



2018 Whitefield News

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Happy New Year!

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A Message to Whitefield Residents about Whitefield School

The “Educational Forum.” In mid-November, scores of Whitefield residents gathered at the school to widely discuss education for children in the town; a big thanks to all who participated. At the meeting’s conclusion, the “Education Forum” recorded a number of outcomes describing much that’s good and not-so-good at Whitefield School including oral testimony from parents. All the material has been saved, is being carefully reviewed by the district, and will form the basis for a plan to move forward.

First Steps Forward. Almost immediately afterward, the Sheepscot Valley Regional School Unit Board of Directors met in late November to hear about the event and hold a frank, unfettered, and wide-ranging discussion of alternatives to move forward. There was general agreement that the resources of the entire district would be brought to bear in support of planned changes at the school.

First, steps will be immediately taken to **assure the safety of students** at the school and when riding busses. Some changes are



School Playground

Photo by Cheryle Joslyn

already in place and more will happen shortly.

Next, the district plans to review the **practices dealing with student conduct** and efforts at encouraging positive behavior. Needed changes will be incorporated into existing programs and new initiatives started if these are judged to be helpful.

A series of **small group meetings** are planned with faculty, staff, and students to examine the “culture” in the building with an eye at introducing changes to make any needed improvements.

Looking to the future, RSU 12 will create a **“Community Advisory Committee”** to discuss and recommend changes in programs as well as incorporating volunteer resources from both the town and the district. Such efforts would permit wider introduction of enriched activities for small groups of students as well as the school as a whole.

Finally, the district plans to **improve communications** with the community as we move forward. This short report to the Whitefield community is a first step on that path. Some changes can be made quickly while others require more

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Beaver Deceivers Come to Whitefield

by Kit Pfeiffer

Know your competition, they say. So a few determined volunteers in Whitefield who call themselves the “beaver boys” have studied the town’s beaver population and begun a project of installing ingenious systems called “beaver deceivers” where road flooding is a problem because of the animals’ instinct to dam culverts (they hate the sound of running water). The “beaver boy” sub-committee of the Whitefield Road Committee, Erik Ekholm, Mike McMorro and Dennis Merrill, were inspired last spring by a presentation at Midcoast Conservancy by Skip Lisle of Vermont, who has been building these devices far and wide since the 1990s.

The “beaver boys” incorporated a lot of Lisle’s ideas, researched other designs, and then engineered a system that works for Whitefield sites. The first Whitefield installation was done in late summer on Philbrick Lane. The next is planned for Benner Lane in the spring, as soon as the water level is low enough.



Philbrick Lane installation: wire mesh with sticks and mud placed by beavers surrounds culvert opening, perforated plastic tubing extends to underwater mesh cage (stick marks the spot in the middle of the impoundment), beaver chews tasty cambium off a harvested branch, next to structure he started to build and has abandoned.

Photo by Kit Pfeiffer

The Philbrick Lane system pictured below seems to be working, but Erik Ekholm says they’ll need a year of weather and beaver behavior to know for sure. By understanding beaver behavior, the team hopes to achieve a peaceful co-existence between Whitefield citizens and our resident beavers, saving money and aggravation.

Here’s how a “beaver deceiver” works. (The pictures may help.) A wire mesh cage is placed in deep water in the center of the impoundment about 40 feet away from the problem culvert. Because of the distance and its being under water, the beavers don’t detect it. A length of perforated flexible plastic pipe is then put in place to reach over to the culvert under the road, threading through a wire enclosure surrounding the culvert that the beavers cannot get through. They hear the water running through the culvert and start building a dam up the sides of the wire enclosure as close as they can get to the culvert. Even though their new dam is above the water level of the pond, it doesn’t stop the flowage through the culvert (remember, that’s coming through the plastic

Continued on Pg. 2

School Continued from Pg. 1 consideration for these to be effective. We plan to make folks both in town and the district aware of modifications in existing practices as well as introduction of new initiatives as soon as these happen.

The district joins with the town in a commitment for an improved environment at the school and safe, nurturing, and positive educational setting for students, faculty and staff.

Howard Tuttle, Superintendent
F. Gerard Nault
Chairman, Board of Directors

Marijuana Moratorium

by Tony Marple

At the Special Town meeting held on December 6th, the town voted 49 to 20 to approve a 180 day moratorium on any of the five marijuana enterprises that were included in the statewide referendum passed in November of 2016. While towns have no authority over possession or use of marijuana which is now legal statewide, cultivation, retail sales, manufacturing, testing, and social clubs are all under the authority of towns to approve, modify, or prohibit. Regardless of town decisions, none of these enterprises are legal without a state license. State licenses will not be issued at least until the end of the current state moratorium on February 1, 2018.

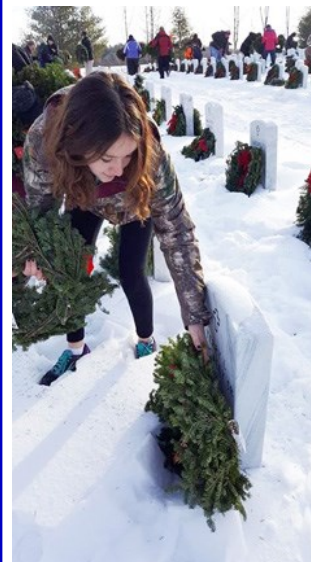
The Select Board decided to propose the town moratorium after the State Legislature and the Governor failed to reach agreement in November on a law to regulate these five marijuana enterprises. The legislature will reconvene on this issue in January and we hope that there is a resolution before the statewide moratorium expires on February 1, 2018. If not, these enterprises could be legal in February without local input.

Some citizens at the Special Town Meeting suggested that the town needn't wait for state law and should proceed to develop local ordinances for town vote before the end of January. Some expressed interest in the potential business opportunities, increased tax base, and state marijuana excise tax revenue for the town.

While the town voted to approve the moratorium, the Planning and Select Boards will hold public sessions beginning in February, hopefully with a state law in hand. In any case, the sessions will provide information and solicit input on the options for Whitefield. After voting on the regular warrant articles is completed at the March town meeting, there will be public discussion on the marijuana issues along with a written survey. While the town can extend the moratorium beyond the June 4, 2018 end of this 180 day moratorium, the goal is to resolve the issue before that with a vote on local ordinances prepared by the Planning Board with Select Board input.

We hope that you will participate as the process proceeds.

Whitefield's National Jr. Honor Society helped to place wreaths at Maine Veterans Cemetery in Augusta.



Photos by Nicole Abbot Ripley

Beavers Continued from Pg. 1 pipe from the underwater wire cage in the middle of the pond). Eventually the beavers get discouraged and abandon their efforts to dam up the wire cage. The end result is a controlled water level of the impoundment that prevents road flooding but preserves a pond habitat that beavers can still use for finding food and building their lodge. Also, this habitat benefits many other wild creatures such as fish, amphibians, reptiles and birds, and it supports vegetation important to those animals.



Erik Ekstrom holds wire cage and points out perforated plastic tubing ready for next spring's Benner Lane installation. Photo by Kit Pfeiffer

Ekholm says it is good to plan culvert replacement and "beaver deceiver" installation at problem sites at the same time, before the beaver can get started on blocking a new culvert. So as Whitefield proceeds with culvert replacements, be looking for more wire mesh cages at roadside impoundments.

We owe our "beaver boys" a huge thank you. And so do the beavers!



Close-up of Philbrick Lane's resident beaver, undeterred by skim ice. Photo by Kit Pfeiffer

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Whitefield Historical Society
"Just Yesterday"



Postcard from Lillian Rogers collection

Santa Claus Came to Town



Santa listens to Finn Maldovan's wish list at the Kings Mills Union Hall Christmas party." Photo by Lucy Martin



Santa's helpers welcomed visitors to the KMUH's annual Christmas party, Photo by Cheryle Joslyn

Congratulations to Our Young Hunters

by Jamie Simpson

Between soccer and cross country this Fall, the Whitefield School has had many students who have been recognized for their successes in the seasonal sports. This year, a group of teachers decided it was time to start recognizing our young hunters for their success in a sport rooted deep in the heritage of our community. The main hallway at Whitefield School is now adorn with a bright orange bulletin board and many smiling faces as students are able to display their trophy hunting photos.

Participants were eager to send in their photos and have a chance to show off the result of all their hard work. This year, the "Big Buck Competition" had many



Kaleb Bishop with his 200lb buck



Olivia Brann and her dad Jimmy with Olivia's 404lb Black bear

students competing for a special prize lunch of their choosing! Fifth grader, Kaleb Bishop, won the competition with a 200 pound buck, but he did not stop there! Kaleb also bagged a 214 pound black bear. Kaleb's hunting partner was his Dad, Chris, who also had a very successful season.

Not to be outdone, fellow fifth grader Olivia Brann also bagged a buck and a bear, both while hunting with her dad, Jimmy. Although Kaleb may have won the "Big Buck" competition, Olivia's bear would be hard to beat as it weighed in at 404 pounds!

Both Miranda Northrup and Kineo Kelley bagged a deer and a turkey this year. Miranda was anxious to get home from school each day so she could spend time in her deer stand with her grandfather, Randy Northrup. Kineo stated he was with his stepfather, Terry Blair, when he shot his doe.



Mariam, Riley, and Chris DeLisle with Riley's 130lb buck



Mia Northrup and her grandfather Randy with Mia's turkey

Other students who were successful in their ventures were, Riley and Mariam DeLisle, who each shot a 130 and 117 pound buck, respectively. Mariam and Riley enjoyed hunting with their dad, Chris. Fourth grader, Katie Shaw, bagged a 155 pound buck while hunting with her dad, David. Seventh grader, Jenna Perkins, shot her first deer, a 130 pound buck while hunting with her dad, BJ.

The bulletin board will be on display for a bit longer, so stop in and check out the smiling faces of our young hunters in all their glory. We're real proud of them.

JANUARY 2018 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 2nd **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 3rd **ARLINGTON GRANGE MEETING**, Call 549-3491 for more information:
YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL, 7-8:30 pm
- 4th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 5th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 8th **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 9th **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY meeting 1:00 pm Town House
YOUTH SKI LEASE FITTING, 3-5 pm This fitting will be at the new Midcoast Conservancy office at 290 Atlantic Highway (Rt.1) in Edgecomb. The child who will use the skis must be present. Any questions about the ski lease program can be directed to Andy, andyb@midcoastconservancy.org. The ski lease package is \$65 per participant. In addition, Midcoast Conservancy will hold the annual Kids XC-Ski Clinic for kids ages 5-12. The clinic will start Saturday, January 6 and run each Saturday morning until February 10.
- SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- PTA REMINDER** - please join us for our meeting @ 5:30 pm, Whitefield School conference room (always the 2nd Tues. of the month). We need all of our community to remain functioning for our children.
- 10th **YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL**, 7-8:30 pm
- 11th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 14th **WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
JANUARY SUNDAY BRUNCH AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL 9am-1pm
- 16th **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 17th **WOOD DUCK BOX VOLUNTEER TRAINING** Please join us to learn about a great way to give back to Maine wildlife: monitoring wood duck nest boxes! Wildlife Biologist Kendall Marden of the ME Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife will be leading this exciting event. Meet at [Sheepscot General Store](#) at 9 am. The first hour of the training will focus on IF&W's Nest Box program, the importance of wood ducks in Maine, and wood duck biology. Then we'll carpool to Whitefield Salmon Preserve to check on a few existing nest boxes. Contact Hannah Chamberlain to RSVP or for more information at (207) 389-5158 or hannah@midcoastconservancy.org.
PLANNING BOARD, Fire Station, 6:00 pm
YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL, 7-8:30 pm
- 18th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 19th **OPEN MIC NIGHT FEATURING** featuring, Greg Klein, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 20th **DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages welcome.
- 23rd **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 24th **YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL**, 7-8:30 pm
- 25th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 26th **"UPWARDS" BOOK TALK/SIGNING WITH AUTHOR LAURIE CHANDLER** at Sheepscot General, 5-7pm In the summer of 2015, at age 53, Laurie Apgar Chandler became the first woman to solo thru-paddle New England's Northern Forest Canoe Trail. Come see her amazing journey first-hand, when she presents a slideshow/talk and signing.
- 30th **FULL MOON HIKE** Explore the wonders of nature under the light of the full moon at Hidden Valley Nature Center. We'll end the evening with a hot drink and camaraderie at one of the heated cabins. Meet at the gate promptly for a 2.5 mile trek to the pond for the full moon rising. Please no dogs. 4:30-6:30 pm (207) 389-5150
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm



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