

Poland Newsletter

TIF AMENDMENT PUBLIC HEARING & SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Select Board will be holding a public hearing on the proposed TIF Amendments on Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 6:30 PM. This will be followed by a Special Town Meeting for town approval.

These admendments address three major items:

- 1) Allows the Board to be able to negotiate Credit Enhancement Agreements with interested property buyers and to bring it to a public hearing for input from the Townspeople.
- 2) Allows the Town to use TIF funding for all allowed projects in the State Statute including items such as conservation trail work, and assisting an elderly housing project.
- 3) Corrects TIF maps and acreage, which has greatly improved since the inception of the TIF Districts due to the GIS Mapping. It also adds a few roads so that if water or sewer ever wanted to be added TIF funding could be used.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Thursday, September 13th
6:30 PM – Town Hall



MARIJUANA COMMITTEE

The Select Board has authorized the formation of a seven peson committee to help write an ordinance for the Town regarding marijuana in the Town of Poland.

The committee will be made up of the following people:

- 1) Selectperson
- 2) Selectperson
- 3) Planning Board Member
- 4) Community Member
- 5) Community Member
- 6) Community Member
- 7) CEDC Member

The committee will meet frequently starting in September in order to complete their work in a short time frame. Exact meeting dates will be determined once the availability of committee members is looked at.

We encourage anyone who would like to be on the committee to send a committee member application from our website no later than August 17, 2018. The Board will make a decision on all applications at their August 21, 2018 meeting.

WARMER WEATHER PRECAUTIONS

During summer months, it is important to keep an eye on our elderly family, friends and neighbors. When we age, our bodies become less efficient at regulating temperature for a couple of reasons. Seniors over 65 do not sweat as much as younger adults, which unfortunately is one of the body's most important heat-regulation mechanisms.

There are a variety of lifestyle and health factors that increase the risk of developing a heat-related illness:

- Dehydration
- Chronic illnesses (heart and kidney diseases; blood circulation conditions)
- Prescription medications that reduce sweating
- Salt-restricted diets
- Overdressing
- Lack of airflow or access to air-conditioning
- Living in particularly hot climates (Arizona and Nevada, for example, lead the nation in heat-related deaths)

Bruce M. Whitter Middle School Fire Slayers

On June 8th, the BMWMS Fire Slayers held their annual end of year Cook-Off Challenge graduation ceremony at the Fire Station. We wish the graduating eighth graders the best of luck in their future endeavors!

WE ARE IN NEED OF ELECTION CLERKS

The Clerk is always looking for folks to work the elections. This includes both State and Municipal elections. Each election the clerk will call interested citizens approximately one month prior to see if they can work the day. The work day typically starts between 7 and 8 AM and goes until at least 7 PM. You must be a registered voter to be an election clerk. If you are interested in being an election clerk please contact our Town Clerk Judy Akers at jakers@polandtownoffice.org.

TRANSFER STATION PERMITS

Pink transfer station permits expired June 30th. The new permit stickers are lemonade yellow. Permits can be purchased at the Town Office or at the Transfer Station for \$5.00. If going to the transfer station you must prove residency with either your driver's license, vehicle registration, or a tax bill.

TRANSFER STATION HOURS OF OPERATION

OPEN

Friday – Monday
7 AM – 5 PM

CLOSED

Tuesday – Thursday

(207) 998-4688

TOWN CLERK NEWS

Dog License Update - This is a reminder that by state law all dogs 6 months of age and older are suppose to be licensed by January 31st of each year. You need to provide us with a valid rabies certificate and if the dog has been spayed or neutered with that certificate also. We still have many outstanding dog licenses that need to be renewed by their owners. This is a last attempt via this news letter to notify dog owners. After this we will turn over a list to the Animal Control Officer of all unlicensed dogs and he in turn will be contacting the dog owner. If a dog owner no longer has their dog they should notify the town office so that we may update our records and remove them from our files.

Vehicle Registrations - Please remember when coming in to the office to re-register your vehicles to have your current registration, the mileage of the vehicle, and a current insurance card. We can also view proof of insurance on your phone. We are experiencing many people coming in to the office without a valid insurance card and current registration. It is very important that you bring these forms in as it makes the transaction faster and accurate.

We have had people that have come in to the office to renew their vehicle without a current registration who had gone to motor vehicle midyear and changed plates. Our system still showed their old plates and the vehicle was renewed with the wrong plates. So, please bring in your current registrations so we don't have these errors occur.

This is also true of transferring plates to another vehicle. It is important that you bring in the old registration along with all of your other paperwork from the dealership on your new vehicle.

We are now on Rapid Renewal and you can renew your vehicle on line by going to our website www.polandtownoffice.org or go to Maine.gov and type in Rapid Renewal. Please note that only those vehicles and trailers that have been previously registered in Poland are allowed to use Rapid Renewal. All new registrations and registrations that were previously done in another community need to be processed at the Town Office.

Marriage Licenses - For those individuals who are planning on getting married in the upcoming months please call our office and set up an appointment. We will explain the procedure. The town office phone number is 207-998-4601.

ASSESSING DEPARTMENT NEWS

Tax card information and tax maps are available 24/7 online on the town website at: polandtownoffice.org > departments > assessing. Additional parcel information can be obtained by checking out the newly created GIS mapping found on the towns home page.

IMPORTANT ASSESSING DATES TO REMEMBER

August 21, 2018 Mil rate determined, taxes committed and bills mailed (by end of the month).
October 1, 2018 1st half of the 2019 tax bill is due.
April 1, 2019 2nd half of the 2019 tax bill is due.

Payments made on tax accounts will be applied to the oldest outstanding taxes first before being applied to current taxes.

The assessing office is open 9 AM – 4 PM Mon-Fri, and appointments can be made to see the assessor as needed by calling (207) 998-4651.

FIRE RESCUE NEWS

Propane and Charcoal Grilling Safety Tips

- Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using for the first time each year.
- If you smell gas while cooking immediately, get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.
- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.
- If you are using charcoal, only use charcoal starter fluid and never add it or any other flammable liquids to a fire.
- When finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

Campfire Safety

- Before setting up a campfire, be sure it is permitted. Check with the fire department.
- Campfires need to be at least 25 feet away from any structure or anything that can burn.
- Attend campfires at all times.
- Never use gasoline or other flammable liquids.
- Always have a charged garden hose, bucket of water or shovel and sand nearby to put out the fire. Make sure to put it out completely before leaving the site.

Fact: Campfire accidents send thousands of people to emergency rooms with burn injuries every year.

Motor home, Camper and Recreational Vehicle Safety

- Install working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Use only one heat-producing appliance at a time.
- Check all appliances for propane leaks. Keep an updated gas leak detector on board.
- Do not keep camping heaters and lanterns on while sleeping.
- Have your propane system inspected to make sure it is working properly.
- Know two ways out.
- Have everyone practice the home fire escape plan.
- Keep a fire extinguisher on board.

Become a Member - Have you ever wanted to give back to your community? Have you ever wanted to help your neighbors as they experienced one of the worst days of their lives, but just weren't sure how? Have you ever seen a fire engine or ambulance headed to a call and thought to yourself, "Wow! I'd love to do that!" If so, then you just might be the person we are looking for. The Poland Fire Rescue Department is looking for dedicated individuals to join our team by becoming a member of our department. Few opportunities in life can match the sense of pride that comes from knowing you are making a difference in the lives of others, something we experience frequently! We, at Poland Fire Rescue, are always seeking people who have a strong desire to help others, people with pride and dedication to making the community safer and better. Because our work is so important, we make sure all our members are properly trained and equipped; all you need is to offer the time. If you really want to do something meaningful for your family, friends and neighbors, and are willing to take on challenging work, please consider becoming a member of the Poland Fire Rescue.

The requirements for becoming a member are:

- Be a current resident of the Town of Poland
- At least 18 years of age
- Possess a valid Maine Driver's License
- Possess a high school diploma or equivalency
- Have an acceptable driving record
- Have no, or an acceptable criminal background
- Pass a physical fitness exam

Call the station at (207) 998-4689 and set up a time to come take a tour, ask questions and pick up an application.

IMPORTANT

Please make sure that your address is posted on both sides of your mailbox and that your house is also numbered. This way in the event of an emergency we can find you.

UP-COMING FIRE RESCUE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Eighth Annual Fire & Slice Golf Tournament

Thursday, September 13th
Poland Spring Resort

*Please contact Tom Printup
at tomp@polandfd.com if
you would like to be a
sponsor, donate, or
participate in the
tournament.*

CPR CLASSES

We are pleased to offer CPR classes to the community. If you have never had a CPR course or need to be recertified, call the station.

(207) 998-4689

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

DRUG TAKE BACK

The Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office will be hosting a Drug Take Back event on October 28, 2018 from 10 AM – 2 PM at various

DYNAMIC SPEED SIGN

The Town received a speed sign from the MDOT that was made portable by public works mechanic Mike Archer utilizing steel tubing and a landscape trailer donated by Deputy Sampson before his passing. You will find this sign strategically located around Town.

PUBLIC WORKS: SPRING IS FINALLY HERE

Spring is finally here and it has been a very busy time for the crew at the Poland Public Works Department. As the last of the snow melted the crew cleaned and painted the plows and wings and put them away for the summer. Spring clean up on the roads was completed with our faithful 1985 Elgin Street sweeper. The crew also swept the parking lots and patched the lawns of the Town Office, Library and Public Works. Spring in Maine means potholes, and the crew has been busy keeping up with filling them in. If you see a pothole we missed please call and leave a message with the location and we will take care of it ASAP. The garage can be reached at 998-2570.

A.B. RICKER MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY HOUSE NEWS

Summer has finally arrived! You might think that the library is not the place to visit during the summer, but we might have just the right book to help make your favorite summer activity safer and more successful. Do you like to garden? Try The Veggie Gardener's Answer Book. Want to impress those relatives with your grilling? We've got Weber's Time to Grill, and for anything outdoors you really need to read Outwitting Ticks!

There are lots of things happening at the library, too. All of our events can be found on our website www.rickerlibrary.org but we will list some here just to pique your interest:

Mystery Madness Book Group: First Monday of the month at 2 PM. (Adults)

Let's Talk More Book Group: Third Monday of the month at 7 PM. (Adults)

Preschool Storytime: Tuesdays at 10 AM.

Needlers: Wednesdays, 2 to 4 PM (Adults and Teens) A time for knitters, crocheters, sewers, rug braiders, etc., to work on their own projects while visiting with other crafters.

Adult Coloring: Every other Thursday, 2:30 to 4 (June 29th, July 12th, etc.) All materials are provided.

The theme for this year's Summer Reading Program is *Libraries Rock!* Kids from preschool thru grade 9 meet on Tuesday mornings – July 10 to Aug. 7 – to read, play games, and do crafts.

The special events this summer are:

Aug 2nd: Antonio Rocha with stories and songs from Brazil

Aug. 9th: Jerry Schneider's *Bats: Sounds in Silence* program

Registration is required for all summer reading program events. To register please call (998-4390) or come into the library.

For additional library information we invite you to go to the web site, www.rickerlibrary.org, call us at 998-4390, or come in to talk with us. You are always welcome.

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS: CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

In the weeks leading up to Memorial Day the crew put countless hours into the 11 cemeteries maintained by the town. They raked leaves, cut brush, mowed and trimmed, straightened, repaired, and constructed new bases for many the older headstones.

We also began a major project replacing the fence around White Oak Hill Cemetery.



BEFORE



AFTER



PUBLIC WORKS HOURS
MONDAY – THURSDAY 6 AM – 4 PM



PARKS & RECREATION NEWS: NEW ACTIVITIES

GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY - We are excited to offer a new youth field hockey program to the tri-town area! Athletes must be going into K-6 in the fall.

K-2 will be an instructional only program-2 nights per week.

Grades 3-6 will have 2 practices per week and games on Saturdays.

Cost: \$ 75.00 (This will cover, uniform, goalie equipment, balls, etc...)

Equipment: If you need equipment, Gee & Bee sells a package for \$79.99 (Includes a bag, stick, shin guards and goggles)

Reminder: We have an awesome sports recycle program, if you need cleats!

We will do our best to accommodate the girls who wish to play soccer as well.

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE - Looking for Kids with interests in legos and robots to form a Poland First Lego League team! (Ages 9-14) The plan is for 1 team of 10. If there is more interest, we will look into making an additional team and coaches. Age 9 by Sept 1st.

Any adults that would be interesting in coaching and willing to participate in weekly meetings and to attend competitions; please contact the Poland Parks and Recreation Department.

Research a real-world problem, develop a solution, design, build, and program a robot and compete on a table-top playing field with chances to compete at regional, state, national, and even world competitions!

Fall Session to run from Mid August to Mid November

Meeting Location: Poland Town Hall

Cost: \$90 FYI: <http://www.firstlegoleague.org/> <http://www.mainerobotics.org/>

DISCOUNT TICKETS

We have discount tickets available for Fun Town/Splash Town, Aquaboggan, Water Country and Canobie Lake Park. Tickets will be on sale June 1st - August 30th at the Parks & Recreation office.

“Cash & Credit Card Sales Only”



POLAND TOWN BEACH PERMITS

Residents can access our Town Beaches by showing a transfer station permit or you can request a free beach permit from the Recreation office. Must show proof of residency!

Non-residents will either need to pay \$5.00 for a day permit or \$50.00 for a season pass.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT RECYCLING

We accept sports equipment in good condition and offer this equipment out to our Poland Recreation participants at no cost. Cleats, shin guards, basketball sneakers, cheering sneakers, and more!

PARKS & RECREATION OFFERINGS

Youth sports: Baseball; Softball; Intro to Tee Ball; T-ball; Basketball; Instructional Basketball; Competition Cheering; Fall Cheerleading; Football; Flag Football; Soccer; Indoor Soccer; Karate

Classes: Art; Drama; Zumba; Yoga; Lost Valley Ski; Destination Imagination; Swim Lessons; Tumbling

Adult sports: Pickle Ball; Open Gym Basketball; Volleyball

Summer Camps: Knights Cheering; Drama; Summer Recreation @ Camp Connor; Knights football; New England Patriots Alumni; Art; British Soccer

Rentals: Town Hall; Table and chair

Scholarships: Campership; Camp North Star; Bobby Brown; Jessica Pelletier

Services & Activities: Beaches; Ball Fields; Sports Recycling; Halloween Extravaganza; Haunting on the Hill; Poland Seniors; Trails Committee; Discount tickets; Dunkin' Donuts Card; Father daughter ball; Tree lighting; Community service; Camp Fair; Seasonal Job Opportunities

REC WEBSITE & CONTACT INFO

www.polandrec.com

(207) 998-4650

ssegal@polandtownoffice.org

A BEAUTIFUL TRAIL

The Waterhouse Park Trail has been part of the town of Poland for over one hundred and fifty years. Some of the pitch pines are 150 years old and one tree is 30 inches in diameter. The park has an active beaver knoll and their work are easily visible on the stream that abuts the trail. Within the park is a 23-foot granite block bridge built for the railroad in 1893. There are many species of wildlife, birds and various plant life of great interest. This is a great family friendly trail for families with baby carriages and family biking. With no hills awesome walking in a beautiful and close area. The Conservation Commission has already accomplished raising funds to pay for the trail bridge design and site plan. We are currently actively fundraising local businesses and will appreciate any help and input from citizens of Poland. Our committee members are listed on the Poland town website.

WATERHOUSE PARK

To complete the approximate two miles of beautiful trail, the Poland Conservation Commission is currently coordinating with the Town of Poland to build a trail bridge over the current dam in the park. This will keep pedestrian traffic within the park and away from the high traffic and dangerous road bridge on Poland Corner road. This trail is perfect for families to walk and see lots of nature.

POLAND SPRING MUSEUM AND POLAND SPRING RESORT PRESENT SUNSET CONCERT SERIES AND WICKED WEDNESDAY SERIES

Every Monday night, come and gather at Poland Spring Resort and enjoy some musical entertainment from a variety of backgrounds including Jazz, Rock, Bluegrass, and so much more. In 2017, we moved the concert series to an outdoor venue and it was a huge hit! Many Monday nights, over 300 guests enjoyed amazing talent at the Gazebo and when the weather wasn't cooperating, they could enjoy the talent in the All Souls Chapel.

If you are looking for something to liven up your Monday Nights this summer, please join us! Every concert is at 6:30 PM and they are free!

In case of poor weather, concerts will be held in the chapel. Among other items, hot dogs will be for sale!

Another fun option for this summer is our Wicked Wednesday series. During several Wednesdays throughout the season, we will be hosting a variety of talks, lectures, and films dealing with how Poland Spring relates to the many histories of the area.

These will start at 6:30 PM and be held in the All Souls Chapel with refreshments served after in the Maine State Building.

SCHEDULE:

August 6th: The Grassholes --- Gazebo at Poland Spring Resort

August 8th: Wicked Wednesday: The Rickers of Poland Spring and the Shakers of Sabbathday Lake.

August 13th: Ken & Jane Brooks - Gazebo at Poland Spring Resort

August 20th: Crooked Creek Band - Gazebo at Poland Spring Resort

August 22nd: Wicked Wednesday: The Poland Spring House Fire

August 27th: Phil House & Kathy Haley – All Souls Chapel

KINDNESS ROCKS

Behind a sign, under a bench, along a trail, inside a hole in an old tree – they can be found anywhere. They are kindness rocks, put there to brighten your day.

Early in May, members of the Poland Regional High School Civil Rights Team joined with members of the Poland Huddle, a group of women in town who want to have a positive impact in our community. They painted rocks to hide in various locations in Mechanic Falls, Minot and Poland. Their idea is to promote community spirit, to spread random kindness (delight in finding a cheery something in an unexpected time or place), and to encourage family outings. The rocks are painted with inspirational or diversity messages or they are clever representations of creatures – colorful turtles, honeybees, ladybugs and such. Some just have a pretty design to ponder.

Another aspect of the project is to make connections throughout our communities. Families are encouraged to hold their own rock painting sessions – an afternoon of creativity or a birthday party activity, for example. Rocks may be kept or hidden for a scavenger hunt. There are lots of possibilities and anyone can participate. It is important to be respectful of property rights, safety issues, and protection of trails as people hide rocks in public areas. Project planners met with the Poland Trails Committee to talk about hiding rocks along the Poland Trails and the idea was well received with the caveat that people be asked to stay *on* the trails.

At home, at school, out and about – kindness rocks!

POLAND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In May of 1975, the citizens of the Town of Poland voted to establish a permanent scholarship fund and to accept the initial donation of \$5,000 from W. Webster McCann in memory of members of his family. Five members of the town were appointed by the Board of Selectmen to serve as the Board of Trustees.

Over the past 42 years, the Board has awarded close to 400 scholarships totaling nearly \$145,000 to deserving students residing in Poland. During that same time, through donations large and small and appreciation in the value of those donations, the Fund now has an endowment of approximately \$250,000.

During the past 1 ½ years, the Fund has undergone some changes. Its monies are now held and managed H.M. Payson, the same investment firm that manages the assets of the Ricker Memorial Library. At the same time, the current Board decided to announce a number of named scholarships with fixed values. These are the

- \$1,000 McCann-Cobb Memorial Scholarship**
- \$1,000 Louly Baer Memorial Scholarship**
- \$1,000 Brian and Marlene Huntress Memorial Scholarship**
- \$1,000 Dana Littlefield-Matt Pitcher Memorial Scholarship**
- \$500 Robert Hamilton-Pauline Nason Memorial Scholarship**
- \$500 Jason Philips-William Twarog-Gerry Walker Memorial Scholarship**

The awarding of scholarships and awards is a competitive process. Depending on the number and quality of applications received, some – hopefully, all – of the named scholarships will be awarded. In addition, depending on the performance of the Fund’s assets and on the number and quality of applications received, the Board may award additional awards.

Applicants for scholarships must be year-round residents of Poland at the time a scholarship is awarded and be attending a college or technical school. They may be post-graduates. An application (available at the Poland Town Office, Ricker Memorial Library, Poland Regional High School Guidance Department and on the Town’s website) should be submitted from January 1 to April 1 for consideration at the following graduation time period.

Announcement of scholarship recipients attending PRHS will be made at the Awards Night at PRHS. Other recipients will receive notification by mail. Award checks will be mailed to the recipient’s educational institution after verification is received by the Board that s/he has successfully completed their first semester of school.

While the increase in value of the Fund’s assets for many years has been the result of careful awards, modest income from interest, and donations from a few steadfast donors, the Board has decided to commit to awarding scholarships in meaningful amounts to its recipients going forward. This commitment may impact the value of the Fund’s endowment. Therefore, continued growth of the endowment may only occur through donations from individuals who wish to support the students of Poland as they continue their education. The Fund welcomes donations small and large. The creation of a one-time award or of a permanent, named scholarship are also possibilities. Donations and inquiries may be sent to: **Poland Scholarship Fund, c/o Poland Town Office, 1231 Maine Street, Poland, ME 04274.**

Currently, the Board is down a member. Residents who are interested in being involved in a worthy cause which entails a minimal time commitment may inquire at the Town Office.

OPENINGS ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

We are looking for volunteers to help us fill the numerous Board and Committee openings in Town. The following are openings we currently have:

Board of Appeals

1 Alternate

CEDC

1 Alternate

Comprehensive Planning

3 Regular Members

Planning Board

1 Alternate

Scholarship Committee

1 Regular Member

Senior Tax Break Committee

1 Regular Member

Most Board and Committees meet once per month, with Planning Board meeting twice per month. Meetings are typically held on weekday evenings.

Anyone interested can submit an application for appointment from our website or stop by the Town Office and fill one out.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Monday

9 AM – 7 PM

Tuesday – Friday

9 AM – 4 PM

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Tuesday

9 AM – 4 PM

Wednesday BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Thursday – Friday

9 AM – 4 PM

Town of Poland
1231 Maine Street
Poland, ME 04274

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 9

Local
Postal Customer

Code Enforcement

Monday – Tuesday 9 AM – 4 PM
Wednesday BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Thursday – Friday 9 AM – 4 PM
(207) 998-4604

Assessing

Monday – Friday 9 AM – 4 PM
Nights and Weekends By Appt.
(207) 998-4651

Recreation

Monday – Friday 9 AM – 4 PM
(207) 998-4650

Public Works

Monday – Thursday 6 AM – 4 PM
(207) 998-2570

Transfer Station

Friday – Monday 7 AM – 5 PM
(207) 998-4688

Ricker Memorial Library

Monday-Tuesday 9 AM – 8 PM
Wednesday – Friday 9 AM – 5 PM
Saturday 10 AM – 2 PM
(207) 998-4390

Upcoming Events

August 9, 2018

Jerry Schneider's Bats: Sound in Silence Program
Ricker Memorial Library

August 13, 2018

Ken & Jane Brooks
Gazebo Poland Spring Resort

August 20, 2018

Crooked Creek Band
Gazebo at Poland Spring Resort

August 27, 2018

Phil House & Kathy Haley
All Souls Chapel

September 13, 2018

Special Town Meeting
Town Hall

September 13, 2018

Fire & Slice Golf Tournament
Poland Spring Golf Course