

TOWN OF NEW CASTLE

New Hampshire

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

ISLAND ITEMS

NOVEMBER 2016

VOLUME 131

PLANNING BOARD

On the ballot this May will be a proposed ordinance change on the subject of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's). In March of 2016, the NH Legislature enacted SB 146 which established a statewide mandate requiring all municipalities to permit the creation of accessory dwelling units in any zoning district which allows single family residential development. New Castle already addresses ADU's in its current Zoning Ordinance, however our current rules will need to be amended to bring it into compliance with the new state law.

The Planning Board is working on these amendments and welcomes residents' input. Public Hearings will be held on these changes plus proposed amendments on other ordinances starting in February through March. Residents are encouraged to watch for notices of these Public Hearings through announcements in the newspaper, postings on the website and on the front door to the Town Hall.

Planning Board

TOWN CLERK

Town Meeting

Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 9 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Polls will open for voting at 9:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

Location: New Castle Recreation Center, Great Island Common, 301 Wentworth Road
April 4 is the last day to petition the select board for warrant articles.

The Town Warrant will be posted by April 24, 2017.

Filing period for candidates for town offices and school offices is from Wednesday, March 22 to Friday, March 31.

Open Town Offices

Select Board Member	3 year term
Treasurer	3 year term
Budget Committee	3 year term
Cemetery Trustee	3 year term
Library Trustee	3 year term
Library Trustee	1 year term
Trustee of Trust Funds	3 year term
Supervisors of Checklist	3 year term
Town Moderator	1 year term

Open School Board Offices

School Board Member 3 Year Term

Updates to the open offices will be posted at the town hall.

If you have any questions contact Priscilla Hodgkins, Town Clerk/Tax Collector or BJ Riordan, Deputy Town Clerk.

You may also contact the Secretary of State's Office - Elections Division.

Phone: 603-271-3242

Fax: 603-271-6316

Website: <http://sos.nh.gov/ElecOff.aspx>

Priscilla Hodgkins

Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Email: phnewcastle@yahoo.com

Phone: 431-6710 ext 11

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Water Conservation tips:

Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. Wash only full loads of laundry. Even if you have an HE washer, using it over and over for small loads is a waste of water. Wait until your dishwasher is actually full before running it.

Make sure all your toilets are not leaking. You may not see this and the sound a tiny leak can make is almost inaudible. But a steady leak that continues every hour, 24 hours a day, can add up to a huge amount of water.

--If dye tablets are still available at the Town Hall, place one in the toilet tank (not the bowl) for several hours without flushing. Alternatively, you can place some food

coloring (blue or red) in the tank. If the water in the bowl changes color, that means it is leaking.

Check for drips at faucets. A worn washer at the faucet can waste 20 gals. of water a day.

Think about changing to a low flow showerhead. The volume of water is less, but the pressure of that water is higher--thus giving a good rinse in less time.

Showerheads with a side lever. This allows you to turn off the water while shampooing or shaving, then you can move the lever on again and have the exact same water temperature as you started with to continue bathing.

With the excessive drought we experienced last summer, it reminded us all of how precious our water supply is to our daily living. Please make the effort to conserve as much of it as you can...your next water invoice will provide proof that your efforts truly paid off!

Respectfully Submitted,

Walter Liff, Chair



New Castle Public Library

But I'm coming at this differently, as someone persuaded that reading does things – to the brain, heart, and spirit – that movies, television, video games, and the rest of it cannot.” - Frank Bruni, American journalist

On December 8th the library launched a new literacy program - ***NH 1000 Books***

Before Kindergarten. Research shows that children need to hear 1000 books before they begin to learn to read independently. We have signed up 8 children for this reading challenge - it is great fun to see our youngest members of the community carry their book bags full of literary treasures. If you have a child under the age of 5, please stop by the library to sign up for the program.

New Castle Community Read - A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman - The library is excited to host our first ever community-wide read. 41 members of the community are reading this New York Times best seller. We have scheduled two meetings to discuss the book – Tuesday, February 7th at 1:30pm and Wednesday, February 8th at 4:30pm. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to join us!

On Thursdays throughout October we hosted ***Adult Craft Days***. All supplies and materials were provided for two projects – Perching Doves and Holiday Trees made from felted wool sweaters. What started out as a one day event turned into a month long program as participants kept coming back to add to their collection.

In January we started ***Art for Beginners*** for adults interested in more serious artistic endeavors. With New Year's resolutions in mind (try new things, nurture creativity, be

brave) and a long winter ahead, we had a tremendous turnout for this program. This four-week program included Drawing with Pencil, Pen & Ink with Textures, Watercolor, and Collage. Even with overbooking, we had a list of people on reserve. Given the excitement, we plan to host future art programs.

Speaking of arts and crafts ... our knitting group continues to meet on Tuesdays from 3-5pm. ***Drop in for a Stitch*** with your project and enjoy an afternoon of creativity and upbeat conversation.

Introduction to Bridge

Fundamentals - Session 3 of our bridge program started on January 4th with twelve participants. Dick Spaulding is teaching three new players while assisting returning players when they cry for help. Enthusiasm continues to build as players become more independent and skilled. Let me know if you are interested in future sessions.

On January 17th the library hosted Debra Ballou for an evening of stories. We participated in a Seacoast Area Library event called ***Beyond the Binding*** where 18 libraries each hosted a professional storyteller during the month of January. Debra shared folktales, Native American stories and stories about the natural world.

Library Bus Trips – The library hosted our third bus trip on Sunday, December 4th to the ***Holiday Pops***. We enjoyed a magical afternoon at Boston Symphony Hall and left the concert with wonderful holiday spirit. Our next bus trip will be on Saturday, April 29th to the Boston Ballet to see ***Sleeping Beauty***.

Resident artist Dustan Knight recently published ***Painting the Impressionistic Landscape: Exploring Light & Color in Watercolor & Acrylic***. The book offers

technical instruction, as well as encouragement and inspiration for beginning and more experienced artists. This beautiful book is available for checkout at the library.

New Materials at the Library –

DVDs: Ghostbusters, Café Society, Truth, Grandma, Everybody's Fine, Jason Bourne, Sully, A Man Called Ove, Blue Bloods season 6, The Good Wife final season, Outlander season 1, 800 Words season 1, ...

Family Movie Night:

Angry Birds, Norm of the North, Ice Age Collision Course, Kung Fu Panda 3, Good Dinosaur, Nine Lives, The Jungle Book, Finding Dory, Storks, ...

New Books:

Manitou Canyon by William Kent Krueger, *Mothers* by Britt Bennett, *The Wonder* by Emma Donoghue, *Two by Two* by Nicholas Sparks, *Another Brooklyn* by Jacqueline Woodson, *IQ* by Joe Ide, *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles, *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult, *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery, *The Trespasser* by Tana French, *Cooking for Jeffrey* by Ina Garten, *Whistler* by John Grisham, *The Wrong Side of Goodbye* by Michael Connelly, *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles, *Painting the Impressionistic Landscape* by Dustan Knight, *Moonglow* by Michael Chabon, ...

New Audio Books on cd:

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Moscow Rules* by Daniel Silva, *The English Spy* by Daniel Silva, *The Rembrandt Affair* by Daniel Silva, ...

Library Hours:

Tuesday 12–5
Thursday 9–3
Friday 12–5
Saturday 9–12

Story Times: Thursdays at 9:30am & Saturdays at 10am

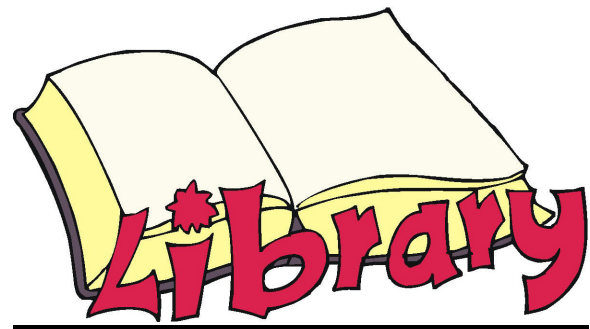
Drop in for a Stitch Knitting Group:

Tuesdays at 3pm
Wednesday 12–5

Adult Library Book Group: 1st Wed. each month at 3pm

Happy Reading!

Christine Collins, Library Director



STORM MINUTIA

A reminder when cleaning out your driveways not to plow snow into the streets.

Oceanside Rubbish said that on bad storm days that they would be earlier than the 7am pick for trash and recycling.



Fire Task Force Summary Report

September 19, 2016 – Prepared for the New Castle Selectboard

Mission of the Fire Safety Task Force

The Fire Task Force was established by the New Castle Select Board to focus on issues of importance to the town that relate to fire safety, education, and interim water options. The purpose was to provide information to the Board and to the town's citizens related to these issues, while the Board works with Underwood Engineering to better understand, document, and plan for our water infrastructure needs going forward. .

The Fire Task Force is focused on:

- ☐ ☐ Any ordinances that the Town should consider to enhance fire prevention/safety. For example, re-evaluating parking in certain congested areas that would impede an emergency vehicle.
- ☐ ☐ Building Code issues, if they exist, that the Town should consider addressing.
- ☐ ☐ Identifying interim measures that the Town could consider to improve access to water for firefighting until the infrastructure better supports adequate flow and pressure.
- ☐ ☐ Developing a program of fire safety education for citizens of the Town.

The Fire Task Force is not focused on:

Water/sewer infrastructure issues. These include:
Size of pipes;
Sewer treatment stations; and
Whether or not we should contract with Portsmouth, or another entity, for water infrastructure services.

An evaluation of the Fire Department, their handling of any events, or any issues involved in the department's operations or mutual aid program.

The Task Force will review the Agreement with the engineering firm, Underwood, and their draft report with an eye to its own work. Any interim ideas put forth by Underwood to mitigate water access issues or address any water flow/pressure concerns before the new infrastructure is in place will be of major interest to the Task Force.

Approach to Achieving the Task Force Mission

There were three primary activities conducted to help achieve the mission of the Task Force. These are:

1. Review of existing studies of relevance. These included previously conducted water infrastructure studies, information related to interim water sources, Town of New Castle maps and other documents related to water and fire safety.
2. Our own research related to interim water sources, fire education, and safety.
3. Interviews with individuals knowledgeable on water infrastructure, fire safety and education, and firefighting. During the course of the study, the following individuals were interviewed:
 - a. New Castle Select Board
 - b. Chief David Blanding, and other members of the New Castle Fire Department
 - c. Steve Tabbutt, New Castle Public Works Department
 - d. Building Inspector, Terry Barnes
 - e. Police Chief, Don White
 - f. Fire Wards

- g. Underwood Engineering, Keith Pratt, Cole Melendy
- h. Portsmouth Fire Chief, Steve Achilles
- i. Portsmouth City Council Meetings
- j. Portsmouth DPW, Brian Goetz
- k. Homeland Security Dept., Pam Urban-Morin
- l. Weston & Sampson, Leah Stanton
- m. Tighe & Bond, John McClellan
- n. Star Island, Jack Farrell
- o. Several New Castle citizens
- p. Tangerine Graphics, Tanner Clark

Interim Water Sources

During the winter of 2016, a historic home owned by the Tarbell family caught on fire and was completely destroyed. While the fire was being fought, one hydrant malfunctioned and a water pipe broke. There were also questions about the water pressure available during the fire.

While the region's Mutual Aid program and the New Castle Fire Department were successful in isolating the fire to just the Tarbell property and there were no injuries, these infrastructure weaknesses alarmed the community. In response, the Select Board is actively working to improve the water infrastructure system to ensure that it is in a state of good repair and there is adequate water available for future fire-fighting.

Additionally, they have implemented other activities to promote fire safety, including a fire hydrant maintenance record keeping process managed by the Department of Public Works.

The Board continues to study the town's water infrastructure system and Underwood Engineering is engaged in a full study of the town's system. The output of their study will inform future infrastructure investment. Improving the water system, however, is

expected to take several years. As a result, the Fire Task Force was asked to research other interim water sources. Our general observations are presented below.

Water Tower

A water tower was identified in previous studies as a robust source of water. The studies identified two potential locations for a water tower: near the Maude H. Trefethen Elementary School or near Shaw Circle. While a water tower would provide significant volumes of water, it may cost nearly \$4 million, and the time required to build the tower is uncertain. Additional study would be required. There are certainly issues associated with a water tower, but it does give the Town adequate water supply and potentially some independence.

Dry Hydrant

A dry hydrant would provide an easy, readily available source of back up water, taking advantage of New Castle's proximity to the ocean. It may be a reasonable option to consider in some locations on the island, such as Wild Rose Lane. Obtaining water via a dry hydrant requires fire department labor, however, and the number of locations where this type of infrastructure would be feasible is limited due to water depth.

Fire Boat

The City of Portsmouth recently transferred ownership of the fireboat to the Town of New Castle. Because New Castle is an island and many town properties are located very near the shore, the Fire Chief has indicated that it is an excellent back-up source of water. The Task Force strongly supported this acquisition, since there was no capital cost to the Town, the boat provides a high volume water source – (which does not compete with the existing water supply). The boat provides the Fire Dept. the ability to reach several key and high risk areas of town and provide a significant amount of incremental water. The pros and cons of these potential interim sources of water and others, along with additional information of relevance, are provided in the table included at the end of this summary report.

Ordinances

The Task Force also looked various Town Ordinances to see if there were areas where new 'rules' would improve fire safety.

1. One key area, highlighted by several people, is the need to enforce existing parking regulations. The Town is very constrained with few parking places. Large moving trucks, landscaping vehicles, construction vehicles often create a barrier to passage on our narrow streets. If a fire truck needs to get to an emergency, precious

minutes could be lost locating a truck's owner and getting it moved.

a. Townspeople need to be vigilant and report ongoing problems to the Police so we can work out solutions when there is an obstruction.

b. There are a few areas of concern: the corner of Atkinson and Piscataqua, which was recently re-zoned' to clear congestion at that corner, and the Walbach/Piscataqua corner which has a "No Parking Here to Corner" sign which is sometimes ignored.

c. Construction sites in the Village area are also a special concern. At a minimum, the Police Department/Fire Department need to be aware of unavoidable obstructions, so they can route an emergency vehicle if necessary.

d. There are also existing ordinances and permits required for fire pits, people need to be made aware of these, and the regulations enforced.

e. We also considered whether there are Building Code issues that could be addressed. The information we received on this issue is that the International Building Code prevails. Also, while the Fire Department can and does offer free home fire safety inspections, a Building Inspector, when he is performing an inspection on a renovation, cannot cite other areas of concern and require the homeowner to fix them. He can suggest, but not require. We have several old homes in town that haven't been renovated for 30, 40 or 50 years, and probably have code violations and safety issues, but we do not know of any way that safety inspections can be required in these homes. So, this is an area of ongoing risk.

Education and Marketing

In addition to researching various interim water sources, the Fire Task Force was asked to consider approaches to better educating the New Castle community on fire safety. The following are several

recommendations being implemented or considered for improving education outreach related to fire safety:

1. A series of 6-7 “Island Items” and “Islander” articles that discuss fire safety, including common sense approaches related to fire pits, fireplaces, calling 911, and related issues, written by the Task Force and various town departments. .
2. “Fire Plugs” to visually articulate key fire safety concepts. These “plugs” have been published in community newsletters. We recommend inclusion on the New Castle website and possibly developing posters for the Post Office, Town Hall, Henry’s and other public spaces in New Castle.
3. “Giveaways” to be distributed to homes and during community events. Their intent is to further promote fire safety and good practices to employ in our homes to keep ourselves and our neighbors safe.
4. “Dovetailing” with existing Fire Department and school events related to fire safety. Additional materials could be distributed, including “fire safety check-lists,” to children and their parents at these events.
5. Fire safety mass mailings to New Castle residents.
6. Fire Department “Auxiliary” / appreciation for NCFD efforts. Improved communication related to the importance of Carbon Monoxide detectors, smoke detectors, sufficient buffers between fire sources and structures, availability of central monitoring systems, etc.
7. Marketing of existing programs – for example, the Fire Department conducts fire safety audits of homes at no cost.
8. Smoke detector program – may be able to develop a grant application to obtain some funding from “big box” community grant programs to purchase/install smoke detectors.

9. Increase the awareness of remotely monitored home safety systems and encourage installation to provide protection for the homeowner.

WATER and SEWER DEPARTMENT

During the past year the Water and Sewer Department has been diligently working on converting our previous method of calculating the water and sewer bills into a fairer method for billing. This fall, the finishing touches were put on our computer billing system to allow for ZERO-BASED BILLING. This method of billing allows users to pay only the amount of water (/sewer in some cases) actually consumed by them, rather than having low users pay the 20 Unit minimum--even if they did not consume the full 20 units. The effective date of this change was October 13, 2016.

This zero based billing was explained clearly by our board member, Norman Houle, and his explanation was enclosed in your latest water bill. We encourage you to study this in order to understand our commitment to making billing as fair as possible.

This is a good time to remind users that our water bills from Portsmouth have also increased substantially. While we have no control over the rates we are being charged, all users have the control over the amount of water they use. We urge you to maintain an awareness of the amount of water you and family members may be using unnecessarily. Small steps taken consistently over the course of a 4 month billing cycle can make a substantial impact on the amount of your bill.

ALL ABOARD

A small but dedicated group of New Castle volunteers has banded together to offer transportation services to residents of our town who need assistance getting to scheduled appointments off island.

We would like to send a hearty thanks to those selfless volunteers who have dedicated their time to responding to their neighbors in need since the inception of this service.

As you may already be aware of, there is no public transportation serving the residents of New Castle. Our volunteers have been providing a vital role by offering rides to a limited number of people in the town who are unable to drive themselves, and who don't have family or friends who can reliably accompany them to their scheduled appointments.

These appointments can be to a nearby doctors, hair salon, veterinary visits for their pets, or just about any required service which cannot be delivered to their home.

Our hearty band of volunteers are reliable and enthusiastic and willing to spend more time with the residents of our town in need of transportation.

If you or someone you know in town could benefit from this service we'd love to hear from you. Please call: Jane Sweeney at 603-498-6087 or email at jane.sweeney@comast.net or Pam Cullen at 603-436-5085, ncpam327@aol.com.

FROZEN PIPES

From NH Public Risk Management Exchange:

A few reminders.....

Keep building temperatures as consistent as possible, never less than 55 degrees.

Insulate areas where water supply lines are located and eliminate drafts.

If you have water pipes in basements, crawl spaces, or outside walls, insulate the pipes, using pipe-sleeves or other insulating material.

Allow warm air to circulate by opening up doors to closets and cabinets where pipe chases are located.

On at least a daily basis, all areas of the building should be monitored for open windows, hearing failures and water leaks. This especially includes nights, weekends, and school breaks.

Provide training in emergency response, i.e. shutting off the water supply.

