



RHS Year in Review

Suzen J. Perry

The Year 2023 reawakened the Richmond Historical Society from its Covid slumber, with lectures on genealogy, anthropology, one room school houses, local cemeteries, and much more. We had a tour of the archives in storage in Keene. We brought back our fun hobo actors for the tramp house reenactment during the town barbeque; they have some interesting stories to tell!

The town pound has been cleaned up, has an informative sign and will soon have a gravel ramp for easy walking around the structure. The antique curtains were reconditioned and have been hung safely at the Vets' Hall. They will not only bring more color and culture to our town's main hall, but also will help with acoustics during town meetings, lectures and future musical gatherings. You may pick up a brochure about the curtains at the town hall or library.

We gathered for a hike at Bennett Town Forest to view and learn about the original cellar holes and foundations where some former inhabitants of this old town lived. We were shown some native plants which are descendants of plants that grew "back in the day."

We are planning more gatherings in the coming year and hope you'll join us. Please consider joining as an active member (\$25) or a supporting member (\$15). Forms are available on the town website and at the library, or you may request one through our website: richmondnhhistoricalsociety.com

Richmond Historical Society

**Richmond, NH The Town and The Forest,
250+ years of living and growing together**

Richmond Rooster

Something to Crow About

January 2024

You may also send a suggestion for a future lecture or program you are interested in to our new Facebook site 'Richmond NH Historical Society' or webpage. Any questions may be sent to our email as well at richmondhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Here's a picture I came across in William Bassett's History of the Town of Richmond, Cheshire County NH (pgs. 248, 249). Do you see the similarity between my sketch of Christopher Walken and the photo of Jarvis Weeks? Similar hairstyles, anyway!



Cincotta Calls for Drew's Removal from Conservation Commission

Fran Heap

The *Richmond Rooster* was emailed a letter by Antoinette Cincotta of 1 Lourdes Lane, dated December 10, 2023 and emailed to both Tom Tague and Doug Bersaw. Cincotta brought printed copies to the Select Board on December 11, 2023. The Richmond Grumblings Facebook page was also sent a copy; we invite readers to view her four page letter there. The letter contains Cincotta's response to my article, "ZBA Chair Demands Firing of ZCO", from the December *Rooster*.

Cincotta's letter mostly is a continuation of the false narrative that the previously installed septic system at 18 Winchester Road was "grandfathered in" under the Non-Conforming Uses section of Richmond's Zoning Ordinance and, therefore, required no variance. She and Tague have repeatedly and incorrectly asserted that the old system could be replaced to its old

specifications at its original location, i.e., a “replacement-in-kind”. The old septic system predated 1967, as NH Department of Environmental Services (“DES”) had no permit for it on file. On December 11th, I spoke separately with Travis Guest and Kristin Duclos of the Land Resources Management Division of DES. Guest advised no pre-existing septic system could be repaired or replaced-in-kind if there was no approved permit for it on file at DES. Duclos explained that DES has its own subsurface setbacks for wetlands: 75 feet for very poorly drained soils and 50 feet for poorly drained. Per Guest, a septic system which cannot meet those setback distances must “maximize” as much of the setback as possible. Duclos referred me to the *New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules* for the Subsurface Bureau, Chapter Env-Wq-1000* to understand the regulations behind what she and Guest told me. Imagine my surprise when I recognized in Appendix E the same RSA 485-A-33 statutory language as what ZCO Dick Drew had already shown to Cincotta and Tague at the November 14th appointment with the Selectmen! And, yet, almost a month later, Cincotta is still singing the same old song...

And, yes, about that November 14th appointment requested by Drew to clear the air with Tague – Cincotta was not invited in the Town Administrator’s email to participate, nor did she notify the Town Administrator of her intent to do so; she just crashed the event. However, her letter would have readers believe Tague and she “attended for the sole purpose of bringing” their “concerns about the zoning compliance officer to the selectmen.” It is noteworthy that these two rogue Zoning Board of Adjustment members were not authorized by the ZBA at its October 19th meeting to call for Drew’s firing as ZCO. In fact, just before that meeting was adjourned, the ZBA had agreed Tague should write his own private letter to the Selectmen of his personal concerns about Drew, with ZBA member David Bryan specifying “we don’t want him to get into trouble either.”** Apparently, Tague and Cincotta have other ideas...

No homeowner like the applicant at 18 Winchester Road should fear that he or she would not be allowed to install a septic system. A residence built prior to the Zoning Ordinance in a residential zone and which continues in that residential use is entitled to have a septic system, because a septic system is a normal legal appurtenance to a residence. However, the design and location of that septic system are up to the DES, the Town Sanitarian, and the ZBA, which is where variances come into play.

Guest emphasized to me on the phone how willing DES is to work with applicants to come up with the best septic system design to accommodate most needs.

Page 1, Paragraph 4 of the Cincotta letter claims Drew “bragged” he had “inspected the inside of the property owner’s house without his knowledge or consent.” Actually, what I and others heard Drew say was that he had “knocked on the door” at 18 Winchester Road and “had been let in by the contractors.”

The final paragraph of Page 1 of the Cincotta letter reads as follows:

Since the meeting on November 14, 2023, Dick Drew has announced that he will not seek reappointment of his position as zoning compliance officer when his term expires on March 31, 2024. While that is a step in the right direction, he also holds a position on the Conservation Commission. That, too, should end.

I contacted Drew on December 13th to confirm he had given the Selectmen his notice of his intent not to renew his contract. He advised he had done so in October; his notice had nothing to do with the November 14th appointment. Moreover, Cincotta gives no explanation why Drew should be required to step down from the Conservation Commission to which he donates his time as a volunteer.

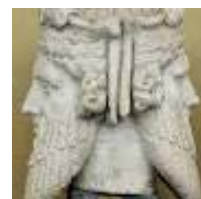
The final line of Cincotta’s letter is a plea to readers to “bring any concerns you may have about the zoning compliance officer to the Selectmen.” To what end? To further discredit the ZCO who gave his notice months ago or to get rid of an experienced septic system installer and land surveyor who understands NH land use law better than Tague and Cincotta?

My article, “ZBA Chairs Demands Firing of ZCO”, was based not only on what I and others witnessed at the November 14, 2023 Selectmen’s Meeting, but also from the draft ZBA meeting minutes of October 19, 2023; those minutes, posted on the Town website, were *verbatim*. I stand by what I wrote.

Online sources for this article were:

* [Env-Wq 1000: Subdivisions; Individual Sewage Disposal Systems | NH Department of Environmental Services](#)

** http://www.richmond.nh.gov/vertical/sites/%7BA403C866-D7A3-4A6F-8C05-C74435D-0CF15%7D/uploads/ZBA_Minutes_10.19.23.pdf



TRUE BREW REVIEW
Silent Night from
West LA Beer Company
Kevin Ellis



Whiskey Barrel Aged Imperial Stout
12% ABV

A cold and dark night deserves a cold and dark beer. Luckily enough, I happened to have one in the cellar I picked up a couple days ago from West LA. I absolutely love this style of beer when done right, and this one was done right! The 12% ABV somewhat scared me because this was a 22 oz. bottle, and I didn't want to open it and not finish the entire bottle. These days, if I were to drink a whole 22 oz., 12% beer, I don't know if I'd be able to function the next day; so, I turned to my partner in crime, Jane, to help me out with this review.

The first thing I want to mention is that I love the format this beer was sold in. A classic 22 oz. brown bottle, also known as, a "bomber." When I was first getting into craft beer in the early 2000s, the really special beers were sold in this size. When breweries like Rogue, Stone and Smuttynose came out with tasty new releases, they always put them in bombers. I used to love going to the bottle shop and looking at all the fun new styles I got to choose from. The artwork was entertaining to look at, as well. Okay, now that we're done walking down memory lane let's get on with the beer review.

I slowly poured down the side of the slanted glass, but, then, turned it upright at the end and poured more aggressively to get a little bit of a head on top. About a half inch thick, the tan pillowy froth stayed atop the

stout for only a few moments before falling back into the beer. The stout itself was pitch black. However, if you tilted it, you would see some chestnut brown hues along the outer edges of the glass. Swirling it a few times allowed us to see the legs of this impressive brew. Legs in a beer help to indicate alcohol content. After you swirl and the beer goes back to normal, that oily looking stuff sticking to the sides of the glass is called "legs." The higher alcohol percentage, the thicker the legs. And this beer had some legs!

Now this is where things got exciting. You know you're in for a treat when to take your first whiff and utter the word "wow". At that point, Jane and I both knew this beer was going to be a fun experience. There were scents in there I have never picked up in a stout before. Big deep aromas of raisins, coconut and maraschino cherries. Yes, those bright red ones you put on top of ice cream. I have never found that in a beer before; I might not ever again. So intriguing! By this point, we were both very eager for our first sips.

When you have high expectations going into a beer and, then, those expectations are exceeded by such a high mark, you almost feel upset that you weren't able to share the experience with anyone. That's why I was so glad I got to share this beer tasting journey with someone else who enjoys the craft. From the first sip to the last drop, we tasted so many different flavors. Upfront, there were notes of fig, pipe tobacco, and leather. But as the beer warmed up, that's when we got to dig a little deeper and really seek out those underlying flavors. This beer is hiding something, but, if you are patient, it will reveal its secrets. After 10-15 minutes of sitting, other flavors arose from the depths of this dark warlock. It finally unveiled its concealed flavors of coconut, vanilla, dark chocolate and booze-drenched fruit cake. In conjunction, the flavors reminded us of the holidays. All those yummy sweets and snacks packed into a harmonious medley.

All these flavors were accentuated by the wonderfully soft carbonation level added by the brewer. If the carbonation had been any stronger, it might have taken away some of the nuances this stout has to offer. The mouthfeel was pleasantly full and sweet

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with a dry finish. Nowadays, you find a lot of beers this style feel heavy in your mouth and coat it with a thick sugary coating, but this brew was not like that.

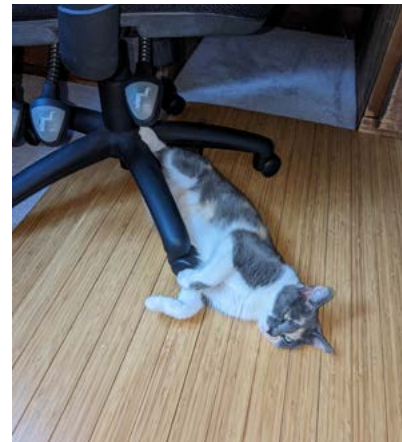
Overall, this was the best beer we have enjoyed since we started doing these reviews. Undoubtedly, this was a 10 out of 10. We had an incredible time describing to each other what we were picking up and how those flavors took us back to certain times of our lives or past beers we used to enjoy. A complex beer, but, also, one that is very approachable if you're willing to step a little out of your comfort zone. This was, unfortunately, a small batch, and not many bottles were offered, but if they are still available at the brewery, I would highly recommend you grab one along with a friend and enjoy the beer and the adventure. Cheers!

Mewsings from Gracie Cat

Bonnie McCarthy

Humans who come to visit us in my new home call my human Bonnie. They call me Grace or Gracie, but I only respond when I feel like it. Bonnie is less aloof. Sometimes a giant golden dog called Bo comes to visit. We stare at each other between the see-throughs until I get bored and turn my tail to him. He's not really scary, just huge. Mostly, it is just Bonnie and me in this big house. It has three floors. The top floor has a big look-over that allows me solitude, but I can still keep an eye on downstairs. Sometimes, I walk the beams and even hop onto the walkway above the place where fires can be lit. There are many objects on this walkway that would impede my stroll if I were not usually

so agile. One time, my paw slipped, and one of the objects crashed to the floor. Even though Bonnie only said, "At least it wasn't one of my favorites." I don't go up there very often anymore. The bottom floor is hard and cold and pretty much empty. There is noisy machinery down there, but, sometimes, I can still hear scratching and rustling in the walls. I'm hoping when I find out what is making this disturbance, it will be something to play with. I plan to spend enough time down there to keep my ears on the situation.



I spend most of my time on the middle floor with Bonnie where it is warm and where she keeps most of the furniture. She doesn't seem to mind if I get on the furniture. Believe me, I have been very cautious to slowly test her reaction to my first few attempts to jump up on anything, much less walk around and leap from



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A Friend On Granite Hill Road

From a friend on Athol Road

one thing to another. She only seems to mind when I lie on top of her favorite table and rub whiskers on her books and papers, which sometimes fall on the floor. At least they don't crash like the walkway stuff. Anyway, I quickly jump off the table in case she gets mad and strikes out, but she hasn't even yelled at me - yet. Whew!

I made a thorough exploration of those things called tables, desks, chairs, sofas, bureaus, and beds. I test them all on a regular basis, making sure to leave my mark with a bit of my extremely attractive dilute calico fur. My favorite is the rolling chair in front of her desk, which holds the warm, flat thing she uses to immortalize my mewings. Unfortunately, she always wins the stare-down when she wants to use the warm, flat thing that I like to walk on as soon as she opens it up. This is when she definitely calls me Grace, instead of Gracie Cat, Pretty Girl, or Sweet Darlin' (good grief). On the brighter side, sometimes, she calls me Miss Meow, which is much more in keeping with my feline awesomeness. Last month's photo shows me lying in "our" chair; this month's photo shows me claiming the chair as mine.

My ambition is to learn as much as possible about Bonnie and our home as quickly as possible. There are many rooms to explore and toys to destroy. I'll update you on my progress as my innate proclivity for curiosity continues to blossom. In the meantime, I offer many meows to all my faithful readers.



Fidium Fiber Internet: Asking our Readers Fran Heap

Jeff McIver II, the Senior Manager of Governmental Relations at Consolidated Communications, held a teleconference with our Select Board on December 11th and announced that Fidium fiber optic cable would be in Richmond no later than the end of July. (Fidium Fiber is a brand of Consolidated Communications Holdings,

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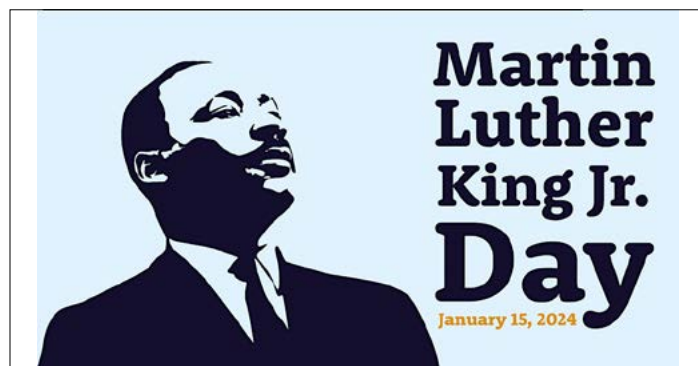


All are welcome to join our church family!

Inc.)* Mr. McIver recommended Richmond residents learn more about Fidium internet packages by visiting its website at www.fidiumfiber.com.

Excited by the prospect of high-speed internet, I looked for reviews of Fidium online and was pretty shocked to see that the Better Business Bureau (www.bbb.org) has given Fidium a report card grade of F! Making the switch to a new internet provider can be costly, so I am asking any readers who have had Fidium fiber optic internet in the past if they would share their own positive and negative experiences in writing with the Rooster. Please include the municipality and state where Fidium's service was provided in your letters. Many thanks!

*Online source: [Fidium Fiber, a New Gigabit Fiber Internet Service from Consolidated Communications, Coming Soon to Pennsylvania > Consolidated Communications](#)



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Important Event Dates from the Supervisors of the Voter Checklist Pam Bielunis, Chair

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Monadnock Regional School District Budget Meeting at MRHS Library at 7 PM.

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Supervisors of the Voter Checklist Meeting at the Vets' Hall at 6 PM for Voter Registration and name and/or address changes. There are no party changes between October 6, 2023 and January 24, 2024 (after the Presidential Primary).

Monday, January 22, 2024

Town Clerk available to accept Absentee Ballots at the Vets' Hall (not Town Hall) from 3 PM - 5 PM.

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Presidential Primary Election - Polls are open at the Vets' Hall 8 AM – 7 PM. Bring photo ID to vote. In addition, the Supervisors of the Checklist will be available for voter registration and name and/or address changes from 7 - 7:30 PM, immediately after the polls close.

Saturday, February 3, 2024

Monadnock Regional School District Deliberation Meeting at MRHS at 10 AM.

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Meet the Candidates Night at Vets' Hall at 6 PM, followed by **Pre-Warrant Meeting**.

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Turkish Proverb

The forest was shrinking, but the trees kept voting for the axe, for the axe was clever and convinced the trees that, because his handle was made of wood, he was one of them.



Richmond Needs a Moderator

The Moderator, Walden Whitham, is stepping down after years of faithful service. Thank you so much, Walden! His term will expire immediately after the 2024 Town Meeting in March.

Please see this month's "Town Clerk Tidbits" for deadlines to apply for this important position. If you would like to learn more about the role of the Moderator, please click this link: <http://tinyurl.com/yc5336fx>



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Library News Wendy O'Brien

Library Calendar for January

Wednesdays, 10 AM: Storytime

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

Wednesday, Jan. 3rd, 11 AM: Richmond Reminisces

Tuesday, Jan. 9th, 6 PM: Book Club, *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry*, Gabrielle Zevin

Thursday, Jan. 18th, 6 PM: You Got a ____ as a Gift Help Night

Thursday, Jan. 25th, 6 PM: Origami Workshop with Douglass Bartlett

Richmond Reminisces

On Wednesday, January 3rd, at 11 AM, come and visit during our new monthly program "Richmond Reminisces." In December, we enjoyed memories of the Four Corners Store and identified people in photographs from the Town Archives. These memories will be recorded for future generations to enjoy.

You Got a ____ as a Gift Help Night

Did you receive a Kindle, phone, tablet or other technological device for the holidays? Do you need some help getting started? We are hosting a technology night on Thursday, Jan. 18th at 6 PM to help you get going with your new device and also learn how to use the NH Downloadable Books app Libby. We may not have all the answers, but we will try to troubleshoot and get you going!

Origami Workshop

On Thursday, January 25th at 6 PM, we are pleased to welcome Douglass Bartlett who will lead a beginning workshop on the art of origami. Please bring a good

supply of your favorite paper cut into exact squares no smaller than six inches. We will learn how to read origami directions and then fold different kinds of boxes.



Here is Wendy reading to the Dirth family and friends at Storytime. Photo by Stacie Dirth

Storytime

Welcome 2024 by joining us at Storytime on Wednesday mornings at 10 AM! In January, we will be reading books, singing songs, making simple crafts and playing with the Library's blocks, Duplos, and musical instruments. Some of the fun topics are snow, trucks, and we will get ready for Groundhog Day!

New Titles

The Maniac, Benjamin Labatut
So Late in the Day, Claire Keegan
Resurrection Walk, Michael Connelly
Alex Cross Must Die, James Patterson
Inheritance, Nora Roberts



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Thursday 3-7
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Town Clerk Tidbits

Karen O'Brien

2024 ELECTIONS

Some dates to remember...

January 22nd

Last Day to Obtain an Absentee Ballot (must be received by 5:00 PM by the Town Clerk). **DO NOT PUT IN LOCK BOX!** Ballot must be received by the Clerk in person.

January 23rd

First in the Nation Primary Election

8 AM to 7 PM at the Veterans' Memorial Hall
You may register to vote at the polls (government photo ID, proof of residency and citizenship required). Undeclared voters may also return to UNDECLARED status after they vote. Absentee ballots **MUST** be returned before 5 PM.

January 24th

First Day of Filing for Town Offices

Positions open for election:

- Selectman – 1 (3 year)
- Moderator – 1 (2 year)
- Library Trustee – 1 (3 year)
- Planning Board – 2 (3 year)
- Town Clerk – 1 (3 year)
- Cemetery Trustee – 1 (3 year)
- Trustee of Trust Funds – 1 (3 year)
- Supervisor of the Checklist – 1 (6 year)

If you would like to run for any of the above offices, please come to the Town Clerk's office during the filing period to fill out the Declaration of Candidacy form. The office will be open on Friday, February 2, 2024 from 3 PM – 5 PM for declarations of candidacy purposes only. You must be a Richmond resident and a registered voter in order to run for a town office. If it is difficult for you to come to the office to pick up and/or complete the Declaration of Candidacy form, someone may pick up the form for you. I would also be happy to mail/email it to you. Once you have completed the Declaration of Candidacy form, you may personally bring it back to the town clerk's office, have someone return it for you, or you may mail it. Any filings for candidacy must be done **IN PERSON** on the last day. Any

Declaration of Candidacy forms that are mailed or that are delivered by someone other than the candidate must be received between January 24th and February 1st.

February 2nd

Last Day of Filing for Town Offices DOG LICENSES

Dog licenses can now be purchased for 2024. Be sure that we have your dog's up-to-date rabies vaccination. You can go online (scroll down the Town Clerk's section on the website and click on EB2Gov) to enter your dog's info. Remember to enter your correct routing number and account number. You can also send a check by mail or stop in to get your new tags. We always have some dog treats. Your well-behaved pet is always welcome!



Expression of Thanks

Windswept Mountain View Christmas Tree Farm would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the people of Richmond and all of our surrounding communities for supporting our Christmas Tree Farm, Elve's Nook Christmas Shop and our "pick your own" orchard. Your continued patronage has inspired us to continue to plant trees to sustain the supply for many seasons to come as we finish our 29th year in business.

We also wish to thank our hard-working, dedicated staff of people, whom without, we would not be able to successfully serve our customers. We are especially proud of our own Richmond's youth which include Andrew and Casey Jette, Connor and Logan McDonald, Mason Harrington, Eli Dirth, Liam Packard and our senior youth staff, Mary Silver and Jerry Mills.

These hardworking young adults have restored our faith and hope for the future and Richmond should be proud.

Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year.
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LIFE OUTSIDE THE DOOR

Stone Wall Treasure

Stillman Rogers

Among the most endearing things about New Hampshire are the dry-stone pasture walls which line old roads and fields everywhere in the state. The product of early settler efforts to farm and to raise sheep and cattle, they mark boundaries and line roads and are often found deep in the woods while hiking or hunting.

The product of land clearing, these stone are the remnants of stone broken from mountain tops, churned by glacial action over millennia and dropped here when those massive glaciers melted. The Cheshire Rail Trail off Route 119 in Fitzwilliam is lined with these walls, and you will even find a cellar hole along the way.



Another kind of wall is a part of that tradition, but these dry-stone stone walls are based on careful choosing of stones which will fit together to enhance the stability of the wall, making it strong and beautiful at the same time.

Just outside of Brattleboro, on the Scott Farm Road, the Stone Trust Center runs a stone wall-building training center for people interested in learning the art and creating stone walls that are durable and an attractive enhancement of the land.

In the undercroft of an 1862 barn, student stone wall builders can learn the basics while erecting a stone wall

under the supervision of an instructor. The Center provides the stones, the space, and the instructor. For those who want to go beyond the basics, the Center offers more advanced instruction, often teaching complicated wall styles from places such as Ireland, Britain and France.

While I am not about to build stone walls, I do appreciate the beautiful stonework. In addition to the instruction barn, the grounds of Scott Farm are the teaching space for advanced dry wall stone building and contain amazing examples of different styles constructed by students and staff. A semicircular garden wall at the entrance is a stunning display of the wall builders' art and the variety of stone that can be used.

A small covered bridge across a stream behind the barn leads to teaching fields, where more advanced stone work is taught and on display. The variety is stunning, and the techniques and skills are apparent from the work. Circular walls, seemingly impossible passageways, garden walls, built-in stiles, and walls mixing multiple stone from slate to rough granite are used in ways that merge art and function.

The Center is open to the public 9 AM to 5 PM daily. Touring is self-guided, and there is no admission fee. The Center does ask you to sign in after reading its policies. Above all, do not try to move or change any stonework; it is a "look, but don't touch site". Take Rte. 9 to Brattleboro and follow Rte. Vt. 5 south. At the first light, turn right onto Black Mountain Road; where it turns left, take Kipling Road straight ahead. You will pass the Rudyard Kipling House on the left, and Scott Farm will be on your left a few miles ahead.



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Italian Sausage, Kale and Tortellini Soup

Terri O'Rorke

Ingredients

6 oz mild or hot italian sausage (pork or turkey),
removed from casings

1 Tbsp olive oil

1 1/2 cups chopped yellow
onion (1 medium)

1 1/3 cups chopped carrots
(3 medium)

4 cloves garlic, minced

5 cups low sodium beef
broth

2 (14.5 oz) cans diced tomatoes

1 (8 oz) can tomato sauce

1 Tbsp Italian seasoning

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

9 oz refrigerated three cheese tortellini

2 cups packed chopped kale (thick ribs removed)

Finely shredded parmesan cheese (optional)

Directions

Heat olive oil in a large pot over medium-high heat.

Crumble sausage into pot and brown, stirring and
breaking up sausage occasionally, until cooked
through.

Drain sausage onto a plate lined with several layers of
paper towels while reserving 1 Tbsp rendered fat in pot
(if there's not a Tbsp, just add 1 more tbsp olive oil to
pot).

Add onions and carrots and saute 3 minutes then add
garlic and saute 1 minute longer.

Stir in beef broth, tomatoes, tomato sauce, Italian sea-
soning and season with salt and pepper to taste.

Bring to a light boil, return sausage to pot, cover pot
and reduce heat to medium-low and allow to simmer
until carrots are nearly tender, about 15 minutes.

Stir in tortellini and kale then cover and cook 7 - 9
minutes longer. Serve warm with parmesan cheese if
desired. Note that as the soup rests, the tortellini will
absorb more broth, so you can add more broth or water
to thin as desired.

Serves 6



An Open Letter to Richmond Residents: Another Viewpoint

In the November issue of the Rooster, Mr. Dan Connell recommended the World Climate Declaration as convincing evidence that “there is no climate emergency.” A couple of points which cast doubt on this claim:

1. The Declaration's publisher, CLINTEL, was co-founded by a geophysicist who has strong political, professional and financial connections to the fossil fuel industry and the political organizations which support it;
2. As far as I can ascertain, there was one Nobel Prize winner who signed, not multiple Laureates as stated in the letter to the Rooster. There are about 320 living Laureates who did not sign;
3. The Nobel Laureate who did sign received his Nobel Prize for work on electron tunneling in superconductors, which is unrelated to climate science;
4. While over 1,000 scientists may have signed (1,600 according to Mr. Connell's source, 1,100 according to mine), there are millions who did not;
5. “Looking at the list of signatories, there are a lot of engineers, medical doctors, and petroleum geologists and almost no actual climate scientists,” said Zeke Hausfather, a longtime research scientist at Berkeley Earth;
6. A 2021 study of just under 90,000 scientific articles on climate change found that 99.9 percent of them agreed that climate is changing rapidly and that the change is due to human activities;
7. 2023 has just been designated the hottest year ever recorded;
8. Climate-related events have begun to have important effects. For example, insurance companies have begun to withdraw from large areas that are more vulnerable to climate related damages. In Florida: more than 100,000 homes are affected, and possibly 275,000 in California. Remaining companies may raise rates.

Want to read a critique of the Declaration?

<http://tinyurl.com/vwvjh6sy>

Shaun Bennett

**“...the Founding Fathers gave the free
press the protection it must have to fulfill
its essential role in our democracy.
The press was to serve the governed,
not the governors.”**

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black

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From a friend on Old Homestead Hwy.



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Single Family Zoning Must Be Preserved

To the Editor:

A 6th housing forum was held at St Anselm's on 12-08-2023.

The Free State Project is supposed to stand for freedom. So why would they want to impose draconian zoning changes on our towns?

Jason Sorens is the founder of the Free State Project and part of the "Center for Ethics in Society" at St Anselm's. In partnership with NH Housing and NH Office of Planning and Development, this group was the creator of the "Zoning Atlas", a tool that helps target towns that do not favor high density construction. Why would a supposedly Catholic college engage in such nonsense? Why would FSP members support such socialistic views?

Frankly, there are too many non-governmental, unelected government groups that team up with special interest groups such as this one. These groups are then allowed to set policy, and yet, nobody voted for them!

Governor Sununu, who is also sold on this mission, has even praised Sorens' work.

What is so disturbing is that anyone thinks we need to destroy single family zoning, or even advocate challenging the boundaries set up by HOAs, despite the fact that people who have purchased homes in those communities were fully aware of what living in an HOA would entail.

There are plenty of commercial buildings that can be converted into apartments without invading established neighborhoods where people have bought homes, expecting the zoning wouldn't change.

No wonder people are beginning to look unfavorably on the FSP. We must stay vigilant on this issue.

Jane Aitken

Bedford, NH

Action Request to NH Residents from Bedford Residents Association

Friends, HB 1291 is not just an ordinary bill that allows Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). It is HB 44 on steroids.

Here is the bill in PDF format – HB 1291.

<https://bedfordresidents.com/bra/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/HB1291.pdf>

Please notice the sponsors! It is slated to be introduced on 01/04/2024 to the "Special Committee on Housing" which is a sham since out of EIGHT members, SEVEN of them are the bill's sponsors!!!

HB 44 is a bill we defeated last year that would have allowed neighborhoods zoned single-family to chop up their homes into 4 units provided they were on municipal sewer and water.

HB 1291 makes no such distinction so long as the septic and well can serve the square footage per the town's ordinances.

This means ANY single-family neighborhood can be turned into a rental nightmare with both ADUs attached and non-attached. Usually, a normal ADU is one extra unit that is allowed to be occupied by someone related to the homeowner. These multiple units would have NO restrictions as to the relationship to the homeowner.

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The arguments against this are:

- There would be NO more choice to live in your once-guaranteed single-family neighborhoods;
- Doesn't guarantee 'workforce housing' prices since the area would automatically get higher rental rates than in a city, and thus would likely not help the housing 'crisis' at all;
- It's an attack on the middle class and the family.

Normally a bill like this would be heard before the House's Municipal and County Government Committee. We should demand that it be heard there, and NOT in a committee whose majority is its sponsors!!!

The bill has been requested to be heard by the normal Municipal and County Government Committee of the NH House of Representatives. We will be appealing to whichever committee ends up holding the hearing and ask you to email or write to them with your testimony also.

You can submit your testimony online here.

<https://gencourt.state.nh.us/house/committees/remotetestimony/default.aspx>

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[Editor's Note: Thanks to the sharp eyes of our proofreader, Lew Whittum, we have updated this unique cookie recipe from Karen O'Brien to make it clear how much sugar goes into the batter and how much is used to sprinkle on the cookie dough.]

Peppermint Rose Sugar

Place 6 - 7 large peppermint rose geranium leaves in two cups of sugar. Let stand for a few days. Remove the leaves before using.

Recipe

Ingredients

- 3 c. all-purpose flour, sifted
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 c. butter
- 1 tsp. rosewater
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 c., plus 1/4 c., peppermint rose sugar
- 2 large eggs

Directions

Set aside 1/4 cup of peppermint rose sugar. Sift all remaining dry ingredients into a bowl. Add butter until mixture is crumbly. Stir in beaten egg and vanilla. On a floured surface, roll dough to 1/8 inch thick. Cut into shapes and sprinkle with reserved sugar. Place on an ungreased baking sheet and bake for 6 - 8 minutes in a preheated 400°F oven. NOTE: If you have an abundance of small rose geranium leaves, you can press a leaf into each cookie before baking.





2023 Conservation Successes by the Monadnock Conservancy

Online Source:

Success Stories Monadnock Conservancy

<https://www.monadnockconservancy.org/conserve/success-stories>

Thanks to our supporters and partners, the Monadnock Conservancy has forever conserved over 23,000 acres in this region. Below are the latest conservation wins. Each acre represents support from our community and effort from our team. Join us! <https://www.monadnockconservancy.org/donate>



Kroka Headquarters & Rogers Road Farm in
Alstead & Marlow, N.H., 92 Acres



Pete's Stand in Walpole, N.H., 7.3 Acres

Winter

by

Louisa May Alcott

The stormy winter's come at last,
With snow and rain and bitter blast;
Ponds and brooks are frozen o'er,
We cannot sail there any more.

The little birds are flown away
To warmer climes than ours;
They'll come no more till gentle May
Calls them back with flowers.

Oh, then the darling birds will sing
From their neat nests in the trees.
All creatures wake to welcome Spring,
And flowers dance in the breeze.

With patience wait till winter is o'er,
And all lovely things return;
Of every season try the more
Some knowledge or virtue to learn.



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Email – therichmondrooster@gmail.com

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Town Administration

Selectmen: William Daniels, Doug Bersaw, Andrew Wallace

Selectmen Meeting at Town Hall – Mon. 5:30 P.M.

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

Town Administrator: Susan Harrington

Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Thompson

Mon. 9 AM – Noon, 3 PM – 5:30 PM

Wed. 9 AM – 1 PM

Thurs. 9 AM – Noon

For town business outside of the above hours, please call 239-4232 for a Monday evening appointment.

Town Clerk: Karen O'Brien

Deputy Town Clerk: Cheryl Brake

Tues. 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Wed. 9 AM - Noon & 1 PM - 4 PM

Thur. 8 AM - Noon

For Tues. appointments (5 PM, 5:30 PM, 6 PM), call 239-6202 or email the clerk.

Tax Collector: Steve Boscarino

Deputy Tax Collector: Mary Rogers

Mon. 6 PM – 8 PM, Wed. 9 AM – Noon

Planning Board: Held at Taylor/VanBrocklin Bldg.

1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month - 7:00 PM

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 – Noon

Thurs. 3 PM – 7 PM, Sat. 10 AM – 2 PM

Police (Non Emergency): 355-2000

Fire/Rescue (Non Emergency): 239-4466

Fire Warden:

Fire Permit: Buzz Shaw, 239-4238

Selectmen – 239-4232

Town Clerk – 239-6202

Tax Collector – 239-6106

Road Agent: Elton "Buddy" Blood, II – 400-3629

Building Maint.: Pam Bielunis

Zoning Compliance Officer: Richard Drew

[Phone number area codes are 603, unless otherwise noted.]

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