts. Most customers are in the Brunswick, Boothbay, and Freeport areas; however, this winter he is building a kennel all the way up in West Forks.

David and Kathy feel that their strength is customer service. "I like to listen to the customer and their needs," David says. "We guarantee that you will walk away happy," Kathy adds. Anyone with a fencing project can be in touch

for a free estimate and quote.

Their best advice for the coming season is to plan early for your project.



David Tome

to get all the materials, so it is helpful to make sure you are in touch early in the season. They already have some projects left over from last season, so the spring promises to be busy.

You can reach David at 666-3083 or email him at alderstreamfence@gmail.com. The business is located at 312 River Rd.

Campo di Fiori

Andrew Fiore

Andrew has always loved nature and remembers being fascinated by wild

Many people don't realize that it can take 4-6 weeks

flowers from an early age. His father is an avid English-style gardener and his grandmother was a botanist, so he had wonderful guidance as a child. Later, he studied botany and started in the business by working for Linda and Chas Gill at Kennebec Flower Farm on the Pork Point Road for 5 years.

About 10 years ago, Andrew decided to branch out on his own and has been growing his business ever since. Through last year, he sold his product at



Andrew Fiore

farmer's markets, but has now decided to revamp the business and will be selling from his farm at 212 Fisher Road. His nursery and demonstration gardens will specialize in low maintenance native plants that are long-lived. He already has done the hardscaping and has spaces prepared

at his property. He's looking forward to having the whole farm open where customers will be welcome to view various landscapes, take a walk along the river, and buy ornamental perennials. Andrew has grown most of his plants from seed and especially likes the benefits of using grasses, prairie plants, and native species.

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Think Spring

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Andrew also specializes in designing large scale gardens and landscapes. He tailors his plans to the particular environment and finds the best plants for the site. He especially likes to create a naturalistic look with plants that are attractive even in the off season. By intermingling different species, he can create the look of a wild meadow that is ornamental but also low maintenance.

"I'm impassioned about gardening and landscape design and would love to be a source of information," Andrew offers. He suggests that folks look over their property and decide if they need as much lawn as they have and think about the possibilities of putting a part of it into a lovely garden that is low maintenance. The extra benefits will include new visitors to your property such as birds, butterflies and bees.

Throughout this winter, Andrew has been hard at work on a catalogue that features the 250 plants he will be offering complete with descriptions and advice. You can get a copy by emailing Andrew at andrewfioregardener@gmail.com. Also, check out his website at www.maine-gardendesign.com, call him at 666-8419 or stop by the farm (call first).

Catmint Garden & Gallery Sarah Stapler

We have all benefitted from Sarah's wonderful gardening talent. She is responsible for the design and maintenance of the glorious garden by the Town Hall and Town Office building and supplies at least 400 plants a year to the Bowdoinham Plant Sale which supports the library.

Her business, Catmint Garden and Gallery began to evolve about 15 years ago when her previous career as a children's book illustrator started to slow down. Sarah explains, "I love gardening. My family members are all gardeners." It seemed a natural step for her to start putting perennial plants out on a stand at her home at 16 School Street so people could

purchase hardy, local plants that she had tested for 3-4 years. "I don't sell a perennial unless it has survived for some years



Sarah Stapler

all her plants so that if one doesn't survive, customers can come back and replace it.

Sarah's array of perennials include iris, globe thistle, bachelor button perennials, sedums, phlox, ground cover, and both shade and sun-friendly flowers. Her real specialty, however, are both hostas and day lilies. She has over 100 varieties of hostas (about 50% provided by her sister, Betsy Steen). More recently, Sarah has become enthusiastic about the many advantages of day lilies and now offers 60 varieties. Their color, long lasting season, hardiness, and easy maintenance are all great advantages. "If you pick off the seed heads of lilies, then you can get a lot of repeat blooms," Sarah advises.

In addition to plant sales, Sarah also designs and maintains gardens for others. Her fine arts background enables her to see design possibilities and develop plans that are works of art. Customers can either install the garden themselves or hire Sarah to install them. "I love it when a customer comes in with a new property and they have questions about their plantings," Sarah says. Restoring and/or maintaining customers' gardens is about 50% of Sarah's business.

Sarah mentioned that gardeners should pay attention to early or late season droughts. "We had a drought in Novem-

ber last year so plants were going into the winter without enough water. The worst time for drought is the early spring and late fall. Gardeners should water their plants when this happens." She also highly recommends starting a compost pile since it can provide rich nutrients for gardens.

so I know it will do well," she says. She guarantees

"Gardening is such a lovely thing to be passionate about," Sarah comments. "My garden is more than just the plants, it's the birds, the bees, the butterflies...the whole environment."

The "gallery" part of Sarah's business name covers the work she does during her off season. Her home gallery features exquisite miniature paintings, cards, and fine art work. You can reach her at 16 School Street, 666-8128, stapler-sarah465@gmail.com

or at her Facebook business page.

Kennebec Flower Farm Linda and Chas Gill

Linda and Chas Gill feel very fortunate that they found the perfect home for their farm when they were first starting out back in 1990-91. Both had been working in other professions, but they soon found a common interest in gardening and farming. After attending the two year plant and soil program at Southern Maine Community College (at the time it was SMVTI), they strengthened their new learning through work at garden centers, nurseries, and an array of garden-centered businesses. When they attended a conference of the Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers, it confirmed their interest in cut flowers and they decided to focus on that market. A search for land with good soil led them to Harry Prout's farm on Pork Point Road, where they built their home and established their greenhouses and business.



Linda & Chas Gill

Over the years, Linda and Chas have found the mix of products and markets that works for them. They start the season in May with bedding plants for gardens, expand to cut flowers as the season unfolds, and offer container gardens and herb gardens throughout.

You can find them at the Farmer's Market on the green in Brunswick on Tuesdays and Fridays from spring until fall, at the Market in Portland on Monument Square on Wednesdays or Saturdays, and at Deering Oaks Park during the summer season. Their buckets of beautiful zinnias, snapdragons, cosmos, calla lilies, and other flowers are so colorful, they can brighten any space. They also have succulents, vines, hanging plants, and coleus—all of which bring color and interest to interior and exterior spaces. While their specialty and focus is cut flowers including unusual varieties, they have learned that container gardens and bedding plants help to extend their season and are a great addition to their inventory.

Linda and Chas have established a great rapport with their customers and have many loyal fans. "People actually bring back pictures of their container gardens to show us how they look later in the season," Linda commented.

Chas offered some great advice for the coming season: "Get your soil tested through the Cooperative Extension. It only costs \$13-\$15 and lets you know if the soil needs to be treated. All the fertilizer in the world won't help you if the Ph is wrong." Linda added, "Look through catalogues and get inspired. Try something new like containers."

You contact Linda & Chas at 666-3116, www.kennebecflowerfarm.com, or 50 Pork Point Road.

Picture Perfect Landscapes Matt Shaw

Matt Shaw, a Bowdoinham native, got an early start with landscaping when he worked with his mom on landscaping around their house on the Post Road. It led him to get a horticulture degree at the University of Maine. He started his business even before he got his degree and

has been based here in Bowdoinham for 16 years.

Matt offers a wide array of services: installing and repairing lawns, tree work, patios, walkways, stone walls, property maintenance, lawn mowing, and landscape planning. Customers can use his plan to install their own gardens, but Matt likes to pick out the trees and shrubs since there are certain things to look out for. He can also do a full



Matt Shaw

gardens and garden centers in the area, he can obtain quality plants at a reasonable price. While he has some commercial customers, he works mostly with homeowners throughout the area—predominantly in a 30 mile radius, but he has gone as far as Kennebunkport.

"I especially enjoy doing stone walls and patios," Matt comments. He can do stone wall repair and (more desirably) new construction. Since the base is key to a good wall, Matt likes to establish a solid foundation and mentioned that there are new products that help with this all important step.

During his off season, Matt stays busy with plowing, home construction, and planning. He is currently preparing for the upcoming Portland Flower Show where he will have a display.

Matt's advice for homeowners is to shop around for plant material. "There is a variety of quality and price, so it's good to get to know the various places," he says. Above all, "Have fun in your yard. We don't slow down enough to enjoy. Your

yard is a great place to be."

You can reach Matt at 841-1685 or pictureperfectlandscapes@comcast.net or visit his website at - www.pictureperfectlandscapes.net.



garden installation. Because of his extensive knowledge of the nurseries

and garden centers in the area, he can obtain quality plants at a reasonable price. Three other businesses in town, who belong in this category, should also be mentioned.

O'Farrell's Property Maintenance

Kevin O'Farrell does property maintenance work (along with his car repair business). His services include mowing, mulching, clean up, and light excavation. He can be reached him at 721-2787 and kofarrell@gmail.com.

Enterprise Farm

Enterprise Farm greenhouses will once again be opening in April with annual and perennial flowers, vegetable seedlings, flower baskets and other gardening supplies. They are located at 819 White Road and can be reached at 737-5647.

Ridge Road Landscaping

Robert and Randy offer commercial and residential landscape services including garden design, lawn installation, mowing, maintenance, perennial garden installation and care, tree installation and care, rock-walls and walkway installation, and they deliver mulch, loam and crushed rock. They can be reached at 666-3691.



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Thank you, Bowdoinham!

By Kathy Tome

The Bowdoinham community does it once again. On Saturday, February 1st, the residents of Bowdoinham and visitors came together for a fun-filled night of dinner, music and a live auction. As we all know, it's been a cold winter and the end does not look like it's anywhere in sight. All of the money raised during the evening benefited the Bowdoinham Heating Assistance Program. This fund exists only because of donations!

The event started with a corn beef dinner, all while listening to a variety of musical entertainment by local residents. In between musical acts, a live auction took place. The one and only Frank Connors got the crowd going with his humor and witty personality!! The room

was a sea of people, all sitting at festively decorated tables, eating a wonderful meal prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary while talking, laughing and being musically entertained. It was a great evening. There are so many people to thank for this event, as it truly was a community effort.



A HUGE THANK YOU to Frank and Jane Connors for working the room during the live auction! The Ladies Auxiliary – Suzie, Debbie, Jacenta, Melody, Carol and Margie. David Berry and Cate Stoner for donating all of the vegetables. Sandy Petteruti for showing Bowdoinham that

she is not just a Second Grade teacher (with a voice that gives you goose bumps), but for organizing the most eclectic group of musicians. Jessica Sullivan and the Bowdoinham Community School Parents for making the most amazing desserts!! Kathy Gallant who collected cans and

jars, made peonies from coffee filters, and electric candles and transformed the gym into a beautiful venue. And much thanks to Steve Reed and Zach O'Connor for helping with the set up! To those who contributed an item for the auction or just stopped by to give a donation,

A Sincere Thank You!!

And a Huge 'Thank You' to all of you who attended. The total raised for this event was \$5,718! Know that you all helped to keep many families warm this winter!

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Merrymeeting Arts Center

By Peggy Muir

After reopening in February with its 3rd Ice and Smelt Festival, the center got in to high gear for spring and summer.

Ice & Smelt Festival

Thank you all so very much for joining us for the Ice & Smelt Festival! Each year seems to bring more activities and more people. We had a wonderful time and hope you did too. We literally light up the sky!

Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address

“Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address” the fall exhibit stayed in place for the Presidents’ Day in February. It was another chance for people to see amazing oil portraits by the late Carlo Pittore and a number of other local artists. The gallery is open 10am-1pm on Saturdays or by appointment (841-5914). This was the Arts Center’s 25th free art exhibit for the area audience.

Young Artists Spring Show

Once again the arts center will celebrate spring by hosting a show for young artists (18 and under). This is the third exhibit to use the theme of Maine’s springtime vernal pools and one of the three species that distinguish them; this year will be the distinctive and fanciful fairy shrimp (yes, a real species). All area young people and their teachers are urged to participate. Entries should be received by April 5th. For more information call 666-3426.

The *Vernal Pools: Fairy Shrimp Show* will open on Friday, April 11th, 5pm-8pm. This show will run until early June.

Come and meet the artists and see their pieces on this whimsical topic!

Pottery Project

Renovations are underway on the small green building across the street from the Merrymeeting Arts Center to install full plumbing and appropriate wiring for

“Come Fly a Kite” will be a workshop during April vacation. Materials will be provided to create colorful kites/tails of all kinds. Plans for kites will be available. If the weather permits, we will bring the kites out do to some flying.

The Arts Center will also be offering drawing, lego, pottery classes as well as several sessions of its Place-Based pre-school. Specifics to follow, so please visit our website for more informaton.

Wonderful Tea Party

For the second year the arts center will host a “Wonderland Tea Party” for parents and children on May 4th, 2-4pm. Tea and crumpets, music, games and activities will be provided using an Alice in Wonderland Croquet (with figures created by Bryce Muir), a huge chess board with children acting as pieces; Participants are encouraged to dress up whimsically and learn the etiquette of the garden tea party. Prizes for most creative tea party attire will be provided. \$5 per person, free for children under five.

Mark Your Calendar

Our Annual Gala will be held on Friday, June 20th from 5-8pm. This Gala is both our opening for our summer show and our main fundraiser to support the Arts Center.

For more information, please visit our Facebook page or our website, merrymeetingartscenter.org.



Ice & Smelt Photographs



pottery firing. The building will be the Merrymeeting Arts Center’s Pottery Project, which will provide work space for local potters as well as classroom space and a large new kiln. Future plans include pottery classes for all ages and abilities, workshops, and demonstrations and exhibits by new and professional potters.

The public will be invited to tour the new facility this spring, so stayed tuned for more information.

Spring Classes

The Arts Center will host a Workshop “Fairy Shrimp Houses” this spring for people of all ages since vernal pool residents need homes too. Date and time will be announced, so watch merrymeetingartscenter.org.

Art For Everyone

News from Friends of Merrymeeting Bay

By Dup Crosson

Spring means more outdoor activity for us here at FOMB, with several events and opportunities for volunteering coming right up!

One of our longest-running research programs is our water quality testing, part of the Department of Environmental Protection's Volunteer River Monitoring Program. With the help of Friends of Casco Bay, volunteers are trained during a half-day course in mid-March. Each volunteer is then assigned one or two sites on Merrymeeting Bay and its tributaries, which they will test for dissolved oxygen and E. coli on one Sunday per month from April to October. This program is essential for keeping an eye on the health of the Bay, as well as our ongoing attempts to upgrade the lower Androscoggin River from Class C to Class B.

Our annual Spring Clean-up On The Bay is scheduled for May 18th from 9:00am to 12:30pm. This is a great chance for families, classrooms, and people of all ages to assist in cleaning up the shores of Merrymeeting Bay, removing litter and trash from several sites. Locations and more details will be available on our website. Come help do your part!

And last but certainly not least, Spring Bay Day is scheduled for May 20th at Chop Point School in Woolwich. This long-standing biannual event brings together 4th graders from regional schools to take part in hands-on lessons in ecology, agriculture, local history, and more with the assistance of local experts. We are looking for volunteer chaperones and guides to continue this exciting and educational event. It takes place from 9:00am to 1:30pm and includes lunch.

Please contact Dup Crosson, Coordinator/Organizer at fomb@comcast.net or 666-1118 to learn more about these and other opportunities. You can also find out more at www.fomb.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter. We hope to see you out there!

News from Long Branch

By Nanette Giacoma

There is a lot happening at Long Branch this spring.

Long Branch School and General Store

Have you heard of the BoodleUp game yet? If not, it's time to download this free app to your computer or smart phone. BoodleUp is a Portland, Maine company creation, and it's a fun way to win prizes from local businesses, now including the Long Branch School! We have discounts on courses and \$300 off your very own 10' X 14' timber frame if you play and win! The app and the game are absolutely free. Check it out today to support local merchants, have fun, and win great stuff all at the same time. Go to boodleup.com.

Our classes are doing very well this winter, so don't delay in getting yourself registered. Here's what we've got for you:

- Complete Wood Carving Series with Gus Frank begins on March 2nd
- Create Your Own Rag Rug with Kate Cutko on March 5th
- Learn how to keep your own Back Yard Chicken Flock on March 8th
- Seed-Starting in Soil Blocks with Ben Whatley on March 15th
- Felt Inspirations with Susan Mills on March 16th
- Knife & Tool Sharpening on April 5th
- Graft Your Own Apple Trees with Ben Whatley on April 5th
- Intro to Traditional Archery on Saturday, April 12th
- Poultry Series: Class 2- Show Chickens on April 12th
- Bread Baking with Dean Zoulamis on April 12th
- Introduction to Chair Caning on Saturday, April 19th
- Grow Shiitake Mushrooms in Logs with Ben Whatley on April 26th

Nanette and the crew at the store have added some exciting new products to both the store and to the buying club. The club

continues to grow in popularity, and it can't be beat in bringing you the very best in local, healthy and fresh food at great prices.

Holistic Health & Wellness

The Holistic Wellness Fair was amazing on February 2nd!

We had a great turnout and many in our community experienced the healing and health benefits of our local professionals: Mary Stride, Marie Tucker, LaVonne Rhodes, Dana Weilun Legawiec, Jennifer Bourget, Laurel Lopez and Nanette Giacoma. These women will be offering their services and classes at Long Branch. If you wish to schedule a massage, energy healing, nutritional counseling, lifestyle coaching, please give us a call at 666-8900. Check out our website to learn more about these practitioners and their services www.longbranchschool.com.

A Great Big Thank You!

We'd like to thank Will Zell of Bowdoinham for his hard work in assisting us with a new and improved Long Branch website. If you haven't seen it yet, please visit it at longbranchschool.com. Finding and registering for classes has never been easier, and you'll also find quick links to information about our Buying Club or to simply login in when you're ready to shop.

Music

Don't forget that our bluegrass band, the Long Branch Boys, is available to play at your event. Give John a call at 751-8760 to schedule or email favreauj@comcast.net.



Bowdoinham Historical Society News

By Betsy Steen

As I pen these lines, we are preparing to welcome two third grade classes from Durham to the Jellerson School for a school day in 1910. A multitude of thanks to all who helped make this possible!!!

Meeting House Project

Forty years ago, when I came to town, the Bowdoinham Historical Society was four years old and had owned our Meeting House for just two years. In the ensuing time BHS has picked away at making the building truly usable—new roof, new foundation, paint job, window work, skirting, electricity, new steps, but still it remains a cold and empty building except for our annual yard sale. We have decided it is past time to change that. Inspired by a creative proposal from one of our members, we will dedicate this year to making it a functional building which will be a source of pride for the town and the historical society, as Jellerson School has become.

To make this happen, we need to



Meeting House

complete the electrical work, finish the interior, and paint the east exterior wall. We welcome everyone's support and help in this venture. Donations of time, money, ideas and expertise are much appreciated.

Lancaster Bishop Research Room

From the July 2013 Newsletter:

"An interesting question: We understand that some people in town have asked, "But where is the Historical Society?" We

own two buildings: The Meeting House ... and Jellerson School & Merrymeeting Bay Museum. We also have a storage area in the third floor of the Coombs Municipal Building. But we don't have an "office" with regular hours."

Well, now we do have an office. The Lancaster Bishop Research and Reading Room is open for business on the third floor of Coombs Municipal Building. Tuesdays 10am-12pm and 2-5pm are our regular times there to work on collections, etc. Anyone who wants to join us is welcome, either to help out or to do their own research. For more information, please contact, Betsy Steen at bayviewess@comcast.net or Lara Ashouwak at 666-8161.



Lancaster Bishop Room

2014 - Year of the Ship

Bowdoinham's shipbuilding and seafaring is underway! We hope you can join us for one (or more) of the many events we have planned for this year.

We will be showing "Around Cape Horn" at our March Meeting on Thursday, March 13th at 7pm in the Kendall

Room at the John C. Coombs Municipal Building.

In mid-June we will meet at the landing for Shipyards and Ships to learn about and demonstrate the several shipyards that operated there between 1793 & 1877 and the 177 vessels that were built in them.

At Celebrate Bowdoinham on September 13th, we will focus on our shipbuilding heritage, and will feature some kid friendly activities.

In October we will host "Sea Captains Speak" in which we will all share our many letters, memoirs, and accounts from Bowdoinham (& other) ship masters and their families.

In November we will host our annual "Celebration of History" at Jellerson School with a huge display of material on Bowdoinham's Shipbuilding and Seafaring.

Support BHS

- Albert Dunlap's Life on the Abbagadasset - \$20
- Samuel Adams' History of Bowdoinham 1762-1912 - \$55
- Frank Connor's Atop That Hill - \$5
- Frank Connors Bowdoinham Advertisers (14 issues) - \$2/issue
- NEW: Frank Connors' 1980 Merrymeeting Images Calendar - \$5
- Jellerson School Mugs - \$8

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Cemetery Clean-up

By Albert Stehle

First and foremost, I would like to thank those of you who have taken the time to help clean-up our cemeteries and for making this such a successful event over the past two years. The first year we did lots of clean-up and reclaimed several cemeteries. Then last year raking leaves was tricky due to the snow, so we turned our attention to washing stones instead.

This year it's time to move to the next step, stone standing and stone repair, along with some more washing. This means that I will go out with every group and show you what I have learned. I'm planning on spending the month of April working with all the groups and organizations that want to continue with cemetery clean-up "day". So if your group or organization is interested in participating, please contact me to schedule your clean-up day. I hope that those who have helped in the past will consider helping again. There are many projects to do, with varying degrees of labor involved. After the projects are done for the year, I would like to hold a Cemetery Appreciation Day cook-out at the Ridge Road Church.

For more information and to schedule a time that works for you, please contact me at 666-3493 or albertstehle@yahoo.com.

14th Annual Bowdoinham School Rummage Sale

By Jessica Sullivan

Our 14th Annual Rummage Sale will be held on Friday, May 2nd and Saturday, May 3rd at the Town Hall. With a \$1 admission, you can take advantage of our Early Bird Sale that begins on Friday at 5pm and ends promptly at 7pm. Saturday the sale will open at 9am and end at 2pm.



The Rummage Sale is a huge yard sale that is made possible because of generous people in Bowdoinham who donate their items, such as clothing, books, toys, housewares etc. If it's still usable, we'd love it. All proceeds go to the Bowdoinham Community School's field trip and special events fund.

For more information and donation drop off location and times please visit our Facebook page - Bowdoinham Community School Rummage Sale or contact: Jess Sullivan at 504-7103 or JessicaMaySullivan@gmail.com.

Masonic Grant Award

By David R. Richards

The Masonic Lodge in Bowdoinham will again be awarding two \$1,000 Grants in May 2014. One will go to a student who lives in Bowdoin, Bowdoinham or Topsham. The other will go to a student who lives in Richmond. These grants are for high school students pursuing advanced education beyond grade 12, have good moral character, have a financial need, and have a GPA of 2.5 or higher. Applications must be received by May 1, 2014. For more information, e-mail drrichards@rsu1.org.

The Masonic Lodge in Bowdoinham awarded two \$1,000 Grants in May 2013. The first went to Sydney Choate of Richmond who is attending Southern Maine Community College; the second went to Caroline Carrigan of Topsham who is attending Southern Maine Community College.

Roadside Clean-up Day

Roadside Clean-up Day is coming back this year! Join us on Saturday, April 12th, 9am at Maily Waterfront Park. We will provide gloves and trash bags, then we'll spilt up to clean-up our roadsides for a hour or two. Please come and help us clean-up Bowdoinham!

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Ferrier Scholarship

By Brandi Lohr

Is there something you want to do? Do you want to take horseback riding lessons, attend a camp, travel to Europe? The Main Community Foundation's Richard A. Ferrier Scholarship offers assistance to Bowdoinham Residents between the ages of 13 and 18 to pursue their artistic, academic, athletic and vocational or life's passion outside of the traditional school environment. The application process is simple and well worth the effort. Since the inception of the scholarship, over \$76,000 has been awarded to Bowdoinham teens so that they could expand their horizons by participating in activities such as cross country running camp, golf camp, voice lessons, equestrian training, dance lessons, martial arts lessons, travel and much more. Eligible applicants must be residents of Bowdoinham. The scholarship committee encourages all Bowdoinham teens to apply. In order to be considered, all applications for the Ferrier Scholarship must be received by April 1, 2014. This year, the process is completely online. The applications can be found at www.mainecef.org. Click on Scholarships on the left-hand side of the page then on scholarship applications. Once you have done this then click on Aspirational, Nontraditional, & Camps on the right hand side and scroll down on the page to the Richard A. Ferrier Scholarship and click on the link. If you have any questions please contact or Brandi at blohr@bowdoinham.com. Apply – it is worth it!

News from the Library

By Kate Cutko

Volunteering at the Library, let us count the ways!

Love the outdoors? Love to learn about plants? Don't mind getting dirty?

1. Come and volunteer to help with the library's annual plant sale! (This year's plant sale will be held Saturday, May 17th)

There are jobs to help with the plant sale ranging from digging



plants to labeling to sorting to hauling plants to helping with publicity. We could use some new, younger volunteers who can help in the days before the sale to do some heavy lifting.



Do you like working with kids? Don't mind a crowd?

2. We could use you at the Summer Reading Program in June and July!

Are you a detail person? Love to add order to chaos? Wouldn't mind working alone?

3. Come and help our library director organize our library's collection. You would scan shelves of books and

correct anything that is miss-shelved. It's a tedious job but very rewarding.



Do you love looking through old books? Don't mind a bit of dust?

4. Help us with our used book sales: at Celebrate Bowdoinham in September, November's annual sale, and in the hallway year-round!

Not sure what you want to do, but want to get involved?

5. Come to a Friends of the Library meeting to learn more.

For more information on any of the above opportunities, please contact Kate Cutko at 666-8405, kcutko@bowdoinham.lib.me.us or stop by the library.

Thank You Bowdoinham!

A special Thank you goes out to the people of Bowdoinham, Bowdoinham Food Pantry and FHC!

During the 2013 holiday season 37 families were given food baskets, dinners, and gifts to help them have a more joyous Thanksgiving and Christmas. As always the giving tree was a huge success with all tags taken and delivered back with more than asked for. All recipients were very grateful saying they don't know what they would have done without your help. Bowdoinham is a very generous town!!

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News from Cub Scouts

By Cathy Curtis

Cub Scout Pack 699 of Bowdoinham has been busy with many activities. A winter Fun Day and Flag Retirement Ceremony was held complete with a bugler playing Taps (Thank You to Dawn-Marie Powers, instrumental music teacher in SAD 75 for playing). Our January Pack meeting featured Cub Scout cakes made by the cubs and their families-the coveted Golden Cupcake Award went to the Berry boys, Ethan, Tyler and Austin for their popcorn cake. Scouts attended religious services on Scout Sunday, February 2nd. Our charter organization, the Second Baptist Church of Bowdoinham, provided opportunities for our Scouts to participate in their Sundy service. We are looking forward to our Annual Blue and Gold Banquet and Pinewood Derby.



News from Committee on Aging

By Linda Jariz

On January 17th Bowdoinham's Advisory Committee on Aging spoke, as part of a panel, at the Maine Council on Aging's Summit on Aging. Bowdoinham's Advisory Committee on Aging reported on our first year of operations – how we came to be, what we have accomplished, principles that we operate by, lessons learned and where we are heading. This report is available to residents and other interested parties.

Additionally, we were asked to be a resource to an afternoon workshop on creating age friendly communities. Well attended by policy-makers, agencies and citizens, it is very clear that there is energy and enthusiasm for responding to the needs of Maine's older residents. If you are interested in learning more about the Maine Council on Aging, their website is www.maineCouncilonaging.org. You will find more resources on their website as well. In March, the committee has been invited to speak at a Maine Health Access Foundation workshop.

The Committee on Aging has achieved a number of goals this past year. These first year achievements centered around promoting health, safety and communication. Members of the Committee have created and led activities which include exercise programs, Matter of Balance programs, home safety assessment information, town resource and activity information, an activity center, informational talks, Tai Chi program and an informal

transportation program.

There is much to maintain and more to do. To help, the Select Board recently approved an increase in the number of Advisory Committee members. The Advisory Committee is now authorized to have 9 regular members (up from 7) and 2 alternates. The Committee is looking for residents who would develop and lead additional programs to meet the needs of older adults. If you have the desire to make a difference and the energy to make it happen, please see one of the current Committee members.

Here's what participant Jeanine Beaudoin has written about the Exercise Plus program:

"As an over twenty year resident who plans to grow old here, I was delighted to discover the program sponsored by The Committee on Aging called Exercise Plus. It happens two mornings a week for an hour at the Fire Station and is a great way to stay in shape or begin to work on fitness which is so important as we age. The sessions are led by very capable people with a focus on fun and participation no matter what your level might be at the start. In fact, I bring my 93 year old mother who has Parkinson's Disease and she is able to take part from a seated position. It is vital for her (and all of us!) to stay as active as possible. Our involvement in Exercise Plus has been so beneficial and enjoyable that we have begun to participate in the other activities our community sponsors for seniors. I encourage you to join in and see for yourselves!"

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Bowdoinham Recreation Department News

By Brandi Lohr

There's lots to report with our winter activities wrapping up and our spring activities gearing up!

Youth Basketball

We had six teams in the Ararat Youth Basketball League with a total of 63 players and 12 coaches. This program is for 3rd through 6th grades.

Our season would not have run as smoothly as it did if it wasn't for Steve McKim. Steve was there faithfully every Saturday morning and even in the middle of the week to referee our games. Thank you so much, Steve!

We also had a dedicated Senior in High school, Brandon Dionne, who came to referee the games. Thank you Brandon for all your help!

Our K-2 program started February 10th and it will end on March 19th. This year we tried something new. We had local Middle School basketball players come and help out with this program. They helped out so much, and the kids had a blast.

Family Swim at Bowdoin College

Join in on the fun at the Bowdoin College Pool on Sunday afternoons, 4:30-5:30pm. This program runs through April 13th (except there will be no swim on March 16th).

Lost Valley Ski Program

This program started the first week of

January and went for 6 weeks. We had 19 skiers and 5 chaperones participate. At the end of the program the skiers are given a free pass for participating.

Baseball, Softball, T-Ball

Registrations. Registrations went out in mid-February and are due by March 14th. Please register on time as teams need to be formed and uniforms need to be ordered; late registrations will be accepted only if space is available. Registration forms are available on our Town's website and at the Town Office.

Sponsors. We are looking for Sponsors for our Baseball/Softball teams this year. This is a great way to show off your company, either on our shirts or on the homerun fence.

Snack Shack Volunteers. We are looking for a Snack Shack Coordinator volunteer, as well as volunteers to work in the Snack Shack. The coordinator would be responsible for opening and locking up the Snack Shack for the home games. They would also work with me to set the volunteer schedule for the Snack Shack.

Softball Umpires. We need volunteers for the Minor League softball games. This could be a wonderful opportunity for kids in high school.

Adult Activities

Adult Basketball started at the end of February and will go until the first week in April. This activity takes place on Wednesday nights at the Bowdoinham Community School starting at 6:00pm.

Adult Volleyball started at the end of February as well and it takes place on Tuesday nights at 6:00pm at Bowdoinham

Community School.

Village Seniors

The 2nd Thursday of every month there is a lunch at Bowdoinham Estates and the 4th Thursday of every month there is a lunch at the 2nd Baptist Church. There is social time starting at 11:00am and lunch is usually served around 11:45am.

Online Survey

I am interested in learning what you are looking for in our community. I have created an online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PWRSSB6> to gather your input. Please take a few minutes to help me better serve you.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Brandi at 666-5531 or blohr@bowdoinham.com. Bowdoinham Recreation Dept now has a Facebook page, so don't forget to LIKE us!

Bowdoinham Food Pantry

Open Fridays 3-6pm, 9 Main Street

We are able to help so many families thanks to your support!!

Want to Donate? Checks can be made out to Bowdoinham Food Pantry, P.O. Box 246, Bowdoinham.

Have donations to drop off? They can be delivered to the pantry, Town Office or Town Landing, during normal business hours.

For more information, visit our Facebook page or contact us at bowdoinhamfoodpantry@gmail.com or 751-0080.



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Income Tax Help and Rebates Available

By Representative Seth Berry

Are you leaving money on the table this spring - money you are owed by the state or federal government? I hope not. Mainers are a proud bunch, but the combined burden of all taxes falls too heavily on those who can least afford it. A strong middle class helps our state be stronger too.

If you earned under \$51,000 last year, find out if you qualify for the Property Tax and Rent Fairness Credit or Earned Income Tax Credit and get your taxes prepared for free through the Midcoast "Creating Assets, Savings & Hope" (CA\$H) Coalition. This coalition of more than 20 agencies and businesses has a crew of IRS-certified trained volunteers who are currently providing free tax preparation by appointment in Bath, Brunswick, Topsham, Wiscasset and Richmond. Appointments are available at:

- Midcoast Maine Community Action Agency, 34 Wing Farm Parkway, Bath;
- Southern Maine Community College Midcoast Campus, Orion Building, 29 Sewall Street (Brunswick Landing), Brunswick (Tuesdays);
- Bowdoin College, Kanbar Hall 101, Corner of Old Bath Road and Route 123 (Saturdays);
- Westrum House Community Room, 22 Union Park Road, Topsham (Wednesdays);
- Richmond High School, 132 Main Street, Richmond (Saturdays);
- Coastal Enterprises, Wiscasset, Lincoln County Economic Development Office Conference Room, 35 Water Street. Lower Level, across the street from CEI's main building (Saturdays); and
- University College at Bath/Brunswick, 9 Park Street, Room 104, Bath (Mondays).

To make an appointment, call 321-8375 as soon as possible. For more information visit Midcoast CA\$H at their website, cashmaine.org.

Property Tax Exemptions & Programs

By Pam Ross

Make sure you are getting all the property tax exemptions that you qualify for.

Homestead Exemption

If you own your home and have lived there for over 1 year, then you may be eligible to receive a \$10,000 exemption.

Veteran Exemption

A veteran who served during a recognized war period and is 62 or older; or, is receiving 100% disability as a Veteran; or, became 100% disabled while serving, is eligible for a \$6,000 exemption.

Paraplegic Veteran Exemption

A veteran who received a federal grant for a specially adapted housing unit may receive up to a \$50,000 exemption.

Blind Exemption

An individual who is determined to be legally blind receives \$4,000 exemption.

Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement & Exemption

If you own a business, these programs al-

low you to not pay (or be reimbursed for paying) taxes on your business equipment.

Property Tax Fairness Credit

The Circuitbreaker Program has been replaced by a refundable Property Tax Fairness Credit that can be claimed on the Maine Individual Income Tax Form.

"Current Use" Programs

The State of Maine has four "current use" programs which allow a property owner a reduction in their property taxes: Tree Growth, Farmland, Open Space and Working Waterfront.

Tree Growth. To qualify you must own 10+ forested acres and have a Forest Management and Harvest Plan.

Farmland. To qualify you must have 5+ contiguous acres that is used for farming and generates \$2,000+ in gross income.

Open Space. There is no minimum acreage required to qualify for this program, however the property must be preserved or restricted in use to provide a public benefit.

Working Waterfront. The purpose of this program is to encourage the preservation of working waterfront land.

All of these exemptions and programs require an application to the Town's Assessing Agent, Ron Beal by April 1st. For more information, please contact Ron at 666-5531 on Wednesdays, 9am-5pm.

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Attention Businesses

By Nicole Briand

The Bowdoinham Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) would like to extend an invitation to our local business owners and residents to participate in our “Business Open House” meeting on Tuesday, March 11th at 6:30pm. The meeting will be hosted by Long Branch School & General Store at 20 Main Street. The topic of this meeting will be signage:

- What types of signage should Bowdoinham have?
- Where should our gateway (welcome) signage be located?
- What should our signage say?
- What are the destinations we need to direct people to?
- How should the signage look? Have you seen signs in other towns that have caught your eye?

Amy Files of wilderbydesign will be joining us to discuss our signage ideas and thoughts. The Town has hired Amy to create a Master Signage Plan for the Town. Over the years, many types of signage has been discussed, so before we start putting various types of signage all over the place, we decided we should start with a plan. We hope you will join us and share your thoughts!

Additionally, we have two Business Workshops scheduled for this spring.

The Financials: Cash Flow, Income Statement & Balance Sheet

Tuesday, March 25th, 6:30-8:30pm

Why be mystified by these Financial Forms when, in fact, they are understandable for anyone! We’ll use a Cash Flow form that is already programmed and can be downloaded onto anyone’s computer. It would be most helpful if you could bring your laptop with Microsoft Office Excel. This will give you a chance to play with a cash flow example and see how helpful it is for planning the future of the business.

Business Plan: The Entrepreneur’s Best Friend

Tuesday, April 29th, 6:30-8:30pm

In this workshop, the entrepreneur will learn what needs to be in their Business Plan. You’ll even look at those sometimes scary financial forms and learn what they are really asking for. Since the pricing and breakeven analysis can be such a stumbling block, we’ll walk through the steps for this section using a special worksheet. At the end, we’ll discuss some helpful business resources that are available, often for free.

Once again, the workshop instructor will be Wendy Rose, who worked as a small business counselor and trainer for

Maine Centers for Women, Work, and Community for over 25 years. In this work, she helped new and existing business owners write business plans, develop marketing strategies, set up their financial systems and coordinate their business systems.

All three workshops will be held at the John C. Coombs Municipal Building, 13 School Street. You may attend one or all workshops. These workshops are free for Bowdoinham businesses and residents. There will be worksheets and handouts for participants to take home.

For more information or questions, please contact Nicole Briand, Director of Planning & Development at 666-5531 or nbriand@bowdoinham.com.

Business Center

The Town Office is now providing a mini-business center in the Graduates Room (across from the Bowdoinham Library). The center is equipped with a computer, printer and the open wireless internet service and will be open during hours when the Town Office or Library are open: Monday 8:30am-4pm, Tuesday 8:30am-5pm & 7-8pm, Wednesday 9am-6pm, Thursday 8:30am-4pm, Friday 8:30am-5pm, and Saturday 10am-3pm.

Bowdoinham Farmers’ Market

The Bowdoinham Farmers’ Market is accepting new vendors for our upcoming season. In order to participate in the FM vendors must provide: proof of product liability insurance, copy of their current vendors permit from the State of Maine, if organic, a copy of that certification and for any prepared foods a copy of the State’s certification of the kitchen in which the food product was prepared. Those interested in joining our market should contact Pete Galle at galle@gwi.net or 666-3936.

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Plumbing Tip

Where is your washing machine?

Many machines are located for ease of use with no consideration for the possibility of water damage if there is a failure. Not only can the hoses on the machine burst but the machine itself can fail. It is important that you shut off the water supply to your machine when not in use and check your hoses regularly. If it is located where considerably water damage can occur you should either install a safe waste pan that will divert water to a sump, house drain or trapped fixture or an electric shut-off alarm that will turn off the water supply when it senses water.

Proposed Comprehensive Plan

By Comprehensive Planning Committee

After three years of hard work, the Committee has completed drafting the proposed Comprehensive Plan. The Committee held two public hearings in February to gather input on the proposed Plan. Now there is only one last Public Hearing before the Committee can no longer make changes to the proposed Comprehensive Plan before it goes to Town Meeting. So please don't wait until then to have your voice heard. The time for making changes to the proposed Plan is now, so please join us on Tuesday, March 25th at 6:30pm in the Kendall Room, John C. Coombs Municipal Building, 13 School Street. The goal of this public hearing is to hear what you do or don't like about the proposed plan and any suggestions you may have for changes. Once again, the Committee will be bringing back Craig Freshley of Good Group Decisions to facilitate these public hearings. As always, refreshments will be provided and we will have activities to keep the kids busy. We encourage everyone to get involved to help us make a Comprehensive Plan that Bowdoinham can be proud of.

Here are some **Frequently Asked Questions**.

What is the Comprehensive Plan?

The Comprehensive Plan is a process that seeks to determine a community's values, goals, and aspirations with regard to future development. The plan is not law. It is an inventory and evaluation of the town's attributes and future needs in the areas of resources, economics, infrastructure, housing, recreation, and land use.

Why is a Comprehensive Plan important?

The Comprehensive Plan is your chance to tell your Town what you want, and because good planning helps make good communities great!

Additionally, it allows the town to qualify for certain state grant and loan programs, such as: Community Development Block Grants, Land for Maine's Future (used by land trusts), Municipal Investment Trust Fund, Non-Point Source Protection Grants, DEP State Revolving Loan Fund, and Implementation Grants to name a few.

How was the Comprehensive Plan developed?

The members of the committee have met over 35 times and 13 community workshops have been held since January of 2011. The committee members used surveys, presentations, workshops, and maps and brought in outside expertise when needed. The members reviewed a great deal of information from many resources to be able to offer well-informed and thoroughly discussed options.

How were decisions made?

The Committee used modified consensus, meaning most members approved our decisions and all others were not opposed. We used the "I can live with it" test.

This is a huge document. Where's the beef?

The Vision Statement, Goals and Recommendations. The Implementation Plan repeats all of the Recommendations but assigns a Responsible Party for carrying out the recommendation.

The Vision Statement was the first part of the plan that was created and we had considerable public input (thank you!). Then the Goals, followed by the Recommendations, were then created based on the Vision Statement and the State's guidelines. Among the recommendations, the word "continue" is used a lot, which signifies that a lot of what we are currently doing is working and we expect to continue doing what's working well.

How will the Comprehensive Plan be Used?

The Comprehensive Plan is a ten year plan for the Town that guides decisions, projects and ordinance development.

Is the Comprehensive Plan enforceable?

State law requires that the Town's Land Use Ordinances be in alignment with the Plan. The Plan serves as a roadmap for developing or amending ordinances, however the Plan itself is not enforceable as an Ordinance is.

Does the Comprehensive Plan propose zoning?

The Comprehensive Plan designates rural, transitional and growth areas for the Town. In order for the Town to accomplish the goals for these areas, the Town would have to adopt zoning in the future. Zoning would allow for smaller lot sizes and lot frontages in the growth area while maintaining the current regulations in the other areas of Town.

How was the Future Land Use Concepts Map created?

The Map was created using:

- the State's guidelines for the growth, transitional, and rural areas;
- the Town's inventory maps; and
- input gathered from the public through three workshops.

In all, the Map reflects the committee's agreement after several meetings, workshops and discussions, on the general areas.

Are the lines on the Future Land Use Concepts map hard and fast?

No, the map is a concept map, which outlines the general areas for growth, transitional and rural.

What is a Growth Area?

The growth area is the area to which the Town wants to direct its growth. The growth area includes the following areas:

- existing built-out or developed areas;
- areas that are physically suitable for development or redevelopment; and
- areas that are located adjacent to existing densely-populated areas.

What is a Transitional Area?

Transitional areas are those areas that are suitable for development but are not intended to accept the same density of development as the growth area or are not the areas to which the Town wants to direct its growth.

What is a Rural Area?

The rural areas are intended to support the Town's agriculture, forestry, open space, wildlife habitat and Bowdoinham rural character.

How do municipal investments in the growth areas benefit me?

Whether you live in the country or the town, municipal investment in designated growth areas benefits you. Municipal services can be provided more efficiently and at lower cost in areas where more people are concentrated. For instance, when a school is located in a more densely-settled area, more students can walk to school, and more of those who ride the bus can gather at fewer stops for shorter rides. Investment in public sewers, sidewalks, parks and other public amenities attracts new commercial and residential development into the growth area, and this, in turn, creates additional efficiencies and benefits.

Being able to combine a trip to the Town Office with shopping at a nearby store helps stimulate the local economy and saves time, money and wear and tear on private vehicles, town roads and the natural environment. Those savings are all the greater if those trips are short enough to do on foot or by bike.

In addition to fostering a vibrant village for residents and visitors alike, public and private investment in growth areas directly benefits rural residents by limiting traffic conflicts along rural roads and by reducing development pressure on the large blocks of land needed for farming, forestry, wildlife habitat and recreation.

What is a Transfer of Development Rights Program?

A transfer of development rights program allows a development in the growth area to gain additional density by buying development rights in the rural area, hence preserving land in the rural area. For example, a development in the growth area could buy X number of additional lots/houses for X amount, then that money is used to pay Landowner X (a willing landowner) to place an easement on their property restricting future development. The details on the additional densities allowed, cost of those additional densities and properties in which rights would be purchased would be dependent on programs developed in the future.

What is Cluster Housing?

Cluster housing allows for new development to be grouped together. For example, under current zoning, on a ten acre property one could have 10 lots, which would take up the entire 10 acres. With cluster housing, the minimum lot size is reduced (for example to 1/2 acre), but the density remains the same, which then allows for 10 lots on five of the ten acres leaving five acres to remain farmland, woodland, wetlands, common area, etc.

Will adopting this affect my property taxes?

No. The Comprehensive Plan is just a plan for future action and will not affect property taxes.

What happens if the Comprehensive Plan is approved at the June 2014 Town Meeting?

Once the plan is adopted, the work to implement the recommendations will begin. Any future amendments to the Land Use Ordinance, such as zoning or performance standards would have to be adopted by the Town at a future Town Meeting. Adopting the Comprehensive Plan does not change the Town's existing ordinances.

For more information, please contact Nicole Briand, Director of Planning & Development at 666-5531 or nbriand@bowdoinham.com or visit our website, www.bowdoinham.com.

Did You Hear?!?!

Down East Magazine named Bowdoinham one of the six "Best Places to Live in Maine!"



Live Internet Streaming of Select Board Meetings

Select Board meetings, along with some other meetings, are now streamed live over the internet! These meetings will also be available to be viewed for up to one year.

This service is being provided on a trial basis to gauge the interest of our residents. So be sure to go online and check it out! It's easy, just go to the Town's website and under "Quick Reference" click on "View Meetings," which will link you to Town Hall Streams, our service provider.

Winter Road Maintenance

Because of the difficult winter we have experienced, the Town Office has been receiving more calls than a normal winter would create. Most of the calls we have received involve complaints about the plowing, sanding and treatment of Main Street (from Fisher Road to Bowdoin) and Post Road. These two roads are NOT plowed, sanded or treated by the Town – in fact, Main Street from Fisher Road to the Bowdoin town line and the entire length of Post Road are plowed, sanded and treated by the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT). If you have a concern with the condition of these roads, please contact MDOT at 737-2665. Of course, you can always call the Town Office and we will relay the message.

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Community Calendar

March

11th

Business Meeting, 6:30pm
Long Branch School & General Store

13th

Bowdoinham Historical Society Meeting
Showing "Around Cape Horn"
Kendall Meeting Room, 7pm

25th

Public Hearing on Comprehensive Plan
Kendall Meeting Room, 6:30pm

Business Workshop, 6:30pm
Graduates Room, 13 School Street

29th

Bean Supper, 4-6pm
Bowdoinham Fire Station

April

11th

"Vernal Pools: Fairy Shrimp" Show Opens
Merrymeeting Arts Center, 5-8pm

12th

Roadside Clean-up Day
Mailyly Waterfront Park, 9am

15th

Property Tax Payments Due

26th

Bean Supper, 4-6pm
Bowdoinham Fire Station

29th

Business Workshop, 6:30pm
Graduates Room, 13 School Street

May

2nd

14th Annual Rummage Sale, 5-7pm
Town Hall, 13 School St

3rd

14th Annual Rummage Sale, 9am-2pm
Town Hall, 13 School St

4th

Wonderland Tea Party, 2-4pm
Merrymeeting Arts Center

6th

Public Hearing on Town Meeting Warrant
Kendall Meeting Room, 5:30pm

Public Hearing on Comprehensive Plan
Kendall Meeting Room, 6:30pm

Town Board & Committee Meetings

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

Select Board Meetings

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

Planning Board

4th Thursday of Month at 7:00pm

Biking, Walking, Paddling

4th Monday of Month at 6:30pm

Committee on Aging

2nd & 4th Fridays of Month at 4:00pm

Community Development Advisory Committee

3rd Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Comprehensive Planning Committee

1st Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Solid Waste Committee

To Be Announced

Finance Advisory Committee

To be announced.

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

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