



ALEXANDRIA TODAY NOVEMBER 2019 EDITION

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

TOWN HALL PRESERVATION

Town Hall Preservation Update:

On October 10 representatives of LCHIP (Land and Community Heritage Investment Program - a Moose Plate affiliate) made a site visit to the town hall in preparation for annual grants being awarded. Each individual that is a part of the selection committee is charged with evaluating historic buildings and each has a specific "field" in which they specialize: architecture; historic preservation; the arts; etc. There were common threads regarding the comments of the members having to do with period design and the overall wonderful integrity of the building. The roll drop curtains were also of special interest. We can only keep our fingers crossed at this point that what they saw, coupled with our grant application, is sufficient to grant us an award.

There is a copy of the Condition Assessment Report in the selectmen's office if you should have an interest in what it contains. When reviewing the material keep in mind that all of the statements made about the history of the building - from the building structure and specifications, to paint colors, to lighting fixtures - comes from actual documented materials; if it was not in documented materials it wasn't included.

Next on our agenda is putting together an action plan based on the condition assessment and the grant amount we might be awarded. It is hoped that actual external work may begin next spring with planning, work assessment and the bidding process happening this winter. We are also tossing around the idea of a harvest festival to be held next October as a means of additional funding along with bake sales on each of the voting days and the first deliberative session. If you have thoughts on any of this please contact Nancy Whitman @ njswhit@hotmail.com.

Alexandria Conservation Commission

Some fun facts from your Alexandria Conservation Commission



Winter can be a depressing time for some folks who don't particularly enjoy winter outdoor activities, and in New Hampshire we have more than our share of cold, adverse winter days. Many people find enjoyment interacting with wildlife from the comfort of their homes; namely feeding the birds. There is some controversy surrounding the feeding of birds, as some feel that it attracts unwanted animals such as squirrels that will eventually end up in your home and cause damage. My personal view on

this is that "critters" enter our homes because it offers warmth and protection; and if they are going to winter over in our homes, they will have entered and 'nested' long before our bird feeders go out. That said, bird feeding stations in your yard in the winter can be fun for the entire family while also providing food for the birds [and yes, also the squirrels, chipmunks and maybe a raccoon or two]. Birds have specific preferences when it comes to the type of feeding stations they frequent:



Platform type feeders are open feeders and can be placed at different heights depending on the type of bird you are trying to attract. 'Ground feeding' birds like platforms close to the ground containing seeds, nuts, corn and insects. They commonly attract robins, doves, sparrows, towhees, juncos, grackles, and turkeys, if low enough to the ground.



Hopper type feeders have clear sides so you can easily monitor the seed level. Seed falls into a small tray at the bottom. The tray or perches are big enough for large birds. Doves, jays, cardinals, woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees and finches like these types of feeders.



Tube feeders are specialized feeders, and some are designed specifically for small seed such as thistle seed. They have much smaller seed ports and tend to discourage large birds that cannot land on a small perch. Tube feeders will attract finches, chickadees, grosbeaks, and nuthatches.



Suet feeders are made especially for birds that cling to tree trunks to feed. They do not have perches, but instead are generally small cages or mesh bags that birds cling to in order to feed. They hold suet or seed cakes, and attract woodpeckers, nuthatches, jays, chickadees, titmice and wrens.

There are a wide variety of bird foods on the market and it pays to put out a variety of feeders and experiment with different mixes of foods to see what combination works best in your yard. Some people find it interesting to keep a log of the different bird species that visit their yard each year.

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

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SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

With winter fast approaching, we thought it might be beneficial to remind residents about our current winter sand availability policy and ordinance regarding plowing snow across road.

Policy Regarding Availability of Sand:

- Sand is available at the Transfer Station (29 Smith River Road) and behind the Municipal Building (47 Washburn Road).
- Residents of the Town of Alexandria are allowed to fill up five 5-gallon buckets with sand for use on their property.
- The filling of pick-ups or other trucks and use by contractors is prohibited.
- Removal of sand by residents at the Highway Garage on Mundy Road is prohibited.
- The fine for a violation of this policy is \$100 per incident.

Snow Plowing Ordinance: Plowing of Snow into Roadways

To promote the safe and orderly passage of the motoring public on the Town's roads, free from obstructions and obstacles created by the removal or depositing of snow, the Town of Alexandria hereby adopted the following ordinance on February 5, 2019.

No person shall by himself or by his agent or agents throw, push or put any snow or ice into or across any and all Town roads, including Class V and Class VI, or to deposit snow within the traveled portions of Town roads.

Across any and all Town roads shall mean pushing snow from one side of the road to the other where snow would be deposited within the right-of-way of any road.

Traveled portion shall mean any part of the roadway in which vehicles would travel or within the shoulders of said roadway.

Any person who violates the provisions of the Snow Plowing Ordinance shall:

- Receive written warning for first offense
- Subsequent offenses shall be subject to a fine of \$25 for each occurrence

Abatements: An abatement is a request to refund some of the taxes paid on a property. Abatement requests generally fall into two broad categories: physical description errors and valuation opinion differences. To receive a copy of your assessment record card that shows what is listed for the physical description of the property and property value, please contact the Selectmen's Office at alexandrianh@metrocast.net or 603-744-3220. Abatements can be submitted after you receive your second issue tax bill but must be received in the Selectmen's Office by March 1st.



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TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE NOW ACCEPTS OVER THE COUNTER CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS FOR CLERK TRANSACTIONS

(motor vehicle registrations, dog licensing, hunting/fishing licenses, OHRV registrations, and vital records)



INVOICE CLOUD WILL PROCESS YOUR ACTUAL PAYMENT. TO COVER THE COST OF THE TRANSACTION, INVOICE CLOUD CHARGES A 2.95% SERVICE FEE (\$1.95 MINIMUM SERVICE FEE).



Alexandria Waste Management Committee 11/19



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

Trivia Quiz Question for the Month: When is "Recycling Day" and when was it established?

(see bottom of newsletter article for correct answer)

Money in our Pockets

Net savings through September 2019 are \$6786. There was no revenue reported for copper in September; however, scrap metal and iron netted us \$228 and aluminum cans \$173. September was down a little from expectations, and we need to average \$750 each month for the remaining 3 months of 2019 to reach our objective; however, with luck and your continued support, savings for the year will exceed \$10,000. We continue to maximize our savings given our current facilities at the present location and we are handling the disposal of non-recyclable materials as efficiently as possible, given the current worldwide market conditions.

What's New at the Transfer Station

The crew at the transfer station is preparing for the winter months ahead. Tony and the crew wanted me to pass on their appreciation of the favorable comments they've received about the "new look" of the transfer station, and their thanks for the cooperation shown by our residents in adjusting to our modified program. They hope to be able to expand the types of items being recycled as the markets gradually open up. One reminder; please remember to remove the caps from jars, bottles, and plastic containers before you deposit them in the recycling containers. Metal caps can be included with the tin cans and plastic caps can be thrown in with the plastics. The reason that we ask that caps be removed is that part of the sorting process for glass includes a magnetic metal scan which will reject any metal including glass containers with metal caps still on. Plastic container with caps still in place makes the container airtight and is difficult to compress, which is done at the transfer station before we ship the container to the processing facility. By compacting the plastic, we have been able to cut the number of hauls in half, which saves us about \$185/month. Thanks for your cooperation.

A follow-up to last month's article - sand is no longer available at the transfer station. In order to provide better service to our residents, sand will be available in the bin located behind the municipal building, and the bin at old town garage. The same restrictions regarding amounts and use will still apply, and we are hopeful that people availing themselves of the sand will adhere to these restrictions without the need for additional security and monitoring. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Every Individual Can Contribute

Conservation and Recycling are closely aligned on many fronts, as both try to encourage preservation of natural resources and protect the environment. Often it is difficult to satisfy both objectives, as sometimes the solutions to satisfy the needs of one are off-set by a corresponding negative impact on the other; an example being wind energy. On the positive side, wind energy does save on the use of fossil fuels; however, on the negative side, wind turbines have a negative impact on wildlife, and require 'clear cutting' of large areas to accommodate each tower and supporting out buildings, which creates soil erosion and contamination concerns. Recently a newly emerging negative impact has been identified as reflected by this article published by NBC:

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Landfill begins burying non-recyclable Wind Turbine Blades

Sep 26, 2019 by NBC

The CRL (Casper Regional Landfill) has entered into an agreement with three Wyoming wind farms to dispose of decommissioned blades and motor houses. Hundreds of giant windmill blades are being shipped to a landfill in Wyoming to be buried because they simply can't be recycled.

Local media reports several wind farms in the state are sending over 900 un-reusable blades to CRL to be buried. While nearly 90% of old or decommissioned wind turbines, like the motor housing, can be refurbished or at least crushed, fiberglass windmill blades present a problem due to their size and strength. "Most crushing equipment is not big enough to crush them," a landfill representative told National Public Radio in a recent interview.

Prior to burying the nearly 300-foot long cumbersome blades, they usually need to be cut up into smaller pieces at the landfill or at the decommissioning site prior to shipping in order to save space during transportation or when buried in designate locations at the landfill. Waste management experts estimate these blades will take hundreds of years to biodegrade. Casper happens to be one of the biggest landfill facilities in the state of Wyoming; however, NPR reports researchers estimate the US will have to grapple with over 720,000 tons of blades over the next 20 years, a figure that doesn't include newer, taller higher-capacity versions. These blades are huge, and they take up a lot of space [whether buried or stored above ground]. Assuming that there is sufficient space to bury/store these blades at Casper and other landfills throughout the country, there is still the problem of having to transport them from say NH to Wyoming - so much for reducing the use of fossil fuel and saving the environment.

I don't mean to single out wind energy; all alternative energy sources have negative impacts on the environment and consumption of natural resources. However, most of us can relate to wind farms because of activity here in Alexandria regarding the purposed Wild Meadows wind farm, and the current Groton Wind farm just west of Plymouth. Alternative energy sources must be developed but developed carefully and respectful of the negative impacts each pose. In the interim, we all need to practice; **Reducing** what we consume, **Reusing** items by repurposing them, and when those two options are not available, **Recycle** items so they can be processed into new raw materials.

Source: wyomingnewsnow.tv *Casper Regional Landfill begins burying turbine blades*



Creative ideas for recycling, reusing items, and interesting articles or websites offering recycling ideas are always welcome; as are comments and suggestions about the newsletter articles. Please submitted your comments to: steve.whitman@hotmail.com; be sure to state "recycling comments" in the subject. In some cases, with the author's permission, comments may be printed in subsequent issues. You can visit

the transfer station webpage on the town website [<http://alexandrianh.com/departments/transfer-station/>] for more information about the transfer station as well as links to recycling information sites. Thank you all for your continued support; thanks to you our program is working.

Ans. to trivia quiz: Every day is 'recycling day'; however, November 15th is officially recognized as "America Recycles Day". Official recognition was started in 1997 by The National Recycling Coalition, and is declared each year by Presidential Proclamation, encouraging Americans to commit to recycling. Since 2009, this day has been a program of Keep America Beautiful. There are thousands of events that are held across the United States to raise awareness about the importance of recycling and offering personal pledges that can be signed committing to recycle and buying products made from recycled materials.

Office Hours

Selectmen's Office – 744-3220

Monday: 8 am to 4 pm
Tuesday: 8 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 4 pm
Wednesday: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday: 8 am to 4 pm
Must arrive 15 minutes prior to posted closing time

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 6:00 pm
Open 1 hour prior to meeting.
Items to be included on the agenda must be received 21 days prior to the meeting.*

Conservation Commission

To contact the Conservation Commission:
e-mail: alexandrianh@metrocast.net

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UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Please check website for up-to-date meeting schedule

Tuesday, November 5, 2019:	Selectmen's nonpublic meeting 5pm per NH RSA 91-A:3, II (c)
Tuesday, November 5, 2019:	Selectmen's Meeting at 6 pm
Tuesday, November 12, 2019:	Budget Committee Meeting at 6 pm
Tuesday, November 19, 2019:	Selectmen's Meeting at 6 pm
Wednesday, November 20, 2019:	Planning Board Meeting at 6 pm
Tuesday, November 26, 2019:	Budget Committee Meeting at 6 pm

All meetings are held in the Conference Room at the Municipal Building (47 Washburn Road) and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Selectmen: All appointments and agenda items for Selectmen's meetings must be submitted to the Selectmen's Office by 4:00 pm the Thursday before the meeting. The Selectmen hold work sessions as needed at 5:00 pm prior to the meetings.

Planning Board: Items to be included on the agenda must be received 21 days prior to the meeting.



Monday, November 11th Veterans Day – Town Offices Closed – Transfer Station open normal business hours



Wednesday, November 20th – Town Offices closing at 2:00 pm – Transfer Station open normal business hours

Thursday, November 21st - Thanksgiving Day – Town Offices Closed