

The Temple Times

Quarterly Newsletter ~ June, 2023

Well, April certainly presented us with some weather and as a result, we will be months putting Temple's roads to rights. It had many of us talking about the flooding we had on April 1st in 1987 when we had significant rain falling on more than two feet of rotten snow. The snow pack alone released the equivalent of 9 inches of rain. With the mountain rivers still iced over and the ground frozen, it was catastrophic. I don't remember how much damage Temple's roads sustained in that storm but there was at least a full day in which we couldn't get out of the village. Seems the 100 year floods are coming more frequently!

Janine Winn, editor

Town Calendar: (also posted on the Town website)

- Planning Board 6:00pm 2nd Monday, each month
- Select Board Meeting, each Monday, 6:00 to 7:00pm
- Temple Historical Society 3:00pm, 3rd Monday each month
- **School Budget Vote June 13**

Town Office:

Hours: Monday, 11:00 to 7:00 PM
Thursday, 9:00 to 5:00 PM
(closed on major holidays)
Address: PO Box 549, Temple 04984
Email: templetownoffice@yahoo.com
Website: townoftemple.org
Phone: 778-6680
Fax: 778-0183
Facebook page:
Town of Temple Maine

Office Staff:

Tax Collector & Treasurer
Sue Cantrell

Town Clerk
Bob Van Riper

Select Board Austin Foss
David True
Dean Collins

Annual Town Meeting 2023 was attended by just over 60 people, a bit shy of average. Bits and pieces are as follows:

Austin Foss was reelected to his position as a Selectman and Erik Hellgren was reelected Road Commissioner. Additionally, Greg Kimber is our representative to the RSU 9 school board for another 2-year term. In the future, candidates for elected town positions will be required to submit a nomination form to the Town Office at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Nominations from the floor will no longer be permitted.

An important piece of Town building work planned for the coming year is installing a rest

room downstairs in the Town Hall. This would make the large meeting room much more functional for a wide variety of uses. All the rest of the Town business was passed at the meeting with very little fuss.

Bulky Waste Day: By 8:30 Saturday morning, May 20, trucks, cars and occasional trailer snaked around the Town Hall to unload their flotsam, jetsam and general debris into waiting roll-offs and garbage trucks. At times the line moved slowly but the unloading crew, made up of office staff and members of the Select Board, managed things well. By the end of the day, the garbage trucks were gone and the roll-offs were piled high with metal waste and tires. Fees are charged for various items because Temple is charged for having all this stuff hauled out of town, and truthfully, the fees cover only a small portion of the expense. Thanks to everyone for helping to keep Temple tidy!

Did You Know?

When Temple incorporated in 1803, it was populated by 241 people, representing 38 families and 7 men, but no single ladies. Some of the 7 were bachelors and some had come on ahead to establish a homestead for their families.

Spring Roads & the Mayday Storm:

While Iisalo Road may have sustained the most damage, almost all of Temple's roads were hit hard by the rain that fell primarily on April 30. The flooding came on May 1st, leading to the storm's nickname. In places, the Intervale had four feet of paved travel space bordered by two foot deep ditches. The Red Schoolhouse corner was flooded as was the nearby bridge. Edes Brook took out half the road in stretches. Fortunately, late fall work on ditching at some trouble spots, especially on the Day Mt. Road, spared us a lot more trouble.

All in all, Road Commissioner Erik Hellgren estimates that repairs will cost something like \$378,000, although at the time of our conversation he was still waiting for FEMA to make an assessment.

The road building work that was carried out by the development company up towards the top of Edes Brook Road held up very well, it was noted.

Erik and crew has first made repairs where people were nearly trapped in, and then moved to smaller, easier to fix areas of damage. Iisalo Road and the culvert at the outlet of the beaver pond will come last as these projects will take the longest. Meanwhile, all of this puts the planned rebuilding of a stretch of the Day Mountain Road on the back burner for now.

Trash & Recycling Pickup: Due to the recent damage on Iisalo Road, a dumpster has been placed in the parking lot of the Baptist Church for use by Iisalo residents until Archie's trucks are again able to navigate the road. Recyclables can also be left for pick-up on the 1st & 3rd Fridays in your own containers.

Fire Permits: We might think that the six or seven inches of rain we had during the Mayday storm would reduce fire danger to zero for a good long time to come. But no. The rain came so fast that instead of soaking in, it ran off. It caused flooding and also led to rapidly drying soil conditions. We would do much better with slow, soaking rain but that doesn't seem to be the weather pattern we've got just now.

Which brings us to burn permits. They are simple to get when conditions are right and timely information about conditions is available at mainefireweather.org. To apply for an Open Burn Permit, you can go to the Maine Forest Service website and look for the Online Burn Permits button on the home page. The system will walk you through the requirements and if you're new to burning brush and such, provide you with scads of

useful information. Or if you wish, you can get your permit from Temple Fire Department officers David True (779-4139), George Andrews (491-3627) and Wayne Tuttle (779-4012).

Burning without a permit can result in a thousand dollar fine, as much as 180 days in jail, and owing restitution for the cost of putting out uncontrolled fires.

Protecting the Steeple: After sporadic discussion about removing the boulders protecting the Congregational Church belfry adjacent to the Town Hall parking lot, plans have been made to replace them with granite posts linked by good looking chain. Several area equipment operators and individuals have volunteered their help with the project and donations are being accepted to defray costs.

Temple Scholarship for Graduating Seniors who attend public school or homeschool and who have lived in Temple during each of their high school years may apply for scholarships from the Temple Congregational Society and the Solome Davis Scholarship funds. Copies of the form are available at the Town Office and ask for some basic info and a brief essay. The funds become available at the conclusion of the student's first semester of college or trade school and will total \$1,200 for this years graduates.

RSU 9 School Budget will come to a vote in the district-wide referendum on June 13. If you missed the Budget Review flyer in the mail, fresh information about the budget can be found at <https://www.mtbluersd.org/about/budget-information> Your vote is important!

Girl Scout Troop 1826 Lives! In 2020, Temple Troop 1826 began meeting virtually once a week due to transportation issues and they continue meeting on Thursday nights from 6-7 PM. The girls, most of whom are in the 4th grade or higher,

also try meet once a month in person. Always looking for more members, co-leaders and volunteers, Leader Betsy Richard invites folks to reach out to her for more information by emailing her at templegs1826@gmail.com

Temple Planning Board: The bulk of the Planning Board work during the last several months has been focused on applications for the Mountain View development on Edes Brook Rd, managed by Jones Associates. This has been moving along smoothly.

Later this summer, the town in conjunction with the Atlantic Salmon Foundation is planning to replace the Mitchell Brook Bridge with an eight foot concrete culvert, and something like 15 or 20 trees will be cut to make room for the work. Because an important species of bats nest in trees during the late spring, the window of opportunity for the project is July 15 to September 1st.

The Board is looking ahead at reviewing the town's comprehensive plan to determine if changes should be recommended.

Temple Historical Society is planning for August 19 Open House. At this time, arrangements have begun to have both the Red Schoolhouse and the Archive Room at the Town Hall open, and to have a program at the Schoolhouse that will be fun and of great interest. Watch for further news.

The Society's bi-annual Newsletter will be out soon and mailed to the membership. THS has a collection of books by local authors that are available to lend. The Red Schoolhouse will be getting a fresh coat of paint this summer and the difficult from door is being rebuilt. Also this summer, THS will develop a conditions assessment and maintenance plan for the Schoolhouse. Numerous fundraising efforts are being discussed. We've only had a few entries in the THS Challenge Contest. Also know as the What the Heck Is That Thing display, the Contest has elicited some pretty funny guesses. Claim your bragging

rights. Take a look, fill out the answer sheet and join the fun!

Did You Know?

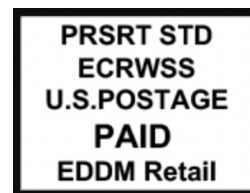
That Temple once had four active churches. These were the Congregational Church on the Intervale, the Baptist Church on Iisalo Rd, and just a short distance further up Iisalo, Methodist Church. The Religious Society of Friends, also known as the Quakers met in the homes of members.

The New USPO is half a step closer to being opened. The Postal Service has accepted applications for the Temple Clerk position and hopefully will soon make a hiring decision. Some additional equipment needs to be fitted into place, and the hope is that we'll be open sometime in June. Hopefully.

Neighbors: Early on during the COVID pandemic, Temple resident Ashirah Knapp began to write weekly letters of support to Governor Janet Mills who was getting a lot of flack for the decisions she was making on behalf of all Mainers. Ashirah described the impact that the pandemic, the closures and the safety measures were having on her family and their livelihood. Ashirah made a commitment to write to Governor Mills on a weekly basis.

These letters became the basis for a new book by Shannon A. Mullen titled *In Other Words, Leadership*. The book will be launched with a reception at the Homestead Restaurant on the evening of June 6 followed by a book signing at Devaney, Doak & Garret Booksellers just across the street. Congratulations Ashirah and Janet!

Temple Town Office
PO Box 549
Temple, Maine 04984



Postal Patron
Temple, Maine 04984

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