

Hillsborough, New Hampshire

NEWS FROM THE TOWN

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Phone: 603-464-3877

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October - December 2023

From the Town Administrator



Beautiful Fall weather is here and we're slowly ticking away into year end. This is the time when all department heads are working on their 2024 budgets and monitoring 2023 expenses as we slide into the end of the year. The Selectboard will be meeting with the large depart-

ments soon to review their proposed budgets.

We had some unexpected weather during the summer months which wreaked havoc on some of our roads, and our budget, but the Highway Department did a fantastic job of putting everything back together again. We're hoping for a mild end of the year and a winter with less rain/ice than the past couple of years.

We are currently in the process of having our municipal website redesigned and will be breaking away from the current company who has hosted our website. This will save us money on an annual basis and provide a platform which should be more user-friendly for our residents and staff. In the meantime, our current website has a new feature which will be going live the week of October 16th which is called "Click Fix". This new feature will allow folks to report on various items/subjects/issues through our website 24/7 in order to direct them to the appropriate departments to be addressed. Anyone who submits through this system will receive updates on the actions taken as well as when the subject matter has been resolved. This will also enable our main office to easily answer questions about certain issues by calling it up and tracking the activity.

The Selectboard has been working on updating various policies and is ready to hold public hearings on two of those, our animal ordinance and our parking regulations. The public hearings will be held on Wednesday, November 8th beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the police department training room. Copies of the ordinances/regulations will be posted on our website at least 2 weeks prior to the hearings.

The newly formed Community Power Committee has been working diligently to put together a plan for

Hillsborough in order to bring it forward at the 2024 Town Meeting. They will be putting out a survey very soon for residents to take and will be holding a public hearing on their plan on Wednesday, November 8th at 6:00 p.m. in the police department training room.

Please make sure and check our website www.town.hillsborough.nh.us for updates and announcements or better yet, click on "Subscribe to News" on the main page and check off all the information you would like to have delivered straight to your email. This will enable you to stay informed.

We currently have openings on our Economic Development Committee, Energy Commission, and Conservation Commission. If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to Laura@Hillsboroughnh.net. Thank you!

Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB)

In a quest to update the Transfer Station's sticker program, the Solid Waste Advisory Board has been working on a multi-town survey with regard to other municipalities programs and have found that all surrounding communities adhere to an active sticker program. Updated stickers help to monitor that only eligible individuals are using our Transfer Station and will enable us to have an accurate count of users.

Beginning January 2024, residents of Hillsborough, Deering, and Windsor will begin receiving new transfer station stickers each year with their automobile registrations. One sticker will be given for each eligible car registration. Colors will change each year in alignment with the vehicle registration and inspection stickers. Special short-term permits will be able to be obtained at the Transfer Station – not the Town Clerk Offices for seasonal property owners, property clean-outs if the property is in Hillsborough, Deering, or Windsor, etc. Proof of property ownership will be required. The local commercial permit process will continue to be handled in the same manner, through the Transfer Station, for trash generated in Hillsborough, Deering and Windsor only and will be monitored by the facility staff.

From the Conservation Commission

The Hillsborough Conservation Commission currently has 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 town offices located at 27 School Street. You must be a resident of Hillsborough to become a commission member.



From the Fire Department

Hillsboro Fire Department wants to remind people with the colder weather coming that it is a good time to get your furnace cleaned and inspected by a certified HVAC contractor for the upcoming winter. Please make sure when you get your furnace inspected, if you have a gas furnace you also check that during the summer months that nothing got stacked up or pushed in front of your vents outside your house as this will cause exhaust to back up inside.

If you have a fireplace, hire a professional chimney sweep to inspect and clean that as well. Keep all flammable objects at least three feet away from the fire place and install a mesh metal screen around it.

If you use space heaters, ensure there's at least three feet of space around them as well. Also, don't place any fabric on top to dry, and please turn heaters off when going to bed or leaving.

October is Halloween month and decorating can be a lot of fun but there are safety issues to consider. Make sure decorations are away from all open flames or other heating sources. Try using battery operating lights instead of candles, they are much safer.

Remember, as we store all our summer lawnmowers, remove the gas from them and never store fuel in your garage.

We also ask people when the clocks get changed on November 5th that you change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. It is a good habit to get into in the fall and spring when the clocks change.

With the holiday season approaching businesses should know that live Christmas trees are not allowed in assembly occupancies, artificial trees are allowed.

Happenings at the Police Department

Chief Chris Parsons

I am pleased to announce that we have hired Brenda Wesoly as a full-time dispatcher for us. She is finishing her training and then will be assigned to her own shifts in dispatch. We have also hired a new Diversion Coordinator, Jacki Waldvogel started the first of October.

Early October, Officer DeTurris and Officer Burrows were honored at McDonalds for their commitment to community events in Hillsboro. This event is a fundraiser campaign for the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police.

We also held our Hillsboro Association Golf Tournament. I want to thank all the sponsors and players for their support in this Tournament. The Tournament raised almost \$10,000 for the association.

Office of Community Planning

The Planning Board will be presenting several warrant articles at the 2024 Town Meeting.

All of these proposed changes will be presented at a public hearing whose date is yet to be determined. Keep an eye on the town website for more information. Feel free to e-mail me, at robyn@hillsboroughnh.net with any questions.

Historic District Ordinance

The Historic District Ordinance has been re-written to appropriately define and delineate the powers and duties of the Historic District Commission. The current ordinance does not sufficiently account for the scope of review allowed by RSA 674:46.

Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance

The Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance has been re-written to allow "detached" Accessory Dwelling Units. Currently the ordinance requires ADU's to be part of the single-family home sharing an interior wall and at least one interior access. In response to the many requests to locate accessory "granny pods" or tiny homes on the property of a single-family home, the Board is bringing forward the rewritten ordinance that includes permission to locate a detached ADU on the property. A detached ADU is an accessory to the main house and is not considered a second single-family dwelling.

Change of Use

Currently Change of Use is only defined in the zoning ordinance. Amending the definition of Change of Use and creating an ordinance that addresses them clarifies

the requirements for those seeking a change of use on their property.

Other Amendments

The other amendments to be presented this year include updates to definitions and an article reducing the requirement for dwellings in the Central Business District from 600sq feet to 450sq feet.

Alternate Positions

The Zoning Board of Adjustment is in need of alternates. There are two positions available. Alternates substitute for an elected member of the Board when they are absent or need to recuse themselves.

Being an alternate on the ZBA allows you to learn about the zoning ordinance from a “quasi-judicial” standpoint. The ZBA functions like a “court” and acts on variances and special exceptions. Someone seeks a variance when what they want to do is prohibited in the zoning ordinance. A special exception is an allowed use that may require special conditions.

The ZBA meets on the second Monday of the month when there is business. It is a great opportunity to learn and have a better understanding of your town’s ordinances.

The Planning Board has two open alternate positions. Being an alternate on the Planning Board gives you the ability to participate in hearings on developments in Town. You also have the opportunity to give input on new zoning ordinances and amendments as well as updates to the subdivision and site plan regulations.

The Planning Board meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

I would be happy to speak with anyone interested in serving on either of these boards. If you have an interest in serving on either the ZBA or Planning Board, feel free to call me at 603-464-7971 for more information or send an e-mail stating your interest to robyn@hillsboroughnh.net.

Robyn Payson
Planning Director

Library News

Fuller Public Library is proud to announce that we have been named the 2023 NH Library of the Year by the NH Library Trustees Association Board of Directors!

Thank you all for supporting Fuller Public Library!

The award will be presented to the Fuller Board of Trustees on Saturday, October 28 at 11am. We welcome you all to join us for refreshments and the award

presentation. The Fuller Board of Trustees and staff are extremely proud and excited about this award.

Follow the library on Facebook, Instagram, or subscribe to the Hillsborough Hub newsletter by emailing HillsboroughHubNH@gmail.com.

Library Events - *subject to change*

Storytime Tuesdays or Thursdays at 10am, call to reserve a spot!

- Oct 16 - 2pm:** Military History Book Group meets
- Oct 17 - 12:30pm:** Cookbook Club meets
- Oct 17 - 1pm or 6:30pm:** Mystery Book Group meets
- Oct 28 - 11am:** Fuller Public Library receiving award for the 2023 Library of the Year! Join us for the celebration!
- Oct 31 - 5-8pm:** Trick or Treat at the library!
- Nov 2 - 6:30pm:** FPL Book Discussion
- Nov 3 - 1pm:** Tea & Conversation
- Nov 7 - 1pm or 6:30pm:** How To's Day - Paper Ornaments
- Nov 11 -** Closed in observance of Veteran's Day
- Nov 13 - 2pm:** Military History Book Group meets
- Nov 14 - 6:30pm:** Ghost Tales Lecture, meet the spirits of the library-RSVP due to limited seating!
- Nov 21 - 12:30pm:** Cookbook Club meets
- Nov 21 - 1pm or 6:30pm:** Mystery Book Group meets
- Nov 23 - Closed** - Happy Thanksgiving!
- Dec 1 - 1pm:** Tea & Conversation
- Dec 2 - 10am-12pm:** Hillsborough for the Holidays - Make & Take Crafts
- Dec 5 - 1pm or 6:30pm:** Holiday Centerpiece - RSVP to the library
- Dec 7 - 6:30pm:** FPL Book Discussion
- Dec 11 - 2pm:** Military History Book Group meets
- Dec 14 - 6:30pm:** Woolly Mammoths - Long-Lost Elephants of New England with Susie Spikol
- Dec 19 - 12:30pm:** Cookbook Club meets
- Dec 19 - 1pm or 6:30pm:** Mystery Book Group meets
- Dec 25 - Closed** - Merry Christmas

*******Winter Parking Ban*******

Within the Town of Hillsborough, from November 1 to May 1. No parking is permitted on any public street between 11:00 pm and 7:00 am.



HILLSBOROUGHS 6TH TRUNK OR TREAT

OCT. 31, 2023 | TUESDAY, FREE ENTRY
FROM 5-7PM

HOSTED BY:
Project Genesis and Kid Adventures

At Hillsborough-Deering Middle School!

For more information contact:

ysdirector@hillsboroughnh.net

This is not a Hillsborough/Deering School District Sponsored Event