



The

Richmond Rooster

Something to Crow
About

March 2023

Voting 2023

Taking place at Veterans' Memorial Hall:

Elections & Referenda

Tuesday, March 14th, 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Warrant

Saturday, March 18th, 9:00 AM

Election Candidates:

Select Board – One 3-Year Slot

William Daniels

Planning Board – Two 3-Year Slots

Lloyd Condon

Kim DeMasco

Lisa Traeger

Library Trustee – One 3-Year Slot

Rebecca Haskins

Cemetery Trust – One 3-Year Slot

Jerald Merrifield

Trustee of Trust Funds – One 3-Year Slot

Stillman "Tim" Rogers

(a write-in candidate)

Referenda –

Zoning Ordinance Proposals:

Extensive changes and additions to Article 6, Wetlands

Conservation District,

as well as related definition changes.

(Planning Board Amendments 1 through 6)

Annual Budgets:

Town of Richmond at Town Meeting;

Monadnock Regional School District

at Town Elections.

Monadnock Regional School District

Richmond Election Candidates:

School Board – One 3 Year Slot

Michelle Ann Connor

Edward Joseph LaPlante, Jr.

Budget Committee – One 3 Year Slot

Douglas Bersaw

Winner of the Rooster's

"Best Valentine by a Child Contest"

(photos by Alan Conklin)

Ten-year-old Mackenzie goes to Saint Joseph Regional School where she is an honor roll student. She enjoys basketball, gym and soccer. Her proud father, Kevin Clark, reports that Mackenzie is an active outdoors kid who loves four-wheeling. *[Editor's Note: some of our readers might have spotted Mackenzie in her role as the polka-dotted Munchkin Barrister in the February Lion's Club Production of "the Wizard of Oz" at the Colonial Theatre in Keene.]*



Mackenzie receives Toadstool gift card from Fran Heap



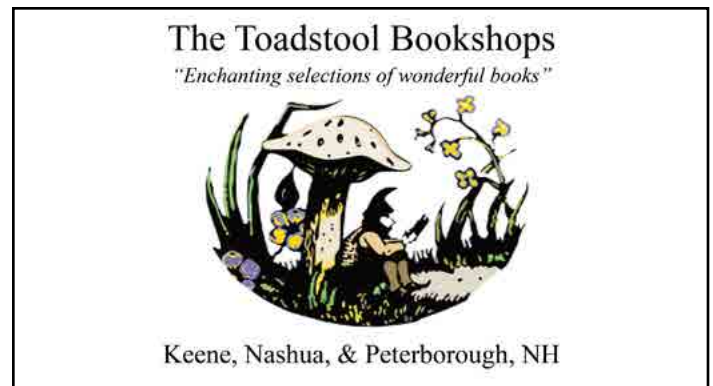
Renée Murphy presents winners certificate to Mackenzie

SODUKU

Dear Richmond Neighbors,

My name is Sr. Mary Joseph, I have lived in Richmond for 23 years, and I love sudoku. In fact, I have been having fun making my own sudoku puzzles, which I want to share with you all. My apologies for not indicating the difficulty level. I don't quite know how to determine that yet. For those who do not know how the game is played, an explanation may be found at . . . you guessed it -- sudoku.com Enjoy!

1		9		4	6		2	5
	6		8	9			7	
		3		2		6		
3	9			5	1		8	2
7				3		4		
	2	8	9			5	1	
	5	1				9		6
	3	7	4		2			1
8				1				





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Consumer Alert by NH Dept. of Justice— Increase in “Grandparent Scams” Targeting New Hampshire’s Older Adult Residents

Concord, NH—Attorney General John M. Formella issues a scam alert for New Hampshire residents, especially its older adult population, concerning a recent increase in scammers perpetrating the “Grandparent Scam.”

In a “Grandparent Scam,” a scammer calls or e-mails a victim posing as one of the victim’s relatives, typically a grandchild. The scammer posing as the relative then claims to be in trouble, often saying he or she has been arrested by law enforcement in another state or country. The scammer may also pose as a member of law enforcement and claim to have arrested or detained the victim’s relative. The scammer will instruct the victim to not tell anyone, sometimes threatening that the victim is under a “gag order” to not speak about the incident. A gag order is a court order prohibiting public disclosure or discussion of information related to a case.

In recent weeks, several New Hampshire residents have reported to both local law enforcement agencies and the New Hampshire Consumer Protection Bureau, through its consumer hotline, that they have received these calls from scammers. At least one of

From a friend on Athol Road

these incidents resulted in substantial monetary loss to the victim, who was told that a family member was in legal trouble. Another would-be victim was addressed by the scammers by a unique name only the family knows, lending credibility to the scammer’s call. Residents have reported the scammers have arranged to pick up cash directly from the residents’ homes.

The Attorney General reminds New Hampshire residents that legitimate law enforcement officials will never:

- Issue a “gag order” regarding the release of a relative over the telephone or by e-mail;
- Demand immediate payment over the telephone or by e-mail by wire transfer or in-person payment of cash or other valuables in exchange for the release of a relative; or
- Ask for your personal identifying information in exchange for the release of a relative.

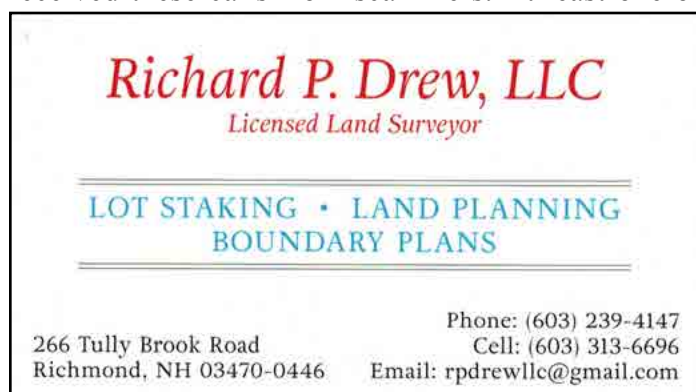
The Attorney General urges New Hampshire residents to be vigilant. Anyone receiving one of these calls should take the following steps:

- Do not engage with the caller;
- Hang up immediately;
- Do not provide money or personal information, including home address;
- Contact the family member in question directly, at a known VALID number;
- Call someone you trust for an opinion about the call you just received;
- Contact your local police department immediately, especially if you have lost money or other valuables, or made arrangements for the pick-up of money or valuables from your own home; and
- Report the scam to the Office of the Attorney General – Consumer Protection Hotline
Phone: 1-888-468-4454

E-mail: Doj-CPB@doj.nh.gov

Website: www.doj.nh.gov/consumer/complaints

Anyone with knowledge that a vulnerable adult has been scammed or financially exploited should also contact the New Hampshire Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services, at 1-800-949-0470.



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Once our vetted volunteer drivers choose which trips best fit their schedule, they call the rider to verify pick-up times and, when they return home themselves, they track their total mileage for reimbursement from CVTC. Drivers select when, and to where, and for how long they are available. By making this difference in a rider's life, drivers contribute to the health of the Monadnock Region, one person at a time.

Please call CVTC for more information at 1-877-428-2882, Extension 5.

Visiting Romania from Richmond Fran Heap



After a few delays due to our extreme weather, Greg Butko finally was able to entertain an appreciative audience with a slide show of his 2005 trip to Romania, a republic occupied at one point by the Romans. Not to be outdone, our wonderful librarian, Wendy, provided homemade Romanian Pork Potato Stew and bread. A lot of people went to the table for seconds, so Wendy must be quite the cook.



While on a two week leave from National Guard duty in Europe, Greg crossed off an item on his bucket list: visiting Dracula's Castle. Dracula, the vampire story written by Bram Stoker, made use of

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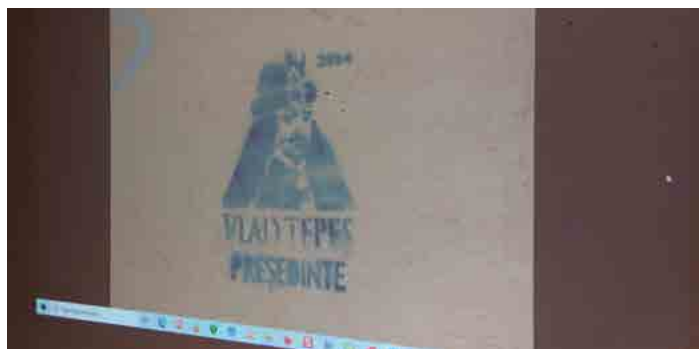
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the family “dragon” clan name of Vlad the Impaler, a cruel ruler reputed to have tortured 20,000 of his subjects. Greg explained that Dracula’s Castle was where Vlad had been imprisoned – not his seat of power. Oddly, modern day Romanians consider him a folk hero, going so far as to want him back to be President!



On a more pleasant note, Greg recounted his enjoyment of the fresh food, the \$14 per night room in his host’s house, and beautiful views of stunning churches, colorfully clad Gypsies (the Roma), and pastel painted houses. As a collector of saxaphones, he was excited to see a Romanian terogot, a wooden soprano saxophone. He made note of the intricate hand carved woodwork decorating palace furniture and church doors. Greg remarked Americans could retire to Romania and “live like kings”.



I don’t know if I’ll retire to Romania, but it sure was nice to visit virtually. Greg, thank you for sharing your trip with us!



“Our Family Trees”

The Richmond Historical Society is pleased to invite you to a genealogy presentation, “Our Family Trees”, by Richmond’s own Suzen Perry. **The event will take place at the Veterans’ Hall on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 6:30 PM.** Refreshments will be provided.

Save the Date for Richmond’s One Room Schoolhouse Reunion!

On Saturday, July 22nd from Noon-4 PM, there will be a reunion of the students who attended any of the Richmond one room schoolhouses. The Richmond Historical Society will be reaching out to former students, but, if you are a former student or if you know of one, please contact either Sharon Doubleday Mabry-Patnode at sharonpatnode1@gmail.com or Wendy O’Brien at wendykobrien@gmail.com. (603) 585-9106. We don’t want to miss anyone! More information to come in future *Rooster* issues.

Richmond Historical Society

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19 Winchester Road, Richmond, NH 03470
library@richmondnh.us Tel. 239-6164

Tuesdays & Thursdays 3-7pm
Wednesdays 9-noon
Saturdays 10am-2pm

Catalog:
opac.libraryworld.com/
opac/home.php. Library
name: Richmond Public.
No password required.



Library News Wendy O'Brien

Library Calendar for March

Saturdays, 10 AM-Noon: Drop-in Knitting Circle

Wednesdays, 10 AM: Storytime

Special Events

Tuesday, March 21st, 6 PM: Book Group, *The Family Upstairs*

Tuesday, March 28th, 6 PM: LEGO Club

Save the Dates

Thursday, April 20th, 6 PM: Program, "Keeping it Clean and Green" with Karen O'Brien.

Wednesday, April 26th, 10 AM: Family Vacation Program, "How to Be an Animal Adventurer" with Harris Center's Suzie Spikol.

Book Club: *The Family Upstairs* by Lisa Jewell

Our Tuesday Book Club will be meeting on March 21st at 6 PM to discuss *The Family Upstairs*, by Lisa Jewell. This Goodreads nominee for best mystery and thriller in 2019 is, "the can't-look-away story of three entangled families living in a house with the darkest of secrets."

LEGO Club: Mars Challenge

On Tuesday, March 28th at 6 PM, we will suddenly be stranded on Mars. We need your help to get back home! Come build with us; Legos are provided.

Ebooks and Audiobooks

Don't forget that we offer free ebooks and audiobooks through the Libby app! Over 30,000 titles are available for you to borrow on your phone, tablet, or Kindle. You will need a Richmond Public Library card in order to access this service; please contact us to double check or receive your library card number.

New Titles

Act of Oblivion, Robert Harris

Local Woman Missing, Mary Kubica

The Cabinet of Dr. Leng, Preston & Child

House at the End of the World, Dean Koontz

House of Wolves, James Patterson



Irish Cheddar and Stout Biscuits Terri O'Rourke

Ingredients

- 2 ½ cups flour
- 2 ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 1 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 cup Irish stout (such as Guinness) or other dark beer, cold
- 8 Tbsp unsalted Irish butter, FROZEN, plus 2 Tbsp, MELTED
- 7 oz. aged Irish cheddar or extra sharp cheddar cheese, grated

Directions

1. Whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, sugar, and salt in a medium mixing bowl. In a separate bowl, mix together the mustard and Irish stout. Place in the refrigerator or freezer until needed.
2. Using a box grater, grate the frozen butter. Then, quickly transfer it to the flour mixture and toss to coat all the butter pieces with flour. Add the grated cheese and mix to combine, being sure to coat all pieces with flour.
3. Make a well in the center and pour the beer mixture in the center. Carefully mix until it forms a shaggy mass. There should still be loose bits of butter, cheese and flour.
4. Place the mixture onto a lightly floured surface. Then, roll out into a long strip. Fold one side halfway up, adding in any loose bits, then fold the other side over top, like a letter. Rotate 90 degrees, roll out and repeat the fold two more times. Roll the dough into 7" – 8" squares. Then, cut into 9 even squares (or 12 for smaller biscuits).
5. Place the biscuits on a sheet pan. Then, place them in the freezer. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F. When the oven is preheated, remove the biscuits from the freezer, brush with melted butter, sprinkle with flaky sea salt, and put immediately into the oven.
6. Bake for about 20 minutes or until they are puffed up and golden brown. Serve warm.





Information from the Supervisors of the Checklist (SOC)

Pam Bielunis, Chairperson

Voter Registrations can be done at any Supervisors of the Checklist meeting, at the Town Clerk's office, or you may contact Pam Bielunis, Chair at (603) 239-6498. A person may also register on the day of an election at the Supervisors of the Checklist Table. Dates for the SOC are posted on the Town of Richmond's website calendar and on the bulletin boards at the Town Hall and the Veterans' Hall. Upcoming Supervisors' Meetings at the Veterans' Hall Kitchen

Saturday, March 4, 2023, 11 AM *(last day to make changes or register before Town/School Election)*

Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 11 AM

Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 4 PM

Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 10 AM

Important Dates at the Veterans' Hall

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 Town Election Day, 11 AM-7 PM

Saturday, March 18, 2023 Town Meeting Day, 9 AM

Note: To register, new voters will need to present proof of identity (*photo ID*), proof of US citizenship (*birth certificate or naturalization papers*), and proof of domicile in Richmond (*e.g., utility/phone bill*).



**COMMUNITY
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Community Power Comes to CHESHIRE COUNTY!

Susan Opal

Energy costs have skyrocketed here in New Hampshire, but not in the other New England States. Utility customers are paying the price for backward New Hampshire's energy policies: an over-reliance on natural gas for generating the bulk of our electricity, a lack of forward-looking state energy policies, and outdated electric utility restructuring laws. The solutions to this crisis are already in our hands. This year, NH legislation has addressed Community Power Networks to the advantage of everyone, not just large energy consumers. Cheshire County and some cities are seizing this unique opportunity.

Last month in the Rooster, we talked about the effort that some cities and Cheshire County were making to improve NH communities' soaring energy prices. As of this summer, Cheshire County will be starting a Community Power Network. All the towns in Cheshire County will be able to access the group power pricing through Community Power, giving communities control of their energy supply decision-making, including access to less costly electricity and the development of innovative local energy supply projects. So, all of Cheshire County will collectively be helped by the new law, which is considered by most states as the best first step in cost incentives to local power and the will to commit to creating a sustainable and prosperous future.

Most people want access to clean power with lower bills. Community Power can do it for utility customers! But, what's lacking is the will to wholeheartedly commit to creating the sustainable and prosperous future the world needs. The beginning solutions to this crisis are being addressed by communities like Cheshire County.





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The Richmond Energy Committee was started in 2007 by a small group of renewable energy enthusiasts interested in networking and learning about sustainable building and applications. If you are interested in joining us, please email us at:

susanopalwyatt@gmail.com

Keeping It Clean and Green



Karen O'Brien

We all want to keep our homes clean and healthy if possible. However, many of those cleaning products on the market can be harsh and even toxic. People have been cleaning and caring for pets, people, their homes and their yards without resorting to chemicals, bleaches, and other products that can be harmful to the environment. I remember a movie (back in 1981) starring Lily Tomlin as a woman who had been so exposed to toxic chemicals in her cleaning that she began to shrink; *The Incredible Shrinking Woman* was a delightfully funny movie. It did point out the dangers of what lurks in our cabinets and closets and poked fun at the cleaning industry. So, let's take a look at what we can do to lessen our need for harsh chemicals and other environmentally unfriendly products.

It is simple to switch to less toxic cleaners for your home and garden. If you would prefer to use ingredients which are less harmful to yourself and the environment, you just need to know a few natural materials which can aid in your pursuit. Most of these cleaners can be made in a few minutes. Some do not have the shelf life of commercial cleaners, but, then, you don't need that. You will also find that you will save quite a bit of money in doing your cleaning the "old-fashioned" way. Always remember to label your containers and store away from children.

BAKING SODA – sodium bicarbonate

Mild alkali. Deodorizer; scours, removes smudges or scuffs from floors.

- *Bathtub Cleaner - Mix ½ cup with enough liquid detergent to make a texture like frosting. Mildly abrasive, will clean the bathtub without leaving grit.*
- *Pet accident – Mix baking soda with a few drops of essential oil. Sprinkle on rug, let dry and vacuum.*
- *Oven Cleaner – Make a thick paste of baking soda and water; apply to oven and let sit overnight. Remove with wet cloth and rinse with a vinegar/ water solution.*

VINEGAR

Acidic. Kills 82 percent of mold. Kills some germs and microbes. Cuts grease, lime deposits and soap build-up. Disinfects and is a good deodorizer, after the smell of the vinegar dissipates. Removes stains, shines and polishes. Check the vinegar to see if it is plant based, rather than a petroleum derivative.

- *Odor remover - Spray vinegar on a cutting board and let it set overnight. Will remove the odors; no rinsing.*
- *All purpose cleaner (laundry booster, windows, floors, counters, appliances) – Fill a large glass jar with citrus peels. Cover with household vinegar. Let brew four weeks, shaking occasionally. Strain.*
- *Scaly mineral build-up – Simply pour straight vinegar into glass container which needs cleaning. For shower stall or around sink faucet, soak washcloth in vinegar and lay on the area until build-up is removed.*

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- *Lavender – disinfectant, repels insects and moths*
- *Eucalyptus – disinfectant*
- *Lemon, Orange, Grapefruit – degreasers*
- *White Cedar – disinfectant*
- *Tea tree – effective against bacteria, fungus, some viruses*
- *Cinnamon – antibacterial*
- *Pine – degreaser and disinfectant*
- *Thyme - antibacterial*
- *Rosemary – repels insects and moths*

So, as you can see, you can start having a healthier and cleaner home with just a few simple ingredients. For more recipes and tips and tricks for cleaning, plus products which help with bugs and varmints, consider joining us **April 20th at the Richmond Public Library** as we talk about how to keep your home clean and green. Participants will make two cleaning products, plus receive lots of recipes for making our earth a better place. \$20.00 per person; sign up at the Library.

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TRUE BREW REVIEW

**Butcher Holler from
Post and Beam Brewing**
Kevin Ellis



Grisette
4.2% ABV

On a chilly Saturday morning, we decided to take a trip over to The House by the Side of the Road greenhouse in Wilton, NH to warm up, see the turtles, big cats, koi fish and, of course, the flowers and plants. On our way back, we decided to stop by Post and Beam Brewery. I went in quick just to grab a four pack. In the cooler, you could have chosen from a wide selection of different styles, but I wanted a variety and made my own mixed four pack. I picked out a gose, cerveza, dry stout and a grisette.

Once we got home, I put them on the porch to keep cool. Later that night, I chose one at random to do a review on, and the winner was the Butcher Holler, a 4.2 abv grisette-style beer. Grisettes are a low alcohol beer with roots planted in Belgium. The style is actually an off-shoot from a saison, another low alcohol beer from Belgium known for its approachability. It's essentially a beer everyone can enjoy at any time of the year – a light bodied beer with enough flavor make you want to take another sip. The saison's history lies with Belgium farmers. A beer they could brew in the winter months and store until the spring. After a hard morning in the fields, they could enjoy a glass or two at lunch and return

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to their work without feeling sluggish. However, the grisette is more widely known in Belgium as a coal miner's beer. Used in the same way, just different labors. Certainly more of a blue collar beer for the working class.

This style is not very well known or commonly brewed commercially, so I hope this short history lesson helped. And now that you have a better understanding of the beer, let's get to the review!

A slightly aggressive pour wound up with a nice-looking beer. Light straw color that was moderately cloudy with a beautiful one-inch head and medium sized bubbles which lingered longer than expected.

Digging into the aroma was very enjoyable. Lots of subtle scents came across like lemon, pine, pepper and honey wheat bread. I was excited to dive in for a taste!

After the initial sip, the first thing I noticed was the overall amount of flavor. I was completely surprised by how much it had! I wasn't expecting much for such a low alcohol beer, but this was a treat. All of the aroma characteristics came through in the flavor, along with a pleasant prickly mouth sensation from the higher carbonation. I would say the one thing that stood out in the flavor over the others would be the hops. A welcoming amount of peppery spices shined through, along with some floral and citrusy notes, but balanced out well with a wheaty malt backbone. Very satisfying!

Overall, this was a high quality, low alcohol beer and one I will be going back to often. Sometimes I feel like we get stuck enjoying the same thing over and over again, as if there are no other choices. As I write this article, one day past Groundhog's Day, I think it's important that we keep our options open and be willing to try new things and not get stuck in our daily routines. If the only thing you drink is a Bud Light, that's great, but what would it be like to broaden your horizon and try something with a little bit more flavor? Or, if you only drink double IPA's, would it be a terribly bad idea if you threw in something a little lighter, but with the same amount of flavor? I think this grisette from Post and Beam would be a great beer to fit into either scenario.

A little about the brewery: Post and Beam is located in Peterborough, NH. It opened its doors in 2018 and instantly caught fire (figuratively). It has been producing quality beer since the first taps started to flow. The high standards and delicious beer caught wind quickly throughout the NH beer scene and it grew into one of the state's best breweries almost overnight. The building the brewery and tap room is in was built in 1837, originally a private secondary school called "The Peterborough Academy." Since then, it has been numerous things, the last being a town park. But late last decade, Post and Beam bought the property and made a lot of improvements, both structurally and aesthetically. The building still has a true rustic feeling, but with some modern and necessary updates. An outdoor patio space is provided for the warmer months. The brewery offers a large assortment of beer styles, including IPA's, stouts, lagers of all styles, sours and many more. They can be purchased by the glass, growler or can. There is also a small food menu, but it's okay if you want to bring your own food. I highly recommend taking a voyage over to see what Post and Beam has to offer. I don't think you'll be disappointed. Cheers!



Sudoku Solution

from Page 2

1	8	9	7	4	6	3	2	5
5	6	2	8	9	3	1	7	4
4	7	3	1	2	5	6	9	8
3	9	4	6	5	1	7	8	2
7	1	5	2	3	8	4	6	9
6	2	8	9	7	4	5	1	3
2	5	1	3	8	7	9	4	6
9	3	7	4	6	2	8	5	1
8	4	6	5	1	9	2	3	7

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**“Our liberty depends on
the freedom of the press,
and that cannot be limited
without being lost”**

Thomas Jefferson

From a friend on Old Homestead Hwy.

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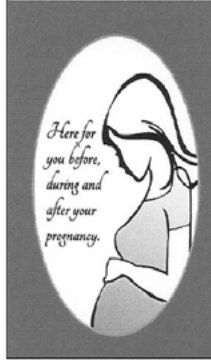


In January, we just got one of Stacie Dirth's Maspry (part English mastiff, part Pyrenees, and Komodor) puppies. We now have the sweetest puppy named Sully in the house, the size of a small pony, and he needs to burn some energy. I am using him to help motivate me as I have been threatening to get back into shape for the last year. Kevin and I used to be quite the trail runners back in the day.

Sunday morning, I wanted something easy enough for all of us because it was Sully's first real hike, and I wanted to feel good about our adventure. In an app



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called AllTrails, I found in Pisgah State Park the Kilburn Pond and John Summers trail. It's a 4.0-mile loop trail rated easy in Hinsdale. The app said finishing would take about 1 ½ hours, so it felt doable. The Kilburn loop itself is like 8 miles and is currently closed with an "unsafe bridge" sign where the Kilburn loop meets the John Summers trail at the southwest corner of the pond.

It took us about 20 minutes from Whipple Hill Road to get to the trailhead. The parking lot was easy to find and good sized, so easy to park. Half a dozen cars were there, but we only ran into a few other people on the trail as it is the jumping point for several trails. There were people



with dogs, but most were on leashes or very well-behaved, and a few kids in the end playing in the woods.

The trail was very well marked, the bridges were in really good shape, and the hike lived up to its easy rating and was pretty. The trail goes right along the pond, there is a dam and several bridges, and mostly flat with some hills, especially on the way out – or was I just tired?

It has been warm, and we went without much winter gear (yak tracks or micro spikes) and headed out. We didn't really need them, but there were a few times they would have been useful as there were some icy patches. It was a hike we would like to do again as the seasons go by, as it was just a nice walk. Even with the people we saw, we felt like we had the woods to ourselves.



Sully, Kevin and I are going to break out the *Nature Walks and Hikes in Richmond, New Hampshire and Neighboring Towns* by Carol Jameson and Jonathan Hill to see what other trails we can explore.



Endorses Lloyd Condon For Planning Board

I have had the pleasure of working with Lloyd Condon over many years. Lloyd has served the Richmond Planning Board in one capacity or another for 25 plus years. Lloyd's knowledge of construction and heavy equipment has been extremely valuable to the board. His insight on many factors of Sub-Division plans, Site Plan Reviews, Excavation and Blasting and Heavy Construction brings background that is hard to replace. The Planning Board doesn't handle just Zoning Ordinances; there are many other facets to the puzzle. Lloyd is one of the last members who brings knowledge of procedure, history of the board and has attended numerous classes around Land Use. If we lose a member with his kind of knowledge, the whole town loses.

Think hard when you cast your vote on March 14th - It's important to have a qualified member.

Sincerely,
Kim Mattson

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Explains Zoning Ordinance Change

Although I serve as the Chairperson of the Planning Board, this letter expresses my personal understanding of the proposed zoning amendments. Keep in mind that all the volunteers on the Planning Board own homes in Richmond, pay taxes and want to use their land, as well. There aren't many residents in Richmond who don't have wetlands in their side or backyards. Richmond is very fortunate to have clean, fresh water for all of us. Our goal is to keep it that way.

Just a little background: Zoning was created by the Legislative body of Richmond to preserve our town and keep Richmond a clean, rural community. Zoning helps to protect your neighbor from you, and it protects you from your neighbor, be it next door or upstream. The 2023 Ballot for Zoning Ordinance changes is to clarify and educate in some areas.

It was suggested that the Planning Board contact a person to go through the Zoning Ordinances since they have only had small changes since 2010 - 2012. The cost would have been in the ten-thousand-dollar range or more. The board has taken on the task starting with Article 6 Wetland Conservation District.

The changes were reviewed by the Planning Board, both Chairmen from the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustments, the Conservation Commission, Zoning Compliance Officer, and several times by the Town's Attorney. Two public hearings were held, in which most suggestions from the first public hearing were implemented. A second public hearing was held and, although not much could be done in terms of significant changes, it served as the final hearing to review all proposed changes publicly before going to the ballot for your vote.

Ballot Questions Simplified

Amendment 1: The present zoning listed who could identify a wetland but no information on who could delineate a wetland. Delineation is backed up by the NH Department of Environmental Services. Two completely different levels of certification.

Amendment 2: In 2021 and 2022, the Selectmen



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petitioned the Planning Board to reduce the wetland setback. In both years, the question was asked, "What is a wetland?" To help clarify the Planning Board added 603.1 Functions of Wetlands. The goal is to help identify what a wetland is and its purpose.

Amendment 3 (Section 602 Purpose):

- **602.1:** The board added the word "control" to the word "prevent". It is not as necessary to prevent as much as it is to control what might be in the wetland. For example, a private garage could be fine, but a home business garage which oil sprays vehicles might not.
- **602.2:** Richmond has a large aquifer between Rte. 32 and Fish Hatchery Road, a shared resource eventually with Swanze. "Aquifer" isn't mentioned in the Wetland Conservation District. So, Article 7 Aquifer Protection District was added to the Zoning Ordinances to include common sense regulations. An aquifer is a natural resource we must protect.

- **602.5** is a new section and is self-explanatory.

Amendment 4 (Section 603 Uses Permitted):

Firstly, included in this section are uses permitted within the Wetland Conservation District. Agriculture has very little that is restricted. All of Richmond, other than one lot, is zoned residential and/or agricultural.

- **603.1:** Expanded forestry and tree farming to include UNH Best Management Practices.
- **603.2:** To expand Agriculture. adding provided that no fertilizers or non-composted livestock waste within the wetland conservation district. There was confusion with the public at the hearing who read that livestock could not be in the 75-foot wetland setback due to normal daily manure piles. The important word in this change is "used." Animals don't "use" their manure; a second party needs to "use" the manure. Properly composted manure can benefit the soil. The amount an animal deposits on the ground is far different from a human who may spread fresh manure. The rule of thumb is 120 days for composting or more, depending on the amount of dry bedding present. Refer to Article 4 (Residential Uses) under Section 407 Livestock Facilities, where



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the Ordinances mention the Best Management Practices. Agriculture basically is exempt.

- **603.3:** Addition of construction of a well. To clarify that a well can be constructed within the 75-foot setback.
- **603.4:** Self-explanatory, giving the people the right to replace what is already there.
- **603.5:** To expand on what can be done within the Wetland Conservation District and nature trails. This gives people a little more freedom to use the wetland setback.
- **603.9 (added):** Emergency projects. With the crazy weather patterns: 4.9 inches of rain in 24 hours, heavy snow, and no power, and so on. This would allow emergency repair for infrastructure without permits. However, the damage and repair must be reported to the Selectmen.
- **603.10 (added):** Self-explanatory. Items mentioned which should be allowed.

Amendment 5: Just the addition of driveways.

Distinguishing the difference between access ways and driveways.

Amendment 6: Definitions which are not present in our Zoning Ordinances currently.

I believe the Planning Board would like your support on March 14th. See you at the polls.

Sincerely,

Stacie Maillet

Open Letter to Richmond Residents in Opposition to Richmond Zoning Ordinance Proposed Amended Section 603.2, "Agriculture"

On March 14, 2023, Richmond residents will be asked to vote on whether to adopt many amendments to the Richmond Zoning Ordinance, including a proposed amended Section 603.2, "Agriculture." If adopted, the new Section 603.2 would prohibit the development of healthy soil, plants, trees, livestock, wildlife and agriculture in the Wetland Conservation District. **Amended Section 603.2 is a bad idea. Please protect the Wetland Conservation**

District and vote no on Amended Section 603.2!

The new Section 603.2 is also illegal. Please consider this: the Richmond Planning Board has no power to prohibit the working of soil or growing of plants in any district. "The tilling of soil and the growing and harvesting of crops and horticultural commodities, as a primary or secondary use, shall not be prohibited in any district." (RSA 674:32.) As explained below, because fertilizer is essential to tilling of soil and the growing of healthy plants, by prohibiting fertilizer amended Section 603.2, does in effect do just that. So, yes, new Section 603.2 is not only a bad idea, it's an illegal land use restriction.

Should the newly amended Section 603.2,

"Agriculture" pass:

- No soil in the Wetland Conservation District may be amended or improved with "essential nutrients" from fertilizer, which includes nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P), and potassium (K) which soil biodiversity and plants require to grow normally and be healthy.
- Since adding these "essential nutrients" to soil in the Wetland Conservation District would be prohibited, no one may effectively grow or cultivate any agricultural crops, including berries, herbs, honey, maple syrup, fruit, vegetables, tree fruit, flowers, seeds, grasses, nursery stock, trees or tree products, or Christmas trees any longer in the Wetland Conservation District.
- Established trees could be harvested but re-forestation and re-planting of harvested trees which requires the use of fertilizer in the Wetland Conservation District would effectively end.
- Non-composted waste from livestock - "excellent soil amendments" needed to generate healthy soil and plants - would also become prohibited in the Wetland Conservation District.
- Since livestock generate manure, which is non-composted waste, if animals are permitted in the Wetland Conservation District, it may become prohibited to rake/spread their manure.
- If horses, livestock and chickens are still permitted in the Wetland Conservation



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District, would the owner then have a duty to clean up all manure generated?

Don't we want to encourage the development of healthy soil, plants, trees, livestock, wildlife everywhere in Richmond, including in the Wetland Conservation District? Please vote against amended Section 603.2!

I provide citations to the laws and the best practices provided by UNH agricultural specialists so you may independently confirm the facts below.

A. The Wetlands Conservation District: all land 75 Feet of Ponds, Streams, Brooks, and Wetlands

By way of background for those new to Richmond, the Wetlands Conservation District is all land within 75 feet "of the high water mark of any ponds, lakes, streams and brooks or wetlands," and all areas identified as "poorly drained or very poorly drained soils" on the 1989 Soil Survey of Cheshire County map. (Richmond Zoning Ordinance, Article 6, Section 601.) In Richmond, blessed with many ponds, streams, brooks and wetlands, that encompasses a whole lot of land.

The activities currently exempt from the requirements of the Wetland Conservation District include: "Forestry – tree farming" (Section 603.1) and "Agriculture" (Section 603.2).

B. Agriculture: Everything under RSA 21:34-a

Under the Granite State Farm to Plate Food Policy and Principles, New Hampshire formally recognizes that agriculture represents a "vital part" of our economy and food systems. It is the official policy of our state to "encourage and support" all local food producers, farming, and fisheries, including businesses engaged in, amongst other things, agriculture, the raising and care of livestock, foraging, horticulture, orchards, and maple syrup production. (RSA 425:2-a.)

So, just what is "Agriculture"? Under Richmond's Zoning Ordinance, "Agriculture" means all farming. (RSA 21:34-a.) It is everything involving growing crops and raising animals, and includes:

- The cultivation, conservation, or tillage of soil.

- The storage and use of or spreading of commercial fertilizer, lime, wood ash, sawdust, compost, animal manure, and other soil amendments.
- The husbandry of livestock.
- The boarding, training, or riding instructions of horses.
- The raising of chickens or production of their eggs.
- The growing or harvesting of any agricultural crops, including berries, herbs, honey, maple syrup, fruit, vegetables, tree fruit, flowers, seeds, grasses, nursery stock, trees or tree products, Christmas trees, trees, or any plant that can be legally grown for profit or subsistence.
- Forestry or lumbering operations.
- The use of dogs for herding, working, or guarding livestock.
- The production and storage of compost and the materials necessary to produce compost. So, all forestry and tree farming are agriculture, and all agriculture is farming.

The new Section 603.2 would not only degrade the Wetland Conservation District, it would significantly reduce the amount of land that could be farmed. "Land is one of the most important assets on any farm. For farms with limited acreage, it's crucial to develop systems that make use efficient of every productive square foot."

(<https://extension.unh.edu/event/2023/01/webinar-series-small-scale-growing-marketing-beginning-farmers>) The proposed amendment to Section 603.2 would drastically – and illegally - reduce the tillable land for small farmers in Richmond.

C. Proposed Changes to Forestry and Tree Farming: Section 603.1: Erosion Control

The new proposed change to Section 603.1 is as follows:

603.1 Forestry and tree farming, provided that the state Forestry regulations, as described in the most recent issue of the UNH Cooperative Extension Manual titled 'Best Management Practices for Erosion Control on Timber

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**Harvesting Operations in New Hampshire,
are followed.** (New language highlighted.)

This change is both unwarranted and unwise. The management practices of all agriculture – including forestry and tree farming – “shall” include technologies recommended by the UNH Cooperative Extension, the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food, and appropriate agencies of the US Department of Agriculture. (RSA 21:34-a(IV).) Forestry and tree farming practices must already comply with the UNH Cooperative Extension best management practices for erosion control. In addition to erosion control, UNH Cooperative Extension has issued best management practices on a variety of agricultural issues, including the use of fertilizers, manures and compost. Does this change seek to release these agricultural businesses from all other best management practices in violation of NH law, including on the use of fertilizers and manures? How is that a good idea?

D. Proposed Changes to Agriculture: Section 603.2

The new proposed change to Section 603.2 is as follows:

603.2 Agriculture, provided that no fertilizers, non-composted waste from livestock, or any other substances that may enter and pollute the wetlands are used and that the normal drainage patterns are not altered. (New language highlighted.)

Proposed Section 603.2 prohibits the use of all fertilizers and non-composted waste from livestock in the Wetland Conservation District. What is fertilizer? “Fertilizer” means any substance containing one or more recognized plant nutrients and used to promote plant growth. (RSA 431:3(VII), Agriculture, Horticulture, and Animal Husbandry, Soil Conditions, Fertilizers.) Fertilizers contain nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P), and potassium (K), primary plant nutrients, which may be derived from a plant or animal residue or byproduct or natural material deposit which has been purified and concentrated.

Fertilizers are so important to agriculture that the state of New Hampshire has declared that: “[N]o local

regulation shall regulate the type of fertilizer when used for agricultural purposes as defined by RSA 21:34-a.)” Amended Section 603.2 violates this law. The state alone determines what fertilizers can and should be used; not the Richmond Planning Board.

The NH State Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food was created, in significant part, to promote the use of land and farming practices that preserve farmland and improve soil fertility and soil health, and promote the economic use and conservation of land. (RSAs 432:2 and 432:3.) These farming practices include “healthy soils practices” which are agricultural practices that improve the health of soils, including “nutrient content.” (RSA 432:9(VI).) The Planning Board simply does not have the necessary expertise to make that critical determination.

Dr. Cathy Neal is an Extension Professor and Specialist in nursery and landscape horticulture with UNH Cooperative Extension. According to Dr. Neal, **“Fertilizer provides a source of essential nutrients that plants need to grow normally and be healthy.”**

<https://extension.unh.edu/resource/fertilizing-trees-and-shrubs-fact-sheet.>

What about manure? According to Becky Sideman, UNH Cooperative Extension Food & Agriculture Specialist, Nada Haddad, Field Specialist Rockingham County and Tom Buob, Extension Educator Emeritus: **“manures and composts are excellent soil amendments for the home gardener.”** These UNH agriculture specialists encourage the use of animal manures - both manures and composts” based on soil testing to generate healthy soil and plants. (https://extension.unh.edu/sites/default/files/migrated_unmanaged_files/Resource002114_Rep3119.pdf) Manure also helps farmers keep down the cost of fertilization. (<https://extension.unh.edu/blog/2022/01/dealing-high-fertilizer-prices>) Of course, all fertilizers, including manures and composts must be used reasonably. The UNH Cooperative Extension has issued best management practices on the use of fertilizers, manures and compost.

The new Section 603.2 also prohibits “the normal

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drainage patterns” from being “altered.” What are “normal drainage patterns”? Following the UNH Cooperative Extension best management practices for erosion control may alter the existing flow of water through wetlands, particularly when road building, so there appears to be a direct conflict between newly amended Section 603.1, which requires forestry and tree farming to comply with the UNH best management practices for erosion control and Section 603.2, which prohibits “normal drainage patterns” from being “altered.” (https://extension.unh.edu/sites/default/files/migrated_unmanaged_files/Resource000247_Rep266.pdf) The erosion handbook focuses on water quality best management practices. There are also best management practices that protect wildlife habitat, soil integrity and productivity, aesthetics, and other aspects of the forests. These values are important, and it should be noted that they are not the primary focus of the erosion guidelines. (UNH Erosion Control, p. 2.)

Amended Section 603.2 is a bad idea.

If you want to encourage the development of healthy soil, plants, trees, livestock, wildlife everywhere in Richmond, including in the Wetland Conservation District, please protect the Wetland Conservation District and vote against amended Section 603.2!

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Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Fran Heap

January's storm yielding 10 inches of snow really threw the *Richmond Rooster* a curveball. Not only did co-publishers, Renee Murphy and I, lose power, we also lost our internet and cell phone service. By 5 PM on Tuesday, January 24th, my services were restored, but Renee, located on Whipple Hill, was not so lucky. I would like our readers to know that Renee drove multiple times to Keene and worked for hours in her car, clad in a parka, to ensure there actually was a February *Rooster*! The next time you see Renee, a generous volunteer, please thank her for her dedication to your hometown paper.



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Town Administration

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Andrew Wallace

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Public is welcome to attend. Please call 239-4232 for an appointment if you have an item for the agenda.

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Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Thompson

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Wed. 9 AM – 1 PM
Thurs. 9 AM – Noon

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Deputy Town Clerk:

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Thur. 8 AM - Noon

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Thurs. 3 PM – 7 PM, Sat. 10 AM – 2 PM

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Town Clerk – 239-6202

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