



ALEXANDRIA TODAY JANUARY 2021 EDITION

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

Selectmen's Office

REMINDER: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 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 10, 2020. [RSA 39:3; 40:13, II-a(b)]. The petition must have a minimum of 25 signatures from residents that are registered voters in Alexandria.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET

When: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Where: Town Hall, 45 Washburn Road, Alexandria, NH

Copies of the proposed budget will be available at the meeting and on our website (alexandrianh.com)

Filing for Town Offices will begin Wednesday, January 20, 2021 through Friday, January 29, 2021 (Town Clerk's Office will be open from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Friday, January 29, 2021)

Selectmen	(3 year term)	One (1) position	Road Agent	(3 year term)	One (1) position
Trustee of Trust Funds	(3 year term)	One (1) position	Planning Board	(3 year term)	Two (2) positions
Cemetery Trustee	(3 year term)	One (1) position	Budget Committee	(3 year term)	Two (2) positions
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	(2 year term)	One (1) position			

FIRST SESSION OF THE TOWN MEETING (Deliberative Session)

When: Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 10:00 am

Where: Town Hall, 45 Washburn Road, Alexandria, NH

Alexandria adopted the Official Ballot Referenda (SB2) in 2010. Official Ballot Referenda is a form of town meeting that has two sessions. The first session (deliberative session) is for explanation, discussion, debate and amendments to the proposed operating budget and warrant articles (see NH RSA 40:13, IV below). The second session (voting session) allows voters to cast an official ballot to pass/fail proposed articles. The Town Warrant and Budget will be posted online and available at the Municipal Building by January 27, 2020.

Per NH RSA 40:13, IV

IV. The first session of the meeting, governed by the provisions of RSA 40:4, 40:4-a, 40:4-b, 40:4-f, and 40:6-40:10, shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of each warrant article, including warrant articles pertaining to the operating budget and the default budget. A vote to restrict reconsideration shall be deemed to prohibit any further action on the restricted article until the second session, and RSA 40:10, II shall not apply. Warrant articles may be amended at the first session, subject to the following limitations:

- (a) Warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended.*
- (b) Warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended.*
- (c) No warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article. An amendment that changes the dollar amount of an appropriation in a warrant article shall not be deemed to violate this subparagraph.*

Annual Reports will be available no later than Tuesday, March 1, 2021 and will include the final budget and ballot questions. (NH RSA 40:13, II).



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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



Alexandria Waste Management Committee 01/21



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

Trivia Quiz Question for the Month: What country sends less than 1% of its household waste to landfills?
(see bottom of newsletter article for correct answer)

Money in our Pockets

We continue to save money by recycling. In November, we had revenue of \$294 from metal and light metals, \$156 from aluminum cans, and \$340 misc. That brings our year-to-date savings to \$6793. If we all continue our recycling efforts, we can come close to an annual savings of \$7500. 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

TSSC Mtg. 1 Dec 2020. The meeting was not attended by Erin. The discussion was a continuation of the previous meeting's concerns about the initial cost needed to get the transfer station moved to its new location and functioning. Erin had submitted a 3rd option worksheet [no site plan provided], which was discussed extensively. There are two approaches being considered: 1) do we do the bare

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

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minimum to get the new facility up and running, which will mean a smaller amount financed for a shorter term but not completing some elements of the work eventually needed and perhaps having to redo some things; or 2) doing each aspect of the development as we ultimately want it to be [or easily expandable to accomplish this], which will mean a larger amount initially financed and not being in a position to move the facility as soon as we would like, but will reduce or eliminate the need to upgrade/rebuild temporary structures. Obviously, there are pros and cons to each approach and the solution lies somewhere in the middle.

TSSC Mtg. on 14 December was a continued discussion from the 12/1 mtg. and Erin join us remotely for the last half. Members of the committee agreed that there was too much preliminary work yet to be completed to be able to offer a final financing plan to our residents at the March 2021 election. This is primarily due to extended timelines for permitting approval caused by state staff reductions and COVID-19 forcing many state employees to work from home without immediate access to needed source documents. To keep moving forward on the project, it was agreed that a warrant will be drafted requesting approval for money to be appropriated to cover; engineering, consultant, permitting, and some terrain alteration costs, which will be incurred next year. This will allow us to continue with the preliminary work needed to begin actual construction and relocation in 2022. Erin will provide a breakdown of these expenses for discussion at our next mtg. on 29 December. Please keep in mind, that this warrant will only cover immediate expenses for work that needs to be done prior to beginning the physical relocation of the transfer station. Long-term financing options will be presented for approval in March 2022. As a point of interest, many of our residents may not realize that the bond issued to build the Highway Department garage on Mundy Rd. will mature in 2022 which means that the tax impact of relocating the transfer station will be somewhat offset to the extent that bond payments for the Highway Department garage will no longer be required.

The recap of our 29 December mtg. will be covered in next month's news summary.

Our next scheduled meeting will be 12 January 2021 following the regular Select Board meeting.



As indicated in last month's newsletter article, each month we will begin highlighting one of the town's ordinances dealing with our transfer station to help residents better understand why we do some of the things we do. This month we begin with the basics; **PERMITS AND OTHER FEES Section 4.1**

A permit is required for the disposal of any waste at the facility. Permit fees are set by the Board of Selectmen and are listed in the town's Transfer Station Operating Plan. There are several types of permits issued to residents and non-residents free of charge (one exception being non-resident contractors), and those are the permits we are dealing with in this month's article. Currently, Alexandria does not accept waste from commercial haulers. There is a per load disposal fee for bulk waste and construction demo and some specific items, such as tires, may be subject to established disposal fees, which must be paid **prior to disposal**.

Resident Permit: Issued to any resident or property owner (personal or business) of the Town of Alexandria. Permits are obtained from the Supervisor of the Transfer Station and permit sticker must be displayed prominently on the left side of the vehicle which is disposing of the solid waste. These permits expire on December 31st of each year. There is current discussion regarding extension of these permits to multi-year.

Non-residents Permit: Issued to non-resident property owners and visitors with no fee required by the Town of Alexandria. Proof of lodging in the town may be required of visitors. These permits expire on the 31st of December each year. Non-residents should affix permits in the same manner as a resident sticker. However, in the event the guest is merely a short-term renter (less than 30 days), a letter from the landlord stating that they are renters at the address for the dates indicated will suffice and will need to be presented to a transfer station staff member upon request **before** disposal of waste.

Resident contractors disposing of waste generated in the town shall pay the applicable per load volume fees but shall require no additional contractor's permit. The important stipulation here is that the waste must be generated in the town of Alexandria and the contractor must have a resident permit sticker.

Non-resident contractors may be issued a temporary permit by the Board of Selectmen for the disposal of waste generated while working in the Town of Alexandria. A copy of the Alexandria Transfer Station Town of Alexandria, New Hampshire Solid Waste District Ordinance 5 Building Permit or other documents testifying to the work being done will



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be required for the issuance of the permit. Non-resident contractor's permits shall be issued for a period not to exceed 30 days and are not transferable. The fee for a non-resident contractor's permit shall be \$50.00 plus any applicable per load volume fees.

Please see the town website for the complete Solid Waste Ordinance and the Transfer Station Operation Plan.

 **Seasonal Safety Note:** The transfer station staff would like to remind you to dispose of your Christmas tree soon after the holiday season ends – don't wait until it dries out. Trees can be recycled by chipping and using them for mulch (many towns accept trees for this purpose – Alexandria does not) or let them decompose in a corner of your yard (they make excellent protective cover for birds and small animals). Never burn Christmas trees in wood stoves or fireplaces, they are highly flammable and can cause chimney fires.

 **Everyone Can Contribute**
The recent COVID-19 pandemic has shown us all how important it is to support our local businesses by continuing to frequent their stores and buying from them. Many of these stores are outlets for local artisans who creatively use recycled materials as sources for their wares. Others businesses, while not outlets for individual creative crafts, do sell products produced by companies using recycled materials as part of their manufacturing process. It is equally important that we seek these businesses out and show our support by acknowledging their commitment to the global recycling effort and purchase goods from them. By doing this, we not only support the individual business, but send a strong message to manufacturers that we support recycling and do favor doing business with those who feel likewise. When you think about it, it's no different than brand loyalty – if a product is of high quality and satisfies the need, you'll continue to buy and use it. Products made from recycled materials are of equal quality to those made from virgin materials. Frequent businesses that sell these types of products and continue to support the recycling effort.



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 submit 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.

Answer to trivia question: Sweden. Rather than sending household waste to a landfill facility, Sweden utilizes waste-to-energy plants throughout the country to incinerate waste to produce electrical energy to heat homes. The program has proven so successful, that Sweden now imports waste from other countries to fuel these plants. Several other countries including Norway and Germany also employ waste-to-energy plants and import waste for this purpose.

Source: 11 Fragrant Facts About Trash | Mental Floss

Alexandria Conservation Commission



December certainly closed out the year in memorable fashion with the heavy snowstorm pounding the state with upwards of 3 ½ feet in some locations, followed within 2 weeks by a Christmas rainstorm that dumped over 2 ins. of rain and drove temperatures up to near record highs – that's New England weather.

This chain of events and the resulting minor flooding that ensued underscores the power of uncontrolled water flow and the need to manage it. The Conservation Commission has frequently pointed out the harm that erosion does not only to the landscape, but its adverse impact on the water quality of our streams and lakes. The most effective way to control surface water runoff is by protecting ground cover; this is especially true on sloping terrain. As more and more areas are developed, the permeable soil area decreases making it more difficult for the surface water to seep into the ground where it is naturally filtered through the soil back into the water table.

So, what can we do as individuals to help manage runoff on our property? The first thing to do is to identify vulnerable areas on your property; sloping terrain, areas where standing water accumulates, check your roofline to be sure runoff is controlled (your entire roof is an impermeable surface), and determine where surface water from your property ends up. The state has several programs aimed at helping property owners manage runoff, probably the best known is SOAK (Home - SOAK up the Rain NH (state.nh.us)).



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Appropriate, native ground cover is overall the best method to control runoff. Obviously, trees, shrubs, and grass play a big part as their root systems not only absorb water, but also hold the soil preventing it from being washed away. However, there are other things you can do: be sure your driveway does not drain directly onto a road – direct water to areas where it can be absorbed into the ground; do your walks, decks, and patios allow water to seep through into the ground – allow space between impervious materials or use pervious materials such as crushed stone; and is runoff from your roof directed to gutters and downspouts directed to a rain barrel or captured by a drainage system on the ground? The NH SOAK website provides property owners with numerous suggestions and DIY instructions for controlling runoff.

There is probably not a lot you can do now that the ground is frozen other than to keep drainage paths open, but December was a "heads-up" for potential problems in the spring and hopefully this will get you thinking about some of the things you may want to consider. Enjoy the great outdoors and all that winter in New Hampshire has to offer.

Other Local Events/Organizations



BLOOD DRIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 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 <i>*Must arrive 15 minutes prior to posted closing time*</i> Police Department 744-6650 Chief David Suckling 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 <i>Deliberative Meetings:</i> 3 rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm Open 1 hour prior to meeting. <i>Items to be included on the agenda must be received 21 days prior to the meeting.</i> 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 <i>Burn permits can now be obtained online -</i> <u>http://www.nhfipermit.com/</u> 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 <u>www.nhdfl.org/Community/Daily-Fire-Danger</u> <i>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)</i>	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, January 5, 2021:	Selectmen's Meeting at 6:00 pm
Friday, January 8, 2021:	Budget Committee Meeting at 5:00 pm
Tuesday, January 12, 2021:	Public Hearing on the Proposed 2021 Budget at 6:00 pm
Monday, January 18, 2021:	Offices closed in observance of Civil Rights Day
Tuesday, January 19, 2021:	Selectmen's Meeting at 6:00 pm
Wednesday, January 20, 2021:	Planning Board Meeting at 6:00 pm
Wednesday, January 27, 2021:	Conservation Commission Meeting at 6:30 pm
Saturday, February 6, 2021:	First Session of Town Meeting (Deliberative Session) at 10:00 am

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.