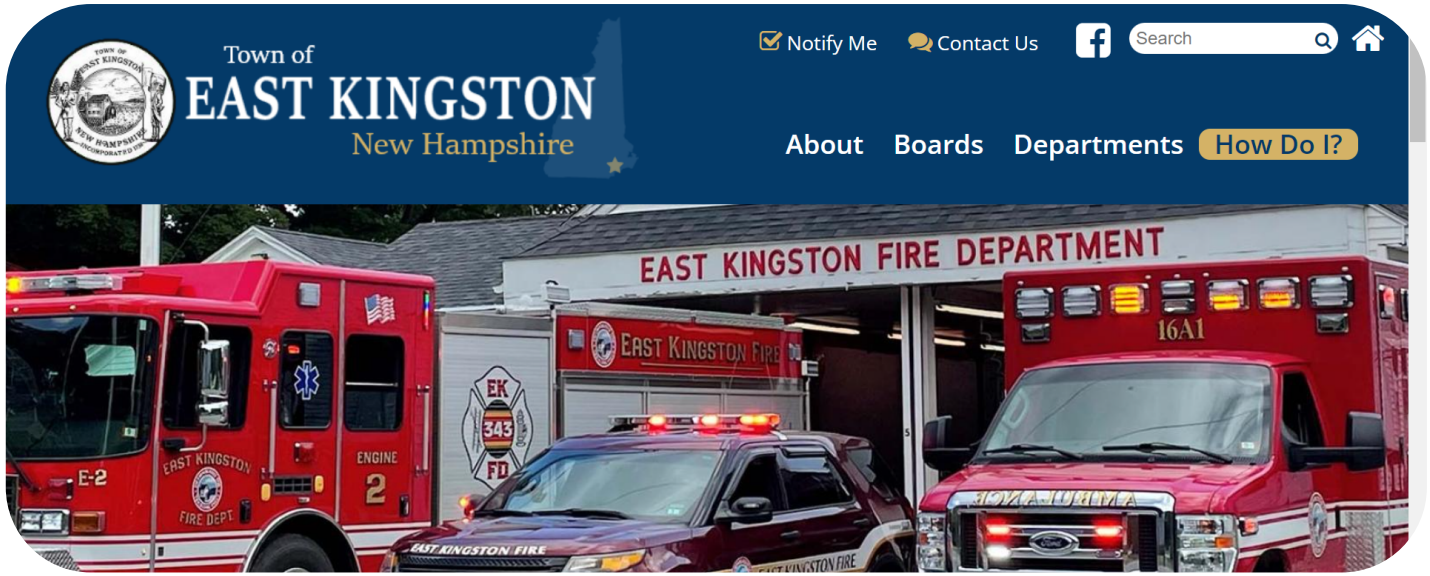


E. KINGSTON EDITION

“In February there is everything to hope for and nothing to regret.” – Patience Strong



IN THIS ISSUE

NEW WEBSITE

IMPORTANT TOWN DATES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

EK TOWN AND SCHOOL DELIBERATIVE SESSION 2023

IN MEMORIAM

New Town Website

Thanks to a great effort by Grace and the Selectmen's office, the town officially has a new website! This one is easy to use, very appealing, and allows for information to be available much quicker than the previous site. You can find this new website attached to the same URL as before: www.eknh.org.

Deliberative Sessions 2023

by Zoe Sucu, Library Director

It's budget season! Before the budget makes it to the ballot on March 14th, it has to make its way through the deliberative session first.

The Town's deliberative session will be held on February 4th at 10am.

The School's deliberative session will be held on February 4th at 1pm.

Both sessions will be hosted in the Multi-Purpose room at the East Kingston Elementary School located at 5 Andrews Lane, East Kingston. More information can be found on the town website: www.eknh.org.

EKES School Board Updates

by Andy Herum, School Board Member

School Board Upcoming Dates:

School Board Deliberative Session: Feb 4th, 1:00 PM in the EKES Gymnasium

Board Meeting: Feb 22nd - 5:30 EKES Library

Town Voting Day: March 14th

Board Organization Meeting: March 15th - 5:30 EKES Library

School Board Filing Period: To file to run for the EKES School Board, please see Karen Hoffmaster at EKES from Jan 25th to Feb 3rd, 8AM to 4PM. You will need to present a valid driver's license.

EKES School Play: The School Play this year is "Frozen Kids", it will be running from March 30th to April 1st.

East Kingston Edition

Town of East Kingston
www.eknh.org

Town Clerk & Tax Collector

(603) 642-8794

Monday: 8am - 5pm

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

8am - 2:30pm

Wednesday: 5pm - 7pm

Town Administration

(603) 642-8406

Monday: 8am - 4pm

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

8am - 2:30pm

Wednesday: 11am - 7pm

East Kingston Police

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: (603) 642-5427

East Kingston Fire

ekfd.org

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: (603) 642-3141

East Kingston Public Library

eastkingstonlibrary.org

(603) 642-8333

ekpublib@comcast.net

Monday & Wednesday:

9am - 5pm

Tuesday & Thursday:

11am - 7pm

Friday & Saturday:

9am - 1pm

E. Kingston Elementary School

(603) 642-3511

EKES on the web: eks.sau16.org

SAU16 on the web: sau16.org

Newsletter Deadlines

Submissions for the following month must be submitted by the 17th of each month. Send submissions to

newsletter@eastkingstonnh.gov

Please be aware that the pandemic may affect normal business hours. It may be best to call before attempting a visit.

Conservation Easements Program

By the East Kingston Conservation Commission

Learn about the process for and benefits of a conservation easement on East Kingston Public Library's Youtube channel here: <https://youtu.be/cp0YLxwOEqM?t=346>

Presenter Jeremy Lougee (starting at 7:45) is a Senior Conservation Project Manager & Farmland Coordinator at Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (SELT), which has conserved tens of thousands of acres, including Bodwell Farm and Monahan Farm.

Questions and answers start at 38 minutes in.

The program, Protect Your Land: Preserve Your Legacy, was hosted by the East Kingston Conservation Commission in October 2022.

Conservation materials, including the Conserving Your Land book, are available at the East Kingston Public Library.

SELT Supports Open Space Bond

By Vicki J. Brown, East Kingston Conservation Commission

Please vote for Open Space on March 14.

“East Kingston has significant land worthy of permanent conservation,” Brian Hart, Executive Director of the Southeast Land Trust (SELT), said in a letter of support for the East Kingston Conservation Commission’s open space bond warrant. In the letter, Hart identifies 1,388 acres in East Kingston as “highest priority for permanent protection” by the 2021 NH Coastal Watershed Conservation Plan and the 2014 Merrimack River Watershed Conservation Plan.

“In total, these 1,388 acres are critical to the long-term integrity of natural systems and to the environmental infrastructure that benefits human communities (e.g., drinking water supply, flood storage, etc.) long into the future,” SELT’s Hart said.

Dennis Quintal, Chair of the East Kingston Conservation Commission, agrees. “Open space lands offer many benefits, such as agriculture, scenic vistas, wildlife habitat and groundwater recharge,” he said.

The East Kingston Conservation Commission (EKCC) has proposed a warrant article for a bond, not to exceed \$4 million over 20 years, for the acquisition of conservation easements to help maintain East Kingston’s rural character and protect water and wildlife resources.

More information, including the SELT letter of support, are at <https://www.eknh.org/conservation-commission/pages/protect-it-or-lose-it-land-conservation>

Please support both conservation warrant articles -- the Open Space bond and Powwow bank restoration - by voting YES at the Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2023





December 21, 2022

Town of East Kingston
24 Depot Road
East Kingston, NH 03827

RE: Support for Conservation Commission's Bond Warrant at 2023 Town Meeting

Dear East Kingston residents:

On behalf of the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (SELT), please accept this letter of support for the Conservation Commission's proposed \$4M bond warrant article at the upcoming 2023 Town Meeting. Since 1980, SELT has worked to conserve and steward land for the benefit of people and nature in New Hampshire and serves all of Rockingham and Strafford counties. Our mission is to protect and sustain the significant lands in our communities for clean water, outdoor recreation, fresh food, wildlife, and healthy forests. Toward achieving our mission, SELT has partnered with the East Kingston Conservation Commission to conserve community landmarks like Monahan Farm.

According to a US Forest Service Report in 2010, the Town of East Kingston straddles two of the most threatened watersheds in the nation: the Merrimack River watershed and the Salmon Falls River watershed. At present, only 17% (1,062 acres) of the land in East Kingston is conserved (source: NH GRANIT database). The 2021 NH Coastal Watershed Conservation Plan and the 2014 Merrimack River Watershed Conservation Plan identify several key conservation priorities in East Kingston including lands that protect water quality and supply, important wildlife habitat, climate resiliency, agricultural resources, recreational opportunities, and landscape connectivity. Of the remaining 5,321 acres not conserved in East Kingston, the NH Coastal Plan identifies an additional 1,121 acres (21% of the Town) as the highest priority targets for land protection, while the Merrimack Plan identifies an additional 267 acres (5% of the Town) as highest priority for permanent protection. In total, these 1,388 acres are critical to the long-term integrity of natural systems and to the environmental infrastructure that benefits human communities (e.g., drinking water supply, flood storage, etc.) long into the future.

These plans make it clear that East Kingston has significant land worthy of permanent conservation. But how to make that happen? Passage of the warrant article allows the community to be ready when a willing landowner is ready to voluntarily conserve their land. Then, the Town's Conservation Commission can partner with SELT and other conservation organizations to leverage private, state, and federal funding to conserve the critical conservation lands in your community. In short, the proposed bond will be an important investment for the long-term protection of natural resources and quality of life for people in East Kingston. SELT looks forward to working with the Town to conserve these special places.

Sincerely,

Brian Hart
Executive Director, SELT

A letter of Conservation support from SELT (Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire)



The Nan and George Mathey Center for People and Nature at Burley Farms
247 North River Road Epping, NH 03042 603-778-6088 seltnh.org

You're Invited!

By the East Kingston Democratic Town Committee

East Kingston Democratic Town Committee Meeting Thursday Feb. 9

The East Kingston Democratic Town Committee will meet on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 6:30pm to elect town Democratic officers.

A Democratic Town Committee is a group of Democratic voters from a town who want to meet and work to support the Democratic Party and democratic principles.

Any and all Democratic voters, and like-minded independents, are invited to participate in the committee. Any town registered Democrat can run for the position of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary or Treasurer.

For more information or to register to attend the meeting on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 6:30pm, email EKDemocrats@gmail.com.

February Happenings at the East Kingston Public Library

By EKPL

Get ready for Spring Planting with a Garden Design series, Presented by Asia Scudder

February 23 @ 7pm --- Garden Design 101

Do you have that one area of your yard that you can't just decide what to do with? If garden design is something you've tried but still have a few pesky questions about then this program is for you. **Garden Design 101** is an opportunity to bring photos and/or sketches of your yard and talk about changes you would like to see in your outdoor areas. Whether that is choosing the right tree or which perennials to choose for color - when to plant, how to prune and more!.. this class will help you choose the right plants and placement for your location.

Asia Scudder graduated with a Bachelor's in Ecology not knowing that her career path would lead her to designing gardens that brought together both landscape design and sustainability - now this has become her passion! Her company, Native Landscapes, allowed her to work with 100's of clients over 20 years. She now enjoys teaching 'how-to' workshops for anyone who is wanting to spruce up their own properties.

GARDEN DESIGN

Garden Design 101 - February 23 @ 7pm

Choose the Right Trees & Shrubs - March 23 @ 7pm

Perennials + Pollinator Gardens - April 20 @ 7pm

Presented by Asia Scudder

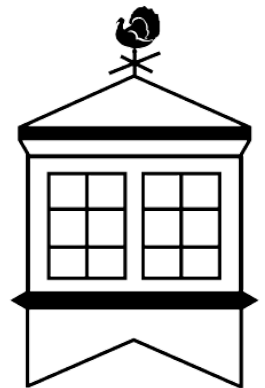
SAVE THE DATES!!!

Need something to do over February vacation? We've got just the thing!

On **Tuesday, February 28th at 2pm**, we'll be exploring the world of Geometric Art! Using painters tape and paint, we'll create the next masterpiece to hang on the wall. Sign up is required and space is limited!

On **Thursday, March 2nd at 11am**, we'll be visited by Wildlife Encounters! We'll be meeting six TINY creatures and will learn all about how they live, and if their size makes it easier or harder! Sign up is not required.

As usual, we have **story hour on Friday mornings at 10am**. Most attendees are ages 1 - 6, but absolutely anyone is welcome to come listen to a story and make a craft!



EAST KINGSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

MAKERS MEETING

GEOMETRIC ART

EAST KINGSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
47 MAPLEVALE RD EAST KINGSTON
EASTKINGSTONLIBRARY.ORG
603-642-2333

WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS

ECOLOGY & WELLNESS CENTER

Friends of the East Kingston Public Library News

By FoEKPL

Happy February!

First off, the Friends of East Kingston Public Library would like to thank Sherry Castle for her tenure as Treasurer of the Friends. Sherry's work as Treasurer has been impeccable, and her dedication second to none. She has done an amazing job handling our reporting, filing responsibilities, and record update & maintenance, to name just a few. While we will miss her (and her incredible attention to detail!), we are so excited for her as she embarks on her new role as Assistant Director at the East Kingston Public Library!

Sherry – thank you and we wish you all the best! See you at the Library



The Friends Annual Meeting was held on January 25th. Members present at the meeting had an opportunity to review the group's 2022 highlights, current standing and participate in planning for 2023. If you weren't able to join us at the meeting, Minutes will be posted on our web page soon and we look forward to having you join us at our next Quarterly meeting March 28th at 5:00pm.



♥ Give the gift of reading in February ♥

Stop in at the **Used Book Store (UBS) at the Pound School** ~ open Fridays from 10-5 and Saturday 10-1 ~ to take advantage of our Valentine's Specials.

- ♥ Buy one book and pick a second book (of equal or lesser value) **for free**, as well as a Valentine, to give to your favorite Valentine.
- ♥ Purchase an empty bag and gift your Valentine with the opportunity to shop the UBS and fill their bag



There's lots more going on with the Friends group, but details were up in the air at the time of this newsletter submission, so please follow our FaceBook Page "*Friends of East Kingston Public Library*", visit our webpage or email us at friendsofekpl@gmail.com for information in 2023.

In Memoriam: Doc Marston

1937 - 2023

February's newsletter is dedicated to Doc Marston for his many years of service to the town of East Kingston.



Robert "Doc" Marston, DVM
1937-2023

Planning Board Service
1975-2023

Members of the East Kingston Planning Board would like to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to the memory of Doc Marston who graciously served on the Board these past 48 years.

Both former and current Board members enjoyed his pragmatic and common-sense approach to planning and land use development, as well as his quick wit and sense of humor. He was well-respected by all and served as the institutional memory for the Board with respect to Board decisions made decades ago.

His contributions to the endeavors and work of the Board in maintaining the rural and agricultural character of the town are evident.

"Motion to adjourn!"

On behalf of the East Kingston Planning Board,
Josh Bath, Chairman

Important Dates

Deliberative Sessions:

- **Saturday, February 4th @ 10:00am - Town Deliberative Session**
 - Multi-Purpose Room at the East Kingston Elementary School, 5 Andrews Lane, East Kingston.
- **Saturday, February 4th @ 1:00pm - School Deliberative Session**
 - Multi-Purpose Room at the East Kingston Elementary School, 5 Andrews Lane, East Kingston.
- **February 6th @ 6:30pm - Selectmen's Meeting**
 - In-Person with Zoom Option. Meetings will be held at the Town offices. The agenda, Zoom link, and more can be found on eknh.org/selectmen.
- **February 13th @ 5:00pm - East Kingston Conservation Commission**
 - In-Person. Meetings will be held at the Town Offices. More information can be found at www.eknh.org/conservation-commission.
- **February 16th @ 7:00pm - Planning Board**
 - In Person. Meetings are held at the Pound School. More information can be found at www.eknh.org/planning-board.
- **February 21st @ 6:30pm - Selectmen's Meeting**
 - In-Person with Zoom Option. Meetings will be held at the Town offices. The agenda, Zoom link, and more can be found on eknh.org/selectmen.
- **February 23rd @ 7:00pm - Zoning Board**
 - In Person. Meetings are held at the Pound School. More information can be found at www.eknh.org/zoning-board-adjustment.
- **February 27th @ 5pm - EKPL Board of Trustees**
 - In-Person with Zoom Option. Meetings will be held at the East Kingston Public Library. The agenda, Zoom link, and more can be found on eastkingstonlibrary.org.