



HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

2021

Whitefield News

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Volume 8, Issue 7

Published Monthly

January 2021

Aspiring author Jake Rousseau; In his own words

Sixteen year old Jacob Rousseau from Whitefield, has a plan. That plan is to be a writer and he has made a good start by publishing his first eBook, *Beyond the Horizon*. We recently sat down with Jake to discuss his ambitions and some of his challenges. The following interview is in his own words.

Jacob Rousseau, usually known as Jake, was always the “different” kid at Whitefield Elementary. Sure, he seemed normal enough, but he never made eye contact and often had slight difficulty translating his thoughts into words, not to mention his intolerance of the loud noises often made by his peers. In the summer of 2017, at the age of 12, he was diagnosed with high-functioning ASD, or Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Suddenly, it all made sense.

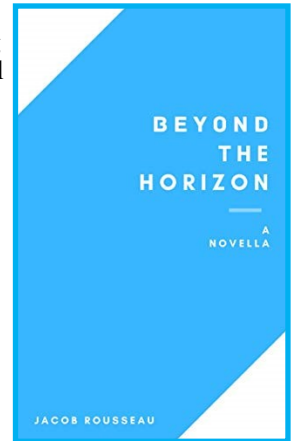
Jacob has always had a hyperactive imagination, his mother notes. He has also had a self-described burning passion for the sciences and the natural world for as long as he can remember. Described by his friends as passionate, loyal, kind, and extremely intelligent, Jake, has been worldbuilding since First Grade. He grew up watching *Star Trek* reruns after school, and is still fascinated by the cosmos to this day. At his family’s camp on Islesboro, he’s spent countless hours exploring the tide pools, stony beaches, and tranquil forests. This is where Stella Corelli was born.



She would become the main character in Jacob’s recently published debut title, *Beyond The Horizon*, which can be found on Amazon.com. Having gone from a human teenage girl with psychic abilities living in his family’s camp to a humanoid alien botanist from Camden, the only things that have remained constant about her, Jacob says, is her autism and her ginger pixie-cut hair. He says that he likes to think of Stella Corelli as his “avatar” in the science-fiction world he’s created.

“Stella’s experience of ASD is a near-match of mine. No two autists are the same, and it’s a spectrum. We’re all unique, just like regular people. I guess the biggest difference between us is that she likes to work with her hands and brain equally, whereas I’m much more cerebral,” Jacob remarked. He began work on it days after Maine’s first COVID-19 lockdown order went into effect, and hopes that if the reader chooses to spend an afternoon immersed in the high-tech universe of *Beyond The Horizon*, that they simply enjoy a good old-fashioned mystery amongst the endless stars.

We wish Jake much success; he is certainly off to an impressive start!



Three seats open on the Planning Board: Why you should get involved

By Sue McKeen

Planning Board/Land Use, do these words instill fear, apathy, raise your blood pressure? Let’s be honest, the words land use to most are about as thrilling as say, watching mold grow. But let’s think about this for a moment. Back in the 1970’s it became clear that development had found its way to Whitefield when a large influx of “back to the landers” hitched their wagons and set off from urban environments to find “the good life” in rural Maine. A lot of them landed in Whitefield. This explosion in development gave birth to Whitefield’s first Planning Board and the concept of creating land use ordinances to guide development. Those first Boards set about establishing most of the ordinances that are still in effect today.

In the early 2000’s the town held a forum to discuss how people felt about development and how they would like to see the town grow. The overarching result was the wish to maintain Whitefield’s rural character. This in fact is the main theme of the comprehensive plan which was passed by the town in 2005. But maintaining the rural character doesn’t happen without some planning and guidelines and people volunteering their time to be part of the process. There will be three seats open on the Board at the next election in March. Two three-year terms and one one-year term. Eventually the five Planning Board terms will be staggered to avoid having three seats open in one

year. Incumbents Steve Sheehy and Marianne Marple will not be seeking reelection, incumbent Glenn Angell will run for one of the open seats.

I recently sat down with Steve Sheehy to discuss the Board. Steve has served two terms and is currently chair of the Board. We talked about some of the reasons the Planning Board is important. He told me it is the Board’s duty to help applicants as much as possible in order to eliminate any problems a potential developer might encounter down the road. He said, “I don’t like to think of the Board as enforcers, our job is to assist the landowner by answering questions and providing guidance where necessary.” When asked why he decided not to run for another term he said, “It’s time for me to move on and let younger people get involved.”

I was able to speak with Glenn Angell who has been a member of the Board since 2012. I asked Glenn what he sees as the task of the Planning Board. He said, “The job of the Planning Board is to establish a comprehensive plan and oversee our ordinances. Although our current comprehensive plan does not meet state requirements, it does speak to what the people of Whitefield want. It is a very valuable document for planning.” When asked what he would like to see going forward he stated, “I would like to see a Building Permit required so anyone intending to build will have all the necessary information before construction actually begins.” He went on to say, “Ordinances need to be more descriptive in order to be measurable and enforceable *Continued on Pg. 2*

Planning from Pg. 1 and a better organized land use ordinance for overall development in town. This makes everyone's job easier." Like Steve Sheehy, his parting words were, "I'd like to see more younger people get involved."

Although I was unable to speak with Marianne Marple, she has been a workhorse on the Board and has served the town since 2014. She is not seeking reelection.

If you live in Whitefield, you moved here for a reason. Whether you were attracted by cheap land, tillable fields, the community, the farms, if you live here it's your home place. It is people who make a community and the collective efforts of those who serve, who work every day to keep Whitefield what you dreamed it would be in the first place.

Town Office News

Well, it is hard to believe another year is behind us and what a year it has been. As we roll into the New Year the Municipal Election will be here before you know it. With that being said, Nomination Papers are now available for the following positions:

Select Board Member – a 3-year term

Planning Board Members – Two 3-year terms and a 1-year term

School Board Members – One 2-year term and One 3-year term

Nomination Papers are due back by Tuesday January 19, 2021.

2020 Dog Licenses expired December 31, 2020 and the **2021 Licenses** are now available. If you have not been in to license your dog for the 2021 Licensing year you have until January 31st to license your dogs without a late fee. Licensing fees are \$6.00 for Spayed and Neutered Dogs, \$11 if they are not Spayed or Neutered. February 1st a \$25.00 late fee per dog is applied to every license. We can process these thru the mail if you are unable to make it to the office or you may now license your dogs online at the following link: https://apps1.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl

Whitefield Cares has purchased buckets and has **Volunteers** on hand to deliver sand to those in need of it for their walkways. If you need sand for your walkway, please call the Town Office and we will contact a volunteer to deliver some to you.

Keep updated by checking out our website at: <https://townofwhitefield.com/>

Every end marks a new beginning, the New Year has brought another chance for us to set things right and to open up a new chapter in all of our lives. As this New Year dawns, I hope it is filled with promises of a brighter tomorrow. **Happy New Year to All!!**

Yolanda Violette

Administrative Assistant

December 31st, Office Open 7 am - 12 pm

Will be CLOSED the Evening hours.

January 1st, Office Closed in Observance of New Year

January 18th, Office Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Day

The Wild Snowstorm!

Khloe Luce

The wind howls as the snow falls on the ground

Snowflakes land everywhere

I watch my dog as she lunges through the pile of snow

Her nose is covered in the white and fluffy snow

Icicles form on the side of my house

I sway my head back and forth and let my tongue catch the flakes

I feel them dissolve inside my mouth

The cold sensation sends shivers down my spine

It is Winter!



Another beautiful public space to visit!

by Kit Pfeiffer

The 18-acre property by the West Branch of the Sheepscot River just east of the Rte. 17 bridge in Windsor was donated to the town for recreational purposes by the Olsen family back in 1992. It got some needed attention this fall. A network of pathways and clearings has been bush-hogged throughout the field, leading from the parking lot on Fox Farm Lane. Now you can walk, snowshoe or ski around the field and enjoy views of the river.



The Town of Whitefield will have the lot plowed in winter.

Keeping the field open is also good for wildlife such as birds and mammals and will encourage native plants and their pollinators. Annual maintenance of the property will help keep the fields open and the brush under control. Volunteer bush-hoggers and trail maintainers will be needed next summer for upkeep to this and other preserves owned by the Town of Whitefield. If you can help out, please write to David Elliott



at d.elliott.92546@gmail.com.

When you visit, please respect the privacy of adjoining landowners and drive on Fox Farm Lane only as far as the parking lot on the right at the beginning of the road.



A view from Whitefield Students

A Winter Morning

By Donovan Thompson

The beautiful, orange sun peeks over the horizon.
The opalescent colors contrasting with the frosty, white snow

A warm cup of cocoa and a fire aglow

Snowflakes falling softly on the fluffy ground

Everything is peaceful and silent, Not a single sound

Only the voices of joyful kids sledding down a snowy slope

The weather is cold and bitter

But the warm, bright fireplace gives me hope

That I'll stay warm and cozy this winter.

Thousands of glowing, white trees in the distance.

Across the icy river

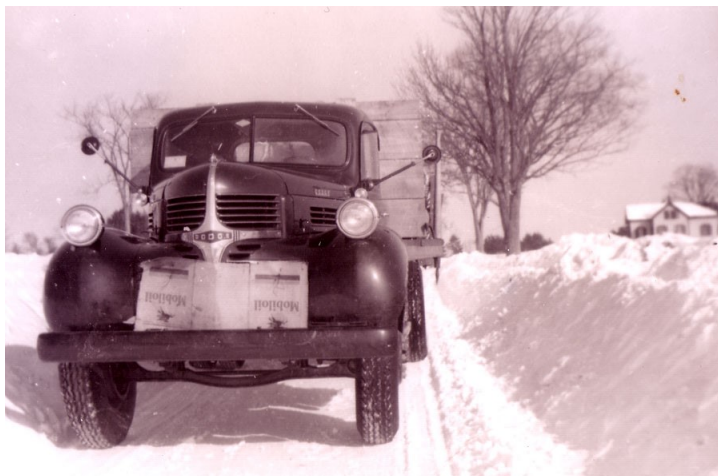
Makes me think of a happy reminiscence

The freezing air makes me shiver

My warm, winter coat only helps a little

My boots make a crunch in the crystalline snow

How I love peaceful winter mornings like these



Courtesy of Whitefield Historical Society

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHITEFIELD?!

1940's Dodge lumber truck drives by the Nary house on Benner Lane. Note the high snow banks and cardboard on the grill to make the heater throw more heat! Anyone recognize it?

Whitefield Cares!

Zoom Meeting December 11, 2020

By Lise Hanners

The activity of the Whitefield Cares! volunteers has been low in recent months because everyone has followed health guidance and maintained distance from others. A meeting was held recently over Zoom to make contact and touch base on some activities that have moved forward. Funding from the Maine Community Foundation's Lifelong Communities Mini-Grants was used to purchase 5-gal buckets which volunteers will fill with sand and deliver to residents needing help with slippery walks – anyone needing sand should call Town Office at 549-5175. The Community Housing Improvement Project (CHIP, Inc.) has been connecting with Whitefield Cares! to provide volunteers to help with local projects. Frank Ober and Mike McMorrow brought plastic sheeting and hay bales to put around the base of a Whitefield resident's trailer to increase insulation. Remy Henry is doing yard work for a Somerville resident who asked CHIP for help. Additionally, George and Margaret Fergusson are continuing to deliver breakfast and lunches to school families and Mike McMorrow is driving food to the Whitefield food bank from Damariscotta. Anyone interested in volunteering with Whitefield Cares! should check out our website whitefieldcares.org and like us on Facebook. Anyone needing support from Whitefield Cares! can contact Town Office (549-5175) or contact Lise Hanners at lisehanners@gmail.com.



Select Board Notes

November 15-December 15, 2020

By Lise Hanners

Below are issues of likely interest to the 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.

The primary work of the Board over the last month, beyond financial oversight of the Town, has been to develop the annual budget for 2021-2022. Meeting weekly, the Board has gathered budget figures from the Fire Department, Town Office, and various active committees to compile and vote on a draft budget ready for review by the Town Budget Committee in January.

The Roads Committee has been active developing their recommended budget to present to the Select Board and planning needed road work for the Town. The Leonard's Bridge culvert on South Hunt's Meadow Road has been a long and complicated project requiring ongoing contacts with MEDOT and contractors who will be preparing the needed materials in summer 2021. Because the existing culvert has continued to deteriorate, the road crossing the Eastern River has been posted with a maximum weight of 16,000 pounds. This posting will be included in a new ordinance recommended for approval by the Town at a special Town Meeting early in 2021. The upcoming Town budget will be recommending another \$50,000 for approval by Whitefield voters for the Leonard's Bridge crossing, in addition to nearly \$100,000 already set aside and it is likely that the Town will need additional funds for this long and expensive road crossing. The Roads Committee has recommended adding striping to Townhouse Road and Hunt's Meadow Road to improve safety on those long and winding roads. The Committee is recommending addition of 8 streetlights in Town at a cost of \$1,300.

The Olsen Preserve on Fox Farm Lane in Windsor was a subject of discussion at several Board meetings. George Fergusson conducted property research on the Olsen Preserve and determined that the Town owns the road and therefore access to the parking area. The three neighbors at the end of the lane are residents of Whitefield and have been enjoying the easy access to preserve now that paths have been bush hogged and are open. The property is adjacent to the Sheepscot River and often quite wet so access to the preserve will be limited to foot traffic. The Board approved a snow plowing contract so feel free to get out and enjoy the property throughout the winter.

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JANUARY 2021 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CONTACT THE GROUP OR MEETING PLACE TO SEE IF YOUR EVENT IS STILL OCCURRING

- 5th** **SELECT BOARD** 6 pm Central Fire Station
- 9th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
- 12th** **SELECT BOARD** 6 pm Central Fire Station
- 16th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
- 19th** **SELECT BOARD** 6 pm Central Fire Station
- 20th** **PLANNING BOARD**, Town Office 6:00 pm
- 23rd** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
- 26th** **SELECT BOARD** 6 pm Central Fire Station
- 30th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm

YOUTH CROSS-COUNTRY SKI CLINIC

Hidden Valley Nature Center

Time: Sat, Jan 9 - Sat, Feb 13, 9:30 am - 11:00 am

Location: Hidden Valley Nature Center

Midcoast Conservancy will be offering its winter Youth Cross-country Ski Clinic starting Saturday, January 9 through Saturday, February 13, from 9:30 am – 11:00 am at Hidden Valley Nature Center in Jefferson.

The six session Youth Cross Country Ski Clinic for kids ages 5-14 is the perfect setting for skiers of different levels to gain skills and confidence while enjoying HVNC's trails. Instructors use creative, non-competitive methods to get the skiers out on the trails having fun each week.

Covid-19 Considerations will be observed. This program will be held 100% outdoors. Participants will be socially distanced and required to wear masks when unable to socially distance, and will be assigned to small groups and remain in those same small groups each week. The large group circle/ warm-up which normally takes place as a part of this program will be replaced by individual group warm-ups. In the event that this program is cancelled due to an uptick in Covid-19 cases or community transmission in Lincoln County, all families and participants will receive a full refund.

Cost is \$70 for members and \$80 for non-members. Space is limited so families are encouraged to register today using the form below. Please fill out one form per participant. Thanks!

Anyone with questions should contact Andy Bezon, andyb@midcoastconservancy.org or 207-389-5156.



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2. Blaze King wood stove for sale. In good condition, huge wood stove. \$800 OBO 485-3991
3. Antique Wood Dog Sled, touring style. Asking price based off appraisal. Please call 549-4902 for further information.

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

Whitefield Newsletter Committee: Cheryle Joslyn, Kit Pfeiffer, Sue McKeen, Tony Marple, Christine Lapado-Breglia, Lise Hanners & Debbie Rogers.

You can receive the newsletter by email by signing up at whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com



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