

TOWN OF NEW CASTLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

ISLAND ITEMS

November / December 2023

VOLUME 1123



**Town of New Castle, NH
Settled 1623
Incorporated 1693**

Exciting news - It's official! The Town has purchased 41-43 Ocean Road in New Castle from the US Coast Guard. The residents of New Castle overwhelmingly approved the purchase of the waterfront parcel at the Town Meeting with more than 72% voting to purchase it. The process took a lot of effort, hard work, and forethought on their part. This historic purchase preserves an incredible legacy waterfront parcel with significant cultural, historical, and environmental value for current and future generations.

INFORMATION SUMMARY ON THE PURCHASE:

The vote authorized the Town to purchase the property for up to \$5,000,000. The Town reviewed both long- and short-term financing options. Given the long-term nature of the purchase, the rising interest rate environment, and the rates and terms of other financing options the Town decided to complete the purchase using a bond through the Municipal Bond Bank of New Hampshire. The other options had much shorter durations and were at considerably higher rates.

The Town received \$5,000,000 for the purchase through the bond sale. The bond was sold at a premium of \$148,917 which means the Town will only need to repay principal in the amount of \$4,851,083. The Bond Bank calculated the true interest cost over the life of the loan of 4.09% for a 29-year term. The loan payments, including principal and interest, on the bond will average \$293,555 per fiscal year.

To help defray some of the costs of the acquisition the Town is accepting two generous gifts in the amounts of \$1,000,000 and \$500,000 totaling \$1,500,000. The Town is thankful to these anonymous donors for their kindness and willingness to preserve New Castle's iconic waterfront. Because of the timing of the gifts and the donors wishing to preserve the property, along with the need for the Town to both complete the purchase and procure the bond at a favorable rate, the gifts will be used to provide funding for general municipal purposes. The Board intends this to be revenue used to offset the tax impact of the bond payments. The donations are expected to indirectly offset all or part of the tax impact of the bond payments for the next several years.

Below is this Board's intended use of the gifts through Fund Balance and the Charitable Trust set up by the donors to reduce the tax rate impact of the bond payments. The use and schedule are subject to change. All gift funds are expected to be utilized by the end of FY 29-30.

TOWN OF NEW CASTLE

BONDS DATED:	08/15/23	TOTAL PROCEEDS:	5,000,000
INTEREST START DATE:	08/09/23	PREMIUM TO REDUCE LOAN:	148,917
FIRST INTEREST PAYMENT:	02/15/24	AMOUNT OF LOAN TO BE PAID:	4,851,083
TRUE INTEREST COST:	4.09%		

DEBT YEAR	PERIOD ENDING	TOTAL PAYMENT*	FISCAL YEAR TOTAL PAYMENT	PMT FROM TAXES	PMT FROM GIFT (SURPLUS)	PMT FROM GIFT (TRUST)	BALANCE GIFT (SURPLUS)	BALANCE GIFT (TRUST)
BEGINNING BALANCE OF GIFTS:							500,000	1,000,000
FY 23-24	02/15/24	112,630	112,630	0	0	112,630	500,000	887,370
	08/15/24	186,385						
FY 24-25	02/15/25	107,023	293,408	0	118,408	175,000	381,592	712,370
	08/15/25	191,062						
FY 25-26	02/15/26	104,880	295,943	0	120,943	175,000	260,649	537,370
	08/15/26	192,236						
FY 26-27	02/15/27	102,653	294,889	0	119,889	175,000	140,760	362,370
	08/15/27	195,685						
FY 27-28	02/15/28	100,281	295,965	0	120,965	175,000	19,794	187,370
	08/15/28	199,408						
FY 28-29	02/15/29	97,753	297,160	102,366	19,794	175,000	0	12,370
	08/15/29	200,173						
FY 29-30	02/15/30	95,141	295,314	282,944	0	12,370	0	0

Above is a representation of how the funds gifted to the Town for the acquisition of the property located at 41 & 43 Ocean Road in New Castle were determined to be used in the repayment of the bond. The use and schedule is subject to change as Boards and needs change.

The larger donation will be held by the Town's Trustees of the Trust Funds in a separate account. The Trust does have some stipulations on it until the funds are fully disbursed to the Town. If the Town wishes to receive and use the money as described above through FY 31 the donor requests the following:

- The property is not used for Industrial use (the production of industrial goods or the provision of services for industrial production)
- The property is not used for Commercial use (business, commerce or trade but excluding fundraiser or municipal hosted events),
- Not expand to more than the two existing residential units and to not expand the structure beyond the footprint of the current duplex,
- If placing or constructing any additional permanent structures the collective footprint will be no larger than 500 sq feet.,
- To not construct additional parking lots, paved walking paths and/or billboards on the property.

It is important to understand these are not restrictions on the use of the property or Town land. If the Town wishes to do any of the above-mentioned activities on the property, it may. If it does, it would only be forgoing money from the gift that has not yet been disbursed to the Town. The Town is under no obligation to repay any money already disbursed to the Town. Once the gift money has been completely dispersed to the Town, the trust, and its stipulations extinguish.

WHAT'S NEXT

The plan in the initial months is to do some minor repairs, general landscape work including mowing and small stone removal from the lawn and prepare the property for winter. This will put the property in a good place for the cold weather months and give the Town time to get more input from residents on how they envision using the property and what changes if any they would like to see.

The Select Board plans to appoint an Advisory Committee in early November to begin public outreach with a goal to develop a list of options for the property. It is expected that the committee will be doing this work over the winter into early Spring. Please be on the lookout for communications from the Committee for opportunities to participate in the process. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to get involved. Written suggestions are welcome and can be sent to John Scruton, Interim Town Administrator at TownAdmin@newcastlenh.org . All of the suggestions will be forwarded to the Committee and the Select Board. The suggestions and the Committee report will help the Town decide how to best use the property going forward.

Keep an eye on the Town website and [sign up for email notifications](#) to keep informed on this and other important Town happenings.

Anyone interested in participating in the committee, should email interest to adminasst@newcastlenh.org

FROM YOUR NEW CASTLE SELECT BOARD:

Respectfully Submitted,

The New Castle Select Board

Bill Stewart, Chair

Jane Finn, Selectwoman

Pam Cullen, Selectwoman

PO Box 367, 49 Main Street
www.NewCastleNH.org
New Castle, NH 03854
603-431-6710

From The Tax Collector's Office

As of today, November 3, 2023, we do not have the information from the state to set the tax rate. It will be posted on the town web site when we have the rate. Estimates vary, but hover around mid-November.

Priscilla Hodgkins
Tax Collector





From The Town Clerk's Office

Looking for an opportunity to work in town supporting your community? **The Town Clerk position will be on the ballot in the May 2024 Town Meeting, for a three-year term.**

The Town Clerk supports residents by acting as an extension of the State regarding Vehicle Registration, Vital Records, and plays a critical role in all elections.

If you have questions on the role of the Town Clerk in New Castle, please reach out to Lisa English at 603-431-6710 ext. 2, or email at townclerk@newcastlenh.org.

- We would like to remind residents that the monthly renewal notices that are sent by our office are a ***courtesy reminder***. Normally renewals are completed in the resident's birth month, and it is our individual responsibility to know when vehicles are due for renewal.
- Want to save time? Renew your vehicles online by going to E-Reg on the main page of the town website (www.newcastlenh.org).
- For any plate transfers (new vehicles, mid-year plate changes), please bring your current registration in with you. If you are requesting a different type of plate, your current plates must be returned to us.
- For any transactions completed at the Town Clerk's office, please bring your driver's license with you.
- As of July 2023, we only require one check for vehicle registrations and renewals.

The current Town Clerk's office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. Please note that these hours are *different from the Town Hall office hours*.

We at the Town Clerk's office wish all of you a very happy and healthy holiday season!!

Lisa English, Town Clerk

Jennifer Rumph

BJ Riordan





Thanksgiving Pie Sale!!!

Pie, pie, pie, me oh my, do we love pie! The New Castle Congregational Church Guild members will once again hold a holiday pie and cake sale. We hope that we can bring a little bit of deliciousness into the homes (and tummies) of our community. We will offer four kinds of pie: pumpkin, pecan, or apple, and meatless mincemeat, all lovingly baked by our wonderful Guild members, along with Swedish Almond Cakes. The pies will all be 9 inches, enough for eight servings, and will be selling for \$25.00 each. Cakes will serve 8-9, and are also \$25.00. They will be available for pick-up in the parish hall between 9:00 and 12:00 noon on Wednesday, November 22, 2022. ***Please specify if you would like a gluten free pie.***

If you would like to order a pie or cake (or one of each!), you can do so either by filling out the form below and sending it along with a check made out to ***NCCC Guild*** to: Marilyn Walker P.O. Box 504, New Castle, NH 03854 **no later than Friday, November 17.**

or by email: marilynwalker0226@gmail.com

or by phone: 603-548-8987

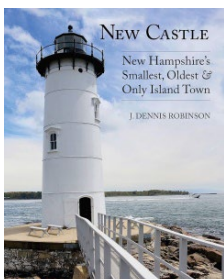
e-mail and phone orders can be paid for at pick-up

Don't need a pie? Donations are gratefully accepted. All proceeds to benefit local charities.

# of pies each)	Type	Amount (\$25.00
_____	Pumpkin	_____
_____	Pecan	_____
_____	Apple (2 crust)	_____
_____	Apple Crumble	_____
_____	Swedish Almond Cake	_____
	Total	_____

Name _____

Phone# _____ email _____



Also for sale on November 22: *New Castle: New Hampshire's Smallest, Oldest, and only Island Town* by J. Dennis Robinson! \$35.00

The perfect holiday gift!!



NEW CASTLE

New Hampshire's
Smallest, Oldest &
Only Island Town

J. DENNIS ROBINSON

Great Gift Idea!

**Written by premier historian
J. Dennis Robinson. Learn the stories and people
of New Castle as fishing village and resort.**

**For sale at the Christmas fair, 12/2/23, and at
the Museum on Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m.,
or by appointment.**

And always on Amazon. \$35.



Christmas Fair 2023

Mark your calendar for Dec. 2. Another fabulous Christmas Fair will start at 8:00, with lines outside the door of the Recreation Building. Come early for the fabulous offerings.

You will find unique handmade crafts, including ornaments and knitted items; creative wreaths, boxwood trees and greens centerpieces for your holiday table; delicious candy for gifts; scrumptious baked goods; and vintage jewelry and scarves.

New this year will be Pet Treasures offering gifts for your pets and pet lovers in your life. Also new will be Holiday Treasures, vintage items for the holiday season.

We will, of course, have our famous Silent Auction with valuable and unique items to tempt you.

You will also have the opportunity to purchase the brand new, recently published, highly acclaimed book on the history of New Castle by J. Dennis Robinson, entitled New Castle: New Hampshire's Smallest, Oldest & Only Island Town.

Come hungry because coffee and baked goods will be available in the morning, and lobster rolls and hot dogs for lunch time.

All proceeds from this fair go towards supporting many local worthy charitable organizations, as well as the New Castle church.



Don't miss it!



NEW CASTLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

VILLAGE Christmas Fair

SATURDAY
DEC 2
8AM-1:30PM

New Castle
Recreational Building
Route 1B
New Castle, NH

Refreshments

Morning Coffee 8-10:30: Homemade Baked Goods

Lunch 11:30-1: Lobster Rolls, Hot Dogs

Booths

Fresh Holiday Wreaths & Greens • Silent Auction
Candy Store • Handcrafted Ornaments & Gifts
Centerpieces & Boxwood Trees • Holiday Treasures
New Castle Cookbook • Pet Treasures • Jewelry
Baked Goods • History of New Castle Book

Special visit by Santa & Mrs. Claus from 10am-12pm

For information call 603-502-6966, 860-881-4827 or 603-294-0378

The New Castle Congregational Church Guild invites New Castle residents to donate “Holiday and Heritage Treasures” to be included in our Dec. 2nd Holiday Fair. Donations may be placed in the corner of the Parish Hall by the back door. Donations will only be accepted until Tuesday, Nov. 28th.



Please include any treasures in good condition that no longer have a place in your family.

Many Thanks!



New Castle Public Library

Good friends, good books, and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life. ~ Mark Twain

If you haven't been to the library lately, please stop in and check out our large selection of books, movies, puzzles, magazines, and more. And we'd love to tell you about our regular programming – book groups, community reads, knitting group, cookbook club, Bridge, Mahjong, Strength & Conditioning, Yoga, drop-in Pickleball, art classes, technology classes, story times, etc.

We also host a wide variety of presentations and classes. We have had programs on bone health, Learn-to-Play Pickleball classes, Let's Talk Books (sharing book recommendations), a LEGO exhibit, presentation by former Boston Globe Head Librarian on the movie *Spotlight*, How to Make a Photo Book using Shutterfly, and Henry Walters from Monadnock Falconry came to the library with his hawk Mahood!

Let me know if you would like to receive emails about library programs. If you don't have a library card, please stop in at the library and we will have you signed up in under five minutes.

New Materials at the Library:

New Books: *Interior Chinatown* by Charles Yu, *Something To Hide* by Elizabeth George, *You Could Make This Place Beautiful* by Maggie Smith, *Collector* by Daniel Silva, *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett, *Trust* by Hernan Diaz, *Chateau Under Siege* by Martin Walker, *None of This is True* by Lisa Jewell, *River We Remember* by William Kent Krueger, *Democracy Awakening* by Heather Cox Richardson, *Last Devil To Die* by Richard Osman, *Chenneville* by Paulette Jiles, *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride, *From Dust to Stardust* by Kathleen Rooney, *Evil Eye* by Etan Rum, *Deadline: Essays* by Jill Lepore, *Going Infinite* by Michael Lewis, ...

New Audio Books on cd: *One Step Too Far* by Lisa Gardner, *Before She Disappeared* by Lisa Gardner, *Foster* by Claire Keegan, *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan, *Exiles* by Jane Harper, *Lost Man* by Jane Harper, *Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict, *Small Mercies* by Dennis Lehane ...

Movies: *About My Father*, *You Hurt My Feelings*, *Cocaine Bear* ...

Happy Reading!
Christine Collins, Library Director





The Great Island Garden Club hosted two programs this fall, ***“Soil (It’s Not Just Dirt!)”*** by Margery Winters and ***“Design Tips for Traffic-Stopping Curb Appeal”*** by Kerry Ann Mendez. We invited New Castle residents and a few local area garden clubs to join us, and about 30 people from New Castle, Kittery and Barrington Garden clubs, and other neighboring communities attended.

Our 2024 program schedule includes:

- **Jan 9: “Orchids All Around Us”** (Jean Stefanik)
- **Feb 6: “Earth-Friendly Gardening”** (Mark Richardson)
- **Mar 5: “Green Thumbs in the White House”** (Kevin Bragg)
- **Apr 2: “Re-wilding With Native Groundcovers, Shrubs, & Trees: Native Plants, The Sequel”** (Sheila Steele)

These four lectures are open to New Castle residents and local seacoast area guests. Mark your calendars and check our website or social media accounts for more information including speaker bios, time, location, and snow dates.

We are happy to announce that the Great Island Garden Club **Plant Sale** will return after a short hiatus for our very successful *“Secret Gardens of New Castle”* tour. The plant sale will be **Saturday, May 18, 2024**, at the Recreation Center.

The Great Island Garden Club welcomes avid gardeners, beginners, and community-minded people who love to learn, meet, and connect with the New Castle gardening community. Recently, we welcomed five new members to the club. To join or learn more about what we do, visit www.greatislandgardenclub.org and follow us on *Facebook* (Great Island Garden Club) and *Instagram* (@greatislandgardenclub).

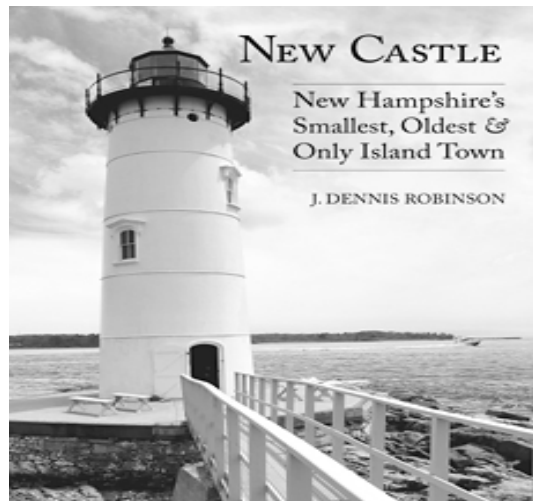


Photo Courtesy of Jim Cerny

New Castle Historical Society

For the fall of 2023, the New Castle Historical Society continued its fund raiser for Phase III of the needed garden work to complete our Museum Woodland Garden. Please consider how great the garden is for the town and donate generously so we can reach our goal of \$75,000. We have currently raised \$14,000 of the needed \$24,000 to get to our overall goal. That means we only need \$10,000 more. Phase III includes a new sprinkler system, benches in a seating area, flowering trees, additional plants, and other items. We received a donation of flagstone that will be used to create the needed walkway. Our incredible garden committee of Jennie Schwartz, Mary Kennedy and Nancy Borden has worked hard, including putting in an Abenaki Garden, to honor Native Americans who lived and farmed in the area. All through the summer, it produced corn, beans, and squash. Many volunteered to do the planting. If you haven't seen the garden recently, come take a walk through it. It's incredible.

We continue to sell our new history book by J. Dennis Robinson: **New Castle: New Hampshire's Smallest, Oldest & Only Island Town**. The book will be for sale at the upcoming Holiday Fair at the Rec Center on Saturday, December 2nd. It is also available at the museum on Wednesdays from 1-3 pm, or by appointment. Buy one for yourself and others for family and friends. It is a great gift idea. It is available on Amazon if you are unable to come pick one up.



We also have Mike Geanoulis' book on sale: **Shots Not Heard Round the World**. This compelling text tells the story of the raid on Fort William and Mary [now Fort Constitution].

To help educate and remember the amazing history of New Castle, the museum continued its presentation of a lively slate of programs. The August program was 'Tugs and Tankers,' presented by Chip Taccetta, formerly a tugboat captain and now a pilot in training. September featured Sherm Pridham who is an expert on the Puddle Dock neighborhood of Portsmouth. Our October program was a great crowd pleaser. It featured Castle Bay, a duo who wove together the heritage of New England and Celtic lands with their lively music. They presented both sea shanties and sea songs.



Julia Lang and Fred Gosbee – Castlebay

November was our annual meeting, topped by a presentation of four of the Island's younger generation [50s-60s] talking about growing up in New Castle.

We are now in the process of designing our programs for 2024. Programs are run at the museum or at the Church; however, we also offer the Zoom option for those who cannot attend in person. See our website for the Zoom link. It is on the home page.

Attention continues to be drawn to our now world-famous Demers collection of pottery found in the shipwrecks in Harts Cove and off Salamander Point. Come see the collection at the museum.

We had the distinct honor of hosting the Institute of Maritime History, from Washington, DC, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and documentation of archeological remains related to maritime history. They are engaged in the study and conservation of shipwrecks, historic waterfront structures and submerged prehistoric archaeological sites. We hosted 7 divers for 10 days who worked to relocate the sloop/boat in Hart's Cover off the coast of New Castle. Doctor Stefan Claesson, a local marine archaeologist and certified UAD mapping scientist, and Dr. Alix Martin, a UNH and Strawberry Banke archaeologist, were instrumental in leading the effort to meet the goals of the IMH. The family of Nancy Borden [Peter Schwab, Sally Smyser and Nancy Borden] provided their dock and boats to assist the divers. The project was financially supported by the NH Archeological Board and donors from the NC Historical Society board.



Divers preparing to enter the waters of Hart's Cove

The divers relocated the 50-foot sloop in Hart's cove and took wood samplings from the ship's timbers, which will date the construction of the boat, the type of wood, and the probable source of the wood. With the use of photogrammetry, they filmed the entire underwater project. This exciting project will be featured in a film, presented in a program by the NC Historical Society, sometime in the spring of 2024.

We will be starting our membership drive for 2024. We hope you will join or renew and be part of the incredible history of New Castle. Your dues help us in many ways: Paying for utilities, guest speakers, special events like the 400th celebration, the woodland garden, the History of New Castle book, office supplies and equipment, publicity mailings and on-going expenses for the preservation of our world-famous Demers collection of pottery.

Following the November program, the NCHS takes the winter off. Our programs resume in April of 2024 and the year promises to provide another great slate of topics of interest to our members and the public. Got an idea for a program? Please let us know.

The education and preservation of New Castle history continue to excite, inspire and grow. And you are a major part of our success!

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook at New Castle NH Historical Society, and check out our website: www.newcastlenhhistoricalsociety.org .

Elaine Nollet and Dawn Lake

Department of Public Works

Winter Operations

As the winter weather approaches, please remember that there is no on-street parking during a snowstorm. Keep an eye out for the snow emergency signs posted at the ends of the island as well as across from the church which will inform you of when the on-street parking ban is in effect. Also, to protect your lawn, the department encourages residents to put up snow stakes along their lawn. This helps identify the where the lawn begins during heavy snow events. Thanks for your cooperation, and feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.



Green Waste

Please remember to bring your green waste to Green Waste Days **ONLY**. No other dumping of green waste or any other waste is permitted in the area behind the Public Works Building or anywhere else inside of the Great Island Common. The only exception is for clean leaves on the leaf pile. These must be free of sticks, bags, or other debris.



Remember, your yard waste choices matter. They can be a resource or a source of water pollution.
As a resource . . .

- Mulched leaves or grass clippings on your lawn add valuable nutrients and organic matter.
- Grass clippings provide a source of slow-release nutrients reducing the amount of fertilizer needed to none or at least half.
- A thin layer of mulched leaves will break down and add much needed organic matter. Composted leaves and grass clippings save money.
- Compost is natural recycling. Compost can be used as a top dressing on your lawn or garden beds, reducing or eliminating the need for fertilizer and mulch.
- The last day Green Waste Day this year is Saturday, November 18th from 8am to 11am.

As a source of water pollution . . .

- Decaying leaves and grass kill critters in streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, and wetlands.
- Leaf piles and grass clippings decompose in the streambeds by using the oxygen that other organisms such as dragonfly larvae, crabs, and fish need to live.
- Yard waste on stream banks smothers natural vegetation. Leaves or grass dumped on the shoreline block sunlight and smother the natural plant life that provide food and cover to animals such as turtles, ducks, chipmunks, and deer.
- Yard waste dumped near waterbodies contributes to stream algae and odors. Nutrients from yard waste placed on or near wetlands or streams will slowly make its way into the water causing algae and other noxious weeds to grow and form foul-smelling, green mats on the water surface. Yard waste dumped in or near streams is against the law! To protect wetlands and surface waters, the NH legislature passed a law that prohibits filling streams and wetlands with waste materials, including yard waste. RSA 482-A:3



Town Historian

As Town Historian, one of my responsibilities is to award the Boston Post Cane to the oldest citizen of New Castle. I keep a list of possible recipients but am always afraid that I might miss someone. If you were born in 1935 or earlier and would like to be considered for this honor, could you please let me know? I already have six people on the list but could have missed someone.

Even though I have moved away from New Castle, I will continue to fulfill the duties of Town Historian until at least the end of this fiscal year, per the Select Board. If I can help you in any way regarding local genealogy, the history of your house or just the history of New Castle and the surrounding area, please get in touch with me.

Carol White

cahwhite@comcast.net



TOWN OF NEW CASTLE
PO BOX 367
49 MAIN STREET
NEW CASTLE, NH 03854-0367

PSRT STD
ECRWSS
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 25
PORTSMOUTH, NH

Although it's a couple of months in advance the Budget Committee Meetings Schedule is attached.

Every interested resident is welcome to attend, and at every meeting there is time allotted for public participation.



BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Jan 2024 – Apr 2024
Beginning JULY 1, 2024 through JUNE 30, 2025
FY 2025

Meetings will be held in the Conference Room at the Town Hall or as shown below:

Jan 23 TU 5:00pm	School Budget – review w/S Penny, SAU50, MHT, & SB
Jan 30 TU 5:00pm	Finalize School Budget and prepare for Public Hearing
*Feb 6 TU 5:00pm	Public Hearing for School Budget (MHT School)
Feb 13 TU 5:00pm	Review Town Budget
Feb 20 TU 5:00pm	No Meeting
Feb 27 TU 5:00pm	Review Town Budget
*Mar 5 TU 7:00pm	School District Meeting (MHT School)
Mar 12 TU 5:00pm	Review Town Budget – Meet with Dept Heads
Mar 19 TU 5:00pm	Review Town Budget and Warrant Articles
Mar 26 TU 5:00pm	Final Review Town Budget – Complete BC recommendations
Apr 2 TU 5:00pm	Meet only if necessary.
*Apr 9 TU 7:00pm	Public Hearing for Town Budget (Macomber Room)
May 14 TU 7:00pm	Town Meeting at Recreation Building