

HIRAM NEWSLETTER

COMPILED BY TERRY DAY
APPROVED BY MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

VOLUME 85



FALL EDITION



OCTOBER 2019

TWO MORE PUBLIC HEARINGS/INFORMATIONAL MTGS



**OCTOBER 10TH, 2019
&
OCTOBER 24TH, 2019**



7:30 p.m. at the Hiram Town Office

FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLAINING AND DISCUSSING THE UPCOMING REFERENDUM VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5TH, 2019 CONCERNING THE ACCESS ROAD TO THE TOWN OFFICE, SACOPEE RESCUE BARN, SOUTH HIRAM FIRE STATION AND THE U.S. POSTAL BOXES.

We are required to hold at least one public hearing prior to a referendum vote to explain and discuss the purpose of the vote and to give any pertinent information necessary to the public so that they are informed of the details prior to casting votes on the issue. The previous public hearing did not specifically address the article being voted on. A public hearing takes the place of an open town meeting discussion before a vote is held.

Absentee ballots will be available at the same time as the State referendum ballots are available. Both ballots will be distributed to those that request an absentee ballot, you then have the choice of voting on both the town and state ballots or not but please return both even if you did not vote on both in order for us to do the required record keeping of the votes.

If you are unable to attend either of the public hearings and have ANY concerns or comments, we encourage you to write to the Municipal Officers at 25 Allard Circle or you can email the town office at hiramtwnofc@roadrunner.com.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A RESIDENT OF THE TOWN IN ORDER TO ATTEND OR SPEAK AT A PUBLIC HEARING.





Thanksgiving Baskets & Christmas Giving



A Few Changes being made in the process

Thanksgiving :



- This year we are going to try and just give out gift certificates to families that need a little cheering up and support from fellow townspeople. We feel the families may be better assisted if they are able to choose what they need for the holiday. Many are unable to cook a large meal or even lift the turkey, so they can go to the store and purchase what best fits their family needs for the holiday.

Christmas :



-We have assisted several families over the 25+ years in doing this program and many have been repeat families. We would like to be able to assist everyone but financially unable to so we are going to limit the families that have requested assistance every year. If your family has received assistance in the past two years from us, your family will not be eligible to apply unless of extenuating circumstances. In doing this, Santa is hoping to be able to assist new families that may need a little extra this year.



If you wish to donate new items or money to the Thanksgiving and Christmas fund, you may mail a check made out to the Town of Hiram to 25 Allard Circle, Hiram, ME 04041 or drop off your items during business hours. Santa gives to the entire family so he is always looking for mom and dad items and items for teens boys and girls.



We truly appreciate all of the Santa's helpers for their wrapping assistance, we would not be able to do it without you. If you have a few minutes to spare, let us know at the office and we can put you down for the day and time you are able to come in and wrap gifts for Santa so that he can deliver to our families. 😊



Town Clerk News



Election News



Absentee ballots are currently available for both the State and the Town Referendum ballots. You can request an absentee ballot by phone and we will mail the ballots to you or stop by the office vote in person, if you plan on voting by absentee **you must request your ballot on or before October 31st unless special circumstances apply.** For more information on the State Referendum questions please visit the [State of Maine SOS website](#). If you have questions regarding the Towns referendum we encourage you to come to one of the meetings that are being held on Thursday October 10 or October 24 at 7:30 pm here at the Town Office.



The Town of Hiram currently has a few vacancies on boards we are looking to fill. Are you interested in education? We are currently looking for a School Board Member to fill a vacancy until the March election in 2020, great way to see if this is a good fit for you. The school board meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the SVMS. We are also looking for an alternate member to sit on the Saco River Corridor Commission there meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of the month, visit their website FMI; <http://srcc-maine.org>. The Appeals Board also has a vacancy, they meet as needed when someone files an appeal, appeals are normally addressing setback requirements and sometimes the Code Enforcement Officers decisions. Last but not least the Planning Board is looking for an alternate member, the planning board meets on an as needed basis with meetings typically held Wednesday evenings as needed. The planning board conducts conditional use hearings, reviews current ordinances and suggests updates to said ordinances. Should you be interested in any of these positions please contact the Town Office at 625-4663.

We are still working on the updating our Comprehensive Plan, the committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6pm here at the Town Office new committee members are always welcomed stop by our next meeting or let Marylou know you'd like to join the committee.

With the acquisition of Mt Cutler by the town (thank you Dan Hester), we have resurrected the Conservation Committee, while the board positions are filled we are always looking for additional volunteers. The Conservation Committee is meeting on Tuesday October 29 at 7pm at the Soldiers Memorial Library. We would love to have you attend our next meeting, come see what we are all about.



**INTERIM
CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
BUILDING INSPECTOR
PLUMBING INSPECTOR
FOR HIRAM**



**GUY LEHOULLIER
CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING BOARD
CELLPHONE # 256-2410**

Please be patient!

Guy is new to this temporary position and has many unfinished projects in town he is trying to familiarize with, as well as all the paperwork, ordinances, rules and regulations that go along with it. After October 30th, 2019 when applications are received and interviews completed, we will be able to announce who the permanent CEO/Bdlg/Plbg will be for the Town.

**SOLDIERS MEMORIAL
LIBRARY**



**625-4650
HOURS:
TUES
2-5 P.M.
WEDS & THURS
10 A.M. – 5 P.M.
SAT.
9:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

PAM THOMAS, LIBRARIAN



**TOWN OFFICE
HOURS**

**MON. – THURS. 9 A.M. – 3 P.M.
THURS. EVE - 5:30 P.M. – 7 P.M.
FRI. – 9 A.M. – NOON
2ND SAT. OF MONTH 8 A.M. – 11 A.M.**

Municipal Officers Meetings

Every Thurs. eve. At 7 p.m.

e-mails for office staff

Marylou – hiramclerk@roadrunner.com

Terry – hiramtwnofc@roadrunner.com

**Road Commissioner – Greg Sawyer
256-2854**

Plow Contractors:

**Southend – Greg Sawyer
256-2854**

**Northend – Kyle Estes
272-3908**

**Animal control officer
Cindy Eaton
890-5313**

TAX COLLECTOR NEWS



2019 Taxes



Interest on the 2019 taxes began on September 16, if you have not paid your taxes and intend to pay them in full it is helpful if you contact the office prior to sending in your payment so we can supply you your payoff amount. You can reach us either by phone or just send us an email and we will be happy to assist you. Did you know that you can make partial payments on your taxes? Some folks find it easier to make multiple payments rather than trying to set it aside and pay the balance in full. Call Marylou and she would be happy to discuss your options with you.

Delinquent Taxes



My least favorite topic are delinquent taxes, if you have not paid your 2017 taxes in full, which were liened in June of 2018 you will be receiving a certified letter towards the end of this month. This notice is called the "30-45 Day Notice of Impending Foreclosure. **The foreclosure date for the Town is December 6, 2019.** This means that your outstanding balance from **2017** taxes must be paid in full by the close of business **on or before** Friday December 6. Please call Marylou as soon as possible if you have any questions. The town does not want to acquire your property but we must follow the State Laws. Once the town has foreclosed on your property it is the Municipal Officers who decide how to dispose of the property according to our policy and state law.



Unpaid Taxes at Year End

Another State requirement is for the tax collector is to list all unpaid taxes in the Annual Town Report at year end. I will be sending out notices the beginning of December to all taxpayers who have a balance due on taxes. The notice will include your total balance due as of December 30, 2019. If you have any questions regarding your taxes at any time please call or email Marylou, 625-4663 or hiramclerk@roadrunner.com.

Office Closures for 2019

The office will be closed Monday November 11 for Veterans Day
Thank you to those who have or are currently serving.

We will be closed November 28 and 9 for the Thanksgiving Holiday

We will be closed December 24 and 25 for the Christmas Holiday

December 31 and January 1, 2020 to close out the books and celebrate the New Year



SEEKING NEW CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/BUILDING INSPECTOR AND PLUMBING INSPECTOR



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY TOWN OF HIRAM



SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, BUILDING INSPECTOR, PLUMBING INSPECTOR
JOB APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AT townofhiram.org AND**

AT THE TOWN OFFICE

APPLICATIONS DUE BACK TO THE TOWN OFFICE BY 3 P.M. OCTOBER 23RD, 2019

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS WILL REVIEW OCTOBER 24TH, 2019

INTERVIEWS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 30TH, 2019

EOE

JOB DESCRIPTION

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

1. Must be a state certified CEO, if not, must be able to attend training sessions within a one year period from the date of employment and pass the certification tests required by the state.
2. Must be able to work with people and assist people in understanding what is required of them in order to meet the ordinance requirements of the town.
3. Location of office will be determined by the Board of Selectmen after discussing the issue with the appointed CEO.
4. Must have some knowledge and/or experience in the construction, plumbing, and electrical fields.
5. Must be able to go to property sites and evaluate and determine dimensions, soil types, setbacks, building locations, septic locations etc.
6. Must have own transportation with a valid State of Maine drivers license.
7. Computer knowledge would be helpful but not a must.
8. Should be available to the public during the day and some nights and weekends (can be discussed with Selectmen at time of appointment).
9. Will be required to work with the Planning Board and Appeals Board on issues brought to them for decision.
10. Will be required to work with the Planning Board on zoning and building ordinances for the town as well as any other ordinance for the Town that will be enforced by the CEO.
11. Will be required to meet with the Selectmen at their regular meetings at least twice a month to keep them up to date on any problems in town or any issues that need to be brought to the town attorney's attention.
12. Must be able to go to court as a representative of the Town on any zoning, building or plumbing cases that have been violated and the Selectmen & CEO have taken actions against a property owner in town.
13. Will be required to keep complete records of all transactions, receipts and money, including visits to properties, with copies and monies turned into the town office monthly in order to update records at the office.
14. If office is in own home or off town office premises, must have a secure, insured place to keep records and any monies received by the CEO.

TRI-TOWN WASTE FACILITY



SEEKING BIDS ON

SANDING ONLY

OF THE TRANSFER STATION FACILITY

FOR A **THREE** YEAR CONTRACT

AT 208 SOUTH HIRAM RD

THIS WILL BE ON A PER CALL BASIS

OUR ATTENDANTS WILL BE DOING THE PLOWING FIRST
AND THEN CONTRACTOR CALLED TO COME IN AND SAND

BIDS DUE BACK TO THE HIRAM TOWN OFFICE BY

7 P.M.

ON OCTOBER 21ST, 2019

BID SHEETS ARE AVAILABLE AT

THE HIRAM TOWN OFFICE AT 25 ALLARD CIRCLE OR

BY E-MAIL

ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT TERRY AT 625-4663

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THANK YOU FOR DOING A GREAT JOB RECYCLING!!

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!

Ticket #	TOWN	1/0/1900	% CONTAMINATION	Tons	Type	NOTED CONTAMINANTS
10378975	TRI-TOWN RECYCLE	9/6/2019	1%	7.17	SS	10xEmpty Plastic Bags, shrink-wrap, no other visible debris
10382002	TRI-TOWN RECYCLE	9/20/2019	1%	5.58	SS	10xEmpty Plastic Bags< plastic strapping, no other visible contamination

Attention Former Students and Teachers and Friends of Mt. Cutler School in Hiram



Hiram Historical Society plans a reunion of those who attended or taught at the School. Spouses and friends welcome!

Please come, renew old friendships and share memories!

DATE: Saturday, 19 October 2019

10:30 - Reunion Gathering and Program - free

12:00 - -Trash Can Turkey Roast Lunch - \$10 at the door.

Reunion goers served first.

1:00 Tour of Mt. Cutler School, now Great Ossipee Museum - watch contemporary videos, see school photos and exhibits. **BRING YOUR PHOTOS** and help us identify students in our photos.****

PLACE: Former Mt. Cutler School and Hiram Community Center, adjacent to each other, 14 and 20 Historical Ridge, Hiram 04041

***What's one thing you learned
at Mt. Cutler School***

that has served you well In your life?

Were you there when the steeple of the Congregational Church was pulled down?

Who was your favorite teacher? Favorite subject? Who did you sit next to?

Remember lima beans? Snow storms? Special memories?

Are you coming? Please tell us so we can let Bald Mountain BBQ know!!!

***Reply to the Reunion Planning Committee, c/o Sally Butterfield Brown
207-642-4437 or Priscilla Howard 207-625-8074***

Thank you! Hope to see you there!

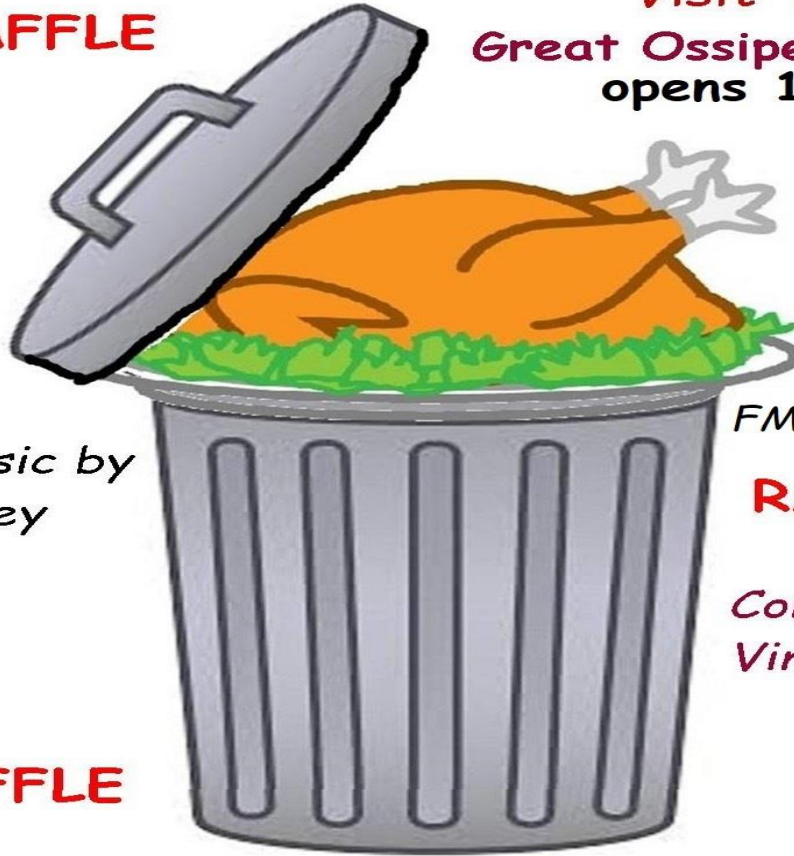
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TRASH CAN TURKEY ROAST ^{\$}10

Bald Mountain BBQ

RAFFLE

Visit the
Great Ossipee Museum
opens 1pm



FMI-207-615-4390

Enjoy Music by
David Foley

RAFFLE

Come see our
Vintage Road
Grader

RAFFLE

^{\$}10

Sat. Oct. 19th, 12noon
Historical Ridge, Hiram

HIRAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sally Williams, Pres.
1593 Pequawket Trail

PO Box 105

Hiram, ME 04041

Tel: 207-615-4390



Vintage Grange Songs

performed by Katherine Rhoda



The Grange (Patrons of Husbandry) has a rich heritage of song, with a number of songbooks published starting in 1874. Local musician Katherine Rhoda collects & studies this material & will share songs celebrating agriculture, rural life, & the pursuit of the common good.

Sat. October 12, 2019 at 1:30

Hiram Historical Society

**Great Ossipee Museum, 18 Historical Ridge, off Main Street,
Hiram Village, 04041. Business meeting 1:00**

Free Admission. Light refreshments. FMI 207-615-4390



HIRAM FIRE DEPT.

&



**SOUTH HIRAM FIRE DEPT.
NEEDS YOU!**



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

FOR HIRAM FIRE DEPT.

CONTACT: BRUCE PYBURN AT 625-7198

FOR SOUTH HIRAM FIRE DEPT.

CONTACT: JAMES SIRACUSE AT 625-3604

Mt Cutler Park & Trails - Update 2019 October

The Mt Cutler Park, 173 acres on lands on Mt Cutler acquired by the Town in 2018, is now fully developed for public use. Our new parking area on the Hiram Hill Road was constructed at the end of August, and provides space for up to two dozen vehicles. The contractor, PY Estes of Baldwin, did an excellent job with the construction, with new culvert, improved drainage, and parking space that should welcome visitors for many years to come.

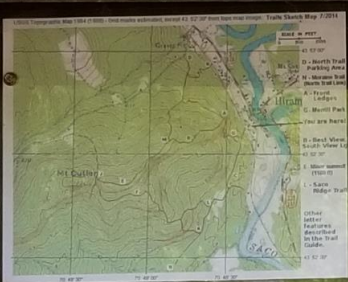
A new information kiosk was installed, and Trail Guides with Maps are provided at both this new trail head and at the original trail head on Mtn View Avenue. That original parking area, between the track at the site of the Old Hiram Depot train station, still provides access for Merrill Park and the mountain trails. The 25-acre Merrill Park is owned and maintained by the Hiram Development Association, and the two parks together make available to the public about 200 acres of lands on Mt Cutler.

The long-used original parking area will still be maintained, but we encourage visitors to use the new trail access on Hiram Hill Road. The original trail head gives easy access to Merrill Park, but the original trail to the front ledges is very steep and has become very eroded in places.

New trails have also been developed by the work of many volunteers. About 250 hours of volunteer time was recorded this summer, and site plan maps at both trail heads show the new trails that have been added.

The longest new trail is the almost-three-quarter-mile NW Trail. Two of the accompanying photos show where that trail joins the Ridge Walk trail on the Main Ridge of Mt Cutler. This trail can be accessed from either the new parking area or from a new, fourth trail head that is further up the Hiram Hill Road.

On September 12, Doug Beck - who manages the Land & Water Conservation Fund grants at the Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands - visited the Mt Cutler Park for a final inspection to assure that we had successfully completed this project. Doug also walked with some volunteers to try the new NW Trail and enjoy the views from the Mt Cutler ridge. He seemed satisfied with our work, and the Town Office has now submitted a final request for reimbursement from our grant.



Distances on railroad from this kiosk:
Merrill Park, Barnes Trail & Snowmobile Trail 200 ft South
Moraine Trail 0.3 mi North
Hiram Hill Road 0.5 mi North

Merrill Park is a pine grove that has been used as a community park and includes our "Gold Mine" and historic water wells. Barnes Trail is the original trail to the front ledges with view over the village. Part of this trail is very steep and requires some basic rock-climbing. **Be very careful if you use this trail.**

Above the front ledges, Barnes Trail continues more moderately, eventually becoming the Ridge Walk. That trail continues for the entire half mile length of the main ridge of Mt Cutler. There are two other trail heads that can take you to the same views and trails.

Moraine Trail (also called North Trail Link) is about one-third of a mile north from here by walking the railroad tracks. North Trail is easy to reach by driving a half mile north to the Hiram Hill Road. New parking is **planned**. **Do not block land owner access. Please do NOT try for trail heads on River Road or Douglas Road. These private access points are used only for emergencies. Please respect the land and honor rights of the property owners.**

Mt. Cutler Park

During 2017 - 2019, the Town of Hiram has been working with many agencies, Hiram resident land owners, and with other volunteers to develop the **Mount Cutler Park and Conservation Area**. The development of this recreational park has not changed since that was allowed on Mt Cutler and the trails system. Hiking is encouraged. Hunting is allowed. Camping is limited to special permit holders. Power lines will be removed from the area.

The difference is that the area will be developed to help visitors, and we will all have assurance that this land will be available for public use for all the future.

- The project is being funded by a Land & Water Conservation Fund grant from the U.S. Dept. of the Interior via the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF). Other donations of funds and services have been provided by The Nature Conservancy, The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), the F.P. Felt of Baldwin, the Hiram School Heritage Trust, the Hiram Development Association, other organizations, and many individuals.
- Through this project, the Town of Hiram has acquired 173 acres that includes most of the main ridge of Mt Cutler as well as land lying above to the Hiram Hill Road and to the Old Hiram Depot. New details in the Site Plan may be of the project. The acquisition cost is covered 80% by the LWCF grant and 20% by the donation of land value by the land owner.
- Great benefits and other donations have been used to develop a new parking area on the Hiram Hill Road. This area is now being used for the new NW Trail. The parking area has well be maintained for access to Merrill Park and the Barnes Trail, but hiking are very strongly encouraged to use the North Trail and other trails from the Hiram Hill Road.
- New information signs and road signs will soon be provided.
- Additional trails will also be developed, as shown in the Site Plan map. Trails on adjoining private property and Hiram Development Association lands will also be maintained.
- Trail work and maintenance will continue to be provided by the Maine Chapter AMC, and by many other volunteers.

2019 July

Mt. Cutler Trails

There are about 5 miles of trails, as shown on the map above. These trails include about a half mile of snowmobile trail and half mile of railroad.

- Trail distances listed are estimates. Hiking on mountain trails usually requires much more time than walking by a road. Plan enough time for your visit!
- Although Mt. Cutler is not as large as many other Maine mountains, trails here can be steep and challenging. Be sure that you are fit for hiking, and have adequate foot gear and clothing. Take special care on steep trail sections!
- Weather conditions can change rapidly, and you may not have a way to get help if needed.
- Most trails on Mount Cutler are on private property. The land owners allow you to hike these trails, and enjoy the views.
- Legal hunting and foraging are also permitted. Hunters must take special care for the safety of others using these lands, and for homeowners living nearby.
- Dogs are allowed if on leash or if clearly under owner control.
- Camping is not allowed, except by specific permission of the owner.
- No fires are allowed, and wood-gathering is allowed only by owner permission.
- Other than permissions listed above, please:
 - Leave nothing but footprints; take nothing but pictures.

Please respect the land and honor the rights of the property owners. Do not trespass on adjacent property. We request that you use Trail Guides and Maps are provided in the box below.



IMPORTANT NOTICE !!

A Large NEW PARKING AREA is now available on the Hiram Hill Road (HHR). We STRONGLY encourage you to use that New Parking Area, and to use the trails that start from places along and near the Hiram Hill Road.

The Barnes Trail that starts here has very steep sections and is prone to erosion; please use trails on the HHR.

Driving to the Hiram Hill Road Parking Area:
 • From the Saco River bridge, drive 0.8 mile north on Pequawket Trail (SR113).
 • Just before the highway crosses over Red Mt. Brook, turn left onto the Hiram Hill Road.

- When crossing the RR tracks, the New Parking Area is within sight ahead.
- Additional trails are also being developed, as shown in the accompanying Site Plan map. Where trails are shown, the new trails will be described on signs and in the Mt. Cutler Trail Guide.

Mount Cutler Park and Conservation Area.
 Town of Hiram & Hiram Conservation Committee 2019 July

Mt. Cutler Hiking Trail photos:

> Three of Dan Hester's grandsons were among the many volunteers. Seth, Caiden and Stewart Locke are taking a break on the front ledges in early August after finishing the new white paint trail blazes.



> Doug Beck and Dan Hester are at the new information kiosk at the Hiram Hill Road Parking Lot when Doug came for an inspection visit on Sept 12.



> Doug with the NW Trail junction on the main ridge with volunteers Ed LeBorgne, Jan Williams, and Rich Pinault.



> Doug and Rich with view to south from the Mt Cutler main ridge.

> The new parking area on Hiram Hill Road. We have now installed road-side signs on Pequawket Trail to help people to find the new trail head.



> Volunteers on Sept 8 who had just finished adding white paint blazes to all of the NW Trail. Ed is with Nathan Burnette, Britt Wolfe & Lura Sawyer.



Information about Mt Cutler and our trails is available at <townofhiram.org> the web site of the Town of Hiram. Information is also published in the AMC Maine Mtn Guide book, and at web sites such as AllTrails and Maine Trail Finder.

We are very grateful for all the volunteer work that has made this possible, and for grants from the Land & Water Conservation Fund, the PF Fund of Baldwin, The Nature Conservancy, and for other donations. - Dan Hester for the Hiram Conservation Committee.



Senior Rambles
Hiking Trips and Tips for Seniors
in Western Maine and the White Mountains
by Allen Crabtree

New Features on Mount Cutler

The Denmark Mountain Hikers first climbed Mount Cutler in Hiram on 10 December 2010 and have climbed it several times since then, in all seasons and exploring the several trails on the mountain. The weather forecast for our hike on 4 October 2019 was for rain all morning, clearing in the afternoon. The forecast may have discouraged several of our regular hikers, but we still had a group of seven hikers to try out some new trails on Cutler. There were a few spatters of rain on the windshield as I drove to the church, but the rain held off for the entire time we were hiking. We thought at times we were being rained on, but it always turned out to be a shower of acorns from the oaks on the mountainside.

Changes to Mount Cutler

We have been following the process of several changes on the mountain. On our last hike up Cutler on 4 January 2019 I reported that as of June 2018 the Town of Hiram became the owner of the 173 acres of the Mt Cutler Park & Conservation Area. Dan Hester has been the caretaker of Mount Cutler and the driving force pushing this momentous event, This action preserves in public ownership and public use of this jewel.

Dan bought most of the land in 2007 and the land was worth \$217,000 at the time that the Town acquired it; Dan donated half the value to the town and will take a tax write-off for the balance. In March 2017 he was able to get a grant from the Maine Land and Water Conservation Fund for of \$112,517.40 to the Town. Dan was also key in getting a grant from the Nature Conservancy for \$10,000 that was used for land appraisals and part of the survey work, and multi-year commitments from AMC Maine Chapter and Healthy Sacopee Hikers for annual trail maintenance work.

New Trailhead Parking Lot and New Trails

Part of the grants received paid for a new 60' x 100' parking lot off Hiram Hill Road with space for more than a dozen cars. A new trailhead kiosk has been installed and the entire five miles of hiking trails on Cutler are accessible from this trailhead. The 175 acres recently acquired includes most of the half-mile-long main ridge of the mountain and all of the lands and trails to the north of that ridge.

A new trail to the ridge, the North West Trail, has been added. There are now three trails to the ridge, including the White Flag, North, and North West Trails. There is also a variant to the White Flag Trail – the Boulder Trail.



Our hike



We left the trailhead at 8:30 a.m. and returned to the cars at 12:45 p.m. after about three miles of enjoying several different trails on the mountain. Rain held off and later in the morning the sun came out. Temperature was about 45 degrees, a fine fall day. As we reached the first ledge with an overlook we were delighted to see that we were under the layer of clouds on the tops of the mountains around us. On occasion we have climbed a peak and found ourselves above the clouds all around us, but being under the cloud layer was also a treat. When we reached the ridge the clouds opened up and we had sunshine on much of the remainder of our hike.

When we got to the end of the Cutler ridge and hiked down into the “notch”, a deep valley at the end of the Cutler ridge, we bushwhacked up the steep slopes to the true Mount Cutler summit. Since the last time I climbed to the summit here in April 2014 someone has marked the rough trail with cairns and on the top of the ridge where there is an easy trail to follow although there are no trail markers or blazes. In addition to the fine views from the true Cutler summit there are numerous large ant mounds. I’ve never seen these in Maine before, but they reminded me of the ant mounds I’ve seen down south.

On the way down we took the North West Trail, a new trail for us and a delight. This is a newer trail that connects the end of the Cutler ridge to the new parking lot, descending through a mixture of hemlock and beech, with a fair scattering of beech nuts on the trail. With the beech bark disease widespread in Maine and New Hampshire it is heartening to see beech nuts being produced, although these we found were small.

The North West Trail joins the Link Trail, and from there the North Trail back to the trailhead and parking lot. All the trails on Cutler are fine, and we enjoyed exploring them on this hike. There are about five miles of hiking trails, all well marked with paint blazes and trail signs at each junction. The ability to “mix and match” trails adds to the opportunities for exploring the mountain, and I would recommend this local peak as an easy leg stretcher and worth exploring.

=====

Mount Cutler in Oxford County, Hiram, ME

Difficulty – Moderate

Loop Trail distance – varies with the trails hiked – typically about 3 miles total

Hiking times (loop) – 2 to 3 hours depending on season and trails hiked

Elevation – 1,232 ft.

Vertical gain – 832 ft.

Coordinates – 43° 52' 22"N 70° 49' 29"W

Topographic Map – USGS Cornish and Hiram 7.5-minute quads

Directions to the trailhead: From the west end of the Saco River bridge on Route 5/113 in Hiram turn north on Routes 5/113 toward Brownfield. Turn left onto Hiram Hill Road. Parking lot is on the left just past the railroad tracks. There is room for 12 – 16 cars.

Soldiers Memorial Library & Hancock Ave. Art Center Photos of events held this year.



NANCY & CAL UKULELE CONCERT



JOYCE BERK – CHILDREN'S AUTHOR



CARLOS ANGELES - CONCERT



MAINE MYSTERY WRITERS



ED RICE – MAINE AUTHOR



OEN KENNEDY "BIRD MAN"



**CORMAC MCCARTHY
CONCERT**



**MIKE PRESTON & KIM CURRY
CONCERT**



MILLTOWN ROADSHOW



**ED WEBSTER AUTHOR
HISTORY OF MT. WASHINGTON**



PRIMITIVE MAN CONCERT



BELLAMY JAZZ BAND

What an awesome summer of events!!

Community Concepts



Is **now** scheduling
appointments for



Fuel Assistance Applications

for 2019/2020



**Did you know they will be accepting
applications in
Porter and Fryeburg
In October?**



Call to schedule your
Appointment today.



207-743-7716

