



Town Meeting Whitefield News

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Volume 6, Issue 9

Published Monthly

March 2019

Town Meeting

The voting for Municipal Officials will be Friday, March 15, 2019 from 4:00pm to 8:00pm at the Central Fire Station.

Absentee ballots for Town Elections will be available February 15th.

The Town Meeting will be on Saturday, March 16 at the Whitefield Elementary School beginning at 10:00 am

CANDIDATES FOR MARCH ELECTION

Board of Selectmen - 2 open seats

Lise Hanners
Christine LaPado-Breglia
Keith Sanborn

Planning Board - 3 open seats

Glenn Angell
Marianne Marple
Stephen Sheehy

RSU School Board - 3 open seats

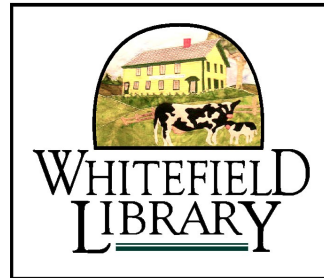
NO CANDIDATES - Voters may write in candidates

It's official, and it's really happening!

by Whitefield Library Volunteers

You know how when something "just seems right"? Well, this is one of those times! The Whitefield Library volunteers have launched onto a path that most definitely, "just feels right". It's a path that stretches far into the future; well beyond the time for most of us volunteers. However, it's a path that we delight in and that we are eager to fully envelop because it is the "end goal" that will be significant for generations to come. Establishing a place where youth see adults valuing literacy, valuing life long learning, appreciating the arts and artists, and where adults provide a safe/comfortable place for "community" of all ages to gather will only serve this town and our neighboring towns well into the future. We are extremely happy to be on a path to provide this space in our awesome community!

As we later discovered, this was a path that actually was laid out for us many years ago, and now we are intent upon completing it. Much to our surprise, two years ago after we had moved into the Arlington Grange Hall, we discovered within a framed article of the *The Evening Journal* (Thursday, February 21st, 1884) this infor-



& Community Center

mation about the construction of what was then named the Grand Army of the Republic Hall:

"A Worthy Enterprise – Plucky Grange Army Post in Whitefield – Building a G.A.R. Hall and High School House."

"The upper story with anteroom will be used as a Grand Army hall. The lower story will be for a free library and Free High school with suitable recitation rooms, and to be so arranged

that at any time when occasion requires it may be thrown into one large room or hall"

"It will cost about \$100 to grade and furnish granite, which will be done by the veterans without expense. The estimated cost of the building is \$1,500. About \$400 more will be required from other sources to complete the proposed building. Let those from the surrounding towns who have the means "chip in" and contribute to the success of so laudable a measure."

For nearly 135 years the building at the top of Grand Army Hill became a gathering place for the community. It even became a school at one point that hosted many graduating classes. (Charlie Miller, a longtime Grange member, once claimed the blackboards were still under the paneling on **Continued on Page 2**

Town Meeting Time Again

Lester Sheaffer, Vice Chair, Select Board

Are you tired of high taxes, don't know what your taxes are used for, or don't understand your taxes? Well, you're in luck; it's town meeting time again. Whitefield will hold our annual town meeting the third Saturday in March. This is your opportunity to put your two cents worth in or get your questions answered.

The town meeting officially opens Friday, March 15th at 4:00 PM at the fire station for ballot voting. There will be two selectman seats up for election, two school board seats and three seats on the planning board.

There are three residents that have submitted nomination papers to the town office for the Select Board. They are: Christine LaPado-Breglia, Lise Hanners, and Keith Sanborn. There are three positions available for the School Board. One is a three year term, one is a two year term, and one is a one year term. There are no candidates on the ballot for the School Board seats. The three Planning Board seats available are two year terms with three candidates submitting their nomination papers. They are: Glenn Angell, Marianne Marple and Stephen Sheehy.

On Saturday, March 16th at 2:00 PM we will be asking for the town's approval of the municipal budget. Each warrant article will be voted on as presented and the town will have an opportunity to approve it or change it. This is your chance to find out what your tax money is really supporting. All questions will be entertained on each warrant article so the taxpayers can understand exactly what their taxes are being spent on.

These warrant articles consist of an administration budget of \$286,134, a fire department budget of \$91,494, a roads budget of \$432,381, a winter road budget of \$279,517, a capital improvement budget of \$130,510 and numerous other budget articles.

The town report will be available approximately two weeks before the town meeting. You will be able to obtain a copy from the Town Office and numerous other places around town or at the town meeting. In the town report, you will find all the warrant articles we are voting on along with the town financial statement. Also in the town report

will see the taxpayer list, letters from various organizations in town, and general information.

Plan to be there on March 16th and make your voice heard or just come to mingle with the folks you haven't seen since last year's meeting. Either way I hope to see you there.



Library Continued from Pg. 1

In 2015 the Arlington Grange celebrated its 100th year anniversary in the building, and the initial purpose for the Hall's construction was nearly complete. The dream for a library had never materialized, however, until the summer of 2017 when a small group of enthusiastic volunteers opened the doors to Whitefield's summer library. Over the past two years the Summer Library has evolved into the Whitefield Library Association by becoming a non-profit 501c3, growing in family membership from 43 to 82, increasing our donated books from 200 to over 5000, and most thankfully watching our generous volunteer list grow from 12 to nearly 38!



When the Whitefield Arlington Grange announced in the summer of 2018 that it would be dissolving and relinquishing its Charter to the Maine State Grange, the Library Board of Directors and several volunteers began creating a vision for the property. After hundreds of hours of research, meetings, estimates and planning, that vision has led to the signing of a Purchase and Sales Agreement between the Maine State Grange and the Whitefield Library Association. We have begun our mission to purchase and restore the building into a fully functioning community library and gathering space, and reestablish its value as a vibrant center of connection, creativity, learning, and opportunity.

Our first goal is to purchase the building, and then relaunch and build our library services, of course! This will include the usual book lending, reading focused events such as storytelling for little ones, and free wireless internet with seating areas for our library members. Our library will be housed on the first floor of the building.

When funds are raised to commence with building improvements, we will restore the top floor of the building; the community center space. This second floor already holds a lovely performance stage and arched ceiling; perfect for theatre and musical events. It is within this space where our imagination takes hold. There are numerous uses here (both public and private) including adult education courses, art exhibitions, extra-curricular and private instruction space for our young people, offsite meeting space for local businesses, and small family celebrations. We aim to make the Library & Community Center as self-sustaining as possible and our second-floor event space will contribute mightily to that effort.

It is our goal to restore this entire structure in order to utilize the first floor as a fully functioning community library and the second floor as a vibrant community center. Upon completion, this lovely building will once again find value as a center of connection, creativity, learning, and opportunity, so please help us to purchase and restore our home!

Our fundraising targets and renovation goals:

Phase one = (\$25,000) building purchase

Phase two = (\$17,000) initial launch cost (high speed internet, library upgrades & supplies, minor structural improvements for egress/electrical/seasonal maintenance, and basic operating costs for our first year)

Phase three = (\$113,000) capital and operational improvements (renovations which will allow year-round access and full-building use including upgrades to all heating, fire and safety systems, kitchen and restrooms, and much-needed roof repair and ceiling restoration)

Please help us with your support and donations.

You can reach us at...

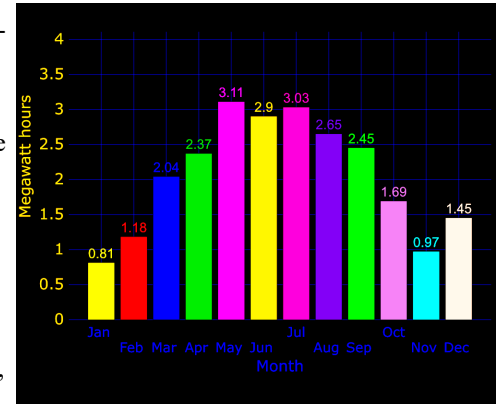
Our **Website**: whitefieldlibrary.org (that will lead you to our **GoFundMe** page, our **Facebook** page, our **email**: info@whitefieldlibrry.org, and of course much more information about our campaign)

We do not currently have a library **phone**, but you may **call** Sue McKeen, President (446-7473) or Cheryle Joslyn, V. President (207-549-7305).

Town Solar Power Update

By Tony Marple

Thanks to Erik Ekholm's initiative and the voter approval at Town Meeting, solar panels were installed on the fire station roof in December of 2016. At the time, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) was working on changes to regulations related to solar installations connected to the grid. Because of that uncertainty, the board decided to lease the panels from the installer, The Power Company of Washington, Maine, rather than purchase them.



Right now, the PUC "gross metering" rules are less favorable to solar installations than in the past, but it's likely that legislation proposed in the current session will bring us back to a more favorable "net metering" approach. Under net metering, each facility covered by solar panel electricity generation pays a small \$11-15 monthly fee for its connection to the utility grid. Annual solar generation exceeds the usage for all town facilities which include the fire station, town office, salt shed and recycling center as well as that of the fire stations owned by the Coopers Mills and Kings Mills volunteer fire departments. That includes covering the electricity usage of heat pumps installed at the town office and the Kings Mills fire station, almost eliminating the fossil fuel use at those facilities. Surpluses of solar electricity generation over usage from spring to fall go into an annual "bank" of kilowatt hours which covers the winter month deficit.

The solar lease allows the town to buy the panels at any time after January of 2022, initially for \$26,725 and for a little less in each of the following years. Under the current lease, the town pays 90% of CMP's electricity charge, and once purchased, we would only pay for those small connection fees and not for electricity, assuming we remain in an annual surplus position. The annual savings once purchased would be about \$3,200. The yearly savings would increase as electricity rates rise over the expected life of the panels, 40 years. The payback would be about 8 years, and fewer years if electricity rates continue rising. The 2020 proposed budget includes \$8,910 to be set aside as one third of the cost of the 2020 lease buyout and will be discussed at Town Meeting.

With or without the buyout, the solar installation has and will continue to benefit the town financially and is a big environmental achievement for Whitefield. Since the panels were installed in December of 2016, they have generated a total of 51.56 megawatts of power, resulting in an estimated CO2 emission reduction of 79,837 pounds.

Nature

By: Ava Davis Grade 6

Twirl into the night
Like a free top
Hold back nothing
Run against the grass
As it dances with you.



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Meet the Candidates

by Sue McKeen

In an effort to help you be informed before you mark your ballot for the March town meeting, we would like to give you a little background on each candidate.

Select Board - Two three-year terms

Lise Hanners: Lise Hanners and her husband moved from Connecticut to Whitefield in 2012 where they enjoy their antique cape and their dogs. The decision to move to Maine was based on her childhood memories of summers spent Down East. She is retired from an administrative position with the Nature Conservancy where she travelled extensively on the east coast and managed a large budget and staff. When I asked Lise why she wants to run for the Select Board, she answered, "I have always wanted to serve in town government... now that I am retired, the time is right." She told me she's a doer, well organized and knows how to manage budgets and programs. Lise served on the current budget committee during which time she was impressed with the collegial nature of the Select Board. Besides service on the town budget committee, Lise also volunteers her time with the immigrant community in Augusta, as well as several other organizations.

Christine LaPado-Breglia: Another relative newcomer to town, Christine LaPado-Breglia has joined the group running for the Select Board. Christine moved to Maine two years ago from California and recently moved from Damariscotta to Whitefield. She told me her husband, who is a wildfire firefighter out West, was tired of living in California, and missed his home in the Adirondack region. They ended up in Maine when Christine was offered a job with the Lincoln County News where she works as a copy editor and editor for the Arts and Lifestyles magazine published by the paper. When I asked her why she is running, she enthusiastically said, "I want to help create a cohesive community where new people can prosper." She stated, "This is a great place to live...there is vibrancy without destroying the community." She told me that during a conversation with Austin Moore, she agreed when he stated, "This (Whitefield) is the center of the universe." Christine says she is enthusiastic, willing to work hard, and wants to be useful. She said, "Living here is almost like a fairy tale, and I'm putting down stakes here."

Keith Sanborn: As the only man running in the three person race for Select Board, Keith Sanborn was encouraged to run for the Board by several friends. Keith and his wife moved to Whitefield in 2007 from New Hampshire. Keith is a retired Air Force pilot and taught astrodynamics at the Air Force Academy. He noted he also worked for a geophysics lab where he launched rockets and worked for Textron as a systems engineer. When asked why he decided to run for the Select Board, he commented, "It is a good way to give back to my community." Keith said he is very tenacious with projects, that he has time since he is retired, and he is a great handy man, too. Keith has been a member of the Senior Men's group for many years and volunteers for the Whitefield food bank.

Planning Board - Three two-year terms

Glenn Angelli: Glenn moved to Whitefield in 1984 and has been an

active member of the community ever since. Glenn is no stranger to the Planning Board where he has served for six years. Recently, Glenn retired from the Maine CDC and says he has more time to travel and invest in the community. He noted, "There is work to be done on the Planning Board. Some ordinances need work so they are easier to administer and understand." When asked why he continues to serve, he stated, "It's part of my civic duty to give back so the town works. We need volunteers to invest their time for this to happen...we can't wait for someone else to do it for us."

Marianne Marple: Marianne has lived and been an active member in our community since moving here with her husband, Tony, 35 years ago. She has served in many capacities and most recently spent the last 5 years on the Planning Board. When asked why she would like to continue to serve, she responded, "I'm looking forward to working on some interesting upcoming projects, and the current board works very well together." She noted that this work is well-suited to her nature and she enjoys it. As a board veteran, she feels she can continue to provide a useful service to the town.

Steve Sheehy: Steve is also no stranger to the Planning Board where he has served for one term. He is a retired attorney and moved to Whitefield from Alna in 2015 where he served for many years on the Alna Planning Board. When asked why he would like to continue to serve, Steve commented, "There is still a lot of work to do. We need to look at all the land use ordinances to better integrate the process." Steve noted, "I like the town, and we all seem to want to preserve the town's rural character."

RSU School Board - Three open seats (One 3-year term, one 2-year term, one 1-year term)

Write in candidate: Lynette Conroy: Lynette has been on the board temporarily, having been appointed by the Selectmen to fill a mid-term vacancy. She grew up in Wiscasset/Whitefield, and attended Whitefield Elementary in grades 7 & 8, and has lived in town for more than two decades now with her husband and now 5th grade son. She holds a BA in English and a BS in Social Sciences, both from UMA. She is currently the Director of Training at a medical software company located in San Diego.

"I've been working on, and hope to continue working with the Curriculum Committee to help ensure our kids are well prepared for the future and feel that I bring a level thought process to conflicts that can help ease some of the recent community frustration with the school and the board."

Whitefield/Alna Food Pantry to expand hours

THANKS to the townspeople of Whitefield and Alna. The recent food drive brought over 1000 lbs to the St. Denis Whitefield/Alna food Pantry.

This generosity allows us to be more selective in using our monetary funds. A special thanks to the Whitefield Postal Service for collecting the food.

We always welcome donations of non perishable goods as well as personal toiletries. We appreciate the local farmers who donate fresh produce.

The food pantry is open the first Friday of every month, at St Denis Hall. It serves the people of Whitefield & Alna and is open the first Friday of the month from 10-3 and the third Saturday from 10-12



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backyard sap boiling
operation. Sample some of
our Blue Ribbon Syrup on
ice cream and also taste
different Maple flavored
recipes.

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MARCH 2019 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

- 1st **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 2nd **MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY BIATHLON**—Hidden Valley Nature Center, \$35 for adults, \$10 for kids and students. Any questions, call Midcoast Conservancy at (207) 389-5150
- 4th **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT.** All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT., 7 pm
- 5th **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSHOT GENERAL, 6:30-8:00 pm
KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD MEETING - Public Welcome 7 pm
RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE, 1:00 PM to 06:00 PM At St. Denis Church Hall
- 6th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10
- 8th **3RD ANNUAL DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT** hosted by Whitefield School's NJHS with all proceeds from the tourney donated to Whitefield Library and Community Center. Mar. 8, in the gym, beginning after school, 3 Divisions: Grade 2-5, 6-8, and HS/Adult. FMI call Whitefield School (549-5251)
VETERAN'S ART SHOW & RECEPTION 5-7 pm at Sheepscot General. We have the honor of welcoming over 12 Maine Veterans and their art. Showing all month.
- 9th **SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER WITH RAFFLES**, Windsor School PAWS PTO Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser with Raffles being held at Windsor Elementary School, Dinner served 5 - 6:30 pm
- 10th **SUNDAY SNUGLING AT FUZZY UDDER CREAMERY** 10-5, Townhouse Rd.
SNOWSHOE YOGA At Hidden Valley Nature Center, 1-4 (207) 389-5150
THE SANDY RIVER RAMBLERS are a Bluegrass Band from right here in Maine. The concert is at 2 PM and admission is only \$10! Jewett Hall is located at UMA
WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA), Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 11th **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 12th **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSHOT GENERAL, 6:30-8:00
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
PTA MEETING- please join us for our meeting @ 5:30 always the 2nd Tuesday in the school conference room.
- 14th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 15th **TOWN ELECTIONS**—4 to 8 pm, Whitefield Fire Station, Townhouse Road
OPEN MIC NIGHT FEATURING THE MIDNIGHT RAMBLERS at Sheepscot General 7-9pm Treat yourself to music and pizza during the dull drums of winter! Beer on tap too!
- 16th **TOWN MEETING**, 10 am at the Whitefield School
WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
DRUMMING CIRCLE, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages welcome.
- 17th **WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING AND PRESENTATION** program featuring the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment. 2-3 pm at the Historical Society.
- 19th **ALZHEIMERS TRAINING WITH SPECTRUM GENERATIONS** Tuesday, at Sheepscot General, 10-12:15 pm
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSHOT GENERAL, 6:30-8:00 pm
FULL MOON HIKE, 5:30 pm Hidden Valley Nature Center, Meet at the gate at HVNC at 6:50 pm.
- 20th **NEW PARENT PLAY GROUP**, Sheepscot General, The playgroup is primarily aimed at 0-2 years old Playgroup will meet in the gallery space at 9 am.
WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Town House, 1 pm
PLANNING BOARD, Town Office 6:00 pm
- 21st **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 23rd **TIM'S SUGAR SHACK MAINE MAPLE SUNDAY**, 9AM - 3PM
SINGING CIRCLE, Sheepscot General, 6 pm. Open to all, acoustic instruments welcome
- 24th **TIM'S SUGAR SHACK MAINE MAPLE SUNDAY**, 9AM - 3PM
MAINE MAPLE SUNDAY BRUNCH SUNDAY, Sheepscot General, 9am-1pm We will host our annual Maine Maple Sunday Brunch featuring pancakes, buckwheat pancakes & our own maple syrup
SUNDAY SNUGLING AT FUZZY UDDER CREAMERY 10-5, Townhouse Rd.
- 26th **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General 10 am
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSHOT GENERAL, 6:30-8:00 pm
- 28th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 29th **WALTER WEYMOUTH** will join our pizza night at Sheepscot General from 6-8pm. Walter Weymouth is a singer/songwriter from Pittston, Maine. Tickets are \$10 at the door.
- 30th **A SHORT COURSE FOR WOODLAND OWNERS**, HVNC, Presented by Morten Moesswilde, District Forester, Maine Forest Service 9-12 pm
- 31st **ORGANIC MISO WORKSHOP** with Go-En Fermented Foods Sunday, March 31st 2-4p Join Mika and Nicholas of "go-en fermented foods" for a workshop and discussion about; miso, its uses, and its history. Sheepscot General 2-4 pm



Do you have an event?
Contact: whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month.
Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com Whitefield Newsletter Committee: Cheryle Joslyn, Kit Pfeiffer, Sue McKeen, Kathy Dauphin and Debbie Rogers.

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