

The Hermon Connection

Vol. 28 Issue 3 • May, 2021

Ecotat Gardens and Trails

Spring is here and we hope you will visit Ecotat Gardens and Trails often to watch the gardens as they change throughout the season. When visiting you will see a new cedar arbor and bench that was built by John Estes. John contacted Ecotat in July 2020 as a Life Scout with Hermon Troop #25. He was working on his Eagle Scout Award and was interested in doing a project at the garden.

As a non-profit organization, Ecotat was happy to support John's goal and welcomed his offer to do something for the garden. It was decided that a new arbor and bench would be a great project. Cedar located on the property was used for the project which John completed in the Fall of 2020. John successfully completed the requirements and received his Eagle Scout Award in December 2020. Congratulations John Estes and thank you from Ecotat!

Please remember to sign in at the kiosk at the Annis Road parking lot where you will see the bench and arbor upon your arrival. Enjoy your visit!

Volunteers are welcome to join us Wednesday afternoons.
Contact us: ecotatgardensarboretum@gmail.com
www.ecotat.org



Town of Hermon
Howard Kroll Town Manager
333 Billings Rd, Hermon, ME 04401
Tel: 207-848-1010 Fax: 207-848-3316
krollh@hermon.net, www.hermon.net

If you have a news story or article for publication in the next edition of
The Hermon Connection,
please send it to: scottwl@hermon.net
Deadline for submissions: June 21, 2021



**Annual Town Meeting
Budget Approval
Thursday, June 10, 2021**

To: Courtney Brown, a Resident of the Town of Hermon, in the County of Penobscot, State of Maine,
GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hermon in Penobscot County, Maine, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the **High School Auditorium in Hermon on Thursday the 10th day of June, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.**, then and there to act upon Articles 3 through 31 as set out below. Articles 1 and 2 were acted upon at the Election on 6/8/2021.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To elect all municipal officers and school committee members as are required to be elected.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the revenues received for the following accounts to offset the associated expense accounts, for fiscal year 2022 with approval of the Town Council?

Revenues

10-130 Hermon Connection Revenue
10-121 Local Plumbing Fees
14-140 Transfer Station Fees
14-150 Tipping Fee Revenue (PERC)
12-182 Police Revenue
12-185 Fire Dept. Revenue
35 Recreation Enterprise Revenues

Expenses

10-13-04-05 Hermon Connection Expenses
10-13-05-04 Local Plumbing Expenses
14-01 Landfill Expense
14-02 Household Waste Expense
12-01 Police Expenses
12-02 Fire Dept. Expenses
35 Recreation Enterprise Expenses

*(Explanation: The listed revenue accounts are special funds received by the Town for specific purposes. Approval by the citizens will allow the Town Council to expend these revenues for the expense accounts listed above. **Recommended by the Town Council***

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money for each of the listed reserves?

HERM02 Unemployment Reserve	\$ 5,000
HERM04 Cemetery Reserve	\$ 5,000
HERM05 Fire Equipment Reserve	\$ 50,000
HERM06 Highway Improvement Reserve	\$ 250,000
HERM08 Public Works Facility/Equip Reserve	\$ 75,000
HERM09 Recreation Equip/Facility Reserve	\$ 25,000
HERM11 Municipal Office Reserve	\$ 5,000
HERM12 Sewer Maintenance Reserve	\$ 25,000
HERM17 Public Safety Building Reserve	\$ 10,000
HERM19 Town Office Equip. & Tech. Reserve	\$ 35,000
HERM32 Veterans Memorial Park Reserve	\$ 5,000
Total Appropriation to Reserves	\$ 490,000

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Town Manager to contract for the purchase of an 1871W 4-door custom pumper truck for the Fire Department from HME, Inc., through HGACBuy, for the total purchase price of \$585,683.00; said truck to be constructed in FY22 and delivered on July 1, 2022, with payment due upon delivery; the purchase of which to be funded in part from the Fire Department Reserve Account (HERM05) in the approximate amount of \$430,000, with the balance to be approved at the FY23 Annual Town Meeting. **Recommended by the Town Council**

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$26,293 from the Public Safety Building Reserve (HERM17) to purchase a new SOLO decon washer and making said purchase by 30 June 2022 or funds lapse back to the Public Safety Building Reserve (HERM17)? **Recommended by the Town Council**

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$436,298 from the Highway Improvement Reserve (HERM06) to repair the Black Stream Road (\$128,740), Bog Road guard rails/shoulder repair (\$10,053), provide local match for Billings Road MPI project (\$162,500), local road paving and repair various roads in Hermon such as but not limited to Timberview, Westridge Drive, Springbrook Drive, Beech Ridge Drive and Hillcrest Drive and repair various shoulders, driveway culverts and aprons (\$135,005) and making said purchases by 30 June 2022 or funds lapse back to the Highway Improvement Reserve (HERM06)? **Recommended by the Town Council**

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$24,000 from the Cemetery Reserve (HERM04) for the purchase of stone repair/cleaning and tree removal at each cemetery and making said purchase by 30 June 2022 or funds lapse back to the Cemetery Reserve (HERM04)? **Recommended by the Town Council**

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$15,000 from the Recreation Reserve (HERM09) for repairing and making improvements to the basketball court at the Recreation Field complex. Said purchases will be made by 30 June 2022 or funds lapse back to the Recreation Reserve (HERM09) **Recommended by the Town Council**

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town vote to authorize the transfer of \$100,000 from the undesignated fund balance to the Fire Department Reserve Account (HERM05)? **Recommended by the Town Council**

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$68,901 from Town Office Equipment, Technology Reserve (HERM19) to purchase the upgrade of the computer equipment required for the upgrade including new computers and other equipment/services from Penbay Computers. Said Purchases will be made by 30 June 2022 or funds lapse back to the Town Office equipment, Technology Reserve (HERM19)? **Recommended by Town Council**

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town vote to authorize the transfer of funds from Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) Revenue in the amount of \$614,738, to off-set authorized expenditures for Economic Development general accounts #11-01-01-01 to 11-01-20-06 in the amount of (\$504,738) including the Valley Satellite drainage project awarded to Gardner Construction and Ryder incentive program; account # 19-02-25-03 TIF Credit Enhancement Agreements (\$110,000)? **Recommended by the Town Council**

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town vote to authorize and transfer to the Hermon School Department the expenditures of up to \$379,000 from the School Repair Reserve Account (HERM07) for the expenditures at Hermon High School repair, correct drainage, curbing and paving the Hermon High School Parking Lot (\$299,000), the repair to make the Hermon High School front entrance ADA compliance (\$40,000) and at the Patricia A. Duran School to repair the roof off of the cafeteria (\$40,000)? **Recommended by the Town Council**

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$14,000 from Sewer Reserve (HERM12) to make necessary repairs and upgrades throughout the system including a new SCADA system at Autocar Lane? Said purchases will be made by 30 June 2022 or funds lapse back to Sewer Reserve Account (HERM12)? **Recommended by Town Council**

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$22,700 from Municipal Office Reserve (HERM11) to install two (2) heat pumps from Valley Satellite (\$17,500), install new windows, work conducted by Jeff Byers Construction (\$5,200)? Said purchases will be made by 30 June 2022 or funds lapse back to Municipal Office Reserve Account (HERM11)? **Recommended by Town Council**

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$200,000 from the School Tax Stabilization Reserve (HERM24) to offset a portion of the cost for the Hermon Middle School debt service in addition to the local appropriation for education payable in April 2022? **Recommended by Town Council**

ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$165,000 from the undesignated surplus account for the MPI Billings Road Project and to accept from Maine DOT in the amount up to \$165,000 once the project is completed? **Recommended by Town Council**

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town vote to authorize an expenditure of up to \$15,000 from Veterans Memorial Park Reserve (HERM32) to install new brick sidewalks on both sides of the entry to the Veteran's Monument? Said purchases will be made by 30 June 2022 or funds lapse back to Veterans Memorial Park Reserve (HERM32)? **Recommended by Town Council**

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for municipal purposes for Fiscal Year 2021 for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 the following sums of money?

Appropriation by category:

General Government/Administration	\$ 1,151,814
Economic Development/Technology	\$ 504,738
Public Safety	\$ 1,038,089
Public Works	\$ 1,064,777
Solid Waste	\$ 443,005
Recreation/Social Service/HVRS	\$ 350,470
Debt Service	\$ 0
Reserves	\$ 490,000
Special Assessments (includes County)	\$ 1,010,000
General Assistance	\$ 5,000
Total Municipal & County Appropriation	\$ 6,057,893

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town set the Fiscal Year 2022 Tax Commitment excluding the Overlay Account as follows:

Municipal Expenses:	\$5,157,893
County Assessment	\$ 900,000
Local contribution to Schools:	<u>\$5,793,461</u>
Total Expenses	\$11,851,354
Less Municipal Revenues	<u>-\$4,265,638</u>
Total Commitment less Overlay	\$7,585,716

Recommended by the Town Council

ARTICLE 21: Shall the Town appropriate from Overlay Account an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for tax abatements? **Recommended by the Town Council**

ARTICLE 22: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for educational (School Department) purposes for Fiscal Year 2022 for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 the following sums of money?

Appropriation by category:

Regular Instruction	\$ 6,634,402.24
Special Education	\$ 2,460,875.36
Other Instruction (summer Schl/extra Act)	\$ 544,105.85
Student/Staff Support	\$ 1,620,781.73
System Administration	\$ 465,598.95
School Administration	\$ 910,419.58
Transportation/Buses	\$ 654,374.79
Facilities/Maintenance	\$ 1,787,466.10
Debt/other commitments	\$ 601,060.50
All Others including Food Service	<u>\$ 65,000.00</u>
Total DOE Cost Centers	\$15,744,085.10

ARTICLE 23: To see what sum the Town of Hermon will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act.

Recommends \$10,787,948.26 and to see what sum the Town will raise as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688. **School Committee & Town Council Recommends** \$4,239,798.33.

The school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise to receive the full amount of state dollars.

ARTICLE 24: To see what sum the Town of Hermon will raise and appropriate for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the town voters for non-state funded school construction projects, or non-state funded portions of school construction projects in addition to funds appropriated as local share of the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12. **School Committee & Town Council Recommends \$601,060.50**

Non-state funded debt service is the amount of money needed for annual payments on Hermon's long-term debt service for major capital school construction projects that are not approved for state subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by the voters.

ARTICLE 25 To see what sum the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Act, non-state funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for support of schools. **School Committee & Town Council Recommends \$15,744,085.10**

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will authorize the school committee to expend in addition to Article 23, any sums as may be received from state and federal grants, aid, and receipts during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 for school purposes provided that such grants, aid and receipts do not require expenditure of local funds not previously appropriated? **School Committee & Town Council Recommends YES**

ARTICLE 27: Shall the Region Four Vocational Budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for the year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 be approved in the amount of \$3,588,936.95?

Cooperative Board for Regional Vocational Budget is not subject to amendment from the floor. It may be accepted or rejected by the voters. Hermon's share of the Region Four budget is \$0. **School Committee & Town Council Recommends YES**

ARTICLE 28: In the event that the Hermon School Department receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its budget, shall the School Committee be authorized to use all or part of the additional state subsidy to increase the allocation of finances to reserve funds approved by the School Committee? **School Committee & Town Council Recommends YES**

ARTICLE 29: Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$30,000 from the School Bus Purchase Reserve (HERM33) to offset a portion of the lease/purchase payment for a school bus in addition to the local appropriation for education? **School Committee & Town Council Recommends YES**

ARTICLE 30: Shall the Region Four Vocational Budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for **adult education** for the year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 be approved in the amount of \$315,375.05?

The Region Four Vocational Budget for Adult Education supports adult education classes held at United Technologies Center in Bangor for communities that belong to the Region Four consortium. Hermon's share of the regional adult education budget is \$3,377.00. **Town Council Recommends YES**

ARTICLE 31 Shall the Town of Hermon raise and appropriate \$925,296.08 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$925,296.08 as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee?

The School Committee recommends \$925,296.08 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model. Additional funds needed for increases in salaries, enrichment programs and field trips, guidance and mental health services, professional development activities and costs of co curricular and athletic programs not fully funded by the State EPS formula. **School Committee & Town Council Recommends \$925,296.08.**

The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Town of Hermon's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help the Town of Hermon budget for educational programs.

REQUIRES SECRET BALLOT

ARTICLE 32 Shall the Town of Hermon create new reserve accounts titled “Food Service Reserve account” (HERM40) and “Enrollment Stabilization Reserve account” (HERM41)? **Town Council recommends YES**

ARTICLE 33 Shall the Town of Hermon Town Council authorize the transfers of school undesignated fund balance for the following accounts:

HERM 07 School Repair Reserve	\$100,000
HERM 33 Bus Reserve	\$ 30,000
HERM 40 Food Service Reserve	\$ 30,000
HERM 41 Enrollment Stabilization Reserve	<u>\$100,000</u>
	\$260,000

**ALL ARTICLES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
PENDING COUNCIL APPROVAL**

THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 27, 2021

THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME TO ATTEND

Municipal Election ~ June 8, 2021 ~

Article By Kristen Cushman, Town Clerk

May 10 - Absentee Ballots are available for voters.

May 27 – Public Hearing for Municipal Budget/School Budget
Thursday – 7:00pm at the Public Safety Building

June 8 – Election Day
Tuesday – Polls open 7:00am to 8:00pm, Patricia A. Duran School Gym

June 10 – Annual Town Meeting
Thursday – 7:00pm at the Hermon High School Auditorium

The Town Council has two vacant seats. Wayne Bouchard, Phillip Richardson and Steven Thomas have submitted papers for these seats.

The School Board has two vacant seats. Richard Cyr, Teddy Harris, Jesse Keith, Samantha Lang, Stephanie Oiler and Kim Shaffer have submitted papers for these seats.

Don't miss your opportunity to be a part of our community's election process. If you would like to participate as a write-in candidate for either the Town Council or School Committee, a letter of intent to run as a write-in candidate must be filed with the Town Clerk at least 24 hours prior to the opening of the polls. The letter of intent must include the name, legal address, telephone number, and signature of the person intending to run. Votes for any person not filed as a declared write-in candidate shall not be counted. (Town of Hermon Charter Section 9.09)

From the Town Manager



I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you a safe and healthy spring and early summer. The last 14 months have been stressful and chaotic. While I can't predict the future or how soon our everyday life will return to normal I can say things are improving. Enjoy your spring!

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING- Our annual town meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 10, 2021. Please keep checking our website, <http://www.hermon.net> for details as they are subject to change. The Annual Town Meeting Warrant will be on the Town's website once it is approved by the Hermon Town Council.

CONGRATS TO OUR GRADUATES- To all the seniors at Hermon High School, I want to congratulate you on your graduation. You are going to move on in life either to continue your education or go into the work force. Either way you will be prepared for that next step. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

BUDGET- The Town's proposed 2022 budget contains projected road projects such as Billings Road (from Route 2 to Fuller Road intersection), Timberview Drive, Westridge Drive, Beech Ridge, Hillcrest Drive, Bog Road (section near Hampden line) and a few others. As you might not be aware we contract with the Penobscot County Sheriff's Department for our law enforcement services, Gardner Construction for our snow removal, TGP for our street sweeping, LaPlante's Lawn Care, LLC for cemetery and municipal property mowing, Hermon Volunteer Rescue and First Aid Squad for our EMS services and many others to provide services to the public.

PRIMARY ELECTION- Unless the State of Maine Secretary of State decides to change the date of the primary election it will be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021. As of right now we have no guidance on what, if any, requirements will change. Please be patient and contact the Town Office if you have any questions.

Transfer Station- The Transfer Station is now open on Saturdays! It is available to Hermon residents only. Please refer to the Town of Hermon website for details on what is allowable to be discarded. Included in the FY22 proposed municipal budget is to open the transfer station on a weekday afternoon. This will help further your recycling needs. I will let you know when that change occurs so the public can get out to and take advantage of the additional hours.



Boulier Place Apartments 1983



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY • SENIOR CITIZENS APARTMENTS



Hermon Elderly Project was established in 1980 as a non-profit corporation with the vision to develop an elderly apartment complex in the Town of Hermon. Interested residents started the process including Kenneth Boulier, Clayton Jewett, Tim Schoppe, Stephen Cole, Theodore Clements, Juanita Littlefield, Marilyn Smith, William Allen, Royce Wheeler and Linwood Littlefield who served as the initial Board of Directors.

Hermon Elderly Project Board of Directors worked with Farmers Home Administration (commonly known as USDA Rural Development today) to secure funding to build the 24 unit complex located on Route 2 known as Boulier Place Apartments. The original loan to build this property was for \$1,093,200 at a 1% interest rate for a 50 year term. The loan was granted in 1982 and with a dedicated group of constructors, Boulier Place Apartments was made ready for tenants by 1983. The property was filled to capacity quickly and continues to maintain a healthy waiting list of people who want to live in this beautiful complex.

Whereas, the mortgage is held by Rural Development (FHA) there are guidelines and restrictions when attempting to rent a unit. A tenant must be 62 years old or older, OR handicapped or disabled. There are also income restrictions. Of the 24 apartments there are only 8 units that have rental assistance. The remaining units are full rent without subsidy.

Hermon Elderly Project is a non-profit. The Corporate membership consists of as many interested persons as possible. Nine of those members are elected as a Board of Directors for three year terms. The Corporate membership meets one time a year to vote in affairs concerning the property and to fill any vacancies on the board. The Board meets after the annual meeting to go over the business of the property and approve the annual budget. They usually meet only once a year unless there is additional business that requires another meeting.

The oversight of Boulier Place Apartments is performed by *Multi Management Group*, owned by Susanne LeVasseur. This management company takes care of all tenant relations and paperwork, government reporting, required subcontracting work and all the financial responsibilities of the property. The management company reports to the Board of Directors regarding essential activities that help maintain a positive experience for all of the residents.

Hermon is fortunate to have a good manager that provides encouragement, fosters a bond with the clients she serves, and in many ways becomes like part of their immediate family. Top professionals like LeVasseur go above and beyond for the seniors in their care. Susanne has "steered the ship" at Boulier Place Apartments for 23 years providing exceptional guidance for all of demands that the facility and residents require.

“The Board and I find it rewarding to offer quality, safe & affordable housing to our seniors and disabled population. We pride ourselves in keeping this 38 year old property in great condition with a modern feel. We are fortunate to have USDA Rural Development’s involvement in providing low interest mortgages, rehabilitation loans and grants as well as the rental assistance. I have managed Boulrier Place for 23 years through all required renovations and upgrades. When I think of the wonderful tenants I have met over that time, I could not imagine a more fulfilling job”, says LeVasseur.

The property at 8 Boulrier Place Drive in Hermon (off of Route 2 near Hermon Corner) is 38 years “young” because of LeVasseur’s leadership and an active board of interested stakeholders rallying around the project to keep the property healthy and vibrant.

Many updates and renovations have been done over the years. The largest renovation was completed in the spring of 2016 with new roofing, new kitchen cabinets and countertops, bathroom vanities, new electric baseboards, newly paved walkways and ADA accessibility work done in the community room as well as two units completely renovated for ADA.

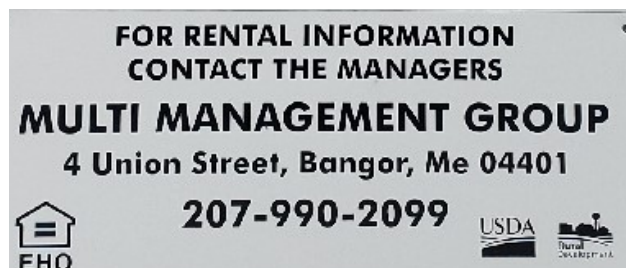
The current board members:

Daniel Cliff, President
Kristine Selleck, Vice-President
Dale Porter, Secretary
Ruth Plourde, Director
Tim Schoppe, Director
Doug Smith, Director
Jeff Byers, Director
John Snyder, Director
Sharon Nickerson, Director



Quality housing projects for the elderly can help people to live healthier lifestyles. When you feel like you’re among friends, you thrive! The Hermon board and Susanne LeVasseur support the goal of providing a safe environment where their clients can stay engaged and be part of a family. Boulrier Place Apartments is a cherished part of Hermon’s identity!

Hermon Elderly Project is always looking for volunteers to join the Corporate membership. If you can volunteer one hour a year we would be very happy to have you. Please contact \ Susanne LeVasseur for more information @ MultiMG@aol.com or 207-990-2099.



Special thanks to *Multi Management Group and the Hermon Elderly Project Board* members for contributing historical information...Hermon DECD Office



Criminal Mischief!

The Penobscot County Sheriff's Office is seeking assistance from the public in gathering information, regarding some vandalism that was reported on April 22, 2021 at Jackson Beach located in Hermon. Sometime between April 7th and April 18, 2021, the public bathrooms located at the beach were damaged. Both the male and female bathroom doors were forced open causing damage to the existing wooden frames and locks. If you were at the beach between those times and noticed the existing damage, or if you have any information pertaining to the crime, please contact SSgt. Bobbie Pelletier at the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office at 945-4636. Your assistance is greatly appreciated in this matter!

Thank You!



PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

THE ASSESSING OFFICE HAS MAILED THE ANNUAL BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY DECLARATION FORMS (706-A REQUESTS)

Maine Business Equipment Property Tax Relief Programs

The State of Maine has two business equipment property tax relief programs designed to reduce the burden of personal property taxes that businesses pay. The programs vary based on the date the property was placed in service in the state.

Business Equipment Tax Exemption Program (BETE)

For property placed in service after April 1, 2007, the Business Equipment Property Tax Exemption (BETE) program applies; commonly referred to as the "BETE" program. The exemption applies to most depreciable business equipment, however, certain items are excluded, such, vehicles subject to excise tax, office furniture, lighting, gambling equipment, and property located at a retail sales facility and used primarily in a retail sales activity. Retail equipment will continue to be covered under Maine's Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement program, (BETR) as discussed further below.

A BETE application **MUST be filed ANNUALLY** with the tax assessor by April 1 of each year, but an extension to May 1 is automatically granted. Further extensions beyond May 1 may be requested in writing to the local assessor. Filing the BETE application on time is critical, as property will be disqualified from the exemption for any year the report is not considered to be timely filed. The exemption application **MUST LIST ON THE APPLICATION** all eligible exempt property purchased after April 1, 2007 *each year*, not only in the year of purchase. There is no time limit on the number of years the exemption may be claimed, but the business or business owner must apply annually with a completed application and itemized list of personal property requesting exemption on.

The BETE Applications can be found on Hermon's website at www.hermon.net/assessing

Please contact our office at 207-848-1044 or email us at assessor@hermon.net for more information on the above programs or help with declaring your Business's Personal Property.

Hermon Track Complex Vote Tuesday, June 8

Article by Steve Thomas, Track Committee Chair

The big day is here! The conceptual drawings are complete. The construction schedule is in place. The budget is finalized. We now need your vote to make the plan a reality!

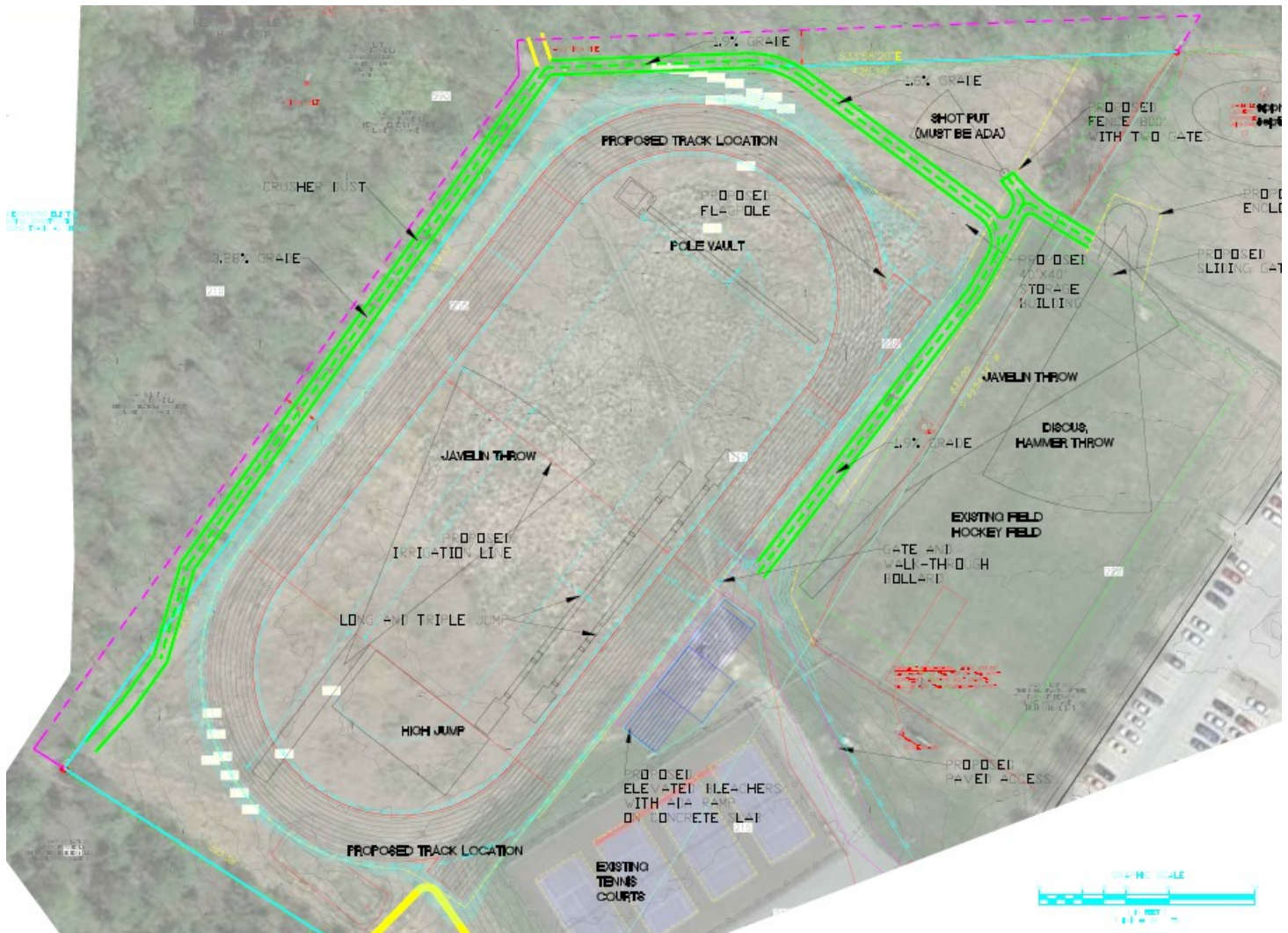
The Hermon Track Committee presented the track complex plan to the School Committee and Town Council where it received unanimous approval. There is also strong support from the business community. The **\$2.4 million** project consists of the following:

1. Phase I upgrades to Pottle Field – excavate ledge, install proper drainage and soil base, lay high quality sod to insure an excellent natural playing surface. Phase II to be completed at a later date will include the addition of artificial turf matched to the base installed during Phase I.
2. Renovate Booster Club concession booth with a central and expanded kitchen and food prep area, storage facilities, and access windows.
3. Build an 8-lane rubber surface sanctioned track west of the tennis courts at the High School designed to host local, regional, and state track and field competitive meets. A bonus multi-sport practice field will be available inside the new track.

If approved, the complex upgrades will be completed before the fall 2022 athletic season.

We ask for your vote to support these athletic field improvements June 8th.

For questions, please contact Steve Thomas at 735-8977 or Deborah Farnham at 404-6928. Additional information is also available on the Town's Facebook page: (2) Town of Hermon, Maine | Facebook.



Hermon JROTC

*Article By Major (Retired) Marcel Fortier
JROTC Senior Army Instructor*

The Cadets of the Hawk Battalion finalized their JROTC accreditation inspection April 6th to maintain a national education accreditation through AdvancEd, and they achieved the highest level possible; Honor Unit with Distinction (Gold Star Unit)!!! Only approximately 20 percent of the 1700+ Army JROTC programs around the world achieve this distinction. It was a challenging process which included precision drill routines, a supply/budget inspection, cadet electronic portfolio interviews, two PowerPoint presentations (Service Learning Project and a Continuous Improvement Project), and finally, Instructor portfolio interviews (all while battling the extra challenges faced with Covid). The service learning project was planned, organized, and implemented to support the Veterans Home in Bangor during the Christmas holiday season. The continuous improvement project enhanced the JROTC Battalion's mentor-mentee program to improve knowledge, confidence, and communication skills. This accreditation inspection is a three-year cyclic process, so we've already begun planning for the next. No rest for the weary! First Sergeant (Retired) Rob Jenkins and I are extremely proud of our former and current cadets who worked tirelessly over the last three years to achieve this high level of success. It certainly was a team effort, and if asked, cadets would say the key to success in JROTC is teamwork!



Please help me congratulate our cadets as you see them at home, school, or in the community!

Thanks for the continued support from the Hermon School community!



Welcome Volunteers!

Please join us for rewarding
volunteer opportunities
in the gardens and woodland trails.
Green thumb not required.

Just bring your enthusiasm and desire
to make a difference in your community.
Regular volunteer sessions are Wednesdays,
approximately 5:00 pm to dusk.

**We look forward to seeing you
at Ecotat in 2021!**

Contact us: ecotatgardensarboretum@gmail.com

Parking at 25 Annis Road, Hermon
Mail: 333 Billings Rd, Hermon, ME 04401
www.ecotat.org



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SOLAR

GOING GREEN WHILE SAVING GREEN

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL

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GROUND MOUNT SOLAR ARRAYS

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Single \$625

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Junior \$225

Young Adult \$450

Senior \$525

Active Military \$500

50 Round Pass \$600

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New BSA Troop

Article by, Lily Raleigh Troop 25G

BSA Troop 25 has been a part of scouting for over 50 years, but recently they have expanded with the introduction of an all Girl Troop 25G.

In 2019 BSA allowed girls to join both Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Now Hermon has their own, with two new Scouts. Lily Raleigh and Cassidy Coburn are the first two members of Troop 25G. The two Troops do all the same activities and earn the same badges and ranks. The girls Troop is lead by Angela Coburn. The girls have their own Patrol called the Fire Breathing Rubber Duck Patrol. When they go on camping trips they are separated from the male Troop with a female chaperone. These girls have had a positive experience since joining the Troop and would love to see more girls join them in the future. The Troop 25G is open to all girls in grade 6-12.



Reminder: Hermon Consumer Fireworks Ordinance

By SSgt. Bobbie Pelletier

The Fourth of July will soon be among us all. I would like to remind the people of Hermon, that Hermon does in fact have a written ordinance banning the usage of consumer fireworks within town limits.

Prohibition:

The ordinance states no person shall use, possess with the intent to use in the Town of Hermon, sell, possess with the intent to sell in the Town of Hermon, or offer for sale consumer fireworks.

Exception:

This section does not apply to a person issued a fireworks display permit by the State of Maine pursuant to 8 M.R.S.A. 227-A.

Seizure and Disposal of Fireworks:

The Town may seize consumer fireworks that the Town has probable cause to believe are used, possessed or sold in violation of this section and shall forfeit seized consumer fireworks to the State for disposal.

Penalty:

Whoever violates any of the forgoing sections of this ordinance shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$1000.00 for each offense. In the event of legal action by the Town of Hermon is required to enforce this ordinance and the town is the prevailing party, it must be awarded reasonable attorney fees, expert witness fees and costs.

We hope everyone has a pleasant and safe Independence Day!

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The "Arnold R. Kelly American Legion Post 200" has been active in its support of the Hermon community for many years. The membership has supplied roadside flags for Route 2 and Union Street since the project began in 2011. This year the members decided to support the *Veteran's Memorial Project* to improve the bricks that display Veteran's names with a \$1,000 dollar check to bolster the effort. Harry Rideout presented the donation to Town staff for the project on May 3rd at the Veteran's Memorial on Billings Road.

The Town is very fortunate to have this great group of Veterans supporting our community!

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