

TOWN NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

July / August 2021

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

Public meetings of Hampton Falls Boards, Committees and Commissions held in the meeting hall at the Town Hall can be viewed live stream or later on demand by accessing the MEETING VIDEOS link on the Town's web site at www.hamptonfalls.org.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – SUMMER SCHEDULE

The Board of Selectmen's 2021 Summer Meeting schedule is on Wednesdays as follows:

July 21, 6 p.m.

August 18, 6 p.m.

Additional meetings or work sessions, as needed, may be scheduled and posted.

ANNUAL ROAD WORK

A number of road projects, to include culvert replacements, crack sealing, shoulder work, paving and roadside mowing and brush removal, will be taking place June through August. Please use caution when traveling roads in Hampton Falls during this time.

CURBSIDE TRASH AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

ELM Services, LLC is the Town's curbside trash and recycling collection contractor. The collection day for TRASH is THURSDAY; **RECYCLING** is **FRIDAY**. Cardboard disposal can be brought to the Brush Dump for disposal in a container or placed at the curb in manageable, flattened bundles with recycling on Friday.

Should you experience problems with service,
please contact ELM Services, LLC directly at:

Telephone: 1-781-844-8605

Email: HamptonFallsDisposal@gmail.com

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR, Stephanie Grant

townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org 1-603-926-4618, Ext. 101 or 106

2021 DOG LICENSES

The 2021 dog tags are available from the Town Clerk's office (in person or on-line). **ALL DOGS IN TOWN SHOULD BE LICENSED BY APRIL 30** each year as required by state RSA 466:1. Rabies vaccination certificate(s) are only required if rabies expiration date has expired. **Each dog not licensed by June 17th will automatically receive an additional \$25 civil forfeiture (RSA 466:13).** If you no longer own a dog(s), call 1-603-926-4618; Ext. 101, or e-mail us at townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org; and we will remove your name from the list.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

We are back open to the public for walk-in service but we are still offering the Drop Box service (located just outside, to the Left of the door to Town Hall). Please see the procedure below 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)

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- 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. We will process your paperwork and call you to arrange a time to pick up the plates at our outside window.

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 your paperwork 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 Drop Box. You can also call into the office to process a renewal over the phone or come in and renew in person.

Please show photo I.D. for all motor vehicle transactions.

- 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 as possible (at least 15 minutes before we close).
- A limit of 2 "regular" (renewals) vehicle transactions per person before close, please. Financial closeouts are required daily.

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

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 cost is \$50 and requires both persons' I.D. and final divorce or death certificates if filing for a subsequent marriage other than your first.

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. Limited staff prevents us from being able to produce certified copies "on the spot." 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.

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC FRIDAYS

A reminder that the Town Clerk's office is closed to the public on Fridays.

TAX INFORMATION

Property owners should have received their first property tax bill for 2021. The due date for the first bill is Thursday July 1st. Please do **NOT** postdate your checks, by law the tax office cannot hold your payment until the posted date, this will result in the payment being mailed back and you could incur additional late charges. **IMPORTANT!** Many of you are using online banking, please schedule your payment to arrive on or before the due date. Most systems require 5 – 6 days to deliver a payment. Credit/Debit card payments and electronic checks are accepted online for property taxes. Please be aware there is a 2.95% charge for all credit/debit transactions and a \$0.95 charge for online checks. This is a bank **processing fee** and it is **not** charged or retained by the Town of Hampton Falls. You can pay/view your tax bill by visiting the home page at www.hamptonfalls.org and clicking on the Tax Collector page.

In addition to mailing your payment you can deposit a check in the Drop Box by the Town Hall front entrance. If you would like a receipt, please provide us with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Also, if you are considering applying for a tax abatement; please wait until after receiving the December bill. If you have any questions about your tax bill, please feel free to come into the office, call at 1-603-926-4618, Ext. 101, or send an e-mail to townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org.

BUILDING INSPECTION, Mark Sikorski

buildinginspector@hamptonfalls.org 1-603-926-4618, Ext. 105

Calls from residents and business owners alike are encouraged **before** starting any project. More than one resident has spent considerable time and money on engineered plans before they realized their proposed project would intrude into the wetlands buffer, setbacks from property lines, or other considerations, as defined by Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinances. Residents are encouraged to become familiar with these Ordinances which are available at Town Hall or online at www.hamptonfalls.org. All permit applications are available online as well. If you live on one of our beautiful Scenic Roads, pay special attention to Article IX, Section 3 of the Zoning Ordinance for any changes you may wish to make along your property. Trees and stone walls located in the right-of-way, require permission to disturb.

On the Town website, Home page, under the "Citizen Action Center", please Click on the "Regulations" heading, to access ordinances, codes, and regulations. This is where you will find information regarding whether the project you have in mind is permitted. In most cases, projects require pre-approval by the Building Inspector, and possibly other town officials or Boards. With regard to the Town's right-of-way alongside most roadways, the Road Agent and Building Inspector will notify owners of concerns immediately. The Town is not liable for damage to items placed within the Town right-of-way.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Jay Lord, Fire Chief

chief@hffd.org 1-603-926-5752

Now that summer is upon us, here are a few tips to remember as we all enjoy the reason we live in New England:

- The proper placement of grills are at least 5 feet away from the house or decking, and gas grills contribute to a higher number of fires than charcoal....so be careful.

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- All portable fireplaces, chimeneas, etc. that are used in the yard require a fire permit for the season (good until Dec 31st) and must be 25 feet from a structure.
- All fireworks require a permit three (3) days prior to discharge – FREE permit applications are available on the Fire Department / Permits section of the town website www.hamptonfalls.org. A \$250 fine is possible without a permit to discharge....and PLEASE go talk to your neighbors, beforehand, if they have animals.
- As summer storms are sometimes very intense, remember the saying ‘When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors.’
- Hydrate, Hydrate, Hydrate – if you’re out in the sun and you are thirsty, you are already dehydrated, make sure you drink plenty of water prior to, and during, the time in the sun.
- Don’t forget about Fluffy and Fido.... they need shade and water also.
- Bike helmets should cover the forehead and sit level on the head. Fasten the chin strap so that two fingers fit between the strap and the chin.
- Hurricane Season started June 1st have you made a plan?....YES, it CAN happen here, and it has... be prepared. More info at www.ReadyNH.gov.

Have a wonderful summer, and if you have one of those ‘I was wondering?’ questions, stop by the station, we would be more than happy to help.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION – Lyn Stan, Chairwoman

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

The Hampton Falls Parks and Recreation Commission traditionally brings fun to our community. The commission makes every effort to offer quality programming and events for our residents and greater community. Commission members are: 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.

Mark Lane continues to work with Mike Montville (North East Baseball) to schedule teams and leagues through the summer season at Governor Weare Park. We are happy to announce that the Friends of the Library have installed a Tiny Library at Governor Weare Park for our community to enjoy.

We are happy that the 2021 Town of Hampton Falls Summer Recreation Camp will run this year from July 5th through July 30th! For calendar, registration or questions please email Stacey Bellen, Camp Director at sbellen@sau21.org.

Castleberry Fair craft show will return on July 3rd and 4th, September 18th & 19th and October 16th and 17th.

The 2021 Summer Concerts and Cool Wheels Series will kick off on Thursday, June 17th with the Aerosmith Tribute Band, Draw the Line. For a complete schedule please see the www.HamptonFallsBandstand.com website and social media pages.

Kids mark your calendars! Wayne from Maine will return to the Town Common on Tuesday, July 20th at 6:00 pm. This program continues to be well attended by families within our community.

The Seniors organizing for Seniors is still optimistic about kicking-off their program this summer. Their goal is to complement existing services within the community.

The Parks and Recreation Commission is always looking for people to enhance 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.

It's official. The Clay Brook Forest Conservation easement has been finalized. This lovely area and its wildlife are protected for the benefit of all.

We have hired an Intern for the summer to help us with an assortment of projects. Taylor Foley just completed his senior year at UNH in Environmental Science. He has started mapping the spread of invasive plants in town notably Oriental Bittersweet, Multiflora Rose, Japanese Knotweed and Phragmites, utilizing ArcGIS computer mapping software. We will use this map to formulate a plan to bring awareness of this problem to our residents, and to control or eradicate these plants. In some areas, the Bittersweet and Multiflora Rose have grown into a wall of such density that nothing can get through it except the smallest of animals and, thus, become a hotbed for ticks.

Some of you may have seen some of Taylor's efforts to start clearing some of the invasive plants at the Raspberry Farm. This will be an ongoing effort, since these plants have been left unchecked for some time. Feel free to join us to assist.

Taylor will also be practicing his skills with a map and compass to delineate the property lines for some of the town properties where things have either never been marked or have gotten blurred over time.

We are making slow progress on our fence at the Marsh Lane Preserve. We have a definite location for the fence due to the efforts Tocky Bialobrzski. Thank you Tocky!

We encourage residents to find our trails and enjoy a leisurely walk with nature. See if you can spy a Daisy Spider or a Northern Newt. Bobolinks are nesting at the Raspberry Farm, and interesting plants like Jack in the Pulpits and Indian Pipes (yes, they are a plant and not a mushroom!) can be found at Marsh Lane. Do remember to leave only your footprints behind.

TRICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE – Judy Haskell, Secretary

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

It's only a year away!

The Hampton Falls Tricentennial Celebration will take place from **Sunday, July 31st through Saturday, August 6th, 2022** and our growing team of Committee members has been generating and beginning to plan a full week of activities and programs that will delight residents of all ages. Many of Hampton Falls' organizations and committees have demonstrated interest in partnering with the Tricentennial Committee to guarantee a memorable and fun-filled celebration.

In the meantime, an updated History of Hampton Falls has been in the works and will be available for pre-sale in the coming months. Tricentennial merchandise is being refreshed and replenished! Holiday medallions, ball caps,

long-sleeve tee shirts are available in a variety of sizes. Please contact committee member Weezie Vance at weezievance@gmail.com to purchase items and make arrangements for pick-up, or visit Weezie Vance's "store" at the Band Concerts on the Town Common on Thursday evenings this summer!

If you'd like to get involved in the planning, or, participate in the success of the Tricentennial Celebration, volunteers are welcome to join the Tricentennial Committee. If you'd like to join, please fill out a volunteer application form that can be found on the Town of Hampton Falls web site [VOLUNTEER APPLICATION \(hamptonfalls.org\)](http://hamptonfalls.org) and submit it to Town Administrator, Lori Ruest at TownAdministrator@Hamptonfalls.org.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Tracy Healey-Beattie, President

Martha Batchelder sat at her library desk with the steady clicking of those silver bracelets and her distinctive voice resonating throughout the room, as children listened and gazed at this venerable octogenarian. How many of us remember our weekly treks to the "old library"? How many only know this experience from hearsay? From church, to library, to its present identity, the Hampton Falls Historical Society, the walls of this historic building hold so many conversations of the past!

As Trustees of this Museum, we recognize that the "past is a present to the future". Next year, our Town will celebrate its 300th anniversary! With this in mind, much of our current focus is to give new life to this building -- your building. After careful planning, valuable archival material, artifacts and furnishings have been thoughtfully stored. Walls are being repaired and painted....TREASURED CEILING LEFT UNTOUCHED...And the solid birch floor will be refinished in July. Eighth graders from our school have helped immensely, packing and carrying items to storage...it takes a village! Restoration and rebuilding of the front gardens, as well developing an entry pathway are under the efforts and direction of Jack Fermery, Dana Jerabek and Joe Whittington. Anyone interested in pulling some "historic" weeds, please come forth!

Yes, we have a real challenge and your Historical Society is hard at work to be ready to celebrate our 300th with pride. In a short time, look for a letter that will give you a detailed plan on how we plan to accomplish this. As always, we welcome your input and active participation. We receive no tax-based dollars from the town and are a 501(c)3 nonprofit entity. Please like us on Facebook and visit our website www.hamptonfallshs.org.

Tracy Healey- Beattie, President; Beverly Mutrie, Vice President;
Wendy Harrington, Treasurer; Anne Coombs, Secretary;
Ward Dilmore, Linda Hladik, Carolyn Petit, Karen Sabatini, Hunter Stetz, Mark Thompson, Trustees

HERITAGE COMMISSION - Beverly Mutrie, Chair

Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 9:00 am at Town Hall

The Heritage Commission is looking for concerned, historically minded residents to join us once a month to help conserve the Town of Hampton Falls' historical resources. Please fill out a Volunteer Application form available on the town's website www.hamptonfalls.org. We'd like to have your input.

CEMETERY TRUSTEES – Jonathan Bohn, Chairman

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

Cemetery Cleanup: The Cemetery Trustees are happy to announce that we have accomplished another long-term goal – brush clean-up behind four of our town cemeteries! Russ Hilliard was contracted to remove overgrowth and fallen trees behind West View, Old Brookside, New Brookside and Dodge Cemeteries. Take a walk through any of those four historic cemeteries, and take a peek at the back and side edges to see Russ' work – what a big improvement! Watch for new signage, coming soon, to our most-visited cemeteries.

Thank you: Our ongoing project of historic gravestone cleaning, with safe biologic D/2 solution continues. A big thank you goes out to Aleta Estabrook who has made several work sessions in West View. If you are interested in helping with gravestone cleaning, please contact Cemetery Trustee Wendy Harrington at wendyh156@gmail.com

Grave Records: We have an online searchable database at www.CryptKeeper.com for our historic grave records, another long-term project that was completed with volunteer time in 2020. Please visit our town website at www.Hamptonfalls.org to see locations of our town cemeteries and instructions to access CryptKeeper. Directions and maps are also available at the Hampton Falls Free Library.

Who are the Cemetery Trustees? Responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the seven town-owned cemeteries in Hampton Falls is delegated to a Board of three volunteer, elected trustees. Currently, the Board is comprised of Jonathan Bohm as Trustee and Chairperson, Tracy Healey Beattie and Wendy Harrington. In addition, a paid Cemetery Sexton supervises work and burials at the cemeteries. Contact information can be found at the town website under Boards & Committees.

History Note: In preparation for our Tricentennial in 2022, let's appreciate the sheer number of historic cemeteries located in Hampton Falls! While many towns can boast one or two, Hampton Falls is the home of SIX historic cemeteries! The first cemetery in town was Old Brookside, on land granted from Hampton in 1704. Our town's oldest burials are located in Old Brookside, including 210 victims of "throat distemper" in 1735. Many of the old grave markers are gone, or are simply small pieces of stone. The town's first ministers are buried in Old Brookside Cemetery: Meshach Weare, Joseph Whipple, Josiah Bailey and Theophilus Cotton. Old Brookside is on Route 88, just north of Lincoln Akerman School before the overpass. The Cemetery Trustees always appreciate your respectful visits to our historic cemeteries.