

TOWN NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

January / February 2022

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Lou Gargiulo, Chairman; Mark Lane, Vice Chairman; Edward B. Beattie, Selectman



Happy Holiday wishes are extended to all, as well as sincere thanks to the employees, board members, committee members, volunteers, and those residents who make a unique and positive difference, for their dedication throughout the year(s) to the Town of Hampton Falls.

2022 HAMPTON FALLS TOWN MEETING

EVENT	DATES & DEADLINES Location
Citizen Petitions	January 11, 2022 at 5:00 pm Town Administrator, Town Hall
Town Municipal Budget Hearing	January 12, 2022, at 6 pm Town Hall
Sign-up Filing Period for Elected Office M-Th @ 8am-3pm; Jan 28-F @ 3pm-5pm	January 19 – January 28 Town Clerk, Town Hall
1 st Session Town Meeting (Deliberative Session)	February 5 (Snow Date February 12) at 9 am LAS Gymnasium
2 nd Session – Town Meeting (Town Election)	March 8, 2022, from 8 am – 8 pm LAS Gymnasium

PARKING BAN AND SNOW REMOVAL

Townsppeople are reminded that effective December 15, no overnight parking (6 pm to 6 am) is allowed on any town roadway. This ban will be in effect until April 1. A Selectmen's ordinance prohibits the plowing of snow onto public roads. It includes a fine for any person causing snow or ice to be placed upon the surfaces of the traveled portion of the road.

BRUSH DUMP / CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

The Town Brush Dump will close for the winter months effective November 27, 2021 and will remain closed until April 2, 2022. However, for the convenience of those in need of disposing of Christmas trees, the dump will be open on Saturday, January 8, 2022 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm for Christmas trees only.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR – Karen Anderson

townadministrator@hamptonfalls.org 1-603-926-4618, Ext. 103

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and thank the Board of Selectmen, town officials, town staff and residents for welcoming me as the new Town Administrator. I have been working in municipal government for over 30-years and have enjoyed living and raising my family in Hampton Falls for over 25-years. I began working here at the end of August, for what I thought would be a temporary arrangement, and now I am here to stay. I want to thank Lori Ruest for helping me learn her procedures and leaving me a well-organized office. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, concerns or suggestions you may have at townadministrator@hamptonfalls.org.

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TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR – Stephanie Grant Monday – Thursday 8:00 am – 3:00 pm
townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org 1-603-926-4618 ext. 101

VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

We are open to the public for walk in service and we are still offering the drop box service. Please see the below procedure if you wish to use the drop box:

If you have bought a new vehicle/trailer/motorcycle. Please provide the following:

- Copy of your driver's license
- Title or Title Application (Town Clerk copy at the bottom)
- Contact information (name, phone number and email)
- Payment (check made out to Town of Hampton Falls and we will fill in amount or credit card over the phone once processed)

Please put this information in an envelope and utilize our drop box outside to the left of the Town Hall doors. We will process and call you to arrange a time to pick up the plates.

Any residents who wish to transfer their old plates to a new vehicle please provide the following:

- Copy of your driver's license
- Old registration (the plates you wish to transfer must be original, not a copy)
- Title or Title Application (Town Clerk Copy)
- Blank check (once filled in, we will copy and send back to you)
- Contact information (email, phone # and address)

Please put this information in an envelope and utilize our drop box outside of the Town Hall door. We will process and mail back to you.

We ask you that you continue to renew your registrations online as well as licensing dogs. Please visit the Town Clerk's page on www.hamptonfalls.org to renew online. You may also renew your vehicle by dropping off a copy of your previous registration, copy of your license and a payment (please see above) and drop into the outside mailbox. You can also call into the office to process a renewal over the phone, or, come in and renew.

You must show photo I.D. for all motor vehicle transactions, per RSA 261:148.

Transfers require **the original, current registration** per RSA 261:168.

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 time as possible (at least 15 minutes before we close at 3:00 pm Monday -Thursday).

Please call our office at 1-603-926-4618 ext. 101 or email townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org with any questions or concerns.

If you are a new resident, or have a unique registration, please contact the office and we will be able to assist you.

INTERNET VEHICLE RENEWALS

Click on the Town Clerk's web page (www.hamptonfalls.org), motor vehicles FAQs, then click on motor vehicles renew online and enter your information from your registration, and you will receive your registration(s) and decal(s) through the mail. Renewals more than 3 months late and residents wanting to make changes will need to call the office for instructions.

FILING FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE

Please call ahead to schedule an appointment to apply for a new marriage license. Please note the appointment will take about 45 minutes. Any New Hampshire Town or City Clerk can do the filing for a marriage license. The

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cost is \$50 and requires both persons' I.D. If filing for a subsequent marriage other than your first, you will also need to provide final divorce and/or death certificates.

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

You can request "certified" copies of NH Birth, Death, Marriage and Divorce certificates on-line by choosing "Vital Records" on the town web page, please also email a picture of your driver's license when requesting any certified copy to townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org. Requests for self-cling, 3-year brush dump stickers (required for brush disposal only; no longer required for household waste collection days) are available on-line or from the Town Clerk's office at a cost of \$30-each, sticker is good for 3-years.

TOWN CLERK/TAX OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAYS

A reminder that the Town Clerk/Tax office is closed to the public on Fridays.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR THE MARCH 8th, 2022 ELECTION

Registered voters who qualify to vote absentee may submit the signed application form(s) (available on-line) to the Town Clerk any time prior to the upcoming election. The ballots will be available approximately two to three weeks prior to the election. Absentee ballots are subject to restrictions regarding their proper distribution and return.

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, up until a week before the election or on Election Day (show proof of identity, age and domicile).

I.D. IS NOW REQUESTED IN ORDER TO VOTE IN EVERY ELECTION

(or complete a challenged voter affidavit form)

CITIZENS' PETITIONS, DEADLINE IS JANUARY 11th, 2022

Citizen's petitions for the 2022 Town Warrant must be submitted to the Selectmen no later than January 11th, 2022 at 5:00 pm. Petitions must have twenty-five (25) legal voters' (Hampton Falls registered voters) legible signatures on each petition (RSA 39:3) to be valid.

ELECTION FILING FOR OFFICE

The Town Deliberative Session will be held on February 5 beginning at 9 am at the Lincoln Akerman School, 8 Exeter Road, Hampton Falls, NH (snow date is February 12 beginning at 9 am at Town Hall). The annual Town and School District Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 8 am to 8 pm, at Lincoln Akerman School. 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, Stephanie Grant (or school positions only with School Clerk) between January 19 and January 28, 2022. The Town Clerk is open Monday - Thursday, 8 am- 3 pm and Friday, January 28th from 3:00 pm. – 5:00 pm 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
Board of Selectman	1	3 years
Supervisor of Checklist	1	6 years
Trustee of Trust Funds	1	3 years

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TAX COLLECTION

The tax rate for 2021 was \$21.12 and as of December 21, 2021, all unpaid property taxes are now delinquent and are accruing interest. Please call or check the website for the correct amount due before sending your payment. You can also pay your taxes online at www.hamptonfalls.org and by clicking on the useful links tab and then review/pay taxes. Please be aware there is a 2.95% charge to use your debit/credit card and a \$0.95 charge to use an online check. These fees are charged by the credit card company and bank, not by the Town of Hampton Falls.

BUILDING INSPECTION, Mark Sikorski

buildinginspector@hamptonfalls.org

Mon, Tues & Thurs 8am to Noon

1-603-926-4618, Ext. 105

Your Health is Our Health: As we near the end of another year of the historical COVID pandemic, continue to be cognizant of your health and of those around you. The temperatures are dropping and we are sheltering inside without the benefit of fresh air exchanges. Be vigilant of illnesses and continue safe distancing and sanitation. When mild days appear, open a window or two and freshen the home. Colds and flu are common this time of year so please don't hesitate to seek advice and care if unsure of conditions. Better days are ahead. Hampton Falls Strong.

A Number Can Save A Life: Is your house number visible from the street? Is there a number on your mailbox? It could be as simple as the FEDEX driver being able to find your house yet if a threatening situation occurred it could mean the difference between life and death. Next time you are approaching your home look at it through the eyes of a first responder. Can you clearly see your address from the street? Precious seconds save precious lives.

We are deep into winter. The weather is cold. The windows are shut. Take a walk around the homestead. In what condition are your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms? Is the power on to the units? Are the batteries in good shape? These units can save a life.

Today more homes than ever are connecting backup generator units to survive the more frequent power outages. These units create dangerous carbon monoxide fumes which left unchecked can be deadly. Take a moment and take a walk around. It could save a life. While you're at it take a moment to look over your generator connection for safe installation. If you are unsure, contact the Building Inspector's office. The Building Inspector can give you a quick review of your generator connection to ensure a safe and comfortable evening when the lights go out.

Planning to remodel or add on? Visit the town web site at www.hamptonfalls.org for links to frequently used permit applications. Applications can take time to approve if certain conditions exist. Please remember that Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms are required to be brought up to current standards as part of any remodeling. Plan ahead and make the job easier for everyone involved. If you have questions or need help, contact the Building Inspector's office at 1-603-926-4618 ext. 105 or by e-mail at buildinginspector@hamptonfalls.org.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Jay Lord, Fire Chief

chief@hffd.org Non-Emergency calls: **1-603-926-5752**

As we get deep snow, remember to clear all vents (dryer, water heaters, pellet stoves, etc.) around your house to prevent carbon monoxide from building up in your home; also, if you don't have a CO detector, go get one, they are inexpensive and worth the investment - you can also get CO/Smoke combination units.

If you have an LP propane tank also clear snow from the regulator where it enters the house.

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Prior to the power going out, see the Town website/Fire Department page for generator safety tips.

Space heaters need a three-foot clearance to all combustibles.

If pipes freeze, use a hair dryer or hot water to thaw them out. don't use a flame torch.

Check your emergency kit supplies (for both your home and cars) – more information is available at www.Ready.gov or www.ReadyNH.gov.

You can also sign up for NH Alerts to notify you (text and/or call) if there is an emergency in your area (includes storm warnings, road closures, police action, and others). at the www.ReadyNH.gov page.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION – Lyn Stan, Chairwoman

Meets the third Monday of each month at 6:00 pm at Town Hall.

The Parks and Recreation Commission continues to meet on the 3rd Monday of each month. Chair Lyn Stan, Treasurer Karen Sabatini, Secretary Beth Forgione and members Pam Fitzgerald, Phil Chura and Kathy Dittami. The commission's Selectmen's Representative is Mark Lane and Governor Weare Park Liaison is Larry Smith. The Hampton Falls Parks and Recreation Commission traditionally brings fun to our community, and makes every effort to offer quality programming and events for our residents and greater community.

We are pleased that Grant Winnes will continue to oversee our Ice Rink for this winter 2021-2022 season. As soon as the weather permits, the rink will be open for all to enjoy.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has created the Depot Road Sub-Committee to examine the current, proposed and potential future uses of The Depot and adjacent town-owned properties.

For the 2021 Christmas Tree event, children decorated wooden ornaments, provided by the Parks and Recreation Commission, and adorned the holiday tree at the Bandstand on the Common with their own artful creations. At the official Tree Lighting ceremony all enjoyed a guest appearance by the Granite State Bell Ringers, as well as some hot chocolate and sugar cookies. Many thanks to: Pastor Ken Lawrence for his blessing, Glen Aldrich (our Santa from the North Pole) and Abby Tonry and Tonry Tree Farm for donating the 2021 holiday tree for all the Hampton Falls' community to enjoy. The Parks and Recreation Commission also thanks the Hampton Falls Library and Coastal Hardware for their participation in the holiday events.

The Parks and Recreation Commission looks forward to bringing new fun activities in 2022 while celebrating our Tricentennial with special events planned for the summer. The Parks and Recreation Commission is always looking for people to complement our team. Do you have a passion to build community spirit or have creative ideas and want to help encourage social bonds? If you can answer YES, please consider joining our team.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION – Mary Ann Hill, Chair

Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at Town Hall.

The Conservation Commission has hired a part-time Conservation Coordinator, Brianna O'Brien, to help the Commission with outreach and efficiency. One of the areas on which Brianna will be working is updating the Conservation portion of the Town website. The following new maps of trails at three locations will be uploaded soon, namely: 1) The Raspberry Farm/Town Forest trail, 2) Marsh Lane Preserve and 3) Claybrook Forest.

This Fall 2021, a group of students from UMass Boston did some soil and plant testing in the saltmarsh at the end of Depot Road. The students are looking at the presence of heavy metals in the soil and the absorption of those heavy metals by the marsh plant *Salicornia*. The Conservation Commission will be reporting their findings when available.

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During Summer 2021, the Conservation Commission Intern created two large piles of brush at the Raspberry Farm, which the Fire Department will burn when there is snow on the ground. Don't be alarmed if you see smoke rising from the field.

We have new contact information for the Conservation Commission as follows:

- Chairman, Mary Ann Hill is ConservationChair@hamptonfalls.org, and,
- Coordinator, Brianna O'Brien is ConservationCoordinator@hamptonfalls.org.

TRICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE – Judy Haskell, Secretary

Meets the first Monday of the month at 1:00 pm at Town Hall.

Happy Tricentennial Year! As you have probably heard by now, the Town of Hampton Falls is hosting a special 300th Celebration of the founding of Hampton Falls, scheduled for the week of **July 31 - August 6, 2022!** Planning fun and interesting events for the Tricentennial Celebration is well underway, including a variety of historical tours, lectures, musical acts and kids' activities to celebrate the Town's unique qualities and special founding. The Tricentennial Committee is actively collaborating with other Town committees and is solidifying some exciting events! Tickets for the following special Tricentennial events will soon be available through the Hampton Falls Historical Society website. Check www.hfhistoricalsociety.org for updates.

- Play staged by the Pontine Theater: Mark your calendar for Monday August 1st at 6:30 pm for "Tales of New England Life: the Stories of Alice Brown".
- An elegant evening of wine, food and book signing: On Friday August 5th at 8 pm will be presented by Mary Ann Esposito, host of the long-running cooking show "Ciao Italia" - "In Vino Veritas".
- Family Dinner and Fire Horn: Also in the works is a family dinner and sounding of the old-time fire horn, hosted by the Hampton Falls Volunteer Fire Department.
- Radio coverage on WMUR: Lights! Camera! Action! Fritz Wetherbee, long time host of "New Hampshire Chronicle" will be providing commentary on WMUR during the week of Tricentennial activities.
- Parade: A memorable parade is in the works for Saturday August 6th, the final day of our celebration.
- Closing ceremony: Stay tuned for the exciting details about the closing ceremony!
- Time Capsule: Plus be sure to check out the Time Capsule, currently on display at Lincoln Akerman School; plans for what should be preserved in it continue to evolve.
- School activities: School children, teachers, and the PTO are excited to participate in a variety of activities encouraging kids to learn more about the historical significance of our Tricentennial with art, history and other appropriate interactive and creative projects at each grade level.
- Merchandise: Commemorative caps, hats, clothing and medallions are on display at the Town Hall and Library. To purchase, contact Weezie Vance at weezievance@gmail.com and she'll make the arrangements for purchase and pickup.
- The Tricentennial Committee is still welcoming more volunteers to get involved. This is a great opportunity for newcomers or longtime residents to learn more about Hampton Falls and to meet your neighbors. Please contact Susan Porcelli at toilntrouble21@gmail.com to find out how to help or fill out a volunteer application form that can be found on the Town of Hampton Falls website [VOLUNTEER APPLICATION \(hamptonfalls.org\)](http://www.hamptonfalls.org) and submit it to Town Administrator, Karen Anderson at TownAdministrator@Hamptonfalls.org.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Tracy Healey-Beattie, President**

“Your Future Is a Present from The Past”

A passing glance at the Historical Society Museum might give the impression that work is at a standstill. NOT TRUE! Step within the building and you might find one or several trustees at work on various projects. All of the Historical Society’s efforts are dependent upon a new, long anticipated heating and air conditioning system, critical for visitors and the preservation of archival material. The Board of Selectmen voted, on November 3, 2021, to appropriate 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies in the amount of \$35,000 for a new HVAC system at the Museum. Electrical updating to enable the new heating and cooling system will also be addressed. The Historic Society Museum building is owned by the Town and rented by the Historical Society. As trustees and stewards, the Historical Society is grateful to our Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator, Karen Anderson, for their continued recognition and support of these projects.

The Tricentennial Committee, along with the Historical Society, are both hard at work planning the Tricentennial Celebration Summer 2022, that will be a significant Town event. A large banner hung on the Museum reminds residents that this is their town and their celebration. An established town for 300-years is really special!

The Historical Society encourages Hampton Falls residents to enter the time capsule contest at [www.http://eepurl.com/hGKc31](http://eepurl.com/hGKc31). This is a way to preserve your family’s legacy Forever. A membership appeal letter will be sent soon providing a better understanding of the financial needs of the Historical Society. The Historical Society is so eager to have community involvement in all of their endeavors. Whether just plain curiosity or an interest in sharing the workload, please visit the Museum or call any trustee with your ideas and thoughts.

Stay safe and warm during these cold months. Let’s make this coming year one of community sharing and celebration!

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CEMETERY TRUSTEES – Jonathan Bohm, Trustee Chair

Meets the first Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm at Town Hall.

Cemetery Trustees and volunteers spent two days in October 2021 planting for the future. Over 600 Daffodil and Tulip bulbs were planted at cemetery entrances, with the promise of a vibrant Spring bloom in the Tricentennial 2022 year and beyond. On a grander scale, eight (8) rhododendron shrubs were planted at the Revolutionary, Westview and Oak Lawn cemeteries. Our thanks to our supporting volunteers, Rich Russell and Scott Harrington, and to Wayne Barker for excavating the holes for the rhododendrons. These plantings are a significant addition to the ongoing cemetery beautification project and will complement the Elm trees, and the flowering Pear and Crabapple trees that now grace Oak Lawn Cemetery, thanks to the generosity of Rich Russell.



SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

Greg Parish, Chair, gparish@sau21.org; Jason Farias, Vice-Chair, jfarias@sau21.org; Barbara Goodman, bgoodman@sau21.org; Anthony Lang, alang@sau21.org; Jill Swasey, jswasey@sau21.org

- Lincoln Akerman School's middle school Mission Impact group is focused on school and local community improvement, and this month are working to create a supportive school community and collect food items for their "end 68-hours of hunger" campaign. The group of dedicated students and staff have truly embraced the meaning of the season!
- LAS Winter sports are back, thanks to the installation and upgrade of a new HVAC system and LED lighting in the LAS gymnasium!
- The Hampton Falls Tiger Trot completed another successful community event on November 20, 2021 and we are thankful to the dedication of volunteers and our HFPD and HFFD; without their time and support the event would not have been possible.
- The HFSB would like to recognize the HFFD for their critical role in administering vaccines to the students of SAU21; this is such an important step in community protection, and we are thankful!
- The School Board has developed the proposed 2022-2023 school budget and will be proposing three (3) warrant articles for the 2022 ballot. Please join the School Board at two important upcoming meetings to learn more:
 - 1) HFSB 2022-2023 Budget Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 12 at 7pm at LAS
 - 2) HFSB Deliberative Session on Tuesday, February 8 at 7pm at LAS.
- Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy Holiday Season!