



# Amherst Town Newsletter

## April 2023

*Amherst, NH Chartered January 18, 1760*

### April Message

Thank you to the citizens of Amherst for your tremendous support and patience on Town Election Day. The March 28 election saw a fantastic turnout of Amherst residents with over 3500+ voting! It was a very busy day for those of us working the polls and it was wonderful to see so many faces that day.

Copies of the the latest edition of the annual Town Report 2022 were available at Souhegan HS on election day but you can also still find copies at Town Hall and the Library. This important document contains information on budgets, a review of town departments, committees and commissions, vital statistics, and other financial reports. An electronic copy is also available at this link:

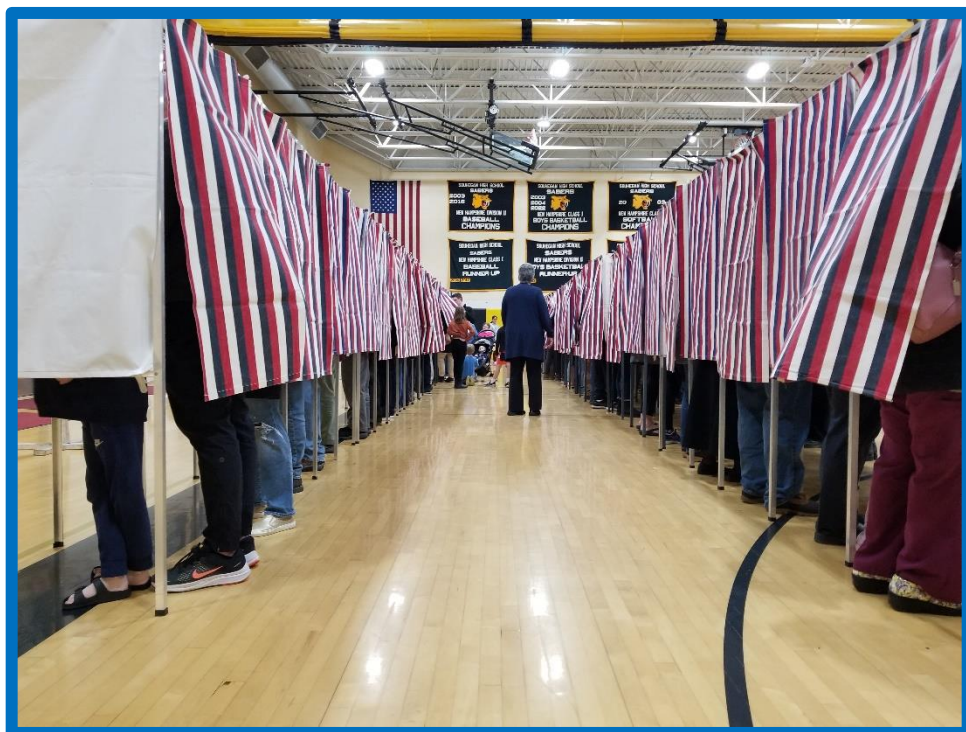
[https://www.amherstnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf4116/f/uploads/2022\\_annual\\_town\\_report\\_amherst\\_nh\\_final.pdf](https://www.amherstnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf4116/f/uploads/2022_annual_town_report_amherst_nh_final.pdf)

There is a new announcement about open town volunteer positions. With many ways for citizens to become involved in town, we hope you will consider sharing your time and talents in helping to make Amherst the wonderful community that it is. Visit <https://www.amherstnh.gov/home/news/vacancies-announced> for more information.



# Recent Events/Happenings in Town

## Amherst Town Elections



*Despite a two-week delay, town and school elections were successfully held on March 28. Here is our dedicated Town Clerk, Nancy Demers, helping residents find an open booth.*

*Congratulations to Tom Grella for his continued commitment to the Town of Amherst and serving another 3-year term on the Board of Selectmen!*

*He still looks great, even at 1 AM.*



**CONGRATULATIONS TO TOM DARNALL ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS A  
MEMBER OF THE FOURTH OF JULY COMMITTEE  
AND TO PATRICK RYAN, A NEW HIRE AT DPW!**

## **Election Information**

Up-to-date election results can be found on the town website under the “Citizen Action Center”, click on Election Information or the link below.

<https://www.amherstnh.gov/town-clerk/pages/march-28-2023-local-election-information>

There were several protest petitions filed and the Board of Selectmen is in the process of verifying them. Town Administrator Dean Shankle has updated the BOS with the following information. More information will be available soon.

*“Of the 7 articles covered by protest petitions 2 of them did not get 50% of the vote, and so failed: 41 and 51. Of the other 5 articles covered by protest petitions (40, 43, 49, 50, 52) none of them received the required 2/3 in order to pass if the protest petitions are valid. This means we need to follow the process set out in RSA 675:5.”*

## **Conservation Commission News (Big News!)**

The Town of Amherst has announced the exciting news that due to the efforts of the Conservation Commission, Town Administrator Dean Shankle has signed a Purchase & Sale Agreement for the acquisition of additional conservation land consisting of three contiguous parcels totaling 178 acres in the Baboosic Lake Road, Grater Road and Pond Parish Road area. You can read the press release at this link: <https://www.amherstnh.gov/home/news/press-release-conservation-land-purchase>

There is a specific process that needs to be followed including public hearings and the Planning Board and Conservation Commission reviewing the purchase as well. The BOS will post a schedule soon. Thank you to the voters for passing the bond in 2021 which will fund this potential purchase.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

*Mark your calendar for these upcoming meeting dates (Subject to change)*

*Town boards and committee meetings are held at Town Hall unless otherwise noted.*

<b>April 3</b>	Board of Selectmen Meeting, 7 PM
<b>April 5</b>	Planning Board, 7 PM (Souhegan HS)
<b>April 6</b>	Village Roads Study - Public Input Session, 7 PM (doors open 6:30PM (Wilkins School))
<b>April 6</b>	Souhegan Regional Landfill District, 6 PM (Mont Vernon Fire Station)
<b>April 11</b>	Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee, 7 PM
<b>April 11</b>	Recreation Commission Meeting, 6 PM (Recreation Office)
<b>April 12</b>	Conservation Commission Meeting, 7 PM
<b>April 13</b>	Heritage Commission Meeting, 6:30 PM
<b>April 13</b>	Souhegan Cooperative School Board, 6 PM (SHS)
<b>April 17</b>	Board of Selectmen, 6:30 PM
<b>April 18</b>	SAU39 Board Meeting, 6 PM (SHS)
<b>April 19</b>	Planning Board Meeting, 7 PM
<b>April 20</b>	Historic District Commission Meeting, 7 PM
<b>April 20</b>	Amherst School Board Meeting, 6 PM
<b>April 24-28</b>	April School Break – No School
<b>April 26</b>	Trustees of the Trust Fund Meeting, 6 PM
<b>April 26</b>	Conservation Commission Meeting, 7 PM
<b>April 27</b>	Fourth of July Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM

## **Board of Selectmen Meeting Highlights**

### **March 13:**

- The Board heard from many concerned residents about traffic, noise, safety and other concerns in the Village. The Safety Committee will be asked to review these issues and recommend a plan to the BOS.
- Determined Martial Arts was approved to hold an Easter Egg Hunt on the Town Green on April 8
- The Milford Rotary was approved to sell raffle tickets at their annual golf tournament
- The Town continues to await the state's instructions on the town's PFAS report
- The Town Administrator addressed the requirements for political signs, name and contact info. is required
- The Board approved hiring Bruce Mayberry to update the Impact Fee Schedule
- Approvals were given for the Mont Vernon Road bridge construction (Neil Daniels, Inc.) and construction engineering services to GPI (contingent upon formal approval from NHDOT)
- Bids for the Spring Road culvert repair were reviewed and all 3 came in considerably higher than the estimate from Hoyle Tanner. The Board agreed to allow Hoyle Tanner to contact the three bidders to give them the opportunity to revise their bids.
- One bid was received for the Spring Road microsurfacing project. This work will be put out for a second bid as the one bid was considerably higher than anticipated.

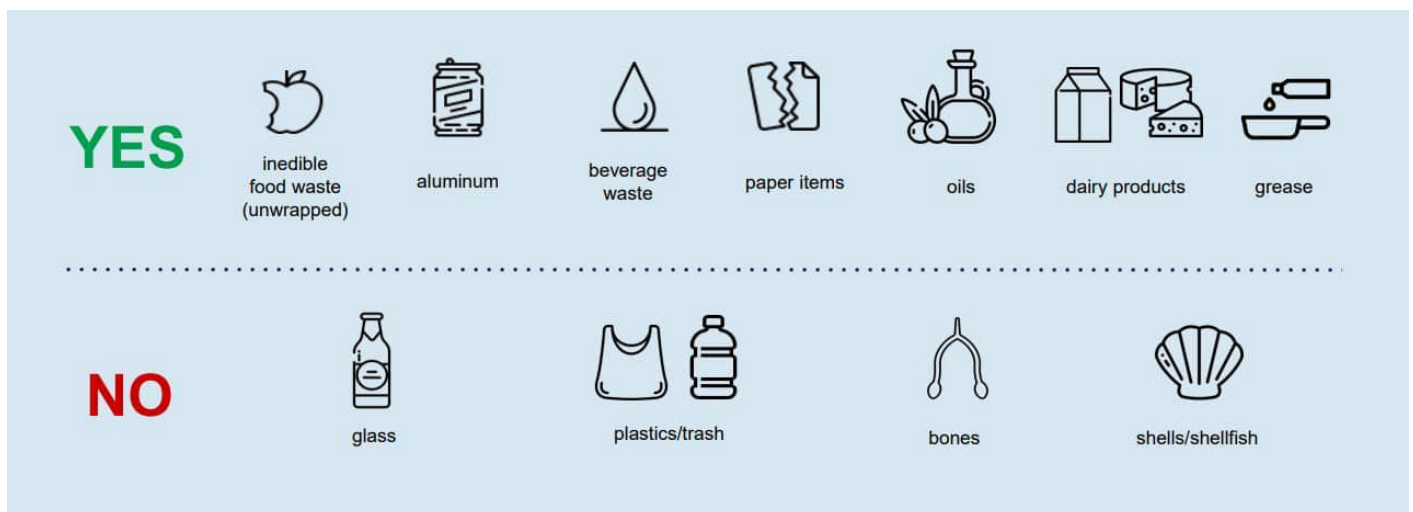
### **March 27:**

- A public hearing to accept a \$15,000 donation to the Conservation Commission was held and the BOS accepted the donation.
- The NRPC will complete their road study and counts of pedestrians, bicyclists in April
- Several inactive escrow accounts were closed.
- The BOS voted to approved the hiring of a DPW driver/laborer Patrick Ryan

## Amherst Public Works Food Waste Diversion/Composting Program

The Town's food waste program has been very successful to date. The best week to date was the week ending 3/24/23 when **720 pounds** of food waste was diverted! Weekly totals since the food waste diversion program was instituted in February were 150 lbs, 320 lbs, 300 lbs, 560 lbs, 440 lbs and most recently 720 lbs. Way to go Amherst!

DPW has also recently changed food waste vendors and there is a slight change to the program. Bones and shellfish/shells can no longer be accepted. See the graphic below for more information.



## Community Corner

Several local programs are available to Amherst seniors. On Facebook, check out this page for opportunities – [Activities for Seniors in Amherst](https://www.facebook.com/groups/856692751921687) (not Town sponsored)

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# Village Streets Study and Public Session

## Amherst Village Streets Study - You are invited to provide your input!

In recent years the Village has experienced a substantial change in traffic characteristics and an increase of safety complaints/incidents. The Amherst Board of Selectmen and Department of Public Works have been hard at work studying this issue and have hired expert consultants to assist.

Identifying the concerns, needs, and preferences of our residents is essential to this study process.

- **When:** Thursday, **April 6** (Doors open at 6:30 pm) 7-9pm
- **Where:** Wilkins Elementary School, Multipurpose Room
- **Why:** This process relies on public input – we want to hear from you!
- **Would you like to learn more about this study?** Visit <https://bit.ly/village-streets-study>
- **If you are unable to attend in person, you can also fill out our online survey!**

To learn more, read answers to frequently asked questions, or to participate in the study's online survey, you may also scan the project website with your phone.



Selectmen, a DPW representative, members of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee and our engineer will be on hand to hear and receive your feedback.

# Heritage Commission News

A request from Chairman Will Ludt:

*“The Heritage Commission is looking to the public to send in any photos that you may have for inclusion to our web site. Photos of interest are the Boston and Maine Railstop at Baboosic Lake off Embankment Road. To date, no photos are to exist. Please go thru your photos in your attic.....”*

The Commission invites all residents and interested persons to explore their new website and its many offerings. Have a look around!



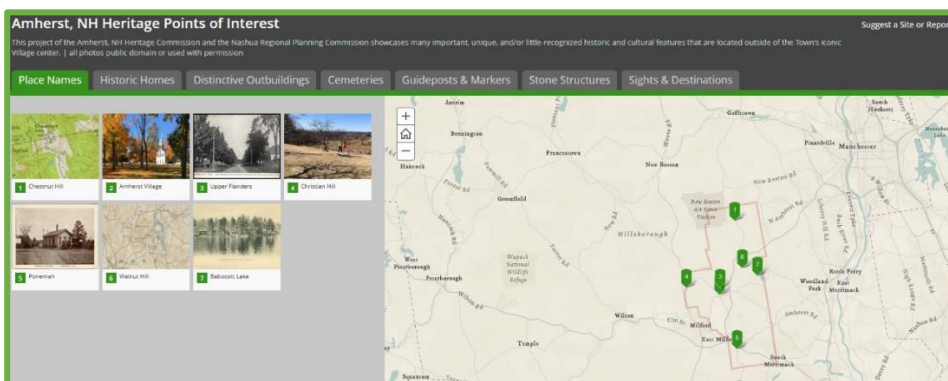
<https://www.amherstheritage.com>

<https://arcg.is/1P8yueo>



<https://arcg.is/1vaXLH>

**Heritage Points of Interest**



## **Firefighter recruitment**

**Want to serve your community in one of the most important ways? Become a volunteer firefighter! Give the Fire/Rescue department a call today at 673-1545 to ask questions or learn about this community opportunity.**

Or click on the link below to find out more:

<https://www.amherstnh.gov/fire-rescue/pages/become-firefighter>



*See You Next Month!*