BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

2023 HAMPTON FALLS TOWN MEETING:

2nd Session (Town Election) March 14^{th,} 2023, 8AM – 8PM; Lincoln Akerman School – 8 Exeter Road

2023 TOWN BUDGET & 2022 TOWN REPORT: On January 04, 2023, a budget public hearing was held by the Board of Selectmen to review the proposed 2023 budget and to allow the public to voice opinions and ask questions. At the February 04, 2023, Town Deliberative Session, voters learned of the recommended budget as well as other warrant articles being presented on the 2023 Town ballot. The 2023 operating budget was amended to \$3,339,275 and represents an increase over last year's budget of \$328,253. The 2023 default budget totals \$3,268,769. The increase is predominantly due to winter road maintenance costs, the required revaluation and an increase in health insurance rates.

The 2022 Town and School Report has been forwarded to the printer. In an effort to keep costs down, a limited number of reports will be printed and made available for pick-up during the first week of March from the Town Hall or Library during regular business hours. It is requested that only one copy per household be obtained. An electronic copy can be viewed at www.hamptonfalls.org

The Town Report provides information from departments to include statistical and financial reports. It also has handy reference information such as contact numbers and hours of Town departments and officials, schedules of fees, board and committee activity and includes similar information pertaining to the schools.

FROST BAN NOTICE

In order to prevent heavy vehicles from damaging town roads whenever the frost thaws within town roadways, the Board of Selectmen have enacted the annual Frost Ban Notice. The Road agent will determine when roads will need to be restricted for vehicles exceeding a gross vehicle weight of 10 tons on any town road. The Frost Ban Notice will be lifted typically in approximately 4 - 6 weeks, weather dependent, and at the recommendation of the Road Agent to the Board of Selectmen.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR – Karen Anderson townadministrator@hamptonfalls.org 1-603-926-4618, Ext. 103

HOUSEHOLD BULKY WASTE DAYS: Household bulky waste disposal is coming back! The Town has received the required permit from the State and the Town has made some changes to the annual frequency of bulky waste disposal days. Rather than twice per year, the disposal of bulky items can be done on the first Saturday of each month, beginning on May 6, 2023. Residents **will need** a valid Brush Dump Sticker (\$30.00 for 3 years) and pre-pay for the disposal at the Town Clerk's Office.

The fees remain the same as last year, with a per trip 20.00 and/or specific fees for items for which the town incurs additional costs. These fees **<u>must be prepaid</u>** at the Town Clerk's Office where a receipt will be provided to show the Brush Dump Attendant. If <u>only</u> bringing an item with a specific fee, such as electronics, tires, propane tanks or items containing freon – no trip fee is charged. Mixed loads require both the trip fee and the cost item fee. The price list is available on the town's website. Go to: <u>www.hamptonfalls.org</u>, Departments, Recycling & Solid Waste, for more detailed information.

<u>Scheduled 2023 Bulky Waste - First Saturdays:</u> May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2, October 7 Please feel free to reach out to Russ Hilliard or Karen Anderson with any questions, concerns or suggestions you may have at <u>townadministrator@hamptonfalls.org</u>.

Hampton Falls, NH

March / April 2023

PROPOSED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE: The Board of Selectmen have been putting a lot of effort into economic development for Hampton Falls, particularly along Lafayette Road. Earlier in 2022, the State approved the Route 1 corridor as an Economic Revitalization Zone (ERZ) which can provide Business Profit Tax incentives to owners who invest in their properties to expand business and/or add employees. In early 2023 the Board is asking the voters to approve an economic development construction incentive.

Warrant Article 16 asks the voters to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:81 and enable the Town to grant exemptions on a percentage of the increased value for new construction performed on commercial uses. The intent of the exemption is to provide incentives to businesses to build, rebuild, modernize, or improve their property. The exemption only applies to the municipal and local school tax portion of the tax bill, and only applies to the increase in assessment as a result of the improvements. The percentage of the exemption would be: Year 1=50% of the increased assessment; year 2=40% of the increased assessment; year 3=30% of the increased assessment; year 4=20% of the increased assessment; and, year 5=10% of the increased assessment.

The property owners investing in their buildings will get a short-term tax credit on the value of the improvement. Towns that have adopted this exemption have found that it is a win -win for both the Town and the developer as the Town does not lose any tax revenue that it is currently receiving and the developer is given time to make the full improvements and have the tax impact spread out over a period of five-years. It is particularly beneficial for businesses that need to close for a period of time in order to make the improvements.

For example, a property owner invests \$500,000 in a property assessed for \$1-million and is approved for the tax credit program. In year 1, the town's tax revenue for that property increases from \$20,460 to \$26,807 instead of to \$31,485 without the exemption. The property owner saves \$4,678 in year one. Each year the credit reduces by 10%, thereby increasing the town's tax revenue and decreasing the amount of savings for the property owner. Given this example, after the five-year period the Town would have provided the property owner \$18,603 in tax credit and the Town would have gained \$31,735 in additional tax revenue.

Lafayette Road is the town's primary commercial area and currently there are some empty stores, vacant and under-utilized properties. It is hoped that this incentive will provide the ability for some property owners to make improvements that they want to do.

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR – Stephanie Grant Mon–Wed 8am–3:30pm; Thurs 8am-6pm townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org 1-603-926-4618 ext. 101

<u>ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR THE MARCH 14 TOWN & SCHOOL ELECTIONS:</u> 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 as to their proper distribution and return.

<u>VOTER REGISTRATION</u>: Residents who would like to register to vote in town may do so with the Town Clerk up until <u>March 2^{nd} </u> or with the Supervisors of the Checklist on election day (show proof of identity, age and domicile).

TOWN ELECTION: The annual Town and School District Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 14th, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., at **Lincoln Akerman School**. Hampton Falls' voters will vote on all articles and the annual budget by ballot. **I.D. IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO VOTE IN EVERY ELECTION.**

Hampton Falls, NH

<u>VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION:</u> The Town Clerk's Office is open to the public for walkin service.

Documents needed if you have bought a new vehicle/trailer/motorcycle:

- Your driver's license
- Title or Title Application (Town Clerk copy at the bottom)

Documents needed if you wish to transfer your old plates to a new vehicle:

- Your driver's license
- Old registration Transfers require the original, current registration(s) RSA 261:168
- Title or Title Application (Town Clerk Copy)

Please continue to renew your registrations online, as well as licensing dogs. Please visit the Town Clerk's page on <u>www.hamptonfalls.org</u> 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 come to the office to process a renewal.

A government issued Photo I.D. is required for all motor vehicle transactions, per RSA 261:148.

-A <u>notarized Power of Attorney</u> 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 <u>townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org</u> with any questions or concerns.

FILING FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE: Please call ahead to schedule an appointment to apply for a 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. 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.

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: As of December 22, 2022, 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. Any 2022 unpaid taxes will be liened on April 12, 2023. You can also pay your taxes online at <u>www.hamptonfalls.org</u>. 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. This fee is charged by the credit card company and bank, not by the Town of Hampton Falls. The Tax Office is merged with the Town Clerk Office, so when coming to Town Hall to pay your taxes please go to the Town Clerk window. Abatement applications for 2022 taxes are due before March 1. Anyone who wishes to apply for the Veteran's Tax Credit, or one of the exemption categories, should submit their application by April 15.

Hampton Falls, NH

BUILDING INSPECTION, Mark SikorskiMon, Tues 8am to Noon, Thurs. 2 to 6 PMbuildinginspector@hamptonfalls.org1-603-926-4618, Ext. 105

SPRING DRAINAGE ISSUES: With the spring thaw on our doorstep pay attention to where the water from your driveway is going. If it is heading towards the road check to see if the roadway culvert is clear enough to accept the flow. Cold nights can refreeze water on roads and if it's not making it into a drainage area, the Town would like to know. Give the Town a call and it will be addressed. If you are using a sump pump for your basement avoid depositing the water directly onto a roadway. If the situation cannot be avoided contact the Road Agent for advice.

<u>A NUMBER CAN SAVE A LIFE:</u> Is your house number visible from the street? Is there a number on your mailbox? Make it easy to see and put a number on both sides. 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.

SPRING AHEAD! CHANGE BATTERIES: In what conditions are your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms? Is the power on to the units? Are the batteries in good shape? Units older than 10 years need replacement. These units can save a life.

PLANNING TO REMODEL OR ADD ON?: Time for a new deck or pool? Visit the town web site for links to frequently used permit applications. Consult with the Building Office for buildable areas of your property. There are required setbacks from property lines and wetland areas. 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

POLICE DEPARTMENT, Chief Ryan Veno hfallspd@hamptonfallspd.com Non-emergency #:1-603-926-4619

As winter rolls on, please remember to clear a path to an entrance at your home for first responders in case of an emergency.

If your dog gets loose, save them a trip to the NH SPCA by registering them with the Hampton Falls Town Clerk and making sure your dog is wearing their tag. The Police Department's new Animal Control Officers are here to help! Please welcome Dan Barrette, Jackson Crouse, and Paul Michael to the Police Department!

Please join us for *Coffee with a Cop* hosted by the Hampton Falls Free Library on March 10, 2023 at 10:00am. And as always...See Something? Say Something!



Hampton Falls, NH

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Jay Lord, Fire Chief

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

- There has not been much snowfall this year but if/when we do…remember to clear all vents (dryer, water heaters, pellet stoves, etc.) around your house to prevent carbon monoxide from building up in your house; also, remember if you don't have a CO detector, go get one, they are inexpensive and worth the investment.
- Since it HAS been such a mild winter if you're going out on the ice 4" to skate, 5" to 6" for snow mobiles.
- If you have an LP tank clear snow from the regulator where it enters the house.
- 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 Ready.gov or NHReady.gov.
- You can also sign up for NH Alerts at the NHReady.gov page. NH Alerts will notify you (text and/or call) if there is an emergency in your area (includes storm warnings, road closures, police action, and others.)
- Develop a fire escape plan and practice family fire drills. (Practice both in the daylight and dark.

HAMPTON FALLS FREE LIBRARY, Joanna Meighan; Tu/Th/Fri 10-5, Wed 1-8, Sat 10-27 Drinkwater Road, www.hamptonfallslibrary.org1-603-926-3682



Greetings from Your Library!: Visit the Hampton Falls Library for great books, conversations, and programs. The following are just some of the events coming in March and April, 2023:

<u>Coffee with the Cops: Friday, March 10th at 10am:</u> Stop by the library for coffee, doughnuts, and conversation with an officer from the Hampton Falls Police Department. No sign up necessary.

Fierce Females: Women in Art with Art Historian, Jane Oneail: Wed, March 15th, 6:30pm: Women have long been the subject of art, often depicted as nothing more than objects of desire. How do images of women change when women become the creators? This program examines the history of women in art in brief and then explores the lives, careers and works of several major female artists from the Renaissance to the twentieth century. Artemisia Gentileschi, Mary Cassatt, and Frida Kahlo are some of the artists discussed in this program. Jane Oneail is the founder of Culturally Curious, an arts education consulting firm specializing in art appreciation programs. She curates and delivers programs throughout New England and beyond. Sponsored by New Hampshire Humanities. Free and open to the public. Please register to attend on the Library's website. New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell: Wednesday, April 19th 6:30pm: Quilts tell stories, and quilt history is full of myths and misinformation as well as heart-warming tales of service and tradition. Nearly every world culture that has cold weather uses quilted textiles; quilting is NOT just an American art. Pam Weeks weaves world history, women's history, industrial history and just plain wonderful stories into her presentation. Pam Weeks is the Binney Family Curator of the New England Quilt Museum. Author of the book Civil War Quilts and many articles on quilt history, she lectures nationally on quilt-making and quilt history. Co-hosted by the Hampton Falls Free Library and the Hampton Falls Historical Society. Sponsored by New Hampshire Humanities. Free and open to the public. Please register to attend, on the Library's website.

Hampton Falls, NH

<u>Teen Vacation Book Boxes</u>: Back by popular demand! During the school break, teens (12+) can sign up to receive 1-2 library books chosen just for them, along with some extra treats to enjoy along with their books! Sign up <u>here.</u>

Get all the latest information. <u>Sign up here</u> for the Hampton Falls Free Library's monthly newsletter.

RECREATION COMMISSION – Lyn Stan, Chairwoman

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

The Hampton Falls Recreation Commission meets monthly on the 3rd Monday. Chair Lyn Stan, Treasurer Karen Sabatini, Secretary Beth Forgione and members Pam Fitzgerald, Phil Chura, Kathy Dittami, Colleen Farias, Linda Savoy and Gisella Manna. The Commission's Selectmen's Representative is Mark Lane and the Governor Weare Park (GWP) Liaison is Larry Smith. The mission of the Recreation Commission is to provide programs and facilities that develop physical condition and wellness for a quality of life to benefit the young and adult residents of Hampton Falls; volunteerism is encouraged to promote unity within the community.

The Recreation Commission manages the <u>scheduling of all teams and leagues using the GWP fields</u> including: Cal Ripken Baseball, Hampton Attack Spring and Fall Soccer and Lacrosse, and are overseen by Mike Montville, Mark Lane and Ad hoc member Larry Smith. If interested in working with the leagues, please contact Mike or Mark. Governor Weare Park will continue to be used by community residents for fun pick-up games with families and friends.

The <u>Depot Road Sub-committee</u>, chaired by Jim Mitchell, meets to examine the potential uses of the Depot Landing and the adjacent properties located at the Hampton Falls waterfront.

The <u>Hampton Falls Summer Camp program</u>, run by Lincoln Akerman School Art teacher Stacey Bellen, is in the process of being planned, with details to be released in the coming weeks. The summer camp program provides kids with many fun-filled activities and recreation in the Summer.

The <u>Ice Rink at Governor Weare Park</u> is available for the 2023 Winter skating season. There is well-lit night skating and fire pits to stay warm. It is hoped that Mother Nature cooperates to provide the cold weather needed to keep the ice rink frozen. The Recreation Commission appreciates Doug Goodman and his team of volunteers for their efforts. The "*Open*" and "*Closed*" Rink sign reflects times to safely skate.

The <u>Castleberry Fair Craft show</u> plans to return to the Town Common for their 15th season with three fairs. The dates this year are May 13-14; July 1-2 and September 16 & 17.

The <u>Farmers Market</u> will return in June 2023, organized by Sue Veilleux and the many wonderful farmers who provide produce and materials to the market for purchase. Many vendors from 2022 and additional vendors, as well as the community table will be available for shopping this coming season. The Children's Craft Fair will be a feature of the Farmers Market on June 21 organized by Melissa Bender and the children of Hampton Falls. Any family wishing to participate in the children's craft fair please contact Melissa Bender at chrisnlissbender@gmail.com.

<u>Friends of the Hampton Falls Bandstand/Cool Wheels</u> will kick off the summer concert season with a Journey Tribute Band on June 22nd. Cool Wheels is seeking volunteers, if interested please contact Steve Sabatini at coolwheelssteve@gmail.com. Please go to Friends of the Hampton Falls Bandstand/Hampton Falls Cool Wheels social media pages for full lineup and updates.

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Hampton Falls, NH

March / April 2023

The Recreation Commission is always looking for people to Volunteer. 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 the Hampton Falls Recreation Commission.

HERITAGE COMMISSION - Beverly Mutrie, Chair

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

The Heritage Commission members: Phil Chura, Mary Ann Hill, Beverly Mutrie and Lou Gargiulo, Selectman, will be discussing goals for 2023 and the next historically focused preservation projects and ideas. Efforts will be continued to update and correct (as needed) the *Historic Resources Guidebook* and placing that information on the Town's website. The Heritage Commission is interested in continuing the barn survey that was begun by the Historical Society several years ago. The Heritage commission meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 9 am, and welcome interested attendees.

The primary mission of the Heritage Commission is to impart information, protect the historic structures of Hampton Falls whenever possible, and, adjudicate the Demolition Delay Ordinance. It is the hope to educate property owners about methods other than removal to maintain and make their historic building useful. The NH Preservation Alliance at <u>www.nhpreservation.org</u> is a fountain of information about qualified craftsmen who understand old post and beam or balloon framed structures. Currently, there is a proposed subdivision project at 5 Kensington Road regarding the former Punky Merrill house (c.1770) and barn, that is of interest.



There have been lost in Hampton Falls many agricultural barns and outbuildings over the last 100 years as dairy barns, woodsheds, chicken houses and even outhouses were no longer needed or deemed worth the effort to repair. Residents gave up labor intensive farming and worked at manufacturing or service jobs locally or in the 'big city'.

Anne Sanborn Coombs told Bev Mutrie that her father, E. Emmons Sanborn, took down a large barn (c.1750) on her family's farm at 189 Exeter Road just because it was used only for storage since another newer large barn was built closer to the

house (c.1850). She said "the old barn did not come down easy" probably since old post and beam barns were essentially overbuilt. Some of its (sheathing?) boards were used in the remodeled Hervey Kent house (now Beechwood) on Exeter Road.

It is unfortunate that old outbuildings were/are essentially thrown away due to the high cost of maintenance and our tax structure. Anyone faced with repairing an old barn needs to first conquer the repair and labor expense and then suffer the increased future taxes as a reward for their care. "A 2002 State law (RSA 79-D) creates a mechanism to encourage preservation of old New Hampshire barns and other historic agricultural buildings.RSA 79-D authorizes towns and cities to grant property tax relief to barn owners who:(a) can demonstrate the public benefit of preserving their barns or other old farm buildings, and (b) agree to maintain their structures throughout a minimum 10-year preservation easement." NH Preservation Alliance

If you are contemplating a repair or restoration for your old outbuilding, be sure to look up the parameters of RSA 79-D. <u>https://www.nhpreservation.org/blog/preservation-easements-a-resource-to-preserve-your-historic-property</u>. Applicants need to apply to the BOS by April 15 for this easement. This program is supported by the Hampton Falls Board of Selectmen and is a good incentive for old structure/barn owners to keep abreast of their structure's repairs. In so doing, their historic structure will remain useful, attractive and ultimately a credit to their property and the town.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA (WAA) 2022 Linda Savoy, Chair Pam Fitzgerald, Co-Chair

The first annual Wreaths Across America Event in Hampton Falls on December 17, 2022, went better than expected, and there has been excellent feedback. To say that *"it took a village"*, is an understatement, as there were many moving parts. The following is a list of thanks to many essential people without whom the event would not have possible. Apologies if anyone's name is inadvertently omitted. Hopefully many of these same Volunteers will be willing to repeat their service in December 2023 for the second WAA event in Hampton Falls.

• Thank you to the many residents of Hampton Falls who came out to show support, participate and Volunteer for the WAA event and to show just how important, and how much veterans mean to everyone.

• Thank you to Pam Fitzgerald who Co-Chaired the WAA Committee. Pam attended to many details, and with a 15-minute notice went to the Fire Department (with Paul Fitzgerald) to take possession of the wreaths, decorate the ceremonial wreaths and presented the wreaths ready for the ceremony. The Fitzgeralds also did the "pick up" of the wreaths with help from John Doyle.

• Thank you to Susan Porcelli who, with less than a 24-hour notice, stepped-in as master of ceremonies to coordinate the ceremony. A special shout out to: Kathy Dittami, Karen Moura and Jay Savoy who handled logistics at the last minute.

• Thank you to Michael LaBarre, who went to the Fire Department to count and sort every wreath for pickup and delivery.

• Thank you to Pastor Lawrence who spoke elegantly and led everyone in prayer.

• Thank you to Bob Woodes who led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thank you to all of the Team Leaders: Rene Boudreau, Bob Woodes, Pam Fitzgerald, Kathy Dittami, Susan Porcelli, Tim Cassidy, and especially Karen Tanner Thorton, who single handily coordinated Westview (the largest cemetery in town) from mapping, working with the <u>Cemetery Trustees</u> locating missing stones and directing the volunteers. Thank you to the Tanner family for removing the wreaths from Westview. Thank you to Michael Stan who procured and managed the speaker system; and thank you to Phil Chura for photographing the day, and to the drivers who delivered the wreath to the cemeteries.

• Thank you to the Tonry Tree Farm that did a fundraiser and collected an impressive \$589 to go toward the cost of next year's wreaths. Thank you so much!

• A big thank you to Jim and Gisela Manna for allowing the WAA the use Churchill's Dumpsters during wreath removal.

• Special Thank you to Hampton Falls active service members and veterans: who organized, practiced, and provided a color guard for the WAA event! Everyone was proud!

US Flag (Army) - Lou Gargiulo; Army- Alex Dittami; Navy- Kara Dumont; Marine Corps- Rui Moura; Air Force- Michael Labarre; Coast Guard- Patrick Casey; Riflemen 1 (Marine)- Ray Dumont; and, Riflemen 2 (Marine)- Paul Fitzgerald.

• Thank you to the Ceremonial Wreath Layers: Michael Stan (Army); Bob Woodes (Navy); Wayne Barker (Army); Frank Fitzgerald (Marines); John Doyle (Navy;) Jon Vander Els (Army); also, Police Chief Ryan Veno and Fire Chief Jay Lord.

• Thank you to the Hampton Falls Fire Department for allowing wreath storage and to the Hampton Falls Police Department for help and support during this event.

• Thank you to the Cemetery Trustees and to the Recreation Commission for logistical help.