

The Hermon Connection

Vol. 29 Issue 4 • July 2022

Hello all!

We have some exciting events we would like to inform the community about. The Penobscot Snowmobile Club will be hosting two truck and tractor pulling events this summer. These two events are in honor of a great gentleman local to the area. Kevin Call Jr. passed away on August 23, 2020 from a motorcycle accident involving a deer. Kevin was a member of our snowmobile club and always ready to help when we needed help. One of Kevin's favorite hobbies was to go to truck and tractor pulls and compete in them. Last year as the Covid 19 pandemic eased its grip we were approached by the Maine Truck and Tractor Pulling Association. They asked if we were interested in putting on a pull at the clubhouse. We instantly knew this was something we could do as the track was established from the past snowmobile grass drags. So with the help of many volunteers last season we reshaped the track into something pullers would want to come from all around New England to run on.

These events are not inexpensive to run. The cost of the two events will be around \$20,000 to put on. If any businesses are interested in sponsoring the events please contact a club member, the Facebook page (Sled Hermon). Thank you to the businesses that have already sponsored the event including our main sponsors for the two events; Bangor Motorsports and Bangor Tractor and Equipment. These two events are a great fundraiser for the club and help to raise money to maintain or upgrade equipment and cover operating costs of the club. We are also starting a scholarship fund in Kevin Jr's name. A percentage of the overall profit from the events will be placed in the fund. This fund will release a scholarship yearly to a deserving Hermon High School student that is interested in a trade, such as Class A driver, equipment operator, construction, mechanic, etc.

The first event will be on July 23rd and pulling will start at 12:00pm. We encourage spectators to arrive before 12:00pm so that you are able to find a good viewing spot and parking. General admissions for adults will be \$10 and children 12 and under are free. There will also be a full concession stand on site. This is a family friendly event with family friendly pricing and we look forward to seeing families coming to enjoy the pulls. The second event to end the season will be on September 17th at 12:00pm. Admission will be \$10 for adults and 12 and under is free. We will also have a full concession stand on site.

Respectfully
Andrew Jackson
Board of Directors Member



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If you have a news story or article for publication in the next edition of *The Hermon Connection*, please send it to: scottwl@hermonmaine.gov
Deadline for submissions: August 19, 2022

From the Town Manager

2023 PROPERTY TAXES –

The Town had a solid fiscal year 2022 despite a volatile economy- I can say with all certainty the mill rate, currently at 11.99, will be the same for fiscal year 2023. I want to thank you, the tax payer, for your support and we look forward to a safe 2023. Tax bills for 2022 will be due on 1 April 2023 and will be going out in the mail around mid-late October 2022.

NEW BOSTON ROAD PROJECT

The Town will start the process of repairing sections of New Boston Road starting in July 2022. Traffic will be controlled with minor delays starting mid-July. Other town roads will also get much needed repair. The work will take place this summer. Please feel free to contact Scott Perkins if you have questions @ 852-2403.

LOGISTICS LANE RECONSTRUCTION

Through a grant from Northern Maine Borders the Town will reconstruction Logistics Lane (off the Coldbrook Road before the railroad tracks coming from Dysart's). Work will include reclaim, ditching, installation of public sewer, water and natural gas and final pavement. This is a project the Town is doing with Mathews Brothers on the new facility.

NEW FIRE TRUCK STATUS

The new fire truck approved at annual town meeting is tentatively scheduled for delivery in the winter of 2023. We will keep you updated in the next few Connection editions.

BROWN TAIL MOTHS

The brown tail moth is an invasive species found only on the coast of Maine and Cape Cod. This moth is an insect of both forest and human health concern.

The brown tail moth caterpillar has tiny poisonous hairs that cause dermatitis similar to poison ivy on sensitive individuals. People may develop dermatitis from direct contact with the caterpillar or indirectly from contact with airborne hairs. The hairs become airborne from either being dislodged from the living or dead caterpillar or they come from cast skins with the caterpillar molts. Most people affected by the hairs develop a localized rash that will last for a few hours up to several days but on some sensitive individuals the rash can be severe and last for several weeks. The rash results from both a chemical reaction to a toxin in the hairs and a physical irritation as the barbed hairs become embedded in the skin. Respiratory distress from inhaling the hairs can be serious.

Caterpillars are active from April to late June. Hairs remain toxic throughout the summer but get washed into the soil and are less of a problem over time.



Areas of Hermon have encountered these nuisances and we encourage residents to consider hiring a tree removal service to help with removing nests on private property.

I would like to wish each of you a safe, healthy, and positive summer. Stay safe

Legislative Update

2022 Legislative Session Update with Rep. Jim Thorne House District 103 - Carmel, Etna (part), and Hermon

Relief Checks are being sent out

Over-collected tax revenue is being returned to Mainers who file a 2021 tax return. \$850 checks have begun to go out on a rolling basis. While I am disappointed that the money was not sent out earlier, and through electronic deposits, it still is better than if the legislature had kept it to spend on new programs. Maine citizens know best how to use their money, especially now, when they are experiencing unprecedented price increases on everything from food to gas.

Approximately 858,000 Mainers will receive a one-time payment over the course of the summer. Income eligibility is capped at \$100,000 per individual, \$200,000 per couple, and \$150,000 for a Head of Household filers. Recipients cannot have been claimed as a dependent on another taxpayer's 2021 Maine income tax return. An initial 5,000 checks were sent out on June 2, and will continue to go out over the summer. If you have already filed a 2021 tax return, you can check on the status of your refund at: <https://portal.maine.gov/refundstatus/payment>.

If you are not required to file a tax return, I encourage you to do so before October 31, 2022 in order to receive a tax relief check, and to see what other tax benefits you may qualify for.

During the same budget process, my Republican colleagues were successful in having structural tax reform for pensioners and retirees included in the budget and enacted into law. In 2022, the existing state pension deduction amount is increased from \$10,000 to \$25,000. It then increases to \$30,000 in 2023, and to \$35,000 in 2024 and beyond. This change will provide substantial ongoing tax relief to 80,000 retirees, many of whom may stay in Maine instead of moving to a more tax friendly state.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions regarding these developments, or have any issues with state government that I can help with.

I appreciate the support I have received these past two years from constituents and the opportunity to serve you. Maine has a citizen legislature made up of people like you and me. That makes the opinions of the people back home of greater importance. I appreciate hearing from you.

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer.



Rep. Jim Thorne (R-Carmel)





Comprehensive Plan Committee

July 2022

The Town of Hermon has formed a Comprehensive Plan Committee to advise the Town Council regarding our next 10-year plan for the community as required by the State of Maine. See below for information about the process and useful links to scheduled meetings, agendas and recorded session videos:

What is a comprehensive plan?

A comprehensive plan requires community visioning and strategies for future success. Imagining how your community could be at its very best 10-20 years out and creating a viable plan to reach those goals is critical to well run municipalities and the entire region. It's about understanding the forces of change and working with them to achieve a better future. The most critical ingredient to forging a strong comprehensive plan is articulating a compelling vision that is achievable for the future, which requires taking a hard look at current policies and future trends, and a commitment to effective approaches likely to result in positive, measurable outcomes consistent with the community's overall goals.

Comprehensive plans are also the legal underpinning of zoning ordinances—intended to assure that the power of zoning is not used arbitrarily, unfairly, or without attention to identified and documented needs after considering current data and conditions. State of Maine requirements for any approved comprehensive plan are described in the *Maine Growth Management Act Title 30-A*.

Commonly addressed issues in comprehensive plans include:

- growth, both commercial and residential
- education and schools
- open space issues
- the environment
- economic development, economic diversification
- housing affordability
- elderly issues and services
- changing demographics
- recreational opportunities
- community image
- traffic, congestion
- regional concerns

What type of committee is this?

On April 28, 2022, the Hermon Town Council created an "Ad Hoc" committee as an advisory board to review the current 2010 Comprehensive Plan, and to provide guidance and recommendations regarding potential updates to the Town Council for consideration.

Who is on the committee?

The committee includes two members of the Town Council, one member of the School Committee, the Economic Development Director, Town's Assessor, Code Enforcement Officer and six members of the public. Committee members include: John Snyder, Ron Murphy, Scott Perkins, Josh Berry, Jessefa Murphy, Ed Marsh, Josh Pelletier, Kristan Rancourt, Gregory Newell, Russ Maynard, Deborah Langille and Richard Guthrie.

How do residents contribute ideas?

As part of the process of planning, a public participation program will be offered to residents including wide and varied ways to forward ideas for consideration. Before final acceptance, a public hearing will be advertised by the Town Council. Members of the public may attend meetings and give comments, please see the links below for schedules and meeting information:

<https://www.hermonmaine.gov/town-government/town-committees/comprehensive-plan-committee/>

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Hermon Animal Control

Katie Rogers, ACO

I wanted to take this opportunity to let residents know that I receive more than calls regarding people's pets.

Recently I have received 2 calls about a bear in two different locations. We live in a state where we share our yards with wildlife. While most of the time they leave us alone and go on their merry way, sometimes they tend to hang around. I can not do much about wildlife, but I can help get you in contact with people who can, and I can give some basic pointers to potentially help.

It is that time of the year when the bears are active and looking for food, from April 1st to November 1st. Here are some tips to keep them moving on and not hanging around your property. Please try some of these tips first and if they do not seem to be working, please call the Maine Warden Service at (207) 287-8000.

Keep pet food & trash inside or in fenced areas

Clean grills thoroughly after use

Take down your bird feeders and clean up any remains on the ground

Keep compost heaps and wood piles at the back end of your property. The food you place in a compost pile could attract a bear to the area, particularly strongly scented fruits like melons or pineapple. Wood piles can attract insects and small animals, which the bears will also eat.

Avoid putting strongly scented fruits in your compost area, as they will attract bears if you do.

People often inadvertently lure bears into their yards with food or just the scent of food. Garbage cans, compost piles, birdfeeders, barbecue grills, campfires and pet food dishes are irresistible to hungry bears. Once a bear finds a food source it will return again and again, looking for more food.

Sadly, a bear that becomes accustomed to human habitat may be hit by a car, or it may be labeled a "nuisance" and subsequently relocated or destroyed.

It's in everyone's best interest, including the bears to discourage human/bear interactions and keep bears in their wild habitat.



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Hermon HS Athletic Booster Redeemable Bins Relocated!!

The Hermon High School athletic booster club has moved their bottle redemption bins from the town office. They have been re-located to the Hermon High School baseball field parking lot. This parking lot is located directly inside the entrance to the high school on the right side. You will see them right next to the first small parking lot.

The Hermon High School Athletic boosters are a non-profit organization that provides financial support and parent volunteers to our HHS athletes. The funds that we raise go to purchase uniforms, supplies, buses and other athletic related support for our high school athletes that is not covered by the school budget. All funds raised are used directly for HHS athletic support.

A significant amount of our funds comes from these bottle redemption bins and would love to have even more donations! If you need more information or would like to volunteer to help out with the athletic boosters, please contact Susan Coxson the treasurer at HermonABCTreasurer@gmail.com.

