



STETSON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

April – June 2024

*Stetson's Community Newsletter since
1988*

SELECTBOARD NEWS

Hello, Stetson Residents! Here's hoping everyone had an uneventful winter and is enjoying milder temperatures and gearing up for the start of summer.

We will start with an update regarding LS Power. As you are aware from the last newsletter, the LS Power Committee was established. We held a special town meeting on December 27, 2023 and the residents voted to approve the "High-Impact Electric Transmission Line Moratorium Ordinance in the Town of Stetson, Maine". Because the LS Power Committee also agreed to take on the Land Use Ordinance, the committee name has been changed to the Ordinance Committee and they have started the daunting task of working on that.

The Town received a letter dated February 6, 2024 from LS Power Grid Maine, LLC. The good news is the project has been suspended indefinitely. The not-so-good news is that they aren't done and this will more than likely reappear. The letter is available at the Town Office if anyone wants to read it or obtain a copy of it.

An update on the new boiler system is that a new propane boiler was installed by Dead River with a lock-in price of \$2.19 a gallon for one year. Due to the timing of the installation, and the ground being frozen, four propane tanks have been temporarily placed. A larger propane tank will be installed at a later date when the ground has thawed and the lines can be run.

A Land Lease Proposal from Revision Energy regarding the solar farm for the old Town dump in Levant was received for the Board's review. This lengthy 18-page document in extensive legal language was then forwarded to the Town's attorney for his input, suggestions and ideas. He has reviewed it and replied with his suggestions. We are still in the early stages of this process and will continue to keep residents updated.

Continuing with updates from the last newsletter, the Board received very minimal feedback regarding the Town Park. If any decisions are made regarding this piece of Town-owned property, we will keep you informed.

Now onto some new information. On February 28, 2024, a Special Town Meeting was held, "To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to appoint in its sole discretion the Town of Stetson Road Commissioner, for a term of 3 years, with this change taking effect at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting

and remaining in place until amended or repealed at a future town meeting.” There were a couple of reasons this came up during the discussion on whether to hold this Special Town Meeting. One was financial responsibility and one was accountability. In regards to financial responsibility was whether there was any difference if the Road Commissioner is elected or appointed. According to the MMA Municipal Officers Manual, possibly not. However, there was something there regarding line-item budgeting that needed further clarification. A reach out to the MMA Legal confirmed there is no difference. Their response was, “...the Selectboard would be able to see what the proposed costs and repairs are and approve or deny those costs and repairs before the work begins.” This brings us to the second reason of accountability. If an elected Road Commissioner doesn’t do work, doesn’t communicate with the Board and/or determines solely what work on what roads will be done, there is minimal recourse. We receive the bill on a warrant and pay it. If we delay payment for a discussion with the Road Commissioner regarding the work or the cost, that’s not good business practice for our Town, and it won’t take long for contractors to stop doing business with our Town. Contractors have bills to pay just like the rest of us. If residents and/or the Board become unhappy with the Road Commissioner, the easiest thing to do is just wait until the term is up. We have no recall ordinance in place in our Town. With an appointed Road Commissioner, this issue could be more easily rectified. The residents who attended voted to appoint the Road Commissioner. There was also a change made for this to be a one-year term versus a three-year term.

As you recall, Danielle Davis was sent to a class for grant writing. She has taken what she learned and put it to very good use for our Town. She did the Penobscot County ARPA funds grant for the new boiler at the Town Office/Community Center. She also completed a very challenging grant through MDOT regarding culverts. These three culverts are on the sharp turn on the Wolfboro Road, on the Merrill Road just in from the Village Road, and on the Lapoint Road between Mt. Pleasant Cemetery and Dearborn Road. Unfortunately, on February 28, Danielle received notification that we did not receive this grant but are welcome to reapply next year. Another grant she applied for is the Gloria C. MacKenzie Foundation grant. The Board came up with a list of things that were both needed and wanted to be completed at the Town Office/Community Center. This grant had a submission deadline of March 1, 2024. If we are considered for this money, we will know by April 15, 2024, at which point there will be a follow-up application due June 30, 2024. We will then receive our letter on whether we are approved or not by September 30, 2024. There is also a Libra Foundation grant with a submission deadline of May 15, 2024 in regards to work on the playground and another grant available for work on the Meeting House. These grants lessen the burden on our residential taxpayers for work that needs to be done. Grant writing is not an easy process and generally there is a lot of work and research involved in them. So thank you, Danielle, for working on this time-consuming process.

As some of you are already aware, we have two units available at the Community Center. Unit 2 has been rented to Outlaw Dance Studio. Many have taken advantage of the introductory free classes for both kids and adults. We hope those that like to dance will enjoy having a dance studio in town. We also were in negotiation to rent unit 3. Unfortunately, the direction the business was taking did not find the rental suitable. As much as it is disappointing to not get the room rented, we have the room nearly cleared out to rent it in the future. We will take the positive in the fact we have done much needed purging and organizing. If you or someone you know has any interest in renting unit 3, please feel free to reach out to the Town Office or a Board member.

The Board is getting bid requests out early this year for all of our mowing contracts, the trash contract and the plowing contracts. Our hope is that we will have real numbers for the Budget season, not “best guess scenario” numbers that can either help our budget by over-estimating or hurt our budget by under-estimating. This will also allow contractors to know what they have for work lined up.

Finally, Budget season started in March. It will probably continue into the beginning of May. You are all welcome to attend these meetings and provide input in where you want your taxpaying money to go.

You ALL are welcome to attend Selectmen's meetings. If you do not want to attend in person, we have a ZOOM option.

Respectfully submitted by your Board of Selectmen



TOWN OFFICE NEWS

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

TOWN OFFICE

Will be **closed** on the following dates:

Wednesday
Thursday

June 19th
July 4th

Juneteenth
Independence Day



Reminder that Dog Licensing was due January 31st. If you have not registered your dog, it is now past due. **There is now a \$25.00 late fee.**

******REMINDER******

The Second Half of your **tax bill is due on or before May 15th** to avoid interest and potential late fees.

OTHER TOWN NEWS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Audit for the 2022-2023 year has been completed.

Just a reminder that the Warming Station is open to residents during regular business hours.

Nomination papers are available at the Town Office. The deadline to return nomination papers is **April 17th** by the close of business at 5pm.

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on **June 15th at 10 a.m. at the Town Office/Community Center located at 394 Village Rd.** The **voting** for one Select Board member to a 3 year term and one School Board member to a 3 year term will be held **Tuesday, June 8th from 8am-8pm.**



Stetson Spring Clean Up Day (aka Big Trash Day) will be on **May 4th from 9am - 2pm.** All items are to be brought to the Town Office. A list of acceptable and unacceptable materials will be available.



VETERANS CORNER

Submitted by Brenda Clark

Hello Veterans. It is almost time to put flags out again. Hopefully the winds won't damage them.

It is almost time for our Veterans' Dinner. I think we will have it on May 18th. That date could change due to loved ones in town who may have memorial services that day. You will be updated if there are any changes. If you would like your picture on a banner, please let me know.

Hopefully, we will get the flower garden ready for Spring , if the rain ever stops.

God bless every one of you and thank you for your service. We all love and thank each of you. Hope to see you all soon.

The Stetson Public Library Newsletter
Stetson's Community Newsletter since 1988
can now be accessed by visiting the town webpage:
www.stetsonmaine.net



PARKS & RECREATION

Submitted by Jody Lyford, Selectman

We still do not have anyone to take over Parks and Recreation. If anyone is interested, please reach out to the Town Office. If taking on Parks and Recreation is too much, but you are willing to take on any special event, please contact the Town Office or Selectmen.

The only thing currently on the agenda for Parks & Rec is the playground. If there is anyone interested in helping to improve the playground, we would love to hear from you. Spring is coming fast!



CEMETERY TRUSTEES

Submitted by: Julie Brownie, Cemetery Trustee Committee

“Show me your cemeteries, and I’ll show you what kind of people you have.”

Benjamin Franklin

Winter is a quiet time for the cemeteries; however, tree damage was sustained in the December storms. Thank you to Millard Butler for spearheading the clean-up in Coboro and Julie and Dale Brownie and Les Merrill for helping to get the branches in Clark Hill moved off the roads. The old maples in the Clark Hill Cemetery really need to come down. They are dropping huge limbs, which have just missed the gravestones, but eventually there will be stone damage.

The Coboro Cemetery plots need to be surveyed. There are some markers in the newer area, but the maps of the north and west sides are unclear. Between the tree maintenance and surveying, there will be some expenses incurred. The Select Board does have some options as to how to go about managing the expenses in order to keep them to a minimum for taxpayers.

Last Summer the Cemetery Trustees and Historical Society, along with Jody Lyford, spent a half day cleaning stones in Coboro Cemetery. We would like to do more of that this year. We are working on the older stones first (over 70 years old). If you have a family stone that you would like cleaned, no matter the age, with your permission we will clean it for a donation. Call Julie Brownie (296-2866) or the Town Office to set that up. The donations will be used for cleaning and repair supplies.

Spring IS coming. Please remove flowers, decorations and mementos from grave sites by mid-April, so they can be properly cleaned up and readied for Memorial Day and Summer.

Stetson is still in need of a Sexton. Duties include acting as liaison between the Town Office and the

grave digger (who does not have to be the Sexton), marking out grave sites when a burial is requested, and making sure paperwork is completed and filed with the Town Office. The job pays \$1000.

If you have concerns, questions and suggestions regarding the care and upkeep of the cemeteries in Stetson, let the Town Office know. Thank you to everyone who helps to keep-up and improve our cemeteries.



WIDOWS AND ORPHANS **FOOD CUPBOARD**

Submitted by: Stevie Lord, 296-3503

Stetson's food cupboard is open every week Friday evening 5:30-6:30 pm and the first and third Saturday morning 8:30-9:30 am. We are in the **metal building** behind the Meeting House on **Wolfboro Road.**

As you do your spring clean-up, you can drop off bagged returnables by the shed at the Food Cupboard (13 Wolfboro Rd - metal building after the Meeting House). **Fundraising and donations pay for all our expenses** including operating expenses (electricity, propane, etc.) and some of our food. **We want to thank all of our supporters:** those who donate their returnables, those who shared their garden excess, those who send contributions of money or food, and **those who pass the word to someone who can use our help.** You, our local donors, gardeners, and folks dropping off returnables, are very important to keeping our lights on and food coming. In addition, Good Shepherd Food Bank, Newport Hannaford, Bimbo Bakery, Maine Distributors, and local credit unions are major supporters and suppliers, along with government food allocations.



Each week we have a wide selection of food and **you choose what you prefer from our offerings.** Plus you can “shop” the outside tables with miscellaneous items and some regular offerings like soups, breads, pasta, beans, soft drinks, and produce.

We have two, slightly different, distribution weeks. On our “**Full Distribution / Box Order**” weeks (1st and 3rd Saturday, and the Friday of that weekend), there are frozen meat choices, many canned and boxed foods and other items in addition to fresh produce and bakery. Even on our “**Fresh Food and Bread**” **Friday** nights (2nd and 4th weeks, and the occasional 5th weekend) we have fresh food and regular offerings with variety and selections that can provide several good meals.

Remember: If you need food assistance, even once, please come to the food cupboard. We are in the metal building behind the Meeting House on Wolfboro Road. The Food Cupboard's **regular hours** are every **Friday evening 5:30-6:30 pm** and the **first and third Saturday morning 8:30-9:30 am.**



STETSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Submitted by: *Laura Ward*
volunteer@stetson.lib.me.us

Visit us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/stetsonpubliclibrarymaine>

Catalog available at www.stetson.lib.me.us

The Stetson Public Library/ Town of Stetson is **looking for a new librarian**. Applicants should be familiar with libraries, computers, library software, book selection, budgeting, and working with people of all ages. Good communication skills are required. This is a part-time volunteer position with a small stipend (\$1,050/yr) from the town. An application and complete list of duties can be picked up at the town office or the library.



Keep an eye out for our **annual book and plant sale** around the beginning of June! We usually coordinate dates with the town-wide yard sale. Notices will be posted on Facebook, Rolling Thunder, and posters around town once a date is set. If you would like to donate books or plants to our sale, please let us know and we can schedule a drop off time. Come support your community library!

We are continuing our **New Year's Paperback Book Sale** through the month of March!! Come to the library during our regular hours or stop by the Town Office and pick up adults' and kids' paperbacks for only \$0.25 each!!

The **AARP Fraud Prevention** talk on March 6th was very informative for our community members! We hope to be hosting many more community-oriented presentations going forwards, so keep a watch on Facebook and the Rolling Thunder for announcements. With luck, we'll be able to bring another **Chewonki animal presentation** to the library for the end of the Summer Reading Program!



Free NSF approved Eclipse Glasses! The library has received 500 free National Science Foundation approved Eclipse Glasses for public distribution!! Come pick up enough for your family and friends during regular library hours.



Total Eclipse Party! We will be hosting an eclipse party for children of all ages on **Saturday, April 6th from 10-11:30 am**. We realize this is NOT the day of the actual eclipse, but we wanted to provide some fun eclipse activities and snacks and free glasses ahead of time, so that families can view the eclipse together safely from their favorite spot on Monday after school. See additional

details in the Rolling Thunder, Facebook, and on posters around town as the date gets closer.

Why should seniors have all the fun? The library will be hosting a **Kids BINGO day** sometime over Spring break! Check the Rolling Thunder, Facebook and posters around town for more details as break gets closer.



Other Regular events and items available at the library:



Books! (duh)



Jigsaw Puzzles! Donations are welcome.



Maine State Park Pass! Did you know that Veterans and seniors over 65 get in free, even without a pass? Call, email, or message us to reserve your date.



Maine Discovery Museum Pass! Call, email, or message us to reserve your date.



Back again!! Family/ group passes to the **Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens** will be available from **May 1st through October 22nd**. Passes are good for 1 adult and five children (< 18 yrs) or 2 adults with up to 10 children. Call or message us to reserve your date.



Senior Game Days! 1st (games) and 3rd (Bingo) Tuesdays of each month from 10:00 am - 12:00.



Free high speed WiFi and public computers!

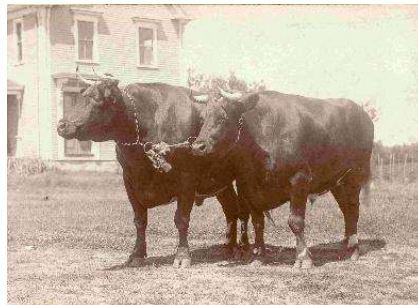


Our little community library is run by volunteers. If you would like to take on an occasional library shift, please let us know. We ALWAYS need more volunteers!

A note to **high-school students** - volunteering at the library is not only fun, but it will count towards your graduation requirements and look great on a resume! All volunteers under the age of 18 will share a shift with an adult volunteer. Come join our library family and help support our community!

THE STETSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 2024



Submitted by: Julie Brownie

Email: stetsonhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

Check us out at MAINMEMORY.NET.
Search for Stetson to find posted photographs
and stories about Stetson

After a pause in activities during the Winter, the Historical Society will start up again in April. All meetings are on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. The April meeting will be on Thursday April 4th at the Stetson Public Library.

We will continue to build on activities and accomplishments from 2023, such as, archiving donated pictures and documents and cleaning gravestones. We are always looking for pictures for our popular calendar. Don't disregard your photographs, there are stories in each of them.

We need to consider and plan for fundraisers in addition to our bean-hole-bean and baked goods sale.

Due to the continued deterioration of the museum, last year we moved some items to the Grange Hall. We need to make a concerted effort to move and organize the remaining items.

We have a busy year ahead, and also need to fill some vacant Board positions. We invite all interested people to attend. See you in April!

**ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS AND OFFICERS
SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS, AND
OVERSEERS OF THE POOR**

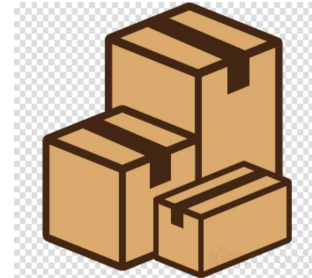
Gene Trojano	term expires 2025
Tammy Buswell	term expires 2025
Millard Butler	term expires 2026
Leslie Merrill	term expires 2024
Jody Lyford	term expires 2026

RSU #64 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:
Steven Ingalls, Curtis Chadbourne, & Jodi Brasslett

Doug's Disposal/ Trashbusters in Charleston, ME is Stetson's new waste disposal contractor! Follow their page on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/dougstrashbusters/> for timely information and updates.



Stetson Post Office window hours:
Monday – Friday 8am-12pm
Saturday 7:30am – 11am



Caring Connections, a cooperative program of the Bangor YMCA and Eastern Maine Medical Center offers mammograms and Pap tests to women who have no insurance or have insurance with a high deductible. Call 941-2808 x 338 to see if you qualify.

Does anyone have a name they would like to add to the **Memorial Wall**? If so, please see the Town Office for more information.

**TOWN OFFICE HOURS
296-3232**

Monday: CLOSED
Tuesday 8am - Noon and 12:30 - 3:30
Wednesday 8am - Noon and 12:30 - 5
Thursday 11:00 - 7:00pm
Friday 8AM—Noon and 12:30—3:30

Website : www.stetsonmaine.net
Email: stetson@tdstelme.net

Selectmen minutes are now available on the website to view.

SELECTMEN’S MEETINGS are held at the Town Office at **6:00 PM on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month.** The public is encouraged to attend.

PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS are held are held at the Town Office 7:00 PM on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

**STETSON PUBLIC LIBRARY
296-2020**

Tuesday: 9am - 3pm
Wednesday: 9am - 12pm
Friday: 1pm - 4pm (first Friday of month)
Saturday: 9am - 12pm

CLOSED Monday, Thursday, Sunday

Email: volunteer@stetson.lib.me.us
Facebook at [stetsonpubliclibrarymaine](https://www.facebook.com/stetsonpubliclibrarymaine)
**When the library is closed, please use the BOOK DROP. Contact us for book requests.*

Stetson Post Office: 296-3600
Code Enforcement Officer: Adam Caldwell
Thursdays 5:00 PM—7:00 PM
Tax Assessor: Danielle Davis
1st and 3rd Wednesday 8:00AM – 3:30PM
Town Animal Control Officer: Danielle Withee
Phone: 745-1130
Sexton: *vacant*
Town Website: Jeff Perry
Road Commissioner: William Barriault

*This newsletter is a free publication of the Stetson Public Library. The Newsletter will now be published **QUARTERLY**. The deadline for the next issue is **Saturday, June 1, 2024**. Information may be e-mailed to Laura Ward at volunteer@stetson.lib.me.us or dropped off at the library, town office, or book drop by the deadline. **Editable** electronic files (not PDFs) are preferred.*

CAR-RT

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04488**

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