

## TAXES

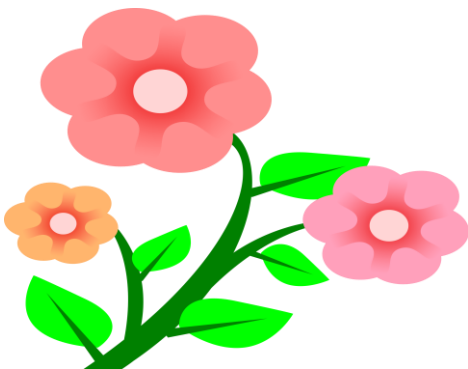
**Tax Collector**

**7 School Street  
603-588-2189**

**Mon - Thurs. 9-4**

- The town's tax rate is set by four jurisdictions: municipal, county, local education, & state education. The due date is set after the Department of Revenue Administration receives all the numbers.
- You can mail your payment to: Tax Collector, 7 School Street, #101, Bennington, NH 03441. Or, pay on line at [www.eb2gov.com](http://www.eb2gov.com)
- Catherine McGillicuddy is the Tax Collector and is happy to serve the residents of Bennington.
- You can reach Cathy at 603-588-2189 Monday through Thursday, 9am – 4 pm.

- Highway Department
- Water & Sewer Dept.
- Transfer Station
- Amateur Radio
- Police
- Selectboard
- Revaluation
- Fire Department
- Library
- Recreation
- Historical Society



# TOWN OF BENNINGTON NEWSLETTER

## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

**Bennington Highway Department  
200 North Bennington Road  
Bennington, NH 03442**

**Road Agent: Matt Blanchard**  
[mblanchard@townofbennington.com](mailto:mblanchard@townofbennington.com)



The Highway Department was very fortunate to submit a grant to the Clean Fleet Grant program. In doing so the town was able to obtain a new truck. The truck is a 2024 International CV515 Plow Truck. The town received 80% of the cost for the vehicle, which equated to \$134,160.00 from NHDES. The town also purchased a backhoe. Though it was not purchased through a grant, we did solidify a great deal with Milton Cat, the total cost of the backhoe was \$148,000.00. Both pieces of equipment have allowed us to get work done, escaping the many breakdowns and repairs that were needed in the past.

The highway crew has been busy all summer and appreciate the support of the residents.

## **WATER & SEWER COMMISSION**

The Bennington water and sewer commissioners have written a plan to increase rates in a manner that spreads out the increase over the next few billing cycles.

It is no secret that a town's infrastructure is its largest asset. As such, there are several associated costs. Bennington and Antrim have shared water and sewer infrastructure. We are each other's backup water source and Bennington owns 25% of the sewer plant in Antrim. The sewer is sent to Antrim via force main along Route 202. In the near future, the federal requirements to update the sewer lagoon will be mandated. Current cost estimates for a new sewer plant are 37 million dollars, Bennington's share to be approximately 9 million. The pump station on Starrett Road is due for rehabilitation and the commission needs to find a backup location for the water supply. Unfortunately, with the volatility in the market it has driven up the cost of annual maintenance and operation costs. Current rates are forcing nonusers (taxpayers) to pay for regular annual operations of the water & sewer system. Moving forward Bennington & Antrim commissioners will work together reviewing what increases are needed.

In 2021 the Select Board supported the water meter upgrade project and it was fully paid for by ARPA Funding. Bennington received approximately \$158,710.00 from ARPA Funding for the meter upgrade. There are still users who have not called to make an appointment to upgrade their meters, this is extending the project length. With this project we were able to lower operation costs on the water side of things. The new meters are radio read like Eversource meters. We no longer need to pay someone to walk the entire system to manually read meters.

As we head toward sustainability of the water and sewer system, the water sewer board and the town auditing firm, have encouraged a separate checking account from the town's financial accounts. We should be ready for that in 2025 quarter one.

If you have not upgraded your water meter, please contact either Zack Andersen or Matt Miller as soon as possible. 603-588-2433. You will continue to see an increased bill until you change your meter out.

## **TRANSFER STATION:**

It has been a busy summer at the Transfer Station on many levels. These warmer months have allowed for folks to get to those projects done at home, resulting in some extra items to roll through the Transfer Station. Also, you may have noticed the recycling building has been getting some needed maintenance done. As time allows, each outer wall is being replaced, as the weather has worn on the building over the years. With some "new" windows and soon to be fresh coat of paint the building will have a new breath of life to last us many more years.

We encourage you to touch base with us if you need any sort of help, or if you have any questions.

## **BENNINGTON'S MONTHLY AMATEUR RADIO FORUM:**

For several months now, we have been holding a forum for radio enthusiasts. There are educational talks and demonstrations with a special focus on guiding newly interested people in learning and getting licensed to get on the air.

People from Bennington and many of the surrounding towns have been in attendance. If you have any interest in radio communications, you are more than welcome to join us.

We meet on the first Tuesday of every month 7:00pm - 9:00pm at the VFW here in town.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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Curtis Dude  
N1CMD  
[curtis@curtis.org](mailto:curtis@curtis.org)  
603-547-7942

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Bennington Police Department hopes everyone is having a great Summer! A few updates at the Department; Officer Nicolas Cole has graduated the part-time Police Academy and is now in his Field Training Program. Officer Cole will be road ready by mid-September. Welcome Officer Cole! Sadly, this past June Officer Jeff Danforth moved from a full-time position to a part-time officer position with the Bennington PD to pursue a full-time career outside of police work. We are very appreciative of everything Officer Danforth gave to the Town and wish him the best in his new endeavor. Officer Hayley Minahan was selected to fill the vacant full-time position. Officer Minahan is very excited and has started the full-time Police Academy and is expected to be road ready by December.

Late last year, the Bennington Police Department applied for, and was awarded two Highway Safety Grants for speed equipment and speed patrols, which cover 75% of the costs. This past July, the Bennington Police Department used that grant and received 3 solar powered, digital speed signs which have been mounted on Route 202 and Route 31. These signs were placed to help deter speeding vehicles and also collect data that the Bennington PD can use to modify patrols in those areas.

The officers of the Bennington Police Department want to thank the townspeople for their continued support and we hope you continue to have a wonderful 2024.

## **SELECTBOARD**

The Town of Bennington is an SB-2 Town Meeting form of Government. The Selectboard operates the Town based upon the vote at the March Town Meeting.

The Selectboard meets on Mondays at 6:00 pm, unless otherwise scheduled.

**SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA:** Please call the Town Administrator by Noon the Thursday before a meeting if you want to meet with the Selectboard and be placed on their Agenda.

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES:** Minutes are available in “draft” at the Town Office if not yet posted on the website. Website posting is done only after they have been approved at a Selectboard Meeting by the Selectboard.

## **BENNINGTON 2024 REVALUATION**

In accordance with New Hampshire state law, the town of Bennington’s contract assessors have begun work on a town-wide Revaluation of all real property with an effective date of April 1, 2024.

The town’s last Revaluation was completed with an effective date of April 1, 2019. New Hampshire’s State Constitution (Part 2, Article 6) requires values anew, at least, once every 5 years.

Properties in Bennington are selling for historically high amounts. In 2022 the median sales ratio was calculated to be 65.2 % and in 2023 it was 51% and projected to be 47% in 2024. The purpose of the revaluation is to create an equitable distribution of the property taxes, and bring all properties in town to current market value.

The first phase of this process is visiting the properties and measuring to verify the data which was started in 2023. The next phase of the process is reviewing the market/arms-length sales (not foreclosures, distress, family sales etc) that have taken place over the last two years. An assessor from CNP has recently visited these sales that took place between January 1, 2022 and April 1, 2024. The assessing supervisor will now begin the task of updating the building tables to current market cost and analyzing the sales to determine the land values.

Once that process is complete the assessing supervisor will review all values in the town before letters are sent out to each taxpayer. Once the new values have been established and letters have been sent you will have an opportunity to speak with the assessor if you would like to discuss your new assessment.

Once that process is complete, the town with the assistance of the Department of Revenue, will set the tax rate based on the new assessed value and the current budget.

The new assessed values will be effective for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half 2024 tax bills.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

We have a few newly certified EMT's. The new AED's, that were approved at the 2024 Town Meeting are in the town buildings, and police vehicles.

### **IT'S THE LAW, FIRE PERMITS ARE REQUIRED!**

- Burning of category II and III Fires is allowed between 5:00PM and 9:00AM, unless it is actively raining.
- Landowner permission is required in writing to obtain a legal permit.
- Category I fires must be at least 25 feet from structures or other hazards.
- Category II and III fires must be at least 50 feet from structures or other hazards.
- You must obtain a seasonal permit for your fire pit or cooking fire annually.
- Brush piles require their own permit (you cannot use your seasonal permit), the permitted shall have sufficient water, tools and personnel necessary to control and completely extinguish the fire.
- Permissible materials are clean, untreated wood and brush 5 inches in diameter or less.
- **NO** domestic waste, treated wood or composite materials may be burned.
  - RSA -125N defines "combustible domestic waste" as, but not limited to, household trash, packaging materials, plastics, coated or laminated papers, rubber, painted or treated wood, coated or treated cardboard, oily rags and animal, vegetable, and kitchen waste.
- A complete copy of the laws and regulations can be found online and in person at the fire department.

Looking to get involved in your community? The Fire Department is always looking for new volunteers.



## LIBRARY

### STAFF

Leslie MacGregor-Director  
*dodglibrary1@comcast.net*

Melissa Searles – Assistant Director  
*dodglibrary2@comcast.net*

### LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Jill Wilmoth ~ Chair

Molly Eppig ~ Treasurer

Colleen Allen -Trustee

David McKenzie ~ Trustee Alternate

Rhonda Davie- Trustee Alternate and Bookkeeper

Laurie MacKeigan ~ Library Friends, Chairperson

Trustee Minutes available at the Library

The Library Trustee Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the Library, the time is 7:00 pm.

The G.E.P. Dodge Library, located at 2 Main Street ~ Bennington, NH 03442 also offers Free WiFi.

[www.dodglibrary.com](http://www.dodglibrary.com)

603-588-6585 ~ FREE WiFi ZONE!

THE LIBRARY IS CLOSED ON CONVAL

SCHOOL DISTRICT SNOW DAYS

### LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY- 9AM - 5PM

TUESDAY- 9AM - 5PM

THURSDAY- 12PM - 7PM

FRIDAY- 8AM - 4PM

SUNDAY- 4PM - 6PM

CURBSIDE PICK-UP SERVICE IS AVAILABLE

### TO SEARCH & RESERVE LIBRARY MATERIALS:

[dodglibrary.bliblionix.com](http://dodglibrary.bliblionix.com)

The library's catalog provides patrons with the ability to sign-in, search for & reserve materials from the GEP DODGE library's collection, LIBBY-NH /OVERDRIVE and the NHSL's collection for inter-library loan.

PLEASE call the library if you can not remember your library patron number OR password OR if you need a primer on how to use the catalog.

## **STORY TIMES AND BOOK GROUPS:**

### **Monday Mornings**

Preschool Story Time & Activity – 9:30 AM

Every Monday morning, except holidays and snow days

Monday, September 16 through Monday, November 18

This story time & activity is for children not yet in school. Infants and toddlers are welcome to attend;  
NO ONE is ever too young for a story time.

### **E'AGER READERS!**

Tuesdays, October 15, November 12, December 10

3:30 – 4:00 PM for Pre – K to 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Hear a story, make a craft, eat a snack.

### **THE GREAT STONE FACE BOOK GROUP**

Thursdays, October 17 & November 21

3:30 – 4:00 PM

The GSF book group is for readers in grades 4-6 who are interested in reading chapter books and discussing the books that they have read. The books for this group will be chosen from the annual NH Great Stone Face book list, sponsored by the NH Children's Librarians. The books are available before each meeting. The October book is available beginning Friday, September 20 and the November book will be available Friday, October 18.

### **1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN**

The concept is simple; read a book (any book) to your newborn, infant, and or toddler. The goal is to have read 1,000 books (yes you can repeat books!) before your child starts kindergarten. This activity promotes closeness with your child, increases their vocabulary, curiosity and understanding of their world. It also prepares them for lifelong learning.

### **500 BOOKS BEFORE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The concept of this program is simple; read OR listen to any book! The goal is to read 500 books before you start middle school (and yes, you can repeat books). If you read 2 books a week, you will have read 104 books in a year. That is 208 books in two years and 312 books in three years! You have more time than you think to complete the 500 Books Before Middle School challenge! Start at any time, and read at your own pace. Stop by the library to pick up your reading logs and a prize for every reading log you turn in.

### **100 BOOKS BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL**

Middle School Students are encouraged to sign-up and read 100 books before starting high school. Middle School patrons can start the summer before they begin fifth grade and finishing at the end of summer of their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. The goal is to develop a lifelong reading habit for leisure. There are no assigned books, no book reports, and no grades to worry about. Read whatever you want during middle school for the 100 Books Before High School challenge.

**October - Annual Halloween Party** – Friday, October 25, 2024 at 6:30 PM! Upstairs at the Town Hall. Costumes, treats, games and more. More Information coming later! Don't forget to stop by the Library to Trick or Treat on Thursday, October 31.

**November** – The Library will be closed on Monday, November 11 for Veteran's Day and November 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving.

**December** – Winter Holiday Party on Friday, December 6, 2024 at 6:30 pm upstairs at the Town Hall. Save this date for our WINTER HOLIDAY CELEBRATION. The celebration includes stories, songs, a holiday craft activity and usually, a VERY jolly special holiday guest!

9<sup>th</sup> Annual Gingerbread House Workshop – Tuesday, December 10, 2024 – 3:30 – 4:30 pm. Event to be held at the Library. Snacks & Drinks will be provided.

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Candy Cane Sled Race! Tuesday, December 17, 2024 – 3:30 – 4:30 pm. To be held at the Library.

### **DOWNLOAD THESE 2 GREAT APPS!**

**TUMBLEBOOKS!** – A FREE online/APP database of picture books, youth chapter books, Math picture books, Math chapter books, games, puzzles & foreign language instruction!

**LIBBY** – (NH Downloadable Books Consortium) – Audio books, E-books & Periodicals for adults & children. Check-out the updated Libby Periodical format! They are easier to download and read than ever before!

### **FOR ALL AGE GROUPS:**

Audio books on CD, Movies on DVD & Blu-ray, periodicals, games and puzzles AND of course, BOOKS!

Inter-library loan from ALL NH Libraries, colleges and universities., FREE services available at the Library through our website & online catalog: [www.dodgeliibrary.com](http://www.dodgeliibrary.com)

Catalog: [dodgeliibrary.biblionix.com](http://dodgeliibrary.biblionix.com) Reference sites that include: EBSCOhost Databases: medical, genealogical-Ancestry & Heritage & student resources – Explora & Explora K-8, Novelist and Novelist K-8.

24/7 WI-FI, Public Access Computers, a FAX machine, a Color & Black / White photocopier, public information bulletins & brochures, IRS tax forms, delivery to home bound patrons and curbside service upon request.

### **REMINDERS**

The library is closed on National Holidays & ConVal snow days. Please check our website, our library Facebook & Instagram pages and WMUR TV for any additional information and closing dates.





## RECREATION

Melissa Clark, Shelly Griswold and Justin Drew came before the Board of Selectmen and asked to get involved with the recreation activities. The Selectmen welcomed them and further appointed them as a Recreation Committee. They had their first meeting on August 7, 2024 and have come up with some fun activities. They have created a Facebook page - **Bennington NH Recreation** – they ask that residents join the group on Facebook. The Committee is open to new ideas and suggestions and ask that you use this forum as a means to start to communication.

Activities the Recreation Committee will be supporting are:

Sunday, August 25 from 2:00 – 4:00 they will be sponsoring an “End of summer at Whittemore Lake” event. They will have ice cream, a sandcastle contest, swimming games and more.

Other events they will be working on are Trunk or Treat at Newhall Field, a haunted hayride, a Christmas parade, Tree lighting and movie night. Again, if there are any programs you would like to see in Bennington, please message the Bennington NH Recreation Facebook page.



## HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Historical Society is open 10-12 on Saturdays. Please stop by to see how our little town came to be and the many transitions thru the years. Interested in joining? Stop by, call or message on Facebook as we'd love to have you. Single memberships are \$25/yr.

The Historical Society is hosting an Ice Cream Social at the Gazebo on Sunday, September 1, 2024 between the hours of 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. There will be live music by White Mountain Rounders.

