



SOUTH BERWICK JOURNAL

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Special points of interest:

- June 13th Town Council meeting has been cancelled
- June 18th, Happy Father's Day!
- Town Offices will be CLOSED Monday June 19th for Juneteenth National Independence Day.

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From the Desk of the Town Manager

Tim Pellerin

Hello Friends and Citizens of South Berwick

With construction on Route 236 & 91 continuing through the summer with the redesign of the corner and traffic lights, everyone needs to be aware of the traffic congestion and expect delays. Please use caution in and around these areas.

The traffic study has been completed and presented to the Town Council with recommendations for consideration. The next step is to present the study to Maine D.O.T. for review, which has been sent.

The evaluation of the Town Hall for its use and longevity has begun. We are just in the beginning stages of gathering facts and presenting those facts to the Town Council. We will be bringing this information to the public for input and to help start moving the project forward.

It was great to see so many citizens attend the town meeting.

This year inflation is the major contributor to the increases in the budget.

Thank you all for coming out to the town meeting in support of the town budget.

The Old Berwick Historical Society invited the town employees to visit and tour the Counting House Museum. South Berwick has a long history and the museum has great information and interesting displays. I highly encourage all citizens to take the time to visit and listen to the rich history of how the town was settled and how it has grown.

Thank you for your continued support.



A Message From the Town Council

The Town Hall

During the Town Council's May 23rd meeting, Chair Mallory Cook addressed the audience, expressing gratitude for their presence and explaining that public comments will not be taken on the topic of Town Hall Renovations.

Chair Cook emphasized the urgent need for action due to the current state of the Town Hall, which lacks insulation,

adequate ventilation, and recently experienced a window falling out.

The Town retained Port City Consultants for guidance on renovating or building a new Town Hall. Chair Cook assured the audience that no immediate decisions would be made, emphasizing the importance of public input. Moving forward with renovation or replacement will take many years to complete. This is an

important decision for the community, and the Town Council is committed to holding multiple workshops and public hearings to gather public input.

The Town Council encourages active, productive participation in decision-making with forthcoming dates for the next steps.

Town History

The first meeting of the **Old Berwick Historical Society** was held at the Sarah Orne Jewett House on June 16, 1962, with board members Craig A. Holmes, Esther Holmes, Elizabeth Godwin, J. Paul Rideout, Marie Donahue, Kenneth Stowe, and Burton W.F. Trafton Jr.

Two years later the society acquired the Counting House as a museum, and relics and information began flowing from citizen's attics, cellars, and memories.

Today the collection includes over 10,000 documents, photos, and maps, almost a thousand books and nearly as many objects, plus tens of thousands of archaeological artifacts.

If you would like additional facts, or would like to share information, the Old Berwick Historical Society welcomes hearing from you.

Old Berwick Historical Society, Counting House Museum, P.O. Box 296, South Berwick, ME 03908, call 207-384-0000, email at info@oldberwick.org.

TOWN OF SOUTH BERWICK

180 MAIN STREET

207-384-3300

southberwickmaine.org

Departmental Information

Fire Department

Chief Hamel

The South Berwick Firefighters Association has purchased a brand new, rigid floor inflatable rescue boat, trailer, and 25hp motor using \$15,000 in funds from their annual fundraiser for the South Berwick Fire Department. The new boat is much lighter than its 1963 aluminum predecessor. This is important due to the remote access to many of our ponds, which often requires the boat to be carried. This new boat will greatly enhance the firefighter's ability to respond to water emergencies in this area.

The South Berwick Firefighters Association was established to support South Berwick's firefighters and their mission to provide the area's best emergency services to the citizens of South Berwick. The association has raised funds for decades through various means to support this mission through their mailing fundraiser sent out to the townspeople every October.

Thank you to the President of the South Berwick Firefighters Association, Douglas Leach, all of the members in the Association, and all of the townspeople for donating to this great cause!



Town Clerk

Barbara Bennett

The Clerk's office was celebrated during the 54th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week on April 30 to May 6.

A Proclamation was issued by the South Berwick Town Council on April 25th to recognize the vital and appreciated services performed by Municipal and Deputy Clerks in serving the changing needs of their communities. Specifically, the Proclamation cites that the Clerk "serves as the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels."

In celebration the Administrative Staff presented the clerk's office with this recognition, chocolates, flowers, and a good time!



Assessing

Verna Sharpe

What is the difference between assessment year/date, fiscal year and commitment date?

The assessment year is April 1st of each year as set by State law. The ownership and condition of all property is fixed as of that date each year. Any ownership changes, demolition or improvements to the property made after the April 1st date will not change the tax bill. Those changes will be reflected for the next April 1st.

The fiscal year is the year that ends in the period of July 1st thru June 30th. (ex. July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 is FY2024) This is the year of the budget approved at the town meeting in May of each year. The tax bills issued for September cover the period of July 1st to June 30th and are known by their corresponding fiscal year.

The commitment date is the date set each year when the Tax Assessor commits the town's assessment roll to the Tax Collector to allow for the receipt of payment.