



Beginning our 9th Year

Whitefield News

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Town Meeting June 5, 2021

By Lise Hanners

Town Meeting was held in June this year at the Whitefield Elementary School, a decision made by the

Select Board in the hope that the pandemic would



subside and the Governor's Emergency restrictions would be lifted, allowing the meeting to take place inside without the need to limit the number in attendance. All that plus the comfort of vaccinations brought 64 people out on a beautiful June day. Jeffrey Frankel was elected to be the moderator and the meeting took about 2 hours to discuss and vote on 44 Warranty Articles. Residents requested an update on the status of the Leonard's Bridge replacement on South Hunts Meadow Road and there were a few questions on other articles, mostly as clarification about why the Select Board and Budget Committee made their recommendations. Several people asked about Article 28, a recommendation to provide 8 LED streetlights at key intersections in Town. The lights will be dark sky compliant, meaning they will only be bright enough to illuminate the roadway and will be directed downward to minimize any effects on birds and other creatures that can become confused by bright lighting at night. Article 44 proposed combining the existing Development, Minimum Lot Size and Notice to Build ordinances into one simplified and clarified Building and Development Ordinance. Planning Board Chair Glenn Angel answered questions and the article was approved. Next year the Annual Meeting will be held in March as usual.

By Sue McKeen

It was a misty day, but the crowd of about 40 people was smiles all around as friends gathered to celebrate Memorial Day. Friends and acquaintances who may not have seen each other in over a year, greeted one another with handshakes and hugs. It was a day to celebrate all those who served in both past and present, a day to celebrate who we are and a day to honor Donald Gould, Whitefield's oldest citizen. Judy Robbins gave the invocation, Glenn



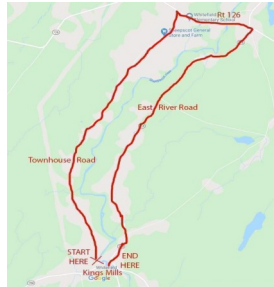
Things to do on the Fourth of July

Here are a few ideas for the 4th of July. You don't need to drive 100 miles to have fun.

Whitefield Library Used

Book and Yard Sale — At the Library from 10:00 – 1:00. Browse for some great used books and find treasures you never knew you needed. We have a ton of great items for sale (everything from furniture, snowblower, tools, etc...to household items and treasures!)

Cruise the Loop — Get creative and put it on the road! This event is open to all comers. Participating is easy too!! We will start lining up cars at 9:30 AM, just come down to Kings Mills village and follow our traffic people to get in line. Stay with your vehicle until we will roll out at 10:30 AM with our police escort. It takes about an hour to complete the route



and once we return to Kings Mills, participants can just head out. Let's make it count with as many vehicles as possible! See you on the 4th!! JC

Clary Lake 4th of July Boat Parade

Meet at boat landing at 2:00. Join the fun, deck out your watercraft and if you don't want to be on the water, decorate your dock. FMI Shanna Pease at 485-4171.



Pick strawberries at Sheepscot General

Play a round of golf at Sheepscot Links

Go for a hike on the Whitefield trail network

Memorial Day celebration sets the right tone

Angell and Alessandro Smith performed the flag ceremony, and to the music of Carolee Withee and David Fields, the crowd sang the Star-Spangled Banner. When our glasses began to mist over from the persistent showers, the crowd moved inside where Libby Harmon

and Bill McKeen presented Don Gould with the Boston Post cane, a tradition passed on to a community's oldest citizen as a sign of respect. Despite the weather, it was a nice day, a day to celebrate our veterans and a day to celebrate being together again.



Spirit of America award goes to the Whitefield Library and Community Center volunteers

Congratulations to the Whitefield Library and Community Center renovation volunteers, Erik Ekholm, Mike McMorrow, Dennis Merrill, Dan Joslyn, Chris Kaminski and Cheryle Joslyn.

Led by Cheryle Joslyn, this group, commonly known as "The Geezer Gang", has logged in the equivalent of well over \$65,000 in donated time and labor which does not include all the donated lumber and supplies thrown in along the way. The library has secured \$58,000 in grants to date in addition to much appreciated support from the community. With a few more finishing touches, the library is making plans to open in August. As finances permit, work will begin on Phase 2 which includes the upstairs portion of the building where the vision encompasses an arts center and community space. Visit our webpage at <https://whitefieldlibrary.org/purchase-renovation-effort>.



Select person Charlene Donahue presenting Spirit of America Award to Renovation Committee chair Cheryle Joslyn

Dear Editor June/11/2021

We are completing our last days of school at Whitefield Elementary in what has been a very different year. As a parent of two students I am proud and relieved to have had in-person learning all year. I just received the final school newsletter for the school year. I was especially pleased to read the principal Mark DeBlois' thoughts this week as he wrote of our school communities accomplishments. I thought the greater Whitefield community would like to hear of our successes especially from the words of someone who has the proof.

I am proud to live in a small town with a small school, and when push came to shove we made things work to keep our children on track. So many communities all over the country have had a traumatic school year and we are not one of them!

Best Regards,

Emma Nelson -Whitefield resident and mother of 2.

Principal's Message

2020-2021 School Year in Review

If you think of all of the obstacles and oddities that presented themselves during the course of this school year, it would have been easy to make excuses around poor academic student performance, lagging staff morale, droves of disgruntled students and parents, bad attendance and many other manners of assessing the progress and environment of a school. If anyone had questioned any of these things we simply could have said, "COVID-19" and thrown up our hands. However, as we close out this unusual school year, none of the aforementioned characteristics apply. We have ample evidence that demonstrates student growth. Our staff have proven both their commitment and resolve when faced with innumerable, often unpredictable, challenges. Students and parents, as a whole, did a fantastic job of "seeing the big picture" and understanding that while we weren't conducting business the same as in previous years, we still were looking forward and pushing ahead with the best interests of our students always as the prime consideration. No evidence exists that would indicate the WHES had an unsuccessful or unproductive school year. I think we have all learned lessons that strengthen us as we look toward 2021-2022 but the fundamental core of who we are as an organization...a community, remains the same. So...who do I recognize or commend for the accomplishment of the 2020-2021 school year? I think it must be seen as a collective recognition of all of the stakeholders; students, parents, staff and the Whitefield community. If any of these entities had truly, catastrophically failed, far less of what occurred over the past 175 school days would have been realized. While I hope we never have to experience what we have been through in the last 18 month again, I take great pride in our collective efforts and look forward to refocusing the energy expended this year on COVID-related to striving for more and more excellence in the WHES future. I wish you all a safe and energetic summer!

Calling all photographers

The Whitefield Library and Community Center is asking for submissions for their 2022 community calendar. Back by popular demand, the library will be producing and selling calendars again this year. Last year's theme of local artists drew a tremendous response. This year we are looking for photographs with a Whitefield theme: 'People, Places, and Things'.

Please submit up to 4 images for consideration. Keep the following in mind when looking through your Whitefield images:

- photos may be in color or black and white
- images should be oriented horizontally, or landscape format
- submit in high resolution (when in doubt submit the image)

We'll be looking for all the seasons (winter, spring, summer, and fall) of Whitefield and all locations: King's Mills, North Whitefield, Cooper's Mills.

- Please give a brief title or description with each photo and the photographer. Example: 'Sunset from Grand Army Hill' by: (name) Please email your submissions to: library@whitefieldlibrary.org. Submissions due no later than September 15th. Thank you for your participation.

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Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



Fourth of July Parade, Kings Mills, 1909, at the corner of East River and Pittston Roads, where the Branns now live. Note both an oxen drawn float and a "modern" Ford automobile.

When the celebration of Independence Day in Kings Mills began is difficult to determine, but probably at least by the mid to late 1800s. After the Kings Mills Fish and Game Club was established in 1900, a regular celebration was held. In July 1901, a dance with a cornet player and a supper was held "to benefit the hall." (Three days later \$1.50 was paid to Martin Carroll for his hat, stolen at the dance.) In 1911, Eugene Jewett mentions the Fourth of July Celebration which featured road races and boat races on the river. No mention of a parade. Perhaps the first actual parade was in 1909 when Whitefield celebrated the Centennial of its incorporation as a town. But through the years, some kind of celebration was certainly held, whether with suppers, dances, white elephant sales, races and outhouse burnings. After the Kings Mills Fire Department was organized in 1947, the Kings Mills Auxiliary announced the "First Annual Fourth of July Field Day" in 1948 and that was the beginning of the modern celebration.



7th and 8th graders from Whitefield Elementary School clearing brush at the town office for the "Day of Caring"

Select Board Corner

May 15-June 15, 2021

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 2020 Audit Review was provided to the Select Board by Edmund Morin of RHR Smith and Company. All accounts were in order and the auditor suggested some new approaches to continue to provide good accounting.

The Roads Committee continues to work hard to make progress on replacing the culvert at Leonard's Bridge. Coffin Engineering has submitted the application to the Army Corps of Engineers to begin the permitting process. A 20-foot culvert has been identified and Coffin is contacting contractors in hopes that the process can be expedited this summer.

A new sign was posted at the outside water faucet at the Central Fire Station, making it clear that water is being provided for use by Whitefield residents for drinking water and the limit is 10 gallons. Trucks have been spotted at night filling 50-gallon jugs which is putting a strain on the available water for residents.

Town Meeting was held on June 5 at the Whitefield School (see the article in this edition). The RSU budget was approved by 44 Whitefield residents.



Strawberries and peas for 4th of July and Oxeys Daisies in the fields. Happy summer!

JULY 2021 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

- 2nd** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
5th **WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**, Town House, 10:30 am
ROADS COMMITTEE, Central Fire Station, 4:00 pm
COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT. All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT., 7 pm
6th **SELECT BOARD** with Budget Committee 6 pm Central Fire Station
KINGS MILLS UNION HALL MONTHLY MEETING 7pm Union Hall
 Public is welcome.
8th **RSU 12 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** 6:30—9:00 pm
10th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
12th **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
17th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
FERN ID AND ECOLOGY WORKSHOP, Hidden Valley Nature Center,
 (207) 389-5150 <https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/>
20th **SELECT BOARD** with Budget Committee at 7 pm Central Fire Station
21st **FULL MOON PADDLE ON LITTLE DYER POND**, Hidden Valley Nature Center,
 (207) 389-5150 <https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/>
PLANNING BOARD, Town Office 6:00 pm
22th **DRAGONFLIES OF MAINE**, Hidden Valley Nature Center, (207) 389-5150
<https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/>
BEWILDERING BOLETE MUSHROOMS Webinar, (207) 389-5150
<https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/>
24th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
BOOK SIGNING WITH CRAIG GROSSI AND FRED, *Craig and Fred: A Marine, a Stray Dog, and how they rescued each other.* Sheepscot General
<https://www.sheepscotgeneral.com/> 2-4 pm
31st **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm



What is that giant sand pile?

For those of you following the titillating saga of the repairs to the sand/salt shed, you may have wondered why a pile 100 ft long by 60 feet wide and 15 feet tall is sitting behind the shed. In order to make repairs, David Jackson removed the salted sand from the shed, and of course, because no project is ever easy, there was much more sand in the shed than usual because we had fewer storms than usual last winter. On top of all that, Maine DEP was concerned about the salt washing off the site during rain, so members of the Select Board and other volunteers prepared to pull tarps over top of the pile to protect it. The Fire Department was called, David Spicer was contacted to help with his bucket truck, but alas, no tarps were delivered. They finally arrived a week later and these pictures shows the surviving team in action. Sand bags were filled ahead of time so we just had to lace three tarps together, let the wind blow the tarps over the pile – almost taking some of us with it – and weight it down. It was awesome to see that tarp blow over that giant sand pile just as Keith Sanborn said it would. Here's hoping the repairs are made soon!



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1. Large 3 cushion brown couch in good condition \$50 OBO 549-5664
2. Air Row Mist Sprayer, Model P-512-655, 55 gallon. In good condition. Call 549-4480 for details and prices.
3. Old camper trailer. I had it set up for moving 8 foot logs in the woods. 2 inch hitch. \$750 OBO and a Woods trailer for 4 foot wood \$290 OBO Call 485-3991
4. Ford F-350 bumper. \$50 firm Call 485-3991

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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