

The Temple Times

Quarterly Newsletter ~ December, 2023

I recently was trying to describe to a clerk in a hardware store what I needed, described it & it's use carefully but I didn't know what it was called. Suddenly realized I was getting annoyed with him, pulled myself up short and checked my attitude. We finally figured out the what and where and then I apologized for getting testy. "It's OK" he said, but it wasn't. He was patiently doing his job and I was quickly becoming a jerk. It was not and never is OK. Like most people, he was doing his job as best he could. There are, in fact, times when others cannot meet our needs, whether in the hardware store, the Town Office or elsewhere. They may not have the needed information, the experience or the psychic ability to look into our minds but they do not deserve our ire. As we move through this busy season of holidays and stress, let's remember to check our attitudes often. We'll all be happier for it.

Wishing you all Safe and Happy Holidays!

Janine Winn, Editor

Town Calendar: (also on the Town website)

- Planning Board 6:00pm 2nd Monday, each month
- Select Board Meeting, each Monday, 6:00 to 7:30pm
- Temple Historical Society 3:00pm, 3rd Monday each month
- Christmas Tree Lighting Sunday Dec 3, 5:00 to 6:00 at the Town Hall

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

treasurertownoftemple@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 & Registrar Bob Van Riper

Select Board Austin Foss

David True

Dean Collins

Christmas Week Hours: This year, Christmas and New Year's fall on Mondays. The Town office will be closed Christmas week and the Select Board will not meet. The Office will be open however on Wednesday and Thursday January 3 & 4 from 9:00 to 5:00. So yes, you'll be able to register that flashy new car you just gave your spouse!

Trash pick-up every Friday. Recyclables pick-up on the 1st & 3rd Fridays each month.

Dog Licenses: Dog licenses for 2024 are now available at the Town Office. By State law, dogs

older than 6 months must be licensed and must have a current Rabies Vaccination certificate. The fee for a spayed or neutered dog is \$6. For an unaltered dog, \$12. As of February 1st, owners can be fined for unlicensed dogs and the fines are hefty.

USPO: The Temple Post Office, open 7:30 to 11:30 Monday through Saturday, is now able to accept debit and credit card payments for services. The blue mail box out front is not, however, "operational". It needs an official ID & a secret password to make it useable. Or some such. Also, it is still not possible to call our PO as the office phone is yet not functional. Soon most hopefully, but not yet. You CAN pick up your mail on Mondays until 7:00 PM and on Thursdays until 5. These are the hours that Town Office is open.

Disposal of Batteries: Non-rechargeable or single-use batteries can be recycled, but there is not currently a free recycling program available in Maine. An internet search for "battery recycling services" may help find a service that meets your needs. Small quantities may be safely and legally disposed of in normal household trash.

Button cell batteries (Mercuric Oxide, Silver Oxide, etc.) and rechargeable batteries should NOT go in the trash. Instead, they should be recycled or taken to a household hazardous waste collection. Call2Recycle offers a free recycling program for rechargeable batteries. You can contact them at Call2Recycle.org or at 877.723.1297.

Election Outcome: Temple had a voter turnout of 184 people on November 7th, a remarkable number given that there were no actual elections. People did feel strongly about the Pine Tree Power referendum, and that helped to boost interest in the other seven referenda and one local question.

Temple's votes were:

1) To bar electric utilities from borrowing more than \$1 billion without voter approval: Yes 126; No 53; Blank 5

2) To ban foreign entities from involvement in Maine elections: Yes 164; No 19; Blank 1
3) To create a new power company (Pine Tree Power): Yes 41; No 138; Blank 5
4) To require standardized diagnostic systems on cars: Yes 153; No 28; Blank 3
5) To increase the time period for validating voter petitions: Yes 105; No 74; Blank 5
6) To require that all provisions of the State Constitution be included in official printed copies: Yes 137; No 43; Blank 4
7) To require circulators of voter petitions in Maine be registered to vote in Maine. This has been ruled unconstitutional: Yes 52; No 123; Blank 9
8) To remove from the State Constitution the unconstitutional rule to bar people from voting when under guardianship for reasons of mental illness: Yes 85; No 92; Blank 7.
RSU 9 question) To purchase the Holman House for use as administrative offices: Yes 119; No 62; Blank 1;

Town Office Job Posting: Town Clerk, Bob Van Riper's position, will be opening up in the spring. If interested, send resume and cover letter to the Town Office. The job is approximately 16 hours a week, 11 to 7 on Mondays and 9 to 5 on Thursdays. At this time Bob is giving up only the Town Clerk position but will stay on as the Registrar of Voters. The Town hopes to hire a new clerk sometime in February so that the incoming Clerk will have time to complete training before starting regular work in April.

Did You Know? By 1810 Temple had a grist mill, at least one saw mill, possibly a brickyard (data is a bit sketchy) a shoe maker, joiner's shop, tannery and a general store. No doubt there were numerous home businesses that provided tailor, blacksmith, or butchering services and the like. All the things a village needed when located half a days travel from the next village.

Road Repairs & Paving: As of November, Road Commissioner Erik Hellgren and his crew have continued work on Temple's roads damaged by this past spring and summer storms, and on replacing material that a storm last December had washed away. Roads were prepped for paving and then in October the really big machinery rolled in to work on sections of Iisalo, Varnum Pond, Walker Hill, Intervale and Day Mountain roads. The section of Day Mt just before Staples Pond Rd was paved as part of regular road maintenance.

Erik and Sue Cantrell are still working with FEMA. Discrepancies between estimates and actual invoices will be resolved over the next couple weeks and estimates are being made for what work still needs to be done. In the meantime, the bills for paving and such are paid out of Town Surplus. Good town budget management has built up the surplus to the extent that we did not have to borrow money to get the paving done before the roads froze. Seventy five percent of the repair work will be funded by FEMA, 15% by the state and 10% by the Town of Temple. The total bill will easily be \$300K or more.

Winter Roads: Just a few reminders: First, if you drive, make sure you have adequate tires. Hoping your tires will get you through til spring is pretty poor economy.

Second, keep in mind that the drivers of those big snow plows have poor visibility when they're throwing snow. If you go out for a walk some quiet snowy evening, walk facing the traffic and step well off the road when you see anything coming.

Finally, parking DO NOTs! Do not park in any plow turn-around area; you will be towed. Do not park close to the road to minimize shoveling; you stand a good chance of loosing a bumper or the side of your car.

Sand is available to Temple residents at the sand shed on the Temple Road. Please take no more than 2 buckets of sand per family per storm.

And while were getting ready for winter, do check your chimneys and heating systems.

Craft Fair: The Fire Department Auxiliary's Craft Fair on Nov 11 drew avid Christmas shoppers and 15 crafters from around the area and as far as Augusta & Rumford. The Auxiliary netted more than \$500 from the event to apply to the cost of equipment for the Department. Watch for this event in November next year!

Temple Planning Board: The Board is working thru the logistics of updating our Comprehensive Plan and picking up where things left off in 2017. Some of the needed changes are connected to changes within the village and some are needed to clarify goals set out in the original plan. We discussed the possibility of hiring someone for the work but finally decided that if we tackle 10 pages of the 99 page document, we can have it finished in a year or less.

At this point, the Board would love to have others join us in the effort. If you are interested, please let our Board Chair Jim Dunham or the Office staff know. We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month and would love to have your help

Temple Historical Society:

Christmas tree lighting Sunday December 3 from 5:00 to 6:00 and our village tree will be decked out with new lights. Singing, reception, cookies & hot chocolate will follow the tree lighting, and folks are encouraged to bring a wrapped tree ornament for a fun swap.

The Society is reviewing and updating its by-laws primarily to change the annual meeting date from August to September. All dues paying Society members are considered members of the decision making body.

The Archive Room in the Town Hall continues to be open on the first, (non-holiday) Monday of the month, 9 to 3:00. Other hours by arrangement.

Did you know? Currently, Temple's businesses are not required to register with the Town Office. Turns out that this is unusual and may be contrary to State law. Just one of many things that the Planning Board is discussing.

Neighbors:

Rick Blodgett: We are saddened to hear of the recent death of Rick Blodgett, a native Templite and all round good guy. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. A Celebration of Life was held at the Town Hall on Saturday, November 25, 12 to 4:00 and his obituary can be found at The Daily Bulldog.

Ben Davis: For the last four years, Ben Davis has lived part time in Temple. Summers he is on the coast, often on the water, sailing and teaching the skills needed for cooking on schooners and the like. Much of the rest of the year, he is in Temple

and you're apt to see him walking or riding his bike between here and Farmington.

Ben truly takes pleasure in providing what he calls 'community amenities' to Temple residents. During the winter months he often is pulling snow off roofs or clearing pathways for others. Spring & fall, he might be taking care of someone's yard work or helping to put up a clothes line. He is not interested in being paid for this kind of help. It just feels good to do it.

He is in and out of Farmington daily as he provides dog walking services to a number of pet owners, everything from 15 minutes potty breaks to serious steady, long distance speed runs.

Ben would like to serve as a Library Courier for folks who need books or other library materials picked up or returned at the Farmington Library.

As the Library works hard to protect patrons' privacy, they will need your permission for the Temple Community Courier, that is Ben, to make pick ups on your behalf. You can reach Ben at 207.265.6734 between 9:00 am and 4 pm, Monday through Friday to schedule a delivery.

The Temple Times
% Temple Town Office
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**Postal Patron
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**The fourth issue of
The Temple Times for 2023**