

Town Managers Office - Stephen G. Eldridge, Manager

This will be our first full Town of Berwick Departmental Newsletter. Department Heads have done a great job pulling together information that we hope you will find informative. Please take the time to read each department's report and don't hesitate to ask questions, make recommendations or get involved.

The Town of Berwick staff have had a very busy spring finishing the budget process, preparing the Annual Report and getting ready for our Annual Town Meeting. We are excited about all of the activity and plans heading into the future. The commitment to community and positive change in Berwick is refreshing and I am excited to see the optimistic outlook as we move forward.

The Town Office staff has been through several in-house training programs arranged by the Safety Committee. The Police Department did a safety training evaluating the building and also working with the Customer Service Staff and Department Heads on what to do in case of an emergency using several different scenarios. We have also had lunch time Wellness Programs sponsored through Maine Municipal's Employee Health Trust. These have been very well attended and informative.

The Prime Tanning Project is moving forward and you should see things change dramatically this summer. Demolition will start this month and work should continue right through the winter with the award of our second Brownfield Grant of \$600,000. Thanks to all who helped in the grant writing process. Mark Kehaya of the Fund of Jupiter has been meeting with us and is excited about all the work that has been done and ideas for future use of the space. The Envision Berwick Committee continues to strive to support the planning and recruitment of business development with John Stoll, Town Planner, the Board of Selectmen and many volunteers.

We are also working on changes to our Web Page. James Bellissimo has volunteered his time to be very pro-active and lead the charge for the Web Page. Also the Town of Berwick now has a handicap kayak/canoe launch off of Rochester Street thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Riverfront Committee led by Dennis Dupuis. This is a wonderful benefit to our community and a way to enjoy our natural resource – the river. I encourage you to take some time and experience Berwick from the water.

Finance Office - Maureen Finger, Director

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, I have been reviewing departmental budgets and working on year end projections for the General Fund. There is only one department that the Board of Selectmen will need to address funding needs before the end of the fiscal year and that is the Transfer Station. The Transfer Station is seeing higher demo/wood disposal cost which in turn is causing higher hauling fees. With savings in other departmental budgets, the Board will be able to re-appropriate budgetary savings to cover these anticipated overages.

In early June the Town will be mailing out courtesy letters to property owners with outstanding tax balances. The letter serves as a “courtesy notice” that taxes remain unpaid and gives the taxpayer time to clear up the outstanding balance prior to incurring additional fees associated with the lien process which occurs in July and August. During the month of June the new tax club booklets will be generated based on an estimated tax rate and mailed out to tax club participants. The actual tax rate will not be known until mid-August when the Board of Selectmen approve the tax rate and tax commitment.

Police Department - Timothy Towne, Chief

The police department recently received a grant from Maine Municipal Safety Enhancement for the sum of \$1,319 for external body armor carriers. These allow the officers to wear their vests on the outside of their uniform which makes it possible for them to remove it while they are in the police station. The vests also accommodate some of the officer's gear to be attached to the vests as well. These vest carriers help reduce back strain that can sometimes be produced while wearing the traditional vests and duty belt. Several officers tested these vest carriers prior to our department seeking the grant.

Our newest police officer, Christopher Kearns, is preparing to attend the Basic Police School that starts in August. This 18 week training program is a requirement of the State in order for a police officer to receive their fulltime law enforcement officer status.

On Thursday, May 19th, several officers attended the 25th anniversary of the Maine Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Augusta, Maine. Mrs. Glenda Gallant, the mother of our fallen officer Robert "Bobby" Gallant was also in attendance. Officer Gallant was killed in the line of duty on September 11th, 1982. The police department has kept in touch with Mrs. Gallant since that time.

We will be starting our bicycle patrols, as well as, our ATV patrols shortly. You may see one of our officers in the downtown area on a bicycle or in our rural areas on an ATV. Please make sure to say hello if you should see one of us.

Our department is also participating in several State funded enforcement programs focusing on seatbelts, speed, distracted driving and impaired driving. These programs will continue through the summer and into the fall. Please remember to drive safely.

Fire Department - Dennis Plante, Chief

Present Staff Levels: 27 & 2 juniors

- One on medical leave (NWC)
- One on leave due to full time job transfer out of area

Apparatus / Equipment Status:

- Truck 1 is back in service however, it is in need of further repairs.
- Engine 2 is back out service due to continuing repair: Cab Lift system & Large Diameter valve replacement.
- Engine 3 has developed several piping leaks in the Fire pump. We are evaluating these leaks and investigating a cost to make necessary repairs.
- The Department's rescue boat has been placed back in service for the summer months and our staff has completed a boater safety course.

Fire Department Study Recommendations:

We are continuing the process of updating and adding to the Department's Fire Pre Plans and establishing a more formal in-serve fire inspection program as recommended by the Fire Study Team, when staffing and funding levels are available. (On going)

Recruitment:

- Annual recruitment activities were underway during the first week of April 2016 and will run to the end of May 2016. As of today, we have received 6 applications for on Call Members.
- Two members attended the recent Job Fair sponsored by the American Legion post 79 on April 23, 2016 from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm at the Berwick Town. We received 1 new application.

Training

- Two new members will complete their 200 hour Firefighter certification program in North Berwick in June of this year. (On going)
- One members has enrolled in a February 2016 EMT program which is provided by American Ambulance as part of their contract with the Town of Berwick. (On going)

- One Firefighter has recently enrolled in an upcoming EMT program with McGregor Ambulance service in Durham, NH to start in June 2016.

May 2016 Department training:

- Search & Rescue operations.
- Five members recently attended Life Fight Ground Safety Training in Saco.
- Maine Department of Labor requires all Fire apparatus Driver / Operators to be recertified every 3 years. This continues to be a priority and is ongoing effort in getting those individuals recertified on Driving Apparatus. (On going)
- Four Firefighters have completed 180 hours of Emergency Medical Technician training. One has recently passed his hands on exercises and written testing thru the National Registry and will receive his Maine EMS license shortly.

Fire Prevention:

- Conducting Wood Stove / Fire Safety Inspections, when requested by residents: Issued, inspected, and approved 45 open burning and seasonal camp fire permits for residents.
- Public Safety Family Fun Day was accomplished at the Middle School, 46 Cranberry Meadow Road on May 14, 2016. By all accounts the day was a big success.
- Firefighters provided Fire Prevention education at the Hussey and Knowlton schools during the weeks of May 9th thru the 17th. In all, over 500 children received fire educational programs using the well-known, Smoke Trailer.

Calls for Service:

- Staff responded to 55 calls for service involving Fire & EMS from April 24, 2016 to May 20, 2016.
- 10 Calls for EMS missed due to availability of EMS staff after hours / weekends. American Ambulance or a mutual aid Ambulance were first responders for those calls.

Town Emergency Management Activities:

Received MSAD 60 copies of updated crises response plans for all 3 Berwick schools. Over a period of time, these plans will be inserted into the Town's Emergency Management Plan. (On going)

Station:

- Heat and smoke detectors have been installed and other small renovations are in the planning stages to allow for the proposed 24/7 shift coverage.
- The majority of other needed renovations are being completed by our own staff, after hours.

- The internal vehicle exhaust system is failing due to age. Temporary repairs are now being planned, for action in the very near future.

Water Department - Chris Weismann, Chief Operator

After a surprisingly easy spring of river water treatment, summer is suddenly here, along with lower river flows than usual. It's nothing like a drought, and the weather has produced a consistent water quality in the river, making our job easier.

Bidders on the Prime Tanning building demolition got in touch to find out how much water would cost. It was an easy answer: just as much as it would cost for anybody else in Berwick.

The Water Department personnel attended an Open House and tour of the upgraded Rochester, New Hampshire treatment plant. They've just completed a 2-year \$2.3-million-dollar project. It looked good, and the quality of water they produce is good, too. The plant draws water from Rochester Reservoir, an off-limits-to-everybody impoundment almost a mile long. The average water customer in Rochester (includes residential, commercial and industrial customers) uses twice as much water as one in Berwick because Rochester has a greater number of commercial and industrial customers.

Don't forget to test your water for lead if you haven't already and you want to know. If you have your own well it's just as important, plus don't forget to test private wells for arsenic—data indicates that 16% of York County wells exceed the arsenic limit.

Recreation Department - Kim Taylor, Director

Summer Camp dates are July 5 - August 12 for youth entering grades K-8 and as of 5/27, we have 99 youth registered. The cost for camp for K-5th grade is \$390 and for grades 6-8 is \$420. There is a late registration fee of \$25.00 after June 10.

Registration forms are available online at berwickrec.com or in paper forms at the Berwick town hall. Donations to the camp scholarship fund are welcome and appreciated.

Baseball players and families are enjoying the great weather this season at Memorial Field at 25 Sweetser Street. Games are played almost every evening at 6:00 pm and on Saturdays. Come down and watch a game and grab a snack at the concession stand.

The canoe/kayak launch is open at 111 Rochester St. There will be an open house on June 11 and Plum Island Kayak will be offering their equipment for folks to use on the water. The Friends of the Berwick Riverfront thank all the businesses and residents that have supported this great project.

Town Clerks Office - Patricia Murray, Clerk

SAVE THE DATE

June 14, 2016: State Primary and Town Meeting Secret Ballot

Polls are open from 6:00am to 8:00pm.

Absentee ballots are available from the Town Clerks' office or on-line for the State Primary.

June 15, 2016: Open Town Meeting, 6:00pm

Every Vote Counts

MSAD Budget Validation Referendum RESULTS

ARTICLE 1 – Do you favor approving the MSAD #60 budget for the upcoming school year that was adopted at the latest District budget meeting?	YES	NO
Berwick	92	41
Lebanon	361	308
North Berwick	111	14
ARTICLE 2 – Do you wish to continue the budget validation referendum process in MSAD #60 for an additional three years?		
Berwick	87	45
Lebanon	473	199
North Berwick	99	26
TOTAL		
Article 1	564	363
Article 2	659	270

Dog Tails



We all love our four-legged family members which is why it is important to vaccinate and register your dog. The Town Clerk's Office spent a good deal of time sending letters and updating our database to ensure accurate dog owner information. Thank you to all the residents who came in to register their pets or who notified the office of a move or of a dog no longer with them. Please remember registering your dog is a yearly responsibility of pet ownership. 2017 Dog Licensing begins October 15 and goes through December 31, 2016. Per State Law, any dog license that is issued after January 31st will be subject to a \$25.00 late fee PLUS the regular licensing fee.

Other News from the Town Clerk's Office

- ✓ Credit/Debit Cards are accepted for all Town transactions. Convenience fees do apply so please ask before agreeing to the transaction.
- ✓ Registration RENEWALS can be done on-line! On-line services include motor vehicle registrations, hunting and/or fishing licenses, ATV and boat registrations – Please remember this service is for renewals only. See our website www.berwickmaine.org for more information or give us a call.
- ✓ The Town Clerk's Office is accepting applications for a Part Time Customer Service Representative. Please see our website for further information www.berwickmaine.org.

Office of Community Development and Planning - John Stoll, Director

Planning, Codes, and Assessing Department

Prime Tanning Brownfields Project Update: The Town has received three bids for the demolition of lots 4, 5, and 6 at the Prime Tanning Site. We are currently working with one of the firms that submitted to “value-engineer” the cost down to our budget parameters

The Town was awarded three additional grants from the Environmental Protection Agency for the Prime Tanning Brownfields Project. These grants total \$600,000 and will bring the total grant funding awarded by EPA to \$1.2 million for the site. This is the largest single site Brownfields grant in the history of the program.

Planning Board: The Berwick Planning Board most recently approved the following applications:

- 1.) Conditional Use to permit recreational vehicle storage at 387 School Street
- 2.) Conditional Use Expansion for Greystone Stables to construct a 60'x92' facility expansion.

The Board is currently reviewing: one major subdivision application at 119 Cemetery Road, and a conditional use application for a multi-use industrial facility at 420 Portland Street.

Public Works Department - Robert Perschy, Foreman

This winter was a mild one which kept our overtime down as well as our salt usage. We went into spring fixing roads with washouts, replacing culverts, cutting brush and trees and getting ready for our summer paving.

This past year we put together a 5-10 year paving program which entails rebuilding some of our worst roads and shim and overlaying others. We are working on ditching the roads to be paved this year and replacing culverts where needed. We will then move on working on roads that need more ditching and crack sealing. The goal is to preserve our roads that are in good shape. Paving should begin in July and should be completed by mid –August. We will be reclaiming and paving Diamond Hill Road, Pond Road, Beech Ridge Road and Wentworth. We will come back next summer and do a final top coat on all of them.

If the budget passes this year we will be replacing the roof on the salt shed which was delayed last summer as we had to reinforce the concrete foundation first. We will also be fixing the rear wall of the garage which has had problems.

Transfer Station – Robert Perschy - Foreman

The Transfer Station has had a very busy spring. We have made more container pulls this year than last year with increases in our demolition waste, single stream recycling and solid waste. The Town Manager and I have been looking at the whole transfer station operation at the direction of the Board of Selectmen to see if we can find efficiencies and cost savings. We have reactivated the Recycling Committee and are currently collecting data trying to find a solution to our increased costs. Our contract with Waste Management expires June 2017 and we are exploring all areas to find ways to save money.