



The Something to Crow About RICHMOND ROOSTER

June 2017

Selectmen Minutes Tidbits

Your selectmen are now Chris Daugherty (term expiring 2018), Carol Jameson (term expiring 2019) and Bill Daniels (term expiring 2020). Chris Daugherty, in addition to being the Chairman of the Selectboard and our ex-officio member on the Planning Board, has primary responsibility for roads. Carol Jameson is Welfare Administrator and Bill Daniels has responsibility for waste management. Your Town Administrator is Heidi Wood and the Administrative Assistant is Susan Harrington.

Work on town buildings continues. The fire alarms in the Vet's Hall have been repaired and painting the remaining sides of Town Hall and the Vet's Hall will begin when weather permits. Emergency generators have been installed at both buildings and will be connected shortly.

Work on grading town roads began later than usual this year due to the Spring rains. We have received several complaints about the condition of the roads after the winter, the period before grading could start – more complaints about potholes this year and less about mud, again weather related since this (and not the mud season) was the main problem this year. We received requests for temporary fixes to the roads as an interim measure. We are looking into this and, if research warrants, we may recommend a separate warrant article next March in order to let the voters decide whether the expense of temporary fixes is worth doing.

The Selectboard is forming an ad-hoc committee to investigate educational alternatives for students from the Town of Richmond, which will likely have been formed by the time of this printing. Richmond currently pays approximately \$1.4 million dollars to the Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD) for approximately 140 students from town to attend K-12 schools in the district. Many residents have expressed concern regarding the amount and percentage of their tax bill that is paid to the district, and some have expressed concern regarding the future of the district since several

district towns have already withdrawn from the district and others have expressed some level of interest in withdrawing. We have invited Richmond residents Jed Butterfield, Peter Mulhall, and Doug Bersaw, all of whom have experience in the field of teaching and/or administration of schools, to serve on this committee. We are also looking for a parent of an MRSD student to serve on the committee. After the committee has a chance to finish its study and present the results of its research to the Selectmen, we anticipate presenting the results to the public and investigating, based on the findings of the Committee and the public interest and response to the findings, whether further action or further research is warranted. Given the level of current dissatisfaction with the district, we feel that it is time for us to become active participants in understanding the current situation and evaluating alternatives. Our children deserve it.

The Police Department has gone through a few changes over the last few months. Andrew Wood has taken over the operation of the PD. Andy has been the full-time Chief of Police in Hancock for the last 8 years. He has continued to work for the Town of Richmond and had held the rank of Chief of Police from 1999-2012. The department continues to search for qualified people to fill vacant positions, Cam Prior has been with the department since June of last year. Amanda Swanson was recently hired as the newest officer in Town. Mandi is an officer in Rindge and is currently attending the New Hampshire Police Full-time Academy. She has been a part-time certified officer in NH for over 2 years. Administrative Assistant Lynn Adams, one of the towns longest employees, continues to assist citizens at the police department 3 days a week.

Town Clerk's Calendar

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

Please note: the office will be CLOSED WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14. I will be attending the Monadnock Regional

Meeting of the NH City and Town Clerks Association.

I would like to remind everyone that June 30 is the deadline to mail the DP-8, Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief form. You may qualify for tax relief from the State if you were single and earned \$20,000 or less, or were married and earned \$40,000 or less in 2016. Forms are available at the Town Hall and on the State website at www.revenue.nh.gov. The forms must be postmarked by June 30.

Dog News. If you have not yet licensed your dog, you will be charged late fees effective June 1. If you licensed your dog in the Town of Richmond last year, you can either come to the office or renew the license online. If you have added a dog to your family, you will need to come to the office to license your dog. To license a new dog, please bring with you the Rabies Vaccination Certificate along with verification that your dog has been neutered or spayed. Let me know if you no longer have your dog so I can update my files.

Please contact me if you have questions. Contact information can be found at <http://www.richmond.nh.gov>. The office phone number is 239-6202.

Unleash Your Heart for the Animals!

The Walk for the Monadnock Humane Society will be held at the Dillant-Hopkins Airport in Swanzey on Sat., June 17 from 10am-1pm, rain or shine. Admission is free. Parking available.

The Walk route is 3 miles – but you can walk whatever distance you feel most comfortable with. There are 5 rest stations which offer water and snacks for walkers, and wading pools and drinking water for dogs.

In the weeks leading up to The Walk, animal lovers in the community ask family, friends, coworkers, colleagues – everyone they know – to sponsor them. Visit www.mhswalkforanimals.com for details.

Prizes will be awarded to top fundraisers – individual and team. Every Walker gets a free lunch and a tote bag filled with goodies and coupons. Walkers who raise over \$100 will receive a beautiful *Walk for Animals* tee shirt. There will be a Brown Bag raffle with many wonderful items. There is a drawing for a Kayak Package (tickets are available now at MHS – \$10 each or 3/\$25 – you don't have to be present to win).

The public is welcome even if they decide not to do the Walk. Music is provided by CJ the DJ. Beth Pelton will be taking pet portraits. There will be a dog training demo; face painting; a vendor village; and a kid's area.

Help Wanted

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

The Town Clerk's office is seeking a part-time Deputy Town Clerk (10-15 hours per week). Minimum qualifications include strong customer service, computer, and accounting skills. Maintaining confidentiality and attention to detail are required.

The successful candidate will perform all duties pertaining to this office, including processing motor vehicle registrations, issuing dog licenses, marriage licenses, vital records requests, and assisting at elections. Extensive training is required, both on-site and at State agencies in Concord. Must be a Richmond resident and be flexible to the hours and days worked. Richmond is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Apply to: Town Clerk

105 Old Homestead Highway

Richmond, NH 03470

Or email: richmondtownclerk@yahoo.com

Library News

Wendy O'Brien

Important Library Dates for June:

Sat. June 3, 10:30 – 11:30: Community Coffee Hour

Sat. June 10, 11am: Summer Reading Program Kickoff at the Pavilion with Richmond Parks and Recreation Committee

Wed. June 14, 10am: Summer Reading Program Construction Zone; Knitting Circle

Sat. June 17, 10am: Reading with Jerry's Doggy Friends, Painting with Susan Opal

Wed. June 21, 10am: Summer Reading Program Smell-a-bration; Knitting Circle

Wed. June 28, 10am: Summer Reading Program Celebrate Good Times; Knitting Circle

Poor Houses and Town Farms Lecture

We apologize that this lecture had to be canceled with such short notice due to Steve Taylor's sudden illness. We will let you know when we have a new lecture date.

Community Coffee Hour

Elaine Moriarty and friends are hosting our Community Coffee Hour on Saturday, June 3, from 10:30-11:30. Join us for hot drinks, yummy goodies, and good conversation.

Come Build a Better World at the Library!

Readers of all ages will explore new ways to build this summer as we "Build a Better World" at our library. Join us for games, science and engineering experi-

ments, art projects, and, of course, reading! We will kick off the summer on Sat. June 10 at 11am with a piñata, tie-dye (bring along a shirt), crafts, hot dogs, and popsicles. Thanks go to the Richmond Parks and Recreation Committee for co-sponsoring this event. Every Wednesday at 10am, we will have a different program each week for all ages on how to “Build a Better World.”

Knitting Circle

Calling all knitters (and those who would like to learn!) to our knitting circle on Wednesday mornings at 10am. We have a lively group of new and experienced knitters led by Lucy Duchene. Other hand-crafters are welcome! 19 Winchester Rd, Richmond, NH, 603-239-6164

“America Reads” Needs Volunteers

Neil Moriarty

Along with the established programs in area schools that can always use some fresh volunteers, “America Reads” is starting a program at Southwestern Community Services Head Start at 161 Main Street, Ashuelot, NH 03441.

If you have an interest, or need more information, contact Allison Riley at ariley@mfs.org, or 603-283-1686. I am finishing my 10th year with “America Reads.” It is a rewarding experience helping kids with their reading skills. I hope you will join in.

May Update

Jim McConnell – State Representative
Cheshire 12 – Richmond and Swanzey

This past month the House has been busy completing work on the bills which have passed the Senate and been sent to the House, reconciling differences between bills passed in both bodies, but amended in the Senate and attempting to resolve the problems with the budget.

As I mentioned in last month’s update, I have been deeply involved in discussions on the budget. Following the budget’s failure to pass the House, the Senate Finance Committee heard from the House Finance Committee and, taking that, and the Governor’s proposed budget as rough starting points, has begun to craft its own proposal.

My concern continues to be that permitting the General Fund to increase by double digits is irresponsible. The General Fund is that portion of the budget which we have the most control over and the basis for most of the State’s portion of our taxes. My desire is to see our General Fund’s increase capped at 3% without

any downshifting of expenditures to counties and municipalities to reach that 3%. Any additional revenues after that 3%, should be used to reduce taxes and debt. Our taxes and debt are already too high, and continued profligate spending can only drive taxes and debt higher. Happily, a significant number of House members share this view. It should be noted that most of our budget is either Federal Funds or other dedicated funds, such as Highway Funds, Turnpike Funds, and the largest category of all, the miscellaneous category of Other Funds.

The most recent annual Tax Foundation analysis notes that New Hampshire is now the seventh worst state in the nation in State Debt per Capita. Last year we were eighth.

On a happier note, I am pleased to report that Senate Bill 128, which would have undermined the utility restructuring law (RSA 374-F), was retained in the House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee, and is almost certainly not going to be further considered. This bill would have subjected electric ratepayers to the risk of stranded costs, and permitted utilities to petition the Public Utilities Commission to permit uneconomic projects to proceed underwritten by electric ratepayers. I fought this bill in both the Senate and House, and am relieved to see it defeated.

I can be reached at 903-3878, which is my cell phone. I have decided it is much more efficient to use my cell phone as I’m frequently away from my desk and I’d rather take a call than return one. My personal email is mcc@mindspring.com. Please use my personal email as my legislative email is inundated from both out of state interest groups and individuals and I’d like to make sure that you, my constituents, can reach me when you want to and not get lost in the shuffle.

Things and Thoughts from the District –

Neil Moriarty

Do you have an issue or problem and need some help – try calling 211. This will connect you with a variety of help services.

1. Progress Made: *Deleting Paragraph Nine of the policy prohibiting Free Speech of Board Members Disagreeing with the Opinion of the School Board.*

After a general vote against deleting the paragraph at a prior School Board meeting, the Policy Committees recommended that the Board agree with the voters, and

to delete the paragraph (March 2017 Public vote). They did add a statement in the policy asking the Board member to claim that the opinion given was their own and not that of the Board. This policy update was presented by the Policy Committee as the first (of two) reading at the May 2, 2017 Board meeting. There was no discussion for, or against, the proposed change.

Note: In the May 2017 *Rooster* I used a disclaimer to reflect that my article is mine alone unless I say otherwise. From now on, I have added that disclaimer to my closing standard paragraph. Unlike some newspapers, I don't feel it is necessary to repeat that disclaimer every time it could possibly be applicable.

2. “America Reads” Donates Books to America Reads Volunteer’s Students

I gave out 24 new books to each student and classroom (one each) where I volunteer. “America Reads” does that for every student and classroom where there is an “America Reads” volunteer. The following week, I gave each kid another book that I purchased from the Richmond Library. The price at Richmond Library is very fair and I don't mind doing it; however, if you want to contribute, buy the book from Wendy and have her put it aside for me.

3. Late Bus Discussion – Middle/High School Parents please READ.

The topic of reducing the late bus to one or two, and then only to have single drop off point per town, is under discussion. The single Richmond drop-off is under discussion as being the Four Corners (intersection of routes 119 and 32); while I spoke against this idea being adapted, at all. I'm sure parents would prefer the single drop be the Veteran's Hall. Parents could refuse to let their kids use the late bus at all, then no drop-off issue. Unsupervised drop-off points in the dark of winter especially concern me. Could we afford to pay the library for 3 more days, to be open from 3 to 7pm (times subject to change, and Wendy's availability)? Could someone volunteer to be at the Veteran's Hall for the drop off? Who is responsible if a kid gets dropped off, and is not picked up, or worse?

Also see my write up on “Alternative To Late Bus.”

Thanks for reading my article; any comments, suggestions, or questions about the article or the district are welcome. Contact: cmoriarty@ne.rr.com; 603-239-4031; 782 Old Homestead Hwy, Richmond NH 03470. This article represents input from Neil Moriarty, and unless I specifically state otherwise, may not represent the opinions of the SAU 93 School Board.

School Board Meeting

Neil Moriarty

The School Board meeting will be on June 6, 2017. MRSD/SAU93 at 7:00 pm. in Richmond at YMCA-Camp Takodah in Craig Dining Hall.

RCUMC News

Pastor Arnie Johnson

Happy June to all from the Richmond Community United Methodist Church! I hope that Mother Nature has gotten snow out of her system by now! April show-ers have been bringing May flowers. It has been so wonderful to see all the bright and colorful blooms popping out all around the Monadnock region.

We had a wonderful Mother's Day in May with all the ladies in attendance, mothers or not, receiving a red rose presented by one of our youngsters and the pastor. Come join us on Sunday, June 18 for a special Father's Day celebration, where all men, whether fathers or not, will be recognized.

At our Church Council meeting in May, we confirmed that we will once again be sponsoring Wiener Wednesdays in August. This event has become very popular for the people of the Richmond area, and fun for all of us at the Church. We look forward to serving again on the first four Wednesdays of August – 2, 9, 16, and 23, 5-7 pm. We will not be providing this service on the 30th, because we will be recovering from our Annual Yard Sale which will be held on Saturday, August 26 from 8am-2pm and our outdoor service on the 27th. Please bring items you no longer have use for and would like to donate to the Church as part of our fund raiser. If you are not able to deliver them prior to the 26th, bring them that day, preferably before 8.

Another event that we are looking forward to is our annual Outdoor Service on Sunday, August 27, 10am at the Pavilion behind the Richmond Fire Department. The ever-popular Middle River Gospel Band will once again provide their musical ministry for the service and then continue to entertain during the Fire Department Annual Chicken BBQ which starts at noon. This is a very popular event, and we look forward to worshiping outdoors with many of our friends from everywhere. <http://middlerivergospel.com>

Other future events known at this time include a wedding in September and the return of the Kempton Family from Slapout, Alabama on Monday, October 23 at 7pm. The Kemptons, <http://thekemptions.com>, are

returning after losing Mama Teresa to cancer. They were scheduled last year about the same time in October, but they had to cancel due to her declining health. We were told by Papa Kempter that one of Teresa's last requests was for the family to continue touring, bringing their musical renderings of the wonders of Jesus Christ to all. We are so happy that they will return to Richmond. Admission is free with a free-will offering given totally to the Kempters to assist them in their ministry. Come and hear the beautiful harmony in their voices and the melodious sound of their instruments.

Another item to put on your calendar is our annual Holiday Fair on November 11 at the Veteran's Hall. More information to come as we get closer to that date.

We welcome all to our services who have a love of Jesus Christ in their hearts or wish to learn of that love. We meet regularly every Sunday (weather permitting) at 9am, 11 Fitzwilliam Rd. (Route 119, just east of the Four-Corner junction of Routes 32 and 119). The only exception is our outdoor service on August 27 which will be at 10am behind the Fire Department.

We also accept food donations to assist us in keeping the Food Pantry in the Town Hall well-stocked with healthy, non-perishable food that is made available free for those who are less fortunate. Help us spread Christ's love to all! We hope to see you soon!

Richmond Recipe Book

Jeani Eismont

The Richmond Recipe Book is moving along, but I have not gotten recipes from everyone in Richmond. These recipes should reflect ALL of our efforts, not just a few. I know there are wonderful cooks out there, and it would be great to have those special recipes that you are known for.

This recipe book will contain some old, historic, and favorite recipes from ALL the residents of Richmond. If each one of you has one or more of your favorites, please send them to me at 70 Whipple Hill Road, Richmond, NH 03470 or jeani@eismont.com.

We would like to use this as a fundraiser for the 4-Corners development. So far, I have received several desert recipes. How about special salads or soups and stews, meat, chicken, fish, or an appetizer? Come on folks, send me some recipes. Let's make this project something we can ALL participate in and be proud of.

Free Smoke Detector Program

Submitted by Neil Moriarty

Dear RSVP Friends,

Did you know that 60% of house fire deaths occur in homes with no working smoke alarms? During a home fire, working smoke alarms and a fire escape plan that has been practiced regularly can save lives. The American Red Cross Home Fire Preparedness Campaign offers free smoke alarms with installation and education to New Hampshire residents. They are high quality, 10-year fire detectors that do not require maintenance or battery changes. There are no eligibility requirements or limits on the number of detectors you can receive depending upon the size of your home. You can submit a request online at <http://www.redcross.org> or call 800-464-6692.

Please share with your Neighbors-In-Deed care recipients, and others you may know who could benefit from this important program. Stay tuned for an email about how you can volunteer in this important program!

Kathy Baird, Program Director

Monadnock RSVP Volunteer Center

64 Main St., Suite 212, Keene, NH 03431

603-357-6893, www.monadnockvolunteercenter.org

Heritage Commission at Work

Bob Weekes

The Richmond Heritage Commission has continued its work throughout the winter, developing plans for 2017 activities and building collaborations with town volunteers and the Board of Selectmen to help carry them out. The arrival of spring has jump started landscaping activities in areas where our members and volunteers established gardens in the recent past. These include the Town Hall, Town Well and Memorial Watering Trough, Tramp House, and Library. These spaces have already been cleared of leaves, fallen branches, acorns, pine needles and other winter debris. Carol Jameson (Chairman of the RHC), Jan Weekes (both Master Gardeners in their own right), and Mallory Reese have planted, trimmed, and weeded these areas, and developed plans for their continued enhancement which will include adding flowers, bushes and trees where needed. This work is funded by the Richmond Heritage Commission.

The town has already developed plans to have the site around our historic Veterans Hall stumped and graded for planting later this year, and increasing the


size of the parking area. The Heritage Commission plans to work on landscaping the area immediately surrounding the Vets Hall, formerly the First Universalist Society Meeting House built in 1837. Working in collaboration with volunteers from the Richmond Historical Society, we also plan to develop a long range plan for improving the Memorial Park, adding to the existing American Revolutionary War monument honoring Richmond veterans who served in later wars, using funds donated for this work.

To date, the Heritage Commission has replaced the badly damaged roof and floor of the Telephone Building to the south of the Vets Hall, and restored and painted some of its Greek Revival trim. Work will continue this spring to replace the door and door frame and interior sheetrock. When finished, Heritage Commission members will paint the building inside and out and work on appropriate landscaping to the surrounding area.

Over time, this area in the center of town, which is now an eyesore, would then have a much improved appearance, setting off the Vets Hall, the circa 1938 Telephone Building and a redesigned Memorial Park.

In addition, work will go forward on turning a small area on the northeast side of the 4 Corners, located on the front lawn of Ed and Melissa Atkins' house, into a landscaped space commemorating that location as the site of Richmond's original Town Common. An antique iron pump will be installed on top of the existing town well together with signage noting its past history and honoring longtime Richmond resident, Gerry Brewer, who lived there. The Heritage Commission is deeply appreciative of Ed and Melissa's, and the entire Brewer family's willingness and help to complete this project.


Finally, the Heritage Commission would like to say thank you to town residents who approved an allocation of \$1000 at town meeting to help fund Heritage Commission activities in 2017. As you might expect, the work we are engaged in, that of preserving and properly presenting Richmond's colorful past for present and future generations of residents and passersby, will require substantial additional funds. These we work hard to raise behind the scenes, relying on those who value our history and wish to strengthen town pride. If you would like to join forces, please send a check made out to the Richmond Heritage Commission to the Town of Richmond, 105 Old Homestead Highway, Richmond, NH 03470. Any amount will help. And thanks!



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Summer Reading Kick-off & Tie-Dye Party

Karen Daugherty

Sponsored by the Richmond Public Library
and Parks & Recreation Commission

Please join us Saturday, June 10th at 11am at the Pavilion. Rain or shine, there will be plenty of free food, fun, and activities at the Summer Reading Kick-off and Tie-Dye Party. Kids can sign up for the new Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is "Build a Better World." Bring a shirt and we will provide the tie-dye and instructions. Wind up for a swing at the piñata! We will also be providing steamed hot dogs and popsicles. We look forward to seeing everyone!



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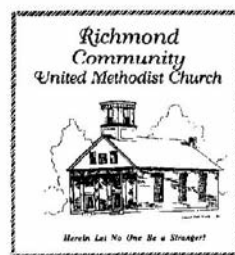
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Pastor Arnold Johnson

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The RICHMOND ROOSTER

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Stories printed are presented as fiction and are not intended to be considered as being historically accurate as to their content. Public notices, committee reports, articles, press releases, and letters to the editor are usually printed as received. *The Richmond Rooster* welcomes comments and article contributions.

Deadline is the 15th of each month.

Email – therichmondrooster@yahoo.com

Rooster Online: <http://therichmondrooster.org>

The Richmond Rooster is a nonprofit, voluntary corporation formed under New Hampshire law, RSA 292.

Town Business Hours

105 Old Homestead Highway, Richmond NH 03470

Board of Selectmen:

Chris Daugherty, Carol Jameson, William Daniels

Mon. 9 AM – 12 PM, 3 – 7 PM, 5:30 – 7 PM for business

7 PM – ? for public concerns)

Tues. 9-12 (Selectmen meet first Tuesday ONLY)

Wed. 9 AM – 1 PM, Thurs. 9 AM – 1 PM (unless posted)

Town Administrator: Heidi Wood

Assistant Town Administrator: Susan Harrington

Town Clerk: Annette Tokunaga

Deputy Town Clerk: Jennifer S. Thompson

Mon. 9 AM – 12 NOON, 1 – 4 PM, 6 – 8 PM

Wed. 9 AM – NOON, 1 – 5 PM, Thurs. 9 AM – 12 NOON

Tax Collector: Steve Boscarino

Deputy Tax Collector: Kerry A. Boscarino

Mon. 6 PM – 8 PM, Wed. 9 AM – 12 NOON

Tues. 2 PM – 5 PM in the week taxes are due

Planning Board:

Meetings held at Veterans Hall.

1st Tues. of the month – 7:30 PM

and 3rd Tues. if needed

Transfer Station and Recycling Facility: 239-8136

Tues. 8 AM – 4 PM, Thurs. 8 AM – 7 PM

Sat. 8 AM – 5 PM

Town Library: Wendy O'Brien, Librarian, 239-6164.

Tues. 3 PM – 7 PM, Wed. 9 AM – 12 NOON

Thurs. 3 PM – 7 PM, Sat. 10 AM – 2 PM

Police (Non Emergency): 239-6007

Fire/Rescue (Non Emergency): 239-4466

Fire Warden: Ed Atkins, 392-2027

Selectmen – 239-4232

Town Clerk – 239-6202

Tax Collector – 239-6106

Road Agent: Mark Beal – 903-2184

Visit town on-line: <http://richmond.nh.gov>