



Whitefield News

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TOWN MEETING

Town Meeting is March 21 beginning at 10:00 a.m. sharp

Voting is March 20 at the fire station, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

On the Town ballots will be as follows:

Select Board

Charlene Donahue 3 year term
William McKeen 3 year term

Planning Board

Kristin Margaret Smith
Mason 3 year term
One Write In 3 year term

Road Commissioner

David Boynton 3 year term

RSU #12

One Write In 1 year term

The Whitefield Food Pantry will be holding a bake sale during town meeting.

Also, the Whitefield Library and Community Center will be offering a hot lunch and drinks.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

By Sue McKeen

In an effort to keep the public informed, we would like to introduce the candidates for this year's ballot election to be held Friday, March 20 from 4-8 at the fire station. There are two positions open for Select Board, two positions open for Planning Board, one position open for the RSU #12 Board and one position open for Road Commissioner.

I was able to speak with several of the candidates and asked each candidate to tell us a little about themselves, why they are running for the positions and what goals they'd like to see accomplished if they are elected.

Select Board – Three year terms

Charlene Donahue is running for her second term on the Select Board. She told me she has



lived in town 34 years, raised two sons here, grows her own vegetables, splits her own wood, and makes maple syrup with family, friends and neighbors. She is retired from the Maine Forest Service where she worked as an entomologist. She also volunteers at the Maine State Museum curating the insect collection. When asked why she is running for a second term she said, "One term gets you familiar with how Town government works. A second term provides continuity on the Select Board so that it runs smoothly. I feel every American has a civic duty to partici-

pate in running our town, county, state and country and giving back to our community." When I asked what she'd like to see accomplished if she is elected, she stated, "Provide well-maintained infrastructure (town buildings, roads, fire & emergency services) using long term planning to make the most of the tax dollars we all pay. Reduce the Town fossil fuel use to save money and be more sustainable."

Bill McKeen is running for his second term on the Select Board. He and his wife have lived in town since 1987. Bill owned and operated Minuteman Signs where he worked as a graphic designer. He continues to work as a consultant for the business his son took over after his retirement. He is an active member in the community

lending his creative talents to numerous projects including the recently released Whitefield Map & Guide. When asked why he would like to seek a second term, he stated, "It has been a real pleasure to work with this Board and the various committees in town. I am interested in positive change and encouraging the growth of our many existing businesses as well as attracting new opportunities our community can embrace. Economic growth is good for the town and helps offset taxes, something everyone can relate to. *Continued on Pg. 2*



GOOD LIGHTING IS GOOD FOR ALL

by Colin Caissie

WHAT TO EXPECT REGARDING THE PROPOSED LED STREETLIGHTS?

In the "Select Board Corner" of the February 2020 Whitefield News is an announcement that 8 new LED lighting units are proposed for busy intersections in town to increase visibility. CMP is to install these at an annual cost of \$1300 to the Town.

Separately, there was a recent report of a traffic accident in Coopers Mills related to poor visibility of a Stop sign.

In an effort to ensure that the proposed new lighting is everything we could hope for, and does not impact the high quality of the natural environment in our town, it's important that we know what we're getting. The life expectancy of the proposed LED's is usually decades, so we will be living with this new lighting for some time. So far, it looks like the latest scientific guidelines and standards for the new LED's are being considered for Whitefield. Portland has a very carefully designed LED lighting instal-



lation, and Waterville and Augusta are updating their public lighting with sensible fixtures. In a response from the Whitefield Town Select Board, we learn: "We are planning to have our LED streetlights installed by CMP. We were concerned about the lighting adversely affecting our night sky and we

also did not want the LED lights to produce a harsh lighting condition. CMP came back to us and let us know their LED lights are *dark sky compliant* and the color temperature is 3000K. We plan to have 8 street lights installed at the major intersections in town to improve safety for cars, trucks and Amish buggies as well as pedestrians. The town will actually vote on whether or not to install these lights at our annual town meeting in March."

The above reference to "Dark Sky Compliant" indicates "IDA (International Dark Sky)" compliance, which encompasses the essential design factors such as "Full Cutoff" and "3000K maximum color temperature". We should ensure that the fixtures installed are so certified. *Continued on Pg. 2*

Continued from Pg. 1 I want to see good development and positive outcomes while being mindful of our rural character.”

RSU #12 School Board – One year term



Christine LaPado-Breglia is a write-in candidate for the open seat on the RSU #12 Board. She served on the Board for the past year completing a vacated term and is now running as a write-in candidate for another one-year term. She is employed by the Lincoln County News where she is a copy editor and editor for the Arts and Lifestyles magazine. Christine also writes for our own Whitefield News. She told me she has enjoyed being on the Board and is learning the many intricacies of the RSU #12 budget and planning. She would like to serve another term and looks forward to working with the Board and serving the town. Christine lives in Whitefield with her husband and daughter.

Planning Board – Three year term



Kristen Margaret Smith Mason is running for one of the two open seats on the Planning Board. She was born and raised in Whitefield where she attended the Whitefield School, graduated from Cony High School and received her undergraduate degree from Merrimack College. Kristin is a supervisor at the Navy's Supervisor of Ship Building in Bath. When asked why she decided to run for the Board, she said she was encouraged by a friend and decided to take the leap. She commented that she is looking forward to learning and contributing to preserving the rural character of our town. She stated, "I was born and raised in Whitefield and this town is very important to me. It is where I'm raising my family." Kristin lives in Whitefield with her husband and daughter.



Road Commissioner – Three year term

David Boynton is practically a fixture as road commissioner as he has been serving in this position for 18 years. When asked why he is running for another 3 years, he stated, "I want to see the completion of the Road Committee's 10 year plan, which is going down a good path. This has been a good job for me. I'm almost

ready to retire and this three year term will take me to retirement." David is a lifelong resident of Whitefield where he lives with his wife, Melissa.

Continued from Pg. 1

WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW?

Light Pollution (LP) is real, and is proven to have negative consequences to your health, the economy and the natural biological environment. Hence, the new standards re: public and commercial lighting. In my discussions with townspeople, almost everyone has a "horror story" of a poorly placed, overly bright light installation. It seems we all recognize "bad lighting", but may not be able to describe it. Here are 4 categories that describe LP:

Glare – excessive brightness that causes visual discomfort

Skyglow – brightening of the night sky over inhabited areas

Light trespass – light falling where it is not intended or needed

Clutter – bright, confusing, and excessive groupings of light sources

Cleaning up some of the light clutter and glare at intersections is as important, or perhaps more so, as installing more lights. Already, Whitefield had made decisions on appropriate lighting during the construction of the Fire Station, and the contrast between this "good lighting" and several "bad lighting" installations in town is obvious. This current LED issue can be a continuation of the care that goes into creating a healthier, safer, more secure environment in our town. Light Pollution is one of the easiest pollution types to remedy. The science, the affordable technology, energy savings and ready availability makes this issue a WIN for all.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

There will be an information brochure available at the upcoming Town Meeting in March 2020, and will contain a summary of the points to consider before voting to authorize CMP to install the new lighting. In the meantime, it makes great sense to individually review the lights in Whitefield, become familiar with the different lighting types installed, and research the current scientific and medical research available on LED lighting. The best starting point to begin your personal education on LP is: <https://www.darksky.org/>.



Colin Caissie is a life-long Amateur Astronomer, Mechanical Designer, President of Dark Sky Maine, and Vice-President of Central Maine Astronomical Society. The Whitefield observing site includes the Brower Astronomical Observatory, hosting Public Star Parties. Contact for Club events can be found at <https://maineastro.com/>

Town Office News....

Monday	8am to 4pm
Tuesday	8am to 4pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	7am to 12pm and 3pm to 7pm
Friday	8am to 2pm

March 3rd Presidential Primaries, voting is 8:00am to 8:00pm at the Central Fire Station.

March 10th the Select Board Meeting with RSU#12 Budget Presentation.

March 20th Town Elections, voting is 4:00pm to 8:00pm at the Central Fire Station.

March 21st Town Meeting, starts at 10:00am at the Whitefield Elementary School.



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MAINE MAPLE SUNDAY
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**March 21st 10-2 pm
22nd 9-3 pm**

23 Grand Army Road
Whitefield 549-5016

Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHITEFIELD?!

The Winter Harvest in Whitefield

In deep winter, when everything was frozen solid, the ice harvest began on the Sheepscot River. Men and boys would clear the snow from the ice, then drill or chop a large hole down to the water below, and insert a large hand-operated ice saw. They would saw out cakes about 3 feet long, 2 feet wide, and 18 inches thick. They would load them onto horse-drawn sleds and deliver to local farmers' ice houses. There, the ice was insulated with layers of sawdust or swamp grass and brought out in the summer for use in the home's ice box; which was used before there was electrical refrigeration. Winter availed the best time for hauling logs, fire wood, freight, everything heavy that could travel best over frozen ground and pulled with horse and sled.

(source: a History of Whitefield, Maine by Rundlette Kensell Palmer)

SPRING

Select Board Corner

January 15, 2020 - February 15, 2020

Below are issues of likely interest to residents of Whitefield from the Select Board meetings of the previous month. For a complete description of the issues before the Board each meeting, please click this link: <https://townofwhitefield.com/agendas-minutes/> to go to the Town website and read the Select Board minutes.

In preparation for the Town Meeting on March 21 (10:00AM, Whitefield Elementary School) this year, below is a list of some of the warrant articles for consideration of funding approval by Whitefield residents. Some of these were described in the last Select Board Corner, but we provide them again with some sense of the conversation as the Board drafted the warrants. Please come to the Town meeting on March 21st so your vote is counted! Also, please vote in our local elections on March 20, 4:00-8:00 PM.

A warrant article to consider funding an electronic sign to replace the current sign in front of the Whitefield Elementary School. The proposal is for the Town to pay half (\$8,000) and RSU #12 will pay half, if approved in the RSU budget. The sign will be used to promote events for the school and Town. The votes on the Select Board and Budget Committee were mixed with concern about the appearance and/or cost; other members supported the idea of the school and Town working together to promote local events.

An article for installation of 8 LED street lights at busy intersections to improve visibility. CMP would install the lights and the town would pay an annual fee of \$1300. The Board is working with Colin Cassie of Dark Skies to ensure that the lights are suitable for our rural town. An information sheet about proposed locations for street lights will be provided at Town Meeting.

Two different solar alternatives are being considered to provide power for Town buildings. The first option considered was to purchase new panels outright (\$16,000) for installation on the Kings Mills Fire Department building. The second option, now being developed, is to join the RSU 12 solar farm. An information sheet about the alternatives will be provided at Town Meeting.

At the request of Town residents, there is a warrant article for Whitefield to use an online tax payment system. Installation of the system will cost \$2355 with an annual fee of \$330.

The Economic Development Committee recommended a warrant article to use the cable franchise funds that come to the Town for matching grants with Connect-ME to increase the availability of broadband in Whitefield. Annual revenue ranges from about \$4000 - \$5000.

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Augusta (West) 198 Western Avenue 621-0001



Daylight Saving
Time 2020
begins Sunday,
March 8

MARCH 2020 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

- 2nd** **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT.** All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT., 7 pm
- 3rd** Presidential Primaries, voting is 8:00am to 8:00pm at the Central Fire Station.
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD MEETING - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 5th** **ROMEOs (RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT) FORMERLY SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 6th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-3 pm
ART OPENING AND SALMON TALK Sheepscot General, we have very special art show and talk prepared for you. Children from the Whitefield school have created art around the life cycle of salmon and salmon fisherman Ross Trainor will be on hand to about everything to do with salmon. Art Opening 5-6pm with the talk starting at 6pm. Art show will be available in our gallery until March 29th
- 8th** **WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
FULL MOON HIKE, HVNC 7:30 pm 389-5150.
- 9th** **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 10th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, We are a group of ladies who get together on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10 at the Sheepscot General. There is no agenda just coffee, etc. and good conversation. We would love to have more ladies join us.
PTA MEETING-please join us for our meeting @ 5:30 always the 2nd Tuesday in the school conference room.
- 11th** **WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**, Town House, 1 pm
- 12th** **ROMEOs (RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT) FORMERLY SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
WHITEFIELD TRAILS COMMITTEE Spring Planning Meeting, Fire Station, 6:00 pm. All are welcome!
RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 15th** **Miso Workshop with go-en fermented foods** Sheepscot General, Join Mika and Nicholas of "go-en fermented foods" for a hands on fermentation workshop and in depth discussion on the processes and history of miso, one of the ancient fermented foods of Japan. Class fee \$50, sign-up and \$20 deposit required. Sign -up deadline is March 4th. Sign-up ONLY available by emailing penny@sheepscotgeneral.com
- 17th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 18th** **NEW PARENT PLAY GROUP**, Sheepscot General, The playgroup is primarily aimed at 0-2 years old Playgroup will meet in the gallery space at 10 am.
PLANNING BOARD, Town Office 6:00 pm
- 19th** **ROMEOs (RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT) FORMERLY SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 20th** **TOWN ELECTIONS**, voting is 4:00pm to 8:00pm at the Central Fire Station.
OPEN MIC FEATURING TROT TROT TO LYNN Sheepscot General 7-9 pm
- 21st** **TOWN MEETING**, starts at 10:00am at the Whitefield Elementary School.
WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
DRUMMING CIRCLE, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all welcome
- 22nd** **MAINE MAPLE SUNDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT SHEEPSBOT GENERAL** 9 am-1 pm
- 24th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, We are a group of ladies who get together on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10 at the Sheepscot General. There is no agenda just coffee, etc and good conversation. We would love to have more ladies join us.
- 27th** **ROMEOs (RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT) FORMERLY SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 28th** **COMMUNITY SINGING CIRCLE**, Sheepscot General, 6 pm. Open to all, acoustic instruments welcome.
- 31st** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm



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Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com
Whitefield Newsletter Committee: Cheryl Joslyn, Kit Pfeiffer, Sue McKeen, Tony Marple, Christine Lapado-Breglia, Lise Hanners & Debbie Rogers.

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