

TOWN NEWS SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER 2020

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

PART TIME BOOKKEEPER - Job Opening

The Town of Hampton Falls, NH (pop. 2,300) seeks a person to serve as a part-time Bookkeeper. This position requires a high school diploma, Associates Degree in Accounting, excellent communication and computer skills, 5 years in the field, or equivalent combination of education and experience. A description of the job requirements for this position may be obtained by reviewing it on the Town's web site at www.hamptonfalls.org or requesting it from secretary@hamptonfalls.org. Submit a cover letter, application and resume, references and salary history to: "Bookkeeper Recruitment," Town Hall, 1 Drinkwater Road, Hampton Falls, NH 03844, no later than August 21, 2020. Job to remain open until the position is filled. EOE Please contact Town Administrator Lori Ruest 926-4618, x103, or townadministrator@hamptonfalls.org with questions.

Fall Household Waste Collection Day

Please watch for additional information as well as the date and timeframe.

Arrangements are being made to have a compactor truck and driver available at the Brush Dump for a four-hour period of time for the purpose of disposing items directly into the compactor; no other disposal containers will be made available at the fall collection. The \$10 per trip fee applies.

PLEASE NOTE that this fall collection day provides for disposal of limited items as compared to the spring collection day.

The fall collection will **not** provide for the disposal of all items regularly collected at the spring collection day. For example, those items that are separated from bulky household items for proper disposal include electronics, propane tanks, tires, appliances containing Freon, treated or painted wood and metals. Any of these items brought for disposal at the fall collection that are not permitted to be disposed in the compactor truck will be sent away with you.

Please contact Town Administrator Lori Ruest at 926-4618, extension 103, with questions.

Stephanie Grant, TOWN CLERK/ TAX COLLECTOR

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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, please note the \$25 civil forfeiture fee has been now added on.** Rabies vaccination certificate(s) are only required if rabies

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expiration date has expired, please email, fax or drop off in the drop box an updated rabies certificate if needed.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION DURING COVID-19

We have now implemented a new process to help residents who have bought a new vehicle/trailer/motorcycle. Please provide the following:

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

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

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

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

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

We ask you that you continue to renew your registrations online as well as licensing dogs.

Please visit the Town Clerk's page on www.hamptonfalls.org to renew online. You may also renew your vehicle by dropping off a copy of your previous registration, copy of your license and a payment (please see above) and drop into the outside mailbox. You can also call into the office to process a renewal over the phone. While our doors are closed to the public, we are still working in the office to process transactions to the best of our abilities at this time. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this unprecedented and challenging time.

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

Please call our office at 926-4618 ext. 101 (we are returning voicemails as soon as possible) or email townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org (email is being monitored all week) with any questions or concerns

FILING FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE

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DUE TO TOWN HALL BEING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC, WE ARE CURRENTLY NOT OFFERING FILING FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE AT THE MOMENT. Any New Hampshire Town or City Clerk can do the filing for a marriage license. 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, please also email a picture of your driver's license when requesting any certified copy to townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org. Limited staff prevents us from being able to produce certified copies "on the spot." Requests for self-cling, 3-year brush dump stickers (required for brush disposal only; no longer required for household waste collection days) are available on-line or from the Town Clerk's office at a cost of \$30 each.

TOWN CLERK/ TAX COLLECTORS'S OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAYS:

A reminder that the Town Clerk/ Tax Collector's office is closed on Fridays.

TAX COLLECTION

Please note that the July tax due date is past and interest is now accruing. Please make sure you call or check online for the most current balance before sending a check in. 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 \$1.95 charge for 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. You can also view your property taxes online and access detailed payment and balance information, 24 hours a day.

Just a reminder that if you send in your payment after the due date of July 7, the payment is considered late and interest will begin to accrue daily. Please call, email or visit the new tax kiosk on our website for an updated payoff amount.

BUILDING INSPECTOR/ HEALTH OFFICER – MARK SIKORSKI

926-4618 ext. 105 Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:00 a.m. – Noon

YARD SALE PERMIT REMINDER

Please allow at least one week of advance time for approval of a yard sale application. Should you have questions with regard to yard sale permit processing, contact Building Inspector Mark Sikorski. Applications can be obtained at the Town Hall or from the Town's website.

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The Town of Hampton Falls ordinance with regard to yard sales (garage sales, barn sales, tent sales, moving sales) includes, but is not limited to, the following requirements that are verified by the Building Inspector at the time of application:

- A yard sale permit, at no charge, shall be issued for up to two-yard sales in a calendar year and must be held on the property owned by the applicant.
- The duration of the permit is for no more than two successive days, with the time of start to be specified on the application, including rain date(s).
- Yard Sale signs must meet the Town's sign ordinance and shall be removed at the close of the yard sale.
- The yard sale shall not approach to less than 25 feet from any road or street.

Cooler days are appearing. Have you scheduled your furnace cleaning and system check? Service companies have time for you now. Keep the environment inside your home free of dangerous fumes. Get your system running at peak performance now and save fuel all winter!

FIRE DEPARTMENT-- CHIEF JAY LORD

Just a few quick thoughts:

- We do teach the new "hands only" CPR if you are interested.
- While we are not into the heating season yet, now is a good time to have your heating appliances (wood stoves, furnaces, etc.) checked so you don't have a problem during the winter.
- Don't forget to get your burning permits for fall clean-ups – no leaf burning.
- We are on Facebook at Hampton Falls Fire Department.
- Call 926-5752 if you have a question or **9-1-1** for emergencies (no you're NOT bothering us...it's what we are trained to do).

CONSERVATION COMMISSION -- MARY ANN HILL, CHAIR

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

Conservation Commission has completed the goal of clearing the trails at both the Raspberry Farm and Marsh Lane for this season. Now, volunteers are sought to help remove invasive plants at both locations. The margin between the field and the woods at the Raspberry Farm has fallen prey to Multiflora Rose and Autumn Olive, while the parking area at Marsh Lane is being overwhelmed by a dense growth of Oriental Bittersweet. Bittersweet and Multiflora Rose are particularly vigorous and are destructive to our native trees. We would love to teach everyone about these plants and get rid of them at the same time.

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The Conservation Commission updated its webpage and posted a new mission statement. The 2020 Natural Resources Inventory will be ready in September. A story map of the natural areas in Hampton Falls is also in process. Other projects include installing a new sign on Route 1 indicating the location of the Marsh Lane Conservation Area; erecting a fence on the Marsh Lane boundary for the protection of the area; and expanding the Raspberry Farm trail into the Town Forest to better experience this unique habitat.

The Seabrook-Hampton Estuary Alliance (SHEA) is developing an estuary management plan which will be shared with residents. SHEA is also holding their annual a photo contest this fall. Look for the details on their website shea4nh.org <photo contest.

The Conservation Commission continues to work with the Society for Protection of NH Forests to fund the conservation easement on the Clay Brook Forest (Toppan Lane Ox Pasture). The Society has received a \$44,000 grant from the VF Corp. toward this project and other grant applications are in process. An excellent description of the conservation value of this property can be found in the 2019 Town Report and at <https://forestsociety.org/project/clay-brook-forest>. Residents are welcome to hike the trails on this special property.

Questions about the easement for this property can be addressed to Anne Truslow of the Society at atruslow@forestsociety.org or 603-224-9945. Donations may be sent to:

The Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests
54 Portsmouth St.
Concord, NH 03301

Checks should be made out to the Forest Society with “Clay Brook” in the memo line. We encourage residents to find our trails and enjoy a leisurely walk with nature. Bobolinks are nesting at the Raspberry Farm, and interesting plants like Jack in the Pulpits and Indian Pipes (yes, they are a plant and not a mushroom!) can be found at Marsh Lane. Do remember to please leave only your footprints behind.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION -- LYN STAN, CHAIR

The Parks and Recreation Commission continues to meet on the third Monday of each month. Hampton Falls Parks and Recreation traditionally brings fun to our community. The department makes every effort to offer quality programming and events for our residents and greater community. This summer has brought many cancellations to our programs and events due to COVID-19. Given these cancellations, we have made a concerted effort to offer what we can within the guidance provided by the State of New Hampshire. Your patience and understanding is appreciated and we all are looking forward to a time when things can return to a better sense of normal.

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There is a local group interested in using the field that has proposed to maintain and fix it in lieu of payment. Parks and Recreation continues to schedule the teams and leagues that use the field. The Parks and Recreation Commission has reached out to local boy scouts for assistance to freshen up the Governor Weare Park sign. We also welcomed Larry Smith as a liaison overseeing all activities at the park.

The Seniors Organizing for Seniors is a group of longtime residents who are working to be a hub for the seniors in our town. Their mission is to complement existing services and foster ongoing community engagement by providing programs, activities and services to support independent living. This program will resume as soon as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Other Parks and Recreation projects such as Castleberry Fair had a successful weekend July 4th and 5th, following the Governor's COVID-19 safety guidelines, and will return to the Town Common on September 19th and September 20th.

The 2020 Summer Concerts on the Common and Cool Wheels kicked off on Thursday, June 18th with live music. The concert series also follows the Governor's COVID-19 safety guidelines. Additionally, Wayne from Maine performed his children's program at the Bandstand on July 21st and was well attended by children in the community. The Parks and Recreation Commission has submitted the order for the Bandstand Memorial Brick Pavers and plans to have them installed in the fall. Art on the Common and our Summer Camp program will resume in 2021.

The Parks and Recreation Commission is always looking for people to join our team. Do you have a passion to build community spirit or have creative ideas and want to help encourage social bonds? If yes, please consider joining our team!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY -- ANNE COOMBS, SECRETARY

The Board of Trustees has continued its monthly meetings via Zoom. It has worked quite well and allowed business to continue forward as we tackle the arduous task of redesigning the interior. The Museum Restoration Committee has continued to meet as they reorganize the office space and relocate display shelves. Everything has been torn asunder but as it pulls together, it will be better organized.

Anne Ferreira, resident of Hampton Falls, donated the wedding dress worn by Helen French Brown when she married David Batchelder in 1884, to the Society. We had the dress cleaned and buttons replaced by a conservator whom we have used in the past. She did a lovely job and we hope to make up a display of textiles sometime in the future. Please keep us in mind when you come across treasures such as this when cleaning out an attic or closet. Thank you, Anne, for your donation. We would like to thank James and Gisele Manna, residents of Hampton Falls, for their generous donation of their time and plants to fill the urns that have graced the front portico of the Museum for the summer.

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The Board of Trustees appreciates the efforts of the Board of Selectmen in researching and selecting a reputable company to repair the slate roof on the Museum. This will protect the building which is on the State Register of Historic Buildings as well as the collection for many years to come.

It is donations such as mentioned above that help in the operation of the Society. We receive no tax-based dollars from the town and are a 501(c)3 nonprofit entity. Our mission is to **“.....investigate, collect, preserve, illuminate & communicate whatsoever might relate to the history of Hampton Falls and its people”**. Please like us on Facebook and visit our website www.hamptonfallshs.org