

The Tuftonboro Times



Vol XXII, No 1

A Quarterly Newsletter Published by the Tuftonboro Association

Winter 2020

Eagle Scout viewing platform at Copps Pond made safe

The Copps Pond viewing platform is a community gem, constructed as an Eagle Scout project by Jacob Evans and Troop 165 in 2008. (His mother, Dawn Evans, was a former member of the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission.) In the 12 years since the platform was constructed, several floor joists had cracked, raising obvious safety issues. Also, the decking and other wood frame parts had severely aged. It was decided that rebuilding it was a better option than trying to make repairs. Mike Haeger, whose son as a Boy Scout worked on the original construction, was in charge of the project. Sean Christian and volunteers Ian Whitmore and Steve Wingate helped complete the rebuild in November. Selectman Lloyd Wood volunteered his time and truck to haul away the construction debris, and Jackie Rollins provided the crew with a blueberry pie.

If you haven't seen it, you should check out the new platform on a nice day. It is located on the south side of Middle Road (Rt. 109A) between the junction of 109 & 109A and Spider Web Gardens, about 800



ft east of the State Highway Garage and 250 Ft east of the bridge over Wingate Brook. There is a small

sign on the roadside at the entrance of a short trail to the deck. **Steve Wingate**

Great Meadow trail project suspended during the winter



Mt. Shaw and the Ossipee Range are seen across the Great Meadow in the winter.

The Tuftonboro Conservation Commission (TCC) continues to work towards protecting the special, large wetland complex known as the Great Meadow. It lies over one of the purest aquifers in this area and contains an abundance of undisturbed wildlife habitat.

The town has finally closed on the two properties

for which the TCC received financial grants in 2019. In this case, the owners wanted to sell and were pleased that the properties would be conserved. Commission representatives have also met with the owner of another small parcel in the Great Meadow area who may want to sell his/her land. It is hoped that

owners in the area will be willing to sell or donate a conservation easement on their properties around the Great Meadow to complete its preservation.

Following a generous contribution from the Tuftonboro Association, the commission constructed a parking area at the future trailhead leading to a walking trail out to the edge of the Meadow. The purpose of the trail will be to allow visitors to view and enjoy the Great Meadow wetland complex without damaging the fragile environment. At the same time, it will be an educational trail where hikers can learn new and exciting things about nature and our area.

During the past year many individuals have contributed financially to this ambitious project, and the TCC would like to offer its heartfelt thanks to those generous supporters. Contributions can be made through the Tuftonboro Association, P.O. Box 121, Melvin Village, NH 03850-0121. Please be sure and note on your check that it is for the Great Meadow project.

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Active Conservation Commission seeks new members

The Tuftonboro Conservation Commission (TCC) is looking for new members. One of the commissioners, Ray Everest, has moved away leaving a vacancy on the commission. (“Thanks” Ray, for your great support of the Great Meadow project and establishing and maintaining the Commission’s Facebook page.) In addition to the need for a full-time member, there are alternate positions currently open. 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. See the contact information at the end of this article.

Some of the 2019 activities with which the TCC has been involved include the following:

Earth Day Program: Commissioners Laurel Podsen and Kathleen Murphy made a presentation at the Tuftonboro Central School Earth Day Program about wildlife habitats. Russ Baerenklau made bluebird boxes for the students and their families, and the Conservation Commission supplied posts and mounting hardware. All the boxes have been installed and are waiting for inhabitants this spring.

NHACC: TCC members attended both the NH Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting and the Saving Special Places conference featuring a variety of workshops focusing on conservation opportunities, wildlife management, and land stewardship issues.

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 Lake Winnepesaukee Association, in association with the TCC, has formed an advisory committee to develop a watershed plan for the Tuftonboro area. Two members of the commission are serving on that committee and a contractor, F. B. Environmental Consultants, has been selected. Work is progressing well, and the plan should be completed in 2020.

In addition to the watershed plan, the Lake Winnepesaukee Association and the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission sponsored several septic system workshops. These have influenced several lake-front owners to investigate updates for their systems. Our lakes are worth protecting as shoreline properties represent of 60% of real estate tax revenue in Tuftonboro.

Central School Trail: Commissioners Laurel Podsen and Larry Gill worked this fall to reopen an educational trail behind the library. Once the library addition is completed, this trail will be open to the public and will offer educational opportunities for Tuftonboro Central School students.

Pleasant Mountain: The Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT), in partnership with the 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, where that portion of the road is classified Class VI and not maintained. The height of land is called Mount Pleasant and 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.

The New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) recently announced a Grant of \$75,000 to support the purchase of the Pleasant Mountain acreage. The Land bank will also be making a financial contribution and Tuftonboro will hold the Conservation Easement. The LRCT must raise the remaining funds for the purchase through contributions from its members and the public. Please watch for a chance to support this worthy project.

Mirror Lake Conservation: To help protect water quality in Mirror Lake, the Mirror Lake Protective Association has formed a committee to work with the TCC to try to protect some of the area within its watershed. Recently, a landowner has offered to sell a conservation easement on 110 acres in Tuftonboro and 36 acres in Wolfeboro in that watershed that would be the highest priority for conservation. The TCC and the Wolfeboro Conservation Commission are teaming up on this project. The Tuftonboro Conservation Commission will be sponsoring a Warrant Article at Town Meeting to finance the cost of a consultant who will apply for grants to pay for this purchase. Please support the Article.

Support for the NH Department of Environmental Services: The NH 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 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 the town owns. A generous Planning Board member has volunteered to donate the funds for this effort. The TCC will be working to hire a licensed forester to accomplish this in 2020.

Well-Water Testing: The TCC has offered this service for seven years. Over that time more than 600 residents have tested or retested their well water through this program. Tuftonboro has currently the highest participation rate in well-water testing in the

state. Check out the TCC web page and learn about natural arsenic and radon, which could be in your well water and could affect your health. In 2019 the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission provided test kits at the town office during the entire year instead of having one event.

Because of the negative and long-lasting effects of arsenic on children, we are hoping to plan an event around youth and families in the future.

Conservation Easements: The commission provided advice to two landowners who were interested in conservation easements. Anyone with an interest in conservation easements can contact us, and we will explain all aspects of property rights, use, and tax advantages.

Kate Nesbit donated an additional conservation easement on her property on Tuftonboro Neck. She has also constructed a walking trail that is open to anyone. Go out the Tuftonboro Neck Road to the end and turn right on Cross Neck road. Go about 200 Ft and “Kate’s Trail” will be on the right.

Also, 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.

Old Home Weekend: The TCC provided a Nature Scavenger Hunt where over 55 kids, adults, and families followed a nature trail testing their knowledge of trees, plants, wildlife habitats, and geology. Everyone had a great time, and a lot of kids 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 to monitor Wolfeboro’s Rapid Infiltration Basin and its effects on Nineteen Mile Brook. Currently, the effluent discharged continues to meet state standards. Wolfeboro DPW is currently conducting an experiment to handle some slope-side breakouts and return effluent back into the ground for filtering before entering Nineteen Mile Brook. Commissioner Larry Gil is working on some options for future sampling and analysis.

The TCC completed a Base Line Study of Nineteen Mile Brook in 2009 when the RIB was under construction, so that any environmental effects could be tracked and measured. 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 remeasure. It is currently completing a report on the results. A public meeting will be held early in 2020 where the report and results will be presented. Anyone can attend and ask questions.

Old Town Dump: In 2018 a concerned citizen

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Mirror Lake Protective Association works year-round

The crisscrossed lines across Mirror Lake reveal only part of the thrill of spending time on Mirror Lake in the winter. Ice fishing, skating, sledding, and iceboating all bring winter thrills and chills to those hardy souls who not only brave the winter but also embrace it. Animal tracks reveal that fox, turkey, beaver, dog, raccoon, skunk, opossum, squirrel, deer, and even bear trudge over the frozen Mirror Lake waters. Snow decorates the shoreline trees and the rustle of the few remaining leaves stir bits of glitter. The shortest day is behind us and incrementally the daylight hours grow. Chimneys blaze while land is purchased and conservation plans are conjured. But what lurks beneath the pristine snowfalls? Is the land being properly cared for? How can we preserve this serenity for the future?

The Mirror Lake Protection Association has worked steadily since 1991 on its mission to “protect and preserve Mirror Lake, its wildlife and wildlife habitat, and to promote knowledge about the lake, its history, and related activities.” In recent years far more attention has been given to the land surrounding Mirror Lake as our understanding of the significant impact a watershed makes on a lake has grown. As our information base grew, so did our concerns. Accordingly, in 2017 Mirror Lake residents John Dawson, Dusty Davies, Larry Gil, Robin Muench, Kathy Sciarappa, Joe Torregrossa, Bill Tryder and Val Zanchuk formalized those concerns when forming the Mirror Lake Conservation Committee under the direction of Ann Torregrossa. We report to Gene Kelley, the President of the Mirror Lake Protective Association.

First, the group reviewed the work of many other land conservation groups locally and across the nation. Then we established our own direction: “*We envision future generations enjoying -undiminished- Mirror Lake’s scenic beauty, clean water and natural habitat for native plants and animals.*” The accompanying mission serves as a guidepost for our conservation work: “*The Mirror Lake Conservation Committee’s mission is to safeguard our water and surrounding land by increasing the pace of land conservation to protect the natural environment for native plants and animals. We will identify, prioritize, and propose sites in the Mirror Lake watershed to the Mirror Lake Protective Association (MLPA) Board of Directors and the MLPA membership for potential acquisition and/or conservation easements pinpointing which sites have significant potential to protect and improve Mirror Lake’s water quality and/or provide value for conservation, education, scenic pleasure and recreation for present and future generations in Mirror Lake’s watershed.*” Simple enough words, but the research, organization, education, discussion, and



A frozen Mirror Lake beckons to skaters and ice boaters alike until the first snow arrives, then it’s snowmobiles and cross-country skiers that enjoy the scene.

guidance from experts has been thorough and ongoing before even a first step can be taken.

Mirror Lake Conservation Committee members, thankfully, are not alone in their mission. We are supported by knowledgeable individuals and long-standing groups who promote land conservation for our region, state, country, and the world. The challenge is to sort through the many options for assistance. That sorting process began with a conference in Alton, New Hampshire.

Attendees at the Saving Special Places Conference, Nancy Byrd, Larry Gil, and Kathy Sciarappa discovered that land conservation can be traced back to the mid 1800s, but the Wilderness Act of 1964 significantly formalized conservation efforts. Since then, there has been a surge of land conservation efforts beginning in the ‘70s and ‘80s at multiple levels. The Mirror Lake trio learned that many local and state agencies are committed to land conservation. Specifically, the sponsors of the conference included: the UNH Extension Service, the Lakes Region Conservation Trust, the Land & Community Heritage Investment Program, the NH Land Trust Coalition, the NH Society for the Protection of NH Forests, the Southeast Land Trust of NH, the Nature Conservancy of New Hampshire, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. There are also federal agencies that support conservation efforts including the US Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE) and the US Department of Agriculture Wetlands Reserve Program. Bottom of Form

Steve Wingate has since enlightened the group regarding local support including the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission, the Wolfeboro Conservation Commission, and the Land Bank of Wolfeboro- Tuftonboro, Inc. There are also

individuals with considerable expertise who have been working with the Mirror Lake Conservation Committee including Rick Van de Poll, an ecosystem management consultant. We need guidance navigating the complexities of land conservation.

Land conservation has individual incentives and appeal as well as societal benefits. Land owners, and sellers, who place easements on their property or place a portion of their property in “current use” enjoy considerable tax reductions and the potential for grants to help with the purchase of land. Often, land that is unbuildable is eligible for the benefits at no risk or loss to the land owner. The Mirror Lake Conservation Committee is studying the details of the potential transactions and examining all the land parcels in the watershed to see who might benefit. Hopefully, land parcels can be placed in conservation situations in the near future. As we view the flying snow through squinted eyes, we may begin to look with more confidence at the terrain below knowing that nature is glittering in its most natural form both above and below the snow line.

Kathleen Sciarappa
Mirror Lake Protective Association

The Tuftonboro Times,
the Voice of the
Community,
is published quarterly

Editor: Dan Barnard
Production: Phil Martin
e-mail: timeseditor@roadrunner.com
Printed by
Lilac Printing and Graphics

Tuftonboro history: the early years, first Town Meeting

Editor's Note: Five years ago, in the Summer Edition of 2014, this newspaper celebrated the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Second Christian Church of Tuftonboro. This year the Mirror Lake Church is celebrating the sesquicentennial of its iconic church building, erected in 1869. The following is excerpted from "A Historical Sketch 1864-2004" researched and written by Richard M. Frye.

There were no permanent settlers in [Tuftonboro], which derived its name from John Tufton Mason, until 1780, when the families of Benjamin Bean, Phineas Graves and Joseph Peavey begin to build permanent homesteads in the area now known as Tuftonboro Corner. By 1795 there were 109 residents, enough to petition the state legislature for incorporation as a town, which was granted on December 17th of that year.

At the first town meeting held on March 14, 1796

there were twenty articles on the warrant, but none of them referred to the erection of a meeting house or the calling of a minister, as had been the practice in Massachusetts during the same time. As early as 1800 a Congregational Church was organized in the town, but it did not last. In 1804, meetings of the Methodist Episcopal denomination were being held in the Peavey House (recognized today as the town's oldest building.) In 1820 a building was constructed that is still part of the Methodist Church at Tuftonborough Corner. Before meeting houses were constructed, religious groups gathered in private homes, barns, schools, and even outdoors, and the clergy often functioned on an itinerant basis. Even by the 1860s, a minister's duties could be physically demanding.

One young man, just graduated from the Seminary at Tilton, set out one afternoon to make pastoral calls along the road to Moultonville. He had expected to be invited to eat and stay overnight at the

home of one of his church members, but he had to keep on knocking at doors until after 10:00 o'clock before anyone invited him to stay. It took awhile for the new minister and his parishioners to get used to each other. They seemed to him as strange as the names of their communities: Mackerel Corner, Goose Corner, Barvel Whang, Tumble-down-Dick, Dimond Corner and Dishwater Mills.

The population of Tuftonborough expanded to 1,375, according to the 1830 census, but declined to about 1,100 by 1860. At that time the town boasted five stores, three taverns, four sawmills, five grain mills, two clothing mills, two carding machines, one tannery, six schoolhouses, and a town hall. The main source of livelihood was still independent farms supplemented by lumbering, hunting, fishing, and maple sugaring.

**Dick Frye, Researcher and writer
Ginny Cole, Editor**

Tuftonboro today: Ancient sport of curling new to many

It's coming into full winter, and while many Granite Staters are heading south or hunkering down for the duration, a different breed of cat that includes skiers, snowmobilers, and curlers is coming into its own. Braced by cold temperatures and the sight of snow and ice, these folks come fully alive at this time of year.

Curling was born on the frozen marshes of Scotland in the early 1500s and later brought to North America by British colonists in the 18th century. The sport has long been a staple of Canadian winter sport, and in recent decades it has taken hold in the US, mostly in the cooler northern tier but with representation as far south as Florida and Texas.

Curling became an official Olympic sport in 1996, and at the 2018 Winter Olympics, the US Men's Curling Team won gold – a first for this country. Since then, interest in the game has only grown.

In New Hampshire, four curling organizations give the state a presence in the sport: Nashua Country Club, with its dedicated rink; Plymouth State University; Mount Washington Valley Curling Club in Conway; and, close to home, Lakes Region Curling Association in Wolfeboro.

The latter makes its home at Pop Whalen Ice & Arts Arena in Wolfeboro, where the rink fully reflects inside whatever Mother Nature is doing outside. For the Fall curling league (October to December), that initially can mean dense fog that hovers over the ice and makes it challenging to see the curling target at

the other end of the sheet.

In winter, the problem is quite different. Because it is separated from the outside by little more than sheet metal, as the outside temperature drops the ice arena inside Pop Whalen also turns cold. This might seem to be a good thing: as the weather turns colder, so does the arena, making the ice inside even more solid.

Unfortunately, what's good ice for hockey players is not necessarily what works best for curlers (or figure skaters, for that matter.) Typically, Pop Whalen management tries to maintain ice temperature at 18 degrees Fahrenheit. This makes for hard ice that wears well under the relentless pressure of a hockey game.

Curling ice, on the other hand, is best when it is kept at about 24 degrees Fahrenheit. (For figure skating, 27 degrees works better, allowing skaters to jump and pivot easily.)

In curling, it's all about being able to *melt* the ice.

To explain: it takes a lot of preparation to set up a curling sheet (the name for the lane on which a match takes place). That's because a curling stone that's slid along unmodified ice would never make it to its target at the other end of the sheet. The reason? Friction.

To counteract that friction, curlers spray water on the ice, raising a bed of "pebbles" that lift the bottom of the curling stone away from the ice surface. The stone, which is concave on the bottom, glides along on a narrow bottom rim that touches only the tops of the pebbles.



Jon and Chris melt the ice by sweeping.

However, in order to control both the distance and the curve (curl!) of the stone, sweepers brush the ice vigorously. That action melts the ice and creates a thin sheet of water just ahead of the stone, reducing friction and allowing the stone to glide farther.

The colder (and harder) the ice, the more difficult it is to melt it and so to control the stones that travel across it.

So, as much as curlers may cheer cold weather for the return of their beloved Olympic sport, those who play their matches at Pop Whalen look on with mixed feelings as the mercury outside drops below freezing and then starts a steady dive towards single digits and below.

**Rich Masse, President
Lakes Region Curling Association**

Selectmen encourage townspeople to get out and vote

With the end of 2019, the Tuftonboro Board of Selectmen have been busy putting the finishing touches on the 2020 Town budget for presentation at the Town Meeting on March 11, 2020.

The Selectmen's goal for the 2020 budget is to return to Tuftonboro's historical spending levels and to move forward at a moderate pace to work through this coming year's projects.

The project authorized in 2019 to improve the Town Beach at 19 Mile Bay should be completed in this spring. The design and permitting of repairs to Union Wharf, County Road Bridge, Dame Road culverts, painting of the Town Offices building and the replacement of doors at the Transfer Station are all scheduled for early 2020.

In January we will get a report from the consultants on the biological and zoological health of 19 Mile Brook and any impacts from the Wolfeboro Rapid Infiltration Basin. They will also advise us on their recommendations for monitoring the site going forward.

The selectmen are also working on other warrant articles which will be presented to the voters at Town Meeting. These will include a new compactor and baler at the Transfer Station, the balance of the project at 19 Mile Beach, replacement for an 8-year-old police cruiser and money to complete the design for a new Police Station. The Board hopes to have a presentation on the proposed Police Facility ready for Town Meeting.

2020 is a presidential election year. With the presidential primary on February 11, plus town elections in March, state primaries in September and the general election in November, Tuftonboro residents will have plenty of opportunities to exercise their franchise as voters. Get out and vote, even better, be brave and throw your hat in the ring to run for office.

We are obliged to govern ourselves.

Tuftonboro Board of Selectmen
William Albee, Chairman
Lloyd P. Wood
William J. Marcussen

Police Department report on new laws, budget requests

As Tuftonboro rings in the new year, the Tuftonboro Police Department looks forward to another active year. All approved positions at the department have now been filled as Officer Abby Gillis is nearing the end of her first year as an officer. The statistics for last year show an increase in arrests and motor vehicle stops. There has been an increase in offense reports.

This year there are new laws to consider. They include changes to summonses, bail, and the age for possessing tobacco. The age to possess tobacco has been raised by the State of New Hampshire to 19. The federal government has raised the age to 21.

Bail reform was adjudicated in a court case, *State v. Christina Hill*. Justice Gary Hicks wrote: *[Bail reform law] does not preclude a trial court from setting unaffordable bail when it determines a person presents a flight risk but is not dangerous*. Previously, the law specified that an unaffordable bail could only be set if the defendant was deemed to be a danger to society.

Another change is that a person can select gender "X" or use a single name on their drivers' license. Speaking of licenses, after October 1, 2020, identification will need to be REAL ID compliant in order to be used for federal purposes such as domestic

air travel or access to federal facilities.

Locally, we need to remember to clear the snow from our vehicles after a storm. The law is called "Jessica's Law" after a young woman killed by ice coming off a vehicle. The official charge is Negligent Driving and the fine is \$310.

Lately, the Police Department has had complaints of several unlocked vehicles being entered with valuables stolen. The perpetrator(s) may also have tried doors on sheds and garages. Please be aware of anything unusual in your neighborhood but do not confront anyone who you suspect is breaking into your vehicle or property. Call the police at 911. Obviously, the Police Department does not recommend leaving firearms in unlocked vehicles.

2019 was more active than the previous year, and 2020 is starting off equally busy. The Department's budget proposal includes money for an additional full-time officer. This is necessary to provide coverage for officers who are not available due to medical leave, vacations, court, training, and injuries. It also is the result of many requests for services at events and for patrol. Last summer, the staffing and call volume meant we were not able to provide enough discretionary patrol time to respond to requests for

stationary radar. It is a significant cost, but there are savings with less overtime and more shift coverage. In place of an extra officer, I have also been asked to prepare the budget cost for adding two part-time officers. Of course, either adding two part-time officers or one full-time officer will exacerbate our facility and space issues.

On the warrant at Town Meeting this year there will be articles to fund a new cruiser and to design a new police facility. The cruiser will replace a 2012 sedan purchased in 2011. It has over 115,000 miles. It was scheduled to be replaced in 2019 but due to vacancies and leave, it functioned as a spare vehicle. The Department proposes to keep it as a spare as the financial cost is minimal and the time savings are significant. Many departments have a spare vehicle.

Concerning a new facility, there is a draft floorplan and report done for locating it across from the Library. The warrant article is to ask for funding to go forward and to develop the plans so that a bid package with costs can be presented in 2021.

We wish everyone a safe and happy new year.

Chief Andrew Shagoury
Tuftonboro Police Department

Fire Department warns people about dangers on the ice

On behalf of myself and the entire Tuftonboro Fire and Rescue Department, I would like to wish all a safe, healthy, and prosperous new year. The past year was certainly a busy one for the department as there was an increase in call volume, making 2019 the second busiest year on record. The calls were evenly spread out between categories, but, following a national trend, emergency medical calls were the most frequent. The increase was despite the fact we had a relatively quiet year on the storm front. A complete breakdown of all the runs will be in the Town's annual report.

The heating season is in full swing, and if you

have not had your heating system serviced or your chimney cleaned it is never too late. You should do so at least once a year. If you burn wood, please make sure it is well seasoned. The burning of green wood increases the likelihood of creosote buildup in your chimney. Creosote is what burns during a chimney fire, so avoiding creosote build up will help reduce the chances for a fire.

This winter has already seen a few inches of snow. When you are shoveling please make sure your furnace vents are free of snow buildup. Keeping them clean from the onset will make the vents easier to keep clean when the snow really starts to pile up. Blocked

vents can allow carbon monoxide to enter your building. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly. All homes should have at least one working carbon monoxide detector installed as well as working smoke detectors. Smoke detectors save lives. Period. You would be surprised at the number of smoke detectors that we see that have either been unplugged or disassembled, because they were "beeping." Well, if they were beeping, then something is wrong, and it needs to be corrected. A nonfunctioning smoke detector is useless. If you have questions or concerns

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Cemetery maintenance complicated by growing trees

The Cemetery Trustees have been busy visiting many of the old family cemeteries and taking inventory of the work that needs to be done to preserve them. Annual clean-up is done on all of the 56 burial sites, which involves trimming grass and bushes and removing branches and litter. That job has become more complicated, however, as most of the old cemeteries and graveyards have trees growing in them or are surrounded by trees.

A section of a large tree fell into the Edgerly cemetery in 2018, and a large branch fell in the Fields-Jones cemetery in 2019. The tree clean-up and stone repairs at the Edgerly Cemetery will ultimately cost over \$6,000.00 without addressing other needed tree maintenance around the perimeter. Fortunately, the branch at the Fields-Jones Cemetery did not harm any stones and it was removed without further damage. Nevertheless, a tree-climbing crew was required to get the branch down.

The trustees are creating a photographic record of the various cemeteries and graveyards to help

identify the most critical needs. In 2020, the trustees are hoping to get trees trimmed and/or removed from the McKenney, Roberts, Bean, Graves and Grant cemeteries. There has been great cooperation from the neighbors to these cemeteries and the trustees will be reaching out to other neighbors as well.

Cutting and trimming trees is one portion of the job; what to do with the wood and debris once they are down can be just as big a project. Many of these cemeteries are tucked away in remote areas or are otherwise situated where access is difficult at best, which makes clean-up problematic. Those people who own land abutting a cemetery should be aware that they may be responsible if their trees cause damage to a cemetery, the same as if those trees damaged any abutting property.

The Cemetery Trustees have established two separate Cemetery Expendable Trust Funds. One fund is for private donations made for general or specific work on cemeteries the Town owns or manages. The other is funded by a public fund, which comes from a

warrant article at Town Meeting or any other public source. To date, the only public money in the fund is money received from the sale of Rights to Burial at the Town Hall Cemetery, and the only expenditures from it have been to buy back plots which were sold years ago. The private fund was established after receiving a large donation from an anonymous donor for whatever use the trustees felt appropriate. Most of that money has been used for repairs and reconstruction at the French Cemetery. Work to repair damage done by flash flooding will continue there in the spring.

Cemetery Trustees meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM at the Piper House town office on Middle Road. The public is always welcome, and no appointment is required, so please come in if you have cemetery questions or concerns.

Tuftonboro Cemetery Trustees
Susan Weeks
Charlotte Allen
Carol Bush

Agricultural Commission lists new projects for 2020

The Tuftonboro Agricultural Commission (TAC) is looking forward to the new year. We had a successful 2019 with the Community Garden (CG) and accomplished the following:

TAC erected a shed to house CG equipment. The compost area was moved and the compost demonstration area was expanded to include six bins and a Jora food waste composter. "Thanks" to all who participated in the composting project. Look for more information on the continuation of this project in 2020. The Commission also bought a chipper to help with composting.

TAC added to the pollinator garden. "Thanks" to those that helped with the weeding.

Additional projects on the 2020 wish list include the following:

Putting together an information pamphlet on composting that will be available to members of the community.

Exploring food waste composting at Tuftonboro Central School that could utilize the Jora during the school year.

Continuing to add to the Tuftonboro agricultural directory that was started in 2018 - if you are interested in being part of this project please contact the Agricultural Commission through the town website.

Contacting Agricultural Commissions in surrounding towns to see what we might be able to

jointly to promote agriculture.

Providing seminars on agriculture-related topics for the community - if you have a topic you are interested in (bee keeping, pest management, composting, etc.) please let us know.

TAC is looking for additional members if you are interested, or if you have suggestions for the commission, please contact us via the town website (www.tuftonboro.org/home/webforms/contact-us) or join us for a meeting (on the first Tuesday of the month in the selectmen's room at 4:00 p.m. Please check the website for the agenda.

Tuftonboro Agricultural Commission
Sue Wingate, Chairman

Transfer Station generates record high in collection fees

Winter has arrived! 2019 was a very busy year at the transfer station. 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.

The current Transfer Station Stickers 2019-2020 are now available for purchase at the Transfer Station or at the Town Offices. The valid stickers are orange in color with white lettering and they 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 taxpayers are only subsidizing Tuftonboro solid waste and construction debris.

Recycling procedures remain the same this year as last year. We currently recycle: corrugated cardboard, aluminum beverage cans, steel/tin cans, Plastic #1-7, glass bottles and jars, lead acid batteries, rechargeable batteries, lithium and button cell batteries, books, clothes, non-ferrous material, ink/toner cartridges, cell phones, fluorescent light bulbs, items containing mercury, used motor oil, electronic devices (tv's, etc.), tires, and light scrap metal.

Many families are still recycling which shows an awareness in our residents to the benefits of recycling, both in "direct revenue" increases and in "avoided costs" increases. However, the collapse of the mixed paper market, increased charges for transportation, and lower commodity prices overall are a constant challenge to our bottom-line. Our best avenue to offset

these challenges is to keep improving the percentage of our residents that recycle. Residents that continue to throw recyclables into the compactors are just throwing tax dollars down the drain and costing everyone more money. The more material we keep out of the household waste compactors, the more tax expense we avoid.

Our direct revenue generated which includes collecting fees for disposal of certain items added up to a record high of approximately \$118,405 in 2019. This total does not include "avoided costs." Well done to all! Let's continue improving our recycling numbers in order to keep our tax rates as low as possible.

Clayton Gallagher
Transfer Station Supervisor

Libby Museum still seeks funds for needed restoration

Did you know that The Libby is New Hampshire's only natural history Museum? All ages, including thousands of school kids for generations, come to see the woodland animals, local fish, fossils, minerals, and native American artifacts each summer. But the Libby Museum is under threat; the 3,000 artifacts are barely surviving inside the unheated building which is now weeping with moisture and cracking with age.

"Thank you" Tuftonboro residents for your early responses to our fundraising efforts. Museum staff and "Friends of The Libby" raised the alarm in June and have reached over one million dollars in donations and pledges by year end. The estimated total cost of restoration (and a modest addition) is \$2.4-\$2.8 million. We're about one third of the way there.

Clear plans, prepared by Alba Architects of North Woodstock, include a building preservation assessment, laser wall measurements, and technical drawings. They propose to insulate the building, install temperature controls, rebuild the foundation, strengthen the roof, restore the original ceiling and bring all systems up to code and ADA compliance. The old whiskey barrels used originally to form the "footings" for the building will be replaced by a foundation that ensures the building stands for many more generations!

The beautiful front façade of the building will NOT change. A modest back entrance will be added. Visitors entering from the rear will see upper level displays on a new internal mezzanine with views to The Lake, and a small elevator or stairs will bring



New rear entrance/addition to the restored Libby Museum. The curved roof ensures it is not visible from the Lake side of The Museum.

them to the main museum level. This too will remain as it has for generations as one large open space. We've kept the changes purposefully small (1200 sq. ft), and partially below grade to house ADA facilities, a mechanical room for HVAC, small office, and multi-purpose meeting/learning room.

Restoration will enable the Museum to be used by local groups and schools through more months of the year, helping to bring the natural world closer to more kids, residents, and visitors.

How can you help save the Museum? Donations are welcome, but we're also looking for crafts and plant pots. We'll be having our annual PLANT SALE in June & September and need more pots. We'd also love donations of crafts (pottery, small paintings,

ornaments, quilts or other handmade items). We'll come and collect to make it easy.

Donations by check to: "Libby Restoration", c/o Friends of The Libby, Box 2062, Wolfeboro, NH 03894.

Donations online at www.friendsofthelibby.org or www.thelibbymuseum.org.

CRAFT donations: call (603) 520-0593 for collection (Alana Albee, Director)

Finally, if your group would like a presentation about these plans, please contact: director@thelibbymuseum.org.

**Alana Albee, Director
The Libby Museum**

Melvin Village Community Church active in the winter

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. See what we are all about; service begins at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday morning. There are many ways to get involved and we would welcome you and your family.

The second Sunday of each month is designated for children's activities including a story during the

service before they journey downstairs with a story, craft, and snack.

Community Game Night is the second Tuesday of each month from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. and features a monthly board game for all ages.

Sunday morning worship begins at 10:00 a.m. and provides a place where we enjoy music through the bell choir, Christian fellowship and god-centered, bible-based teaching ("Love God, Love others." Mark 12:30-31). 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, contact the church, or email us at info@mvccnh.org. Blessings,

**Rev. Kevin Van Brunt
Melvin Village Community Church**

Candidates Night scheduled for Tuesday, February 25

The Tuftonboro Association is again sponsoring a "Candidates Night" where townspeople can hear views and ask questions of those seeking local elective

office or a position on the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board. The date is Tuesday, February 25, 2020, and it will be held at a new venue: the

Tuftonboro Town House, 247 Middle Road, Center Tuftonboro, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Be informed. Come and hear the candidates speak to the issues.

First annual holiday extravaganza held at Central School

If you walked past the Tuftonboro Central School (TCS) library on December 20, you might have heard Sparky Grupp singing “Jingle Bells.” It may have been the best version you ever heard, because he was accompanied by students from kindergarten through sixth grade. Sparky volunteered to facilitate the Karaoke Station at the First Annual Holiday Extravaganza at TCS.

Each month TCS students meet for an assembly where there are awards, a presentation, and an activity connected to the topic of the assembly. Students break up into 16 “families” for the activity. Each family includes 1-2 students from every grade (K-6); one TCS staff member facilitates each group. For the Extravaganza, TCS families gathered and then were paired with another family. Each combined group attended 5 station challenges out of 8 throughout the building. Students could sing holiday karaoke, work on a holiday craft, compete at completing a puzzle the fastest, race in Elves’ Holiday Relay Race, compete in a Lego stocking stuffer challenge, color a holiday mandala, and answer trivia questions about The Grinch.

A bonus to the event was that each station was run by a member of the Tuftonboro Community. Jackie Rollins, Christie Sarles, Chief Andy Shagoury, Dennis Zilembo, Sparky Grupp, and PTCO members Nicole



Police Chief Andrew Shagoury works with a “family” of students at the Tuftonboro Central School

Bailey and Christina Damon all helped facilitate the students at TCS. It was a fun event for students, different station. Tuftonboro Central School ended staff, and community members, and we look forward the 2019 year with the Holiday Extravaganza event to holding the second annual event in 2020. Thank to continue to build the school community including you for all your hard work and support!

members from the Town of Tuftonboro. The town does an excellent job working together and supporting

**Ryan Gilpatrick, Principal
Tuftonboro Central School**

Winter at Camp Sentinel features stillness and activities

Stillness is something we all need. At Sentinel, relationships are built and lives are changed through the stillness of God’s creation. New friendships are made through the support of caring staff. We wish you and your family a happy New Year and hope to see you at Sentinel in 2020.

Community Days at Sentinel Lodge! Come enjoy a bowl of chili and a snowshoe around Sentinel’s stillness. Wednesday February 12 and Wednesday March 18 will be Community Days at the Sentinel Lodge from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please RSVP to admin@campsentinel.org or call (603) 539-4839.

2020 Walk in Confidence: For over 70 years Sentinel has been providing a summer, christian community where youth can build self-esteem, have meaningful connections, develop character, become strong leaders, and discover and explore creativity through the guidance of well-trained staff. We believe that camp is an opportunity for everyone, and we will be excited to see you and your family this year! Daily activities include swimming, boating, arts & crafts,

team-building games, ropes course with zip line, rock wall, archery, hiking, large group team sports, and many other great adventures. Each evening the entire camp gathers for vespers which is a time of worship, singing, and bible study. On Friday evenings we gather at a special “red carpet celebration” banquet where campers dress up for a special dinner to reflect and celebrate the week.

From January 17 at 6:00 p.m. until January 19 at 2:00 p.m. there will be a special Winter Camp at Camp Sentinel. The cost for the Winter Camp is \$100, ages 11-16 More information is available at www.campsentinel.org/winter-camp.

We are excited to host the Winter Camp at Sentinel and would welcome you and your friends! Winter Camp is different at Sentinel: it is intentional and purposeful. We will explore what it means to “Walk in Confidence” as Pastor Scott leads this teen-intentional time together. We will enjoy winter activities that promote team building and other winter fun! Youth groups (of 5 or more) should email

admin@campsentinel.org

From Friday, May 8 at 5:00 p.m. until Saturday, May 9 at 3:00 p.m. Sentinel will host a Women’s Retreat. The cost is \$70 per person.

Women invest a lot of time and energy into your family, church, local community, and work. Take some time away from the daily routine and recharge emotionally and spiritually. Enjoy a weekend away with your friends highlighted by laughter and relaxing, delicious home cooked meals, and camp activities!

For more information or to sign up: www.campsentinel.org/womens-retreat.

We believe that through a ministry partnership that “Relationships are Built, and Lives are Changed.” Thank you for standing with us in ministry! We love to share the story and hope you will contact us and visit your church on a Sunday morning.

See you on the mountaintop!

**Pastor Kevin Van Brunt “Pk”
Executive Director, Camp Sentinel**

Jam Sessions at Old White Church will resume in March

The Country, Bluegrass and Gospel jam sessions, held at the Old White Church at Center Tuftonboro, are on

winter hiatus. The weekly jam sessions will resume starting Tuesday, March 31 and will continue through

December 2020. For more info call Joe Ewing at 569-3861.

Educational programs highlight Hikers' spring schedule

The women of The Hikers organization have been working overtime this fall planning a variety of events. In September, we held our Annual BBQ and Live Auction at Camp Belknap, who generously donated their beautiful facility for the affair. Twenty-two gift baskets, as well as sculptures, paintings, and handcrafted furniture, all gifts from friends and the membership, were raffled or auctioned off.

In October, the Fall Rummage Sale was at the Willing Workers Hall. Two busy days, but community support and many helping hands resulted in a lot of clothing and home goods finding new homes.

November was a time for the Town to celebrate the holidays with the Tuftonboro Holiday Open House. Many homes and businesses opened their doors to the public. The Hikers celebrated the event at a different location, the Tuftonboro Town House, located at 247 Middle Road. Holiday gift items, Christmas decorations, homemade baked goods, and crafts were just a few of the items sold. The three-day event

also included the Holiday Luncheon on Saturday, November 9, where The Hikers served lunch to 140 area residents. Homemade corn chowder, fresh-baked pies, a variety of sandwiches and beverages were on the menu.

Wrapping up the fall season, the Hikers celebrated the upcoming holiday on December 19 at our Christmas Gathering with Christmas carols and a cookie swap. We also made 16 Remembrance and Good Cheer Plates, packed with homemade cookies, candies, and fruits that we delivered to area residents.

After a brief winter hiatus, The Hikers Program and Scholarship Events Committees have scheduled several 2020 educational programs and fundraising events. In February, there will be an update on the progress at the Tuftonboro Free Library, presented by Gordon Hunt. March will bring Guest Night with a pot-luck supper and Jeff Warner, offering "Songs of Old New Hampshire." Our Annual Easter Breakfast will be on Sunday April 12 at the Willing Workers

Hall from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Later in April, The Hikers will be hosting an Italian Dinner at the All Saints Episcopal Church in Wolfeboro beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Details of the various events will follow.

The Hikers is a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) organization of women who are committed to raising monies for scholarship awards to area children and donations to area charities. We promote community awareness through social and intellectual cooperation. If you are interested in joining The Hikers organization, please contact Faye Friedrich, President, on her cell phone at (978) 835-7431

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said: "Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul that is generated by love."

Faye Friedrich, President

Tuftonboro Grange #142 reviews successful past year

Tuftonboro Grange #142 may be in its winter hiatus, but it was a busy year in 2019. To recap some of last year's happenings:

One of the more exciting moments was when we honored Christie Sarles with the 2019 Citizen of the Year award for her unselfish dedication to the Tuftonboro Free Library and the community at large. Thank you, Christie, for your service.

We played host to a robin's nesting box provided by Laurel Podsen, Conservation Commission. We are hoping for a successful year to watch robins hatch and take flight.

We had two fundraisers: Penny Sales in July and October. We couldn't have been as successful as we were without the help of our community. "Thanks" to the many people and businesses that donated and to those that came to our sales. We had a good time

interacting with everyone.

In August we participated in Tuftonboro's Old Home Day with a table at the town picnic. We are very grateful to Barbara Jones and Georgene Sellinger for keeping the Grange in the public eye.

In September we presented dictionaries to the third graders at Tuftonboro Central School. This has become an annual event and the students look forward to receiving their own dictionaries.

Members were treated to a day at the New Hampshire Farm Museum during our Mystery Ride day. We had a good time touring and reminiscing about the "good ole days". David Perkins, Joy Perkins, and Mary Ann Murray even played at hoop rolling and ring toss. We finished our day with a picnic on the grounds. There is no telling where our next adventure will bring us.

We ended our year with an award ceremony and pot-luck supper. Members of the local community and Tuftonboro Library were on hand to witness honoring Christie Sarles and members of Tuftonboro Grange with longevity awards. Of particular notice: Florence Perkins received a certificate for 65 years of continuous service.

The Grange is a non-partisan, non-sectarian organization that is involved in enhancing the lives of those who live in our communities. The Grange is America's Family Fraternity. To anyone who is interested in education, legislation, social welfare, recreation, and having meaning and purpose in life, we welcome you to our Grange.

**Joy Perkins, Secretary
Tuftonboro Grange #142**



Great Meadow continued from Page 1

A volunteer crew has brushed out the main trail location and constructed some test bridges and boardwalks. Over the winter the TCC will be completing permitting requirements and fine-tuning construction details. Next spring the volunteers will start working on the trail again with the objective of completing the main trail to the meadow edge by fall.

Camp Belknap has volunteered to assist with trail work next summer.

If you would like to lend a hand and meet some great people, contact the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission at (603) 569-4539 x24 or www.conservation@tuftonboro.org.

Tuftonboro Conservation Commission



Conservation continued from Page 2

reported a suspected leak of pollution from the old, capped town dump. The Selectmen asked the TCC to investigate. It did a field inspection and determined that the evidence points toward possible leaching from the capped area. Monitoring of the landfill through test wells is required in NH. The current contract

for monitoring is open for renewal. The Selectmen have asked the Commission to help develop criteria for future monitoring. Commissioner Larry Gil has been working on this issue and will be presenting information to the selectmen early in 2020.

Town Beach: Tuftonboro Parks and Recreation Commission asked the TCC for help in designing improvements to the perched beach and pavilion

area. A contractor was selected and did much of the work during the past fall. The remaining work will be completed in the spring of 2020.

Anyone interested in joining this essential town committee should contact the commission through the town website (www.tuftonboro.org) or through the commission's Facebook website (www.facebook.com/TCCCommission/.)

Fire Dept. continued from Page 5

with your smoke detectors, please stop by or call the department. We can assist you or help point you in the right direction to fix your detectors. It is very important to keep at least two means of egress clear of snow and ice out of your homes. Think about what would happen if you couldn't use your main entrance in an emergency and you needed to leave in a hurry? Or the Fire Department needs to get in a hurry? A few extra minutes shoveling just might save your life or the life of a loved one.

Please keep an eye out for your neighbors or the folks that may need a little help shoveling. Many hands make light work. So please help prevent an accident or injury and give a hand where needed. If you are shoveling take lots of breaks as needed and, if you feel ill or experience unusual chest pain, stop shoveling and call for assistance. It is better to be checked out for nothing than not to get checked out

and have a real medical crisis.

The relatively mild start to the winter has been somewhat of a break on the shoveling front, but that also means the ice on the area lakes and ponds hasn't had a real chance to thicken up. If you choose to venture out, please use extreme caution. The following is taken from the NH Fish and Game website,

Judging Ice Conditions: *Look for solid bluish-black ice. Four to 6 inches of solid bluish-black ice can support a few well-dispersed people. Eight to 10 inches of solid bluish-black ice can support OHRV activity*

Even if the weather has been below freezing for several days, don't guess about ice thickness. Ice does not form consistently across a water body. A water body's size, temperature, depth, currents, springs and wind exposure affect ice formation. Early season snow cover can insulate ice from cold temperatures and slow ice formation.

Check the ice: *Use an auger, spud or axe to make*

test holes. Check the ice in several places; start at shore and continue testing as you go out. Remember: All ice is potentially dangerous.

Stay off the ice along the shoreline if it is cracked or squishy. Don't go on the ice during thaws. Watch out for thin, clear or honeycombed ice. Dark snow and ice may also indicate weak spots. Ice can remain dangerously thin in places with current, such as inlets, outlets, and spring holes.

Choose small bodies of water; they tend to freeze thicker than rivers and larger lakes. Rivers and lakes are more prone to wind, current, and wave action.

As always, the department is here to help you. Please do not hesitate to call if you have questions or are looking for information. If you think it's an emergency call 911. It is better to call on a non-emergency issue than it is to not call on a real emergency.

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



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January

1	All Month	Artist of the Month - Scott Evans & Nautical Art	TFL
1	All Month	Gotshall Sterling Heirloom Jewelry	TFL
25	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Saturday Writers Group - Every Saturday through March	TFL
29	7:00 PM	History Book Club - Every last Wednesday of the month through March	TFL

February

19	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Readers' Choice Book Club	TFL
25	7:00 PM	Candidates Night - Town House	TTH

March

1	All Month	Artist of the Month	TFL
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Ongoing

NOTE: From October through December the Library will be under various stages of construction / refurbishment!
Please consult the Library's web page for updates. <www.tuftonborolib.org/>

Last Wednesday of the month	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	History Book Club meeting	TFL
Tuesdays	6:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Country, Bluegrass & Gospel Music Jam Session	OWC
Monday	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Knit Wits	TFL
Friday	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Pre-School Story hour	TFL
Saturdays	10 AM - Noon	Saturday Writers Group	TFL
Last Wednesday of the month	7:00 PM	History Book Club	TFL

KEY:

19MB - 19 Mile Bay Pavilion	OWC - Old White Church	TCS - Tuftonboro Central School
DMF - Davis Memorial Field	TFS - Tuftonboro Central Fire Station	TGH - Tuftonboro Grange Hall
TFL - Tuftonboro Free Library	TTO - Tuftonboro Town Offices	TUMC - United Methodist Church
THS - Tuftonboro Historical Society	WWH - Willing Workers Hall	TTH - Tuftonboro Town Hall
TWS - Town Web Site		



The Tuftonboro Association
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