



Connections

Town of North Yarmouth Maine

Get to know Diane Barnes – Our New Town Manager

What draws you to be Town Manager for North Yarmouth?

Size of the community. I have worked in both large and small communities. Small towns and rural communities have many strengths. In my experience, the people living in a smaller community have deep, strong roots, and are invested in ways that are different than those living in urban communities.

What is your experience with Select Board form of government?

I worked for the Town of Skowhegan for 21 years. I have spent most of my career working in a SB form of government. I have spent the last 14 ½ years working for a Council form of government.

How do you see your role as Town Manager?

The Town Manager's role is to oversee the day-to-day operations of town government and carry out the policies adopted by the legislative body. My role will also include getting out in the community and participating in community events. I will be a liaison to the boards and committees. I will display good leadership skills, exercise sound judgment with regards to personnel issues, financial management, and public relations.

How will you create relationships with staff?

First and foremost, I need to gain their trust. I need to listen effectively and understand what is important to them. I will lead with integrity and by example. I will build them up and give them the tools they need to succeed. We may all work independently but we are a team.

What direction/identity for the WH&CC?

It's important to know what Lisa has for a vision and my role will be to support her. It should be a place that not only serves the community, but one that is served by the community.

How will you communicate with the townspeople?

I have an Open-Door policy and welcome any member of the public to meet with me. I prefer to communicate in person or over the phone rather than email where the tone can be lost or misconstrued. I will be approachable and transparent and will always listen.

What is your experience working with volunteer committees?

I have had extensive experience working with two large festival committees (International Festival & Moxie

Festival), Finance, Economic Development, Council of Governments, and Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust as a Trustee. On a personal level, I am a member of the Board of Directors for the Long-term Care Ombudsman Program.

What has been your experience with TIF's?

Most recently, I have been involved in the creation of a downtown TIF. They can be created to help fund certain infrastructure and economic development projects. TIF's allow a municipality to underwrite their revenues in order to earmark funds and receive more State revenue.

What do you do to replenish yourself? I have a timeshare in Aruba that I spend time in annually for 2 weeks. During spring, summer and fall, we like to take trips to the coast and other areas of Maine in our convertible. Activities include playing cornhole and walking on the Androscoggin River Trail along the beautiful Androscoggin River.



In my role is a public servant, I practice and am guided by these principles: "My creed is that public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation with full recognition that every human being is entitled to courtesy and consideration, that constructive criticism is not only to be expected but sought, that smears are not only to be expected but fought, that honor is to be earned, not bought."

Margaret Chase Smith

Neighbors Indeed ~ In A Time Of Need

Last spring, when North Yarmouth needed an interim town manager, the town of Cumberland stepped up and shared Chris Bolduc with us. He was able to join the town staff easily, as he had relationships with some of them that went back for many years. His experience, professionalism and calm demeanor helped the town navigate these past months.

We are all grateful!

Thank you, Chris!

THE TRAFFIC IS TERRIFIC!

North Yarmouth Slows Down!

In 2018, the Living Well in North Yarmouth Committee and the Economic Development and Sustainability Committee, along with town officials, came together to address the problem of speeding vehicles. It was decided that the first efforts would be made in the Village Center, although other areas were also affected. A pilot project was conducted, public forums were held, and permanent equipment was installed. This article provides an update to the traffic calming project.

Town officials wanted more information about the success of various traffic calming tools and strategies put in place in recent years. Road Commissioner Clark Baston and his crew have noticed a slow-down of through town traffic, as has Fire Rescue Chief, Greg Payson. Neighbors near the Village Green have also noted the speeding cars and trucks have slowed down.

What was done?

- * The 2 new blinking speed lights on Walnut Hill Road (Route 115) to alert drivers to slow down.
- * Several new crosswalks were installed in the Village Center.
- * The Living Well in North Yarmouth Committee mailed a letter to 40 local companies who use our roads frequently, asking for their help. Reaction was positive and two companies actually took the time to call the town office!
- * Pea Lane and The Lane now have multi-use shared lanes. Sharing the road slows traffic down.
- * The flashing speed trailer continues to be moved to various locations. Not only does it slow traffic, it also collects the data that is used in this article.

So how are these strategies working?

At the 2021 Town Meeting, voters approved funding to engage the services of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) to conduct quarterly speed patrols.

According to the CCSO, the first check was conducted in December 2021 at the area of Haskell Road and Gray Road (Route 115) from 6am to 10am. More than 170 vehicles were observed. Could this improve? Of course it could.

The range of speeds recorded by the deputy:

165 Cars - 0-9 over
4 cars - 10-14 over
1 car - 15 -19 over
0 cars - 20 over



The data collected by the blinking speed lights is compelling:

Entering town from Route 115 from Walnut Hill Cemetery.

Incoming traffic is in the upper 30 mph to mid 40 mph. When approaching the blinking speed lights, the vast majority of drivers slow to the upper 20mph to mid 30mph range.

Entering town from the Yarmouth end of Route 115.

Incoming traffic is in the mid 30 mph range and falls to the upper 20 mph to mid 30 mph after the sign.

People have been quite pleased with the gentle reminders given by the blinking lights. One person noted that it is easy to unthinkingly speed up – she is grateful for the reminder.

Two more of these devices will be requested in the upcoming budget. If approved, no decision has been made regarding location, as yet. In the past, North Road was seen as a needed location.

And people LOVE the thank you!

These strategies are succeeding.

Donna Palmer, Living Well in North Yarmouth



One lovely day in early spring of 2020, as we entered “lockdown” due to Covid19, a small group of friends, masked and maintaining a minimum distance of 6 feet, began what was to become a daily walk. A daily event that continues nearly two years later.

Our small group soon grew to 15 members and our forays expanded to embrace the marvelous network of trails within our North Yarmouth Parks. What a wonderful way to safely get out of the house, get exercise, connect with friends all while experiencing what our parks have to offer. Chandler Brook Preserve, Knight's Pond Preserve, Old Town House Park, and the Sam Ristich Trail, offer something for all ages and abilities. Skyline Farm and Memak Preserve are other local treasures. Although our walks at times ventured into neighboring communities our hearts and feet belonged to the woods and fields of our very own parks.

As Covid continues its insidious grip upon us, walking remains a lovely way to safely gather with friends while exploring and getting to know the parks North Yarmouth residents have the great good fortune to claim as their own.

If you are interested in learning more about the parks visit the town website, northyarmouth.org and RRCT.org.

Ginny Van Dyke, Living Well in North Yarmouth

The Habitat Bunch, organized by *Royal River Conservation Trust*, host guided walks designed to explore natural topics: spring migration, for instance. Join the group, learn, exercise, socialize, have fun! FMI - rrct.org/thehabitatbunch

≈ February 17th The Big Falls Preserve in New Gloucester

≈ February 24th Sam Ristich Trails in North Yarmouth

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

In North Yarmouth

This is a new feature for our newsletter. Each issue will feature town businesses.



In September 2021 **Wild Seed Project** moved its operations to 21 Memorial Highway in North Yarmouth. We are thrilled to be a new member of the Village Center community and look forward to supporting rewilding efforts throughout the town.

Wild Seed Project is an environmental nonprofit that encourages the use of native plants in all landscapes to support the full life cycle of pollinators, increase wildlife habitat, and build ecosystem resiliency for our changing climate. Our website (www.wildseedproject.net) is chock full of easy-to-read and easy-to-use resources about native plants and wild seeds, we also offer classes on everything from rewilding your yard to winter seed sowing. Visit our online shop for over 75 species of wild-type seeds from plants native to Maine and the Northeast.

The move to town was an easy choice for the Wild Seed Project team: we love the access to hiking trails, woods, and the Village Green, the close proximity to Portland, and of course sharing a building with Toots Ice Cream! We'll be installing demonstration gardens around our new space (including a rain garden and fence-line planting examples) and look forward to offering regular plant walks, seed sowing workshops, and rewilding talks in town. While our office isn't set up for regular in-store customers, we plan to host a series of pop-up shopping events throughout the year and hope to join the community market this summer.

Visit our website, www.wildseedproject.net, for more information on our events and services.



Sandy Grover had dreamed about opening an old fashioned ice cream parlor, reminiscent of a 1950's Ice Cream Shoppe in the North Yarmouth Village Center that residents and others, young and old could enjoy year-round. That dream is now a reality.

The 1950's influence is evident when you come thru the door. The comfortable indoor bar counter is lined with bright red leather topped stools, the floors are a traditional pattern of black and white tile and music plays from a vintage-style jukebox. During warmer weather or for those who want to brave the cold, there is outdoor seating.

The ice cream flavors and specialty items for holidays are listed on their Facebook page, [Toots Ice Cream](#). They can also host birthday parties, bridal parties and much more. Prefer hosting at home? Toots will put together the ice cream and all the fixings for you to pick up and take home.



Toots Ice Cream is open Tuesday through Sunday from 12 noon to 8:00pm at their new location, 21 Memorial Highway (Route 9). The original Toots Ice Cream Caboose in operation since 1998 will re-open in the spring and is located on Thornhurst Farm at 137 Walnut Hill Road (Route 115). To keep current with their latest flavors, events and specials, follow them on Facebook .

Diane Morrison, Living Well in North Yarmouth Committee



Nomination Papers available **March 7th** for these elected positions to be on the June 14th Ballot:

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



Nomination papers can be picked up at the Town Office. Deadline to file nomination papers with the Clerk is April 14th at 5:00pm.

Interested? Questions?

Contact the Clerk's Office (207) 829-3705 or email townclerk@northyarmouth.org.

The June 14th Elections will have ballots for the State of Maine Primary & possible State Referendum and the MSAD#51 Referendum.

Polls Open: 7:00am to 8:00pm.

Polling Location: Wescustogo Hall & North Yarmouth Community Center, 120 Memorial Highway.

Ranked-choice voting (RCV) will be used in the 2022 State Primary and General Elections.

FMI– maine.gov/sos/elec/upcoming/rcv.html



North Yarmouth ME 04097

Resident

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Maine 04097
ECRWSS

HOURS OF OPERATION
Town Office
Monday 8am - 6pm
Tuesday - Thursday
8am - 5pm
(207) 829-3705
Public Works Department
Monday - Thursday
6am - 4pm
(207) 829-3274
Fire Rescue Department
Monday - Friday
8am - 5pm
(207) 829-3025
Community Center
Monday - Friday
8:30am - 5pm
(207) 829-5555

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