



ALEXANDRIA TODAY DECEMBER 2020 EDITION

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



Alexandria Waste Management Committee 12/20



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

Trivia Quiz Question for the Month: When was the first recycling program started in New York City? (see bottom of newsletter article for correct answer)



On behalf of the Waste Management Committee and the entire crew at the transfer station, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and joyous holiday season. We've enjoyed having the opportunity of serving you over the past year and look forward to continuing to work with you all in the upcoming year.



Money in our Pockets

We continue to save money by recycling. In October, we had revenue of \$256 from metal and light metals, \$288 from aluminum cans, \$245 misc., and a quarterly glass adjustment of \$354. That brings our year-to-date savings to \$6103. We are still \$1000 behind last year at this time but are closing the gap. If we all continue our recycling efforts, we can come close to an annual savings of \$7500 – not bad for a tough year for recycling. As I've said many times before, our program works because of your support and concern for our community. Thank you all very much. As you know, in addition to saving us money, your efforts to recycle have a positive impact on our environment and preserve our natural resources for all to enjoy.



What's New at the Transfer Station

The TSSC met twice in November; 11/8 and 11/17. Erin Darrow participated remotely in the meetings. On the 8th, she reviewed the initial layout plans for the new facility. Several modifications were suggested and discussed. Erin will make the modifications agreed to; however, there was some difference of opinion as to whether the plan should include only the initial layout [phase 1] or include our vision for the ultimate layout once phase 3 is completed. Budgetary concerns and long-term financing were discussed, but until we have some numbers with which to work, specifics can't be put together by the finance committee. The current plan is a three phase approach: phase 1 would be the initial start-up; phase 2 which would be an expansion of the facility based on additional needs and opportunities identified; and phase 3 which would be further expansion to meet foreseeable future opportunities. More details will be forthcoming as each phase is developed and detailed. At the meeting on the 17th, Erin provided us with two reconfigured layout designs based on discussions at the previous meeting and further discussions with individuals in Alexandria. Each layout design was accompanied by projected cost estimates for work necessary to complete various aspects of the project. This approach was extremely helpful as it will allow the committee to identify specific activities associated with each phase of development. The initial costs projected were estimates based on current material costs and construction in full compliance with current building code requirements, which have tightened based on OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Admin.) and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) regulations. The design and use of structures at the facility will determine regulation requirements and ultimate costs.

So, where does this leave us? First, make a final determination as to what are the basic requirements needed to move from the current location and open the new facility. Second, design structures that will satisfy those basic requirements, taking into consideration future expansion needs. Third, draft a realistic warrant article authorizing developmental financing for voters' approval in March 2021.

Our next scheduled meeting will be 1 December following the regular Select Board meeting.



Beginning with next month's newsletter article, we will highlight and discuss Alexandria's solid waste disposal ordinance, under which our town operates in compliance with RSA 140-M. It is hoped that by reviewing this ordinance, residents will gain a better understanding as to why we follow some of the practices we do at the transfer station. A copy of the ordinance may be viewed on the town's website under the Transfer Station Department.

Good News! There are indications that the market for recyclable materials is beginning to improve to the point where it may be possible to profitably recycle mixed paper again. It's still too early to make that move, but if current prices hold or continue to improve, we may make the move early next year. Unfortunately, because of our inability to keep recyclable materials dry at our current location, we may not be able to take advantage some of the forthcoming opportunities to recycle more material – recycle areas at the new location will be covered.

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Everyone Can Contribute

This story was recently featured on News Center Maine's [WCSH] "207". I thought it was of local interest and does embrace the spirit that everyone truly can make a difference when it comes to contributing to a clean environment.

Leigh Kellis, the founder of Holy Donut the successful business she started from her kitchen in Maine almost a decade ago that now has a large and passionate following, is now focusing her energies and passion on developing and expanding a new business; *Sweet Sea Cookies*.

Leigh's daughter is an avid surfer and deeply concerned about worldwide plastic pollution in our oceans. Money generated by *Sweet Sea Cookies* that goes toward this goal will, to a large extent, stay in Maine to help businesses do more to reduce their use of plastics and help stem the pollution of our oceans.

"At first we were going to deliver money and profits to the Ocean Conservancy or the Surfrider Foundation. We've decided instead to keep it local and help encourage and inspire people right here in Portland to simply use something other than plastic straws and other plastic utensils," Leigh says. "We're going to be celebrating businesses in Portland who are already making steps toward contributing less pollution and plastic to the oceans and the planet."

Given the scope of the pollution Sweet Sea hopes to reduce, there's not much point in thinking small, and Leigh is quick to acknowledge that selling cookies at farmers' markets wouldn't get the job done. The company will take another step toward its goal around Thanksgiving 2020, when it opens a retail store, *The Wave*, on Market Street, in Portland's Old Port.

"Saving the ocean is a pretty big mission," Leigh says. "We can't just do it Grandma-style out of my kitchen. We're going pretty big - as big as anyone will take it."

For more information please visit *Sweet Sea Cookies*' website; www.thesweetsea.com.



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.

Ans. to trivia quiz: In 1895, Commissioner George Waring instituted a waste management plan that eliminated ocean dumping and mandated recycling. Household waste was separated into three categories: food waste, reusable rubbish, and ash, which along with the nonsalable rubbish was landfilled. The Police Department, under the direction of its Commissioner, Theodore Roosevelt, enforced the recycling law. World War I brought an end to recycling in 1918 and the reinstatement of ocean dumping.

Alexandria Conservation Commission



Season's greeting to all. Well winter is here, and the Conservation Commission would like to remind everyone **not** to feed deer over the winter. The desire to feed deer to help them through a rugged winter is a natural tendency, especially for the whitetail deer lover. The New Hampshire Fish & Game deals with it every year, and the worse the winter, the more people want to feed the deer; and the greater the need to warn them not to, as it can be harmful and lead to the death of the deer. The introduction of new food to their diets may not be compatible with their stomach microorganisms which have adjusted to the deer's winter diet, and the deer is unable to digest new foods properly and could starve.

White-tailed deer in New Hampshire are at the northern limit of their range and have several natural adaptations that help them survive the winter including a thick winter coat of hollow hairs. Wintering whitetails, especially in the north, subsist largely on woody browse and the storage of fat in fall for later use during winter. Adult deer get as much as 40 percent of their daily energy during winter from their fat tissue and lose up to 20 percent of their body weight, regardless of the amount or quality of food present. During winter, cover, not forage, becomes the key to survival. Deer seek softwood cover (deer yards) to avoid deep snow, high winds and extreme cold. Deer move little in these areas and use a network of trails collectively created to make travel and escape from predators easier. Wintering deer tend to naturally disperse over an area large enough to reduce competition for food and risk of predation.

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For the long-term health of deer, the best management strategy is to keep deer dependent on their natural food and cover. A healthy deer population will be sustained if New Hampshire maintains mature softwood wintering areas, young hardwood stands, nut-producing trees (like oak and beech) and forest openings. Landowners can help by developing a management plan that uses wildlife and its habitat as guiding objectives. Sustainable timber harvesting compatible with protecting winter deer yards and other deer habitat features is important. Also, landowners should recognize the role of hunters as the primary tool for wildlife biologists to regulate deer densities. Allowing hunter access to huntable lands is an effective way to maintain a healthy balance between deer and their habitat.

So, enjoy the winter months and all New Hampshire has to offer, and appreciate the wide diversity of wildlife who make New Hampshire their winter home. For more information contact: Haley Andreozzi, Wildlife Outreach Program Manager at 603-862-5327 or haley.andreozzi@unh.edu ; or New Hampshire Fish & Game.

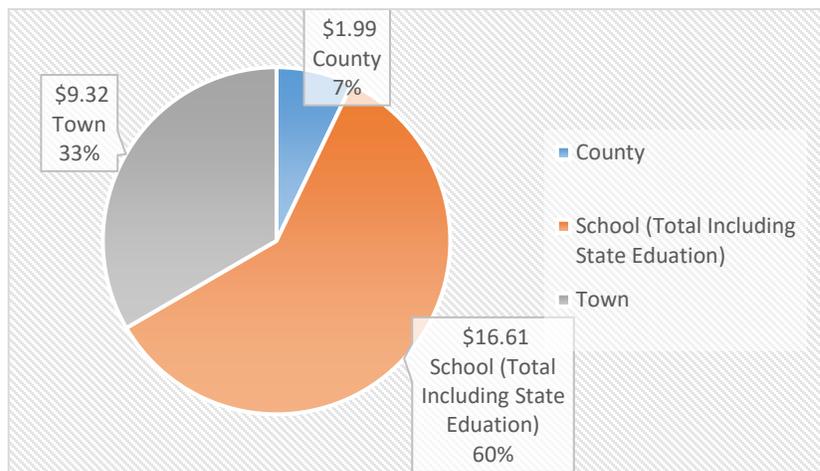
Selectmen's Office

2020 Tax Rate Calculation

(2020 Tax Rates per \$1,000 valuation)

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Municipal | \$9.32 |
| County | \$1.99 |
| School* | \$16.61 |
| Total | \$27.92 |

*School tax rate is the local education and state education tax rate combined that goes to Newfound Area School District (SAU4)



TAX RATE HISTORY

| Year | Tax Rate | Town | School (Total Including State Education) | County |
|------|----------|---------|--|---------|
| 2020 | \$ 27.92 | \$ 9.32 | \$ 16.61 | \$ 1.99 |
| 2019 | \$ 24.04 | \$ 6.46 | \$ 15.61 | \$ 1.97 |
| 2018 | \$ 22.78 | \$ 6.13 | \$ 14.84 | \$ 1.81 |
| 2017 | \$ 25.17 | \$ 7.16 | \$ 16.25 | \$ 1.76 |
| 2016 | \$ 21.00 | \$ 5.45 | \$ 13.89 | \$ 1.66 |
| 2015 | \$ 21.00 | \$ 5.09 | \$ 14.44 | \$ 1.47 |

The tax rate increase was impacted by several factors in 2020. While the overall town budget, operating budget and warrant articles, only saw an increase of 6.5% the revenues that offset the amount raised were significantly less in 2020. Several of the warrant articles from 2019 had funds that were offsetting expenses from grants, capital reserve funds and the unassigned fund balance. As you can see by the chart below, revenues used to offset the approved budget decreased by 36.3%. Copies of town reports that show the warrants articles for expenses are available on the town's website.

In addition to the town seeing an increase in the town portion of the tax rate for 2020, the Newfound School District also saw an increase in tax rate of 6.4%.



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TOWN BUDGET HISTORY

| Year | Amount Voted to Raise | Veterans' Credits/Overlay | Revenues | Unassigned Fund Balance Used to Offset Taxes | Total Amount Raise by Taxation | Property Valuation |
|------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2020 | 2,538,815 | 81,712 | (660,896) | (112,965) | 1,846,666 | 198,181,477 |
| 2019 | 2,383,049 | 76,735 | (1,038,077) | (150,000) | 1,271,707 | 197,038,051 |
| 2018 | 1,779,580 | 56,279 | (626,470) | - | 1,209,389 | 197,218,893 |
| 2017 | 1,961,348 | 58,263 | (610,751) | - | 1,408,860 | 196,640,493 |
| 2016 | 1,783,490 | 61,134 | (693,599) | (62,500) | 1,088,525 | 199,478,140 |
| 2015 | 1,679,185 | 77,136 | (614,504) | (100,000) | 1,041,817 | 204,496,891 |

Abatements: If you receive your tax bill and disagree with the value of your property that is being taxed, you can file for an abatement. 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. Property assessment information is also available on our website at alexandrianh.com. Abatements can be submitted after you receive your second issue tax bill but must be received in the Selectmen's Office by March 1st.



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 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

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Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office

Payments for tax bills can now be made online via electronic check or credit card by visiting our website at alexandrianh.com and clicking on the "Property Taxes Review/Pay Online" button. **Service Fee:** We are using Invoice Cloud to process your actual payment. To cover the cost of the transaction, Invoice Cloud charges a service fee, the amount of which depends on the method by which you choose to pay and the costs to Invoice Cloud associated with processing that type of transaction. Electronic checks (ACH) are charged a flat fee of \$0.95 per transaction. Credit and debit cards are charged 2.95% of the amount being paid. For instance, if you are paying \$100 by credit card, the service fee will be \$2.95.



Making a Partial Payment? Partial payments can be made by adjusting the Payment Amount on the Check Out Page.

Other Local Events/Organizations



BLOOD DRIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Marian Center, 17 West Shore Road, Bristol, NH

Office Hours

Selectmen's Office – 744-3220

Monday: 8 am to 4 pm
Tuesday: 8 am to 5 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: 8 am to 4 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
Phone: 603-744-3220
Mail: 47 Washburn Road
Alexandria, NH 03222

BURN PERMITS

Burn permits can now be obtained online -
<http://www.nhfirepermit.com/>

All categories of burn permits are also available in the Selectmen's Office during normal business hours.

Before burning, please check the daily predicted fire danger.

Visit www.nhdfi.org/Community/Daily-Fire-Danger

The daily fire danger rating may also be obtained by calling the Division of Forests and Lands wildfire information line (toll free): 1-866-NH-FIRES (866-643-4737)

ALEXANDRIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

158 Washburn Road, Alexandria, NH
PHONE: (603) 530-2229
FAX: (603) 744-3165
Emergency: 911
fire@alexandrianh.com



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UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Please check website for up-to-date meeting schedule – These meeting dates and time may change due to the ongoing concerns with COVID-19. Meetings will always be available to the public and we will be making efforts to have the meetings live streamed. Please also email alexandrianh@metrocast.net with any questions or concerns you would like included in the public meeting.

Tuesday, December 1, 2020: Selectmen's Meeting at 6:00 pm
Transfer Station Siting Committee immediately following Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday, December 8 2020: Budget Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm

Tuesday, December 15, 2020: Selectmen's Meeting at 6:00 pm
Transfer Station Siting Committee immediately following Selectmen's Meeting

Wednesday, December 16, 2020: Planning Board Meeting at 6:00 pm

Tuesday, December 29, 2020: Budget Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 30, 2020: Conservation Commission Meeting at 6:30 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.

Selectmen's Meetings can be viewed on Atlantic Broadband Channel 24 on Mondays at 8pm, Wednesdays at 9 am, and Saturdays at 3 pm.



Town Offices will be closed on Thursday, December 24, 2020

Town Offices Closed Thursday, December 31, 2020



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