



ALEXANDRIA TODAY JANUARY 2016 EDITION

47 Washburn Road, Alexandria, NH 03222 www.alexandrianh.com alexandrianh@metrocast.net 603-744-3220



Recycling Committee 01/16



Recycling is contagious; You set the example, and others will follow



From the Recycling Committee Team

Another year is in the books. It's been a good year for the recycling program which has continued to save the town money in spite of a seriously declining market for recyclable materials. Tony continues to do a terrific job administrating the program and he and his crew are constantly on the lookout for ways to improve it. A complete recap of the program's impact on the town will be reported in the annual Town Report, which I hope you will all take a moment to read. Our residents have come together to make the program work, and you should be very proud of your accomplishments.

Money in our Pockets

The savings for the months of October and November were \$1,279 which includes \$165 for scrap metal in October and \$299 for glass in November. There was no revenue reported for aluminum cans or scrap metal in the month of November. The total yearly savings through 30 November 2015 are \$9,586. We've been averaging about \$600 a month in savings since the significant spike in costs experienced this past July. As the market demand for materials that can be recycled continues to spiral downward, processing vendors are being squeezed hard; and in fact, many of the smaller ones have been put out of business. The larger vendors are storing materials on-site waiting for market conditions to improve, which increases their handling expenses and forces them to be more selective in the materials they accept. Many are consolidating their facilities which, in some cases, increases the distance material must be hauled for processing, which again results in an increase in the processing costs. The NRRA with whom we contract for the processing of many of our recyclables is constantly monitoring market conditions and vendor prices to help us realize maximum return on the material we recycle; there's not much more anyone can do until the markets begin to rebound.

When will the markets for recyclable materials pick up again? No one is willing to predict, but if the past is any indication, they will improve in time. Until they do, we will continue to follow our recycling program. The savings generated by the program will not be as great as in past years; however, we will still be saving money and helping to protect our resources and the environment – it is the responsible thing to do. Thank you all for helping us reach our 2015 objective and with your continuing support, 2016 will be another year we can all be proud of our accomplishments. Let's everyone make a New Year's Resolution to try to reduce what we consume, reuse everything we can, compost where possible including food waste, and continue to recycle everything else that can be recycled.

Everyone Does Make a Difference

I apologize for the brevity of this newsletter article. December has been a very busy month and I haven't had the time to research interesting articles about innovative recycling/reusing ideas. Rather than rambling on, I'll close by again thanking everybody for their support of the recycling program during 2015, and hoping that you had a very merry Christmas and that the New Year brings you good health and happiness.

Please send any ideas, tips or comments to: steve.whitman@hotmail.com or drop them off at the Municipal Bldg. during normal business hours.

Alexandria Conservation Commission

"Stewards of our Planet"



Happy New Year



ACC Notebook

As we welcome in the New Year and begin to develop our 2016 program, it is with pride that we look back over the past year at our accomplishments. Two items come to mind immediately; beginning work at the town forest to make it a place where people can come and enjoy the outdoors and the many opportunities for recreation and relaxation; and secondly, moving forward to finalize the reclamation of the town property on the Bog Rd. Both of these projects have been a long time in the making and we are pleased that we have been able to move forward with them in 2015. You can read more about both of these activities in the Town's Annual Report.

Meeting minutes, newsletters, alerts and other helpful information is updated on the Town's website on a regular basis.

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2015 also saw two long time members of the Commission; Kate Barrett and Don Gagnon, step down to pursue other interests. A third member, Bob Piehler, moved off of the Commission to assume responsibilities as a selectman; however, he still remains active with the Commission as the representative from the Board of Selectmen. These individuals have been replaced by qualified individuals eager to move forward in the spirit consistent with the goals and objectives of the Commission. Going into the new year, we currently have a vacancy for an Alternate Member who will participate in all meetings and act as voting members in the event a member is absent. Beginning in 2016, we have established a new membership category; "Junior Membership" which is open to all Alexandria teens between the ages of 12 and 18. "Junior Members" will participate in all meetings; however, they will not have voting privileges.

Your Conservation Commission is looking forward to your continued support in the coming year, and is committed to continuing our work to protect our resources and enhance our environment through educational programs within the community and positive action by the Commission.



As the Wind Blows

Controlling ice and snow build up in driveways and walkways is a problem we all face in the winter. Obviously the most ergonomically friendly method of control is by removing the snow and ice by either shoveling or plowing; get out there and shovel/plow early and often. Clear away as much snow and ice as possible during and immediately after the storm and the need for any additional treatment will diminish. In many cases a little sand on the surface after clearing the bulk of the snow will be sufficient to provide all the traction necessary [I have found that sawdust from my shop also provides good traction and does not harm floors if tracked inside]. However, if you need to get down to bare ground, you may need to use a chemical treatment. For many years, the most common ice remover has been rock salt. The indirect damage and environmental concerns were offset by its cost-effectiveness. Salt can leach heavy metals into the ground damaging the roots of grass, plants, trees and shrubs; and contaminate underground water resources. Surface water run-off carrying harmful salt by-products can flow into nearby rivers and streams. Salt can hurt our pets if it gets lodged in their paws. Today, more environmentally friendly and considerably more effective chemicals are available. Use an eco-friendly ice melt product when needed; follow the manufacturer's directions and use sparingly. When choosing an environmentally friendly ice melt, take the time to read the ingredient list. Make sure all the ingredients are safe for you, your children, your pets and the environment. Use a product containing Magnesium chloride which is salt, but a safer and less corrosive salt than the more common sodium chloride salt.



Our Feathered Friends

Birds of prey, also known as raptors, hunt and feed on other animals. The term "raptor" is derived from the Latin word *rapere* (meaning to seize or take by force). These birds are characterized by keen vision that allows them to detect prey during flight and they have powerful talons and beaks with which they kill and tear apart their prey. In ornithology [a branch of zoology that concerns the study of birds], the definition for "bird of prey" has a narrow definition in that it is restricted to birds who's primary diet consists of vertebrates, usually larger than the bird, which are killed and eaten. This restriction excludes condors and vultures from the raptor category as they eat carrion meat [meat that is already dead and in the process of rotting]. There are 15 species of eagle, hawk, and falcon raptors in our area. These birds can be seen at various times of the year soaring on the wind currents over the ridge lines, over the shores of our lakes and rivers, and above the fields of our farm lands. Some are present year round and others are seasonal visitors or migrants passing through during spring and fall migrations. Some are rare visitors only seen every 3-5 years. They range in size from 9-33" long and have wingspans of 20-72". All of the 15 species are protected in the state of New Hampshire; and 2, the Northern Harrier falcon and the Golden Eagle are listed as "endangered", and a third, the Peregrine falcon, is considered 'threatened'.

These majestic birds play an important role in the ecosystems of which they are apart by helping to maintain a healthy, diversified population. Enjoy them, and protect them and their habitats.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bird_of_preying
<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/nongame/hawks.html>



Upcoming Area Events

➤ Our January meeting will be on January 27th at 6:30pm; at the town municipal building 47 Washburn Rd. Guests are always welcome.

Meeting minutes, newsletters, alerts and other helpful information is updated on the Town's website on a regular basis.

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Alexandria Conservation Commission PHOTO CONTEST

Contribute up to four photos taken anywhere in Alexandria! Photo subject should be what you see as "Scenic Alexandria". You do not need to be a town resident; however the photo must have been taken somewhere within Alexandria. Top 12 photos will be chosen for an Alexandria Conservation Commission calendar, to be distributed free at town deliberative session in February. All photo submissions will be on display in town hall during February and March. Submit an 8x10 print of your photo with name/contact info to: Alexandria Conservation Commission, 47 Washburn Road, Alexandria, NH 03222 or email with attachment of photo(s) to: alexandrianh@metrocast.net, subject: ACC photos

Deadline for entries: January 20th

Highway Department Jeff Cantara, Road Agent

Policy Regarding Availability of Sand:

Sand is available for use by residents of the town. Sand piles are located at the Transfer Station (29 Smith River Road) and behind the old Highway Garage (143 Washburn Road).

- Residents of the Town of Alexandria are allowed to fill up five 5-gallon buckets with sand for use on their own property
- Sand available at the Transfer Station will be available only during regular business hours of the transfer station
- The filling of pick-ups or other trucks and use by contractors is prohibited.

Selectmen's Office

Abatements: If you wish to file an application for abatement, you may obtain the form from the selectmen's office during regular hours. Abatement forms are also available online at www.alexandrianh.com. Applications are due by March 1, 2016.

Tax Exemptions & Credits: There are several forms of tax relief available to qualifying tax payers.

Tax Exemptions: An exemption is an amount of money to be deducted from the assessed valuation, for property tax purposes, of real property. The amount of the exemption varies by the type of exemption.

- If you are at least 65 years old prior to April 1st of the tax year and meet certain income and asset limit criteria, a portion of the assessed value may be exempt from property tax.
- Disabled residents may apply for an exemption on the property taxes on their primary residence, providing that they are eligible under Title II or Title XVI of the Federal Social Security Act for benefits to the disabled, and meet all State requirements and the Town's income and asset limit criteria.
- A resident who is legally blind as determined by the Services for Blind and Visually Impaired, Department of Education shall be exempt each year of the assessed value, for property tax purposes, of his or her residential real estate.

Veterans' Tax Credits: A tax credit is defined as the amount of money to be deducted from the person's tax bill. It reduces the tax due, not the appraised value of the property itself. The amount of the tax credit varies. There are several options for Veterans' tax credits. Please visit our website at www.alexandrianh.com/page19.php for a full list of credits available and the requirements that must be met to qualify.

For more information on property tax exemptions and credits, please visit our website at www.alexandrianh.com/page15.php or stop in the Selectmen's Office for more information and an application. **Applications are due by April 15th of the tax year.**

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REMINDER: Tuesday, January 12, 2015 is the last day for voters to petition selectmen to include an article in the town meeting warrant, provided that if a petitioned article proposed a bond governed by RSA 33:8-a, the deadline is the preceding Friday, January 9, 2015. [RSA 39:3; 40:13, II-a(b)]. The petition must have a minimum of 25 signatures from registered voters.

New Transfer Station stickers are available for 2016.

Stickers are available at the transfer station, please be sure to stop and request one the next time you are there.

Public Hearing on the 2016 Annual Budget

Tuesday, January 12th at 6:30 pm

Snow date: Tuesday, January 19th at 6:30 pm

First Deliberative Session

Saturday, February 6th at 10:00 am

2016 Town Warrant and Budget will be posted by Monday, January 25th

Alexandria Village School Community Center

Alexandria Village School Community Center Free Programs

Thursday, January 14, 6:30 p.m.- Program for all ages. Watch for more information in our flyer.

Thursday, January 28, 6:00 p.m.-African Drumming.

Thursday, February 11, 6:30 p.m.-Valentine's Day craft.

Thursday, February 25, 6:30 p.m.-Stretch Bracelets, North Star Gems.

All Thursday night programs are for all ages and are free.

Every Thursday morning- 9:30 to 11:00-Morning playtime-For caregivers and children.

First and third Wednesday-6:00 to 7:30 p.m.-4-H meetings.

Other Local Events/Organizations



Red Cross Blood Drive

January 26, 2016 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Our Lady of Grace Chapel, 2 West Shore Road, Bristol, NH

FOOD FOR FRIENDS

A free monthly community meal at the Bristol United Church of Christ

First Thursday of every month from 5 to 6 pm (January 7th)

This event is sponsored by the Tapply Thompson Community Center(TTCC) and other local organizations.

If you are interested in helping out, please call the TTCC at 744-2713.



HAYNES LIBRARY

Open on Mondays from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm and 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

33 Washburn Road, Alexandria, NH 03222 (603) 744-6529

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Office Hours

Selectmen's Office – 744-3220

Monday: 8 am to 4 pm
Tuesday: 11 am to 6 pm
Wednesday: 8 am to 4 pm
Thursday: 8 am to 4 pm
Friday: CLOSED

Town Clerk/ Tax Collector – 744-3288

Monday: 9 am to 4 pm
Tuesday: 9 am to 7 pm
Wednesday: 9 am to 4 pm
Thursday: 9 am to 4 pm
Friday: CLOSED

Transfer Station

Monday: 8 am to 12 pm
Wednesday: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday: 8 am to 4 pm

Police Department 744-6650

Chief Donald Sullivan
When dispatcher picks up, give dispatcher your message. They will page an officer on the radio. Cell phones are not reliable locally.

Highway Department – 744-6516

Jeff Cantara, Road Agent

Planning Board – 744-8986

Deliberative Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm, 6pm during winter months (November thru March)
Open 1 hour prior to meeting.
Chair, Maggie LaBerge
Items to be included on the agenda must be received 21 days prior to the meeting.

Town Committees/Commissions

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission meets the 4th Wednesday of the month in the conference room at the municipal building.
To contact the Conservation Commission:
e-mail: alexandrianh@metrocast.net
Phone: 603-744-3220
Mail: 47 Washburn Road
Alexandria, NH 03222

Recycling Committee

Please send your suggestions, tips, and comments to: steve.whitman@metrocast.net or call 744-3596. Thank you for recycling.
A Reminder: Anyone wishing to receive electronic copies of committee business conducting electronically or meeting minutes can do so by providing me with an email address. Sent to: alexandrianh@metrocast.net

FIRE PERMITS

Category I & II fire permits can be obtained in the Selectmen's Office (603-744-3220), but you will need to provide a copy of the previous year's permit in order to get a permit for the current year.

All other burn permits are available from the following:

Fire Warden:
Mark Chevalier 603-455-1591
Deputy Fire Wardens:
Dave Ogden 603-744-9056
Jeff Cantara 603-744-6516
Tom Moore 603-744-6516

Or contact: Robert Duquette, George Clayman, Fran Butler, Ken Patten, Fred Platts

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