



Amherst Town Newsletter

February 2023

Amherst, NH Chartered January 18, 1760

Welcome Message

Greetings from Amherst town officials and employees. In our continuing efforts to promote the dissemination of valuable information and news to town residents and visitors, we are embarking on a digital newsletter. We are committed to ensuring that all residents and visitors have the most up-to-date information and resources in order to ensure a high-functioning and close-knit community.

In this issue you will find important upcoming dates for Town and School Deliberative Sessions as well as other town committee/board dates. This information is also available online at the town website, www.amherstnh.gov, where you will also find the most up-to-date and specific information available. You can also scan the QR code below and be taken directly to the town's website.

While there, be sure to sign up for E-alerts and choose which information you would like sent directly into your mailbox (<https://www.amherstnh.gov/subscribe>). A wide variety options are available and includes all town committees and boards, agendas, minutes, etc.

We hope that you find this newsletter valuable and as we continue to seek new, creative, and valuable ways to “get the word out”, please share any comments or suggestions with the Selectmen by e-mail bos@amherstnh.gov.



Recent Events/Happenings in Town

Amherst Celebrates Anniversary

The Town of Amherst celebrated its 263rd anniversary on January 18 at Town Hall. Many town residents and officials joined the fun and had the opportunity to view some town historical artifacts. Amherst was chartered on January 18, 1760.



We are looking forward to having you join us in celebrating
Amherst's 264th Anniversary in 2024!



*CONGRATULATIONS TO EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT JENNIFER STOVER FOR
COMPLETING THE COURSEWORK AND TESTING TO EARN THE HUMAN
RESOURCES **SHRM-CP** DESIGNATION!*

Planning Board

On January 18th, the Planning Board held a public hearing for the newly revised town Master Plan, Envision Amherst 2035. A Master Plan is a planning document that serves to guide the overall character, physical form and development of a community. After several years of long, complex work and many hours dedicated to creating this important town document, the Master Plan was approved and will serve as a guide for all town boards and commissions. You can view this document on the town website at this link: <https://www.amherstnh.gov/planning-board/pages/master-plan>

All Planning Board agendas, minutes and current application materials can be found on the PB link on the town website: <https://www.amherstnh.gov/planning-board>

Zoning Board of Adjustment

At its January 17th meeting, the Zoning Board of Adjustment approved a variance for a handicap access ramp to the front door of 158 Amherst St. within the property line's front setback.

All ZBA agendas, minutes and current application materials can be found on the ZBA link: <https://www.amherstnh.gov/zoning-board-adjustment>

Heritage Commission

The Heritage Commission rolled out of their new website and three new GIS mapping apps that have been developed with the help from NRPC and Taylor Hardener. The major development work was completed with a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant from the National Park Service and NH Division of Historic Resources which enabled NRPC to complete their tasks on time and under budget. You can access all the new material at the Heritage Commission website: <https://www.amherstheritage.com>. Click on GIS Maps and don't miss "Amherst, NH, Through the Years."

IMPORTANT DATES

Mark your calendar, these are the important dates for Town and School Deliberative Sessions, Town Meeting and more! (Subject to change)

DATE	Description
February 1	Planning Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
February 6	Board of Selectmen Meeting, 4:00 PM
February 6	Amherst School District Deliberative, 6:00 PM
February 7	Souhegan Coop School District Deliberative, 6:00PM
February 8	Town Deliberative Session, 7:00 PM
February 9	Heritage Commission Meeting, 6:30 PM
February 13	11 th Annual Candidates' Night, 7:00 PM
February 14	Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Comm., 7:00 PM
February 16	Historic District Commission Meeting, 7:00 PM
February 21	Board of Selectmen Meeting, 6:30 PM
February 22	Conservation Commission Meeting, 7:00 PM
February 23	Fourth of July Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM
February 23	Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting, 7:00 PM
March 14	TOWN MEETING/VOTING DAY 6AM-8PM

Board of Selectmen Meeting Highlights

January 9:

- Pursuant to RSA 32:5, I, the Board of Selectmen held a Public Hearing to take input on the proposed FY24 Town Operating Budget and proposed warrant articles. There are several warrant articles proposed and for additional information, the meeting agenda and packet can be found at this link, including ALL warrant articles.

https://www.amherstnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf4116/f/agendas/2023.01.09_bos_meeting_agenda_and_packet_1.pdf

Additionally, if you wish to view a recording of the public hearing, two videos are available to you. The town's Vimeo channel link:

https://vimeo.com/788011857?embedded=false&source=video_title&owner=111189762 OR cable access recording

<https://amherstnh.viebit.com/player.php?hash=Ks4SWzmy8wBQ>

- Health insurance was renewed for town employees through NHIT guaranteeing a Not-To-Exceed renewal estimate of 9.86%.
- An update regarding the Pennichuck water line was given to the BOS
- The Selectmen approved the purchase of a used Grader in the amount of \$90k which was offset by the trade-in of the town's 37-year-old Grader. Final cost \$70k. This is an expected purchase and part of the DPW's vehicle replacement plan.
- An update on the Thornton Ferry 1 temporary bridge was presented to the Selectmen. DPW Dir. Slosek is working diligently to have this bridge installed asap.
- DPW Director Slosek provided information on a Christmas Day leak at the Baboosic Lake Community Septic. He is taking steps proactive steps to upgrade the system and make improvements.

January 23:

- Congratulations to Amy Hull, the new Program Coordinator for the Recreation Dept. Amy is not new to Amherst, you may remember her from her time at PMEC. Happy to have you back!
- Amherst has another new EMT who will be joining the Fire/Rescue Department. Welcome to town, Jessica!
- The Selectmen approved the withdrawal of \$706,796 from the Amherst Fire Rescue Equipment Purchase & Repair CRF for the purchase of the 2024 Pumper Truck.

Elected Town Positions on March Ballot

Filing dates: 1/25/2023 -2/3/2023

Position(s)	Term
1 Selectman	3 years
1 Town Clerk	3 years
1 Cemetery Trustee	3 years
2 Library Trustees	3 years
2 Planning Board Member	3 years
1 Planning Board Member	1 year
1 Trustee of the Trust Funds	3 years
2 Zoning Board of Adjustment	3 years

Amherst Public Works

Pilot Food Waste Composting Program

The Town of Amherst is embarking on a pilot food waste program which will directly reduce the cost of tonnage that the town pays for food waste/trash removal. A reduction in cost equates to cost savings for the town. You can help by separating your food waste items and placing in a separate container and disposing at the collection point at the Amherst Transfer station.

Kickoff is slated for February 2! Visit the town website for more information and see below.



COMPOSTING KICKOFF

February 2, 2023 12-8pm

Amherst Transfer Station
260 State Route 101A
Amherst, NH 03031

This new program will be a fantastic way to reduce the costs of waste disposal by diverting waste from the incinerator! The only way that this program will succeed is if residents participate.

Read below for a list of what's accepted and what isn't.

YES	NO
ALL FOOD WASTE <ul style="list-style-type: none">Meat & BonesFood ScrapsMilk, Cheese, DairyFruits & VegetablesCondiments & DressingsCoffee Grounds & FiltersSeafood & ShellsFats, Oils & SpicesLiquid Drinks & SoupsPowdered DrinksNapkins	NO GLASS <ul style="list-style-type: none">Plastic Serve WareAluminum CansWater BottlesYard WasteDiapersChemicalsCat LitterHygiene ProductsMedicationLatex Gloves

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT TOWN DELIBERATIVE

FEBRUARY 8, 2023

The Deliberative Session scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, will be held in the theater of Souhegan High School located at 412 Boston Post Road.



The Town is unable to offer an interactive Zoom session or live streaming for this meeting. The meeting will be recorded and available for viewing at a future date on the town's cable access on-demand channel. We apologize for any inconvenience.

**If you have any newsletter
comments/ suggestions or
photos of Amherst events to
share, please send them to
dpray@amherstnh.gov.**