

The Tuftonboro Times



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Winter 2021

Town Meeting postponed until May due to Covid concerns; election of town officers still on schedule for March 9th

Chapter 40:4, paragraph II (a) of the New Hampshire Revised Statutes states in part: *If an accident, natural disaster, or other emergency occurs which the moderator reasonably believes may render the use of the meeting hall unsafe, the moderator may, at any time prior to the scheduled deliberative or business session, postpone and reschedule the session to a date, place, and time certain.*

On January 11, following a meeting with the Board of Selectmen and Tuftonboro Town Clerk Jennifer Coulter, Moderator Dan Barnard moved to postpone the business portion of the Tuftonboro Town Meeting until Saturday, May 15, at 9:00 a.m., at Davis Field at the Tuftonboro Central School. The decision was based on the New Hampshire Attorney General's guidance that fears of a coronavirus spread was justification for postponing such an event.

This decision does not change the day that Tuftonboro will vote for town officers. That date is set by statute as the second Tuesday in March (March 9, 2021) and the voting will take place in the Tuftonboro School gym from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. For years, Tuftonboro has utilized a bifurcated town meeting, which means that the first part of the meeting is the



The Central School's sign on the fence at Davis Field will be good advice when the Town Meeting is held there on Saturday, May 15.

election by official ballot of officers, and the second part of town meeting is a business session in which the voters discuss and vote on all articles posted in the warrant. It is the second session, traditionally held on the day after election day, that is postponed until May 15.

Many other New Hampshire towns are taking a similar approach to Town Meeting this year. Among those towns that are considering or have made the decision to postpone are Mont Vernon, Fracestown, Grantham, Lyme, Brookfield, and numerous other towns.

Another change for 2021 brought about by the pandemic is the waiver of a requirement that newly elected officers must be sworn in after Town Meeting.

Paragraph nine of Emergency Order #23 (issued last April but still in effect) says this: *The requirement that the business meeting must conclude before newly elected officers and officials can assume office under RSA 42:3 is hereby waived. Municipal and local governmental bodies are permitted to swear in newly elected officers and officials, and those individuals may assume office before the business meeting has concluded.*

All other scheduled town events, such as committee meetings, the budget hearing, receipt of petition articles, and the posting of the warrant, will adhere to the statutory calendar.

Daniel Barnard
Tuftonboro Town Moderator

Selectmen sign leases for installation of two cell towers

The coronavirus pandemic continues to affect all phases of our lives. In view of ongoing uncertainty, town elections on March 9 will again be moved from the Town House to the Central School Gymnasium. This will allow adherence to state guidelines and provide adequate space for voters and poll workers to maintain social distancing. Also, Town Meeting has been moved back two months and is now scheduled for Saturday, May 15 at 9:00 a.m. All town facilities and services remain open with restrictions including the wearing of masks and social distancing. The drop-box in the Town Office vestibule remains available for no-contact drop off of payments and correspondence.

When weather permits, a new outdoor drop box will be installed outside the front doors.

During the past three months, the Selectmen have been busy preparing the annual budget for consideration by the Budget Committee and capital expenditures for consideration at Town Meeting. Our budget submission is \$77,000 greater than the 2020 budget, representing a 1.9% increase or about the rate of inflation. Work continues in preparation for presenting a new police facility at town meeting. Alba Architects is in the process of completing the design and full construction drawings. Cobb Hill Construction has been retained to develop final project

costing and to provide construction management services.

The Board has also signed leases with Verizon Wireless for the installation of two new cell phone towers on town-owned property. One tower will be located behind the highway garage, and the other tower will be on the hill behind the Central Fire Station. The towers will provide improved cell signal coverage, elevated locations for emergency radio antennas, and additional annual revenue.

Tuftonboro Board of Selectmen
Lloyd Wood, Chairman
Bill Marcussen

Progress continues to be made on Great Meadow Trail

Last spring the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission (TCC) finished its acquisition of the Phelps property that added an additional 50 acres of land to the Great Meadow Conservation Area. The Great Meadow now comprises 455+ acres of land and runs from Sodom Road to behind the Tuftonboro Transfer Station on Mountain Road (Rte. 171.) Since there are two ways to access the Conservation Area the TCC decided to designate the access points by name. Great Meadow-South, which is off Sodom Road by the Town Highway Department, and Great Meadow-North, that can be accessed by a road behind the transfer station. (Great Meadow-North can only be accessed when the transfer station is open.)

The south entrance is where the TCC has been spending most of its time and effort. The plan is to build a trail that starts at the parking area and meanders through the woods and ends at an observation platform by the Melvin River. Our goal is to complete the trail system in three phases. The first phase being a trail from the parking area to where the observation platform would eventually be located. The second phase would be to build an observation platform that would overlook the Melvin River, and phase three is to create a loop trail back to the parking area. The Tuftonboro Association agreed to provide \$6,000 to fund material for the project.

The process began in 2019 with marking the trail and doing a rough, brush cut of the trail. Work was to continue in the spring of 2020, but by the time the area dried out enough for the construction to begin, the Covid-19 pandemic was in full swing. It was decided that there was too much risk for the volunteers. This delayed the work until fall when small teams could start working on the trail once again.

The first project was to construct a bridge over a small brook at the start of the trail. It was felt that the crew could stay within the Covid-19 guidelines by limiting the size to three or four people and adhering to all the social distancing guidelines. Another challenge was that there is no power out at Great Meadow to



Steve Wingate carries pre-cut lumber to be used for the construction of boardwalks over wet areas on the Great Meadow Trail

run any of the power tools that would be needed to cut the lumber. But by using the plans created by Steve Wingate and cutting all the materials prior to being brought out to the trail, all the materials could be carried out to the location and the bridge could be assembled.

It became late fall, and the team knew it would not be able to finish the boardwalks needed to cross the wet areas before winter arrived. After much discussion, it was decided that temporary boardwalks could be built across the bigger wet areas, and then permanent ones will be built in spring 2021. Again, with a small crew of four people, all the lumber needed to accomplish this was carried to the designated areas. Two temporary boardwalks and one temporary bridge were completed that allowed public access from the parking lot to the planned observation area.

The last task of the year was to sign and mark the trail to the proposed observation area. This was

completed on the last day of the year, making way for a new and better 2021. While phase one of the trail is completed and passable, keep in mind it is a long way from being finished. In the spring, when the Covid-19 pandemic is under control, the TCC can put teams out there for more work on the trail (brushing and trail maintenance) along with building permanent boardwalks and bridges.

Thanks are due to the volunteers who helped with this phase of the project: Steve Wingate, Ian Whitmore and a special thanks to Andrew Hudak, Alton Police Department and his dad Andy Hudak, Delaware State Police, who gave up some of their vacation time to carry lumber out on to the trail. You can see more pictures of the work done on the Great Meadow trail on the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/TCCCommission/).

**Steve Scapicchio, Vice-Chairman
Tuftonboro Conservation Commission**

Major repairs underway at Historical Society Museum

Happy New Year!

The Tuftonboro Historical Society kept plugging along this past year, and we all know it is going to get better! We had projects that had to be done and had monthly programs in the barn with social distancing. Hopefully, we can have our weekly cribbage games this summer. The Museum barn was one of the sites for Tuftonboro's Holiday Open House in November. There were 10 vendors set up with their crafts or products. People were happy to get out and do something different. It was a good weekend! Lillian

Costello won our Thanksgiving basket, including a fresh turkey!

We are undergoing a major repair on the back of the Museum. Mike Haeger and David Durnham have replaced the supports which were on a rock foundation and are now on a cement foundation. They also replaced most of the back sill. The floor of the kitchen must be replaced before we open for the summer; Mike and David have agreed to do that. We are extremely fortunate that Meredith Village Savings Bank has given us a grant for the project. Thank You!

Our neighbor to the east, Mike Costello, generously had the large trees on the boundary line removed, what a difference! We will have to have the porch roof re-shingled now that it is exposed. Another project!

In February we will begin planning for the new season. If you have any suggestions for programs we would love to hear from you.

**Jackie Rollins, President
Tuftonboro Historical Society**

Conservation Commission reports on 2020 activities

The Tuftonboro Conservation Commission (TCC) has been impacted by the pandemic in many ways. It follows CDC guidelines and the Governor's executive orders making it difficult to organize volunteers as well as conduct face-to-face meetings with landowners.

Commissioner Kathleen Murphy had to resign due to work conflicts and was replaced by Steve Scapicchio. Long-time veteran and past chairman of the commission, Mike Phelps, asked to step down from Commissioner to Alternate. Steve Scapicchio was elected to be Vice Chairman, replacing Mike. Heather Brown who was filling an alternate slot, agreed to move up to be a commissioner. The hardworking Secretary, Linda Bean decided to retire this year. Her skill and dedication will be greatly missed by all members. She has been replaced by Jane Lemire.

If you enjoy the outdoors and appreciate open space and wildlife, consider joining a great group of people working hard to save a few special places for generations to come. Contact us at (603) 569-4539 x24 and leave a message or e-mail us at conservation@tuftonboro.org. The TCC is also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TCCCommission/.

Great Meadow Project: Steve Scapicchio volunteered to take over leadership of the Great Meadow Trail construction. Steve has coordinated all work accomplished in 2020. Matt Coughlan, District Manager of the Carroll Co. Conservation District, and a professional trail builder, reviewed the trail location and construction plans, then provided helpful suggestions (see Great Meadow article on previous page.)

The Tuftonboro Historical Society focused its July meeting on the Great Meadow Project. Commission consultant, Rick Van de Poll, and commission members provided a tour of the trail in the afternoon, and Rick provided a program in the evening.

Copps Pond Viewing Platform: This community gem was constructed as an Eagle Scout project by Jacob Evans and Troop 165 in 2008. The TCC completed a reconstruction of the platform in 2019. This year a boardwalk over a wet section of the access trail was added, and a sign was installed detailing the history of the platform. Thanks to Sean Lovering for voluntarily cleaning up a large blowdown pine that was blocking the trail.

Check out the platform on a nice day. It is located on the south side of Middle Road (Rt. 109A) between Sodom Road and the Governor Wentworth Highway, 800 feet east of the State Highway Garage. There is a small roadside sign at the entrance to the deck.

Cheney Farm: (See separate Cheney Farm story)

Lake Monitoring: The TCC supports volunteers who monitor water quality in our lakes. Some commissioners are also volunteer monitors. Water

samples are taken throughout the year at the same locations and are then analyzed by the UNH Water Quality Lab. The TCC pays for the analysis and uses the data to track water quality trends in our lakes.

Watershed Plan: The Moultonborough Bay Watershed Plan was completed this year. The plan covers all Tuftonboro except the Dan Hole Pond watershed. It also includes a small part of Moultonborough adjacent to Melvin Village area and a portion of Wolfeboro on the western side of Winter Harbor. The plan was sponsored by the TCC, completed by FB Environmental Consultants, and supervised by the Lake Winnepesaukee Association. The plan includes a completed inventory of water resources, identifies current, and likely future, possible sources of pollution effecting water quality in our streams, ponds, and lakes. It also proposes ways and methods of mitigating those effects. It is an investment in the quality of our lakes and ponds. Not only do shoreline properties represent of 60% of real estate tax revenue in Tuftonboro, but shoreline properties also fuel much of our local jobs and economic vitality. Our lakes are worth protecting.

The Lake Winnepesaukee Association and the TCC also sponsored a septic system workshop. This has influenced several owners to consider updates for their systems.

Central School Programs: Commissioner Laurel Podsen has been developing several educational programs to be presented at Central School for environmental education. Unfortunately, we will have to wait until the pandemic ends to present them.

Pleasant Mountain: The Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT), in partnership with Wolfeboro/Tuftonboro Land Bank and the TCC, is trying to conserve 130 acres around Pleasant Mountain. This property is located north and east of North Line Road next to the Wolfeboro town line. The top, called Mount Pleasant, has great views of Winnepesaukee, the Belknap Range, Lake Wentworth, Copple Crown, and the Ossipee Range. There is a snowmobile trail to the top and an old cemetery in another area that contains the grave of a Revolutionary War Veteran. LRCT is also planning to construct a walking trail to the top.

Fundraising led by LRCT and Land Bank has reached the goal needed to purchase the property. Thanks to all those Tuftonboro residents who made donations!! LRCT will be closing on the property soon and Tuftonboro will hold the Conservation Easement. Stay tuned for news regarding access and a trail. This is going to be a great local hike for everyone.

NH DES Support: The NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) water division requests assistance from conservation commissions in checking wetland permit applications. Tuftonboro commissioners help by visiting permit sites and

verifying the plans in the applications. This year about 20 site visits and reports were made by TCC members.

Forest Plans: The Planning Board has suggested that the TCC develop Forest Management Plans for the forested properties owned by the Town. Melvin Village Marina made a generous donation to cover the expense. A NH Licensed Forester, Daniel Stepanauskas, will be starting work on the project soon.

Well-Water Testing: The TCC has offered this service for the last seven years. Over that time more than 600 residents have tested or retested their well water through this program. Currently, Tuftonboro has the highest participation rate in well-water testing in the state. We hope to offer another opportunity for residents to test their drinking water this summer. Check out our web page and learn about natural arsenic and radon, which could be in your well water and affect your health. Also, this year the TCC will continue providing test kits at the Town Office for anyone to pick up.

Conservation Easements: The TCC annually inspects easements held by the Town. This ensures that the easement agreements are being maintained. One of these is the scenic Cheney Farm, and the other four are located near Twenty Mile Bay and the Chandler Trail. Any landowner interested in creating a legacy without losing any of the rights and privileges of ownership other than development can contact us for a no-obligation consultation.

Old Home Weekend: The TCC provided a Nature Scavenger Hunt during Old Home Weekend at Nineteen Mile Bay. Over 60 kids, adults, and families followed a nature trail testing their knowledge of trees, plants, wildlife habitats, and geology. Everyone had a great time, and every kid went away with prizes while learning some new things about our natural resources. Commissioner Laurel Podsen organized this year's event.

Nineteen Mile Brook: The TCC continues

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Mirror Lake Protective Association knows how to party

Mirror Lake continued in its splendor throughout COVID-19 apparently unaware that the humans inhabiting its shores were living a very different lifestyle. The Mirror Lake Protective Association (MLPA) held its annual meeting virtually while residents pondered how to captivate the usual sense of community we enjoy in the summer. Unlike other lake organizations we don't typically have big parties on the lake, but the 2020 Mirror Lake Boat Parties, organized by Beth Argeros, changed all that. The perfect answer to gathering, yet remaining socially distanced, was achieved by meeting in the middle of the lake in motor boats and pontoon boats; on paddleboards; by canoe; in paddleboats (yes, the kind you bicycle your legs to move); and in kayaks. A selection of beverages and party foods from home: optional, yet typical.

Applauded by attendees, Fran O'Donoghue remarked: "It was fantastic to meet people. Some of the people were relatively new to the lake and others had been coming with their families for many years. While the virus was a bit of a hot topic, it was great to quickly jump to others topics. I loved meeting the owner of the Pow Wow Lodges and hearing the story of how they are running it as a family business."

John Dawson observed: "Marilyn and I really enjoyed the safe and healthy way that the Mirror Lake Boat Parties allowed us to get together and visit our neighbors and friends on the lake! We looked forward

to each occasion. They were a big success."

Al Sciarappa emphasized: "These parties were festive, novel events. An excellent community bonding experience. It's always good to sit around on a boat in the middle of the lake on a sunny day with good neighbors. Just plain fun!"

Long time summer resident Ann Torregrossa recalled: "We arrived in kayaks, really low in the water compared to pontoon boats or big motor boats. It was wonderful as we met people on the lake we had never had the opportunity to meet. It did not feel like COVID limited things as our boats and being outside eliminated concerns. Lots of people had dogs and kids in their boats, which were instant conversation starters. The first time no one anchored and we drifted way down the lake, a much longer paddle home. We love our beautiful lake, and it was good meeting so many others feeling that way, too."

Dusty Davies added: "The variety of crafts was amazing. From party boats (pontoons) to paddle boards. I saw and talked with people I haven't seen in years and met some new Mirror Lake residents."

I was surprised at how many people showed up. It looked like everyone was having fun, even the dogs.

Beth really knows how to throw a party! I am looking forward to next summer when we can tie the boats and move from boat to boat, hug each other, and share hors d'oeuvres!"

MLPA President, Gene Kelley concluded:



Joe Torregrossa paddled his way into the Mirror Lake Boat Parties

"The boat parties were a great idea with or without COVID. These gatherings made it possible for folks from different parts of the lake to get together while social distancing. It was interesting that at the Labor Day boat party the kayakers, canoers, and the paddle boarders got together separate from the power boaters. Naturally, it's a little more difficult for them to munch on cheese and crackers and enjoy an adult beverage than it is for us on pontoon boats. We ought to figure out a way that we can all float around together. Next time!"

**Kathleen Sciarappa
Mirror Lake Protective Association**

A seasoned scuba diver decides to try ice diving for fun



Brad says: "One way to keep cool is to jump in for a quick dip under the ice!"

Brad Swain is a seasonal resident of Melvin Village, and during the summer months, he is a Scuba Diving Instructor with Dive Winnepesaukee in Wolfeboro. Brad began his scuba diver training in the winter of 1980-81 and was certified as an Open Water Diver in May 1981.

Dive Winnepesaukee periodically runs an Ice Diving certification class. It consists of reading

materials, an instructor-led lecture, and two ice dives, all completed in one weekend.

There are special rules & regulations for ice diving. It's best if a known dive site is chosen, and the thickness of the ice must be able support all of the equipment, divers, and support personnel. Clear, smooth ice is best; water where there is a current is unsuitable for ice diving, as is shallow water. The dive depth should be greater than 15-20 feet.

After selection of the dive site, the site must be prepared. Loose snow is removed from an area about 12 feet square in preparation for cutting a triangular shaped hole, about nine feet long on each side, through the ice. A non-slippery border around the hole is prepared using a gritty substance such as sand or ash. An ice auger is used to drill a hole completely through the ice. A chainsaw with a long blade is then used to cut the triangular shaped hole.

Ice divers usually dive in two-person teams. In addition to using routine scuba diving equipment, there are special equipment requirements for ice diving. Two of these special equipment pieces are an outer dry suit with thermal underwear for warmth and a small, secondary scuba tank (known as a pony bottle) with its own breathing regulator for safety. Other diver safety requirements include safety ropes,

which are attached to each diver, and a safety rope-tender on the surface for each diver while they are diving.

The divers don their gear and sit down on the ice with their dive fins in the triangular shaped hole. All safety ropes are attached to each diver, and each diver checks out his/her personal diving equipment for proper operation. Then the dive can begin.

In the winter of 2012-13, Brad Swain decided he wanted to give Ice Diving in Lake Winnepesaukee a try. The Lady of the Lake wreck in Gilford was selected as the dive site and prepared. Prior to the start of the dive, all of Brad's (and his dive buddy's) equipment checked out OK. Both divers entered the water and began the dive. Immediately, Brad's pony bottle regulator began free flowing, and he had to return to the surface. He did not want to terminate the dive, so the pony bottle was turned off to stop the free flow. The dive was then begun a second time. Brad descended slowly to the deck of the wreck (24 feet deep) and noticed that his buoyancy compensator (BC) air inflator stuck open when he activated it. This caused an uncontrolled airflow to inflate his BC, which caused him to immediately rise to the surface

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A new kind of barn raising was held at the Cheney farm

The Woodworth family has been busy this summer and fall with the restoration of the Cheney Farm on Route 109-A.

As with any major project, plans must be changed as new challenges are discovered. One of the first challenges turned out to be the recent drought: the two dug wells on the property ran dry. To support the farm a working source of water was needed, so the family had a new artesian well drilled.

The next project was to make the house weatherproof for the upcoming winter season. This involved replacing rotting and loose siding. As they worked on the siding, windows also needed to be flashed and caulked to keep water out and to preserve the wood structure around the windows.

Elizabeth and Avery Woodworth are in the process of deciding a color to paint the house. In order to keep the colors true to the era the house was built, they have been working with an historical preservationist to determine colors that would have been available for the 1870 - 1890 time period.

The challenge of a project of this size is where to start with the big jobs. The barn was the oldest of the involved structures and in need of the most restoration. The stone foundation was falling apart, the sill plates and support columns were rotted as was most of the floor. That meant there was very little holding up the barn. Elizabeth and Avery decided the only way to save the barn was to lift it up off the current stone foundation and replace it with a new poured concrete



The Cheney Barn awaits a new foundation. Livestock will enter the barn from the lower level. A workshop is planned for the upper level.

foundation. Sounds a lot easier then it was.

Before this could be done all the buildings and structures attached to the barn had to be removed. After that, the barn could be raised. After the barn was raised, the underneath is to be excavated to make room for the new foundation. When the excavation is complete, a new foundation can be poured, the sill replaced and a new floor built. The barn will then be lowered onto its new home. Elizabeth's and Avery's vision of the barn is for the lower level to be for

livestock. Once the new barn is complete the lower level would be at ground level and easier for the animals to get in and out. The upper level (level with the driveway) would be a workshop for Avery.

You can check out more "Barn Raising" pictures on the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/TCCCommission/.

**Steve Scapicchio, Vice-Chairman
Tuftonboro Conservation Commission**

Several fundraisers support Libby Museum renovations



Crawford Albee Cook, cheerful volunteer and special friend of the Libby

Volunteering and community spirit are part of the Tuftonboro tradition. This past year, the Friends of the Libby Museum held several successful fundraisers. Two fundraisers, the Mum Sale in September and a Bake Sale at Tuftonboro Holiday Craft Fair in November were both particularly successful, due to super salesman, Crawford Albee Cook, 11, of

Tuftonboro.

Charm, finesse, and a winning smile are the best words to describe Crawford. He is a natural-born salesman who is dedicated to saving the Libby Museum. At the Mum Sale, Crawford greeted customers, explained pricing, and even helped customers pick out coordinating colors. After the sale, Crawford cheerfully helped load purchases into cars. At the craft fair, Crawford manned the baked goods table in the Tuftonboro Historical Barn both Saturday and Sunday.

Crawford easily out-sold older volunteers. One customer described him as "Such a gentleman, very good at his position." Crawford is passionate about working the fundraisers because, in his words, "We must save the Libby. Kids need to know!". When not volunteering, Crawford enjoys baseball and ski racing.

The Friends of Libby Museum are a group of volunteers dedicated to promoting the support and maintenance of The Libby Museum, the oldest natural history museum in New Hampshire.

**Annie Lennon, Volunteer
Friends of the Libby Museum**



Work still progressing on design of new police station

The Tuftonboro Police Department looks back at nine months of the COVID-19 pandemic and sees that our world and lives have been turned upside down. The department had two administrative employees leave, in part because the station does not have a way for employees to easily maintain their distance. We have tried hard to protect each other and the public by limiting access to the station, using masks and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and maintaining our distance. There are protocols we must follow if we have an exposure. At one point in December half the department was unable to work. It was a busy and difficult time.

The station design is still progressing with the

architect and construction manager trying to develop a program that is as efficient and practical as possible. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it more apparent than ever that a new facility is needed.

COVID-19 also impacted our ability to complete the purchase of the vehicle ordered earlier in 2020. There were many delays due to factories closing and COVID protocols, but the transaction was finally completed at the end of December. There is still some minor set-up that needs to be done. In 2021 we are scheduled to replace another vehicle, and it is hoped that delays will not be as drastic.

With the new year comes changes to our IT services. Several vendors met with the town and

department heads. There were common concerns about some of the systems. I expect that there will be some costs involved to upgrade and protect our networks. Recent cybercrime attacks show the need to think about potential vulnerabilities.

The hiring process for a new administrative assistant is being conducted again. Hopefully, that will be filled soon.

I wish that everyone had a happy, safe, and healthy Holiday season and that 2021 will bring the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Andy Shagoury, Chief
Tuftonboro Police Department**

Pandemic modifies Transfer Station recycling policies

Fall is over, and the winter snows have begun! This year has been one to remember due to the dramatic effects on everyone caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Current employees at the Transfer Station remain the same: Robert Dean, Kerry Long, and Ralph Bussiere are per diem attendants. Barry Colbert, Rob Edwards, and Clay Gallagher are full time employees.

Current Transfer Station Stickers for 2021-2022 are maroon in color and available for purchase at the Transfer Station or the Town Offices. The transfer station stickers are \$5 per sticker. Please make sure you have the current sticker displayed on the front window of any vehicle you drive to the Transfer Station. This helps us ensure that only Tuftonboro residents are using the facility and that our tax dollars are only subsidizing Tuftonboro household waste.

After federal and state response guidance was issued concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, we adjusted our operation accordingly and still provided the public a means of getting rid of their household trash in a safe and efficient manner for both the residents and the employees. As the Governor eased guidance restrictions, we did the same and established outside recycling points for glass, plastics, aluminum and steel cans, and limited construction debris. As further re-opening guidance was given from the

governor, we opened the recycling building back up and are providing all normal services and recycling. We are still following social distancing guidance and highly recommend wearing masks while in the recycling building.

The swap shop is now closed for the winter and will reopen in spring.

The following services are open for inside and outside recycling:

- Corrugated cardboard inside the recycling center for recycling.
- Aluminum cans inside the recycling center for recycling.
- Steel/Tin cans inside the recycling center for recycling.
- Plastics 1-7 (no rigid plastic or plastic bags)
- Used motor oil only – (no larger than gallon containers) inside the recycling center for recycling.
- Lead-acid batteries inside the recycling center for recycling.
- Rechargeable batteries inside the recycling center for recycling.
- Fluorescent bulbs and mercury containing items inside the recycling center for recycling.

- Glass bottles and jars only are still recycled but collection is outside the end corner of the recycling building by the loading dock. Residents will drive up next to sign “GLASS ONLY” at the 30yd container and then dump their glass only directly into the container (no plastic bags or boxes.)

Other Notes:

Electronics, tires, construction debris, propane tanks, fridges, scrap metal, and brush are all outside in designated areas (see attendant as charges apply).

Mixed paper is still to be discarded in household trash in compactors.

Upcoming: Controlled medications for spring collection date will be published as soon as we know the dates. Collection will be at the Tuftonboro Transfer Station by the Police Department.

The recycling building is back open, so please join us in reducing our taxes by recycling (plastic, tin cans, aluminum cans, glass, and cardboard). Residents that continue to throw recyclables into the compactors are throwing their money down the drain and costing everyone more money in taxes. The more recyclable material we keep out of the household waste compactors, the more we can keep our taxes down.

Clayton Gallagher, Supervisor

Hikers women demonstrate hearts of gold in hard times

Following this year’s epic snowfall of 30”, the Remembrance and Good Cheer Committee (Lil Shepard, Mary Haeger, Pat Lee and Jackie Rollins) orchestrated fifteen “Good Cheer Plates” piled high with love, candy, and fruit for Hikers stay-at-home members. Faye Friedrich and Joan McGrauth helped deliver the plates to the recipients with smiles in their eyes.

Reflectively, it was a quiet fall. The Hikers had three notable events: “A Settlement Trail Hike at the Castle in the Clouds” on September 17. The Hikers’ went on an easy hike to view old foundations and a cemetery with a narration by Lynne Walsh and Jill Cromwell. The second event: “Update on Tuftonboro

During the Pandemic” by the Town Leaders on October 1st. The third event: “Bulb & Bake Sale” was held outside Willing Workers Hall. Despite the rainy weather on October 17th, members dropped off and bought baked goods as well as bulbs. Those lucky enough to purchase the bulbs will have the good fortune of lovely blooms come spring. This was such a success, that another opportunity was discussed for future fundraising.

The future of Hikers remains incredibly positive. Several ladies in the area have indicated interest in joining the Hikers’ organization through our Facebook page monitored by Tina Antonucci. We look forward to once again meeting in person but until then, we are

attempting to host the next program on January 21 via ZOOM. Ladies, look for announcement in your email for how to link to the program, “Engineers Without Borders with Bree Carlsen – What the World Needs Now?”

If you are interested in becoming a member of The Hikers, a 501(c)3 organization, dedicated to raising monies for scholarships and local charities, contact Judy House, at (603) 520-7797 for information.

The best is yet to come...obviously!

**Judy House, President
The Hikers**

Fire & Rescue Dept. urges people “keep your guard up”

The New Year has come in with some colder weather and a little snow. Tuftonboro Fire & Rescue, at the time of the is writing, is on track to have the third busiest year since 1938. The busiest was been 2017 with a grand total of 609 calls. We are following the national trend where about 70% of calls are medically related.

Covid-19 and the flu are everywhere, even in Tuftonboro. Please keep your guard up and your mask on. Folks being complacent and not listening to the CDC are one the reasons that we are still living in the surreal world of a pandemic. If you have the flu or think you may have been exposed to Covid-19 stay home! Contact your doctor to set up testing. Rest, drink plenty of fluids, and try to keep eating to keep your strength up. It is not too late to get a flu shot if you have not gotten one already. We recommend getting a Covid-19 vaccination as soon as one becomes available. It is the fastest and safest way of moving forward towards a normal existence.

If you know someone that lives alone or does not get out much, please try and make a point of checking on them. Remind them to drink lots of fluids. These folks seem to be in a constant state of dehydration so when they get the flu or flu-like symptoms it can be a real emergency. Please do not hesitate to call 911 if they need immediate medical attention.

If you are reading this and still have your natural Christmas tree up, please remove it from your home immediately. It has become a real fire hazard! Old, dry Christmas trees burn like gasoline if ignited. Yes, you will have to clean up the needles that will be on the floor and the cat may be upset that you took away its



Department members, along with other area departments, participate in a propane training event sponsored by White Mountain Oil and Propane at the Guild property adjacent to the Central Station in mid-November.

jungle gym; the cat will get over it. Please, keep you and your loved ones as safe as possible.

Remember to keep all vents clear of snow and ice buildup. Vents need good air flow around them to work properly. A blocked vent may allow carbon monoxide to build up in your home. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can kill you. Every home needs at least one carbon monoxide detector installed around the bedrooms along with working smoke detectors. The detectors can help save your life. If they go off, please get out and stay out.

If you burn wood please keep your chimneys clean, burn seasoned wood and dispose of wood ashes

properly. Always put ashes in a non-combustible container away from your house or other combustibles. Dump them in area that is free of vegetation or on the snow. Wood ashes can remain hot for days after you think they are out.

On behalf of myself and the department I want to wish you all a safe and healthy new year. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of assistance to you or you have a question. We would rather come out for something small than for a real emergency.

**Caleb Pike, Captain
Tuftonboro Fire & Rescue**

Library gets back in the swing of things with new hours

It is a new year, and what better way to start the new year than with new hours? The Tuftonboro Free Library will continue to be open six days a week but has now returned to a full day on Tuesday. The new hours are Tuesday thru Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (*Curbside pickup will still be available during these times.*)

The hours are not the only thing that is new. Most of the furniture in the new building is recently purchased. There are a new conference table and chairs in the New Hampshire History Room. The meeting room has new chairs, flip-top tables, and a mobile podium, and the adult side of the library has a new reading table and chairs. New seating is also on order for the children's side of the library, as well as a LEGO table for building projects, and a STEM table for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics activities. (*Funds for the STEM table were generously donated by the Friends of the Library. Both the LEGO and STEM tables will be made available for use as*

COVID-19 safety protocols allow.)

And that is not all!

There are also books and movies. Many of the latest titles in print and film are available to borrow or reserve and can be found on the shelves in the new-release section of the library. NH Overdrive and Hoopla Digital also add new titles weekly, and your library card gives you free access to these digital resources, where you can browse and stream the newest selections from the comfort of home.

Looking for a way to beat the winter blues?

For the outdoor enthusiast, snowshoes can be still be borrowed from the library, as well as the new season passes for the Sewall Woods and Nordic Ski trails. A telescope is also available for loan, and checks out for a week at a time, giving you plenty of opportunities to get out and see new sights, make new discoveries, and enjoy the clear, awe-inspiring night skies of a New England winter.

For the genealogist, Ancestry Library Edition was newly made available last year for free home use

to library patrons. This amazing service continues into the new year, so don't miss out on your chance to find new branches in your family tree.

For the tech-savvy, a virtual book club for adults and story time for kids is offered via ZOOM. Call or email the library to sign-up and take advantage of this great opportunity to meet new friends and make new connections.

For the tech-phobic, assistance is always available to get you started and to answer any questions you may have using any of the electronic resources at your disposal. Call or email the library today and take that first step toward exploring new technologies.

Or... stop by in-person for information and access to all that your library has to offer.

New experiences await!

**Dennis R. Guilmette, Director
Tuftonboro Free Library**

No-till Community Garden finishes season on high note

2020 was a year like no other, and the Tuftonboro Agriculture Commission (TAC) had to readjust as did everyone else. The main projects for the year were supposed to be the Tuftonboro Community Garden compost demonstration project and the town agricultural directory but some planned activities had to be cancelled or scaled back.

A major project for the community garden (CG) was to be conversion of the site from a traditional tilled area to a no-till facility. (See accompanying article on benefits of no-till agriculture.) In addition to the benefits to the soil from no longer tilling the CG there would be the added benefit that gardeners could have permanent plots from year to year.

The first thing that needed to be done in the CG was to define the plots. This was accomplished by laying out permanent paths. TAC members did this by laying out many feet of Lumite, a groundcover product that offers weed control, to cover the walkways between plots. This was a hands and knees job as the Lumite needed to be secured with garden staples every couple of feet. Surprisingly there has been almost no Lumite blowing in the wind that needed to be restored!

As they registered for the 2020 gardening season, gardeners were informed that, with the change to no-till gardening, they would be allowed to plant perennials and erect permanent structures on their plots. How encouraging to see that raised beds, tool sheds, seats, tomato culverts, and various other things that personalized the plots sprung up in the garden this year. It was also exciting to hear the enthusiasm expressed by gardeners when they realized that they could plant perennial crops such as asparagus.

TAC had planned to have a couple of seminars early in the gardening season: "Introduction to and Benefits of No-Till Gardening" and "Integrated Pest Management." Unfortunately, with the pandemic and all the original turmoil, this did not happen. The plan is to offer these seminars in 2021 with appropriate social distancing.

A second project was to get the compost demo area better organized. This was a project started several years ago by TAC commissioner Ron Sundquist. At that time TAC wanted to incorporate food waste composting as part of the project. With a grant from NERC and LRPAC TAC purchased a JORA food-waste composter. Unfortunately, that part of the compost demo project was not very successful. So, this year the JORA moved to Camp Sentinel, where it is on loan for their food-waste composting project.

A need identified by the community gardeners was for additional hoses to reach the far plots. TAC has purchased six lightweight hoses that will be deployed come spring.

TAC commissioner Geoff Blackett took over



The Tuftonboro Community Garden gets ready for another season with several gardeners establishing permanent plots from year to year. A polinator plot, a wildflower meadow and permanent birdhouses will be features of the 2021 garden.

organization of the compost project. With some more organization of the area and help from other commissioners the project saw more participation from gardeners this year. However, more work needs to be done, and participation from the community gardeners must increase in the coming year if the project is to continue. As part of the composting project, TAC invested in a shredder to help break down some of the organic matter.

An ongoing project at the CG has been the pollinator plot. This was planted several years ago to showcase plants that will benefit native pollinators. Commissioner Joan Magrauth has been shepherding this project with much needed help from other commissioners and especially other community gardeners.

TAC also held an end of the year garden clean-up. This was highly successful with many of the gardeners turning out to help not only clean up in general but spread wood chips on the paths to protect and extend the life of the Lumite. A similar event will be planned for the beginning of the 2021 season.

A new project was to be converting the area on the two far sides of the CG to a wildflower meadow. This area has been used in the past to grow sunflowers or pumpkins, and recently planted to cover crops. The intention was to convert this to a no-till, native wildflower meadow that would require infrequent mowing. The first step was to plant the area to oats and clover. The next step was to broadcast wildflower seed after a consistent temperature of 40 degrees or less. Unfortunately, Mother Nature dumped an early snow, and we are now waiting till spring to seed the area.

You may have noticed that there are some new birdhouses around the perimeter of the CG. These were donated by the Boy Scouts several years ago.

With the switch to no-till in the garden, permanent posts have been put up, and Geoff got the birdhouses mounted and put up.

A couple of years ago TAC started to compile an agricultural directory for the town, Joan Magrauth has been spearheading this effort, but, again, this project fell victim to the pandemic and the need to social distance. (See the accompanying article.)

TAC wants to thank all those who helped make the CG a success in 2020. In addition to personal plots there was also an effort to grow produce for the local food bank which was highly successful.

The Tuftonboro Agriculture Commission is trying to compile an agricultural directory for the town. This would include two categories:

Commercial agriculture enterprise of any size from home business on up, such as selling eggs, hay making, logging, bee keeping, etc.

Having an interest in or knowledge of any aspect of agriculture that you would be willing to share with members of the wider community.

The intention is that this directory would be a resource for those in Tuftonboro or surrounding communities to support and tap into local businesses. The directory will also provide a place to get local information for those who interested in agricultural pursuits whether as a business or as a personal enterprise. Who better to learn from than your neighbors?

If you are interested in participating in or helping to compile this directory, please contact Joan Magrauth, P. O. Box 98, 240 Middle Road, Center Tuftonboro, NH 03816

**Sue Wingate, Chairman
Tuftonboro Agricultural Commission**

Camp Sentinel navigates “uncharted waters” in 2020

“As they stepped off the map into uncharted territory, Meriwether Lewis discovered that what was in front of him was nothing like what was behind him, and that what had brought him to this point in the journey would take him no farther. Lewis faced a daunting decision: What would he do now? Lewis and Clark and their Corps of Discovery were looking for a water route, but now had run out of water. How do you canoe over mountains?” From Canoeing the Mountains by Tod Bolsinger.

This past year has been uncharted territory. What do we do now? What is in front of us is nothing like what was behind us, yet the mission at Camp Sentinel continues to be strong. This past summer, Camp Sentinel was open for day camp in the fresh

air of Sentinel’s 629 acres. In the fall, Sentinel Lodge opened for Student Care, a place of guided learning for local school children while parents are at work. With schools still doing remote learning this winter, Sentinel remains open to support the local community through Student Care. If you have a student in need of care during the day, please call us.

As we look ahead to the summer, we are excited to have overnight camp again. Overnight Camp is so important to the development of our young people. Youth need fresh air and time to explore nature. We will follow the CDC and local guidelines for summer camp. Our 2021 theme is “Steadfast.” Firm in belief. Determined. Firmly fixed in place. Immovable. A great theme to help build strong youth, families, and

communities!

Camp provides a place where we can take unhurried moments to focus and reset ourselves in the stillness of God’s Creation. Sentinel is a community mission of Tuftonboro. We provide scholarship assistance for campers, and never turn away a Tuftonboro resident for the inability to pay.

We love being in the Tuftonboro community!

Check out our website for more details at www.campsentinel.org/mission or call the main office at (603) 539-4839. We look forward to hearing from you.

See you on the mountaintop,

Kevin Van Brunt, “PK”
Executive Director, Camp Sentinel

Melvin Church follows CDC guidelines during worship

“To provide the best environment for young and old together to grow and experience the richness and generosity of Christ.”

The Melvin Village Community Church welcomes you to join us Sunday mornings for an authentic gathering of young and old to experience and share in music, fellowship, and a positive encouraging message to inspire your faith journey. The church is following the CDC and State of New Hampshire local guidelines for in person gatherings. We do ask folks to wear masks, wash hands, and keep social distance.

Regular Sunday morning worship services begin at 10:00 a.m. We strive to not only serve the families of those who attend church, but also to those within our local community. Our current services may be found **ONLINE SERVICES**

On Christmas Eve we hosted a special candlelight outdoor service with special music and reading of the Christmas story.

MVCC is a community-minded fellowship of believers who give back in a multitude of ways. We help those in need through our “Feet for Fuel”

program. If you are a neighbor in need of fuel assistance, please call the church at (603) 544-9661. If you would like more information about the church or upcoming events, please visit our website at www.mvccnh.org. Please contact the church at (603) 544-9661 or email us at secretary@mvccnh.org.

It is our pleasure and an act of worship to serve those in our local community and beyond, and to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Kevin
Melvin Village Community Church

Lakes Region Curling Association introduces “Sturling”

These days, nothing is quite the same – but that is not saying that everything is necessarily worse. Some things are just . . . different.

Organizers for Lakes Region Curling Association, which plays out of Pop Whalen Ice Arena in Wolfeboro and which draws players from throughout the Lakes Region, determined early last fall that business as usual was out of the question.

With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing need to maintain a safe social distance, traditional four-on-four matches, complete with huffing sweepers and assemblages of 30 to 50 people in an indoor setting, were deemed not suited to the times. It was decided that smaller numbers, a slower pace, and more personal space were needed.

The decision was made to adopt a curling spinoff called sturling. Derived from the melding of “stick” and “curling” – sturling is a rapidly growing sport in the US and Canada that brings together the mental and

physical skills of curling with the less-crowded, less-intense pace demanded by current circumstances.

In essence, sturling is two-on-two curling played with lots of distance between competitors and with little of the sweeping that gives traditional curlers their heart-thumping workouts. More personal distance and less exertion spell a more comfortable playing environment for everyone.

While the name might suggest that sturling is only for those who use a push stick to deliver the curling stone, the fact is that many participants use the traditional sliding delivery, giving the sport even more of a traditional feel.

What is really different about sturling is the way the competition plays out. A traditional curling match typically consists of eight “ends” – think of them as innings – in which each of the four players on the two teams gets to deliver two stones. During an end in sturling, on the other hand, just one player on each

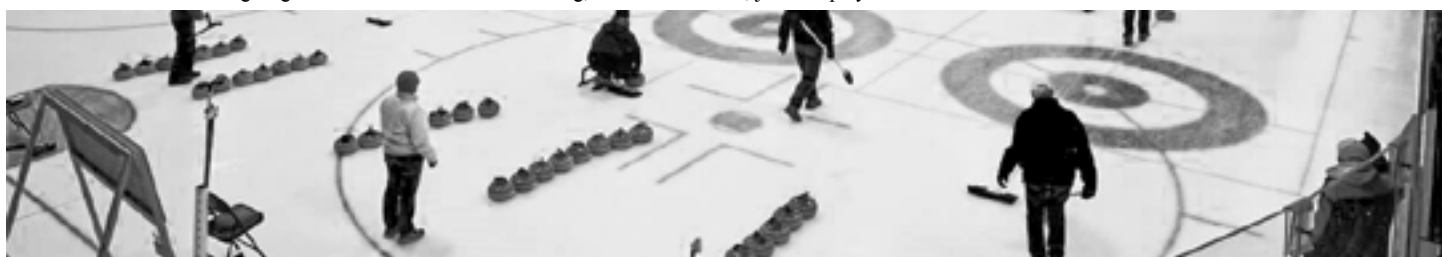
team delivers six stones.

Despite the apparent safety advantages of sturling, in the end LRCA organizers opted to cancel both the Fall and Winter leagues as virus cases have surged in New Hampshire. More of a concern has been the role that ice rinks have played in isolated outbreaks of illness.

Now, with COVID-19 vaccinations rolling out, attention turns now to options for next Fall’s league.

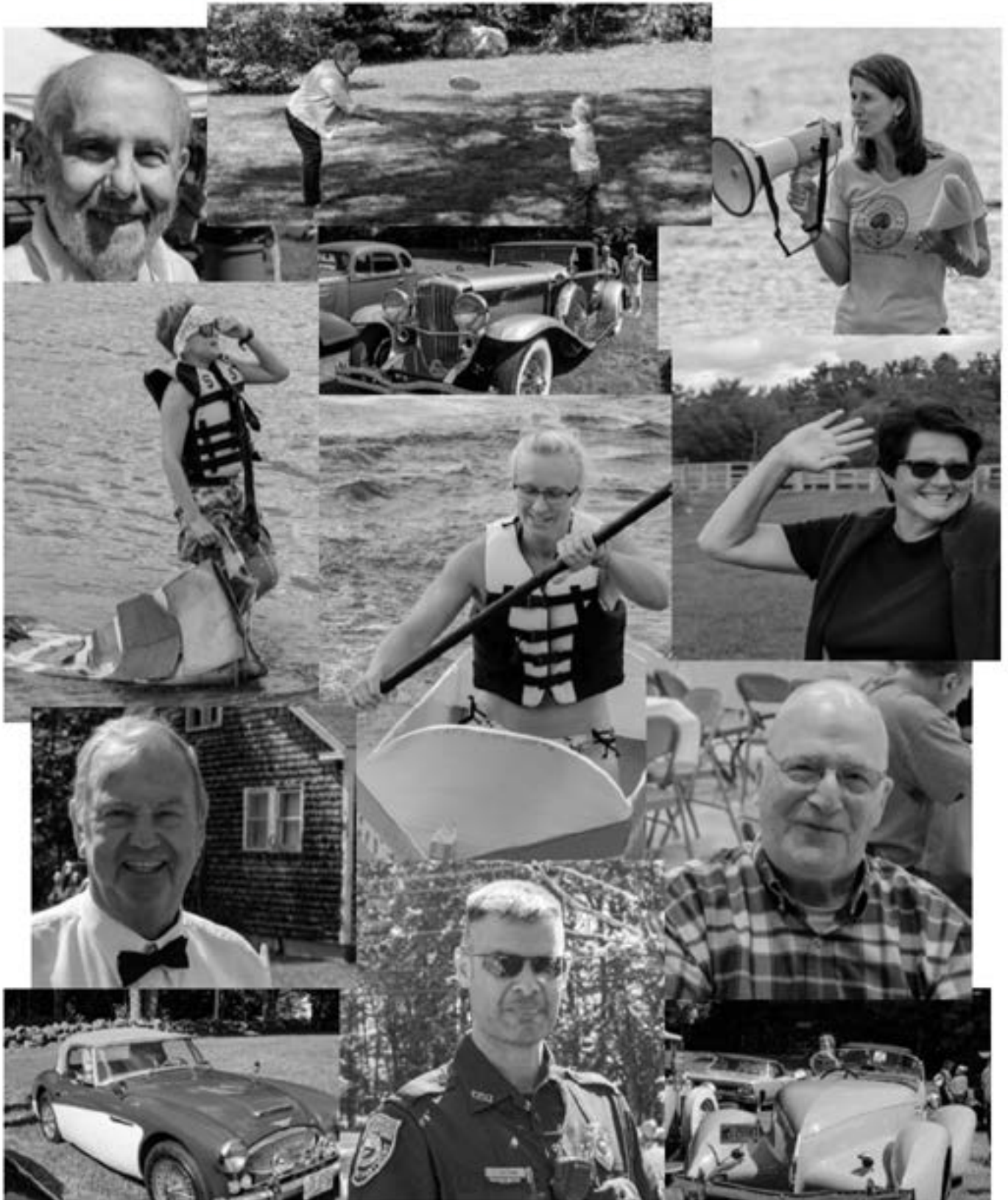
While the hope is for a return to traditional curling matches that allow for greater numbers of participants, sturling remains a fall-back option that would get the sport of curling through the remaining period of pandemic and out the other side just in time to join in the spirit of the 2022 Winter Olympics.

Rich Masse, President
Lakes Region Curling Association



Remember when? Scenes from the “good old days”

OLD HOME DAYS



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

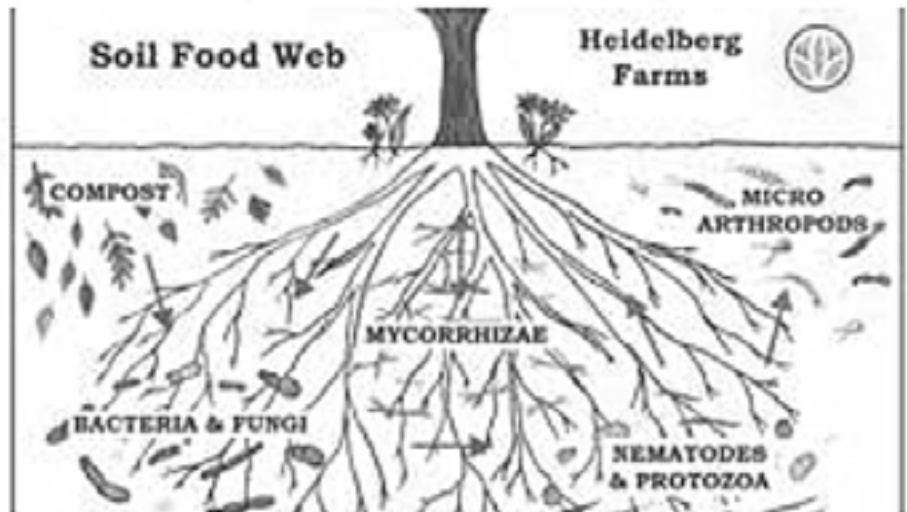
Due to the uncertainty of scheduled events during these times, there will be no Community Calendar printed in this edition of *The Tuftonboro Times*.

The many benefits of no-till gardening are explained

In 2020 the Tuftonboro Community Garden was converted to a no-till facility. Continuous tilling of the soil can have long-term adverse effects, especially to soils such as the fragile, sandy soil of the community garden. The following information and more can be found here: <https://homesteadandchill.com/no-till-gardening-benefits/>.

"In traditional farming, soil is routinely tilled and turned over after each season and crop. Farmers do this to break up compacted soil or clumps to prepare for planting. The problem is, the act of tilling actually exacerbates the compaction problem. Over time, repeated **tilling destroys soil structure** which leads to increasingly compact soil – so they "have to" till it even more." The repeated churning and tillage of soil each year can lead to significant **soil erosion and increased runoff**. More runoff means less groundwater recharge. Also, that more chemical fertilizers and pesticides can flow into drinking water and surface water bodies. "Even on a small scale, home gardeners may feel the urge to dig up their gardens to 'fluff' the soil periodically. Not only can that be counterproductive – it is **hard work!** . . . Last but not least, tilling disrupts the soil food web. Overall, it isn't great for soil health, unlike no-till gardening – which can easily and significantly improve it!"

"The difference between a garden that *survives* and one that *thrives* is all in the soil.



When tending to an organic garden, the focus should be on building and maintaining rich healthy soil as opposed to simply fertilizing plants. Within your soil, an entire living, breathing, dynamic ecosystem exists! The idea of '**living organic soil**' and no-till gardening go hand in hand. Quality organic soil is full of beneficial microorganisms, fungi, nematodes, earthworms, protozoa, and other critters that all work together to break down organic matter, introduce nutrients, and improve soil aeration, drainage and moisture retention. Some even help to bioremediate

soil and remove unwanted pollutants. For instance, studies show that worms (*Eisenia fetida*) can significantly reduce the concentration of **crude oil** and **heavy metals** in contaminated soil! In return, well-maintained organic soil nourishes plants without the need for harsh chemical fertilizers. Plants grown in this manner are not only highly productive, but are also more resilient to pests, disease, and environmental stresses like drought."

For additional information see the following on the UNH Extension website: <https://extension.unh>

TCC, Continued from Page 3

be tracked and measured. After 10 years, the TCC arranged to redo the study in 2019 to detect and measure any effects. Normandeau Associates, the original contractor was engaged to do the re-measure. They have completed the work and provided a report on the findings. Overall, the report found that conditions have not changed significantly over that time. The report is available on the town web site.

Some of the chemical testing in the original study and restudy was not robust, and the results show some variability. The TCC has requested, and Wolfeboro has agreed to conduct a more complete water monitoring effort for the next 3 years. We are currently working with our consultant FB Environmental, who is already familiar with Nineteen Mile Brook from the Watershed, to develop a more complete monitoring plan. Wolfeboro has agreed to finance the effort.

Wolfeboro has also proposed developing a storm water management plan as well as a Forest and Wildlife Plan for the site.

Old Town Dump: In 2020 Commissioner Larry Gil assisted the Selectmen in vetting engineering firms that could bid on the Land Fill Monitoring Contract.

Steve Wingate, Chairman
Tuftonboro Conservation Commission

Ice Diving, Continued from Page 4

and through the triangular shaped hole. Again, not wanting to terminate the dive, it was decided to remove the BC inflator hose from the BC to prevent uncontrolled BC inflation. (Brad had been previously trained in how to manually inflate his BC, if needed, in an underwater emergency.) Brad was then able to descend back down to the wreck and begin the dive. Brad was additionally able to control his buoyancy using his dry suit inflator. He was warm in his dry

suit, but his fingertips and lips got very cold about 15 minutes into the dive even though he had on gloves and a hood. The water temperature was 34 degrees F.

It was a good dive. The Lady of the Lake wreck is 125 feet long. The divers went to the bow, then to the stern, then back to the bow, all at deck level of 24 feet deep. Then they went down to 28 feet on the port side of the wreck from bow to stern, then back to the middle of the deck. From there they surfaced back through the triangular shaped hole in the ice.

Total dive time was 23 minutes. Visibility in cold

water is usually better than in warm water but in this case the ice dive visibility was about 15 feet, about the same as during the summer.

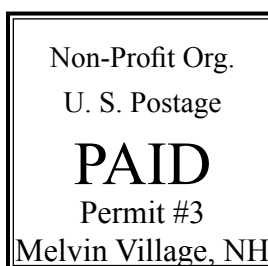
Brad's dive was done around 10am on March 17, 2013. There was a total of three teams of two divers who dove that day. All said they had a good time.

Editor's Note: They all "said" they had a good time, but it is worth noting that in his 40 years of diving experience at sites all over the world, Brad Swain never again chose to venture "under the ice."



Remember when? Old Home Days - 2019. A different era.

The Tuftonboro Association
P.O. Box 121
Melvin Village, NH 03850



TUFTONBORO POSTAL PATRON