



The Circus Tent is Coming to Town Fran Heap



In a remarkable display of indifference to those who spoke at public hearings regarding the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments, the majority of the Planning Board doubled down and placed its sweeping changes on the ballot for the March 12th Election. Jed Butterfield (Vice-Chairman) and Lloyd Condon (Alternate) were in the minority and voiced their opposition at separate hearings, citing adverse impact to the wetlands, as did the Richmond Conservation Commission.

Most of the controversy surrounds the removal of “structure” in certain articles of the Zoning Ordinance and replacing it with “building”. This action was spearheaded by Selectman Doug Bersaw, who serves as the ex-officio member of the Planning Board, and eagerly championed by Doug Smith (Chairman), Lisa Traeger (Member), and her sister, Kim DeMasco (Member).

If Amendment 2 were to be voted in, a building would be narrowly defined as:

- any structure having a roof supported by columns or walls and intended or used for the shelter, housing, or enclosure of any individual, animal, process, equipment, goods, or materials of any kind or nature; or,
- a container greater than 100 square feet used for storage; or,
- an in-ground swimming pool.

The Planning Board majority has made it clear at public hearings that fabric structures (*yes - no lie - like circus tents!*) would not be considered buildings.

Amendment 3 has the potential to damage our Town’s wetlands irrevocably. **Non-building structures could be placed right at the waterline or wetland**

boundary and could be used for the storage of products known to be toxic to the wetlands, such as motor oil, antifreeze, road salt, chemical fertilizers, etc.



In a sloppy move, the Planning Board majority would allow the alteration of the surface configuration of the Wetlands Conservation District by **“normal landscaping”**, but has failed to provide a definition of what that term means. **Any excavation or fill caused by “normal landscaping”** (based on a default dictionary definition) **could change the velocity of stormwater runoff to the wetlands, increase siltation, and cause erosion.** Wetlands are where groundwater is recharged and a rich diversity of plant and animal life can be found. The health of a wetland is dependent on the activities occurring near it, so enforced regulations to the Wetlands Conservation District are key to its protection. If you like clean well water, birding, fishing, hiking, hunting, or nature photography, a wetland and its 75 foot buffer are probably the best friends you never knew you had.

If Amendment 5 were to be voted in, **non-building structures OF ANY SIZE would not require a permit, nor would they be subject to property boundary and wetland setbacks.** There are a few exceptions specified in the Ordinance, but one really has to look for them. For example, a fence still must be set back two feet from the property line.



Unlike fences, **a non-building structure without setbacks specified in the amended Zoning Ordinance could be placed right up against your property boundary line.** Why should you care? It would be perfectly legal for your neighbor to install a huge structure that blocks your sightline to the road and endangers you when you try to exit your driveway.



The Planning Board majority has also decided that **non-building structures, unlike buildings, cannot be “ruins”.** This means that the giant eyesore of a collapsed “garage-in-a-box” or the dilapidated shed (under 100 square feet) next to your property cannot be removed by the Town for reasons of blight.



A significant consequence of requiring permits only for buildings is that **there will be no local oversight of accessory structures, such as septic systems, wells, and driveways.** The Town would still require proof of NH state permits for septic systems, wells, and driveways, **BUT ONLY WHEN ACCOMPANYING A BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION.** There would be nothing to stop an abutting neighbor from laying in a driveway right along your property boundary years after the original building permit. Similarly, if a failed septic system or well were to be replaced in a new location, there would be no mechanism to make the Town aware of the new location, leading to the increased likelihood of sewage contaminating a drinking water well.



The State reviews and approves well, septic, and driveway plans, but typically is not onsite during their installation to ensure compliance. It falls to our Zoning Compliance Officer to check, but without a building permit, the ZCO would not know to do so.

Gentle suggestions from the public that the proposed amendments were not ready were rebuffed. Given the Zoning Ordinance is our local law, with profound impacts to property values and quality of life, it deserves a more caring, thoughtful approach.

**Town Election
at the Vets’ Hall**
Tuesday, March 12, 2024,
11 AM to 7 PM

Town Meeting at the Vets’ Hall
Saturday, March 16, 2024, 9 AM

Election Candidates
Select Board – One 3-Year Slot
Andrew Wallace

Planning Board – Two 3-Year Slots
Joseph Norman
Lloyd Condon (Write-In)

Library Trustee – One 3-Year Slot
Elizabeth McCarthy

Trustee of Trust Funds – One 3-Year Slot
Rostislav Eismont

Cemetery Trustee – One 3-Year Slot
Rebecca Lescynski

Moderator – One 2-Year Slot
Mark Lanen

Supervisor of the Checklist – One 6-Year Slot
Alison VanBrocklin

Town Clerk – One 3-Year Slot
Karen O’Brien

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Sudoku Puzzle #5

Written and Submitted by Sr. Mary Joseph

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



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Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments (at the Time of this Printing)

Amendment #1

*Are you in favor to repeal (delete) **Article 4 Section 406.1 House of Worship and Article 17 definition 1733 House of Worship** as proposed by the Richmond Planning Board for the Town of Richmond Zoning Ordinances to come into compliance with the State of New Hampshire RSA 674:76 as revised July 1, 2022.*

Article 4, Section 406.1 Houses of Worship. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Ordinance, houses of worship, (see definition 16) shall be permitted by right in an area along the major highways in Richmond, NH, Routes 119 and 32, all buildings and infrastructure, including parking and impermeable surfaces shall be located on land within 500 feet of the said highways' rights-of-way [Adopted March 11, 2011]

Article 17 Definitions under 1733 House of Worship – A building set apart for public worship, a venue for any religious group than can provide written documentation (501 (c) (3)) that the US Internal Revenue Service has determined that it qualifies for the tax-exempt status as a religious organization. Dwellings for residential purposes as a principal use do not qualify as a house of worship even if religious instruction is provided there because such instruction is considered incidental to the principal use of the structure.

Amendment #2

*Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #2** as proposed by the Richmond Planning Board for the Town of Richmond Zoning Ordinances as follows:*

To change Article 17 Definitions, under 1709 Building.

Building – Any structure having a roof supported by columns or walls and intended **or used for** the shelter, housing, or enclosure of any individual, animal, process, equipment, goods, or materials of any kind or

nature, **including containers greater than 100 square feet used for storage, and in-ground swimming pools.**

Amendment #3

*Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #3** as proposed by the Richmond Planning Board for the Town of Richmond Zoning Ordinances as follows:*

To change Article 6 Wetland Conservation District, under 602 Purposes, specifically 602.1, under 603 Uses Permitted, and under 604 Special Exceptions, specifically 604.2.

602.1 To prevent the development of **buildings structures** and land uses on naturally occurring wetlands, which **would** ~~could~~ contribute to pollution of surface and ground water by sewage or any other pollutants, or cause damage to abutter's property.

603 Uses Permitted in the Wetland Conservation District, no use is permitted that would result in the erection of any **building structure** or alter the surface configuration through excavation **or** fill, **except for normal landscaping** or that is not otherwise permitted by the Zoning Ordinance except the following permitted uses:

603.1 Forestry - tree farming.

603.2 Agriculture.

603.3 Water impoundments and well supplies.

603.4 Drainage ways, streams, creeks, or other paths of normal run-off water.

603.5 Wildlife refuge.

603.6 Parks and such recreation use as are consistent with the purpose and intentions of Section 602.

603.7 Conservation areas and nature trails.

603.8 Open space as permitted by subdivision regulations and other sections of this ordinance.

604.2 The undertaking of a use not otherwise permitted in the Wetland Conservation District which may include the erection of a **building structure**, dredging, filling, draining, or otherwise altering the surface configuration of the land, if it can be shown that such

From a friend on Athol Road

proposed use will not conflict with the purpose and intention of Section 602, and if such proposed use is otherwise permitted by the Zoning Ordinance. Proper evidence to this effect shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Adjustment and shall be accompanied by the findings of a review by the Richmond Conservation Commission of the environmental effects of such proposed use upon the wetlands in question.

Amendment #4

*Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #4** as proposed by the Richmond Planning Board for the Town of Richmond Zoning Ordinances as follows:*

To change Article 6 Wetland Conservation District, under 601 General.

The Wetland Conservation District as herein defined is shown on a map or maps designated as the "Town of Richmond Wetland Conservation District Map" and is part of the "Zoning Map" of the Town of Richmond, New Hampshire. For a detailed explanation of soil types, see "Soil Survey of Cheshire County, New Hampshire" issued June 1989, on file with the Town Clerk and Planning Board. In addition to areas shown in the Town of Richmond Conservation District Map any other wetlands identified and **delineated by a State Board of Natural Science certified soil scientist or State Board of Natural Science certified wetland scientist** are included in the Wetlands Conservation District.

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U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black

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Amendment #5

*Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #5** as proposed by the Richmond Planning Board for the Town of Richmond Zoning Ordinance as follows:*

Under Article 12, Enforcement and Administration, under 1203 Building Permits Required, as well as 1203.1.B, 1203.2 and 1204 Occupancy Permit including 1204.1.A-D. Also, Article 4, under section 404 Permitted Accessory Uses, specifically 404.3.4. Article 3 General Provisions, under 317 Cluster Housing, more specifically 317.7 and 317.10. Article 17 Definition, under 1758 Ruins.

1203 Building Permits Required A building permit shall be required prior to the erection, addition, alteration, relocation or conversion to apartments of any building or portion thereof. Building permits are not required for detached **buildings structures** with a floor area equal or less than one hundred (100) square feet. It shall be unlawful for any person to commence work for the erection, addition, alteration or relocation of any **building or structure** until a permit has been approved and issued by the Selectmen. No building permit shall be required for normal maintenance activities, minor repairs and minor alterations that do not structurally alter or change a building ~~or structure~~. No building permit shall be issued for a lot with a private septic system until an approved septic system permit has been obtained from the NH Water Supply and Pollution Control division.


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1203.1 Application for a building permit: All applications for building permits shall be accompanied by plans and submitted by the owner or his agent, and shall show:

- A. The actual shape and dimensions of the lot to be built on;
- B. The size and location on the lot of the **building(s)** ~~or structure~~ to be erected or altered.
- C. The location of all setback lines- front, side, and rear.
- D. The location of all septic system facilities and well(s) dimensions to setbacks.
- E. The location of wetlands and surface water; and
- F. Multi-family dwellings, conversion to multi-family dwellings, cluster developments of more than two dwelling units and structures associated with special exceptions require site plan review and approval by the Richmond Planning Board before issue of a building permit.

1203.2 All buildings **and** building components ~~and structure~~ shall comply with the State Building Code, and the State Fire Code. The construction design, maintenance and use of all buildings ~~or structures~~ to be erected and the alteration, renovation, rehabilitation, repair, maintenance, removal or demolition of all ~~structures and buildings~~ previously erected shall be governed by the provision of the State Building Code according to State Law RSA 155-A: 2. The standards including definitions established by the most recent entity the Life Cycle Code, NFPA Doc. **shall** take precedence over all standards in the State Building Code relative to means of egress. All new buildings shall conform to the requirements of the State Fire Code.

1204 Occupancy Permit: An approved occupancy permit shall be required before any new dwelling **or** building/~~structure~~ **or** existing dwelling or building/~~structure~~ that has been structurally altered can be occupied. The occupancy permit shall be applied for by the owner or his agent when the construction for which a building permit was issued has been completed. The occupancy permit shall be issued within ten (10) days after the erection or alteration of the dwelling *or*

building/~~structure~~ or portion thereof, has been completed and after an inspection by a member of the Richmond Fire Department designated by the Board of Selectman showing that it is in conformance with accepted fire safety standards. [Rev- March 12, 1996]

1204.1 Occupancy permits are required for the following:

- A. The occupancy of a new building. ~~or structure~~
- B. The occupancy of any existing building that has been structurally altered or relocated.
- C. The change in the use of an existing building. ~~—or—structure.~~
- D. Any change in the use of a non-conforming use or **building** ~~or structure.~~

404 Permitted Accessory Uses
Article 4 Section 404.3.4 The accessory dwelling unit must be located in the primary dwelling ~~structure~~ or in an addition to the primary dwelling ~~or structure.~~

Section 3 Article 317 Cluster Development to change 317.7 and 317.10

317.7 The commonly owned open space shall not be used for any **building structure** ~~with the exception of a common approved septic system.~~ Recreational areas, trails or paths are permitted. A private non-profit organization consisting of all landowners shall be established by the developer to manage, maintain, support, and finance necessary actions to the common facilities and common area of the cluster and enforce any covenants.
317.10 All other provisions of Article 4 and Article 3 shall apply except that the setback from the front property line shall be a minimum of 40 feet. In the case of a cluster utilizing a common septic system, a minimum of 10-foot setback from the side and rear property lines and 40 feet from the front property line are required for any **building structure**. The common septic system must be a minimum of 75 feet from any dwelling unit.

Article 17 Definition 1758 Ruins – Any **building structure** that has collapsed for any reason, has burned, or is damaged beyond repair and is uninhabitable.

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“Unpacking” the Proposed Zoning Ordinance Changes

Richard P. Drew

On February 2nd, the Richmond Planning Board held the final public hearing on proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments: Amendment #1

These changes dealt with updating our Houses of Worship articles to bring them into alignment with state law and attempt to separate what structures would require a building permit from those that won't.

The Board was successful in the changes to the Houses of Worship articles, but have made the latter articles confusing and contradictory. I will attempt to explain what effect the articles pertaining to buildings and structures will have on our Wetland Conservation District and the other building setbacks/buffers.

Amendment #2 Definition of Building

The definition is fine, but does not go far enough because of what is not included. It includes in-ground pools, but not above-ground pools. The site preparation for an above-ground pool takes up about the same area as an in-ground pool, but **the above-ground pool can be built in the Wetland Conservation District with no separation from wetlands and also can be built next to a property line with no separation from the line.** Worse yet, in the event the sides of an above-ground pool in the District collapse, the chemically treated water would run downslope into the wetlands.

This lack of separation is also true of fabric shelters that are frequently used as garages or storage for gas, oil, anti-freeze, and other pollutants. I don't think that this is complying with the intent of our Wetland Conservation District or our building setbacks from property lines. **Of course, a building site has to be cleared and a driveway built to access the “structures”.** With no limit in size, a 2,400 square foot fabric shelter filled with junk cars and parts can be built in the Wetland Conservation District, next to a brook or swamp. Yes, there is such a building in town. It is not in the Wetland Conservation District, however.

Also, the issue of unregistered tractor trailers being used as sheds is not addressed. If these are vehicles, then they must be registered when there are more than two present on a lot. If they are not registered, and there are more than two then they constitute a junkyard (RSA 236:112 I(c)).

Solar arrays are becoming more popular. This is a good thing. But, under the proposed amendments, they can be built next to a property line or next to a wetland.

Amendment #3 Concerning the Wetland Conservation District

Again, none of the above concerns are addressed, but, in addition, this amendment will allow “normal landscaping”. **When the Board was asked at the hearing what limitation, if any, is placed on “normal landscaping”, the answer was that there is none.** The definition which was to be Amendment #6 was withdrawn because it did not include “and planting of the grounds”. This definition can be found in our Excavation Regulations, but not in our Zoning Ordinance. Therefore, it cannot be enforced except during commercial excavation. Even with that definition, there is no limit on how much alteration or contouring can be done in the Wetland Conservation District or next to a property line for that matter. **The purpose of the Wetland Conservation District is to protect the wetlands. I think the proposed amendment is doing exactly the opposite of that purpose**

Amendment #4 Wetland Delineation

This is a correction to our ordinance and brings us into compliance with state laws and regulations.

Amendment #5

This amendment will allow structures such as fabric shelters, solar arrays, above-ground pools, new driveways and accessways in the Wetland Conservation District, “normal landscaping” in the Wetland Conservation District, and new and replacement septic systems closer than our ordinance currently allows. All of these and probably more that I cannot think of right now will be removed from town oversight. This means that there will be no recourse if your neighbor builds a solar array next to your property line or stacks tractor trailers next to your line, except to take the issue to court.

Amendment #6

As I said earlier, Amendment #6 was deleted due to incompleteness.

I believe the idea to better define what should be regulated for our protection by amendments to our ordinance is a good one. Unfortunately, these will, in effect, do away with property and wetland setbacks, except for what is considered a building. Because there is no more time before finalizing our town warrant, I asked the Board to withdraw most of the amendments, I was told that too much work had gone into these, and that the Board will address changes to them next year and in the Master Plan. The Master Plan is not a regulatory document. It is only a statement of policies and goals. The composition of the Board will be different next year and there is no guarantee that these amendments will be addressed. **So, please vote “No” to Amendments 2, 3, and 5 to protect your property rights and our wetlands.**



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Leave Well Enough Alone:

An Open Letter to Richmond Residents

I would like to urge people to do their homework on the new zoning ordinance changes that will be on the Richmond ballot in March. I have read several articles lately on the proposed changes, and that led me to attend the February hearing on these issues. Whereas I have no doubt that the planning board put a lot of effort into arriving at their proposals, my opinion is contrary to theirs.

I do not feel we should be making changes in the wetlands' ordinances. A large part of Richmond has wetlands. Many residents have wetlands on their property or nearby, myself included. People know this when they purchase their property and should be taking it into consideration. Contaminants know nothing of distance. There is no magic barrier that stops them from traveling 75 feet into wetlands and water, never mind 25 feet either. Once the land and/or water is polluted, the damage is done. One polluted area has the potential to affect many others, as the

pollution seeps into adjoining areas. The harm to human health and the environment could be devastating.

How fortunate we are that, as far as we know, very little wetlands' pollution has occurred in Richmond. Many of us observed how far and what permanent damaging effects the pollution had from the gas leak at the Four Corners, and that was not even in wetlands. I would like to feel that the ordinances we have in place have helped to keep our wetlands and water safe. I feel we should do everything we can to continue protecting these areas to the best of our abilities, not lessen our protective restrictions. How horrible we would feel if pollution occurred, knowing we could have prevented it.

At the hearing, there was a lot of discussion about "structures" and "buildings" and where they should and should not be allowed. When questions arose about further details on this issue, the audience was told that they should pass these ordinances now, and then rewrite them next year. This is not what I call a safe or wise way to treat the issues.

I, therefore, hope you will think hard and long before voting on these ordinances. Let's leave well enough alone, since "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." Let's be safe, rather than sorry.

Thank you.

Pam Goodell



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Planning Board Public Hearing for Zoning Ordinance Amendments: One Resident's Opinion

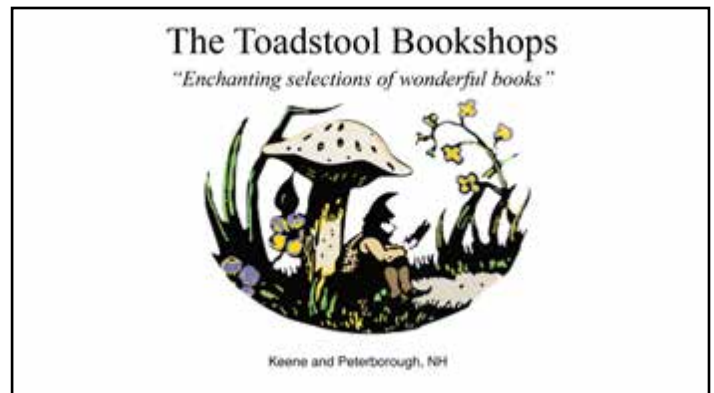
On Thursday, February 1st, I attended the Planning Board's final public hearing about its proposed zoning ordinance changes. I left the hearing more confused than when I first entered the hearing. I do not think I received answers to questions being asked. It seemed to me that the majority of the Board just wanted to push their agenda forward with no care for the public opinions or concerns.

What was clear to me was that there is not unanimous support by members of the Planning Board for the amendments. At one point in the meeting, Board Member Lloyd Condon said he would get in trouble for voicing his opinion against the amendments. He referenced the pollution issues with the Four-Corner Store and how it and the nearby properties became contaminated with gasoline. He also mentioned how similar proposals to weaken wetland protection have been brought forth over the past few years, but, each time, the town public voted them down.

I was also taken aback with the unprofessionalism I saw from the Board and its treatment of the public. For example: without finishing the public hearing, they voted to take Amendment #6 off of the proposal; the public had to ask what just happened. I also noticed they were not attentive to hands that were being raised, and we, in the audience, had to point out when someone else had a hand raised.

Multiple times during the hearing, it was brought up by Richmond residents to table the amendments until they were better written and come back to them next year. There was a resounding "No" from the Chairperson. I would really like to know what the rush is? What's the hurry to push these amendments through? In my opinion, I don't believe the general public want these changes. I have lived in Richmond for 35 years. I moved here from a Boston suburb. I moved to this "town in the forest" and I want it to remain the town I moved to.

I would like to ask my Richmond neighbors to vote "No" to all of the Article 6 amendments affecting the Wetlands Conservation District. I want to keep Richmond from shrinking its wetlands. I want to defend



our wildlife and plant life. I do not want to disturb this delicate balance. If we as humans don't take care, how will the animals and plants defend themselves against this reckless human destruction of wetlands?

Thank you,
Sandra Auvil

Keene Senior Center Moves a Little Nearer to Richmond

Fran Heap



The Keene Senior Center, which provides services to the 55 and older crowd, has relocated from Court Street to 312 Marlboro Street in Keene, not far from the Edge Theatre.

For a \$75 annual membership (\$125 for a couple), a senior gets access to exercise classes, gym equipment, crafting, games, movies, workshops, low-cost meals, and much more. Mostly, the Senior Center fosters an atmosphere of good-natured companionship, Monday through Friday. You do not have to live in Keene to join. To learn more about the Center, please visit:

www.thekeeneseniorcenter.org



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A North Country Winter Getaway© Stillman Rogers

No matter how much anyone enjoys watching winter from their own kitchen window, the time arrives when there is an irresistible urge to get away and see the world from a different window.

These little getaways don't have to be weeks long, in fact sometimes just two or three days is enough to bring a shot of fresh spirit. We New Hampshire natives have a natural prejudice for this state's own territory, and the part that we often enjoy is the north country, particularly the area around Conway.

When it's just the two of us, we like to check into the [Snow Village Inn](#) in Eaton, a beautiful small town on a lake not much further from North Conway than Richmond is from Keene. A long-time inn, it sits on a wooded hillside high above the town with a view of the White Mountains and Mount Washington. That view is probably the finest of all inns in the state. Our favorite room (the Frost Suite) with that view is on the front of the second floor of the main inn.

Other lodging options are in the Carriage House, with lots of knotty pine, spacious rooms and a common room with a big fireplace for relaxing and meeting other guests. The Chimney House is an attractive alternative, a timber frame building with spacious rooms and a relaxing common room for guests. All the rooms are shown on the Inn's website.

An important plus is [Max's Restaurant and Pub](#), right in the main Inn. We consider it to be one of the best dining choices in the region. Snuggle up in a soft chair in front of the fire in the lounge and warm up with one of the inn's signature cocktails and then dine in Max's from its menu of seafood, steaks and even wild game. If we are there for more than one night, we sometimes head out to Conway for dinner at [Café Noche](#), a Mexican restaurant with a wide choice of the most popular dishes, or to [Chef's Bistro](#) on Main Street in North Conway. Chef's is one of the very best restaurants in the area, with a superb, frequently changing menu based on locally sourced produce. With either one, it is best to reserve ahead because they are both very popular.



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The Inn has snowshoeing equipment and trails that lead right from the Inn grounds into 10 kilometers of trails. These extend across the mountain through forests and small meadows filled with wilderness plants and wildlife. Depending upon when you go, it is also only a short ride to the ski slopes and facilities of Cranmore Mountain ([cranmore.com](#)) or King Pine ([www.kingpine.com](#)) in Madison.



1116 Mt Washington & the White Mountains from Snow Village Inn,
Eaton N.H. C Stillman Rogers Photography 2023



Connecticut River Joint Commissions Receives Grant from State of Vermont

The Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) is pleased to announce that it has received a \$35,000 grant through the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Department of Environmental Conservation. This grant funds CRJC's work program for November 2023 to October 2024. Additional funding is provided by



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New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. These funds will allow the CRJC to continue its emphasis on the grassroots, locally focused work of its five local river subcommittees and the broader implementation of its river management plan. The CRJC focuses on the key issues facing the Connecticut River watershed of Vermont and New Hampshire and plays the vital bi-state role of convening, catalyzing, and leading dialogue on these regional issues. Current focus areas for the CRJC include:

- Participating as a stakeholder in the federal relicensing of hydroelectric facilities at Wilder Dam, Bellows Falls Dam, and Vernon Dam in Vermont and New Hampshire.
- Providing a forum for open discussion and comment on a wide range of projects affecting the Connecticut River and its watershed. Topics include permits, such as those for new development or invasive species management in proximity to the River and thus with potential impacts, as well as plans, such as Vermont's Tactical Basin Plans that help to inform an inventory of natural resources in the watershed, and also to manage and protect these valuable natural resources.
- Leading watershed management efforts highlighted in the CRJC watershed management plan. Efforts include work to improve water quality monitoring along the mainstem of the Connecticut River, as well as, convening bi-state partners to address the issues such as land use, water quality, and farming in the valley.

New Hampshire's Connecticut River Valley Resource Commission and Vermont's Connecticut River Watershed Advisory Commission, created by their respective legislatures in 1987 and 1988, were directed to cooperate with each other to preserve and protect the resources of the Connecticut River Valley, and to guide its growth and development. They have met together as the Joint Commissions since 1989. Both Commissions advocate for and engage the public in decisions which affect their river and their valley. The Commissions are advisory and have no regulatory powers.

Studies show that residents of and visitors to Vermont and New Hampshire love the streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, and wetlands of the Connecticut River watershed – these natural areas help define our bi-state landscape and character. This funding from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation enables CRJC to continue our work to protect these cherished resources. For more information about CRJC, please visit the CRJC website (www.crjc.org) or contact CRJC staff (info@crjc.org)



Easter Worship at the Old Brick Church

All are welcome to worship the Risen Son on Easter morning at our own Richmond Community Methodist Church.

The service begins at 9 AM on Sunday, March 31, 2024 and will include a timely, meaningful message from Pastor Stacey Hartford, along with joyful hymns and our own bell choir ringing in the celebration.

All denominations are welcome to worship, and families can feel free to bring their children to be part of the worship.

Richmond Community Methodist Church is located at 11 Fitzwilliam Rd. in Richmond. Call (603) 239-7369 to leave a message or Pastor Hartford at (978) 601-2494 for immediate assistance.

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Library News Wendy O'Brien

Library Calendar for March

Wednesdays, 10 AM: Storytime

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

Wednesday, March 6th, 11 AM: Richmond Reminisces

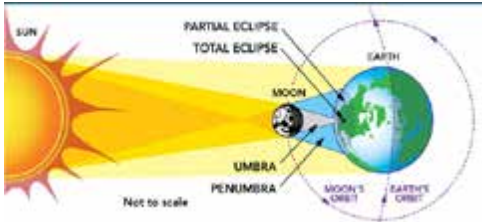
Tuesday, March 19th, 6 PM: Tuesday Book Club, *The Queen of Dirt Island*, Donal Ryan

Thursday, March 21st, 6 PM: Susan Rolke, Keene Amateur Astronomy Club, Solar Eclipse Talk

Save the Date!

Wednesday, April 3rd, 6 PM: Coffee with the Classics Book Club

Get Ready for the Total Solar Eclipse



On Thursday, March 21st at 6 PM, we are excited to welcome Susan Rolke of the Keene Amateur Astronomy Club to talk about the total solar eclipse which will be visible in New Hampshire on April 8th. Susan teaches physics, chemistry and astronomy at Conant Middle High School and was selected to be part of NASA's Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors Program. Susan has connected us with the Eclipse Soundscapes Program, which uses amateur observers during the eclipse to monitor changes in the local environment. We recently learned that the Library will be the recipients of a



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sound monitoring device to take readings during the eclipse. Susan will be returning on April 4th (if there is enough interest) to train observers for the program. Stay tuned for Library programming on April 8th!

New! Coffee with the Classics Book Club

The Richmond Public Library and the Conant Public Library in Winchester are working together to present "Coffee with the Classics," a new book club focusing on classical literature. Barry Deitz, Director of the Conant Library, has over 20 years of experience leading book discussions and is looking forward to facilitating our first meeting on Wednesday, April 3rd at 6 PM in Winchester. Wendy O'Brien, Librarian at the Richmond Public Library, will provide home-baked goodies to go with the coffee. We have selected "The Great Gatsby," by F. Scott Fitzgerald as our inaugural choice, with multiple copies available at both the Richmond and Winchester Libraries. We hope you will join us in this new opportunity for those who love both good literature and coffee!



ward to facilitating our first meeting on Wednesday, April 3rd at 6 PM in Winchester. Wendy O'Brien, Librarian at the Richmond Public Library, will provide home-baked goodies to go with the coffee. We have selected "The Great Gatsby," by F. Scott Fitzgerald as our inaugural choice, with multiple copies available at both the Richmond and Winchester Libraries. We hope you will join us in this new opportunity for those who love both good literature and coffee!

New Titles

Missing Persons, James Patterson

Last Night, Luanne Rice

The Summer Book Club, Susan Mallery

Ghost Orchid, Jonathan Kellerman

Big, Vashti Harrison (Winner of the 2024 Caldecott Medal)

The Eyes and the Impossible, Dave Eggers (Winner of the 2024 Newbery Medal)

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Tuesday 3-7
Wednesday 9-12
Thursday 3-7
Saturday 10-2



Asparagus and Cheese Tart Terri O'Rorke

Ingredients

- 1 pound asparagus, trimmed
- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry (about 1/2 pound), thawed
- All-purpose flour, for dusting
- 1 cup grated fontina cheese (about 3 ounces)
- 1 cup grated comte or gruyere cheese (about 3 oz.)
- 1 tablespoon minced shallot
- 2 large egg yolks
- 3 tablespoons whole milk
- 1/8 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 2 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest



Directions

- Fill a large bowl with ice water. Bring about 1" of water to a boil in a large skillet. Add asparagus; cook until bright green and crisp-tender, 2-5 minutes, depending on the thickness of the asparagus. Drain and transfer to the ice water to stop the cooking; drain and pat dry. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.
- Roll out puff pastry into a 10x16" rectangle on a floured surface. Transfer to a parchment-lined baking sheet and prick all over with a fork. Bake until light golden brown, about 12 mins. Let cool slightly on the baking sheet.
- Meanwhile, mix the fontina, comte, shallot, egg yolks, milk, nutmeg and pinch each of salt and pepper in a bowl until combined. Spread cheese mixture evenly over the puff pastry, leaving a 1" border on all sides. Toss the asparagus with olive oil, 1/4 tsp. salt and pepper to taste. Arrange the asparagus in a row on the tart, bake until cheese mixture is slightly puffy, 15 to 20 mins. Sprinkle with lemon zest. Serve warm or at room temperature.

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Solution to Puzzle #5 from Page 3

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

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New Hampshire

Election Results

Richmond Presidential Primary Results (provided by the Town Clerk's Office)

REPUBLICAN		
Darius		
Pence		1
Ramaswamy		
Scott		
Singh		
Sloan		
Stuckenberg		
Swift		
Trump		256
Ayers		
Binkley		
Burgum		
Carney		
Castro		
Christie		
DeSantis		5
Haley		89
Hutchinson		
Jedick		
Johnson		
Kjornes		
Maxwell		1
McPeters		
Merrell		
	Over/Under Votes	1
	TOTAL FOR REPUBLICAN	
		353

DEMOCRAT		
LaCava		
Locke		
Lozada		1
Lyons		
Moroz		
Nadeau		2
Palmer		
Perez-Serrato		
Phillips		20
Picard		
Prince		
Rist		1
Supreme		
Vail		
Williamson		3
Boddie		
Bukovinac		
Cambridge		
Cornejo		
Greenstein		
Koos		
1-Biden		73
2-Kennedy		2
3-Haley		2
4-Trump		1
5-Cease Fire		1
	Over/Under Votes	
	TOTAL FOR DEMOCRAT	
		108



The Richmond Rooster
an Independent Domestic Non-Profit Corporation



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Design/Production/Co-Publisher: Renée Murphy
Consultant: John Bocalini
Proofreader: Lew Whittum
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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

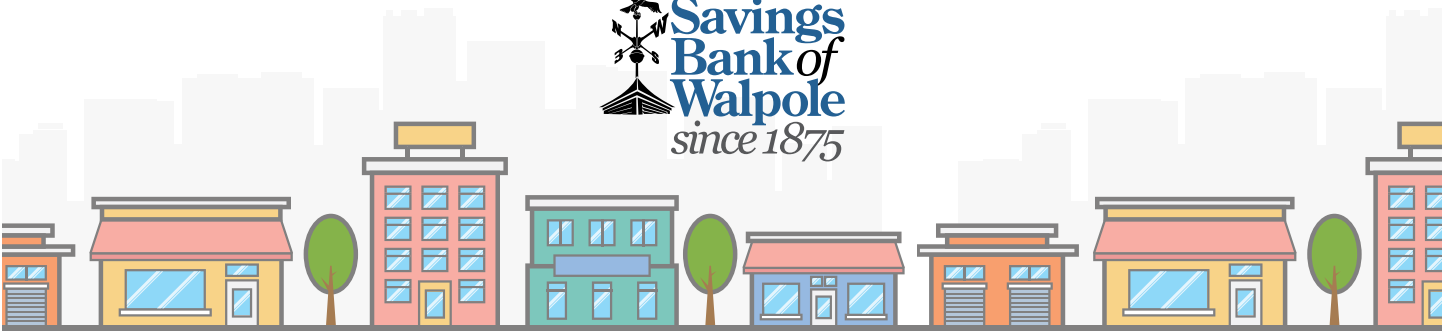
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