



## FROM THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE



### Results of March 9th Elections

Selectman	X = Elected
110 : Carol Jameson	
<b>189 : Andrew Wallace</b>	<b>X</b>
Planning Board	
<b>194 : Stacie Maillet</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>153 : Kathryn McWhirk</b>	<b>X</b>
Library Trustee	
<b>236 : John Lewis</b>	<b>X</b>
Town Clerk	
<b>262 : Karen O'Brien</b>	<b>X</b>
Trustee of Trust Funds	
<b>217 : Rostislav Eismont</b>	<b>X</b>
Cemetery Trustee	
<b>10 : Larry Richardson</b>	<b>X</b>

### Results of March 9th Ballot Questions for Proposed Zoning Amendments

Question#	Bold = Prevailed
1 (Reduce Wetland Setback to 25')	134 Yes; <b>146 No</b>
2 (Alter Ruins Definition)	<b>196 Yes</b> ; 79 No
3 (Alter Pollutant Definition)	<b>173 Yes</b> ; 106 No
4 (RV Permit Basis)	161 Yes; 109 No*
5 (Alter Wetlands Definition)	<b>195 Yes</b> ; 76 No

*\*Results of Ballot Question 4 invalidated due to failure to warn public of the proposal in the 2021 Warrant signed by the Selectmen.*

NOTE: Write-in candidates who did not prevail have not been included. Out of the 891 registered voters, 300 cast ballots = 34% voter turnout. Complete results, including write-ins, will be posted at the Town Hall and the Veterans' Hall and on the Town Website. A sincere thank you to those who participated!

## A Hidden Local Treasure: the Horatio Colony Museum Tim Rogers

In the post-Covid world, which will hopefully happen soon, take a moment to visit the home of a Keene man who lived up to the words attributed to his poetic namesake. His name was Horatio Colony, and the British Poet Thomas B. Macaulay wrote the following about Horatio:

Then out spake brave Horatius,  
The Captain of the Gate:  
To every man upon this earth  
Death cometh soon or late.  
And how can man die better  
Than facing fearful odds,  
For the ashes of his fathers,  
And the temples of his gods.

Our Horatio loved history, antiquities, art, and history. He was the son of a nineteenth-century Keene industrial family whose mills are on West Street, once renovated as "Colony Mill Marketplace" and are now "the Colony Mill Apartments." He was a writer, philanthropist and collector; he loved music, art, and other cultural pursuits.

But perhaps more than anything, Horatio loved travel. During his extensive travels through Europe and Asia, he collected what struck his fancy, from fine furniture to folk crafts and he made those objects part of his daily life, incorporating them into his home.

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One can imagine household servants rolling their eyes as the latest batch of crates followed Colony home from one of these expeditions to exotic ports, and the perfect place for each of the contents had to be found. They ended up in spots throughout the house and they had to be dusted daily. Horatio's newly found treasures became part of everyday life in his home, a solid, yellow, clapboard building opposite the Post Office on Keene's Main Street, now named "the Horatio Colony Museum".



Today, many museums feel pressure to be known for the best collection of a particular subject matter or objects, but that is not true of the Colony Museum. In one sense, it is more akin to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. Like the Gardner, it is nice to wander in what is simply a collection of art, antiquities, and objects someone liked well enough to make them part of their life. These are not ordinary everyday objects of course, but the carefully chosen pieces selected by a well-educated gentleman of highly cultured taste, insatiable curiosity, and the means to indulge both.

Horatio, the inveterate traveler, anticipated the fashionable eclectic look by nearly a century, happily mixing styles and periods, surrounding himself with everything from carved Chinese furniture to bronze sculptures and highly improbable collections of cribbage boards and silver napkin rings.

Fortunately for us, when Horatio Colony died in 1977, he left his house and its contents as a museum. Today, it looks much as it did when he left it. The overflow of his collections is in glass cases in the ell, but the bulk of them furnish the house, mixed in with his substantial nineteenth-century furniture. The result is a home that looks as though Mr. Colony had stepped out a few moments before you entered. As you wander through his house, you have the feeling that you should just pull a book from a shelf in his library, settle into one of his reading chairs and wait for him to return.

#### To Get There

The Horatio Colony House Museum, built in 1806, is at 109 Main St., Keene. While the Museum is

currently closed because of the pandemic, it should be opening in the spring or summer. Get a preview by using the Museum's 'Sofa Viewing' series. Weekly emails are sent to you with photos and information about various objects in the collection, the gardens and the nature preserve. If you would like to join "Sofa Viewing", email [horatio.colony@gmail.com](mailto:horatio.colony@gmail.com) and ask to be included in the series. Your email address should appear in the body of your request. The Horatio Colony Museum's normal hours are Tuesday through Saturday, mid-May through mid-October from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Saturday year-round. Admission is free; you can park behind St. Bernard's Church, next door to the museum. Look for a gate through the fence between the church and the museum. For information, call (603) 352-0460.

**Carbon Cash-Back Program:  
Recognizing that global climate change is  
a serious problem calling for immediate  
national action that should be guided by  
sound economic principles.**

Susan Opal

On January 17, 2019, four former Chairs of the Federal Reserve (all), 27 Nobel Laureate Economists, 15 former Chairs of the Council of Economic Advisors, and two former Secretaries of the U.S. Department of Treasury co-authored an OpEd in the Wall Street Journal which outlined a bipartisan path on how to combat climate change. They agreed that a carbon tax offers the most cost-effective lever to reduce carbon emissions at the scale and speed that is necessary. By correcting a well-known market failure, a carbon tax would send a powerful price signal that harnesses the invisible hand of the marketplace to steer economic actors towards a low-carbon future.

A carbon tax should increase every year until emissions reductions goals are met and be revenue neutral to avoid debates over the size of government. A consistently rising carbon price will encourage technological innovation and large-scale infrastructure development. It will also accelerate the diffusion of carbon-efficient goods and services into the main street marketplace.



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## Richmond Historical Society

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A sufficiently robust and gradually rising carbon tax will replace the need for various carbon regulations that are less efficient. Substituting a price signal for cumbersome regulations will promote economic growth and provide the regulatory certainty companies need for long term investment in clean-energy alternatives.

To prevent “carbon leakage” and to protect U.S. competitiveness, a border carbon adjustment system should be established. This system would enhance the competitiveness of American firms that are more energy-efficient than their global competitors. It would also create an incentive for other nations to adopt similar carbon pricing.

To maximize the fairness and political viability of a rising carbon tax, all the revenue should be returned directly to U.S. citizens through equal lump-sum rebates. The majority of American families, including the most vulnerable, will benefit financially by receiving more in “carbon dividends” than they pay in increased energy prices.

We need to start thinking about an enactment of carbon pricing legislation to protect the United States and New Hampshire from the costs and environmental risks of continued climate inaction. To protect households, please support a Carbon Fee and Dividend approach that charges fossil fuel producers for their carbon pollution and rebates the money collected to all residents on an equal basis. Enacting a Carbon Cash-Back program would decrease long-term fossil-fuel dependence, aid in the economic transition for energy consumers and keep local energy dollars in New Hampshire’s economy. A carbon Cash-Back

program is the most effective and fairest way to deliver rapid reductions in harmful carbon emissions at the scale required for our collective health and safety.

### **Angels in the Snow** **Bettie Foster Thomas**

The children find a new expanse  
Of heaven-sifted snow;  
Irreligiously they dance  
A knee-deep do-si-do.  
In transient tracks of tiny feet  
They crisscross all the yard;  
They print snow-angels winged neat,  
Not thinking the snow-field marred.



### **Greetings from the ‘Old Brick Church!’**

We are happy to announce that we will be resuming in-person worship at the church beginning on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021.


We hope that you will be able to join us for Palm/Passion Sunday and our Easter Sunday Services. Worship begins at 10:30 AM.

Masks and Social Distancing are required. For more information on upcoming events, please contact us at richmondcommunitymc@gmail.com or call Pastor Sharon at 978-987-6036.

We wish you all a Happy and Safe Easter.

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## Sandy Pond V: The Amphibians

Shaun Bennett

Sandy Pond may not seem to be a spectacular spot for amphibians, but that is exactly what it is - or what it was - times have changed. What are amphibians? Frogs are the most prominent members of the group and at least five species are found in and around the Pond: Green Frogs, Bullfrogs, Pickerel Frogs, Wood Frogs and the one that so many of us long to hear after a long winter: Spring Peepers. Then, there are the American Toads whose trill is heard throughout the summer and often mistaken for a bird call or cicada. Least conspicuous are the salamanders which, in the case of Sandy Pond, once numbered in the tens of thousands. All of these species have in common the requirement for standing water in which to reproduce.

New Hampshire is home to half a dozen salamander species with the little Two Lined Salamander and the Red-Backed Salamander being fairly common on land in damp areas, but nothing I have ever seen anywhere compares with Sandy Pond's astonishing abundance of Eastern Newts. (They are also known by several other names including Red Spotted Salamander and Common Spotted Newt - here, I'll save space and just call them "newts".) For several years in the 1960's, I actually counted them. In 1966, there were 120,000! Based on childhood observations, I believe there were still more of them in the 50's. They are fairly common in the Pond today, probably still the most numerous vertebrate there, but it is clear that the population has declined. A current count would be interesting, but someone with less mileage than me will have to make it.



The Common Spotted Newt has been of considerable interest to scientists, and their abundance in Sandy Pond used to attract at least one professional collector who would net hundreds for sale to laboratories. Among other things, scientists would like to understand how newts can regrow not only severed toes, but entire limbs including all the bones. Although the medical significance of this unusual ability is obvious, it remains a mystery.

There are several phases in the life of a newt. Starting from an egg which is laid in shallow water in the spring, they grow as larvae, similar in appearance to adults, but less than an inch long and with bushy external gills. On some unknown signal, larvae absorb their gills, develop a water-tight skin that reduces dehydration, change their color, and head for dry land. There is terrible carnage on the day or two in late spring when the little guys cross the road along the Pond's northern edge, but they are so small that hardly anyone ever notices.

Juvenile newts, called efts, are terrestrial, but like all amphibians, they cannot withstand very dry places and they tend to stay under the forest floor's leaf litter, emerging to hunt when morning dew or rain provides high humidity. In sharp contrast to the deep green of their aquatic adult counterparts, the juveniles are bright red or orange, an easily spotted color on the drab forest floor and so strikingly different from the dark green adults in the pond that early biologists believed that they were an entirely different species. Kermit the Frog sang "It Ain't Easy Being Green," but being bright orange, instead of some form of camouflage, might seem even more challenging for an animal which is essentially defenseless: no teeth or claws or even a protective shell and speed which make a tortoise look like the road runner. The key to their survival is skin that contains a poison known as tetrodotoxin. If you are likely to prove fatal to anybody who might try to eat you, it pays to advertise your lethal attribute, and a bright red-orange hue is a good way to do it. Let me emphasize here that unless you plan on eating a red eft, they pose absolutely no danger. You can handle them with complete safety (please be gentle). However, ingesting tetrodotoxin is not an entirely ridiculous idea; it is exactly the same poison that is found in the Japanese delicacy fugu or pufferfish. So dangerous is this dish that it is banned in Europe and in Japan can only be prepared by officially licensed chefs. Even with this safeguard, there are a few pufferfish fatalities each year. I'll just have the sushi, thank you.

When speaking of newts and fatalities, I cannot omit mention of the grisly annual annihilation that occurs as salamanders cross Sandy Pond Road around Labor Day. Juvenile efts return from life on land to the Pond in a migration that takes place more at night than



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during the day; it is triggered by a good rain at the end of August or the first week of September. Sadly, many of them do not make it. In earlier times when there were more salamanders in Sandy Pond, the roadkill was even greater than now with a flattened eft (and a few frogs for good measure) for every square yard of pavement in the vicinity of the brook that feeds the Pond. This year, on those few critical days and nights as summer wanes



and rain falls on Sandy Pond Road, consider driving in a life-saving, low-speed slalom around the migrants.

At the outset of this article, I said that bullfrogs are found in Sandy Pond, but unfortunately this is no longer the case. I last heard one lonesome male make the distinctive “jug o rum” call a couple of years ago. In the 70’s, so many bullfrogs lived in Sandy Pond that, on a mid-July evening, their sound was deafening. I spent nights cursing them as I debated whether to keep the windows open in the sweltering heat or to close them against the frogs’ noise in hopes of getting some sleep. The male frogs were busy loudly declaring their ownership of a territory which had to be pretty small because there were so many of them sharing the lily pads and shallow areas. The residents inflated themselves so that they floated high with some of their yellow underparts showing. A challenger would inflate too and set off a “fight” that resembled sumo wrestling with two rotund, inflated contestants trying to force each other backward. After five or ten seconds of this, one frog, usually the intruder, would yield, deflating and sinking to a level that

barely broke the surface while he swam away in defeat, as the winner announced his victory with more croaking. It must have been hard work, but the nice thing was that nobody ever seemed to get hurt. I made a frog model out of a sponge and even though it did not appear particularly frog-like to me, it was vigorously attacked. (All its matches ended in draws because, being a sponge, it could not deflate in defeat, nor could it croak in victory!)

The US Geological Survey (USGS) indicates that there are over 6000 species of amphibians worldwide and 300 species in the US. Some 40 percent of species are threatened, and others have disappeared entirely. The rate of loss is close to four percent per year; if it continues, about half the area where they presently occur will be devoid of amphibians in 20 years. USGS cites a variety of factors that contribute to the decline including: habitat loss, disease, pesticide poisoning, and climate change. Given the inconspicuous nature of most amphibia (boisterous bullfrogs excepted), they don’t attract a lot of attention, and their lack of charisma (no offense, Kermit!) has attracted less research than, say, game animals or eye-catching birds. Nevertheless, they may be more important than is apparent. For example, the “biomass” (total weight of live individuals) of a single species of salamander (Red-Backed) at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest here in New Hampshire was found to be twice that of all the birds there in the July peak season. When we lose a species from an area, amphibian or otherwise, chances are that it will never return, and we need to make decisions with this in mind.



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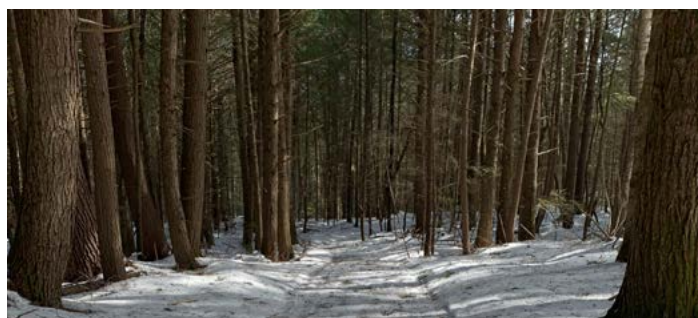
### Hiking the Tully Trail in Royalston, MA, North from Route 68 toward Royalston Falls

Carol Jameson

The yellow-blazed Tully Trail is a 22-mile trail in Royalston and Warwick which offers many hopping-on and hopping-off points for walks of any length you would like. In a previous article, we described a stretch of the Tully Trail above Long Pond at Jacob's Hill to Spirit Falls and the Ledges. This time, we were north of the Jacob's Hill trailhead, accessing the Tully Trail to walk a level portion of the trail from where it crosses Route 68 in Royalston and heads north up to Royalston Falls. This is a great walk for a winter's day when snow is on the ground. The trail from Route 68 until the footbridge over the Falls Brook is level. There is a snowmobile enthusiast who packs the trail down regularly so we were not walking in deep snow, but rather on a packed surface. It was icy, but no problem at all with a good pair of microspikes.

To get to the trailhead, we drove south on Route 32 out of Richmond to the turn-off for Route 68 in Royalston. We parked about one mile from the turn-off, near the mailbox for 137 Warwick Road (Rte. 68) and within sight of the yellow gate that marks the Tully Trail heading south to Long Pond. We hiked the Tully Trail in the opposite direction from the yellow gate, north from the road, entering the trail across the road from the 137 mailbox. There are a few rolling gentle inclines at the start of the trail, but the total elevation change is under 50 feet. We were walking

in the valley of the East Branch of the Tully River, which was just out of sight to our right, when we started out walk. Most of the walk is in the Royalston State Forest, a beautiful woodland with many large hemlock groves. We saw many deer tracks and signs of turkey, squirrel, bobcat and grouse. We spotted a barred owl sitting motionless in a tree and a squirrel's nest which had blown down from a tree in the recent windstorm.



The first mile and a quarter of the trail is wide and very easy walking. Then, the trail turns right and it narrows to a footpath, though still very level. In about three-quarters of a mile from this turn, the trail crosses Falls Brook, north of where Falls Brook joins the network of brooks that becomes the East Branch of the Tully River.

We turned back at the footbridge over Falls Brook, for an out-and-back hike of just under four miles. Had we continued on the Tully Trail north from the footbridge for another half mile or so, we would have followed along the Falls Brook to Royalston Falls. The trail becomes narrower and rougher from the footbridge up to the falls. The falls are spectacular but the footing was too icy and treacherous today.

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This is a level walk through beautiful forest with different options, depending on your mood. If you turn back when the trail turns right and becomes a footpath, you have a level out-and-back walk of about two and a half miles. If you continue as far the footbridge, it is a little under four miles. If you would like more of a challenge with elevation change and a narrower path, continue on the Tully Trail to Royalston Falls for a spectacular sight and a total length of about five miles.



*Squirrel's Nest*

Royalston Falls can be accessed from several different trailheads. In a previous article, we described the walk to Royalston Falls from Greenwood's Road in Richmond, taking the white-blazed M&M Trail south



from Greenwood's Road to where it connects with the northern end of the yellow-blazed Tully Trail. That walk is a particularly beautiful hike, wilder and more rigorous than this approach from the south. There is yet another trailhead to the falls at the Royalston Falls Reservation parking area on Route 32 in Royalston.

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## Cooking with Asparagus

### Terri O'Rorke

Here are two different asparagus recipes that could be used with your Easter dinner this year:

#### ROASTED ASPARAGUS WITH THYME

2 lbs. asparagus  
 2 Tbsp. olive oil  
 1/2 tsp. dried thyme or 1 tsp. chopped fresh thyme  
 salt and pepper to taste

Wash asparagus, cut off and discard lower tough end. Place asparagus in shallow baking dish that holds them in a single layer and drizzle with oil, tossing lightly to coat. Sprinkle with thyme, salt and pepper. Place in pre-heated 425°F oven and roast for about 15 minutes or until tender. Serves six.

#### ASPARAGUS ASIAGO

2 lbs. asparagus  
 2 Tbsp. olive oil  
 1/4 tsp. Italian seasoning  
 shredded Asiago cheese (about an ounce)  
 salt & pepper to taste

Wash asparagus, cut off and discard lower tough end. Place asparagus on a baking sheet and drizzle with oil, seasoning, salt and pepper, tossing to coat evenly. Place in a pre-heated 400°F oven and roast for about 15 minutes or until tender. Sprinkle cheese on top. Serves six.



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**Danny Wahl**  
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 different items, including but not limited to these items

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## Greetings from the Richmond Food Pantry

### Hugh VanBrocklin

We have had a busy season at the Food Pantry and appreciate the community support we have received. The Pantry is stocked weekly with non-perishable food items, such as juice, water, cereal, pasta, canned meats, fruits, vegetables, and soups. Those who wish to donate food can bring it to the Town Hall and let someone in the Selectmen's Office know it's there. We can then go down and use it to refill the shelves. Please be sure to check expiration dates!! Monetary donations can be made to the Richmond Food Pantry and sent to Hugh VanBrocklin at 30 Granite Hill Road, Richmond. All your help is gratefully received!

The Pantry remains open to anyone who needs to supplement his/her food supply. It is available when the Town Hall is open, no appointment necessary, and there is no application process. If you have further questions, don't hesitate to call (603) 239-4494.



## Library News

### Wendy O'Brien

#### Kids of All Ages

Calling all parents (and kids too)! Our summer reading program this year is "Tails and Tales" and is all about - you guessed it - animals! We are so excited to share our animal stories with all of Richmond's families. But, we need to know what days/times would work best for you.

Could you take a quick three question survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2K655KC> to help plan story times, teen nights, and summer reading programs? Thank you!

#### Kids Craft Kits

This month, we are celebrating spring! Be ready for those April showers with our umbrella craft, look out for caterpillars, celebrate Earth Day, and create a rainbow. Pick up your craft on the Library front steps; they change every Wednesday morning.

#### New Titles

*Between Two Kingdoms: A Memoir of a Life Interrupted*, Suleika Jaouad  
*The Vanishing Half*, Brit Bennett  
*Just as I am*, Cicely Tyson  
*Serpentine*, Jonathan Kellerman  
*A Promised Land*, Barack Obama  
*The Four Winds*, Kristin Hannah  
*Hamnet*, Maggie O'Farrell  
*The Shadow Box*, Luanne Rice

At the time of writing, we are offering curbside service. Please contact us at (603) 239-6164 or at [library@richmondnh.us](mailto:library@richmondnh.us) to arrange for your selections and pick-up time.

## A Message from the Library Trustees

Dear Library Patrons,

We look forward with great eagerness to the coming of Spring with its opportunities for open windows, an increasing rate of uptake of vaccines by those most

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vulnerable, and the continued neighborly practices of mask wearing, leading to a relenting of the dread of Covid-19 disease. We anticipate our beloved Richmond Public Library will be able to offer much freer access with the joy of in-person library browsing without compromise to safety once our staff has been fully vaccinated.

Our paramount concern as RPL Trustees has always been to ensure the health and safety of Wendy and Trish and all our patrons who visit there and to do so by carefully assessing the opportunities for virus transmission in the context of the RPL space and patron flow, and the prevailing incidences of transmission in Cheshire County.

We express our gratitude here for the extraordinary cooperation and understanding of our Richmond Community for whom Wendy has created a very special sanctuary for reading and learning and sharing.

Richmond Public Library Board of Trustees

### **Correction to “Mother of President James Abram Garfield” Article Featured in the February 2021 Rooster**

**Wendy O’Brien**

Jan Weekes has kindly notified us that, in fact, Eliza Ballou Garfield was born near the monument erected in her honor. In the June 1999 article of The Richmond Rooster, Bob Weekes stated, “Eliza Ballou was born in Richmond on September 21, 1801, in a small house near the top of Devil Stair Hill (then known as ‘Ballou Hill’) on what is today an almost impassable section of Monument Road east of Cass Pond.” The family then moved to the Quaker Lane home in 1803. Thank you for bringing this to our attention, Jan!

### **Richmond has a Zoning Compliance Officer!**

At their March 1, 2021 meeting, the Selectmen voted to appoint Richard Drew as Richmond’s Zoning Compliance Officer, with a term set to expire on March 31, 2023. For any zoning questions, call the Town Administrator.

### **Parks and Recreation Karen Daugherty**

By the time you’re reading this, we will have had our annual Easter Egg Hunt.



Spring is here, and the weather is getting warmer. Make sure to take advantage of all that the Richmond outdoors has to offer. Town Roadside Clean-up is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 1st. Trash bags and gloves will be available on the Richmond Library steps at least a week in advance.

May 1st, 2021

Richmond Roadside Clean-up

June 2021

Summer Picnic & Tie Dye Party

August 2021

“Back to School” Party

September/October 2021

Collaborative event with Harvest Festival and Agricultural Fair

December 2021

Movie at Takodah

January 2022

Winter Event

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## Town Clerk Report

Karen O'Brien

I would first like to say that I am honored that you elected me to the Town Clerk position. I appreciate the support of all of you and hope that I can live up to your expectations. As I mentioned in my last article, I have been working with the former Town Clerk, Annette Tokunaga, since January when I decided to throw my hat into the ring. But it is a steep learning curve, compounded by the fact that the DMV put me in the wrong training class in February, and I had to retake the correct class March 11th and 12th. So, I did not get the practice needed to fully feel comfortable in those duties. Because of this, I am changing the Town Clerk office hours to align with the MAAP Help Desk so I can call them if I need assistance in providing the town with registrations, titles, etc. Due to Covid-19 concerns, they are only open until 4:30 and have no Saturday hours. I do not wish to waste your time if I cannot properly process DMV work.

The new – temporary – hours will be Monday 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:00, Wednesday 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:00, and Thursday 8:00-12:00. I hope to be able to return to evening hours when I am more comfortable with the process and can better accommodate your schedules. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to voice your opinion as to how I can better serve you. Remember, you can do renewals and dog licenses online. At the present time, boat registrations cannot be done in Richmond.

Transactions which can be done online and through the mail:

- Vehicle renewals;
- Dog licensing;
- Requests for vital records.

Additionally, I am happy to discuss drop-off arrangements. If you have any questions or would like to set up an appointment, please email me at [obrienrichmondclerk@gmail.com](mailto:obrienrichmondclerk@gmail.com)

Dog licenses are due by April 30. Fines can be assessed for dogs not licensed by that date.

I am indebted to Annette for her excellent

## A Friend On Granite Hill Road

training and advice. She is a treasure, and I wish her the best as she enters retirement. I fully expect I will be burning the telephone lines to her as I work through getting more familiar with the position. I am here to provide the best, professional service to the Town of Richmond. I hope that you will all bear with me as I transition into being your Town Clerk.

## Monadnock Regional School District Preliminary Election Results

**Article 1 (Budget)** – Passed

Richmond: 179 For; 99 Against

**Article 2 (MRMHS/Gilsum Reno)** – Failed

Richmond: 105 For; 171 Against

**Article 3 (School Engineering)** – Passed

Richmond: 155 For; 115 Against

**Article 4 (Specialists' Contract)** – Passed

Richmond: 177 For; 92 Against

**Article 5 (MDEA Contract)** – Passed

Richmond: 109 For; 169 Against

**Article 6 (MESSA Contract)** – Passed

Richmond: 99 For; 176 Against

**Article 7 (Special Ed Exped Trust)** – Passed

Richmond: 202 For; 62 Against

**Article 8 (Annual Report)** – Passed

Richmond: 207 For; 48 Against

**Article 9 (Advisory)** – Passed

Richmond: 210 For; 47 Against

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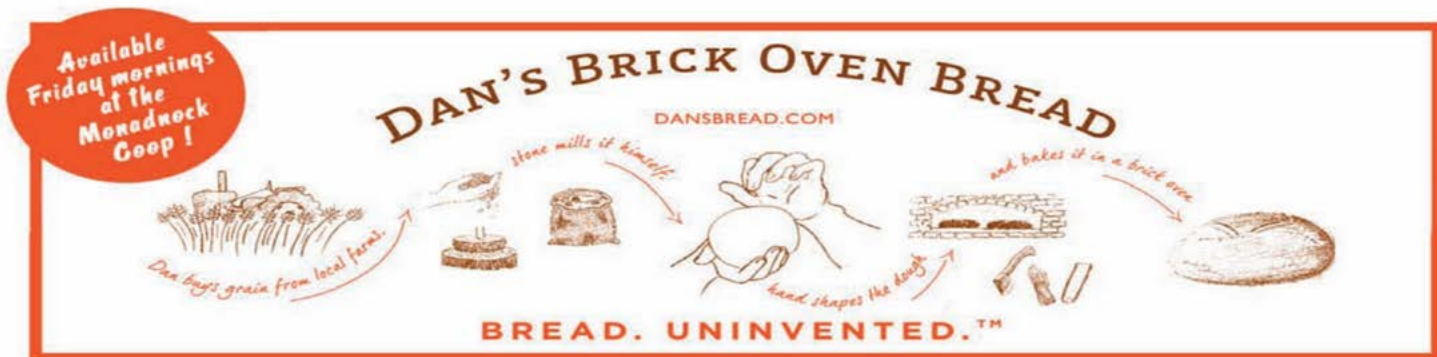
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## Hydropower Coffee Hours Engage the Public in Speaking Up for Rivers

**Greenfield, MA** – The Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) is hosting three virtual Hydropower Coffee Hour events to discuss and answer questions about the five Connecticut River hydropower facilities that applied for renewed operating licenses in December. The five facilities include the Turners Falls Dam and Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage in Massachusetts, and the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon Dams in Vermont and New Hampshire. Once they are issued, the licenses for these facilities will be in place for the next 30-50 years and impact more than 175 miles of the Connecticut River. It's critical that we all speak up NOW in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to influence these operating licenses. Join CRC at these Hydropower Coffee Hours to learn more:

- **March 10**, 9:30am, Traditional Cultural Properties
- **April 15**, 9:30am, River Critters
- **May 12**, 9:30am, River Recreation

Additional details and links to register can be found at [www.ctriver.org/events](http://www.ctriver.org/events). CRC staff and additional experts will be on hand to answer questions and share how the public can get involved in the hydro relicensing process to speak up for rivers. These events are devoted to question & answer. Each event has a unique topic to guide the conversation, but any questions related to the relicensing are welcome.

The three Hydropower Coffee Hour events are a follow-up to two informational presentations held by CRC in January that can be viewed online at [www.ctriver.org/livestream](http://www.ctriver.org/livestream) or on CRC's YouTube channel. We encourage attendees to view these presentations for additional background about the relicensing and related concerns.

Since 1952, Connecticut River Conservancy has been the voice for the Connecticut River watershed, from source to sea. They collaborate with partners across four states to protect and advocate for your rivers and educate and engage communities. They bring people together to prevent pollution, improve habitat, and promote enjoyment of your river and its tributary streams. Healthy rivers support healthy economies. To learn more about CRC, or to make a contribution to help protect your rivers, visit [www.ctriver.org](http://www.ctriver.org).

Kathy Urffer, River Steward  
Connecticut River Conservancy  
PO Box 6219 | Brattleboro, VT 05302  
[www.ctriver.org](http://www.ctriver.org)  
802-258-0413 | [kurffer@ctriver.org](mailto:kurffer@ctriver.org)

## APRIL ACTIVITY Karen O'Brien

April brings rain, mud, and the first of blooming plants. The bees and other pollinators venture forth, looking for nectar after a long winter. Lots of spring ephemerals bloom now: their small blossoms a bright spot in the otherwise barren landscape. Many of these plants bloom early, due to the lack of shade from trees that have yet to

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have their leaves unfurl. They are not true shade lovers, like some other woodland plants, but have evolved to use the lack of the canopy of trees to bloom and set seed. They then go dormant, so it is sometimes difficult to see these gems unless you are lucky to be there when they bloom.

When I first moved to New Hampshire, I was stunned by the number of wildflowers I found on my walks up Whipple Hill. By walking a few times a week, I was able to catch many of these lovely plants blooming alongside the road. I have also found some of them in my woods and, every time I discover a new plant, I am excited beyond belief. Plants I had read about, but had never seen in the wild, were there if I just looked.



This month, we will highlight a few of the earliest spring native flowers and interesting facts about them.

Blood root (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) is an especially attractive native flower. As it emerges from the ground, the lobed leaves are furled around the flower stalk, sheltering it until conditions are right for it to flower. The flower does not last long, but it is stunning in both its simplicity and its complexity. The flowers are showy white with yellow centers and lasting only a few days before wilting and self-pollinating. May through June, the plant develops cylindrical-tear-drop shaped seed pods that ripen and open in July. *S. canadensis* is a myrmecochoric plant, meaning its seed dispersal relies primarily on ants carrying away their seed and eating the rich lipid coating (or elaiosome). So, if you plant this in your garden, don't be surprised if you find it popping up far away from where it started. There is a double flowering variety, but, as with many "improved" flowering plants, it is sterile and will not colonize as rapidly as the native. A red liquid oozes from the stem, which was used by native Americans for decorating their weapons and themselves.

The root and rhizome are used by herbalists for use in medicines. Blood root has long been used by Native Americans to induce vomiting, the practice of which is believed to cleanse the body of harmful toxins. Blood root has a long history of use in quack

medicine, starting in the 1920s with a health tonic known as "Pinkard's Sanguinaria Compound". This "cure-all" tonic was seized by federal authorities in 1931 due to false health claims and potentially deadly toxicities. It is generally too toxic to be used casually.

There is some evidence that blood root can reduce dental plaque and prevent or treat gum diseases. A 2012 article in *Phytotherapy Research* concluded that toothpaste and mouthwashes infused with *S. canadensis* can exert antibacterial properties beneficial to oral health.

Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*, has small red and yellow downward facing flowers, looking like little bells. Coming from the Latin word for eagle (*aquila*), the shape of the flower petals supposedly resemble an eagle's claw. This early flower is a sign for hummingbirds that nectar is available, and these early visitors to the woods arrive with columbine's blooming. Native Americans used the leaves as a condiment with other spring greens, as they are relatively safe in small quantities. The roots are somewhat toxic, but were used mashed and rubbed on aching joints or boiled as a tea to ease coughs and stomach aches. As columbine



seed was believed to ensure a speedy delivery, native American women were given them before giving birth.

One spring flower that many of us know is Jack-in-the-Pulpit or *Arisaema triphyllum*. The hooded part of this plant, known as the spathe, curves gently over the "jack" or spadix, which contains both male and female flowers. Insects are lured by smell to the interior of the pulpit, and due to the plant's cleverness, are trapped inside. The insects pollinate furiously and then cannot escape as the center is too small and smooth. You can often find dead gnats, etc. inside the "pulpit" - a sort of insect graveyard. The resulting



fruits are smooth, shiny green berries clustered on the thickened spadix. They turn a bright red color before the plants go dormant. If you find a stem of clustered red berries without any foliage in the fall, you most likely have come upon Jack-in-the-Pulpit seeds.

All parts of this plant are acrid, as they contain sharp crystals known as raphides. These can cause irritation and swelling of mucous membranes and could lead to death by asphyxiation. Children, especially, should be warned not to ever eat berries from the woods, as these are very cute and attractive and could be deadly. Also known as “Indian Turnip”, native Americans used the plant readily for several ailments. The root was pounded into a poultice for sore eyes, and small amounts of the dried corm were used for asthma, bronchitis, and rheumatism. The roots, carefully prepared by slicing thinly and drying for a long six months, were enjoyed as a snack, much like potato chips.



Mayapple or American Mandrake, *Podophyllum peltatum*, is a woodland plant with large, deeply lobed, umbrella-like leaves. The “apple” is actually the flower, which hangs under the leaves and often unnoticed. It turns into a fruit in summer, and many critters relish them. It is the only part of the plant that is not toxic, and the fruit needs to be dead ripe before consuming. The flavor is compared to strawberries, but I would caution anyone wanting to taste them as large quantities can be poisonous.

Mayapple was used for centuries for sores and



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warts, and native Americans also knew the toxicity of the plant and used it for suicide. The root was used as a purgative and tonic, though, especially for the liver. Commercial liver tonics used to contain small amounts of the plant. The extract, podophyllotoxin, which comes from the plant, has shown promise in cancer studies as it inhibits cell division. Resin from mayapple was used as a paint for removing warts, and the Menominee used a tea of the leaves as an insecticide.



Trillium or Wake Robin, *Trillium erectum*, is one of many trillium species that are found in the woods. This particular variety has a nodding, red flower, at the center of the three leaves. It takes its common name, “Wake Robin”, from its association with the European robin, which has a red breast heralding spring. Other names are “Stinking Benjamin” and “Birthroot”, the latter being coined from its use by native people with a decoction of the root for labor pains. It is astringent and was used as a poultice for diarrhea, insect, and snake bites. Native Americans used root tea for menstrual disorders, as well. The leaves contain calcium oxalate crystals and raphides, and should not be consumed by humans.

All these lovely spring flowers have their dark side, as you can see. Caution needs to be taken when ingesting them or making medicine from any plant with which you are unfamiliar; research needs to be done before using plants as either food or medicine. Enjoy the wildflowers we are so lucky to have in the area, but be advised that most of these plants should only be used by professionals and, even then, with great care.

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*Editor's Note: Below is an excerpt from the 2021 Warrant for the April Town Meeting.*

**Further you are hereby notified to meet at the Veterans Hall on Saturday, the 10th of April next at nine (9:00) o'clock in the morning to act on the business matters of the Town (Articles 7-25).**

**Article 7.** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,000 for road upgrade of the paving of Fish Hatchery Road, from Route 32 to Mill Road said appropriation to be non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the work is completed or March 31, 2023, whichever is earlier. Recommended by the Selectmen.

**Article 8.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$261,642 for Town Administration. Recommended by the Selectmen.

**Article 9.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,067 for Police. Recommended by the Selectmen.

**Article 10.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$85,636 for Ambulance, Fire and Rescue, and Emergency Management. Recommended by the Selectmen.

**Article 11.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$290,276 for Highway, Streets and Sanitation. This appropriation shall be offset by revenue of \$55,750 from the Highway Block Grant. Recommended by the Selectmen.

**Article 12.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,521 for Health and Welfare. Recommended by the Selectmen.

**Article 13.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$47,177 for Culture and Recreation. Recommended by the Selectmen.

**Article 14.** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Road Reconstruction and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. Recommended by the Selectmen.

**Article 15.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$150,000 to be added to the Bridge Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. Recommended by the Selectmen.

**Article 16.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Fire Truck Fund Capital Reserve Fund. Recommended by the Selectmen.

**Article 17.** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to be added to the Public Safety Radio Communication Equipment Expendable Trust Fund. Recommended by the Selectmen.

**Article 18.** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Fund. Recommended by the Selectmen.

**Article 19.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,241 to be added to the Road Reconstruction and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance. (this amount represents the 2019 Municipal Aid) Recommended by the Selectmen.

**Article 20.** To dissolve the Heritage Commission that was established during the March 15, 2014 Town Meeting.

**Article 21.** To dissolve the Police Advisory Board, previously referred to as Police Commissioner 1972 Article 45.

**Article 22.** To dissolve the Capital Improvement Program Committee that was established during the March 17, 2012 Town Meeting.

**Article 23.** To see if the town will vote to discontinue the Police Special Details Revolving Fund and transfer the remaining balance to the general fund. Currently the balance is \$19,643.00.

**Article 24.** To hear any reports of Agents, Committees, etc. heretofore chosen and to take any action thereon.

**Article 25.** To take any action that may legally come before the meeting.



## EMERGENCY: POLICE/FIRE/RESCUE 9-1-1

### *The Richmond Rooster* Richmond, NH 03470



#### ***Richmond Rooster Staff***

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**Deadline is the 10th of each month.**

**Email –** [therichmondrooster@gmail.com](mailto:therichmondrooster@gmail.com)

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#### **Town Business Hours**

**105 Old Homestead Highway, Richmond NH 03470**

William Daniels, Doug Bersaw, Andrew Wallace

Mon. 9 AM – 12 PM

5:30 – 7 PM for business

7 PM – ? for public concerns

Wed. 9 AM – 1 PM

Thurs. 8 AM – 12 NOON (unless posted)

Public is welcome to attend. Please call for an appointment if you have an item for the agenda.

**Town Administrator:** Susan Harrington

**Administrative Assistant:** Jennifer Thompson

**Town Clerk:** Karen O'Brien

**Deputy Town Clerk:**

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

Wed. 9 – 12 noon, 1 – 4 PM, Thurs. 9 AM – 12 NOON

**Tax Collector:** Steve Boscarino

**Deputy Tax Collector:** Ann Dea Whippen

Mon. 6 PM – 8 PM, Wed. 9 AM – 12 NOON

#### **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):** 355-2000

**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:** Elton "Buddy" Blood, II – 400-3629

**Zoning Compliance Officer:** Richard Drew

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