

Chester School Board Chooses New Superintendent of School

ALEX MALM
NUTFIELD NEWS

CHESTER – The Chester School Board announced the hiring of its new superintendent in a press release last week.

Dr. Sharon Locke was named the next superintendent of the Chester School District. The hiring comes ahead of the retirement of current superintendent Dr. Darrell Lockwood who is retiring at the end of the school year.

Locke comes to the Chester School District after most recently working as Assistant Director of the Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) in North Haven, Conn. According to the press

release she has also served as an Adjunct Professor at both New England College in Henniker, and at the University of Connecticut since 2020.

The hiring came after a 15 member search committee appointed by the School Board identified 17 candidates for the position. Locke was identified as the best fit for the District.

“Chester is very fortunate to have attracted such a diverse and talented group. We are extraordinarily pleased with the outcome of this search process. In the end, Dr. Locke clearly proved to be the best fit to carry forward the vision of the Chester School District and to provide the leadership for our educational community to explore the limitless opportunities available to us all,” the release stated.

Locke stated in the press release that she is excited to meet students, staff, and families in the District and is looking forward to being a part of it.

“I am excited and honored to have been selected to serve as Chester’s new superintendent of schools. I am looking forward to getting to know our students, their families, and our staff and to work together to ensure each and every child is thriving at Chester Academy and throughout their high school experience,” Locke stated. “I am also eager to

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Hampstead Selectmen Approves Increase for ZBA Application Fees

ALEX MALM
NUTFIELD NEWS

HAMPSTEAD - It was a short meeting for the Hampstead Board of Selectmen on Monday, March 8.

One of the big ticket items that was on the agenda during the meeting came from the Board of Selectmen Administrative Assistant report.

The administrative assistant Sally Theriault explained that they looked at the fees for different towns for their zoning board applications and realized that they are charging much less than other towns currently.

She explained that currently they are charging

\$35 for the ZBA application fee and then a fee of \$6.98 for abutter notices. This is compared to other surrounding towns who are charging upwards of \$150-200 for the application and other fees combined.

One of the major fees that the town has to pay for when it comes to application is legal advertisements which are required for public hearings which are mandated for applications.

Theriault suggested that they increase the fee in order to help alleviate the cost for the town when it comes to the advertisements.

Theriault also addressed the cost of the abutter notice fees. She explained that the current fee pays for the town’s cost of putting out the notice, however they can charge a little more to help pay for administrative costs.

The Selectmen voted to change the abutter fee to \$8 and to raise the application fee to \$100. The new fees will go into effect on April 1.

Another thing that was brought up by Theriault was a memorandum of understanding that needed to be signed by the Board of Selectmen.

The memorandum was in regards to the understanding that the town of Hampstead will plow the church parking lots in exchange that the churches help to provide services to

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The one voting location at West Running Brook Middle School in Derry had more than enough space to accommodate the few voters that made it to the polls last week at the annual local elections. Photo by Chris Paul

Derry Has Extremely Low Voter Turnout for Local Elections

CHRIS PAUL
NUTFIELD NEWS

DERRY - Not many of the Derry voters decided to venture out during the Tuesday, March 9, local elections and just under 1,400 voters passed a nearly \$93 million School Budget.

Out of the 25,474 registered voters in Derry, only about 1,400 voted, about 100 came by way of Absentee Voting, leaving just under 5.5 percent of the voters coming out for the local elections that took place at the West Running Brooke Middle School.

Results for the town ballot are as follows:

Longtime incumbent Richard Tripp lost his three-year District 1 Town Council seat to Erin Spencer by a vote of 165 to 158.

Phyllis Katsakiores ran unopposed and held on to her three-year Town Councilor at Large seat with 1,050

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Attendance Very Lean for Local Elections in Sandown

CHRIS PAUL
NUTFIELD NEWS

SANDOWN – The town of Sandown held its local elections on Tuesday, March 9, and out of 5,071 registered voters, 669 residents made it to the polls to cast their choices. That is just over 13 percent.

On the town ballot, only one race was contested.

For the one three-year term Selectman seat, incumbent Darren Hudgins ran unopposed and won with 556 votes.

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector position went to Dawn Nicolaisen, who won with 580 votes.

Erica Olsen was elect-

ed as Treasurer with 545 votes.

Steve Brown was elected to the one-year Budget Committee seat with 518 votes.

Amanda Knight had 454 votes and Leslie Kruithof had 456 votes for the three-year Budget Committee seats. John Sheets had 11 write-in votes for the third open seat.

For the one, two-year Planning Board seat, Amanda Knight had 417 votes.

The two, three-year Planning Board seats went to Ed Mencis (476) and Ernie Brown with 108 write-in votes.

Mike Devine (525) and

Chris Poole (502) were voted into the two three-year firefighter positions.

The two-year Cemetery Trustee seat went to Thomas Latham with 553 votes.

Dana Wells had 537 votes for the three-year Trustee of the Trust Fund seat.

The three-year Library Trustee seat went to Melissa Tiney with 525 votes.

Julie Drouin (275) won the two-year Library Trustee seat over Jennifer Parkhurst (190).

Warrant Articles:

Article 2: Operating Budget of \$4,549,159 passed 357 to 229.

Article 3: The increase in Police Salaries and Ben-

efits for the next three years passed 422 to 224.

Article 4: Needed if Warrant Article 3 failed. Passed 415 to 227.

Article 5: \$162,576 for Road Improvement Programs passed 563 to 81.

Article 6: \$375,000 for the Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund passed 415 to 229.

Article 7: \$150,000 for site work and construction of a new salt shed at the Highway Grange. Narrowly passed 333 to 313.

Article 8: To appropriate \$75,000 for the Capital Reserve Fund for the salt shed if Article 7 fails. Passed 370 to 273.

Article 9: \$150,000 for the Bridge Capital Reserve

Fund for bridge repair. Passed 358 to 287.

Article 10: \$13,700 added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund passed 363 to 280.

Article 11: \$46,820 to control exotic aquatic species in the Phillips Pond. Passed 427 to 229.

Article 12: \$10,000 to add to the Storm Water Management Capital Reserve Fund. Passed 414 to 239.

Article 13: \$50,000 to be added to the Fire Equipment and Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund. Passed 457 to 193.

Article 14: Adding \$7,500 to the Government Building Capital Reserve Fund. Passed 377 to 269.

Article 15: \$38,459 for per diem staffing for fire fighter and/or EMT coverage, with no benefits. Passed 476 to 171.

Article 16: Adding \$50,000 to the Plowing Expendable Trust Fund. Passed 473 to 176.

Article 17: \$4,500 for fireworks to allow the town a decision here. The selectmen would determine the date and time. Passed 338 to 310.

Zoning Amendment Z-1, a Planning Board proposal to amend the text of Article VII to insert Part B entitled "Stormwater Management Ordinance - Construction and Post-Construction Requirements." Passed 449 to 172.

Heritage Commission Awaiting Availability of Reprinted Sandown History Book

JOHN SEIDENBERG
NUTFIELD NEWS

SANDOWN - Plans are moving ahead to have copies ready for sale of a book reprint of Sandown town history by local author Richard Holmes.

Member Fran Rosenau said at the March 4 Sandown Heritage Commission meeting that she expects to shortly receive a proof copy of "A View from Meetinghouse Hill."

The board's Co-Chair, Sue Dupuoy has signed contracts from Holmes and the publisher, P.E. Randall, which have been approved.

The Sandown Board of

Selectmen earlier authorized a credit card for the commission as part of this process. The card, which has a \$750 credit limit, is needed to set up an account with the publisher to do payments for the book.

The option, once it can be used, is already on the website for ordering copies through Pay.gov. Books will be sold at the Town Hall too.

In addition, groups such as Amazon and book stores can order a quantity of copies.

The commission originally wanted to order 10 copies but at least 9 pre-sale orders already have

been made, Rosenau said. It has now approved ordering a total of 20 copies.

The book is being sold for \$25. Commission Chair Pamela Gaudreau noted the order form for the original book 20 years ago had it selling for \$36.

However, the book is now in its third edition without updates and was intended more as a reissue of an historical account of the town than as a fundraiser, Rosenau added.

In other matters, Gabriel Gerhard of Scout Troop 18 in Sandown appeared before the commission to request a writ-

ten estimate and costs for the work he is doing for his Eagle Scout project – improving the roof of the town's Hearse House.

His project needs approval of the Eagle Scout Commission which wants the work Gerhard will do to look complete. Were he to do only the roof and siding, he told the heritage commission, the project would appear not to be finished.

The clapboard on the side of the building also needs to be replaced. The commission is arranging for that additional work for which Gerhard offered to provide labor as well.

The Eagle Scout board would like the roof project

to be done within the calendar year and Gaudreau said it would be. Gerhard will do his project in the spring. He reported to the heritage commission he has permission from a neighbor of the Hearse House to cut down trees which he'll do before the roof work begins.

Gerhard will conduct a fundraiser for his project on Election Day in town and then reach out to several companies for further support. At the commission's meeting, Rosenau presented him with a \$200 check from the Garden Club.

In addition, the commission is looking at the date of Saturday, Apr. 24

for its fundraising yard sale indoors at the Town Hall if that location can be approved. Twenty-four banana boxes of materials and bigger items have been donated, Rosenau said.

Also during the meeting for the selection of officers, Gaudreau was appointed to another three-year term as chair, Peter Koester will continue as secretary, and a new co-chair will be sought for the commission's next meeting on April 1.

Dupuoy, current co-chair who has served for the last 3 years, chose not to be reappointed to that position. She also opted not to be named an alternate member on the panel.



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Hampstead Fire Station and School Addition Fail Approval

CHRIS PAUL
NUTFIELD NEWS

HAMPSTEAD

While voters in Hampstead passed a number of Warrant Articles at the Tuesday, March 9, town and school elections, two bond articles did not receive the 3/5 votes they needed for approval.

The Fire Station addition and Central School addition both failed in a very close vote.

Out of the 6,862 voters that are registered in Hampstead, only 2,191 voted, leaving just under 32 percent coming out for the local elections.

Results are as follows: From the Two, three-year term Selectman seats: Steven Morse (1,016) and Maurice Worthen (928) won while incumbent

Chad Bennett (586) and Karen Hanides (897) were defeated.

The one, one-year term Selectman seat was won by Laurie A. Warnock with 826 and

Lewis A. Eaton III (600) and Jacqueline Dimando (423) were defeated.

The Chief of Police three-year term position went to current Chief Joseph Beaudoin (1,843), who was running unopposed.

For Planning Board, there were two residents voted in for a three-year term seat: Kim Colbert (1,309) and Stephen Wentworth (891) will take those seats while Tom Riha (736) lost.

The Trustee of the Cemeteries one, three-year term seat went to

Joseph V. Passanise (1,636) who was running unopposed.

The two Library Trustee three-year seats went to Alfred Cipriano (954) and Charlene Flaherty (1,142). Theresa McTammany had 698 votes.

One, Three-Year Term Seat went to Kristina Durocher (1,549) who was running unopposed.

For the two, three-year Budget Committee seats, Timothy Lovell (1,309) and Robert Weimar (1,243) ran unopposed.

Zoning Articles 2 through 5 all passed overwhelmingly.

Article 6: The funding of \$1,350,000 for construction of an addition and renovation of the Hampstead Fire Station failed 1,227 to 893. It

needed 1,272 to pass.

Article 7: The town's operating budget, totaling \$7,502,460 passed 1,438 to 627.

Article 8: The three-year collective bargaining agreement with the New England Police Benevolent Association of \$27,576 passed 1,308 to 768.

Article 9 was also needed if Article 8 was defeated and authorized Selectmen to call one special meeting. Passed 1,441 to 598.

Article 10: \$10,000 to be placed in the Hampstead Public Library Building Maintenance Non-Capital Reserve Fund passed 1362 to 727.

Article 11: \$1,000 to Rockingham Meals on Wheels passed 1,823 to 278.

Articles 12: \$9,000 for Community Care Givers of Greater Derry passed 1,625 to 474.

Article 13: \$3,070 for Haven passed 1,279 to 773.

Article 14: A Petition Article to encourage that every town board post all meeting agendas to the town website, and send

them via the town email list, no later than two business days prior to the board meeting - this article also seeks to encourage that any items that do not appear on the agenda should not be discussed at the meeting. Passed 1,876 to 229.

Article 15: A Petition Article to encourage every town board publicly post meeting minutes (draft minutes are acceptable) to the town website no later than five business days after each meeting (or within 72 hours for non-public meetings), and email notification once minutes are posted via the town email list. Passed 1,911 to 192.

Article 16: A Petition Article to study whether board recommendations be removed from the ballot. Passed 1,309 to 754.

Article 17: To encourage all town board meetings be accessible via Zoom (or a similar software that allows residents to not only remotely view the meeting live, but also interact and pose questions). Passed 1,805 to 294.

Hampstead School Ballot:

Erin Pellegrini (1,135) and Jason Giard (1,035) won the two three-year term School Board seats. Meghin Marley (691) and Jason Mullhall (489) lost.

For School District Clerk position, Lisa Demio had 23 write-in votes.

Article 2: Hampstead Central School Addition Project Bond failed 1,205 to 957. It needed 1,297 to pass.

Article 3: The school's \$30,661,347 Operating Budget passed 1,452 to 664.

Article 4: The Hampstead Central School 60's Wing Renovation Project passed 1,447 to 712.

Article 5: The Collective Bargaining Agreement with Hampstead Support Personnel Association passed 1382 to 698.

Article 6 - Special Meetings on Cost Items if Article 5 was defeated passed 1,514 to 551.

Article 7 - Capital Reserve Fund should Article 4 fail passed 1,435 to 645.

Article 8 - General Acceptance of Reports passed 1,832 to 212.

Hampstead

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the community. Some of the services that she pointed to included housing AA meetings, having a food pantry, allowing parking in their lots just to name a few.

Theriahult said that the memorandum has to be signed again every two years.

In other news during the liaison report portion of the meeting Chad Bennett, who serves as the board's liaison for the recreation commission, said that he has received a few emails about the tennis courts.

He explained that

while they are eager to get to work with making repairs to the tennis courts, he explained that last year the board agreed that they would wait until this spring to make sure the drainage system is still working before they made any repairs to it.

Bennett also explained that they don't need to rush and they need to wait until the winter season is over and there isn't snow and ice on the courts before they determine if the drainage system is working.

"There's no point in rushing it," Bennett said.

Ultimately Bennett said that he thinks it's in the best interest of the

town to go with their original plan of waiting to see if the drainage is working.

"It's the best interest of the town to make sure the drainage is still working," Bennett said.

The next Hampstead Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 22 at 7 p.m.

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Editorial

Why Civic Engagement is a Necessity

Why are you important to your town? Why does your vote matter? Why does your community need you to be involved? How do you tie into the bigger picture?

We often find ourselves worrying about navigating the ins and outs of our own day-to-day lives, especially these days with COVID to deal with.

We as citizens affect our communities by using our voices and becoming involved- this is called civic engagement.

History has shown that civic-minded residents tend to stay in their towns for generations because of a strong sense of belonging and appreciation for their communities.

By encouraging residents to become active participants in their community and town government, it not only helps the town grow and improve, it also creates citizens who are better informed.

However, how many of us can name all of our Town Councilors, School Board members and State Representative? Not many, probably. How many pay attention to local elections and to decisions that affect your taxes? Not a lot, which was evident by the lack of voters that came out for the recent local election.

Civic mindedness is essential to a successful, strong and healthy town. It is also the spirit of service and the sense of personal ownership of one's role as a citizen in his or her town, which has a direct mark on making the quality of life better.

Instead of being upset that your tax bill keeps going up or complaining about

how decisions were made and why, get involved.

Get started by letting your voice be heard on a smaller scale, which will have a much or larger effect on your day-to-day life than the presidential elections.

Engage in civil conversation and ask questions where the goal is to learn how to solve problems or have a better understanding of how things work. These conversations can include disagreements. When individuals or groups disagree, instead of yelling, both sides should focus on listening to the opposite side. Try to understand another perspective first, instead of assuming, labeling or judging, thus civil engagement is created.

It would be this level of civility which helps us become better problem solvers.

Community is, by large, built on relationships and creating bridges that traditionally would divide. Recognizing and understanding the perspectives of one another on different issues allows you to become more aware and grow, along with a willingness to get involved and create change. Hopefully, when it comes to acknowledging and accepting those who differ from your point of view, one might take off their blinders.

Through civic engagement, it is believed that we encourage, educate and nurture the growth of civic responsibility and awareness in our communities. Help make your community the best it can be. Make civic involvement a goal for yourself and make a difference in your community, now and for the future.

Letters

Open Letter to Gov. Sununu,

To the editor,

Thank you for accepting questions from citizens on NHPR's "The Exchange". I was pleased to hear you say that you would commit to a fair and transparent redistricting process this year.

You said the Executive Council District 2 map was one of only a very few examples of weird shapes in our state districting maps that you knew of. There is more to gerrymandering than odd-looking shapes on a map.

Our NH Constitution mandates that towns with a minimum number of citizens (3,290 in 2011) are entitled to their own House district. In 2011 this mandate was denied to 62 of the 152 towns constitutionally entitled to their own House Representative. As you stated in your Exchange interview, "with redistricting, it's got to pass the smell test".

Governor, I ask you to honor your commitment to follow the NH Constitution. Please speak up about the need to end gerrymandering by any political party in NH. Do not wait for a bill to arrive on your desk to tell the legislators know you want a fair and transparent redistricting process this year.

Beth Nelson
Derry

Education "Freedom" accounts?

To the editor,
NH Senate Bill 130, companion to HB 20 purports to give families a choice to receive public funds to send children to private

schools. Their opportunity to spend our precious tax dollars for a religious or private education does not equal freedom for all.

New Hampshire already struggles with inequity in our school funding, so decreasing the amount of funding for our public schools to fund these "Freedom Accounts" will divert badly needed resources. Estimates of the cost of the most expansive voucher program in the United States range from 50 to 100 million dollars. Should children in public schools have their education reduced to fund private school placements for others?

A close look at SB 130 reveals a variety of issues:

2. The legislation would require the establishment of a Scholarship Committee. This board would receive approximately 10% of the intended voucher, amounting to as much as \$840 per student. This group would have no accountability to the public regarding educational outcomes, discrimination against students, or use of funds.

2. Private schools would not be held to the same standards as are public schools. Teachers, schools, and tutors would not be required to be licensed.

3. Students with disabilities may be required to waive their rights to a free and appropriate education in the least restrictive environment.

4. Home schooled students may use the funds for various education related expenses including computers and software, summer programs, or any other "approved" expenses.

5. Unlike public schools, there would be no protec-

tions from discrimination based on gender, race, national origin or disability.

6. There would be little public oversight of these funds other than an annual report prepared by the committee. Public schools are transparent in their funding.

School choice could result as a very expensive for New Hampshire taxpayers. HB 130 should be deemed Inexpedient to Legislate and not be reintroduced anytime soon. Our senators are urged to listen to the copious public comments and kill this bill.

Pamela Kirby
Derry

Thank you for Voting

To the editor

Congratulations to the citizens of Londonderry who voted, by a margin of 3 to 1, to pass a town warrant calling for an end to gerrymandering in NH. The vote, 1449 to 550 in support of the warrant article, indicates bipartisan support from the voters of Londonderry. This same voter support is currently occurring in towns and cities all across NH; a movement of bipartisan voters from one hundred NH towns and cities to ensure that the redistricting of our NH voting maps will not be gerrymandered in the future.

Most NH voters in small towns are doing this by voting on town warrants, as voters in Londonderry did on March 9. For voters in cities and larger towns like Derry, the process is for citizens to call for a town resolution to be voted on by the town or

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Nutfield News

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Long Term Facilities Plan Discussed by Derry School Board

ALEX MALM
NUTFIELD NEWS

DERRY - The Derry School Board held a workshop meeting on March 11 to discuss a possible long term plan for the facilities in the district.

It was explained by Derry School Board Chair Derick Anderson that the meeting that they had was one they were hoping to have a while ago.

"This is a meeting we hoped to have a long time before now," Anderson said.

He explained that they began to have discussions

revolving around the long term plans for its facilities last year right before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We started the discussion for long term plans for facilities last year during our board's goal setting workshop then some things happened in between, but we're here now," Anderson said.

During the meeting the facilities sub committee which includes board members Erika Cohen, Lynn Perkins and Jessica Ring, explained what has been done in the past when studying the school district's facilities, and

what they think are the best options for moving forward.

"Our intention was to look at what previous work had been done, where that put us and what steps we needed next in order to make a decision and get to a point where we can get to a long range plan and determine what the best option is," Cohen explained to the board.

When it comes to the committee's thought process one of the things that they pointed out is that they have been studying school facilities for

many years and they continue to need repairs.

"We have been studying the facilities for years, and they keep getting old and they keep needing repairs," Cohen said.

Because of that and because they know that they have high cost maintenance projects in their five-year maintenance plan their thought is to figure out sooner than later what they want to do.

"We want to use the town's money wisely so we want to determine sooner than later what we do want to do with our facilities and can we decide that we were forced to do maintenance projects opposed to putting money into new buildings," Cohen said.

She also noted that they didn't want to spend much time or any time at all focusing on schools that wouldn't likely be closed and that are in good shape. The two schools mentioned were East Derry and Barka.

Cohen also noted during its committee presen-

tation to the board that it's important to know exactly what choice they are going with before investing in a master plan because they need to get voter approval before any building project can be done.

"We want to know that the decision passes before we go into a detailed plan," Cohen said.

Overall Cohen explained that their thought process is that they want to be able to make the overall best decision as board both for the short term success of the district, as well as the long term success.

"We want to make a decision that is the best educational decision, the best financial decision and one that we know in the short term may not be huge savings but will have huge educational gains down the road and will also save us money long term which would be the best of all worlds," Cohen said.

During its presentation the committee also explained what they think

should be the next steps.

One of the things they recommend is that the school district hires someone to do a thorough facilities review of Derry Village, South Range and Grinnell. They noted that the timelines and the price is an important factor. They also noted that the entire board must decide who they choose to go with.

Another next step that the committee thinks the board should go with is making a decision about what to do when it comes to the facilities.

"We really want to make sure we're best spending our limited educational dollars and the longer we wait to make a decision the more money we are going to spend on fixing spaces instead of looking to the future," Cohen said.

The board is expected to continue the conversation during a workshop meeting in April. The next regularly scheduled Derry School Board meeting is scheduled for April 13 at 7 p.m.

Letters

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city council members. Unfortunately, an attempt by citizens in Derry to have the Derry Town Council pass a town resolution for fair redistricting did not pass because a majority of our council members refused to take a vote on the issue. Fortunately more forward-thinking councils have passed resolutions in Lebanon, Keene, Franklin, Dover, and Durham.

As a voter, you should be concerned about the very real possibility of having to vote in a state with gerrymandered districts. Join us in reaching out to the newly formed Special

Committee on Redistricting. This committee has the authority to develop the specific process and criteria for redrawing NH political maps, and will determine in which districts NH voters will cast their votes in the future. The committee members need to hear from you now, before the process goes any further. They need to know that citizens care deeply about the integrity of NH elections and that we are watching their committee's work. Let them know that we expect them to develop a redistricting process which will ensure that the process will not favor any one political party over the other, and that the process

will work to protect the equality of the voices of all NH voters, no matter their party affiliation. Tell them that we expect the process to require that the public be allowed to view the complete redistricting procedure and proposed maps, and that time be provided for public input as to how the new voting maps will actually affect our towns before the plan is finalized.

To e-mail the committee members with your input go to OpenDemocracyAction.org/redistricting-committee

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Chester Selectmen Approve Funding for First Phase of Stevens Hall Project

ALEX MALM
NUTFIELD NEWS

CHESTER- The 300th anniversary of the town of Chester is fastly approaching and expected to be at the center of many of the events when the anniversary takes place next September is Stevens Hall.

That's why one of the big topics for the Chester Board of Selectmen during its last few weekly meetings has revolved around making renovations and repairs to it.

Recently the town accepted bids for proposals to make repairs and renovations to the hall including painting the building, and fixing the roof that needs to be repaired.

During the Feb. 25 Chester Board of Selectmen meeting one of the biggest discussion items on the agenda was in regards to the hall, after receiving bids in February.

One of the biggest concerns in regards to the hall renovations that was brought up by the floor is the lack of details that were in the bids. Their concern is that it's not concrete on how much the final cost will be.

Essentially during the Feb. 25 meeting, the Selectmen agreed to invite

representatives from Charter Brothers who are expected to do the construction on the building if the town goes through with the project.

It was explained during the March 4 Chester Board of Selectmen meeting that members of the board and representatives from Charter Brothers met at Stevens Hall, and went through the building room by room and floor by floor to get a better understanding of what needs to be done.

One of the Selectmen who was in attendance for the meeting, Chuck Myette, explained that they laid out the expectations for the company. He explained that they made their point that they needed concrete numbers for the project.

"They understand where we are with this one," Myette said.

Chester Selectmen Stephen D'Angelo who was also a part of the meeting with board members and the company called the building a jewel.

"When you go up to the second floor of this building it's a jewel," D'Angelo said.

He also explained that he thinks they need to look at more ways for how the building can be used in the future, noting that it has a lot of potential.

"There are things we need to look at down the road to more utilize this building," D'Angelo said.

The Selectmen ultimately agreed to fund the first phase of the project for \$6,500 which will allow for pre design services. From there they would be able to come up with a schedule of what they can do before the

300th anniversary.

"What can we do to make sure the building is usable for the 300th," Myette said.

Myette said that through the first phase they will also be able to get a much more accurate picture of what work needs to be done both short and long term and what the cost is projected to be.

While the Selectmen agreed to fund the first phase of the project the final total cost of the project and how the rest of the project will be funded is still up in the air.

One of the options that was tossed out during the meeting by Selectmen Stephen Landau was to make an ask to voters this year in the form of a Warrant Article for \$300,000 to be put into the capital reserve funds, and then the hope would be that it could

happen as well for the next three years, essentially helping to raise 1.2 million dollars for the project. Currently the warrant would ask for \$250,000.

Other options that they are continuing to look at are things like grants to help offset the cost as well as options for bonds.

D'Angelo explained that he thinks that they will be creative in getting the financing for the project.

"This is going to be a creative financing opportunity to get this project done," D'Angelo said.

One of the things that was discussed during the Selectmen meeting was whether or not they should change the ask on the Warrant Article for \$250,000 to \$300,000 like it was suggested by Landau.

After some discussion it was ultimately decided to

not make any changes for at least a week so they can hopefully receive more concrete numbers from Charter Brothers and information about bond pricing.

While voters won't be voting on the Warrant Articles until May, Chester Town Administrator Debra Doda explained that they need to get them finalized as soon as possible so that way the budget committee has time to review them.

"I'd rather get the warrant done sooner than later," Doda said.

D'Angelo said that after the meeting last week with Charter Brothers, he thinks that they will be able to get concrete answers from them.

"I think we got the message across to them on Wednesday about how important it is for us to get those numbers," D'Angelo said.

Derry

continued from page 1
votes.

The two, three-year term Derry Public Library Trustee seats went to Armand "Pete" Marcotte (542) and Lorraine Lindenberg (434). Victoria Austin (428) and Meryle Zusman (424) narrowly lost.

Lorraine Lindenberg

was also the top vote getter for the three-year Taylor Library Trustee seat. She beat Danielle Rieger (326) and Raymond Fontaine (346).

Jeffery Moulton won the three-year term Trustee of the Trust Funds seat with 950 votes.

School District Ballot In the Derry School Election, Erika Cohen (781) and Paul Lutz (715)

won the two, three-year School Board seats. Erica Layon (487) and Jason MacLeod (377) lost in that race.

The one, one-year School Board seat went to Jonathan Dugan with 611 votes. Michael Layon (352), Colleen Bryer (118) and David Clapp (219) also ran for the seat.

Tina Guilford was elected to the three-year School Moderator position with 1,053 votes.

Article 2: The School's

Operating Budget of \$92,851,401.71 was passed by a vote of 1,026 to 276.

Article 3: The Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Derry School Board and the Derry Education Association with an estimated increase of \$550,924 passed 831 to 491.

Article 4: Needed if Article 3 did not pass. Article 4 passed 909 to 395.

Article 5: The Collective Bargaining Agreement

between the Derry School Board and American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees, Council No. 93, Local 1801 for an estimated increase of \$33,173 passed 828 to 408.

Article 6: Needed if Article 5 did not pass. Article 6 passed 857 to 379.

Article 7: Revision to RSA 198:4-b allowing the district to retain up to five percent of the District's net assessment in any year. Passed 824 to 400.

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The Public Express Concerns on New Property Lines in Hampstead

HENRY GREENBAUM
NUTFIELD NEWS

HAMPSTEAD - The Planning Board met for their monthly meeting on Mar. 1 at the Town Office Building.

After approving the public hearing for Apr. 5, they moved onto some old business starting with a request for a Lot Line Adjustment (LLA) on 62 East Road. Jeff Duford presented the application to the board and had previously stated that the property needed it to gain access to a new home.

"My wife and I are trying to build a house for our family," said Duford. "We are not trying to subdivide this to sell the lot or even develop it commercially. We are trying to build a new house for our family to make some more space."

In the previous meet-

ing, many of Duford's neighbors expressed concerns for the LLA. They were worried that it would make access for the Fire Department very difficult if a fire were to occur in that neighborhood. They were also worried about the slope of the driveway as a car could roll into the middle of the street and cause a major accident if the driveway is not paved correctly.

Duford said that he spoke with the town engineer and the Deputy Chief of Police to go over the plan. They had no issues with his plan and felt that it would be ok for the LLA to be approved for the lot.

The Planning Board decided that Duford needs to return on Apr. 5 with a more detailed plan for the LLA on his property.

The next order of business was the application

for a subdivision in land at 200 Central Street. Land surveyor James Labelle presented the plans of the subdivision to the board on behalf of the owners of the property.

"We are subdividing the property into four lots. One would have the existing dwelling and [the other] three lots for the construction of new homes," said Labelle. "We have met with the road agent... He's informed us that he's happy with our location and when it's time for building permits, he along with the building inspector would issue the driveway permits based on our plans."

The property has met the proper frontage and soil requirements for the town of Hampstead. It was also approved by the state for a subdivision in the land. The owners of 200

Central Street are on the right track, but now they need their plans approved by the Planning Board so they can go forward with it.

The Planning Board was mostly concerned about the placement of the driveways on the lots as they are not sure if they meet the town's regulations. Board member Paul Carideo said, "It's my opinion that in creating a lot, the town has a regulation and part of approving that lot is proving that it has an accessible driveway... I think that lot 172-1 can't meet [the 400 feet regulation] either."

The driveways are required by the town of Hampstead to have 400 feet of free space to be accessible on any property. The four subdivided pieces of land would be too small making the driveways too close together. The existing

house is proving to be the main cause of this issue as it is too big for the subdivided land it would reside on.

Some members of the public also expressed concern for the subdivision of the land. "There have been maybe many fatal accidents on [Central St.] on those corners," said Collette Matthias-Powers, a resident of one of the properties on Central St. "Right around the locations [Lot 172-4 and 172-3] there have been many motorcycle accidents right at the location. While I don't know which direction you're considering site distances, I think we need to look at both directions."

"My concern is the water, I just want to stress that as well," said Charlie Vinnett, another resident who owns a property on Central Street. "We are

putting three more houses on a fairly small area [and] we are at the top of Hampstead. We are one of the highest points, so I do have concerns about our water table and how to keep our wells going."

Bruce Squibb who lives on 2 Country Road said, "I've lived there now over 20 years. I work from home, I'm usually one of the first ones on scene calling in these horrific accidents. How [is] adding four more driveways in this compact of an area going to impact the community?"

Many valid concerns were raised by the public about the subdivision of the property on Central Street. The concerns have presented the board with many unknowns for the property, so they voted to continue discussions on the subdivision of land in the next meeting on Apr. 5.

Sandown Planning Board to Review Zoning Regs With an Eye on Future Impact

JOHN SEIDENBERG
NUTFIELD NEWS

SANDOWN - Planning Board wants to review planning and zoning issues as part of potential changes to the town's Master Plan. The current plan was last revised 10 years ago.

Vice Chairman John White told board members at the Mar. 2 meeting he has read over the plan. In his view, he found nothing "glaringly wrong" but thinks some sections need an addendum such as for the Highway Department and Conservation Commission.

On the related subject of the site plan, White noted any regulations the board adopts may provide

for safe and attractive development, adequate drainage conditions, and protection of groundwater quality.

Of additional interest to board members is providing for open space and possible coming changes affecting Sandown.

Under the open space development ordinance, tied in to the site plan, the objective is to avoid excessive alteration of terrain, such as removal of vegetation, and preserve open space. A likely next step would be updating the open space site plan.

As to landscape plants, Member Nicholas Ortins pointed out that Chester specifies native plants are preferred with a preference toward bio-diversity.

White said the site review he saw looked boilerplate without anything particularly remarkable. "It's like a big hole with nothing going on in it."

The town would like to encourage developers to not simply plop down houses and wipe out wooded areas and to try to blend the natural landscape with the existing community, he added.

Maintaining the small town character by retaining some safeguards could enable Sandown to have more control over the end result. Board members agreed they don't want to see an open field full of houses.

Because the planning board is a voluntary entity

and differs from working professionally in government in a larger city, White suggested a subcommittee made up of other volunteers or members of the public who could review the master plan and offer input.

In the vision section of the plan, Chairman Ernie Brown said zoning could be designed to meet the desired direction of the town regarding its rural nature.

However, with the town having no common area and a state highway going through it, residents being able to connect with each other without getting in a

car is difficult, Ortins noted.

One looming question for Sandown is workforce housing intended to provide an affordable place for workers to live close to their places of employment.

In that event, the town should have more local site plan control, White said.

Workforce housing could be an opportunity to set up a business at home, Ortins added. This could entail agricultural businesses.

Housing for a range of income levels is not intended to be barred or discouraged by a municipal planning or zoning authority.

Others on the board speculated the post-covid working environment could involve fewer people being in offices, other than at remote sites, and more work from home.

The town could identify by zoning maps where home businesses could be located. Some workforce housing might be for doctors who could see patients at home, Ortins said.

Prior to moving forward, the board would like to review the site plans of other towns such as Deerfield, Danville, Chester, Hampstead, Newton, Fremont, Kensington, and Auburn.



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Derry Native Named as Ernest P. Barka Elementary School Principal

ALEX MALM
NUTFIELD NEWS

DERRY- It's not often that there is a standing ovation during a school board meeting, but during the March 2 Derry School Board meeting, there were multiple ones.

With Ernest P. Barka Elementary School Principal Daniel LaFleur indicating he would be retiring at the end of the school year, the school board voted on and approved the nomination made by Superintendent MaryAnn Connors-Krikorian for who she feels should be his replacement.

Being named the next principal of the elementary school was David Brown.

Brown is no stranger to the Derry School District, as he was born and raised in town making his way through the school system before graduating high

school from Pinkerton Academy.

In fact Connors-Krikorian said that she has known Brown and his family since they were younger, noting that she had his younger siblings in elementary school.

He explained that after graduating from Pinkerton he went onto Norwich Academy where he became an officer with the United States Army.

After Norwich he ended up back in the Derry school system starting off as a physical education teacher for 18 years at Gilbert H. Hood Middle School.

Brown credited his teachers from the time he was a student in Derry for why he wanted to come back as a teacher in the system.

"I was called back to Dery because of all the

great educators I have had in my life," Brown said. "I really wanted to be a part of that."

Most recently Brown has worked as the assistant principal at Ernest P. Barka Elementary School, where he has worked under LaFleur.

Brown said that he has looked up to LaFleur as a mentor over the years.

"He really has been a great mentor," Brown said.

One of the things that Brown pointed to is the fact that he was able to go to LaFleur with any problems or concerns. He thinks that will continue after LaFleur retires. His comments led to a standing ovation.

"I have been able to go to him for anything and that relationship will continue after he retires," Brown said.

Connors-Krikorian

also thanked LaFleur for his leadership in the community.

"The sign of a great leader is to leave their mark and that tradition carries on in a great way and I don't think there really is any better leader that we have now than Dan," Connors-Krikorian said.

Derry School Board member Lynn Perkins, in an emotional statement made the motion to accept the nomination of Brown.

"You're a good hearted guy. I really appreciate that you are doing what you're doing," Perkins said.

Brown said that he is thankful for the opportunity to lead the school as the next principal.

"I really appreciate the opportunity to be the next principal at Barka," Brown said.

Also during the meeting the board also approved the nomination by Connors-Krikorian to name Kim Conant as the next Director of Grants Management for the school district.

Like Brown Conant is no stranger to the Derry School District.

She explained that she

not only has been a resident of Derry but also has worked with the district as a consultant.

"I love this school district. I love working with this school district as a consultant and I am very involved with the community."

Connors-Krikorian said that Conant comes to the district with recommendations that are "second to none."

"You'll certainly be a great fit and be a great leader among leaders," Connors-Krikorian said.

Conant is expected to take over in August.

Chester

continued from page 1

partner with the School Board to continue providing the resources and supports necessary to operate our district in service of a healthy, happy, and collaborative community."

School Board Chair, Royal Richardson stated that he is excited to have Locke lead the District.

"The Chester School Board is excited that Dr. Sharon Locke will be the new leader for the

Chester School District. In our conversations with Dr. Locke we came away firmly believing that she will be a collaborative leader that will engage our staff and build a community that will unlock the

potential of each of our students," Richardson stated. "The Chester School District has always felt energized to accomplish more and, for this to happen, we need experienced leadership willing to put the energy and enthusiasm into their work to show the students how important their education is. I'm excited to begin this next era with Sharon as she puts her imprint on the District with a focus on teamwork, and a commitment to our students and their families."

School Board Vice Chair Jonathan Eckerman stated he is looking forward to working with Locke.

"Dr. Locke's focus on student growth is supported by her interest in a collaborative model of leader-

ship that emphasizes accountability at all levels. I am confident that Chester will appreciate her desire to create strong relationships within our community," Eckerman stated in the press release. "Our teachers and staff will find her to be extremely relatable and supportive while challenging each person to grow alongside our children. The students and families will find renewed confidence in the amazing abilities our students possess. I look forward to welcoming Dr. Locke and being a part of the focused and deliberate work to provide the very best learning environment for our students and staff."

Locke is expected to begin with the Chester School District on July, 1.



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DERRY SPORTS

Pinkerton Hoops Leaders Named as Coaches of the Year



Astros boys head coach Dave Chase led his team to a 9-2 season record.



PA girls varsity leader Lani Buskey battled issues on and off the court this season.

CHRIS PAUL
NUTFIELD NEWS

The New Hampshire Basketball Coaches Organization named their Players and Coaches of the Year last week, and their choices for the boys' and girls' varsity coaches went to three Pinkerton Academy head coaches.

Although Lani Buskey's season was anything but ordinary, with the COVID-19 Pandemic canceling a number of her games, she was able to help guide her girl's varsity squad to a very impressive 8-2 season, setting the team up with what should have been a very good run in the Division I playoffs.

Unfortunately, her team was never able to compete in the tournament, due to a coronavirus outbreak at the end of the season, so she and

her team was forced to have to wait another year for the opportunity.

Buskey was surprised by the choice. "It's certainly a tremendous honor but I'd give it up in a heartbeat for my girls to have had a chance at a playoff run. Regardless, it was an extremely nice gesture from my fellow coaches. I must admit, I was taken aback by the sportsmanship shown to us by the other DI programs when we had to forfeit. I suppose there are always silver lining. I'm a better coach because of them."

She added, "However, my best coaching stems from my girls. They make me better. They buy in and they walk the walk every day. A coach is only as good as the team she has beside her. I'm pretty lucky-maybe the luckiest around. I owe this honor to them."

On the boys' side, Astros first-year head coach Dave Chase stepped in to a varsity program that only had one win last season, and turned the team around to finish the winter season with an 8-2 record and blast by the Salem High School Blue Devils in the first round of the Division I Championship.

Even though the team's season ended in the next round, when they faced a newly invigorated London-

derry Lancer squad, Chase attributed his success to his players.

Chase said, "Being named Coach of the Year is a direct reflection on how hard each player worked in the off season. Their commitment to change the Pinkerton basketball culture was their primary goal from the first day I was hired. This of course made my job easy, I just needed to put them in a situation where they could become success-

ful. Building on the idea of team first, and watching their chemistry grow was awesome. I also credit the upperclassmen of accepting change and being a huge part of turning this program in the right direction. While I really appreciate the honor, I am more proud of how the players competed each day and played with intensity. I can't wait to get started again."


Also on the list, Pinkerton Academy junior Avah

Ingalls was named to the NHBCO All-State First Team and junior Kristina Packowski was given Honorable Mention.

For the boys, Astros senior Andy MacDonald was named to the All-Defensive Team and fellow senior Justin Dunne was given Honorable mention.

The Pinkerton Junior Varsity head coach, Cameron Owen, was named the Sub-Varsity Coach of the Year.

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Going Places: NH's Miss Amazing Defies Disability, Carries Community

MELISSA BETH RUIZ
NUTFIELD NEWS

Her mother was told she may never speak nor walk on her own, yet this young lady has been making strides to help her community, and is determined to be the voice for those who need it.

Sandown resident Shae-Lynn Phaneuf, 13, was crowned Miss Amazing Teen Queen for NH back in May 2020.

Miss Amazing is an organization created for girls and young women with disabilities to showcase their talents and passions, and to work towards achieving their unique goals and dreams.

"Because of widely-held myths about their capabilities, girls with disabilities are often held back from taking risks that could enrich their personal development..." says the Miss Amazing website. "As a result, girls with disabilities are more likely to experience low self-esteem..."

According to her mother, Lyndsey Phaneuf, it is thanks in large part to her work with Miss Amazing that Shae-Lynn has, in her words, "blossomed" into the confident and caring young lady she is today.

And in Shae-Lynn's words, if not for Miss Amazing, "I would have definitely still been the shy little girl I was when I was nine."

In 2019, Shae-Lynn took home the Miss Amazing Preteen crown, winning judges over with her platform, "Spreading Smiles," and her performance to music artist Jojo Siwa's "Every Girl Is A Super Girl," wearing a handmade dress in tribute to the artist.

Last year, she began her reign as Miss Amazing Junior Teen NH, sticking with her motto, "Bring Smiles To All." This year, Shae-Lynn's sights are set on Nationals.

Though not a stranger to the pageant scene, Shae-Lynn did have to adapt to a few new restrictions while competing for Miss Amazing Teen as the pandemic was still beginning.

Instead of taking to the stage for interviews and to display her talent, Shae-Lynn would instead speak with judges remotely, and give her introduction for the 2020 Miss Amazing Teen pageant via livestream.

Despite the physical challenges, Shae-Lynn said she has a love of surfing, having attended a surfing program prior to the pan-

demic. In fact, Shae-Lynn's talent portion of 2020's Miss Amazing Regional competition was a video submission of her surfing to music artist Taylor Swift's song, "Only The Young."

Though she is still quite young, Shae-Lynn has overcome more obstacles than most see in a lifetime.

Born two months premature and weighing just over two pounds, the road ahead for Shae-Lynn would be full of complications. She would be diagnosed with Fetal Hydronephrosis, a rare disorder caused by exposure to Phenytoin (a prescription commonly used to treat epilepsy) in utero. She would then undergo kidney surgery at just 10 months old, and experience a number of neurological difficulties as she grew.

Shae-Lynn has a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, Dopa Responsive Dystonia (a disorder involving involuntary muscle contractions and tremors), Epilepsy, and Kidney Reflux Disorder. To manage her conditions, Shae-Lynn receives a number of treatments and regular testing,

including blood panels, medications, physical therapy and occupational therapy, working closely with a team of medical and therapeutic professionals. Shae-Lynn also has leg braces and a wheelchair which she uses as needed.

Despite this through, and the challenges she faces day by day, what Shae-Lynn desires most in this world is to make a difference for others.

In the past year alone, Shae-Lynn has collected supplies for animal shelters, created and distributed COVID birthday party kits for households whose family members had been affected by the virus, donated books to children's centers, dropped off meals and care packages to those in need, and made visits to the elderly of the community via Zoom.

Lyndsey stated that her only involvement with Shae-Lynn's public service endeavors is transportation, and to help with whatever other tasks that a minor may be unable to do on her own.

"When she sees someone needing help, she's the first one to ask how to help," said Lyndsey.

All this is just a small window into the philanthropic efforts of this Miss Amazing.

Over the past couple of years, during her involvement in the Miss Amazing organization, Shae-Lynn has gotten the attention of State Representatives such as Jess Edwards, who Lyndsey says has been very

supportive of Shae-Lynn's visions, as well as town Selectmen, who have commented on how she has grown through her time with the organization.

But Shae-Lynn sees even more room for her to grow in the years to come.

In addition to her aspirations of one day becoming Miss America, Shae-Lynn spoke of her dream of opening a resource center to help children who have been abused.

For now, Lyndsey stated that Shae-Lynn has been putting together care-kits for children having to go through the ordeal of appearing in the courtroom or police station, complete with notebooks and fidget spinners to help relieve some anxiety, as well as cards with messages of encouragement and support for the children.

Shae-Lynn also commented on what bringing the Miss America title to NH means to her.

"I want to show (that) kids with disabilities are just kids in general, who have a dream," said Shae-Lynn. "People don't think they can. I want to show them they can."

The next stop on Shae-Lynn's road to the crown, a pivotal point in her Miss Amazing journey, lies in Nashville, TN. There, she and other regional Miss Amazing title-holders will engage in friendly competition in the 2021 Nationals.

This endeavor will not come inexpensively.

Shae-Lynn's mother said that costs will range around

\$4,000 to get Shae-Lynn to the next step towards meeting her next goal.

To help get her there, the determined Shae-Lynn has already begun a few fundraising efforts, including cookie-grams and t-shirt sales. At the time of this article, Shae-Lynn has raised just under \$300 toward her goal.

In the coming months, Shae-Lynn will be working hard to earn the funds needed to make the trip to Nashville. To this end, the Phaneufs have created a Facebook page, Miss Amazing Jr. Teen Nh 2020, where members can follow Shae-Lynn's ongoing community service mission, as well as help support her on her road to Nationals.

To the young girls out there living with disabilities with a desire to show the world what they are made of, Shae-Lynn spoke highly of the Miss Amazing organization. She further commented on the kindness of the directors, coaches, and volunteers, stating Miss Amazing is "a super friendly organization."

As the world continues to put all its might into putting an end to the COVID-19 pandemic, and as spirits remain weary, Shae-Lynn offered some words of encouragement:

"Be bold. Be brave. Be strong."

Whatever takes place on the stage in Nashville this July, young Shae-Lynn Phaneuf has already proven time and again that she already is Amazing.



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Hampstead ZBA Approves a Number of Special Exceptions

HENRY GREENBAUM
NUTFIELD NEWS

HAMPSTEAD - The Hampstead Zoning Board of Adjustments (ZBA) met for their monthly meeting on Mar. 3 and the first order of business was to consider the request made by Nicholas Ellis, who was seeking a special exception in the Hampstead Zoning Ordinance. This exception would allow the placement of a ground pool that would be too close to the rear lot line for the property located at 26 Winchester Drive.

"[Dig Safe] will have to dig a little bit to put the pool in and if they do,

they'll end up hitting an electrical line," said Ellis. "The other side is too steep of a hill going down [and] that's the main reason why, because we wouldn't be able to put anything there. So, the backyard, there is no electrical lines, so if they were to dig that foot down, there is nothing that they are going to hit."

The only area of his property that a pool can safely be built on is in the backyard. One area has too steep of a slope and the other has an electrical line so it would not be safe which leaves the backyard as the only option. The ZBA voted unanimously to approve the special excep-

tion.

The next discussion was a request made by Christopher Wellington for a Special Exception in the Hampstead Zoning Ordinance. The exception would allow Wellington to enclose an existing deck with a three-season room.

The room would have no negative impact on the surrounding area as the enclosing would only affect the property. Seeing no real issues with the request, the ZBA approved the enclosing of Wellington's deck into a three-season room.

The board also discussed the request made by Craig Corsetti who was

seeking a special exception that would allow for the construction of a second-floor addition and deck for a non-conforming lot. Dan Flores of SFC Engineering presented the plans to the ZBA on Corsetti's behalf.

Members approved the request 4-1 with alternate member, Karen Hanides, disapproving. The lot does not meet the proper regulations for the second-floor addition and deck to be built so this may cause issues in the construction going forward.

The last order of business was the discussion of

a request made by Adam Lamond and Richard Towne for a special exception that would permit the tearing down of a cottage. After tearing down the cottage, it would be rebuilt into a two-bedroom home, but it would be built on a non-conforming lot.

Just like with the second-floor addition and deck from the previous request, the lot that the cottage is on does not meet the proper requirements in the Hampstead Zoning Ordinance for a new home to be built in its place.

Lamond said, "We

won't be any closer to the lot line than what is there now and the deck on the side is currently at 9.4 feet from the lot line. Our deck now will be at 14 feet from the lot line."

Even though the lot is non-conforming, Lamond claims that the new house that would-be built-in place of the cottage that currently stands there would in fact be further from the lot line.

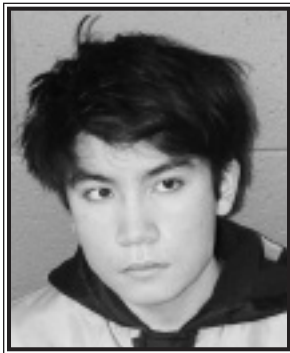
The ZBA voted unanimously to approve the request made by Lamond and Towne for the special exception.

Sandown Man Arrested for Possession of Illegal Photos

According to a recent Press Release, Derry Police arrested Kyle J. McDowell, of Sandown on March 9, on seven alleged counts of Possession of Child Sexual Abuse Images (Class A Felony).

According to the report, McDowell was arrested by members of the Sandown Police Department, then he was turned over to the custody of the Derry Police.

The warrant was obtained by Derry detectives after an investigation that



Kyle J McDowell

began with a cyber-tip to the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force of which Derry PD is a

member. ICAC Task Force members from NH State Police, Portsmouth Police Department, Nashua Police Department, Amherst Police Department and Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department as well as officers from Sandown Police Department assisted in the investigation.

Mr. McDowell was initially held on preventative detention. Mr. McDowell was arraigned at Rockingham County Superior Court on March 10, 2021 where his bail was set at \$2,000 cash.

USDA Free Meal Plan Gets Extended Through Summer

CONCORD - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced last week that they will continue support by providing free meals to New Hampshire students under several waiver programs. The extension is now good through September 30, 2021.

The waiver extension allows for safe meal distribution sites that serve all children for free, regardless of income. In addition, the waivers:

- Allow meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) – collectively known as "summer meal

programs" – to be made available in all areas at no cost;

- Allow meals to be served outside of the normally required group settings and meal times; and

- Allow parents and guardians to pick-up meals for their children, including bulk pick-up to cover multiple days of feeding children.

"We are very happy to hear that the USDA will be extending waiver programs through September so that schools and organizations are able to serve healthy meals to children safely, during the summer," said Michelle Myler, Admin-

istrator of the Bureau of Student Wellness. "I want to thank the schools and their staff for their tireless efforts in supporting and feeding our children during these unprecedented times."

Since March 13, 2020, New Hampshire schools have served over 13 million meals to New Hampshire students.

In the past year, over 12 million children from all around the country have had a hard time accessing regular meals and these waiver programs have been able to provide needed relief to many. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

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This service is provided free of charge to Londonderry residents who wish to announce the birth of their child or grandchild, marriage engagement, wedding or milestone event such as a Silver Wedding Anniversary. This is a great way to share your news with your local community. The Londonderry Times also accepts obituary notices. Please contact us at 537-2760 or e-mail to londonderrytimes@nutpub.net.

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The Secret Credit Card Companies Don't Want You to Know

ANDREW D. MYERS
SUBMISSION

You've probably seen commercials about "The secret the credit card companies don't want you to know?" Intriguing isn't it? The announcer's confident voice carries an air of authority he's got to know what he's talking about, right?

Before delving into "the secret" let's look at some basics for people saddled with growing credit card debt. Companies offer various methods to deal with lots of credit card bills. They may or may not work depending on the circumstances.

Debt Consolidation

Under this concept, in a perfect world, the company you hire puts all of your credit card debts together into one payment. You pay the consolidation company a certain sum every month. They say they work out some deal with each company through their bargaining power as a known entity and you save money.

It makes a good sales pitch. The problem in the experience of many of my clients is that the consolidation people rarely deals with all of the credit cards. They deal with the easy ones, pocket your money, and you end up with some of the same credit card

debt that you started with.

Debt Management

Companies offer to "manage" your debt. You may be able to do this yourself by creating a spread sheet, listing all due dates and amounts due. Looking at your overall situation might make things more clear. The problem when you hire a company to do this for you is that you pay them to do the spread sheet. Their fee does not include you having to pay the managed payments. Unless totally disorganized, this task is best handled by you yourself.

Debt Settlement

Settlement implies that the amount you owe is reduced to a final number that you pay. The idea is that the credit card company might "settle" for a lower amount rather than wait on you to pay the entire amount. Especially if you're threatening to file bankruptcy, the company might figure getting something out of you is better than having the entire amount.

One problem with debt settlement is that the amount that is reduced is seen as income by the IRS. In other words, you pay tax on the amount of the erased debt. Whether or not the settlement company sends you a Form 1099, which they should.

Debt Forgiveness

While debt settlement involves a reduction of the

amounts outstanding, outright debt forgiveness does just that. Forgiven debt simply goes away entirely. Again, to the extent to which a debt is reduced, the IRS sees this as unearned income. The law requires you pay taxes on that amount.

Debt Resolution

Resolution and debt settlement often offer similar if not the same service. Debt resolution companies gather up all information on everything you owe. Promising you that they are experts, they'll then either actually negotiate with your creditors or tell you that this is being done. Resolution offers the promise of "resolving" all of your debts either settled in part, forgiven or sometimes paid off in full over time if the balances are low.

Credit Counselling

Some companies offer advice on how to deal with your mounting credit card debt under this name. But, "Credit Counselling" is the legal name of a mandatory class people must take before they file bankruptcy. Nonprofit budget and credit counselling agencies provide this. Their certification comes from the US Trustee program which oversees the bankruptcy process. If you're good on the computer, the class can be done online. If

not, the "counselling" also comes over a toll-free telephone number. After successful completion of the class, which can be done under an hour, you get a credit counselling certificate. Under law you must have this certificate before filing bankruptcy.

With the exception of true credit counselling under bankruptcy law, the lines sometimes blur between the other concepts. Don't let the companies claim "oh no that's not what we do at all" then give you a line of nonsense.

What is the secret the credit card companies don't want you to know?

If you simply stop paying your credit cards, and you do not pay them for a long time, alarms go off at the credit card company. As a result, in addition to the nasty collection letters and calls you might get, the company has a few options. One option some credit card companies offer is a "settlement".

If you retain a company to pursue this option, they ask you to stop paying credit cards and pay the company instead. They might require automatic electronic payments. As they sit and collect your money, they hope the credit card companies give in and offer a low settlement.

If a lower debt settle-

ment offer comes in, the company brags about what a great job they've done for you. But that money they've been collecting from you usually is not applied to the lower settlement. Usually that is their fee. More often than not you pay the debt settlement yourself.

In the experience of my clients, who end up filing a bankruptcy when this scheme fails, not all of the credit card companies offer a settlement. Contrary to popular belief no law requires this. The settlement is simply a practice they sometimes follow.

Another problem with this occurs when your credit report shows late payments, charge offs and other damaging information that happened while you played the waiting game.

Finally, remember that to the extent that some of your debt is reduced you now have to pay taxes on the amount forgiven.

"But that's not all ..." Notice hard sell Telemarketers love that phrase. But there truly is more to the story. The above "secret" isn't the only thing hidden from you at first that you very well might run into if you follow these schemes. Unless you read the small print in the agreement, they send you, here are four more secrets:

1. They do not stand behind their own product with language such as "You understand and acknowledge that no specific results can be predicted or guaranteed."

2. As you play the waiting game "creditors may continue to pursue collection efforts on delinquent accounts".

3. Failure to tell you what we have about your tax liability on forgiven debt. Instead they use words in the fine print such as "we highly advise you consult with your tax professional".

4. The other "secret" language hidden in the fine print often cautions: "We do not guarantee that your debts will be lowered by a specific amount or percentage or that you will be debt-free within a specific period of time."

Big Secret vs Known Entity

Bankruptcy presents a big decision. In the free initial consultations offered by my office we review options and never attempt to persuade anyone to file bankruptcy. But there are unknowns and delay in following "The Secret" approach. For the most part usual no-asset Chapter 7 Bankruptcy is over in four months or less. Many of our clients have attempted the above approaches, only extending the hardship of debt. As a result, they end up filing bankruptcy anyhow.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

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DERRY

Second Night Passover

Etz Hayim Synagogue in Derry will host its virtual community Second Night Passover Seder via Zoom on Sunday, March 28, at 6 p.m. Bring Your Own Haggadah for a Seder led by Rabbi Peter and Amy Levy. Families can search for their own Afikomen during the dinner break. There are activity cards and games to download in advance for families with children. To register and get the Zoom link, please email our synagogue office by March 22, 2021 at office@etzhayim.org. For more information, please contact: Stephen Soreff, MD, at soreffs15@aol.com or 603-895-6120.

Spring Celebration

Join the Derry Parks & Recreation at Veterans Hall, 31 West Broadway, Derry, on Saturday, March 27 from 1 - 3 p.m., for our 1st Annual

Spring Celebration for children and families. Families will check-in at the registration table and then be directed to pick up their craft, then they will follow the indoor bunny trail to visit with the Easter Bunny. Once done, families will hop over to exit from our facilities side ramp. Please adhere to all guidance provided by staff and volunteers during this event. Preregistration will close on Friday, March 26 at noon OR if spaces fill. Questions call: (603) 432-6136 Office Hours are Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Go here to register <https://forms.gle/Ke2oDWCSd6huurEQ8>

Free Bag Meals To Go

The Derry Community Meals will provide Free Bag Meals To Go on: Breakfast on March 20 at St. Thomas Parish from 10 - 10:30 a.m.; Lunch on March 20 at St. Luke's Church from noon - 12:30 p.m., Lunch

on March 21 from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., at St. Jude's Parish; Dinner on March 26 from 5 - 6 p.m., at First Parish Church, drive up to side door; drive around to back door.; Sonshine Soup Kitchen - Will be serving drive by to go meals on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 4:30 - 5 p.m.

Genealogy Series

Every other Tuesday night at 6 p.m., at the Derry Public Library Resident genealogy expert Erin hosts a session that focuses on a different aspect of genealogy research, sharing her knowledge and experience, highlighting common pitfalls, or sharing interesting stories of local historic individuals. This month she will be hosting programs on The Remarkable Life of William Hobdy, and Oral History. Register at derry-pl.org or call 432-6140.

Taylor Library Pick up

The Taylor Library is

open for curbside pickup only. Call the library for curb pickup. Interlibrary loan with the state is also available. For further information, call the library 432-7186

Story Hour with a Craft

On Fridays at 10 a.m., the Taylor Library will host Story hour with a craft for ages 2 and up on Facebook Live. Call the Library to register and then come and pick up your bag of craft supplies which will go with each week. Story hour will end on April 2. Call the library to register or for more information.

Food Pantry

Contact-free pick up at the Upper Room, 36 Tseneteto Rd., Derry is available on Mondays from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. (back entrance), Thursdays 3 - 4 p.m. and by appointment (front entrance).

CHESTER

Container Gardening Lecture with Willa Coroka

This exciting FREE virtual lecture by local gardening expert Willa Coroka hosted by the Chester Library, will cover the basics of botany before diving into various

garden designs that break the boundaries of limited space and time restraints on Thursday, April 29, at 6 p.m. Examples to include terraced, vertical, and hydroponic gardens as well as miniature water, up-cycled container, counter-top, and no-yard gardens. No space? No problem. As long as we remember to think outside the box. Virtual on Zoom. Registration is required at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3qNRjJp> or call 887-3404

Escape Room

A Mandalorian themed Escape Room will be open Mondays in March at 4 p.m., 5 p.m. & 6 p.m. at the Chester Library. Can you solve the puzzles? Mando and Kuiil need your help. Registration Is Required by calling 887-3404.

Make a Pencil Holder

Make and decorate a CUTE pencil holder on Thursday, March 18, at 4 p.m. at the Chester Library. This event is open to all ages. Registration Is Required by calling 887-3404.

Among Us Party

Prepare your ship for departure, but beware! One of

you is the imposter. Download the Among Us! app on your device before the event on Thursday, March 25, at 4 p.m. This event is for all ages. Registration Is Required by calling 887-3404.

Storytime

Chester Library Storytime is every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. Bring your little ones for stories and songs with Miss Maryjo! Registration is required by calling 887-3404.

HAMPSTEAD

Easter Weekend Services

Island Pond Baptist Church will hold a Good Friday service on April 2, at 6 p.m. No childcare is available, but kids are welcome in this family friendly service. Easter Sunday morning services are at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. An evening service is at 6 p.m. Kids' ministry is available for ages 0-9 at our 10:30 a.m. service, and for ages 0-4 at 6 p.m. You can also join us online by going to our main Facebook page or Youtube channel. Look for the "live" post. We also invite you to attend any of the church's weekly services and activities. Island Pond is located at 26 North Salem Rd.,

continued on page 15

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Call 537-2760



Calendar

continued from page 13

Hampstead, NH. You can visit the website, www.islandpondbc.com, email info@islandpondbc.com, or call us at 603-329-5959 for more information.

Kids' Birdfeeder

The next Hampstead Public Library Craft @ Home kit for Hampstead children is a DIY Birdfeeder. It contains everything you need to craftily feed the birds, including bird seed. The kit becomes available Wednesday, March 24 at Curbside Pickup, while supplies last.

Adult Craft Kit

A Wooden Apple Birdfeeder kit for adults becomes available at the Hampstead Public Library on Tuesday, March 30 at 9 a.m. Ideal for adults or high school students, this kit is fairly easy to construct with no tools needed. All you need to supply is a piece of fruit. There are a limited number of kits, so get yours at the Library's Curbside Pickup table while supplies last.

Book Club Reads @ Hospital Life

The Hampstead Public Library's Nonfiction Book Club is reading *Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital* by Sheri Fink. The discussion is on Tuesday, April 6 at 1 p.m. To reserve a copy of the book, call the Library 603-329-6411. In the tradition of the best investigative journalism, physician and reporter Sheri Fink reconstructs five days at Memorial Medical Center after hurricane Katrina. The culmination of six years of reporting, this book unspools the mystery of what happened in those days after the storm, bringing the reader into a hospital fighting for its life and into a conversation about the most terrifying form of health care rationing.

Ancestry.Com

Free remote access for Hampstead Public Library users has been extended through June 30. Research family history from the comfort of your home, by opening Anc-

stry.com through the Library website. In the upper right corner of HampsteadLibrary.org, click "My Account." Find "Ancestry Library Edition" in the Links box on the catalog homepage. If you need assistance or a password for your Library account, please call 603-329-6411 or email circulation@HampsteadLibrary.org.

Chess Club

Due to Covid19, the Hampstead Chess Club will be online only this year. Sundays: 4 - 5:30 p.m., on now - March 28. The Chess Club is open to all players from Hampstead and their friends from nearby towns. There is no cost to play, drop in on any Sunday starting at 4 p.m. All skill levels welcome. Go to www.HampsteadChessClub.org for more details on how and where to sign up. Contact Program Coordinator: Charlie Backman at (603) 329-5867 with any questions.

Meditation Classes

Weekly online Meditation Class from the Hampstead Public Library has been extended through the end of March. Make time for self-care with this 30-minute class on Zoom, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. According to the Mayo Clinic, meditation can reduce negative emotions, build skills to manage stress, improve rest and relaxation, and increase patience and tolerance. The classes are taught by library assistant and certified meditation instructor, Sue Crump. You do not have to be a Hampstead resident to attend. Register via the Events Calendar on HampsteadLibrary.org.

SANDOWN

Food Collection

The Kingston Lions Club and Sandown Lions Club will be partnering to collect food for the pantries in Kingston, Newton, Fremont and Sandown and clothing for Waypoint (underwear & socks) & Ruth's House (men's clothing)! On Saturday March 20 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Stop by the Austin 17 House parking lot and help us fill the red truck - we will gladly be accepting food, clothing and monetary donations (to purchase items to donate).

Pancake Breakfast

This event will be held outside, a drive up and go pancakes breakfast, for \$5 the Sandown Lions will be serving pancakes only or egg sandwich with or without cheese, and for \$6 pancakes with sausage. The event will be held on March 27 from 8-11 at the Sandown Town Hall Parking lot. Funds raised will go towards the purchase of an Eye Vision Screener.

Tween/Teen Craft

On Thursday, March 25, Join the Sandown Library each month for Tween/Teen Take and Makes (ages 11+). For this month's Take and Make you'll get a kit to make a Hot Chocolate Bomb! Hot chocolate bombs are balls of chocolate filled with cocoa mix and marshmallows. Put your bomb into a mug of warm milk. Watch it pop open and melt, transforming into a delicious cup of cocoa. This program is for ages 11+. Registration is required. Take and Make bags will be ready for pick up on Wednesday, March 24 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Contact Adrienne Skora for more information at 887-3428 or email youthservices@sandownlibrary.us

Old Home Day Committee

The Sandown Old Home Day Committee has openings and is seeking new members for the committee. If you are interested in planning the Old Home Day Fall Festival, a wonderful community event, please contact Pat Kimball at pkimb456@gmail.com.

Trivia Game Spring Edition

Are you a Trivia Pro or just an Average Joe? Join in the fun with the Sandown Library on Saturday March 13, from 1 - 2 p.m., to play a spring edition of our popular Trivia Game! Teams may be created and ZOOM breakout rooms provided for each team to discuss their answers. Three rounds will be played with 10 questions in each round. A bonus round will be offered if there is time. Participants will be emailed the link to join this Zoom program. Contact: Tricia Thomas, at 887-3428, or pthomas@sandownlibrary.us.

Crafting Crew

Crafts to make at home with the Sandown Library for ages 2-6! Each registered participant will receive a Take & Go Bag containing craft materials for each week's craft. If you did not request a bag, most crafts can be made with materials you probably have at your home, so check out the craft video! The directions for each week's craft will be pre-recorded then posted to the library's YouTube channel each Thursday 10 - 11 a.m. Find the library's channel here, <https://bit.ly/2REz5vh>. Contact: Tricia Thomas, at 887-3428, or programming@sandownlibrary.us.

Easy Spring Wreath

Make a Spring wreath with two simple items. The Sandown Library will provide the grape vine wreath YOU provide 2 packages of paper napkins! These wreaths are easy to change out for your next seasonal decor. Registration is limited to ensure supplies for all participants, Registration closes Wednesday, March 17. Wreaths may be picked up between 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., the week prior to the event. Contact: Tricia Thomas, at 887-3428, or programming@sandownlibrary.us.

YouTube - Story Time

In this pre-recorded Story time the Sandown Library explore early literacy skills, letter knowledge, and sound recognition, reading comprehension and vocabulary building. We do this through reading, reading, oral storytelling, poetry, fingerplays and rhymes. Contact: Tricia Thomas at 887-3428 or pthomas@sandownlibrary.us

Virtual Mother Goose On The Loose

On Mondays, from 10 - 10:30 a.m., a Virtual Mother Goose On The Loose (Ages up to 36 months) will be hosted by Sandown Library. Join Monday mornings on YouTube for movement, reading, rhymes, and songs. Mother Goose on the Loose is a brain-based program consisting of thirty minutes of fun, skill-building activities. Some benefits of the programs are the

following: aids speech development, improves motor coordination, develops attention span, and encourages a love of books and book illustrations. A link to the day's YouTube video will be posted 10 minutes prior to the start time. You can find archived story times from previous programs, too.

Zoom Room Story Time

The Sandown Library will hold themed stories designed to encourage the development of early literacy skills and build friendships with others, on Tuesdays from 10 - 11 a.m. For the safety and privacy of all participants, registration is required, and class size is limited. All registrants will be emailed a link to join the Zoom Video Room. This is a unique link and should not be shared. The program will be locked at 10:05 a.m., so please do not be late, or you will not be allowed into the program.

Virtual PJ Storytime

Join Miss Adrienne live on Facebook at 6:30 p.m., every Wednesday night for Virtual PJ Storytime. Wear pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animal with you.

Monday Mystery Book Club

Are you a mystery reader? Looking for some new authors or a chance to read a favorite one? Join us at the Sandown Library on the 1st Monday of the month to discuss the monthly book choice from 10:30 a.m. - noon. This month's book: *Iced Under* by Barbara Ross. Books are available to pick up at the library. Please register so we have enough copies of the books available. Contact Susan Kehoe at 887-3428 or skehoe@sandownlibrary.us.

Board of Library Trustees

Sandown Library Board Of Trustees will be Meeting from 7 - 9 p.m. The Board of Library Trustees meet every month on the second Thursday. This meeting is open to the public.

Legos and More

Come and build over zoom from 4 - 5 p.m., for ages

6 and up! We will be doing some fun building challenges. If you don't have Legos, that's okay. You can use blocks, magnet tiles, tinker-toys etc. Registration is required. Once you have registered, you will be emailed a unique link to Zoom where we will have fun building together. The Zoom meeting will be locked after the program has started, so please arrive on time. Contact: Adrienne Skora at 887-3428 and youthservices@sandownlibrary.us

Messy Mondays at Home

Looking for something to do with your child? Join the Sandown Library on Mondays from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., for a child-centered, creative exploration. Art, science and crafts will all be incorporated into this program

Family Fun In The Kitchen

Via Zoom from 4 - 5 p.m. Fall is here which means lots of apples. The Sandown Library will be making apple crisp. Participants are required to register and will receive an email with the login information to this Zoom event. Contact: Adrienne Skora at 887-3428 or youthservices@sandownlibrary.us.

BOOK - 2 - MOVIE

Is the Book always Better? The first Thursday of each month from 6 - 8 p.m., the Sandown Library watches a movie based on a book and have a discussion comparing them. Books for the next gathering are always available on movie viewing night. This is open every month to anyone who wants to join the discussion and watch the movie. Contact: Tricia Thomas at 603-887-3428 or pthomas@sandownlibrary.us

REGIONAL

Peterson Sugar House

Open this weekend, Noon - 5 p.m., Sat & Sun, March 20 & 21. Learn how maple syrup's made! Evaporator's running inside, sales of syrup & sugar outside, and free ice cream with syrup samples. Located at 28 Peabody Row, Londonderry.



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