

The Official Newsletter of the Town of Stockton Springs

December 2024



The Giving Tree is up and ready for visitors. The tree is a place for people to bring new, unwrapped gifts for children (don't forget the teenagers), and also a place for those who are in need of help with Christmas shopping for their children to find a few items.





SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Town's second ambulance is in disrepair and no longer can receive an inspection sticker. Approval of this ballot question would authorize the purchase of a new ambulance. The \$125,000 that would come from the General Fund was previously approved at Town Meeting for the purchase of property for an emergency services building, but that purchase is no longer planned. Passage of this ballot question would allow the Select Board to instead use that \$125,000 towards the purchase of the ambulance. The question to be voted on reads as follows:

Shall the Town vote to (1) authorize the appropriation of a sum not to exceed Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) for the acquisition of an ambulance and (2) authorize the funding of this appropriation as follows: (a) One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) from the Ambulance Replacement Reserve, (b) up to One Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$140,000) from the General Fund, (C) Thirty Three, Five Hundred and Eighty Five Dollars and Forty Seven Cents (\$33,585.47) from ARPA Funds, and (D) authorize the Treasurer and Selectboard to fund the remaining amount of up to One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) by issuing general obligation securities in the name of the Town on such terms as the Treasurer of the Town and the Selectboard determines are necessary and proper pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A. § 5772 and other applicable Maine law, including fixing the date(s), maturity(ies), denomination(s), interest rate(s), place(s) of payment, premium(s), call(s), for redemption with or without premium, form(s) and other details of said bonds and notes, and to provide for the sale thereof?

Financial Statement Relating to Article ____:

1. Total Town Indebtedness:

a.	Bonds outstanding and unpaid:	\$0.00
b.	Bonds authorized and unissued:	\$0.00
c.	Bonds to be issued if this question is approved	1

Total:	\$0.00
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2. Estimated Costs:

At an estimated maximum interest rate of 2.85919% and with an estimated maximum term of ten (10) years, the estimated cost of this bond issue will be:

Total Bond Principal:	\$ Up to 125,000
Total Estimated Interest:	\$ Up to \$27,579.69
Total Estimated Debt Service:	\$ Up to \$152,579.69
Estimated Annual Payments: Ranges from \$4,124.68 to \$14,848.31.	

3. Validity: The validity of the bonds and of the voters' ratification of the bonds may not be affected by any errors in the above estimates. If the actual amount of the total debt service for the bond issue varies from the estimate, the ratification by the electors is nevertheless conclusive and the validity of the bond issue is not affected by reason of the variance.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GRANT COMMITTEE UPDATE

The items being included in the Community Action Grant proposal are:

- *Energy Audit on Town Hall, Fire, and Ambulance buildings.
- *Replacement of the Town Hall's back door with one that meets handicap accessibility requirements.
- *Solar panels on the Town Hall's roof.
- *Community Garden at the Walter Trundy Memorial Park located at the intersection of Harris Road and Route 1.
- *Videoconferencing technology to allow online meetings.

The proposal will be submitted mid-December, and we should receive notification in March 2025 whether it is approved. We hope to move forward organizing the community garden this winter.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Stockton Springs Select Board has formed two new committees, a Comprehensive Plan Committee and a Community Benefits Agreement Committee.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee will be reviewing our outdated Comprehensive Plan, which is supposed to be updated and approved by the Town and by the State every ten years.

The Community Benefits Agreement Committee will be responsible for negotiating with the company that eventually builds the wind turbine facility in Searsport to obtain financial benefits for the Town from the project.

There are still many vacancies on the Town's other committees, including the Planning Board, Shellfish Committee, Cemetery Committee, Board of Assessment Review, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer for any of these committees, send an email to manager@stocktonsprings.org.

BINGO!

Bingo is hosted by the Stockton Springs Community Builders on the second Tuesday of each month from 5:30 to 7 p.m., on the basement level of the Stockton Springs Town Office. Informal “prizes” are awarded.

[Open To All Ages!](#)

Prepare to be Caroled

Students from the Stockton Springs Elementary School will be outside the Stockton Town Office on Tuesday, December 17 at 1 p.m., to sing a few carols for anyone assembled there.



Do not forget the jigsaw puzzle exchange, located in the lobby of the Town Office. The Stockton Library also hosts a jigsaw puzzle exchange.

Two New Clubs at Stockton Library

Cookbook Club

If you like to cook or just enjoy reading recipes, the Stockton Springs Community Library invites you to their once-a-month potluck. The first meeting will be Friday, December 20 at 7 p.m. at the library. Registration for this club can be done through the library. For more information, contact Jerry Dunn at geraldldunn@yahoo.com.

Coffee 'N' Cards

The Stockton Library invites you to drop in for games, coffee and conversation with the Coffee and Cards Club. Games such as Scrabble, Chicken Foot and various card games will be played, and participants are invited to bring their own games (BYOG) such as chess, checkers, cribbage, etc. The first gathering will be on Thursday, December 19 at 9:30 a.m. at the library. All are welcome.

How The Grinch Stole Christmas

The Stockton Springs Community Library invites you to watch Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas, to be shown on Friday, November 29 at 6:30. There will be a craft activity, snacks, and a special guest!

For more information, contact the Stockton Library at 567-4147 or check their website at www.stocktonspringslibrary.org.

Make and Take Lego Club

The Stockton Springs Community Library's Make and Take Lego Club meets from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month unless there is a holiday. The focused age group is 4-10, but all children are welcome to come build a Lego creation and then take it home to enjoy with friends and family.

For more information, call SSCL at 567-4147 or visit www.stocktonspringlibrary.org.

Story Time at The Library

Story Time will at the Stockton Springs Community Library is on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 10 o'clock, for ages 3 and up.

For more information, call SSCL at 567-4147 or visit www.stocktonspringlibrary.org.

Knitting and Crafting Group

Be sure to join the Knitting and Crafting Group at the Stockton Springs Community Library. Their meetings this month will be Wednesday, December 11 and December 18.

This is a “Drop-In” group that meets from 6 to 8 p.m.

Enroll your child to receive a free book each month!



Waldo County parents and caregivers:
You can inspire your child's love of reading with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.



How It Works:

- Great news, the Imagination Library program is now available for all infants, toddlers and preschoolers in Waldo County!
- Go to imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability (or use the QR code below). to register your child. It's free and easy!
- In 6-8 weeks, your child will receive their first book in the mail, 'The Little Engine That Could.'
- Books will continue to arrive in the mail monthly until your child's 5th birthday.

Easy to Enroll!



Scan this code to enroll your child in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. It's free and easy!



Questions? Contact your local public librarian!

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Maine



Winter Tai Chi in Stockton Come Join Us!

We will practice tai chi this winter at the town office and via Zoom. Please join us for exercise and comradery. All levels are welcome, from beginners to experienced.

Tuesdays and Fridays
9:30 to 11

Please call the library (567.4147) and we will put you on our email list and send you additional information.

Proudly Sponsored by the Town of Stockton Springs and the Stockton Springs Community Library.

Sandy Point Community Club

The Community Club Team is excited to share that the interior work phase began this fall! They say “Thank You” for the donations supporting our renovation - it’s a long journey and we continue to need every interested supporter. To that end, they are offering a rewrite of Earle and Marjorie Brooks 1994 Journey from Meeting House Hill to Gondola Cove. This booklet takes you down Sandy Point Road and along Perkins Street with black and white photographs in collage. It includes a map which can be walked in about 45 minutes. Should you wish a copy, contact board member Marty Stamp : marthastamp@gmail.com

Stockton Springs Historical Society

The following message comes from the Stockton Springs Historical Society:

The historical society has received a number of large donations in the last few years. These donations have provided many important items in regard to the town’s history and families. However, it takes time to catalog, archive and store these large donations. With a limited number of volunteers we have fallen behind in getting this work completed, especially since we do not work through the winter months as it is usually too cold in our work rooms. Therefore, until further notice, we are only accepting donations of items that will fit in a filing cabinet unless the society has already accepted an item but it has not been delivered. We are sorry to have to temporarily stop accepting donations. We are glad that so many people are interested in preserving the town’s history, but these items are of little use if we don’t know what we have or if they are not stored appropriately. We welcome other volunteers to help with processing donations. Thank you for your understanding.



The Stockton Springs Fire Department responded to the report of a wildfire off Green Valley Road on November 9.







The Town Office's parking lot came alive with children of all ages on Halloween night at a Trunk or Treat event sponsored by the Stockton Springs Community Builders.



PREPARING FOR VETERANS DAY IN STOCKTON SPRINGS



Members of the Stockton Springs Parks Committee, along with other community volunteers, spent time on Thursday, November 7 preparing Veterans Park in the center of town for the Veterans Day ceremony.



The Veterans Day ceremony was held on Monday, November 11.



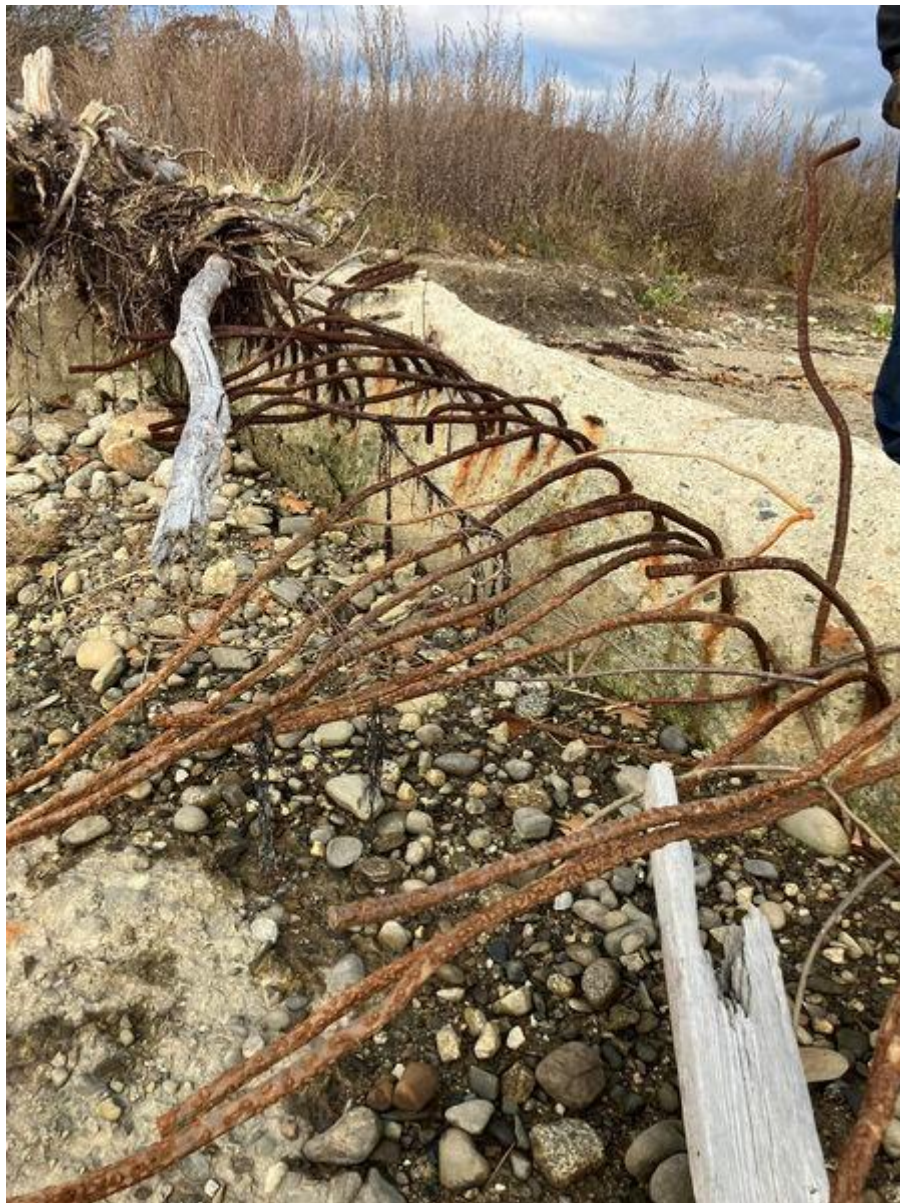
PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

A busy Stockton Springs Public Works Department has been working on projects big and small as they prepare for the upcoming winter weather. Below are the two signs they were able to secure – at no cost to the Town – from the Maine Department of Transportation.



Another project has been the cutting and removal of old rebar down at Sandy Point Beach, a relic of when that area was a thriving center of ship-building and shipping, and later a fertilizer plant.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



SANDY POINT BEACH PARK GUIDELINES

Sandy Point Beach Park is a state property, managed by the Town of Stockton Springs. It is for day use only. There are no lifeguards, and visitors swim at their own risk. Fires are by Town Permit ONLY, which can be obtained at the Town Office Mon-Thurs, 207-567-3404, from the Fire Chief at 207-944-2060, or on-line at <http://www.burningpermit.com>. The paper permit must be on one's person at the fire scene. Fireworks are prohibited in public places by Maine State law.

- Trash is carry-in-carry-out. Please help us by picking up any litter.
- Dogs should be leashed or otherwise under control at all times. Please be considerate: pick up after your dog.
- Respect wildlife, and leave plants for everyone to enjoy.
- Please dismantle any fire rings or “rock art” before you leave.
- Please do not climb up or down the bluffs and banks along the shore, as it will hasten erosion.
- The trails are for pedestrian and wheelchair use only. Please no ATV's, motorbikes, motorcycles, or bicycles.

FREE RABIES CLINIC

SPONSORED BY WALDO COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

with Dr. Chris and Dr. Sarah from LRVH



ANIMAL SHELTER DONATIONS

The Stockton Town Office is a drop-off location for a donation drive being held to benefit local animal shelters. Any donations can be delivered to the town office, 217 Main Street, between 9 -5 Monday through Thursday.

Items Needed:

Lysol wipes and sprays

Sponges

Cat litter

Kitten chow

Dry and wet (pate) cat food

Dry and wet dog food

Dog and cat toys

Used towels and blankets (no pillows or sheets).

The Bucksport Animal Shelter can always use monetary donations or donations of food or other supplies. This non-profit shelter is used by the Town of Stockton Springs for our animal-control needs. Donations can be dropped off at the Stockton Town Office during regular business hours. The shelter can be reached directly at 307-8090, or bucksportanimalshelter@gmail.com.

TRANSPORTATION

Waldo County Action Partners provides transportation services to residents of Waldo County through their MidCoast Public Transportation and MidCoast Connector Maine Care transportation programs. These services provide access for community members to medical services, work, shopping, social events and more.

For more information, please visit their website at

<https://waldocap.org/WCAP-programs/transportation-services/>

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 20
Searsport · Stockton Springs

Office of the Superintendent
6 Mortland Road
Searsport ME 04974
Telephone: (207) 548-6643 Fax: (207) 548-2310

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE 2024-
2025**

December 10, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Central Office

January 14, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Central Office January 28,
2025 Regular Board Meeting Central Office

February 11, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Central Office February
25, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Central Office

March 11, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Central Office March 25,
2025 Regular Board Meeting Central Office

April 8, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Central Office

May 13, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Central Office May 27, 2025
Regular Board Meeting Central Office

June 11, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Central Office June 24, 2025
Regular Board Meeting Central Office

The Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month
(*with the exception of June 11, 2025-Wednesday)

All regular meetings begin at 6:30 PM

Finance Committee Meetings precede the first Board Meeting of each month at 6:00 PM

Dates and Locations are Subject to Change

Merchandise is now available for sale at the Town Office, purchased by donation and with proceeds going to the Town's Beautification Fund, which receives no taxpayer funding.



Keep The Heat On

Donations are always welcomed for the Keep The Heat On Fund, which is used to assist economically challenged Stockton residents with their heating bill during the winter. Donations can be mailed to or dropped off at the Town Office, 217 Main Street. Thank you in advance.

Notices:

The Town Office will be closing at 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve and will reopen Monday, December 30 at 9 a.m.

General Information:

The Stockton Springs Town Office is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please visit our website at www.stocktonsprings.org. Our phone number is 567-3404. Our fax number is 567-3710. Trash is picked up every Friday. All trash should be curbside by 7:00 a.m. Recycling is the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Please have recycling curbside by 7:00 a.m. E- waste is the last Saturday of each month.

Thank you for taking the time to read the Official Newsletter of the Town of Stockton Springs, Maine! If you know anyone who would like to subscribe to the newsletter, just have them send an email to manager@stocktonsprings.org with the word “Subscribe” in the heading.



The abominable snowman is back to wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season.



SANDY POINT BEACH AT SUNRISE