



Reminders from Town Hall

News & Information for the Residents of North Yarmouth

TOWN MEETING 2019

Saturday, April 6, 9:00 AM

Greely Arts Center

What to Expect

The Annual Town Meeting serves many of the same functions as the Legislature in Augusta and Congress in Washington, passing laws and adopting budgets. It is a meeting in which participation is the right and responsibility of every voter. Town Meeting is the purest form of democracy because citizens, not their representatives, participate directly in the making of laws and the raising and spending of their taxes. Since colonial times, the Town Meeting has been an essential part of local government in New England.

Preparing the budget begins in October and concludes in early March. The budget is prepared and reviewed by the department heads, Town Manager, Budget Committee, and Select Board. Here is a preview of the Town Meeting for Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020.

EXPENSES

Municipal Administration: Proposes the addition of two staff positions to service the Wescustogo Hall & Community Center. An existing custodial position has been moved from Public Works to the Municipal Administration cost center. Software upgrades in several areas of municipal management and technical support are included. Expect a savings (38%) in electrical service (all town facilities) but an increase (9%) in water service.

Community Services: Proposes the addition of one support staff position to be shared by the Code Enforcement and Assessing departments. Now that the proposed Tax Increment Financing district work is complete, economic development funding has been decreased. This budget continues to support the Historical Society in its ongoing archiving of town records.

Public Safety: Increases Fire Rescue coverage by providing on-site staffing Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Mandatory minimum wage adjustments are included. New rates imposed by the Yarmouth Water District will increase hydrant fees by 9%. The state mandate that municipalities must contract with an animal shelter will result in a cost increase.

Public Works Department: *No increase to its operational budget.* The Roadway Reserve budget will see an increase of 20%. The FY2019 maintenance schedule includes The Lane, Baston Road, Royal Road, and specific town facilities.

Solid Waste & Recycling: Increases (15.5%) in all elements of waste disposal. ecomaine has increased overall fees and imposed a new fee for recycled materials. Costs for pay-as-you-throw bags, composting, and solid waste collection will also increase.

Fixed Expenses: Increase due to the debt service for the financing to rebuild the Wescustogo Hall & Community Cen-

ter. Health insurance costs will increase by 4% compared to 8% last year; county taxes will increase by 7.9% compared to 3.9% last year. **MSAD 51 costs will have no impact on the mil rate.** The cost of shared services with the Prince Memorial Library and the Recreation Department also decreases by 7.3%.

Capital Improvement Reserves: Increase 4.3% because of road maintenance. All other town reserve accounts -- Heavy Equipment/Vehicles, Municipal Facilities, Future Lands, Parks & Recreation, Technology, Roadway, and Contingency -- funding remains stable.

REVENUES

Due to changes in state revenue sharing, the anticipation of increased facility rental fees, and the growth in building permits reflects an increase of 22.3%. This revenue growth will help offset new staffing needs. Motor vehicle excise taxes continue to be a strong revenue source.

OTHER BUSINESS

Townspople will be asked to approve North Yarmouth's first **Tax Increment Financing District (TIF)**. More explanation will be available at the meeting. Voters will also be asked to consider the Historical Society's proposal to move the **Old Town House** to the Village Green. Another business warrant article will be to accept a **gift of property** located next to Knight's Pond Preserve. Last, the town will be asked to change the tax payment schedule from two installments a year to four.

I hope to see you on the 6th!

Respectfully,

Rosemary E. Roy, Town Manager

Annual Town Meeting 2017



Projected FY20 Mil Rate

Going into the Annual Town Meeting, the mil rate is projected to go from 0.01667 per thousand to 0.01672 per thousand or an increase of .00005. A home valued at \$250,000 will see an annual increase of \$12.50; \$350,000 = \$17.50; 450,000 = \$22.50.

Slow Down, You Move Too Fast

As I was driving through town the other day when someone passed me driving over the speed limit, I thought of the song, "The 59th Street Bridge" sung by Simon and Garfunkel some years ago. The song talks about going too fast that you miss what life has to offer. Have you ever seen residents standing back away from the edge of the road to let traffic go by before they access their mail and newspaper boxes? Have you ever been passed while driving down any road in town while you were driving at or below the speed limit? Do you not walk the roads in town that have paved shoulders because of the speed of traffic passing by? If the answer is yes, you are not alone. They are all safety concerns. The Living Well in North Yarmouth Committee has initiated their campaign for "**Traffic Calming**" in the center of town. Their slogan?



Kite in Your Sight?
Please Slow Down

This is an effort to make the center of town safer for all concerned - those who travel these roads, but also patronize the business that are located there. Speed limits are designed for the safety of, not only the motorist, but pedestrian as well. You will see kites posted on the roads coming into the center alerting motorist to the change in speed limit.

Slowing down to the posted speed limit or below "**Traffic Calming**" is the goal.

How can we make living well in North Yarmouth work for all of us? The first couple of line in the "59th Street Bridge Song" might help.

"Slow down, you move too fast, you got to make the morning last".

Al Ahlers, Resident
Living Well in North Yarmouth

North Yarmouth Historical Society:

Moving Forward

A group of civic-minded residents has been meeting regularly to consider ways to preserve and utilize North Yarmouth's historic 1853 Old Town House (OTH) on Route 9. On September 18, 2018 the group met with our Select Board to gauge interest in incorporating OTH into plans for developing the village center—specifically, on the lot where Wescustogo Hall once stood. Moving the OTH to this location would, the committee believes:

- Pair “an important civic building with an important place.”
- Reflect the visual preferences townspeople have consistently identified as appropriate for North Yarmouth's village center
- Provide a “friendly façade” in the village center
- Provide reasons and purposes for multi-generations to interact
- Provide gathering spaces, inside and out.

The Select Board's response was positive. The OTH group next requested that a joint NYHS-Select Board committee work with the town manager to ascertain what actions would be required to move forward. This committee met on February 4, 2019 and, as a result of the work of this joint committee, we hope to have information to share before AND at Town Meeting on April 6.

Want more information? Want to join the effort? Email nyhs@maine.rr.com OR call 846-4379. Thank you!

Katie Murphy, President
North Yarmouth Historical Society



Old Town House - interior.



MUD '19 BALL

Saturday, April 6th
At The Barn on Walnut Hill
4:30 pm - 8:30pm

Entertainment **ADMISSION \$10 PER PERSON**
Free Light Hors d'oeuvres & Non-alcoholic Drinks
Beer & Wine Available for Purchase

Proceeds to Benefit Friends of Wescustogo

Our Sponsors

ALLAGASH BREWING COMPANY
LOUIE'S GRILLE
BARN WALNUT HILL
Stones Cafe & Bakery
VICTORY D CATERERS

Friends of Wescustogo
North Yarmouth, ME

Captain Bangaroo

Town Newsletter: *Your Opinion Is Needed*

As a result of the town-wide survey done in 2017 by the Living Well in North Yarmouth Committee, a printed newsletter was added to the electronic one already published bi-weekly.

For the last year, the print edition of our town newsletter has been delivered with your mail.

Some townspeople like the 4 page format while others prefer the 8.

What do you like? What could we add? Or delete? Publish more often or less? Or not at all.

This informal survey will help the Select Board and Budget Committee allocate the appropriate funds. To give your opinion, please call:

Donna Palmer 829-6230 or 383-9215

OR

Email at plainviewfarm1@gmail.com

Exhibit at Skyline Farm:
Sleighting—Fashionable, Fun, and Family

Skyline Farm Carriage Museum’s current sleigh exhibit *Sleighting - Fashionable, Fun, and Family* is a very diverse sleigh collection that will bring to mind Currier & Ives lithographs.

Sleighs are grouped into three themes:

- ◆ **Fashionable:** Albany(s), Surrey, Bob, Booby Hut, Country, Flying Dash
- ◆ **Fun:** rare Tikker and Leader, Skeleton, large Smiling Hill Farm sleigh
- ◆ **Family:** Portland(s), Pony, Postal, Primitive, Mini, Hearse, Market, Doctor

The museum, located at 95 The Lane, North Yarmouth, is open for public viewing on Sundays, from February 17–March 31, 1-4 p.m. or by appointment.

Free admission; donations are appreciated. Dress warmly as the museum is not heated.

For more information, contact Greg Cuffey at 892-0188

or info@skylinefarm.org. Skyline Farm is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization.

Pam Ames, Skyline Farm

**Town of North Yarmouth
Municipal Elections
June 2019**

Open Positions:

- Two (2) seats for Select Board for 3-year terms
- One (1) seat for MSAD#51 Board of Directors for a 3-year term
- One (1) seat for Cemetery Commissioner for a 5-year term
- Two (2) seats for Budget Committee for 3-year terms
- Two (2) seats for Budget Committee for 2-year term



*Reminders from Town Hall
Produced by the
Communications Advisory Committee
in Conjunction with Living Well in North Yarmouth*

North Yarmouth ME 04097

Resident

**TOWN MEETING
SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH
9AM
GREELY ARTS CENTER**

Town of North Yarmouth
10 Village Square Road
North Yarmouth, ME 04097

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