



Town of Grantham, NH

300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH 03753 Phone: 603.863.6021 / Fax: 603.863.4499

Spring Newsletter 2016

Notes from the Selectmen:

Connie Jones: I would like to thank all those who participated in the March 8th annual meeting. Town Meeting is the most pure form of Democracy where residents can and do have the opportunity to express their views on town policy and how funds are to be spent. The dialogue between the legislative body (residents) and the governing body (selectmen) is extremely important and helpful. I appreciate the opportunity to again serve another three years on the Select Board; this will be my 7th term. I hope that you will take time to attend a Selectmen's meeting (held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 5pm) to get an idea of what we actually do. We welcome your input.

Sheridan Brown: Thank you to everyone who participated in Grantham's annual Town Meeting, which was yet another display of our strong community. I'm honored to have been elected to another two years as Selectman, and I'm grateful for the many dedicated employees and volunteers that make our Town run smoothly. If you aren't already, I hope you'll please consider serving on one of the Town's boards or in another volunteer capacity. Among the many benefits of doing so is the opportunity to make new friends—something that made my prior roles with the Grantham Conservation Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment especially enjoyable. My wife Debbie and I are currently heading up the Town's 250th Anniversary Committee, and we'd love your help—any amount of time you're able to give—with the Town's year-long celebration in 2017. Planning meetings are already underway! If you'd like to volunteer, or if I may ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 603-865-231 or 03753@sheridantbrown.com.

Warren Kimball: The Miller Pond Road Bridge will be rehabilitated this summer. Daniels Construction, Inc. in Ascutney, VT was awarded the contract and will begin work as soon as the ground stabilizes.

Grantham Fire Chief Jay Fountain: Spring is here and with it comes yard clean up. I would like to take this time to remind everyone that burn permits are required for burning brush and camp fires. Equally important is to make sure your street number is visible (day and night) from the road, in both directions. Help us find you in your time of need by clearly displaying home number.

A note from EMS: Is your Medication/Past medical history up to date? Is it printed and available to hand to the EMS personnel on their arrival? At your next doctor's visit, ask for a printed copy of your medication list.

Have you signed up for CodeRed yet? The community of Grantham has access to CodeRED, an emergency alert system that the town offers through Hanover Dispatch. The town can utilize CodeRED to notify the entire town or any geographical area within the town of an emergency. Residents whose phones are listed in the white pages are in the database automatically, however if you are not and would like to receive notifications you must register your phone numbers. To sign up for CodeRED, go to www.granthamnh.net/fire.

Finally, I would like to make you aware of New Hampshire Department of Safety regulation. Inflatable type devices "Bounce House" meet the definition of an amusement ride and are regulated by the state if they are open to the public. If you are using or renting a "Bounce House" for a public event such as a church gathering, old home day or school function they must be registered. Each registered device will have a New Hampshire decal with current year and number and the operator should have copies of the registration and insurance on hand. If they do not have this decal and copies of the registration and insurance, then the device and operator are in violation of RSA 321-A.

Spring To-Do Checklist:

- ◇ Get my seasonal or brush burn permit (Tuesday & Friday from 6:30pm–8pm)
- ◇ Make sure my house number is visible from the street in both directions
- ◇ Sign up for CodeRED
- ◇ Medication list and past medical history—updated and printed for EMS providers
- ◇ Change the batteries in my smoke detectors

From Your Police Chief, Walter Madore, Sr.

One of the advantages of a mild winter and the lack of storms, is the reduction in reported motor vehicle crashes. While the major crashes were down, the police department still had to deal with the numerous vehicles off the road which were due to drivers not adjusting their speed to the existing conditions. It is ironic, but it seems that regardless of the conditions, emergency vehicles always seem to make it where they are needed.

With the resignation of Officer Soucy to take a position with the Bedford, NH police department, we are again, entrenched in the hiring process. Applications have closed, and letters have been sent, inviting applicants to test with us. This has been an ongoing process for the police department, due in part to our inability to be attractive, salary wise, in a very competitive market. I want to thank the voters at Town Meeting for approving the budget amendment increasing the police department salary line to attract and hopefully retain officers, once they are trained.

On April 30th from 10am to 2pm the Grantham Police Department will again partner with the Drug Enforcement Agency, and departments around the country in another National Drug Take Back Initiative. Bring your unwanted prescription and over the counter medications for disposal. Sharps and Liquids are not accepted.

Our 5th grade students at GVS are again receiving education in the DARE program, instructed by Sgt. John Parsons. The police department takes great pride in being able to partner with the Grantham Village School in providing, what we feel, is a vital program for the development of the youth in our community.

Holiday Closures: The Grantham Town Offices, Dunbar Free Library and Transfer Station will be closed on May 30th for Memorial Day.

Food Pantry: As you plan your next shopping trip or are just doing a little spring cleaning in your pantry, consider donating to our local food pantry. Donations can be dropped off in the foyer of Grantham Town Hall. Our Receptionist, Martha Norris volunteers her time to drop these items off; thank you Martha! Although any non-perishable food item is accepted, the Food Pantry is always in need of cereal, spaghetti sauce, soups, canned tuna, canned baked beans as well as personal care items such as soap, shampoo, diapers etc. Please make sure food items are not expired.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, checks can be mailed to PO Box 672, Newport, NH 03773.

Brookside Park

In 2014 the Grantham conservation Commission using funds from its Land Preservation Trust fund purchased a 6.5 acre parcel along Route 10 North bounded by Brookside Park. The Selectmen annexed the parcel to the park to form a beautiful 20 acre parcel. During 2015, the Commission members with numerous volunteers fashioned a trail network to allow hikers to visit the scenic and geological wonders of the park.

One thing was missing however. Easy access to the trails. This will be corrected beginning late May when a 38 foot ADA compliant bridge will be erected across Skinner Brook. Once the I-beams are in place, Conservation Commission members and volunteers will install the decking and railing on the bridge in early June. Thereafter the Student Conservation Association will create an ADA compliant trail along the west bank the near the large rocky sheets. At this point families can gather to have a casual picnic while the kids enjoy the stream. In the winter time it can be a jumping off point for a snowshoe jaunt around the Park.

Grantham Athletics: Grantham Athletics has offered Taekwondo to area residents, aged 7 to 70, for the past three years in conjunction with Blue Wave Taekwondo in Hanover, NH. Taught by resident Stephen Hopkins, a Fifth Degree Black Belt holder, it has been a popular offering in three sessions each year in the fall, winter and spring. Classes are held twice a week at the Grantham Village School gymnasium. Mr. Hopkins is co-owner of the Dojang in Hanover and is employed as the Administrative Officer for the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth (CHAD). Mr. Hopkins said, "Taekwondo is about much more than just forms and board breaking. It is about impacting people's lives. It's about giving of one's self, by mastering ego, living humbly, and seeking the perfection of character." Mr. Hopkins sees teaching Taekwondo as a community service. Look for further notice on exhibitions and the next session in the fall of 2016.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME.....Baseball and softball season is almost here! Watch the Grantham Athletics webpage for information on upcoming baseball and softball games in May, held at our Recreation Park diamonds and at the GVS field for T-ball! Enjoy one of America's greatest pastimes at our town's park with a treat from our new concession stand in the pavilion. Volunteers are welcome to help throughout the month of May and into June with program support or concession operation. Please contact Marsha Googins at 603-667-1303 (after 3 p.m.) or email athletics@granthamnh.net.

Transfer Station News

As we are now entering spring cleaning time please remember we cannot accept wet paint cans. Latex paint is acceptable as long as it is solid and dry. To facilitate drying the liquid, add kitty litter to the paint can, leave the can open for a couple of weeks and stir as needed until it is dry and solid. All paint cans need to be inspected so please see an Attendant when dropping them off.

Mark your calendar—Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be held on **Saturday, August 20th from 9am–12pm at the Town Hall.** More information about this event will be available in early summer.

Hours remain the same Monday 8-12, Tuesday and Wednesday closed, Thursday 8-4, Friday 10-4, Saturday 8-4 and Sunday 9-4.

The swap shop will open sometime in May. If you have questions please feel free to ask, we are more than happy to answer them.

From the Grantham Supervisors of the Checklist

We continue to work on updating our Checklist of voters. There are many voters who completed a form when registering that did not have all the information now required by the State. If you have already received or you do receive a letter from us asking you to come in and update your information, please do so at the Town Office at your convenience prior to the September State Primary and the November election.

We continue to work on voters who have moved out of our town and party change requests. Please note that if you came to the February primary as an undeclared voter, the ballot choice you made that day will remain your party preference unless you visited the “change-back-to-undeclared-status” table before you left the polls that day. You can also visit the Town Office to do so at your convenience. Please check your party affiliation before the September Primary to see what Party you are affiliated with. You can do so at the Dunbar Free Library or the Town Office where we have updated checklists.

Absentee undeclared voters, especially, will need to visit the Town Office before the State Primary election in September if they wish to return to Undeclared status.

AND...Thanks again to all the greeters, ballot clerks and the “returning to undeclared helpers” at the Presidential Primary. We could not do it without your time and dedication!

If anyone is interested in being on our list to help out at either the State Primary or the General Election please contact us via email at 3supervisors@gmail.com or leave your information at the town office.

Emergency Management Director, David Beckley

Emergency Planning: There are many parts of your Family Emergency Plan that need to be worked out long before the disaster happens. When “IT” happens, are you prepared?

Don’t Wait: There are many parts of the Emergency Plan that should be worked out ahead. How will your family members get back together if separated? Are you ready to evacuate at a moments notice? Could you stay inside at your home for 72 hours. Are your pets included in your plan?

Communicate: The best plans you can lay out are of no value if no one else knows them. Discuss with your family over dinner or have “what if” drills. Make sure everybody knows what is expected and how they should react.

The tools you need to make your plan are available at www.ready.gov or www.readynh.gov. Start working on your plan today, and discuss it with your family. Feel free to contact me via email at Grantham_EMD@comcast.net if you should have any questions.

Grantham Energy Committee

The GEC has been busy attending workshops, conferences, legislative hearings, bringing in guest speakers and participating in area town solarization kick offs in hopes of sharing what we have learned with the residents of Grantham on the value of renewables for home and municipal property.

So, what’s next? How about solar? We are excited with the prospect of the possibility of making Grantham a greener place and reducing our carbon output. With the help of professional installers, we will be looking at town property and seeing what locations would work and different avenues of finance that won’t impact the taxpayers. We meet the first Monday of each month at 5pm in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room of the Grantham Town Building—we welcome your input, support, knowledge and desire to learn along with us!

Our updates are posted on the web at www.granthamnh.net/energy. We will be adding news on the States decision on net metering, solarization kick off for residential and adding information at the library.

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www.granthamnh.net

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NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTORS OFFICE

Spring is upon us, and is always a time of change and renewal. Rita Friedman, Grantham's long-time Town Clerk/Tax Collector, retired at the end of February. It was my privilege to work with her for seven months prior to her retirement, and while I still have much to learn, I am grateful to have been elected to replace her at town meeting on March 8. Rita served the town for seventeen years in this capacity and helped many residents with motor vehicle registrations, tax matters, election-related questions, and so much more. Her experience and commitment will be sorely missed; however, we wish her all the best in the next phase of her life and hope she enjoys many adventures.

As always, with spring comes dog license renewal time. Many have already stopped by to renew their dogs, but we encourage everyone to license their dogs well before the April 30 deadline. Please remember that I will be at the rabies clinic on Saturday, April 2, to be held between 1:00 and 2:00pm at the Fire Station. I hope to see you there!

Ken Story
Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Dunbar Free Library

The Dunbar Free Library renovation is DONE! If you did us a favor and held onto some books for the duration you can bring them back now. Please, if you have not done so yet, come and visit us! It's airy, it's spacious, and there are lots of parking spaces. The landscaping isn't done, but that's mud season, right? Thank you again for your generous support, we think you'll like the changes.

On April 4th, we will be hosting Peter and Betty Garland as they talk about how to get genealogical information. Call for details! 863-2172. I'm pretty sure something exciting is happening the week after, during school break, so check the website or follow us on Facebook.

Don't forget Story Times, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. There's usually a hiatus for part of May and June, then on again for the Summer Reading Program.

"Our Town" Activities: "Our Town" and Grantham Activities invites you to:

- ◆ Rabies Clinic April 2 at Grantham Fire Department, 1-2pm with Sugar River Animal Hospital
- ◆ Mother/Son Dinner with Juggler Bryson Lang on May 7 at the Town Building
- ◆ Father/Daughter Luau Dance on June 18 at the Town Building
- ◆ For complete details about all of our events visit us the web at www.granthamnh.net/activities

Join our listserv! Stay up-to-date on all the happenings in town by joining our listserv! Sign-up from the homepage of our website at www.granthamnh.net.