

Hillsborough, New Hampshire

NEWS FROM THE TOWN

Website: www.town.hillsborough.nh.us

Phone: 603-464-3877

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April - June 2023

From the Town Administrator



Spring is here and so is the cleanup after the messy end of winter we encountered. Summer Camp registration is open with the information on that is within this Newsletter. We have lifeguard positions open (we will train/certify if you're not already), as well as counselor positions. We also have a seasonal parks department opening for the summer months. To apply, please either print off an application from our website or stop by the Town Office Building.

Our Parks Department crew is working at getting everything spruced up for the busy use of our fields and parks over the next several months. One of the major projects this year will be the tennis courts getting rebuilt and there will also be an addition of a pickleball court. Are you aware that you can reserve various town spots? If you're interested in using the pavilion at Manahan Park, Grimes Field, Butler Park, or our Clubhouse, forms are available on our website @ <https://www.town.hillsborough.nh.us/files/> under "Parks and Recreation."

The Highway Department is grading roads, cleaning out ditches, smoothing out shoulders, and getting everything prepped for scheduled repairs and paving projects that will happen in the late summer. They're working with our Maintenance Department to provide materials to be used to level out the lawn area at the Library. Our Maintenance Department has also scheduled to have the area where the old lift was on the outside of the Library repaired, and have the granite steps put back in.

The Selectboard will have a couple of work sessions to assess what worked and didn't work with the parking this past winter and finalize updating the regulations and updated signage for our public parking areas. They will also be talking about plans to replace the beach house at Manahan and what that looks like moving forward. Of course, there are many other things they'll be working on as well so if you're interested in listening in,

meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office Building. You can also read their meeting minutes, as well as the minutes for other committees and boards @ <https://www.town.hillsborough.nh.us/>. You can also sign up to receive direct notifications by clicking "Subscribe to News" on the main page of our website. There, you can choose what is of interest to you so that you'll receive notification when information is posted.

The sidewalk project is still progressing and since it is funded through a federal program (they are paying 80% of the project), it sometimes moves extremely slowly due to all the hoops and agencies that are involved. Final plans for that project after changes to drainage and a few other things were made, are in the hands of NHDOT so we're waiting to hear about any questions, comments, etc. they have. We're getting ready to send notices out to property owners along the strip about easements and will be meeting with individuals about those over the next couple of months. Make no mistake, we all want this project to be done and over with after so many years!

We currently have openings on various committees and boards (Conservation Commission, Zoning Board alternates, Economic Development Committee, etc.) so if you're interested in getting involved, please email me at Laura@Hillsboroughnh.net. To receive these Newsletters directly when they come out quarterly, email Mary at Buildingsec@Hillsboroughnh.net and provide her with the email address you would like it sent to. Thank you!

*****HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY***** **TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH, NH**

Hazardous Waste Day will be held on Sunday, May 7, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Hillsborough Transfer Station. No other services will be available on this day. Sponsored by the



From Fuller Public Library

Fuller Public Library has a new community newsletter, you can subscribe by emailing HillsboroughHubNH@gmail.com. Find out about all the events going on in our community in one spot!

Our book groups continue to meet monthly: Popular Fiction, Military History, Mystery, Cookbook, and Teens. Call to find out how you can join.

Scrabble and Cribbage are played every Thursday at 1pm. Knitters, crocheters, and other crafty people meet every Monday at 1pm.

Artists of the Month for April: Sasha Wolfe, Nan McCarthy, and Clare McCarthy. You can view their work in the Gilbert Room all month.

April 17-22: Book Donations will be accepted, please bring them into the library. We cannot accept: dictionaries, encyclopedias, books in disrepair or that have an odor, VHS or cassette tapes.

April 25: Welcoming Pollinators program at 6:30pm. Gardener and nature lover John Root will explain the roles pollinators play in our ecosystem, and which native plants can we plant to help nourish them.

Artist of the Month of May: Jessie Wilmot Take a look at Jessie's art all month in the Gilbert Room. You can also find her at Summer Market in Butler Park on Saturdays starting May 20th.

May 2: How To's Day: Houseplant Swap! Bring unwanted, babies, or duplicate plants to swap for something new. Robin will be here as well to answer your questions. Join us at 1pm or 6:30pm.

May 15-19: Book Sale Preview - all you can bag for \$10, as well as antique books sold separately. Call for an appointment, 603-464-3595.

May 23: The Animal Adventurer's Guide and the Importance of Everyday Wildlife Encounters, 6:30 pm - Join Susie Spikol, award-winning naturalist for the Harris Center for Conservation Education and author of **The Animal Adventurer's Guide: How to Prowl for an Owl, Make Snail Slime, and Catch a Frog Bare-Handed** for an evening talk on the importance of experiences for people of all ages in the natural world. Time in nature is essential for fostering a sense of place and developing a stewardship ethic. Recent research shows it is actually good for your health. Find out how to have animal adventurers and experiences in your own backyard and community that can help deepen your connection to the natural world and your community.

Discover the everyday wild in your own backyard and beyond.

May 27: Annual Book Sale - all you can bag for \$10, BYOB or purchase one from us for \$1, 9am-12pm.

Artist of the Month for June: Paula Kerouac will have her work on display in our Gilbert Room all month, stop in to take a look!

June 17: NH Author Book Signing from 10am-12pm. Books from each author will be for sale, or bring your own copies to be signed. Authors so far: Karen Coulter, Ellen Reed, Marge Burke, SM Stevens, David Gonthier, Judith Sanders, Lisa Matthews, Sue McPhee, Chris Philbrook, Cally Chamberland, AL Aborn, Judy Bibbins, Jessie Salisbury, Debbie Farr, and Kathy Staughton.

June 19: Summer Reading begins! Stop in to sign up, pledge to read books all summer to earn prizes.

Camp Manahan

Registration is open! Go to Campmanahan.campmanagement.com

June 26th – First day of camp

June 26th – July 21st is for the Middle School Ages

July 24th – August 18th – Elementary School Ages and extra weeks for Middle School

June 23rd Beach Dance with June 30th as a backup date

Rates \$15/ week and \$30/week for extra weeks (Middle School) \$100.00 for non-residents



From the Fire Department

It is that time of year again where you are required to have a burn permit for any outside camp fires or brush piles. You can obtain them either on line at <https://nh.burnsafeamerica.com/> or by coming into the fire department with your license to get one.

Please remember you have to be the owner of the property to get one or have written permission from the home owner. You do not need to call the fire department every time you burn so long as you have a permit.



Spring is one of the worst times of year for wild land fires due to the fact the new growth has not greened up. So please take extra caution with your out-door fires and smoking materials especially when disposing of them out your car windows.

Barbeque grill safety on decks and porches: Please make sure they are not up against the side of the house. If they catch on fire, they are hard to extinguish and can cause considerable amounts of damage. It is best to have them on the ground and away from your home.



Remember this is a good time of year to test your smoke and CO detectors.

From the Conservation Commission

The Hillsborough Conservation Commission currently has three full membership openings as well as alternate member openings. If you are interested in conservation and conserving Hillsborough's natural resource, and would like to join the Commission, we currently meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in the training room at the Hillsborough Police station. You must be a resident of Hillsborough to become a commission member.



Happenings at the Police Department

Chief Chris Parsons

First off, I would like to thank the Towns people for their continued support of the Police Department and that showed at Town Meeting. Another thank you for supporting the Health and Wellness Capital Reserve Fund. This fund was instrumental in Hillsboro hosting the 1st heart health screening in New Hampshire. Thirty-seven employees were able to participate in the screening and a lot of great information was taken away from it. The employees were able to sit down with an exercise physiologist and a nurse practitioner to go over the results of the tests. These tests are going to help the employees become more aware of their heart health.

Sgt. Hodgen has started teaching at our 7-week regional K9 training school recently. There are 5 dogs going through this academy to include Hillsboro PD's new K9 Team; Sgt. Hodgen and K9 Voight. K9 Voight will be replacing K9 Gibbs upon his retirement in November.



The PD will be hosting our 1st R.A.D. Systems of Self-Defense program for women. This program will be taught by Officer Taylor Burrows. We are looking forward to offering this program multiple times through the year.

On May 10th we will be participating in a Touch a Truck event at the Hillsboro-Deering Campus. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

From the Energy Commission

The Energy Commission is seeking volunteers both for our regular commission with bi-monthly meetings, but also for a new committee to be created to research and potentially implement a Community Power Plan in conjunction with our Commission. There are a few dozen towns in NH that have implemented such a plan and are savings their residents each month on their electric bill, and we hope to have a warrant article for the voters next March.





To Hillsborough residents and sewer users:

The Hillsborough Water & Sewer Commission operates a water treatment plant at Loon Pond capable

of producing one million gallons per day of drinking water and a wastewater treatment plant on Norton Drive with a daily capacity of 600,000 gallons per day of wastewater.

For the year 2022 the water treatment plant produced on average approximately 200,000 gallons per day of drinking water.

During that same period the wastewater treatment plant received an average of 295,000 gallons per day of wastewater, with flows varying from a low of 119,000 gallons per day for the month of August to a high of 492,000 gallons per day for the month of March.

This additional flow at the treatment plant is coming from **Infiltration** and **Inflow**, known as **I and I**.

Infiltration is groundwater seeping into the collection system through holes, cracks, joint failures and faulty connections.

Inflow is stormwater flowing into the collection system through roof drains, foundation drains and sump pumps, storm drain cross connections and through manhole covers.

When towns such as Hillsborough were required to stop dumping raw sewage into local rivers and instead construct wastewater treatment plants, funds were provided both for the construction of the treatment plants and the replacement of aging collection systems. Rather than replace the existing collection system, Hillsborough chose to expand its collection system, extending sewer service to the following areas;

Bible Hill Road; Blair Avenue; Boulder Road; Center Road from 22 Center Road north to 54 Center Road; Childs Way and Windsor Terrace; Harvey Way; Henniker Street from Norton Drive northeast to 225 Henniker Street; Old Henniker Road from Henniker Street north to Preston Street; Myrtle Street west of Church Street to 70 Myrtle Street; West Main Street from the present Hillsboro House of Pizza west to the present American Self Defense Concepts karate studio; and Woodlawn Avenue.

In the ensuing years the collection system continued to expand through the construction of new lines by private developers, with service now extending to Bradford Circle; Gibson, Meeting Hill and Symonds Roads; Hill Street; Myrtle Street from 70 Myrtle to 84 Myrtle;

portions of Pine Ridge Road; and the Colonial Heights subdivision. During this time sewer services were also extended to the Garden Gate condominium development; the Willow Rock apartments and the new Middle and High Schools.

While the commission has spent an average of \$45,425 per year since 2015 attempting to reduce I and I through trenchless patching techniques, as well as the replacement of sewer lines on Butler Street and a portion of Bridge Street (with 50% of the cost paid by the town), the amount of infiltration and inflow has not dropped appreciably. The original collection system, constructed in the late 1800's, is composed mainly of vitrified clay (VC) sewer lines and brick manholes, all of which have long passed their expected lifespan.

In April of last year, the commission received a Wastewater Asset Management Plan (Sewer AMP) prepared by Underwood Engineers. The plan identified \$31.2 million in capital improvements over the next 50 years, with \$14.8 million of that projected in the next 10 years, largely due to pipeline and manholes approaching or beyond the end of their useful life.

The estimated \$31.2 million asset management funding over 50 years equates to annual asset management funding of \$624,000 per year. Using \$14.8 million over 10 years equates to annual asset management funding of \$1.48 million. In the opinion of our engineers this did not seem like a realistic goal, so the commission has decided to work toward funding the \$624,000 per year option.

In December of 2022 the commission received the second part of our long-term asset management planning for the sewer system – the Sewer Rate Study (SRS) and System Development Charge (SDC) Recommendations. The purpose of the SRS and SDC are to help the commission plan for implementing the infrastructure improvements recommended in the Wastewater Asset Management Plan.

Sewer users, with the exception of OSRAM, are billed at a flat per-unit rate, with one unit equated to a single-family dwelling, which pays \$480 per year for sewer services. The NHDES periodically performs Sewer Rate Surveys to compare annual sewer bills of New Hampshire communities. The state's survey is normalized to 197 gallons per day for the average household and Underwood calculated annual sewer bills of nearby communities at this consumption for comparison with Hillsborough's current sewer rates and the state average.

The study showed Hillsborough's sewer rate to be \$286 less than the state average annual sewer bill; \$359 less than the average annual residential sewer bill (197

gallons per day) for the Town of Antrim and \$758 less than the average annual residential sewer bill (197 gallons per day) for the Town of Henniker.

Underwood’s recommendations for sewer rates are an immediate 25% increase to bring annual asset management funding to approximately 46% in fiscal year 2023, and another 25% increase in fiscal year 2026 to bring annual asset management funding to approximately 80% of the \$625,000 annual target.

The sewer budget approved at the 2023 town meeting reflects this initial rate increase, with the bottom line rising from \$894,804 in 2022 to \$1,063,694 in 2023, an overall increase of 19%. The actual per-unit user fee will rise from \$120 to \$150 per quarter.

While the commission recognizes that the recent inflationary trends in the economy have placed a significant financial burden on our users, we see this rate increase as the only way to fund the necessary maintenance and upgrades to our existing infrastructure to improve treatment efficiency and ultimately reduce treatment costs.

Town of Hillsborough Water & Sewer Commission
Peter Mellen, Chairman
Dana Clow
Dave Lewis

Office of Community Planning

Town Meeting 2023 proved to be an overall success. The Dark Skies Ordinance failed to pass but that doesn’t mean the Planning Board is any less dedicated to continuing to use the existing Site Plan Regulations to help protect the night sky in the Commercial zones. The Planning Board would be interested to know what it was about the Dark Skies Ordinance that was objectionable. Feel free to send me an e-mail to let me know what made it something you could not support. robyn@hillsboroughnh.net.


The Planning Board would like to congratulate Nancy Egner on her return to the Planning Board for another term and welcome Bryant Wheeler who is a newly elected member. The Planning Board will appreciate their hard work as we move forward into another year.

The Planning Board’s projects for the year include the Capital Improvements Plan. This is a planning document developed by the department heads and committees to recommend a program of municipal capital improvement projects projected over a period of 6 years. Projects are prioritized according to the urgency and need for realization, and their estimated costs and probable funding sources. Projects are reviewed and ranked by the CIP Committee. The process culminates in a public hearing where the plan is reviewed for the public.

One of the warrant articles approved at Town Meeting was the ability of the Planning Board to issue Conditional Use Permits. Conditional Use permits are a tool much like a Special Exception, but under the umbrella of the Planning Board. In many cases this will streamline the permitting process by not requiring an applicant to have a separate Special Exception hearing through the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Over the next year the Board will be reviewing the current uses and deciding which of them can be more expediently addressed through the Conditional Use Permit Process.

Other priorities for the Planning Board this year include updating the Subdivision Regulations and working on the development of a Gateway Zone which will be located along Antrim Road and will include a Planned Unit Development overlay to allow for the most flexible commercial and mixed-use developments in that area.

The Board will also be addressing Tiny Homes and Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit’s. Tiny homes have become a popular housing choice for many people. We currently have no minimum dwelling size (except for apartments in the Central Business District) and Tiny Homes are allowed by right in the majority of town. The Board wants to consider Tiny Home parks and Detached Accessory Dwelling Units and see how they



TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH WATER & SEWER COMMISSION 2023 WATER QUALITY REPORT

**THE 2023 WATER QUALITY REPORT IS AVAILABLE
FOR VIEWING AT FOLLOWING WEB ADDRESS:**

<http://tiny.cc/Hillsborough2023CCRreport>


PLEASE NOTE THE URL IS CASE SENSITIVE.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PAPER COPY OF THE
REPORT MAILED TO YOU PLEASE CONTACT THE
OFFICE AT 603-464-7982.**

*****NOTICE*****

Throughout April, May and June

The Hillsborough Water Department will be flushing water mains via fire hydrants



BE ADVISED THAT YOU MAY EXPERIENCE POSSIBLE SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS AND/OR
TEMPORARY WATER DISCOLORATION!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact their office at 603-464-7982

might fit into town. This will all be in addition to their regular work of processing Subdivision and Site Plan applications.

The Planning Board meets twice a month, on the first and third Wednesdays at the Town Office at 7:00pm.

The Planning Board is looking for alternates to join the Board. Being an alternate is a great opportunity to learn how the Planning Board processes work and gives you the opportunity to participate in public hearings.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment welcomes Keith Cobbett as the most recently elected member of the ZBA. Roger Racette is also returning having won re-election this year. The Zoning Board of Adjustment is actively seeking alternates to serve on the Board. The Zoning Board of Adjustment meets on the second Monday of the month when there is business before the Board at the Town Office at 7:00 pm.

If you have interest in serving on either of these important Boards, please send an e-mail stating your interest and which Board you would like to participate on to Planning Director Robyn Payson at robyn@hillsboroughnh.net.



May/June Meeting Schedule

May 3	Planning Board <u>Located at 27 School St.</u>	7:00 pm
May 4	Historical District <u>Located at Center Club House</u>	6:00 pm
May 9	Conservation Commission <u>Located at the Police Department</u>	7:00 pm
May 10	Board of Selectmen <u>Located at 27 School St.</u>	6:00 pm
May 11	Sewer Commission <u>Located at 63 W. Main St.</u>	6:00 pm
May 11	Energy Commission <u>Located at 27 School St.</u>	6:00 pm
May 16	Dark Skies Committee <u>Located at 27 School St.</u>	6:00 pm
May 17	Economic Development <u>Located at the Fire Station</u>	9:00 am
May 23	Water Commission <u>Located at 63 W. Main St.</u>	6:00 pm
May 23	Conservation Commission <u>Located at the Police Department</u>	7:00 pm
May 24	Board of Selectmen <u>Located at 27 School St.</u>	6:00 pm
May 25	Energy Commission <u>Located at 27 School St.</u>	6:00 pm
June 1	Historical District <u>Located at Center Club House</u>	6:00 pm
June 7	Planning Board <u>Located at 27 School St.</u>	7:00 pm
June 8	Sewer Commission <u>Located at 63 W. Main St.</u>	6:00 pm
June 8	Energy Commission <u>Located at 27 School St.</u>	6:00 pm
June 12	Zoning Board of Adjustment <u>Located at 27 School St.</u>	7:00 pm
June 13	Conservation Commission <u>Located at the Police Department</u>	7:00 pm
June 14	Board of Selectmen <u>Located at 27 School St.</u>	6:00 pm

Check the Town's website for any changes/additions