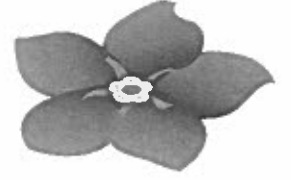


# Town of South Thomaston



## JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER



### 2022 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The 2022 Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at the Ash Point Community School, 54 Ash Point Drive, Owls Head, Maine.

In addition to acting upon the FY 23 budget, voters will be asked to elect for 3-year terms the town's representative to the Board of Directors of Regional School Unit #13 and a Selectperson to replace Walter Reitz, who having served for six and a half years, chose not to seek reelection. Brad Choyt submitted nomination papers for the RSU 13 Directors position and Sue Snow has done so for the Selectboard position.

A few other matters of interest, briefly summarized below, would authorize the Selectboard to:

- Amend the lease between the Town and the Historical Society granting use of the Little Red School House to the society, now that the Library has moved to the former Gilford Butler School.
- Form a non-profit cooperation to solicit funding to plan for and construct a library and community center at the site of the former Gilford Butler School.
- Purchase a new tanker and utility truck for the Fire Department at a cost of up to \$850,000 and to approve how the purchase would be funded.

Additionally, voters will be asked to:

- Consider enacting an Ordinance governing the storage of solid waste and junk.
- Appropriate up to \$7,500 from the boat excise reserve fund to be donated to the Maine Lobstermen's Association Legal Defense Fund to Save Maine Lobstermen.

More information regarding these matters can be obtained by contacting Town Administrator Terri Baines at 596-6584 or at [terri@souththomaston.me](mailto:terri@souththomaston.me).

### Introducing New Town Staff

Like many businesses and organizations, the Town has been facing difficulties recruiting and retaining staff. With the recent hiring of St. George resident **Crystal Burch**, it is hoped that stability will once again return to the town office service counter, which has been lacking since the retirement of Michelle Ames in February of 2019. Thanks to Michelle for helping out on several occasions.

South Thomaston resident **Dan Dates** was hired on November 30, 2021, as Code Enforcement Officer and Local Plumbing Inspector. This position in particular had been a revolving door and it is hoped that Dan will learn the ropes and be a fixture into the future. Thanks go out to Terry Brackett, St. George CEO/LPI, for serving as interim in South Thomaston on three different occasions.

The town also recently hired **Troy Peasley** as Animal Control Officer who also serves as Owls Head ACO. Thanks to William Demmons for subbing while we had vacancies.

On the other side of the instability coin, long time Road Commissioner **Gerald Grierson** resigned effective last January 1<sup>st</sup>. Gerry had served as Road Commissioner for nearly 40 years. Selectboard member John Spear has been serving as Interim Road Commissioner on an uncompensated basis.

125 Spruce Head Road, P.O. Box 147, South Thomaston, ME 04858  
Website: [souththomaston.me](http://souththomaston.me) Phone: 596-6584

# TOWN OF SOUTH THOMASTON NEWSLETTER

## 2021 –2022 TOWN REPORT

In an effort to save both printing and mailing costs – as well as a few trees and staff time - the Selectboard has decided to discontinue the practice of mailing town reports to all taxpayers. In the past a lot of the printed reports were just thrown away and in this electronic day and age printing and mailing copies just seems like a poor use of resources. Town reports will be on the town website, hopefully in a printable form. In this first year 400 copies will be printed and available for pick up at the Town Office. Hardcopies of the Annual Town Meeting warrant will be passed out at the town meeting.

## ISLAND ROAD PROJECT AND PAVING

The project to raise the elevation of two sections of Island Road - one section near the lobster pound and the other at the intersection with Village Road - is planned to start within the next few weeks. Once the work on the elevation changes is completed the entire road will be paved. At least one lane of the road will remain open, but minor delays should be anticipated.

### Volunteers Needed

Individuals interested in an appointment to the Planning or Appeals Board, Budget, or Ordinance Review Committee or the Conservation Commission are urged to contact the Town Office for more information.

### Town E-Mail List

The Town has an email list to electronically mail meeting notices, agendas and other information. If you would like to be added to the electronic distribution list please send an email to: [terri@souththomaston.me](mailto:terri@souththomaston.me)

### TOWN OFFICE 2022 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

2022 Holidays	Date Observed
New Year's Day .....	December 31, 21
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day .....	January 17
President's Day .....	February 21
Patriots Day .....	April 18
Memorial Day .....	May 30
Juneteenth.....	June 20
Independence Day .....	July 4
Labor Day.....	September 5
Indigenous Peoples Day .....	October 10
Veterans Day .....	November 11
Thanksgiving Day.....	November 24
Christmas Day .....	December 26

### Library News

The Library is happily occupying its new spacious location at the Gilford Butler Center! The Library is open on Saturdays 10-2, Mondays 10-4 and Wednesdays 2-7. Story Hour will be starting this summer.

Yoga is at 10am and the ballet barre workout is at 7pm on Wednesdays at the Learning Center. The Fiber Arts/crafting group is meeting on Thursdays 4-7 in the Maker Space. Mahjong is on Friday's 1-4pm. Jane Jackson is serving coffee and cribbage in the Community Room every Saturday, 10-12.

### Overdue Tax Payments Second Half of 2021/22

The second half of the 2021/22 property tax payment was due April 1, 2022. As of the writing 108 properties still have not paid this second installment. As this was the first-year property taxes were due in two installments – October 1<sup>ST</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> – we have learned that many people simply forgot they had a second half payment due on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Reminder letters were mailed out on April 21, 2022 but it appears some people still haven't gotten the word. Interest began accruing on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30 day delinquent notices – which will add to the amount due - will be mailed out on June 16, 2022.

### ADDRESS CHANGE

Please notify us if your mailing address changes.

## VOTERS TO BE ASKED TO APPROVE FIRE TRUCK PURCHASES

At the June 28, 2022 Town Meeting the voters of South Thomaston will be asked to authorize the expenditure of up to \$850,000 to purchase two new fire trucks, in accordance with the apparatus replacement plan the Selectboard and Fire Department put in place several years ago.

The first apparatus to be replaced is a 1992 International tanker. This is the Department's main water supply truck. It carries 2,200 gallons of water to supply the "first due truck" during the initial fire attack. No other truck in the Department carries anywhere near this amount of water. Over the past two years it has needed major repairs to remain operable and safe. Finding parts is becoming nearly impossible. It is hoped it will remain operable until a replacement truck is in service.

The second truck to be replaced is a 2000 Ford F350 with a 1976 utility body. This truck is used to haul the Department's forestry and boat trailers and carries all miscellaneous equipment that the main apparatus cannot carry. Additionally, it is used to transport personnel, thus limiting congestion caused by personal vehicles driven to the fire scene.

The Covid pandemic has limited the availability of fire apparatuses and caused prices to increase drastically. Consequently, these two trucks will be a year and a half to two years out for delivery, once an order is placed with a manufacturer. The Department is urging the voters of South Thomaston to pass this article so orders can be placed as soon as possible.

The Department has applied for and is still in the running to receive a grant of up to \$600,000 that would fund a significant part of this expenditure. Hopefully it will be known before Town Meeting if we will receive grant. If the grant is awarded the balance required to complete the purchases would be funded by the town's Fire Truck reserve account, which currently contains approximately \$245,000. If the grant is not awarded the expenditure would be funded by the current reserve along with additional contributions to the reserve between now and delivery and by borrowing approximately \$438,000. There will be a public information meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Fire Station to explain and answer questions on this article.

## ELECTION JUNE 14, 2022

Primary and RSU #13 Budget Validation and Referendum Election.  
Polls are open 8 am to 8 pm at the Municipal Building.

### TENNIS AND BASKETBALL COURTS

One of the tennis courts behind the Town Office is open for play. It's not perfect, but it's usable. The basketball court is open for play as well. The second tennis court remains closed. There is pickle ball net available for public use in the red topped plastic tote at the tennis court. A pickle ball court is lined on one side of the open tennis court. Please put the net back in the tote when you are done with it and make sure the cover is secured tightly. Have fun.

The project to repair the tennis courts is on hold. The town received no bids for this work. Likely bidders indicated that due to staff shortages their schedules for this season are already booked.

Additionally, these specialty contractors expressed concerns that simply patching the cracks in the tennis courts, which has been done twice before over the years, will not be effective and the cracks are just going to reappear. In light of this information, the plan concerning how to repair the courts is being reevaluated. More to follow.

### SKATEBOARD PARK

The Jake Paquette Memorial Skatepark, at the site of the former Gilford Butler School, is in need of relatively extensive repairs. At a recent meeting with Jon and Pam Paquette a tentative plan regarding the future of the park was discussed and subsequently endorsed by Selectboard on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

The plan would be to "refocus" the park towards younger children. It includes demolishing the two largest ramps and attempting to repair the other two, removing the fence and bringing in fill, which would be loamed and seeded, to raise the ground to the height of the concrete slab. Some new skateboard apparatuses would be purchased or made.

It is hoped that a lot of this work will be done with volunteer labor and equipment, however cash donations would be most welcome. To volunteer or to make a donation, contact Terri Baines at 596-6584 at [terri@souththomaston.me](mailto:terri@souththomaston.me).

# TOWN OF SOUTH THOMASTON NEWSLETTER

## Library & Community Center Facility Committee

Good news! The Library & Community Center Committee is working with the Selectboard to create a non-profit corporation – the South Thomaston Library and Community Center Auxiliary. The Committee supports warrant Article 7 asking the voters at Town Meeting to authorize this non-profit entity for the purpose of raising funds for a new library and community center building at the site of the former Gilford Butler School. A non-profit allows the committee to pursue the large grants necessary to make this project a reality. Come to Town Meeting on June 28, 7 pm, at Ash Point Community School, and please vote YES on Article 7.

## Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission had a busy month in May. We held a roadside cleanup on May 21<sup>st</sup> which included 12 volunteers and produced a huge bag of refundable aluminum cans that we will redeem for funds to buy supplies for our next cleanup. Many thanks to Pennie Alley for providing vests and other supplies and allowing us to stage at the library.

We also had our first public program on May 26 at the Historical Society which was well attended. Theo and Wes Pratt presented a slide show on the Weskeag River. In addition to tracing the course of the river from Rockland to South Thomaston, they talked about how the river is used by humans and important to wildlife. Many thanks to the Historical Society for providing this opportunity.

The Commission is collecting suggestions from the community for future educational programs and will have a survey sheet available at the annual town meeting.

### Selectboard

John Spear, Chair	596-3545
Walter Reitz	594-2275
Jeff Northgraves	593-9194

### Town Administrator, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, & General Assistance Admin.

Terri-Lynn Baines	596-6584
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### Deputy Clerk, Treasurer, Tax Collector, and Registrar

Phil Verrill	596-6584
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### Assistant Clerk

Crystal Burch	596-6584
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### Code Enforcement Officer/Local Plumbing Inspector

Dan Dates	701-1750
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### Assessor's Agent

RJD — Kevin McCormick	596-6584
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### Fire Department: Emergency Dial 911

Bryan Calderwood, Fire Chief	596-6674
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David Elwell, Deputy Chief	542-4797
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Gerald Harjula, Assistant Chief	354-8026
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*All 3 are Fire Wardens and can issue burning permits*

### Ambulance Service: Emergency Dial 911

Amy Drinkwater, Director	593-9380
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David Elwell, Assistant Director	593-9380
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Carrie Adams, Assistant Director	593-9380
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### Emergency Management Director

Betty Thomas	594-7873
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### Animal Control Officer (ACO)

Troy Peasley	390-5410
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### E-911 Coordinator

Arthur Grierson	594-8873
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### Interim Road Commissioner :

John Spear	596-3545
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### Library Director

Pennie Alley	594-7416
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### Cemetery Overseer

Pennie Alley	594-7416
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### RSU # 13 Superintendent

John MacDonald	596-6620
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### RSU # 13 Board of Directors Representative

Brad Choyt	Bchoyt@rsu13.org
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### Budget Committee

Moira Paddock, Chair, Bob Baines, Beverly St. Clair, Camille Minikis, Katie Green, Linda Maltais, Sondra Wallace

### Planning Board

Ervin Curtis, Chair, Gabe Tomasulo, Catherine Bendheim, Cindi Ginn

### Board of Appeals

Rolf Winters, Richard Rackliff and Eileen Skarka

### Library and Community Center Facility Committee

Sandy Weisman, Gabe Tomasulo, Candice Smith, Marcia Turner, Maureen Spencer, Anne Just, Moira Paddock, Pennie Alley (ex-officio)

### Conservation Commission

Theo Pratt, Sondra Wallace, Catherine Bendheim, Linda Garat, Leslie Spear, Henry Spencer, Eileen Skarka

### Solid Waste Committee

Walter Reitz	594-0025
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Gordon "Skip" Connell	594-1801
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### Georges River Shellfish Warden

Jeff Schroeder

### Georges River Shellfish Board Members

John Spear, Kearney Neagle (alternate)

### Georges River Shellfish Committee Members

Kearney Neagle, Travis Fogg