

THE BRIDGE

Fall 2019
Norridgewock, Maine

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townofnorridgewock.com

Host Community Agreement Revisited Increased Rates Negotiated in Town's Favor

Waste Management announced its intention to expand the current facility in Norridgewock; as a part of this plan to expand, the company must negotiate a host community agreement with the Town. Negotiations for the new contract began in May and lasted five months. The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to sign the revised contract, which means the Town will receive increased host fees as a result of waste being disposed of at Waste Management.

Effective January 1, 2020, the Town's benefit per ton will increase from \$1.70 per ton to \$2.50 per ton. For perspective, in the first nine months of 2019, the Town collected \$484,492.53. With the increased rate, that would have amounted to \$712,489.03. In addition to the base rate, the Town was able to successfully negotiate the inclusion of revenue-generating cover (RGC) into what the Town is paid for. The \$0.50 per ton payment would have amounted to an increase of approximately \$64,120 in the same period.

Rates will increase again when Waste Management has completed the local, state, and federal permitting processes. The final significant increase will take place when the company begins disposing of waste into Phase 14, the expanded portion of the facility. Each year after, host fees will increase by 3% until the per ton rate reaches \$5.00. After reaching \$5 per ton, the per ton host fee will increase by 1% annually.

As with previous agreements, Waste Management will continue to offer the use of the resident transfer station for a total cost of \$1 per year to Norridgewock residents. There were no specific Town projects itemized in the agreement. Legal fees for the cost of negotiations will be reimbursed to the Town, a technical assistance fund remains intact, but the reimbursed funds for Betterment Road maintenance have ceased.

The agreement will last the life of Phase 14 or until another substantive change to the operations takes place, which requires a renegotiation of the current agreement. ★



LIBRARY – CHEWONKI OWLS EVENT • Chewonki Foundation's Traveling Natural History Program was brought to Norridgewock by the Library Trustees. The program is educational and offers people of all ages an opportunity to meet these animal ambassadors.

Library Hosts Events, Fundraisers Book Sale Planned for November 2, beginning at 10am

The Norridgewock Public Library held a bake sale in September to help raise money to benefit the American Childhood Cancer Organization. Many baked goods were donated as the library observed Childhood Cancer Month, an observance set forth by proclamation of the Board of Selectmen. The library wishes to thank all who came and made a purchase, as well as those generous individuals who donated baked goods and/or monies for the project: Ruth Keister, Diane Cates, Sallie Wilder, Becky Ketchum, Roger & Maryann Collard, Jim & Dawn Smith, and Ainslie's Market. Over \$100 was raised to support the cause.

In late September, the Trustees welcomed back the Chewonki Foundation as they hosted *Owls of Maine* at the grange hall. The event was well-attended by people of all ages; there was no cost for admission.

The library works to organize the collection and maintain a current selection of books, there are always titles that are de-acquisitioned. These de-acquisitioned titles will be offered to the public at a book sale planned for Saturday, November 2, beginning at 10:00 am at Mercer Road Library.

Recent themes at the library have celebrated Oosoola Days, Indigenous Peoples' Day, Maine Forest Products Week, and Halloween. Stop on in and "Check Us Out"—you never know what you'll find! ★ RW

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Plus **research tools** for students of all ages!

Learning tools for **language learning, auto repair and computer skills.**

Test preparation, skills building and legal forms.

<https://library.digitalmaine.org>

Find it all in the Digital Maine Library, something for everyone.

Join us for the 3rd annual **Tree Lighting and**



Saturday, December 14, 2019

3:00 PM

More information available soon. Check out the event on Facebook.

Are you a business or organization that wants to be involved?

Contact Kerri Everett at 634-6061 (8a-5p) or 612-9303

Upcoming Crafts & Treasures Expo

Somerset Grange Hosts Event on November 23

The Grange is holding its annual Craft and Treasures Exposition at the Grange Hall (9 Mercer Rd.) on Saturday, November 23 (Saturday before Thanksgiving). The show will feature an array of artisan works, specialty foods, and "treasure" tables (antiques, collectibles, seasonal items, and more). All in all, a great place to browse and get a head-start on holiday shopping! Bring a friend and enjoy a nice homemade chowder lunch and/or take home something sweet from the grange bake sale table. The show will run from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. ★ RK



New Fire Truck Arrives



STOPS BY GILLETTE STADIUM FOR UNIQUE PHOTOGRAPH • On Wednesday, October 16, Fire Chief David Jones and his team of firefighters welcomed Minuteman Fire & Rescue Apparatus at the Upper Main Street station to take delivery of the new 2020 Freightliner Pierce Truck. The truck replaces the 1989 FMC Pumper Truck.

Tax Bill Survey Returns Community Insights

Working Group Continues with Community Revitalization Plan

A working group of residents and small businessowners in Norridgewock has been collaborating with consultants from Wright-Pierce Engineering to develop a Community Revitalization Plan. This plan will ultimately create a pathway forward for local economic development, giving extraordinary consideration to the positions of stakeholders in Norridgewock— primarily residents and taxpayers.

As a part of this development plan, a survey was mailed out with all tax bills to seek feedback with regards to Town priorities, consumer demand, market opportunities, and what the people of Norridgewock see as the best path forward for revitalization. In addition to the survey that was delivered in tax bills, the Town was grateful to New Balance for their support of a survey customized for New Balance employees. This allowed the working group to gather a perspective of the over-300 employees who come to work in downtown Norridgewock daily.

What did we find out? From the taxpayer survey, responses were compiled. As shown on the right, most of the priorities set forth by respondents focused on enhanced support for local businesses. These responses were further examined at a second public forum where residents were given eight dots and asked to rank projects/priorities based on their importance. This project was interactive and created an enhanced level of priority within the initial findings.

An interesting component of the survey asked respondents what new businesses one would like to see (new or more of) in the community. Top responses were: hardware store, restaurants, drugstore, and fitness center. While these aren't exclusionary, the list provides insight as to potential demand within the local market.

Where do we go from here? The consulting firm, Wright-Pierce, is working to analyze the information and provide suggestions to the Town as to how we move forward. They will be identifying priority projects and connecting the community with various funding sources to assist in completing projects. The timeline goal is to solidify the plan for the upcoming budget season so that taxpayers may be able to consider initial proposals at the 2020 Town Meeting. Already considered for funding has been lighting upgrades in the downtown area to install more current lighting options, while converting lights to the more efficient LED style. ★

COMMUNITY SURVEY PRIORITIES

- ✓ Attract/Keep more stores and other services in community
- ✓ Increase the support of local businesses from residents of Norridgewock and surrounding towns
- ✓ Promote businesses/attractions to make Norridgewock a destination for visitors or place to stop for passersby
- ✓ Improve appearance of buildings/properties in the community
- ✓ Develop maintenance ordinance for planning area to eliminate/reduce unattractive properties

Facts About DROWSY DRIVING

<p>ADULTS AGES 18-29 are much more likely to drive while drowsy compared to other age-groups!</p>	<p>MEN are more likely than women to drive while drowsy! (56% vs 45%)</p>	<p>SLEEP DEPRIVATION increases the risk of a sleep-related crash! The more you sleep, the better you drive.</p>	<p>People tend to fall asleep while driving on HIGH SPEED, LONG, OR RURAL HIGHWAYS.</p>	<p>NEARLY 1/4 of adults in the US say they know someone personally who has fallen asleep at the wheel.</p>
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Visit sleepfoundation.org/drowsy-driving for more information.
#Awake2Drive

The Town Office will be closed:

November 5
November 11
November 28-29
December 24-25
January 1

Closing at noon on December 31

**Subject to change, office is open weather-permitting*



Daylight Savings Time Ends November 3

Don't forget to set your clocks back before you go to bed on Saturday night, November 2!



Airport Rd.
634-2714

Waste Management is a private business. As a convenience to residents, we provide their back gate hours.

Sun, Mon, Tues Closed
Weds, Thurs, Fri 9:30am – 6:00pm
Sat 7:30am – 4:00pm