

TOWN NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

July/August 2020

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – SUMMER SCHEDULE

The Board of Selectmen's 2020 Summer Meeting schedule is on Wednesdays as follows:

July 1, 4 p.m.

July 22, 6 p.m.

August 5, 6 p.m.

August 19, 6 p.m.

ANNUAL ROAD WORK

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

CURBSIDE TRASH AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

The Board of Selectmen has entered into a five and one-half years agreement with ELM Services, LLC for curbside trash and recycling collection effective July 1, 2020. The **collection day** remains **FRIDAY** with the first pick up by ELM Services, LLC on July 3. Residents will see three trucks; one collecting trash, one collecting recyclables and one collecting cardboard.

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

Telephone **1-781-844-8605**

Email HamptonFallsDisposal@gmail.com

TOWN CLERK – Stephanie Grant

LATE 2020 DOG LICENSES

ALL DOGS IN TOWN SHOULD HAVE BEEN LICENSED BY APRIL 30 as required by state RSA 466:1. If you no longer own a dog(s), call 926-4618, Ext. 101, or e-mail us at townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org; and we will remove your name from the list.

Otherwise, **please license your dog(s) ASAP** either in person or on-line to avoid the required call/visit from our dog officer (written notifications of the additional \$25 per dog civil forfeiture (RSA 466:13) have already been sent). Rabies vaccination certificate(s) are only required if rabies expiration date has expired.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Please show photo I.D. for all motor vehicle transactions (for your insurance fraud protection).

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

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

TOWN NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

July/August 2020

- 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
- All transactions may be done through the mail if you can’t get in to our office (call 926-4618, Ext. 101 or E-mail us (townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org) for instructions.
- Only ONE check required payable to “Town of Hampton Falls” which now includes town and state fees for your vehicle registration(s).
- All Major Credit/Debit Cards are accepted for payment. An additional credit/debit card fee (percentage of your total amount) applies to all card transactions.

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

INTERNET VEHICLE RENEWALS

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

FILING FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE

Please call ahead to schedule an early afternoon appointment when coming in to apply for a new marriage license. Limited staff prevents us from being able to process a license “on the spot.” The cost is \$50 and requires both persons’ I.Ds 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. Limited staff prevents us from being able to produce certified copies “on the spot.” Requests for self-cling, 3-year brush dump stickers are available on-line or from the Town Clerk’s office at a cost of \$30 each.

TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAYS

A reminder that the Town Clerk’s office will be closed on Fridays.

TAX COLLECTOR - Stephanie Grant

Property owners should have received their first property tax bill for 2020. The due date for the first bill is Monday, July 7. 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. 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 Property Taxes Review/Pay online button.

TOWN NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

July/August 2020

If you are among the people who like to pay bills on line, please be advised that we do not receive your payment the day that you “point and click.” It usually takes a few days for the bank to process and **mail**, yes **mail**, your payment. Those who wait until the last minute to pay on line should be aware that we will receive your payment late and you will incur interest charges. Anyone seeking a receipt for payment by mail must include a self-addressed, **stamped** envelope and please make sure the envelope is big enough to put your receipt back into. Also, if you are considering applying for 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 926-4618, Ext. 101, or send an e-mail to townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org.

BUILDING INSPECTION – Mark Sikorski

Calls from residents and business owners alike are encouraged *before* starting any project. Please call 926-4618, ext. 5, or email buildinginspector@hamptonfalls.org. 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 the Town Hall or 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.

On the Town Web site, on the left side of the home page, there is a link entitled Regulations. This is where you will find rules and regulations as to whether the project you have in mind is permitted. Projects in most cases require pre-approval by the Building Inspector, other town official or Board. With regard to the Town’s right of way alongside most roadways, the Highway Agent and Building Inspector will notify owners of concerns immediately. The Town is not liable for damage to items placed in the Town right of way.

HAMPTON FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT – Jay Lord, Fire Chief

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.
- 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.
- A fireworks permits process was adopted by the Selectmen – permit applications are available on the Fire Department / Permits section of the town website hamptonfalls.org
- As summer storms are sometime 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 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.

HAMPTON FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Anne Sanborn Coombs, Secretary

Life as we knew it has forever changed. Who would have thought that the world would be caught up in one of the worst pandemics in history? It has been a difficult time for all with loss of jobs/income, working from home while caring and teaching children, soaring food prices and empty store shelves. We had prepared our mailing of membership renewals to have been sent out in April; however, in consideration of people's current conditions, we decided not to do the mailing and give all our members a free membership for the year 2020. Our membership runs from May 1st to April 30th of the following year. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you when we are able to open the doors of the Museum and resume our programs which is unlikely this summer.

The Museum Restoration Committee (MRC) has remained in touch and organized the renovation of the Museum bathroom to be handicapped accessible. It is a wonderful improvement. They are still discussing and working on the plans for developing a more functional interior. Architect has been put on hold.

The Board of Trustees had no meeting in March or April due to the pandemic. Any business was discussed via email. May and June were virtual meetings on Zoom which worked quite well.

Residents have donated their time and plants to fill the urns on the front portico of the Museum. The urns are quite lovely and we appreciate their donation.

Like so many during this time, the Society has been quiet and calm with the stay-at-home order. Our mission is to **".....investigate, collect, preserve, illuminate & communicate whatsoever might relate to the history of Hampton Falls and its people"**. 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.

HAMPTON FALLS- Cemetery Trustees

Cemetery Gravestone Cleaning



Anyone visiting a cemetery with older gravestones is sure to notice that, over time, the stones become covered in dark mold and various growths that make the inscriptions difficult to read. In fact, the mold, mildew, algae, & lichens are feeding on the stones, slowly destroying the monuments. Before working on our Hampton Falls stones, much research was performed to establish the most effective cleaning methods to ensure protection of our historic gravestones.

Cemetery Trustees have now begun the process of cleaning, beginning in Westview Cemetery on Nason Road. Monuments that are chosen for cleaning are first sprayed with D/2 Biological Solution. D/2 is a non-hazardous and biodegradable cleaner designed to preserve historic structures and cemetery monuments. It is even used by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs for our national cemeteries, and by the National Park Service to preserve the iconic white of the White House! After scrubbing the surface with soft bristle brushes, a strong stream of water from a portable pressure tank expertly rinses away most of the mold and growths from the stone. Additionally, the D/2 continues to work for months after its application to clean and prevent regrowth.



Pleased with the results, the Trustees hope to visit all six of our historic cemeteries to clean and restore the monuments. Anyone interested in helping with this project is urged to contact Jonathan Bohm at jonathancbohm@gmail.com.