

TOWN & LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

January / February 2024

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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



HOLIDAY GREETINGS

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.

2024 HAMPTON FALLS TOWN MEETING DATES & DEADLINES:

EVENT	DATES & DEADLINES: Location
Public Hearing on 2024 Proposed Budget	January 03, 2024, at 6:00 pm; Town Hall
Citizen Petition deadline	January 09, 2024 at 5:00 pm Town Administrator, Town Hall
Continued Public Hearing from Jan 03 th on 2024 Proposed Budget (only if receive Citizen Petitioned Articles)	January 10, 2024 at 6:00 pm; Town Hall (only if needed)
Sign-up Filing Period for Elected Office Mon-Wed at 8:00 am-3:30 pm; Thursday at 8:00 am-6:00 pm; Fri Feb 02 at 3:00 pm-5:00 pm	January 25 – February 03, 2024 Town Clerk office; Town Hall
1 st Session Town Meeting: School Deliberative Session followed by Town Deliberative Session	February 06 (Snow Date is February 07) at 6pm School Budget; 7:00 pm Town Budget
2 nd Session – Town Meeting (Town Voting)	March 12, 2024, from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm Lincoln Akerman School

PARKING BAN AND SNOW REMOVAL

Townpeople 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 closed for the winter months effective November 24, 2023 and will remain closed until April 1, 2024. For the convenience of those in need of disposing Christmas trees (no tinsel or ornaments), and only brush from the recent storms, the Brush Dump will be open Saturday, January 13th, 2024 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Brush Dump stickers are necessary to enter the Brush Dump, and can be obtained from the Town Clerk either in person or online at www.townofhamptonfalls.com for \$30 and are good for three (3) years.

There is new stockade fencing in addition to screening material on the chain-link fence at the Brush Dump in an effort to visually screen temporarily stored white goods during non-winter months.



TOWN & LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

January / February 2024

ROAD AGENT, Russ Hilliard ROADS

If you live on a Scenic Road permission is required from the Town prior to removal of any trees within the road right-of-way along the street. Please consult the Town website at www.hamptonfalls.org, under Regulations, Zoning Ordinance March 2023, Art. IX, Section 3, page 84 to see the list of Town designated “Scenic Roads”. Some additional *Low Salt Area* signs have been installed in some stream sensitive areas near culverts. Please use caution when driving in these areas.

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

Hampton Falls 2023 Tax Rate

Nobody likes to pay property taxes. This article explains how the NH Department of Revenue (DOR) establishes the tax rate for the Town of Hampton Falls. Revenue from the local property tax generates the vast majority of the dollars needed to fund municipal and county government, and to operate the public schools. The basic formula for the tax rate is Total Appropriations divided by the Total Assessed Value = Tax Rate.

Taxation is broken into several steps. The first step is the appraisal and assessment of the property to determine the true value of all real property within the town so that each property is assessed proportionately. The total value of all property in Hampton Falls is now \$874,896,527, compared to last year, prior to the revaluation of \$503,622,716. The second step involves the exemptions and credits. Credits are available for elderly, disabled and blind residents that qualify totaling \$3,379,660 and veteran’s credits of \$67,100.

The total appropriations are the budget amounts approved by the voters at the annual town and school district meetings, the town’s share of the county operating budget and the state education tax (part of the school appropriation). Subtracted from that grand total are all the non-tax revenues such as motor vehicle registrations, State Aid and miscellaneous fees such as building permits. In addition, the Board of Selectmen decide on a specific amount of money (not to exceed 5%) to be set aside for abatements. This is known as the “Overlay” and Hampton Falls has maintained \$8,099 for that purpose in 2023.

At the end of each year the town reviews the expenditures and revenues as compared with the appropriations and estimated revenues and determines what surplus remains from that year. That amount becomes known as the unassigned fund balance and is an area where judgment enters into the calculation of the tax rate. The Selectmen determine how much of that surplus is to be used to offset the tax rate. DRA recommends that towns retain between 5% and 17% of the town appropriations for cash flow and emergency purposes. The Board of Selectmen’s Fund Balance Policy recommends the minimum 5%. This money may not be spent without Town Meeting approval, but does provide a mechanism for the town to recover from a disaster. At the end of 2022, Hampton Falls unassigned fund balance was \$670,683. This year \$220,000 was used to offset the tax rate and \$450,683 was retained. The school district has the same process and the surplus offsets the school rate – this year the school turned back \$147,657 to offset the tax rate. This process allows savings incurred in one year to be passed on to the taxpayers in the following year, while still leaving the town the ability to handle a disaster. The 2023 tax rate is \$12.95 and the 2022 tax rate was \$20.99. The revaluation lowered the actual tax rate significantly, so it is not easy to see that the amount of taxes one pays actually increased, regardless of the valuation adjustments due to the increased appropriations.

For 2023, Hampton Falls tax rate is based on the following calculations. The 2022 rate is shown for comparison.

	2023 \$	2023 Tax Rate	2022 \$	2022 Rate
Town Appropriation	\$2,151,688	\$2.46	\$1,936,239	\$3.85
County Appropriation	\$ 467,899	\$0.53	\$ 450,276	\$ 0.89
School Appropriation	\$8,699,408	\$9.96	\$8,174,915	\$16.25
	\$11,318,995	\$12.95	\$10,561,430	\$20.99

TOWN & LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

January / February 2024

It's Budget Time in Hampton Falls

The Town's budget process for 2024 has begun and town departments have worked very hard to try and follow the Board of Selectmen's directive to present a fiscally responsible budget. The Board of Selectmen have begun their review of the budget and are trying hard to present a budget that meets the needs of the town, keeping the current economic times in mind. Known financial impacts to the budget include increased fuel and heating costs, increased insurance costs, contracted increase for IT Services and the four elections in 2024.

The Board has reviewed the requests and met with several staff members to discuss the amounts they will recommend to the voters at the Public Hearing to be held on January 3rd. After the Public Hearing the Board of Selectmen will take into consideration the thoughts that are presented to them and make any adjustments they feel warranted prior to posting the budget for Deliberative Session. There are limits to the changes that can be made to the budget at Deliberative Session, but it is the last opportunity to change an amount. It is important for residents to take part in these meetings and to have a voice in how their tax money is going to be spent.

The technical requirements for the budget include:

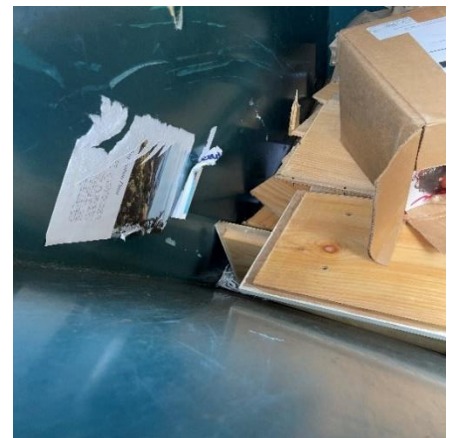
- A public hearing on the proposed 2024 budget that discloses all of the purposes and amounts
- Budgeting on a gross basis (we cannot spend the revenue that comes in – but those revenues are calculated into the tax rate)
- Recommendations of the Board of Selectmen
- Warrant notice that lists all the appropriations and separate Warrant Articles on the posted budget.

Warrant Articles are requests for funding that are submitted by the Board of Selectmen, or, by resident petition with twenty-five (25) resident voter signatures. Warrant articles are often referred to as “separate” or “special” because they separate out a proposed appropriation from the general line-item budget. They are voted on separately at Town Meeting and require a notation from the Board of Selectmen to show if they are recommended. The funds raised through a Warrant Article can only be spent for that purpose and if the cost is less than appropriated, the excess goes back to reduce the tax rate the following year. If a resident wants to put forth a Warrant Article the following procedure should be followed. The text of the article should be written on the top of each page that will collect the required 25 signatures. The signatures must be able to be matched to the voter checklist, so providing space for the voter to print their name and address and then a space for a signature helps ensure that the signature can be verified. An article requesting funds for a particular purpose should be written “*To see if the Town of Hampton Falls will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$? for the purpose of (explain).*” In 2004, RSA 32:10 I (e) was amended to specify that if a warrant article fails, the purpose of the article is deemed to “have no appropriation” and no amount of money may be spent for that purpose. This is often referred to as the “no means no” rule. Warrant Articles can also be submitted for purposes that don't require funding and the same format, signatures, and deadline applies. For the 2024 Town Meeting, Warrant Articles must be turned in to the Town Administrator on or before Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

Recycling of Mixed Paper and Cardboard

The Brush Dump is now closed for the winter, and will reopen April 01, 2024. As a convenience for residents, the Brush Dump will open Saturday, January 13, 2024 (8am-12noon) only for Christmas Tree disposal. Over the past five months I have had the opportunity to assist with the bulky waste collection days (first Saturdays) and some random Saturdays. I was able to see how popular and busy the two containers outside of the gate were for cardboard and mixed paper recycling. There was generally a steady stream of residents pulling up to recycle cardboard and mixed paper.

The container for mixed paper fills every week and is clearly a service many residents appreciate. There are; however, some residents who are abusing the opportunity to recycle mixed paper. I, personally, have pulled from the mixed paper bin the following items: brake rotors (hidden in boxes), bags of mixed trash, carpet and other materials that were not paper. Cardboard boxes need to be broken down to fit in the cardboard container and rather than take the time to do that, some



TOWN & LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

January / February 2024

residents toss the box into the mixed paper container – taking up much needed space for others. On a recent Saturday the container was partially filled with broken down wooden cabinets (see photo).

Please show your appreciation for the service of recycling mixed paper and cardboard, and abide by the signs on the containers.

ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR – Rachel Webb
rwebb@hamptonfalls.org 1-603-926-4618, Ext. 104

The Town would like to make this Town & Library & School Newsletter (6 times per year) as informative as possible for the residents of Hampton Falls. Toward that end, please reach out to me with suggestions of topics for articles you would like to see in the future.

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR – Stephanie Grant
M-W 8:00 am – 3:30 pm, Th 8:00 am -6:00 pm
townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org 1-603-926-4618 ext. 101 or 106

VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office is open to the public for walk-in 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 need 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 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 in person.

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

-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 the Town Clerk's office at 1-603-926-4618 ext. 101 or email townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org with any questions or concerns.

INTERNET VEHICLE RENEWALS

Click on the Town Clerk's web page (www.hamptonfalls.org), "Motor Vehicles Renewals," then click on "Motor Vehicles Renew Online" and enter your information from your registration; 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 Town Clerk's 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 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.

TOWN & LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

January / February 2024

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 Clerk’s web page, (www.hamptonfalls.org); please 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; and is also 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 Collector’s office is closed to the public on Fridays.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR THE JANUARY 23RD PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY AND THE MARCH 12TH TOWN & SCHOOL ELECTIONS

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 TO VOTE IN EVERY ELECTION

(Or, complete a challenged voter affidavit form)

CITIZENS’ PETITIONS, DEADLINE IS JANUARY 9, 2023

Citizen’s petitions for the 2024 Town Warrant must be submitted to the Selectmen no later than January 9, 2024 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 Joint Town & School Deliberative Session will be held on February 6th, beginning at 6 pm at Town Hall, 1 Drinkwater Road, Hampton Falls, NH (snow date is February 7th, 2024). The annual Town and School District Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 12th, 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 in person with the Town Clerk, Stephanie Grant (or school positions only with the School Clerk) between January 24th and February 2nd, 2024. The Town Clerk is open Monday - Wednesday, 8 am- 3:30 pm, Thursday 8am – 6pm and Friday, February 2nd 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	1	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

TAX COLLECTION

The tax rate for 2023 is \$12.95 and as of December 05th, 2023, all unpaid property taxes are delinquent and accruing interest. Please call the Tax Collector’s office (1-603-926-4618 x 101 or 106) or check the website for the correct amount due before sending your payment. You can also pay your taxes online at www.hamptonfalls.org on the “Tax Collector” page click on the “View/Pay Tax Bills Online.” 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/or bank; these fees are not charged by the Town of Hampton Falls.

TOWN & LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

January / February 2024

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Ryan Veno, Police Chief

hfallspsd@hamptonfallspsd.com non-emergency phone 1-603-926-4619



Winter is here.... Please help the Hampton Falls Police Department keep the roads safe this winter by driving slowly. It takes longer to stop on an icy, wet, or snowy road. Make sure to clean the snow off your car completely before driving so the cars behind you don't get an unexpected snowstorm.

Please don't leave snow in the road after shoveling your driveway.
During large storms, or if we lose power, please check on your elderly neighbors.

As a reminder, the Hampton Falls Police Department offers house checks while you're away. The form can be found on the Town's website at www.hamptonfalls.org or feel free to stop by.

Happy New Year from the Hampton Falls Police Department!
And as always...See Something? Say Something!

BUILDING INSPECTION, Mark Sikorski Mon, Tues 8am to Noon & Thurs 8am to 6pm

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

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.

What's that nuisance chirping? Don't ignore it. 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? Check the date codes printed on the back of the units. If they are over 10 years old it's time to replace. Is the power on to the units? Are the batteries in good shape? Don't disable the chirping alarm in the cellar or garage. It means the batteries are failing. Change them now! Don't forget the heat alarm in the garage. These units can save a life.

Fire up the Generator! 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. A constant reminder to be sure where your property lines are when planning to build. Most parcels in Hampton Falls are two acres or more. The property setbacks are 50-feet on all sides. No structures may be placed in those areas so be sure. If you don't have a good copy of your property survey check with the town office. We may be able to help. 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.

TOWN & LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

January / February 2024

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.

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.

RECREATION COMMISSION – Gisela Manna, Chairwoman

Meets the third Monday of the month at 7:00 pm at Town Hall.

The mission of the Hampton Falls Recreation Commission is to provide programs and events that develop the physical condition and wellness of residents, young and old, to benefit their quality of life. The Recreation Commission encourages volunteerism to promote unity within the community. The Hampton Falls Recreation Commission's current members are Gisela Manna, Chair; Colleen Farias, Vice Chair and Communications; Linda Savoy, Treasurer; Kara Dumont, Secretary; and Members: Pam Fitzgerald, DeDe Kouloheras, and Karla Donatelli. Mark Lane advises as the Selectman Representative. Larry Smith is the Governor Weare Park Liaison. The Recreation Commission meets monthly on the 3rd Monday at 7:00 PM at Hampton Falls' Town Hall.



The Hampton Falls Recreation Commission sends a special thank you to the Hampton Falls Fire Department and to the Hampton Falls Free Library for their help during the Annual Tree Lighting event.

Save the date for the Winter Festival to be held on Sunday, February 18, 2024 from 1-4pm at Governor Weare Park. There will be a lot of fun activities so stay tuned for more details.

Enjoy a relaxing night with Lyndsay learning to paint a seasonal canvas. No experience is needed as she walks you through step-by-step. Upcoming sessions at Town Hall: Wednesdays Jan 31, Feb 21, and Mar 20, all from 6:30pm to 8:30 pm. Cost is \$30 a person and includes light snack and drink.



Paint Night class offered by Recreation Commission December 2023

The Recreation Commission has been hard at work to plan some new events for the coming months. Stay tuned for more details. The Recreation Commission is always looking for people to volunteer. Do you have a passion for building community spirit or have creative ideas and want to help encourage social bonds? If you can answer YES, please consider contacting the Hampton Falls Recreation Commission at HamptonFallsRecreation@gmail.com, and/or attending a meeting, and consider becoming a member.

TOWN & LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

January / February 2024

CONSERVATION COMMISSION – Mary Ann Hill, Chair

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

The Conservation Commission is moving forward in their work at the Raspberry Farm. After three summers of steady invasive plant removal, the Conservation Commission is ready to reintroduce native shrubs and trees to fill-in bare spots. The Conservation Commission has just ordered 70 seedlings of various trees and shrubs from the NH State Forest Nursery that will be arriving in May 2024. The Conservation Commission will have a planting event to get them all planted in a timely fashion. Installation of protective barriers around some of the new plants may be necessary to prevent deer browsing, until the plants grow tall and bushy enough to survive without protective barriers.

The Conservation Commission is in the process of putting together a program involving Vernal Pools. The Conservation Commission has been in contact with professors at UNH for help with resources, and have also contacted science teachers at LAS to possibly incorporate a local Vernal Pool study into their curriculum and programs.

The Conservation Commission has not given up on their intention to extend the trail at the Raspberry Farm into the Town Forest and are talking to some groups that build trails. Ideally part of the trail will consist of boardwalks so hikers can explore more of the site with minimal impact on plants and soils.



Throughout the year Conservation Commission members attend seminars and workshops on conservation topics ranging from: building-up marsh resilience, to connecting wildlife corridors, to how to issue a conservation bond, to writing better wetland ordinances. One such session this year was on Beavers and Beaver dams. It is fascinating to watch these natural engineers build their dams, usually at a constricted region of the stream where the water flow is stronger. Beavers start with larger gnawed wood pieces placed perpendicular to the flow of the stream, and may add rocks to the initial layer. Then Beavers build upward wedging in sticks, twigs, and leaves and reeds, and plastering them with mud clods. By creating these dams at different places along a stream Beavers slow the flow of the stream allowing sediments and nutrients to settle in the stream bed instead of rushing in a narrow channel to the sea or lake. These Beaver dams help prevent erosion, and provide a rich habitat for amphibians, insects, and birds. All in all, Beavers make the environment healthier.

Greenhead traps have been a frequent topic of discussion and complaint, with sensible storage being the biggest problem. They have been stored at the Brush Dump the last few years, first, under the overhang, and then in the open under a tarp. Neither of these options offered any protection so the traps were subject to mold growth and rot. The Conservation Commission decided for 2024 to hire Dragon Mosquito to deploy, retrieve, repair, and replace (as needed) the traps. The Conservation Commission has also decided to purchase a shipping container to store the traps, as well as other paraphernalia that is used for roadside cleanup and summer work, in addition to the birdhouses.

The Conservation Commission sets up an information booth periodically at different venues, and people always ask what the Conservation Commission does. Introducing the Conservation Commission's new logo which proudly announces what they do. The Conservation Commission would love new members to join. Contact the Conservation Commission at conservationchair@hamptonfalls.org, attend a meeting at Town Hall, monthly 2nd Tuesday at 6:30pm, and/or view their webpage on the Town Website at www.hamptonfalls.org under Boards and Committees.

TOWN & LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

January / February 2024

HAMPTON FALLS FREE LIBRARY - Joanna Meighan, Director

director.hamptonfalls.library@comcast.net



New Year Greetings from the Hampton Falls Library! 7 Drinkwater Road, Hampton Falls NH 03844
www.HamptonFallsLibrary.org 603-926-3682 hamptonfalls.library@comcast.net

The Library recognizes those who contributed to the Library in so many ways in 2023. Happily, the list grows each year! In addition, the Library thanks the businesses and organizations for their support and generosity. Looking to the New Year, the following are some upcoming Library programs:

Preserving Apple Orchards With Jared Kane

Wednesday, January 10th at 6:00 pm

Do you have a large, old, apple tree in your yard? Are you curious about what type of apple it could be, or have questions on how to take care of it or how to graft it? The history of apples in New England on January 10th at 6pm Jared Kane; of the Preservation Orchard at Branch Hill Farm in Milton Mills, NH; will lead a workshop on the history of apples in New Hampshire and New England. What is being done to track down and save old varieties and how you can prune, care for, and clone heirloom trees.



World Traveler-Scott Faiia

Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:30pm

The Hampton Falls Free Library is pleased to present an evening with Scott Faiia, local Hampton Falls resident and world traveler, on Wednesday, February 22nd 6:30pm. Faiia will present his photographs, observations and stories of his experiences. See Library website in 2024 for more information.

YOUTH PROGRAMMING:

Visit Library website in January for more information and sign up to join Miss Leah in one or many upcoming programs.

Home School Meet-up:

Stop in to: talk and collaborate on art; play chess; work on a project; or work on a puzzle. This is an undefined program meant to encourage collaboration and socialization.

Story Times:

Birth to Pre-K Story Time: Tuesday and Thursday at 10:30am. No sign up necessary.

Evening Story Time: for all ages on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm. Signup is not required.

After School Story Time*: on Tuesdays and Thursdays for Grades 1-4.

Kindergarten Club*: on Wednesdays.

Note: *All after-school story time attendees take the school bus to the library; pickup is at 3:45. Snacks and drinks will be served; please let us know if your child has any allergies.



TOWN & LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

January / February 2024

For School-Aged Kids:



Art Club: Watercolors with Let's Make Art, Wednesdays from 4:00 - 4:45: Grades 1-5. Sign up will be required.

LEGO Club: Build and design with LEGO, Keva Blocks, Plus Plus Blocks, and Snap Circuits! Wednesdays from 4:00 - 5:00. Grades K-5; Sign up will be required.

Activities for the Littlest of Our Library Friends:

Messy Play: Designed for children in pre-K and younger, messy play sessions are held on the third Friday monthly. Some of the activities and sensory bins, blocks, water play, paint, and more. Please note that clothing may get wet or dirty, so dress appropriately. Drop-in; sign up not required.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten: is a national program that encourages early literacy and fosters a love for reading. This program is always open for enrollment for children from birth to age 5. More details can be found on the Library [website](#).

[Sign up here](#) for the Library's monthly newsletter and current announcements.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Tracy Healey-Beattie, President

“Your Future Is A Present From The Past”

From a memorable Town Library to a state-of-the-art Museum, the Hampton Falls Historical Society is a place to visit! View restored architecture; the varied historical artifacts; the exemplary exhibits or, simply sit quietly with one of the many books or significant historical photo albums and slip into the 18th or 19th century.

The Historical Society Trustees have worked tirelessly on various projects in 2023. Head Curator, Linda Hladik and fellow trustees Anne Coombs and Beverly Mutrie have spent hours cataloging the many artifacts. The craftsmanship of artisan and cabinet maker Mike Gibbons as seen in the Historical Society's Archival Room is worthy of a look!

Historical Society Trustee Hunter Stetz, with the assistance of Beverly Mutrie, has focused on painting, signage and programs on Indigenous Americans at the East School House, located on in the rear of the Library's parking lot at 7 Drinkwater Road. Through their initiatives, a mini-split system was recently installed at the East School House. This will improve artifact preservation and provide a comfortable atmosphere for visitors.

The Marquie de Lafayette, for whom Lafayette Road was named, will be recognized in September of 2024. Through the efforts of Trustee Wendy Harrington and the Selectmen, a commemorative sign will be placed to honor this French Patriot.

Trustees Karen Sabatini and Wendy Harrington developed the Historical Society's membership banner which hangs outside the Museum. Special thanks to the Hampton Falls Fire Department for their assistance to hang the banner: “We're Not Dusty”. E-Mail us at hfhsh@gmail.com The Historical Society can only be as strong as their supporting members. Please consider joining the Museum membership!

TOWN & LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

January / February 2024

Of special note is the contribution Trustee Ward Dilmore has made to enhance the Museum in so many ways. Be it his creative ideas; facilitation of improved technology or developing ways to communicate and connect with the community and organizations similar to ours. Ward, a Board member, along with his wife Lori, at Exeter Fine Crafts, has made it possible through advanced technology and communication to fuse our similar efforts and share our ideas. this is an exciting endeavor and one we are eager to support with Exeter Fine Crafts.



Pictured above: John Starvish, Jr.

Thanks to Trustee Mark Thompson, there is hot water in the Museum! Mark not only provides us with innovative ideas but he gets things done! Similar effort comes from Trustee Shelley Parish who is our photographer-in-residence but provides colorful bulletin boards and promotes our sale of museum items.

We welcomed Ted Brooks to our Board this Fall. Ted and his wife Julie reside at what we know as the Raspberry Farm on Kensington Road. Already, Ted has made significant suggestions and quickly rolls up his sleeves with projects. A nice additionthank you Ted!

2023 ended with a wonderful Holiday Gathering. The Museum was dressed in red and green with a stately lit Christmas tree and a Hanukkah Menorah on the table. Our guest speaker was John Starvish, Jr. who originally lived on Drinkwater Road. A pewter craftsman himself, he stood beneath a portrait of his father, world-renowned artisan, whose work was once in the Smithsonian. John entertained a full house with anecdotal family stories as well as speaking to the art of making pewter. You can see the Starvish Exhibit and hear his talk at the Museum.



Pictured above: John Starvish, Jr.



Pictured above: Ward Dilmore, Ted Brooks, and Mike Gibbons

Through the efforts of Ward Dilmore and Exeter Fine Crafts, Door prizes were raffled prior to refreshments. Roger Cramer Amesbury potter, donated a \$100 bowl; Mike Gibbons a ramen bowl; Hampton Falls ceramist Patti Bax a gift basket of her ornaments, and Lori Dilmore, also a town potter, donated a tall pitcher. To all we are most grateful. To the Historical Society's members, thank you for your continued support.

HERITAGE COMMISSION - Beverly Mutrie, Chair

Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9:00 am at Town Hall

The Heritage Commission will be meeting in January and February, the second Wednesday of the month at 9 am in the Conservation Commission meeting room at Town Hall. The Heritage Commission is an appointed Board, which presently consists of 4 members, one of which must be a Selectman. Currently, there is one (1) vacancy to meet the prescribed maximum of five members. The Board of Selectmen can additionally appoint three (3) alternates.

TOWN & LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

January / February 2024

One of the nine functions (or powers, as stated in NH RSA 674:44-b) of the Heritage Commission is to advise the Planning Board in the development and review of those sections of the Master Plan which address cultural and historic resources. Additionally, the Heritage Commission advises, upon request, local agencies and other boards in their review of requests on matters affecting or potentially affecting cultural and historic resources.

The Zoning Ordinance states: “The intent of this (Town Common District) zoning district is to establish a downtown area that... upholds Hampton Falls’ historic New England architectural integrity.” The two main functions of the Guidelines are: (1) to provide guidance to landowners and developers in the early stages of planning and design, to address the question of “What is Hampton Falls looking for?”; and, (2) to be used as a benchmark by the Planning Staff, Planning Board, and peer reviewers to evaluate development proposals as part of the review processes to address the questions of “Does it meet the Town’s criteria?” and “What will it look like and how will it function?” There are also Design Guidelines that the Planning Board consults if a project with a site plan comes before it. This, however, does not protect existing historic buildings from being added onto or changed inappropriately.

The Commission must view buildings over 75-years old that their owners have decided to demolish. The Heritage Commission adjudicates the town’s Demolition Delay Ordinance and tries to find an alternative way to save those buildings if they are deemed worthy. The Heritage Commission takes pictures, measurements and gathers information about the building’s past uses and the builder for archival purposes, at the very least.



As a courtesy to homeowners, the Heritage Commission will take orders for an approved hand painted Historic House plaque which can be mounted on your house or on a pole. These are a 12x16 inch camelback board painted white with black lettering and serve to recognize the builder, date, owner or farm name to impart a bit of Hampton Falls’ history when driving by. Send an email to the Heritage Commission Chair Bev Mutrie at hfnhheritage@gmail.com.

The Heritage Commission is charged with doing a historic resources survey and to educate residents about those resources and their upkeep. In 2022 the Heritage Commission published a booklet “*Hampton Falls’ Historic Resources*” that contains information about the history of Hampton Falls’ oldest buildings and man-made monuments which contains some modern pictures with pictures from the past. These are for sale at the Town Clerk’s office and Library. The Heritage Commission’s goal is to put the pictures and some history of the structures on a virtual interactive map that is accessible on the web. Plans for the future include a historic barn survey. If these goals seem interesting, and you have some time, please join us at the Heritage Commission’s monthly meetings. If you have a question, please get in touch with the Chair, Beverly Mutrie, an avowed historic house and barn aficionado, at hfnhheritage@gmail.com.

CEMETERY TRUSTEES – Jonathan Bohm, Trustee Chair

Cemetery Trustees Tracy Beattie and Wendy Harrington

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



As 2023 draws to a close, the Cemetery Trustees are focusing on the Revolutionary War Cemetery, also known as Old West View Cemetery. This historic cemetery was founded in 1781 as a parish cemetery for Hampton Falls, recently separate from Seabrook. Among the forefathers interred at Old West View are Sarah “Widow” Perkins, who outlived her five children and died at age 92. Of note is the grave of Samuel Langdon, president of Harvard from 1774 until 1780 when he became pastor of the Hampton Falls’ Congregational Church.

Over the years, the edges of the graveyard have been overtaken by weeds, shrubs, and large trees. The Cemetery Trustees have

January / February 2024

The Cemetery Trustees have restored and repaired many gravestones, as well as the historic (but not likely original) iron fence along Nason Road. Maintaining the historic Old West View Revolutionary Cemetery is a significant effort, one which the Cemetery Trustees are pleased to support, to preserve and conserve the fabric of Hampton Falls' long and fascinating history. The Cemetery Trustees wish everyone in Hampton Falls a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Proposal: Install two (2) New 48,000 BTU multi-zone, hyper heat pumps and 10 ceiling cassettes that are thermostatically and independently controllable based on the temperature needs of each room (see photos and diagram below). Remove old, non-working and obsolete equipment. Cost estimate: \$90,000, funding to be generated by a warrant article.



FD Apparatus

FD Officers

Dispatch

Conf

FD Chief

Ladies

Utility

Men's

Weights (L)

Evidence (U)

Kitchen

Hose Tower

PD Garage (L)

PD Storage (U)

EOC / Training

Vestibule

Hyper Heat Pump

PD Bathroom

EOC Radio Room

PD Chief

Patrol

PD Office

PD Sec

LT

Closets

Red = Fire Department

Blue = Police Department

Ceiling cassette

Location of ceiling cassettes

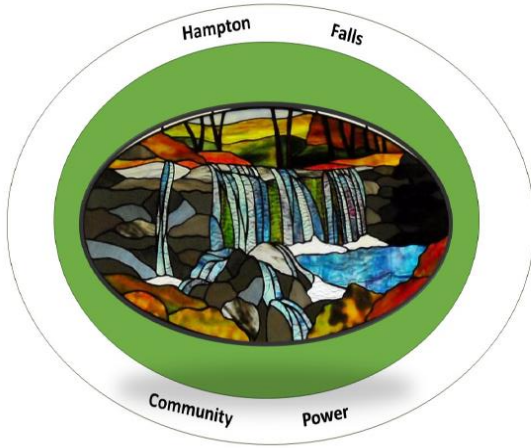
TOWN & LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

January / February 2024

ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION COMMITTEE – Carol Schutte, Chair
4th Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am at Town Hall

Hampton Falls Electricity Aggregation Committee pursues Community Power to lower electricity bills for town residents and businesses.



Community power brings the opportunity to lower cost of the energy supply available to Hampton Falls customers. In brief, Community Power Aggregation works by having a large group of customers come together to buy their energy supply directly from the producer of the energy instead of having our local utility, Unitil, buy it. Unitil would continue to distribute the energy, maintain the infrastructure, perform emergency repairs and bill Hampton Falls residents, businesses and the town. The state law governing the formation of CPAs, RSA 53-E, “AGGREGATION OF ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS BY MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES” lays out what a community must do to set up community power aggregation program.

The basic steps are:

1. Select Board establishes an Electric Aggregation Committee: Hampton Falls did this in September, 2023 established as the Hampton Falls Electricity Aggregation Committee (HFEAC)
2. The HFEAC prepares a Draft Community Power Aggregation Plan: The draft plan was rolled out at our first public meeting on Dec 06, 2023. The draft plan can be found here: https://www.hamptonfalls.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif5671/f/uploads/draft_aggregation_plan.pdf A video of the Dec 06 public meeting can be found here: <https://youtu.be/6r43a6P-dLE> A second public meeting is scheduled Dec 20, 2023 at 8 AM
3. Once public input is complete, the Select Board will review and consider the Aggregation Plan and determine whether to present this to the Town for approval as a no cost town warrant article at the March Town Meeting: to be determined
4. Town Meeting approves or reject the Community Power Plan and Program warrant article in March 2023.
5. If approved, the Town submits the Community Power Program to the NH Public Utility Commission (PUC) for approval.
6. Implementation of the Program begins in accordance with the Plan: begins following PUC approval
7. The Town contracts with the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire or other third party to provide services to implement the plan, including acquiring contracts for electric energy delivery.

If you have any question, please contact the Hampton Falls Electricity Aggregation Committee at HFElectricityAggCommittee@gmail.com

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

Jason Farias, Chair, jfarias@sau21.org; Barbara Goodman, Vice-Chair, bgoodman@sau21.org; Anthony Lang, alang@sau21.org; Renee Palm, rpalm@sau21.org; and Jill Swasey, jswasey@sau21.org

Best wishes to all for a safe, healthy, and joyful Holiday Season! Please see attached HFSB Winter Newsletter.

Hampton Falls School Board: December 2023 – Winter Newsletter

We are thankful to the Hampton Falls community for their continued support of our schools. We have had a busy and successful season since our last update and are happy to provide this newsletter.

❁ Wishing you a healthy and happy holiday season ❁

Spotlight on Standardized Testing

At Lincoln Akerman School, students participate in two standardized state-wide assessments. Both tests measure student learning over time and compare the performance of schools. At LAS, these scores help us understand our strengths and weaknesses and make improvements to our programs. In this newsletter we provide an overview of standardized testing at LAS.

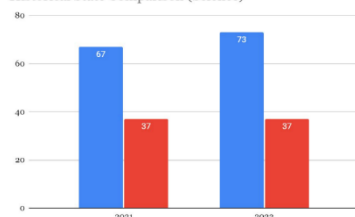
What is the NH SAS? New Hampshire Statewide Assessment System (NH SAS) is a summative snapshot of a student's grade level academic achievement. Individual student scores are one of several measures that are used to help teachers and families understand student progress and readiness for the next academic school year. The overall NH SAS score presents a measure of how well a student is performing against the grade level academic standards that guide instruction. All NH SAS student results are immediately available to teachers and school administrators upon student completion of the test.

Schoolwide Results: Lincoln Akerman School uses student NH SAS performance (among other assessments) to assess programming and provide targeted professional development on a yearly basis. Teachers can analyze student performance by subject area, by individual standard, or longitudinally (to assess growth over time). View the [2023 schoolwide results from Hampton Falls](#).

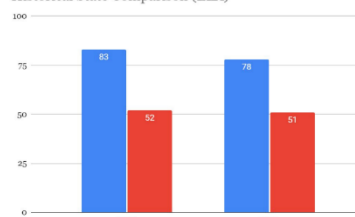
SAS Parent Portal: The Family Portal is a secure website that provides a central location for families to access their child's individual results. Parents and guardians can view results by accessing [the Family Portal](#). To log in, you will need the following: (1) Access Code provided by the testing coordinator, (2) Child's First Name as on official school records, and (3) Child's Date of Birth. If you do not have an access code or have any questions on how to access your child's results, please contact the school's main office.

Other Parent Resources: (1) [Accessing the Family Portal](#) and (2) [Score Interpretation Guide](#)

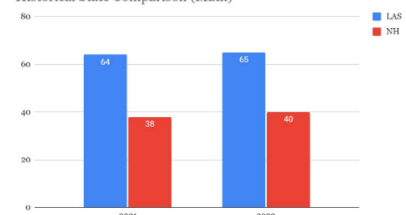
Historical State Comparison (Science)



Historical State Comparison (ELA)



Historical State Comparison (Math)



Competencies assessed are in English Language Arts (ELA), Math (both grades 3-8), and Science (grade 5 & 8), and align to our curriculum. LAS has been scoring well above state averages in proficiencies across grades. No data for 2020 due to Covid; 2023 results not yet available.

TOWN & LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

January / February 2024

What is NWEA and MAP? LAS partners with the NorthWest Evaluation System (NWEA) to provide Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth to most students at least twice each year. NWEA is a not-for-profit organization that has created trusted and reliable assessment solutions. More than 13 million students in the US and in 140 countries worldwide use MAP Growth.

How does MAP Growth work? MAP Growth is a computer-adaptive test, where questions become increasingly challenging when a child answers a question correctly, and easier following incorrect answers. This type of assessment challenges top performers without overwhelming students who need more time to reach grade level achievement.

How do teachers use MAP Growth? Teachers use the information to identify learning areas that their class should focus on, as well as monitor the growth of individual students. Principals and administrators also use the results to see the performance and progress of a grade level or the school as a whole.

How can I monitor my child's progress? Following administration of the test (usually each fall/winter), the school will send home the MAP Growth [Family Report](#). The report is easy to navigate and reveals information by subjects with graphs that compare individual achievement to the national average. The report also reveals if a student is on track to perform well on state-level or other upcoming assessments, like the ACT, so they can get a clear sense of how well a student is moving toward achieving bigger goals, like being ready for college.

Where may I find a copy of my child's NWEA MAP Family Report? You may reach out to your child's teacher to request a copy of the family report. The school is also planning to add the report to your child's parent portal in Power School where you access report cards.

Other Parent Resources: [A family guide to MAP Growth | Nwea](#) and [Family Toolkit - NWEA](#)

No-Cost Resources for Families to Support Behavioral and Mental Health: SAU21 has partnered with the Cook Center for Human Connections to help students, staff, families with children's mental health needs. The Cook Center offers private 1:1 coaching sessions with a trained mental health coach to interested families. These sessions include a weekly 30-minute phone call and 24/7 access to a professional via text or email. The service is offered in English or Spanish. The Cook Center also provides a customized roadmap of support based on family needs. Resources also include over 60 free courses designed to make it easy for parents to tackle difficult topics they may feel uncomfortable discussing with their children. For more information, please reach out to your school's counselor. Families may also learn more and request coaching by visiting [ParentGuidance.org](#) and selecting SAU21.

All the activities! Fall sports were successful with children across our middle school competing. Winter basketball is in full swing.

Our first concert of the school year will be held at the WHS auditorium on the evening of January 24th (snow date of January 25th).

Plays are back! We're thrilled to share that LAS will host two plays this spring with our K-4 and 5-8 performers.

For School Board related updates, visit:
www.sau21.org/school-boards

Do you also receive HF town newsletters?
www.hamptonfalls.org/subscribe

Upcoming dates:

Jan 8 @ 6pm – HFSB meeting & Public Hearing
Jan 15 – MLK Day, no school
Jan 29 @ 6pm – SAU21 joint board meeting

Brief Updates

New phone system installed! Thank you to the generosity of the Hampton Falls community for supporting this important update enhancing safety in our school.

Presentations on student support services: Each month Dr. Mary Toomey, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, delivers presentations to provide a deeper dive into the services provided to our SAU21 student body and the laws and regulations that govern the delivery of these services. Presentations are available through school board meeting materials.

Thank you to our dedicated staff! We extend our gratitude and congratulations to members of our staff that celebrate 25+ years with LAS: Michelle Casey, Alan Lajoie, Cheryl Graham, Pamela Huebner, and Kelli Maynard. Thank you for helping shape our school community!

Collaborating with the BOS: HFSB members commit to joining BOS meetings monthly to provide updates across our work and seek new ways to work together.

Brief on Budget: The Board completed budget meetings and will be bringing forward a budget to the town that ensures we maintain the quality of education expected at LAS while containing spending to ensure our fiscal responsibility. The proposed budget and warrant articles will be presented to the town at the Jan 8 Public Hearing.

Strong leadership! At their December 13th meeting, the HFSB voted unanimously to extend Principal Elizabeth Raucci's contract through June 2026. Principal Raucci has created a sound, supportive and academically enriching environment at LAS and we are thrilled to continue under her leadership.