

HIRAM NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 87



SUMMER EDITION



JUNE 2020

WE ARE OPEN!

The Town office is now open to foot traffic. Thank you for being patient with us and those able to do their transactions in our "parking lot window service". Thankfully, we no longer have to do that! We are practicing all safety measures according to CDC recommendations sanitizing the customer area, and have barrier on the counter with clean pens available. Social distancing is being practiced to the best of our ability. Come see us, we have missed you!



OFFICE HOURS

MON – THURS 9 AM – 3 PM
THURS EVE – 5:30 PM – 7 PM

FRI – 9 – NOON

Tel: 625-4663

Fax: 625-7635

excited



We will be Closed



July 2nd for the evening hours and Friday July 3rd, 2020

Enjoy your holiday weekend!

Office staff: Marylou email: mstacey@townofhiram.org

Terry email: tday@townofhiram.org

Code Enforcement officer – Guy Lehouillier email: hiramceo@townofhiram.org

CEO cell number: 207-256-2410

Guy is at the town office usually 3 mornings during the week

Municipal officers:

Eric Durgin, chairman email edurgin@townofhiram.org

H. Jamie Marshall email: jmarshall@townofhiram.org

Karen James email: kjames@townofhiram.org

Municipal Officers meet every Thursday evening at 7 p.m. at the town office

Public welcome to attend

Planning board next meeting is July 23rd, 2020 at 7 p.m. at town office

Please call ahead to be put on the agenda

OUR NEW ADDRESS IS: 16 NASONS WAY, HIRAM ME 04041

(even though have not moved)

PUBLIC HEARINGS
MUNICIPAL OFFICERS WILL BE HOLDING PUBLIC
HEARINGS



JULY 23RD, 2020

7:30 P.M.

At Town Office



1ST – To discuss posting weight limit for vehicular traffic on the Notch road due to damage being done by large trucks using it as a short cut to Rt. 113 or Rt.160.

2nd – To discuss a proposed parking ordinance for the Town of Hiram to better control parking situations on some of our town roads. (A copy of the Parking Ordinance is available for public viewing at the Town office during regular business hours)

Public is encouraged to attend

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may write or email your comments or concerns to the Town of Hiram Public Hearings, 16 Nasons Way, Hiram, ME 04041 or email: tday@townofhiram.org or mstacey@townofhiram.org





ATTENTION: EARTHWORK CONTRACTORS

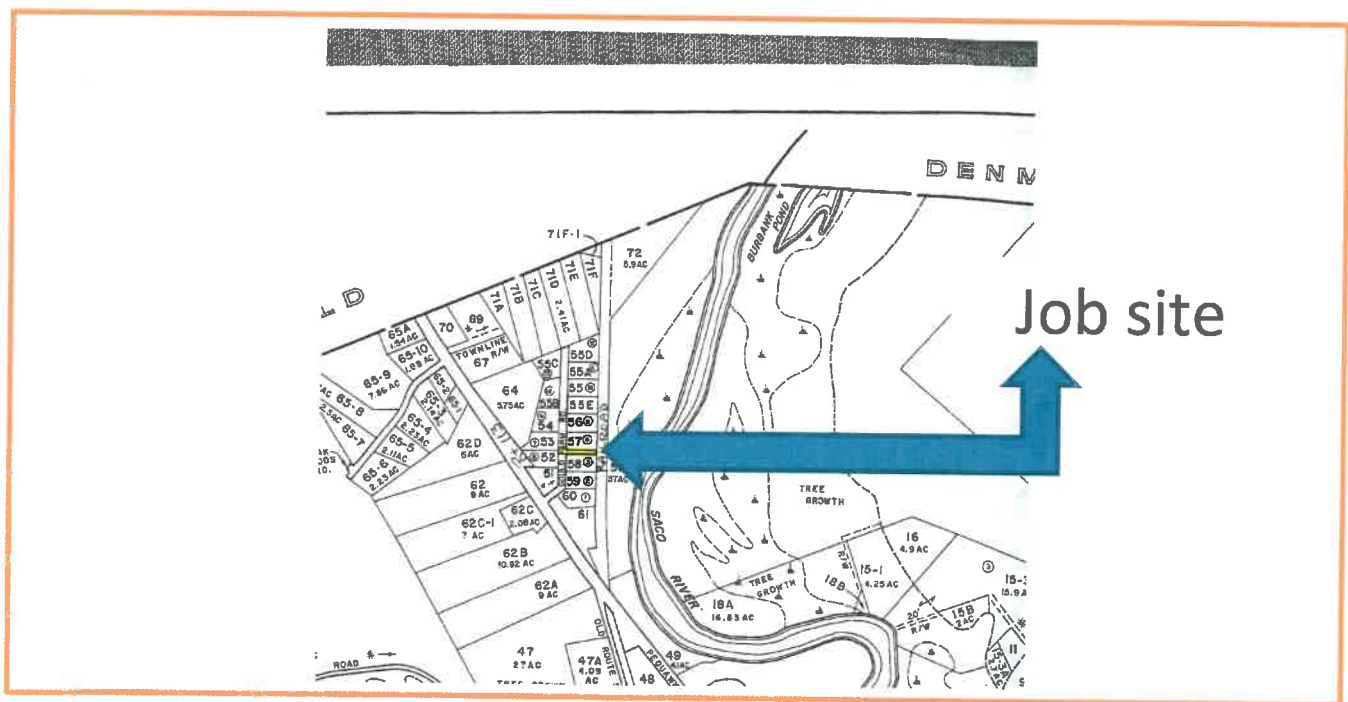


Municipal officers seeking bids on clearing a right of way off Gould Farm Road into a town owned parcel by the railroad tracks and improving the road bed. Work will consist of: cutting and clearing trees and stumps within the 30 foot right of way, placing gravel in the right of way and compacting, installing any culverts or ditches needed to prevent water drainage issues.

BID SHEETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN OFFICE DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS OR YOU HAVE ONE EMAILED TO YOU.
CALL TERRY AT THE TOWN OFFICE AT 625-4663

BIDS DUE BACK TO THE TOWN OFFICE JULY 9TH, 2020 BY 3 P.M.

Municipal officers reserve the right to reject any and/or all bids that are not in the best interest of the Inhabitants of Hiram.



Please please please

During these trying times, many of you are enjoying the beach area on the River by the dam. This land is owned by Brookfield Renewable Energy and they graciously allow the public to use it.

There have been numerous complaints recently about the trash that is being left behind in the beach area!

If people don't start picking up after themselves, Brookfield will totally close the beach area to EVERYONE!

BROOKFIELD HAS POSTED SIGNS BUT THEY KEEP

DISAPPEARING THAT SAY:

NO OVERNIGHT CAMPING

NO LITTERING

CARRY IN CARRY OUT YOUR ITEMS!



PLEASE RESPECT THIS BEAUTIFUL SPOT FOR ALL TO ENJOY OR IT WILL BE TAKEN AWAY!



JUST A SMALL PORTION OF THE TRASH LEFT LAST YEAR AT THE BEACH AND PICKED UP BY VOLUNTEERS



ALLARD CIRCLE IS NOW NASONS WAY



The reconstruction of the access road to the Town Office, post office boxes, South Hiram Fire Station and Sacopee Rescue barn has been improved and widened for two vehicles to safely pass each other. This is a dead end road now, with no thru traffic. Due to emergency vehicles and emergency personnel traveling in and out of the parking areas in front of their buildings, we ask people not to walk thru their parking lots for your safety. The town office parking lot ends at the mailboxes.

The new physical addresses for each building are: town office- 16 Nasons Way, Sacopee Rescue Barn – 24 Nasons Way, So Hiram Fire Dept - 23 Nasons Way.

Thank you PY Estes and Son, Kyle and Steve, for doing a great job!





ATV AND BOAT REGISTRATIONS

WERE NOT EXTENDED BY THE GOVERNOR

And are available at the office

ATV registrations expire June 30th

Boats expired December 31st

New Transfer Station Stickers Are in!

The Tri-Town Transfer Station Stickers are here. Because of the current situation, the attendants will accept the yellow ones until Sept. 1st but anyone can pick up the new ones at their town office now.

You will need to have the license plate numbers of the vehicles they are going on.



MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

If your registration has run out, you do not have to re-reg it until the Governor lifts the emergency and declare all clear. At that time you will have 30 days to get your vehicle registered.

If you bought a new vehicle from a dealer and have temporary plates, you can run those as well until the 30 day deadline after all clear.

If you bought a vehicle from a private sale, you may run the vehicle WITHOUT PLATES ON IT, until the 30 day deadline. Do not attach other plates to it! That is illegal attachment of plates. If you want to make a cardboard plate and mark COVID-19 on it and the date of purchase that is what motor vehicle division is recommending to do.

BUT..... We would love to see you and have you come in and do your registrations. That way we may not be so back logged and overwhelmed when the Governor opens the gates!

You will need your current mileage, proof of insurance, check, cash or debit/credit card for renewals. For new registrations, you will need paperwork from the dealer or a bill of sale, title for anything newer than 1995 signed over to you, insurance and payment.





HIRAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY (HHS)



Hiram Historical Society is excited and pleased to announce our new website. It is full of photos and stories of Hiram's unique heritage. We invite you to explore it. Some features are yet to be developed, but there is enough to entertain you and, we hope, entice you to learn more of our history.

Visit often and tell us what you think – your comments are always welcome. If you have any difficulty with the site, we want to hear from you, and if you like it we want to know that, too!

If you have photos to share, please contact us. We are happy to scan your photos and return the originals to you.

<https://www.hiramhistoricalsociety.org/>



Also note that although the Great Ossipee Museum of HHS is closed, we are here and will open the Museum by appointment. Please also note that all of our Maine State Bicentennial programs are postponed until 2021 – we will celebrate along with the State next year

Thank you for your support!



Stay safe and be well,
Sally Williams
President, Hiram Historical Society
PO Box 105
1593 Pequawket Trail
Hiram ME 04041
207-615-4390



ARTS CENTER HANCOCK AVE



The Arts Center at 8 Hancock will be reopening when it is deemed safe for our community. We appreciate your continued support and we look forward to bringing programming that enriches all of our lives. Stay safe and stay tuned!

8hancockave@gmail.com (207) 625-4650

Soldiers Memorial Library Early Summer 2020 Update

As our many disappointed patrons know very well, we regret having the Library closed since March. At this time we continue to be closed, but we have been working at modifications that are necessary to manage the risks of COVID-19 infections, and we have a tentative plan for re-opening by mid-July.

What have we been doing for 3 months?

> We have constructed a transparent barrier for the Library Director desk.

> We have made Sanitation Stations for both entrances (hand sanitizer, etc required).

> Free WiFi has continued to be available.

> We have worked with consultants at the Maine State Library, Maine Economic Development, and Maine CDC to develop our specific re-opening check-list plan in accordance with the state requirements for libraries and public buildings.

> In accordance with that plan we have acquired and prepared cleaning and sanitation supplies, and we are practicing sanitization procedures that use methods developed by the University of Maine system and the Maine State Library.

> We have contracted with an employee management service for financial services needed for an addition part-time employee and for further changes.

> We are still working on unmet needs: We have had Plexiglas on order for two months, but have been unable to acquire any. We need this for safety dividers between patron computer workstations.

Can anybody find where we can buy Plexiglas?

> We have successfully applied for and received a grant of \$5227 to help us with the cost of all the modifications and with the costs of having an additional part-time employee. This grant should help us with these costs while avoiding need to request additional help from the Town. This grant comes from funds provided in the federal CARES Act appropriation and managed by the Maine Humanities Council.

> The expenses of all of these efforts have been limited in cost by extensive volunteer labor.

What is the plan for re-opening?

> Our Library Director has been on furlough since March, but is expected to return to work July 7.

> At that time the Library will still be closed to the public, but patrons will be able to call the Library during regular library hours to use a procedure for picking up desired books and materials, and returns can also be accepted. (This is "curb-side service" but at an entrance door, not at the road.)

> If we are successful in hiring our additional part-time employee, we will begin having the Library open on two-days-per-week starting on either July 15 or July 16 or a week later.

> Everything is subject to change depending upon what we accomplish and what happens with the coronavirus pandemic. Please understand that your Library Director and all of our Trustee volunteers are of ages that put us seriously at risk with COVID-19, and we can only work within limits of risks that we can manage well enough.

> Watch our road-side sign and our FaceBook page for updates.

Why does the Library need another employee? What additional work do we need?

> To be able to open for public access, we need to be able to not only have the Library Director manage circulation, patron needs, ordering, phone, email and other tasks, but we also need to be able to clean and sanitize any spaces and materials used by visitors. One person cannot do both, and our Library Director should stay at her desk for personal safety. Another person can do cleaning, re-shelving, etc.



Soldiers Memorial Library

85 Main Street, Hiram, Maine 04041

The public library of the Town of Hiram
is hiring for the part-time position of

SANITATION MANAGER

The Board of Trustees of Soldiers Memorial Library is seeking applicants for temporary, part-time work with responsibility to manage cleaning and sanitation of specific areas and materials of the Library building and with supervision by the Library Director (LD).

Using provided self-protective equipment and cleaning/sanitation supplies, the Sanitation Manager (SM) will assure that work surfaces, patron workstations, rest room, railings, handles, shelving and materials are cleaned and disinfected after patron use. The SM must learn and be able to communicate the requirements mandated or advised by the Maine CDC for the safe use of public buildings.

The Trustees and LD will provide initial training and resources as we all learn to improve our practices.

The applicant should be self-motivated and should have good communication skills and ability to keep an organized written record of tasks accomplished.

The initial work schedule will be 10-hours-per-week on 2 days each week: Saturday 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM and either Wednesday or Thursday 10 AM - 5 PM.

Additional hours may become available.

For more details, leave a message at 207-625-4650 (Library is not currently open, but messages are received.) or email to: soldiersmemoriallibraryfriends@gmail.com. or send a resume / letter-of-inquiry to the address above.

> We have been trying to hire a "Sanitation Manager" who will work at the library for all hours that the building is open to the public. Here is the advertisement that was first posted on June 24:

> At the time of planning this newsletter, we were still trying to find an employee to be our Sanitation Mgr. If interested, please contact as above.

- Trustees of the Soldiers Memorial Library.

HIRAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Dear Members and Friends of the Hiram Historical Society,

What a time we are living in: one of historical proportions, no doubt. Like most other organizations trying our best to serve the public good, we've been making decisions about the wisdom of offering programs and services this summer and the for rest of 2020.

For now our home base, Great Ossipee Museum, is closed for browsing and for the monthly educational programs we typically offer. But we are here, continuing to do research and try to answer questions ("Who used to live in my house in the 1800s?", "I think there might be an old cemetery on this property..."). Inquire via mail or email.

We are trying to "zoom" schedule two guest lectures, one in July and one in September. However, these are TENTATIVE, and we will notify you when/if they are scheduled. They are:

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a talk about our famous summer resident poet given by historian/educator John Babin.

The Brushians, a program describing a unique group of Maine artists, given by Doug Noble.

Our activities to celebrate Maine's 200th birthday are postponed until 2021. This postponement does not negate the exciting news that Hiram Historical Society was selected in a competitive process to receive funding for three terrific projects to help Hiram celebrate Maine's 200th birthday. The grant from the Maine State Bicentennial Commission will enable us – albeit delayed from when originally planned – to engage our community in learning more about Hiram's history. So 2021 promises to be an eventful year for Hiram to celebrate its past.

The Maine Bicentennial Grant enables us to do three things:

First, we can now publish Sally Williams' recently completed book of Hiram's history: **Faces of Founders**.

If all goes well with the printing, the book should be available sometime in 2021. It would make a wonderful gift for anyone who loves Hiram and is interested in how early settlers carved this village from the "forest primeval" and capitalized on its rivers and streams to farm and mill their way to successful survival.

Second, next year we will be staging a theater event, a costumed reading that reveals early settlers' tales, using students from our schools and volunteers from the town as actors/script readers. To be held at The Arts Center at 8 Hancock, it promises to be a fun and educational evening out!

Third, though postponed until next year, we will be having our 20-20-20 Trolley Tour, a curbside discovery adventure where riders learn about the history of 20 buildings here in 1820, still here in 2020, and we trust, in 2021!! Ticket holders for the Trolley Tour will certainly enjoy this colorful ride...All

Aboard next summer!

Yours,

Sally Williams, President HHS

Mt Cutler Park & Conservation Area - Update for summer of 2020.

Your 173-acre mountain park has been a very busy place at some times this spring. Our trails have visitors who come throughout all seasons of the year for the adventures and awesome views that the mountain offers. You can read some of their accounts at the web site, www.alltrails.com

To find "Mt Cutler" use the search in AllTrails. Choose the one listed for Maine (not Colorado), and you will find hundreds of stories of our trails. For more descriptions of our trails, go to www.maintrailfinder.com Or use the Town of Hiram web site to down-load a PDF copy of the Mt Cutler Trails Guide pamphlet. If you would rather have a paper copy, that trails guide pamphlet is available in boxes at the kiosks in our two parking areas, one on Mt View Avenue and the other on the Hiram Hill Road.

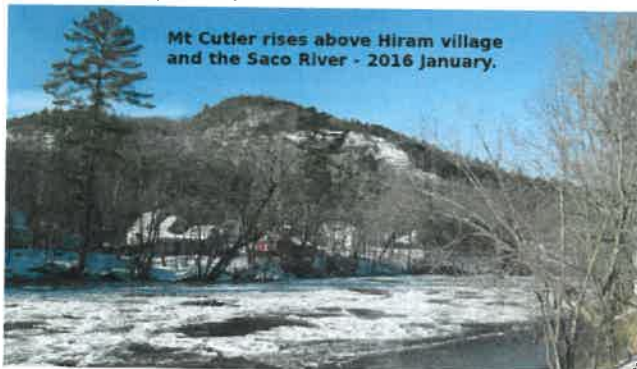
When the coronavirus pandemic caused many parks, beaches and other places to be closed, the places that closed also included Pleasant Mtn and Burnt Meadow Mtn. Many folks came from areas like Portland, Biddeford, Brunswick, Kennebunk and more distant places, looking for hiking opportunities that were still available. Our park almost became too busy for us to allow it to stay open; on some Saturdays we had more than 15 cars in each parking area. But most people were courteous, most appreciated having a place to take the kids for some much needed outside recreation, and most behaved reasonably and with necessary separation. Our town received many compliments for having been able to provide the trails, and for many who found a scenic gem that they had never known exists. Now, the over-crowding has ended, and most weekends have just 3 or 4 cars in each lot.

If you have not hiked our mountain, get a trails guide and take a hike. There are both easy or hard trails. A few of the special features of Mt Cutler are described in the article below.

Some of the Natural History of Mt Cutler



From Pequawket Trail (State routes 5/113/117) you see Mt Cutler as a broad ridge rising above Ingalls Pond in West Baldwin, about a mile south of the Hiram town line. Mt Cutler is the eastern-most of the Hiram Hills, an area of thousands of acres of mostly undeveloped land between East Hiram and South Hiram villages. Other summits in these hills (Bill Merrill Mtn, Mt Misery, Robbins Hill) are somewhat higher than Mt Cutler, but the long ridge and open ledges provide many exceptional views from this mountain.



At Hiram village, the mountain rises abruptly beyond the end of the highway bridge over the Saco. The Front Ledges give remarkable views over the town, and the summit of the mountain seems close at hand. This is misleading; what appears as a peak in this view is only the eastern end of the half-mile-long main ridge that extends far to the west with the true summit

beyond a notch at end of that ridge.

The ledges of Mt Cutler expose an ancient structure of igneous and metamorphic rocks with origins billions of years past. But the form of Mt Cutler is a product of glacial erosion that happened several times during times from 2.5 million to 10,000 years ago. Glacial ice advanced from the poles, covering the entire state, and pushing south to leave debris that pushed up as Long Island of New York State. Over Maine, the ice was as much as a mile thick for extended periods, burying all of this land, and grinding the bedrock with incredible weight. In our area, most of the ice moved from NW to SE, leaving lines of gouges and scratches (striations) in the bedrock, recording this passage.

This ice rode up over the north slopes of what became Mt. Cutler. As it passed over the hardest, most resistant bedrock, it pulled away pieces of rock, leaving behind jagged ledges that face to the south.



This view, from Hancock Avenue in East Hiram, clearly shows the shape left by the glaciers. To the right, a long gradual slope to the north is where glacial ice was lifted by the resistant rock that became the mountain. Most of the ledges face to the south, where rock was "plucked" and dragged away, leaving steep ledges. Eastern ledges facing us, overlooking the village, were scoured by glacial ice grinding its way southward, down what became the Saco River valley.

There is more to this story, and this will be printed in a pamphlet about the Natural History and Human History of Mt Cutler to be available later this summer.

- Dan Hester for the Hiram Conservation Committee.