

TOWN NEWS

Board of Selectmen: Richard P. McDermott, Chairman, Maryann Kasprzak, Vice Chairwoman, Charles P. Graham, Selectman



PARKING BAN & SNOW REMOVAL

Townpeople are reminded that effective December 15, no overnight parking (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.) is allowed on any town roadway per a Selectmen’s ordinance prohibiting the plowing of snow onto public roads. The ordinance provides for a fine for any person causing snow or ice to be placed upon the surface of the traveled portion of the road. This ban will be in effect until April 1.

RECYCLING



Residents are encouraged to recycle. Recycling, as well as covering trash cans to keep out water, reduces the tonnage brought to the landfill thus reducing the cost (taxes to be raised) to dispose of trash. Please call Town Administrator Eric N. Small at 926-4618, extension 3, to report missed pick-ups. Handouts outlining what is allowed to be disposed of at the curb as well as permitted Single Stream recyclable items are available from the Town Clerk or can be viewed on line at the Recycling/Solid Waste link. Newspapers and magazines can be placed in the cardboard recycling containers located at the Brush Dump.

HAMPTON FALLS TOWN MEETING 2012

<u>EVENTS</u>	<u>DATES</u>
Budget Hearing	January 11, 7 pm
Filing for Office	Jan. 25 – Feb 3
1 st Session – Town Meeting (Deliberative Session)	February 4 Snow Date (Feb. 11)
2 nd Session – Town Meeting (Town Election)	March 13

TOWN BRUSH DUMP / CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

The Town brush dump closed for the winter months effective November 26 and will remain closed until April 1. However, for the convenience of those in need of disposing of their Christmas trees, the dump will be open on Saturday, January 7 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Holly E. Knowles, TOWN CLERK

VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

-Renewals and transfers require the original, current registration(s) RSA 261:168 (copies are to be kept in your vehicle(s)).

-A notarized Power of Attorney is required when signing a title application for another person (even your spouse).

-Please allow time for processing your transactions by arriving as far in advance of our closing times of noon and 4 p.m. as possible.

-All transactions may be done through the mail if you can’t get in to our office (call 926-4618, Ext. 1 or E-mail us (townclerk@hamptonfalls.org) for instructions).

Only ONE check required payable to “Town of Hampton Falls” which now includes town and state fees for your vehicle registration(s).

Cash payments should be as close to the amount due as possible -- no large bills please (we keep limited cash).



INTERNET VEHICLE RENEWALS

We recommend completing your vehicle renewal(s) over the internet (E-Reg). Click on the plate link on the Town Clerk’s web page (www.hamptonfalls.org) for instructions, and you will receive your registration(s) and decal(s) through the mail. Renewals over 3 months late and residents wanting to complete transfers or obtain new plates will still need to come in to the office.

NEW – VITAL RECORDS AND 3--YEAR DUMP STICKERS ON-LINE

You can now request “Certified” copies of Birth, Death, Marriage and Divorce certificates on-line by choosing Vital Records on the town web page which will take you to EB2Gov for processing.

Current dump stickers expire December 31 of this year. New, self-cling stickers (\$10 for 3 years) will

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be available on-line from the town clerk's office beginning January 1, 2012.

NEW--COMING IN 2012:

Look for upcoming information in 2012 regarding registering your boats with the Town Clerk (currently we are only allowed to register boat trailers).



ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR THE MARCH TOWN & SCHOOL ELECTION

Registered voters who qualify to vote absentee may apply in writing or in person to the Town Clerk any time prior to the March 13th Town Election. The ballots will be available approximately two to three weeks prior to the election. Distribution and return of absentee ballots must be done in person by the voter or sent through the mail.



VOTER REGISTRATION

Residents who would like to register to vote in town may do so with the Town Clerk or the Supervisors of the Checklist by Mar. 3rd for the March 13th Town Election or on election day (proof of identity, age and domicile are required).

CITIZENS' PETITIONS

Citizen's petitions for the 2012 Town Warrant must be submitted to the Selectmen no later than January 10. Petitions must have twenty-five (25) legal voters' legible signatures on each petition (RSA 39:3) in order to be valid.

ELECTION FILING

The Town Deliberative Session will be held on February 4 beginning at 9 a.m. at the LAS gymnasium (snow date is February 11). The annual Town and School District Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Town Hall. Hampton Falls' voters vote all money articles and the annual budget by ballot. Town residents who are registered voters may file for any of the following offices with Town Clerk, Holly Knowles (or school

positions only with School Clerk, Maureen Hastings) between Jan. 25th and Feb. 3, 2012. The Town Hall is equipped with a handicap access ramp and voting booth. The Town Clerk is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon and 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 3, from 9 a.m. to noon and 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. for filing.

<u>Officials</u>	<u># Positions</u>	<u>Term</u>
Cemetery Trustee	1	3 years
Library Trustee	2	3 years
Moderator	1	2 years
Planning Board	2	3 years
Selectman	1	3 years
Trustee of Trust Funds	1	3 years
Supervisors of Checklist	1	6 years



Kevin C. Kelley
BUILDING INSPECTOR/CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/ HEALTH OFFICER

With just a couple of weeks before Christmas I am sure the last thing on your mind is that spring home project. Once the holidays are over the time to plan for that renovation or addition to your property is something that should not be rushed.

If your project involves an addition or detached garage do you know if you have wetlands or poorly drained soils on or near your property? Hampton Falls has a 100' foot wetlands setback that does not allow any structures to be placed in the 100 foot buffer without seeking a variance. If it does require relief from the Zoning Board of Adjustment add two months' time to your project

If the project involves adding a bedroom is your septic adequate? Can the soils support the extra septic loading?

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This office should be your first resource before you get too far into the project not knowing as much as you can about your property. If you are considering a project feel free to e-mail this office and I can answer, or help find the answer to your question at buildinginspector@hamptonfalls.org or 926-5269 ext. 5

Charlyn Brown, Chair, PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board held public hearings on September 27, 2011, October 25, 2011, and November 15, 2011, to consider proposed amendments to the zoning ordinances. The following amendments were reviewed and forwarded to the Board of Selectmen with the Planning Board's recommendation to include them on the March 2012 warrant:

Amend – Article I, the definitions section by adding the definition of “billboard” and “sign, billboard”.

Amend – Article IV, 3.1.5.1 and 3.1.5.3 to change the responsible town official for issuing temporary sign permits from the Town Clerk to the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer; combine section 3.3.2 with 3.3.3 and add a new section 3.3.2 regarding prohibiting billboard signs in town.

Amend – Article IV, 3.1.6 of the Sign Ordinance by eliminating the word “incandescent” and replacing it with “lighting” for illuminating signs in the residential district.

Amend – Article IV, Section 3 – Signs – 3.1.1 – by changing the size allowed for signs in the Agricultural/Residential District to be no greater than six (6) square feet and no closer than ten (10) feet from a lot line; eliminate section 3.3.6 for clarity and consistency within the ordinance regarding sign setback requirements; and amend 3.1.2 to clarify the location of goods and services as presented on a sign being offered on a lot within the Agricultural/Residential District.

Amend – Article III, Section 12 – Home Occupation – 12.4.1.9 – by ensuring the sign ordinance size requirement of six (6) square feet matches the sign size requirement as specified for Level II Home Occupations in the Agricultural/Residential District.

Amend – Article III, 3.1.13 – Accessory Dwelling Unit, by lowering the maximum permissible size

requirement, prohibiting condominiumization of accessory units, and require proposed detached accessory dwelling units to come before the Planning Board for a conditional use permit.

Lillian Walker, Chair, CEMETERY TRUSTEES

As we wind down the year, it's gratifying to look back at the tremendous amount of work accomplished this past summer at many of our town cemeteries; Old Brookside, Pike, Hawes, Oak Lawn and West View. Hazardous trees and overgrown shrubs were removed in Pike, Hawes and West View but broken gravestones, particularly in Pike are still in need attention.

Very special thanks to Geno, Georgianna, Woody, Brian, Dustin and volunteers from the Rockingham House of Corrections who helped clear brush and deliver it to the town dump this summer. Your help made all the difference.

Both Oak Lawn and West View have received special attention thanks to Trustee Steve Bryant and his equipment. Should you take a walk through Oak Lawn, you will see that the unwelcome foliage along the chain link fence on the southeast side has been replaced by a new growth of grass. Also, the rear stone wall at West View has been rebuilt with a line of huge boulders where brush and broken limbs was once such an eye sore. All this was done by Steve with countless hours of volunteer work this summer. Ask him to tell you the story about the wasps at Oak Lawn!

Sadly, the Gov. Weare monument in Old Brookside Cemetery was badly damaged by the October snowstorm and will need to be restored. This project could be completed if there is enough time and money before the end of the year.

Discussion continues on restoring many of our older gravestones as the town prepares for it's Tercentenary Celebration. Stay tuned...more to come later.

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Mary Ann Hill, TAX COLLECTOR

2012 Inventory of Taxable Property forms will be mailed to all property owners by February 23, 2012. Instructions for filling out the form are printed on the back. The completed forms must be returned by **April 15**. Failure to return a completed form by April 15 may result in the loss of the right to appeal the property tax assessment. **Please note that Step 5 on the form is asking for a list of the people residing on the property as of April 1, and is required by RSA 74:4, IIIc.**

All unpaid property taxes are now delinquent and are accruing interest. Please call for the amount due before sending your payment. Notices of delinquent taxes will be mailed in February. Abatement applications for 2011 taxes are due March 1.

Anyone who qualifies for the veteran's tax credit or one of the exemption categories should submit their application by April 15th.

There have been several questions about whether serving in the National Guard qualifies one for the veteran's tax credit. Serving in the National Guard only qualifies if the individual has been **activated** to serve in a Federal conflict. The veteran's tax credit only applies to those who have served in a war being waged by the federal government. The National Guard is under the jurisdiction of State Governors and therefore does not qualify unless the person has been activated to serve in a foreign conflict.

For any question concerning taxes, tax statements, exemptions or tax credits please call the office at 603-926-4618 Extension 4, or contact us at taxcollector@hamptonfalls.org.



**Jay M. Lord, Fire Chief
FIRE DEPARTMENT /
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS**

Non-Emergency Telephone Contact
926-5752 or email chief@hffd.org

If you have a seasonal burn permit, please contact the fire station to renew by calling 926-5752 and leaving a message.