



Whitefield News

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Whitefield Town Meeting March 19, 2022

By Tony Marple

Whitefield Town Meeting was very well attended with nearly 100 residents and non-residents present.

Yolanda Violette opened the meeting by stating that Jeffrey Frankel had been elected as Moderator on Friday, that Tina Laskey is the Deputy Moderator to oversee Article #2, the Election of Municipal Officials. Yolanda read the results of the Election. Select Board seats Seth Bolduc-81, Keith Sanborn-85. Planning Board seat Glenn Angell-91. RSU #12 seat Kathleen Goetzman-75.

She then announced the 2022 Spirit of America award winner, Phil Russell. Phil was not present to accept the award.

Then it was then turned over to the Moderator, Jeffrey Frankel to act upon the warrant articles #3 - #51. Jeff began reading warrant articles, requesting motions and seconds and then allowing people to ask questions or make comments. He managed the process very carefully.

Most budget articles passed, based on the Select Board recommendations, without discussion, but a few raised multiple questions and comments.

Early on, when it was time to vote Compensation and Employee benefits for Town Employees (Article 14), a resident of Piper Rd. complained of the bad road conditions he dealt with and questioned why they were receiving raises when we need to fix our roads. Nonetheless, that warrant article passed with a big majority.

When preparing to vote on funding for the Lincoln County Humane Society and Hatch Hill, the board was asked if they have a plan for the possible closing of Hatch Hill for towns outside of Au-



Photo by Yolanda Violette

gusta. They said they are setting up a committee to look at the options and are looking for interested volunteers to serve on it.

A question was raised about the \$9,000 in Fire Department capital spending and the board stated that the accumulated amount for capital spending was \$27,000 at the year ending 6.30.2021. The funds are used for hoses, protective clothing and pumps when needed.

A resident of South Hunts Meadow Rd asked when the Leonard's bridge/culvert work would be completed. The board said the work was already under contract and should be completed this spring.

Yolanda explained that the budget exceeds the state tax levy limit by \$77,963.

It's a complicated calculation and there were several questions, but the town voted to approve the overall budget *Continued on Pg. 2*

Spirit of America Award 2022

By Dan Joslyn

Phil Russell became involved with Whitefield Cemetery's maintenance around 1962. He began by digging graves for Harold Jewett; a Kings Mills resident who lived in Ann Niles' current house on the Head Tide Road. Phil did the digging by hand and received a whopping fifteen dollars.

Harold was the Sextant; essentially the person whom families contacted to purchase a plot of land in the cemetery.

Early one spring while digging a grave, Phil was asked if he would attend the upcoming annual cemetery meeting to be held in the Kings Mills Union Hall. Not suspecting anything, he agreed, and while at the meeting, he was voted in as the new Sextant. "Odd how some things never change," one might say. Being asked to attend a Whitefield meeting of any sort can mean your future is changing direction. Many citizens can attest to that. His did.



Photo by Dan Joslyn

Now sixty years later, things are changing again. We have been most fortunate to have Phil act as our Sextant for as long as he has. Little did the Cemetery Committee realize what a gem they had in his selection. He demanded that there be five record books kept in different homes; updated every year from his notes. Plot purchases, family names, dates of deaths and ages to the extent possible. Few towns keep such accurate records. Anyone could ask Phil Russell to be their personal unpaid Cemetery guide. He always obliged. Along the walk, visitors would hear stories of their kin and of those on both sides of the family as well, just because he liked to weave a story around the people who made Whitefield what it is.

All Whitefield folks should be thankful for his work and commitment. Not everyone who is asked to just "attend a meeting", ultimately makes a commitment as long as he has.

He's not going anywhere soon (just retiring from his 60 years as Sextant), so be sure to thank him should you find him at senior coffee or helping out in the cemetery.

Town from Pg. 1 despite it being over the tax levy limit.

When the time came to discuss Article 41, which allows the town to use a variety of state funding, town revenue sources and town surplus



Photo by Tina Laskey

(unassigned fund balance). It turned out that the town's surplus was higher than anticipated after the recent completion of the audit. The original \$70,000 town surplus amount was increased to \$170,000, which is used to reduce property taxes. The town voted to approve the revised amount which totaled \$635,750 for all those sources.

The longest discussion was about Article #45, which proposed to use ARPA funds to install an electronic sign in front of the school to be used by both the town and the school. While a few parents and teachers thought it would be a good way to improve communication with parents, the majority thought it was unaligned with the town's rural character. The town voted down the electronic sign installation.

A few concerns were raised about the medical marijuana ordinance, but it passed.

The Planning Board had recommended a 180 day moratorium on solar farms to allow the preparation of a solar farm ordinance. There was concern that a project on the North Howe Rd. that is nearing approval, with a Site Visit scheduled for March 30, was a good clean energy project, not visible to any neighbors and that it had the rare access to three phase power, a solar farm requirement. The town voted down the 180 day delay so that the Revision Energy project could proceed.

The well managed meeting was adjourned at 12:57 pm.

Whitefield Planning Board

The Town of Whitefield Planning Board will be holding a Site Visit for Revision Energy Solar Farm located at 190 North Howe Road Wednesday March 30th at 6:00 pm. This is a public hearing. If you have questions or concerns you can email the planning board Chair, Kristen Mason at townwhitefieldpb@gmail.com. **Notes are very long and therefore we included a link to view the minutes.**

For more information go to the town website at <https://townofwhitefield.com/agendas-minutes/> and read the Planning Board minutes.

Town Office News

Happy Spring everyone! Town Meeting and Municipal Election are behind us. It was nice to meet more residents on Election Day that I hadn't met yet and see others I hadn't seen for a while. The turnout was less than usual, 86 in person and 10 absentee voters.

Election results:

Select Board seats – 3yr terms - **Bolduc, Seth A – 81, Sanborn, Keith – 85.**

Planning Board – 3yr term – **Angell, Glenn A – 91.**

RSU #12 School Board – 3yr term – **Goetzman, Kathleen A – 75.** Thank you to all the voters that came out to vote. Our next Election Day is Tuesday, June 14th. State Primary and RSU#12 Budget, Polls will be OPEN 8 am – 8 pm.

Town Meeting was attended by 94 Residents and 5 Non-Residents from near and far. I opened up the meeting by welcoming all back. I then presented the 2022 Spirit of America Award to Phil Russell, who unfortunately was not present. Keith Sanborn presented it to him on Monday at his home. The Moderator, Jeffrey Frankel, ran the rest of the meeting from Article #3 - #51. The meeting ran smoothly, with a few articles getting just a question or two. All the Articles #3 - #40 passed with no changes. On Article #41, Chairman Lester Sheaffer, amended it to \$635,750. He explained once the audit was completed, after our budget was finalized, we had a higher unassigned fund balance then we anticipated, this increase of \$100,000 allows us to reduce the amount to be raised by taxes. Article #43 Appointment of the Road Commissioner effective March 2023 passed with just a few questions. The ARPA Articles #44 - #48, each passed with little discussion except Article #45 – Electronic Sign, was the only one of them that did not pass. This was a long discussion with many residents speaking their thoughts and concerns of the rural look for the Town of Whitefield. As for the three Planning Board Articles #49 - #51, the Medical Marijuana Cultivation Facility Ordinance passed with just a few questions along with the amendments to the Building & Development Ordinance with no discussion. The last article of the day, the Moratorium for any Commercial or Community Ground Mounted Solar Energy System, had lots of discussion, planning board member, Daniel Burns gave a brief explanation, Nick Sampson, from Revision Energy and Ellis Percy, the land owner, answered questions. At the end of the discussion, it went to vote, the article failed. Town Meeting adjourned at 12:57 pm.

We have hired a new full time office clerk, Casey Hayden. Casey moved from Florida to Whitefield in the spring of 2021. She began on March 7th, she is new to learning municipal government. She is in training and getting familiar with all the laws and procedures that we follow rather quickly. She will be working the front counter regularly. Help us welcome her to the office and to Whitefield.

The second half of the 2022 taxes last day to pay without interest is Friday April 29th. The 2020 RE Tax Liens expire on April 16th, which means the town will foreclose on those accounts.

The Town Office will be CLOSED Monday April 18th, in observance of Patriots Day.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Violette, Administrative Assistant,
Town Clerk & Treasurer

Food Pantry Looking for Volunteers

The Whitefield Food Pantry is looking for a volunteer to pick up donations at the Damariscotta Hanaford. A pick up truck or large vehicle is necessary as the donations are often 300-400 lbs. The volunteer must be able to pick up a 50# box.

The pick up is done every Friday morning. We currently have 3 volunteers, if we could get 1-2 more the frequency for each volunteer would be less than once a month, contact Jeanne 549-7014 for more information.



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Free Estimates for Clean-outs

Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



Easter Greetings, 1914
"Happy Easter from Sister."

Sent to Arthur Heath in North Whitefield from
Augusta.
Heath Family Collection

Composting supplies and rain barrels offered at reduced costs

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), in cooperation with Maine Resource and Recovery Association, is again offering local residents the opportunity to improve soil and conserve water right in their own backyards at deep discount prices! It's easy with the tried-and-true 80-gallon Earth Machine backyard composter and the 55-gallon System rain barrel. Both are made of recycled materials, designed to fit into any landscape, and are offered at wholesale prices. The Earth Machine composter has an "in at the top/out at the bottom" design and a 10-year warranty. The System rain barrel fits under a downspout to take advantage of roof runoff for garden watering and has built-in mosquito mesh and overflow capability.

We also are offering a 3' x 4' trap wire bin made by Brooks Trap Mill in Thomaston that has a ¾ cubic yard capacity. This larger bin, made of coated lobster trap wire, is perfect for yard debris and has the seal of approval from some of Maine's top composting experts.

To make it even easier to convert kitchen scraps into soil, we also have accessories: a 2-gallon Sure Close kitchen scrap pail with vented, locking lid that keeps odors in and flies out; Wingdigger compost aerator and turner to mix compost layers and decrease compaction without straining your back; and the REOtemp compost thermometer with a 20" stem to monitor interior temperatures and turn anyone into a serious composting enthusiast! Prices for all items are well below suggested retail.

Ordering deadline is Friday, April 22, 2022. Either order online at <https://www.knox-lincoln.org/backyard-sale/> or download an order form on our website and send with check. Scheduled pickups for composting items will be in June at the District office located at 893 West Street (Rt 90), Rockport.

For more information or to request an order form by mail, contact Knox-Lincoln SWCD at 596-2040 or julie@knox-lincoln.org.

Caption (all items): All composting supplies and rain barrels are available. Get one of each and be ready to conserve precious water and make compost to improve garden soil.



EARTH DAY FEST 2022

Children and families of all ages welcome!
Bring your own lunch.

SPONSORS:


 Whitefield Elementary PTA


 Whitefield Town Library


 Hinterland Preschool


 Sheepscot General

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

- 10:00 - Earth Day Stories and Flower Planting @ Whitefield Town Library
- 11:00 - Grand Army Road Clean Up Walk from Library to Elementary School
- 12:00 - Sing-Along and Forest Play @ Whitefield Elementary



JOIN US FOR
STORYTIME!

all ages welcome

Whitefield Library is so excited to announce our weekly Children's STORYTIME for all ages! We would be so happy to see you FRIDAYS at 10:30am. Spread the word!

Our Children's Program Coordinator is gearing up to sing, rhyme, play... and of course read with YOU! See you in the library!

[#whitefieldmaine](#) [#whitefieldlibrary](#) [#storytimeforkids](#)

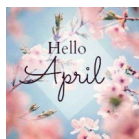


Pre-K applications and Kindergarten registrations for next year

Whitefield School is now accepting Pre-K applications and Kindergarten registrations for next year. If you or anyone you know has a child they would like to enroll in one of these classes for the 2022/2023 school year, please call the school at 207-549-5251 or email aperkins@svrsu.org. Children must be 4 yrs. old by October 15, 2022 to be eligible for Pre-K and 5 yrs. old by October 15, 2022 to be eligible for kindergarten.

APRIL 2022 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

- 1st** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, 150 Grand Army Road, 10-2 pm
WHITEFIELD LIBRARY Open 10-2 Storytime at 10:30 am
WINE TASTING WITH DEVENISH WINES at Sheepscot General 100% of proceeds from the sales of two of the wines will go directly to the PFAS Emergency Relief Fund. 5-7 pm
- 2nd** **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2
- 4th** **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
- 5th** **SINGING CIRCLE** at Inn Along the Way in Damariscotta, on Tuesdays 1-3 pm <https://www.innalongtheway.org>
KINGS MILLS UNION HALL MONTHLY MEETING 7pm Union Hall Public is welcome
- 6th** **PLANNING BOARD** 6 pm at Central Fire Station, Solar Farm Ordinance Work Session
- 7th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
- 8th** **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2 Storytime at 10:30 am
- 9th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, 150 Grand Army Road, 10-12 pm
WHITEFIELD LIBRARY Open 10-2
WHITEFIELD CEMETERY MEETING 1pm at the Kings Mills Union Hall.
- 11th** **WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Town House, 10:00 am**
WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT., Fire Station, 7 pm
- 12th** **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm
SELECT BOARD at 6 pm Central Fire Station
- 14th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
RSU 12 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 6:30—9:00 pm
- 15th** **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2 Storytime at 10:30 am
- 16th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, 150 Grand Army Road, 10-12 pm
WHITEFIELD LIBRARY Open 10-2
- 18th** **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY & COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD MEETING** 10 am at the Whitefield Firehouse.
- 19th** **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm
- 20th** Young at Heart will be at the Lions Club in Coopers Mills at 12 pm. Bring a hot dish, salad or dessert to share. After lunch entertainment will be Bonnie Hendsbee.
PLANNING BOARD, 6 pm Central Fire Station
- 21st** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
- 22nd** **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2 Storytime at 10:30 am
- 23rd** **EARTH DAY** 10 am Library, story & planting, 11 am Trash cleanup (gloves and bags provided) Walk from Library to School
 12 pm Schoolyard forest playtime, songs, crafts
 Event sponsored by Whitefield Elementary School & PTA, Hinterland Preschool, Sheepscot General Store, and The Whitefield Library
WHITEFIELD LIBRARY Open 10-2
WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY, 150 Grand Army Road, 10-12 pm
- 26th** **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm
SELECT BOARD at 6 pm Central Fire Station
- 28th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
- 29th** **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2 Storytime at 10:30 am
- 30th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, 150 Grand Army Road, 10-12 pm
WHITEFIELD LIBRARY Open 10-2



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