

# The Bradford Bridge

COMMUNITY NEWS *for* NEIGHBORS *by* NEIGHBORS

## MONTHLY BRIEFING: Town Board Reports

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**Bylaws** The Board approved a motion to adopt bylaws as recommended by the Bradford Parks and Recreation Commission.

**Police Update** A new SUV has been placed in service and the old cruiser is being retired and will be sent to auction. The Police department is undergoing weekly COVID-19 testing and all department employees are signed up to receive the vaccine.

**Building Inspection** The Board has eliminated the Building Inspector role. Life Safety Inspections will be conducted by the Fire Department. As a result, there will be changes to the building inspection process. The Board approved a motion to opt out of the Town's requirement for approval of septic designs. Applicants can go to the State for approval.

**Building Code Ordinance** The Select Board is proposing to ask the Legislative Body (Town's People) to repeal the Building Code Ordinance enacted at the 1987 Town Meeting. The Board reasons that the code that was adopted is significantly outdated, a State building code was passed in 2002 and all construction must follow State code, and repealing the ordinance removes potential liability to the Town and allows each individual project to be managed for code compliance by the contractor/homeowner, with any required guidance to be provided by the State Fire Marshal's office. With the elimination of the Building Inspector position, the Select Board intends

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Town Positions Open *for the Election on March 9th, 2021*

The list of open town positions is reprinted in February to remind readers of the many opportunities to help make a difference in Bradford.

The time to officially declare candidacy has passed. However, if you would like to run, write-in candidacy is an option. The Bradford Bridge will be collecting short responses to questions from candidates later this month. Write-in candidates wishing to receive the Bridge questionnaire are welcome to email [bradfordbridge345@gmail.com](mailto:bradfordbridge345@gmail.com) or PO Box 463, Bradford, NH. If possible, please do so by February 15th. Questionnaires are due at the Bridge by February 20th.

Here are the positions seeking candidates.

Budget Committee  
*3yrs – 2 positions*

Cemetery Commission  
*3yrs – 1 position*

Cemetery Commission  
*2yrs – 1 position*

Planning Board  
*3yrs – 2 positions*

Scholarship Committee  
*3yrs – 1 position*

Selectman  
*3yrs – 1 position*

Town Clerk / Tax Collector  
*3yrs – 1 position*

Treasurer *3yrs – 1 position*

Trustee of the Brown Memorial Library *3yrs – 2 positions*

Trustee of the Trust Funds  
*3yrs – 1 position*

Zoning *3yrs – 1 position*

## Two Bradford Selectmen Resign

The following resignation letters were submitted at the Select Board meeting on January 25, 2021. Please check the Town of Bradford website, [bradfordnh.org](http://bradfordnh.org), for further news and updates.

### Dear Members of the Board and Bradford Townspeople:

My initial desire to run for Select Board was primarily based on a strong belief and confidence that I had a unique vision to offer, and could bring a good deal of my resources to bear in making Bradford an even better and rewarding place in which to live and thrive. It is my hope that past actions on my part have visibly demonstrated this intent. Just a few of the ways I have endeavored to show my commitment to this intent include:

- The removal of decayed buildings and other refuse on the former Sanborn lot and transformation of same into a garden open to all community members for enjoyment.
- The removal of a decayed and abandoned building on Marshall Hill Rd. which visibly improved the appearance of the street as a whole.
- The purchase of property on Lake Massacum Ave. - formerly a hotspot for drug and other disturbing criminal activity, including the persistent harassment of next-door neighbors - for the primary purpose of purging a festering and destructive element to our community which would otherwise have been considerably more difficult to deal with.

*(Continued on pages 5 and 9)*



# The Bradford Bridge

P.O. Box 463  
Bradford, NH 03221  
bradfordbridge.org  
bradfordbridge345@gmail.com

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Audrey V. Sylvester, President,  
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Kathleen Bigford, Don Moss, Leah  
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Kathleen Bigford

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Devin Pendleton, Monthly Briefing  
Caitlin Banaszak, Area Events

### DESIGN

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Don Moss, Advertising Coordinator

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### SUBSCRIPTION/DISTRIBUTION

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### SUBMISSIONS

Anyone is welcome to submit articles  
and/or photographs of interest to the  
community. We reserve the right to edit  
submissions.

### PRINTING

RC Brayshaw & Company, Inc.

## Town Offices

### SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

Phone: 938-5900

Monday – Thursday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
(closed 12 Noon – 1 PM)  
Friday: 8:00 AM – Noon

### TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR

Phone: 938-2288

Tuesday: 8 AM – 12 PM/ 1 PM – 4 PM  
Wednesday: 12 PM – 5 PM  
(by pre-arranged appointment only)  
Thursday: 9 AM – 12 PM/ 1 PM – 6 PM  
Friday through Monday: Closed

*Town offices are temporarily located at  
Bradford Area Community Center, 134 East  
Main St. P.O. Box 436. Bradford, NH 03221*

From the

# February

*What lies behind us and what lies before us are but tiny matters  
compared to what lies within us. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson*



*Love is just a single soul inhabiting two bodies. ~Aristotle*

Wisdom of the ages. Pause to reflect on love, the quintessential theme of the second month of a year.

In a new Bradford Bridge feature, “Talk of the Town” we adopted “cozy” as the theme for February 2021. Throughout the paper find quotes and images from readers who responded to the question, “What makes you feel cozy?” Also find:

- Thoughts on self care by Hanna,
- All the open Town positions,
- How to attend a virtual Budget Committee meeting,
- The Monthly Briefing, Town Board Reports from Devin,
- Ellen’s Library Lantern,
- How to help the Bradford Historical Society archive the history of Bradford homes,
- Transfer Station News from Lois,
- Wit and Wisdom in 19th Century entertainment provided by Friends of Brown Memorial Library
- Line drawings by Don,
- Prints left in the snow by Ann and Sue, and
- Other information and entertainment.

As winter continues don’t forget to use the many services and products offered by local advertisers. The Bridge is ever thankful for their support.

Brought to you with love,

*Kathleen Bigford, Editor*

*And everyone at The Bradford Bridge*



## Letters to Our Editor:

### To the Editor,

On behalf of the members of the Outdoor Recreation For Seniors (ORFS) I would like to acknowledge and thank Ann Eldridge and Tom Wilkins for 2 wonderful outdoor excursions last year (October 27, 2020). We learned about the history and ecology of the Tall Pines Area and the Bradford Bog that day, and for most of us it was our first exposure to these local treasures. Tom and Ann could not have been more gracious and generous with their time and expertise. Many thanks to our Bradford neighbors, the good people at the Bradford Bridge, and especially Audrey Sylvester and Kathleen Bigford for all of the generous assistance in planning and executing this day. A truly great time was had by all. We are very grateful.

*Barbara Cooper, Springfield, NH*

### To the Editor,

It is with bittersweet feelings that I would like to announce that I will be retiring after 30+ years of styling hair.

I have so much appreciation for each and every client who put their trust in me. So many of you are not just clients, but dear friends. My last day of business will be May 1st. I will continue to book clients until this day. I chose this day in hopes that the COVID restrictions are lifted and the search for a new stylist will be a simple one. If you have any questions, please call me at 603-938-0090.

Thank you all for supporting me through the years.

*Jenny Wright, Bradford, NH*

### To the Editor,

I am Bob Wright, and I am the community outreach chair for the Warner River Local Advisory Committee. This committee is composed of 5 towns, Bradford, Sutton, Warner, Hopkinton, and Webster, the five towns that border the Warner River. This begins at the dam outlet of Lake Todd, Bradford and ends when the Warner River flows into the Contoocook River in Webster.

The purpose of this committee is to provide information to DES and the public in ways to protect the Warner River in the following ways: environmental, riparian quality, fishing, buffer zones, water quality and oversight on human activity close to and abutting the Warner River. Another purpose is to research activity on the river prior to European settlement.

The web site WRLAC.COM will provide further information on the scope and purpose of the Warner River Local Advisory Committee.

On behalf of the committee, I would be grateful for your printing of this letter.

Sincerely,

*Robert W. Wright, Jr., Warner, NH*

## Mask/Facial Covering Required in Public Spaces

All persons over the age of 5 within the State of New Hampshire shall wear a mask or cloth face covering over their noses and mouths at any time they are in public spaces, indoors or outdoors, where they are unable to or do not consistently maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from persons outside their own households.

*Per order of the Governor,  
State of New Hampshire*

## No Ice Derby This Year

It has been decided that the Bradford Fish and Game will NOT hold the annual Kid's Ice Derby in 2021 due to the risk of extending spread of the COVID 19 Virus in our community. We are disappointed but hope that families still get out on the ice over the course of the winter to spend time together and enjoy the open, fresh air.

## Selectmen's Office Recording Secretary Position

The Selectmen are accepting applications for a Recording Secretary. This position currently serves the Planning Board, Zoning Board, Select Board and Budget Committee. The position could be shared by two people. Responsibilities include minute taking and transcription in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and applicable state laws, posting notices and agendas, written and verbal correspondence, keeping financial records, purchasing supplies, filing, tape recording and assisting Town officials and the public with access to the Boards' files.

The skills necessary to be successful in this position include attention to detail and deadlines; effective customer services skills; ability to juggle several projects at the same time; strong written and verbal communication skills; desire to become familiar with Town Ordinances and related RSAs. The successful candidate will also demonstrate computer capability with Word and Excel.

Position averages between 2 and 7 hours per week, though there will be weeks where as many as 15 hours are worked. Availability in the evening is required.

Prior related experience preferred but not necessary for the right candidate. Interested candidates should submit their resume to: [administrator@bradfordnh.org](mailto:administrator@bradfordnh.org).

Applications will be reviewed until the position is filled. The Town of Bradford is an equal opportunity employer.

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Jennifer Wright  
Owner/Creative Stylist

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For You and For All of Us

THIS IS A TOWN AD

### Saint Valentine: Patron Saint of Epilepsy



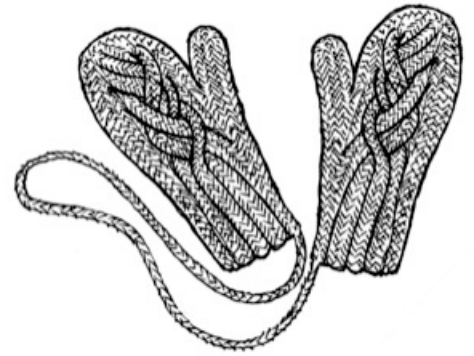
The celebration in honor of the patron saint of lovers, St. Valentine, takes on another meaning when you consider he is also the patron saint of epilepsy—a common neurological condition that causes seizures and affects nearly 3 million children and adults in the United States.

Medicine and religion have long been intertwined; however, medical practitioners were sometimes regarded skeptically in medieval times causing people to seek spiritual intervention for their illnesses. In addition, brain disorders in the 14th and 15th centuries were widely

regarded as supernatural phenomena incited by evil spirits or the devil. Because many people believed their symptoms were the work of dark spiritual forces, it made sense for them to combat their perceived tormenters with an antidote to evil in the form of saints—patron saints—who were believed to have restorative abilities for specific ailments.

Information on the origins of St. Valentine’s connection to epilepsy differs. Some accounts suggest he is connected to epilepsy because the name Valentine is similar to the German word for “fallen.” Epilepsy was once known as the “falling sickness” because some seizures caused a person to lose consciousness and fall. The good news is, medical research and an increasing variety of scientifically proven therapies have improved the lives of many people living with epilepsy, significantly diminishing the need to turn to supernatural forces for respite!

Source: *epilepsy.com*



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## Selectmen Resign

*(Continued from page 1)*

- The teardown of a decayed building on the corner of Rt. 114 and Old Warner Rd. - one which should have been condemned and presented a potential health hazard. Renovated the house next to it, enabling a member of the community who grew up in Bradford to purchase it and raise her own family here.
- The investment in some additional niceties for our 4th of July celebrations such as the construction of flower boxes lining Main St. and the flowers contained therein, prize bags for Pups and Pedals on Parade contests each year, and the construction of six picnic tables for the mid-way festivities, which I, along with a few other dedicated individuals, helped put together.
- A strong hand in helping to create opportunities for locally-owned, small businesses to thrive in Bradford, including: Sweet Beet (and the local farmers and craftspeople who sell to them), Evergreen Healing Arts & Yoga Studio, and Circular Blu. All of these businesses are housed in the former Bradford Inn on West Main St., itself once a decrepit building which was in need of a total overhaul - and has been and continues to be improved upon with my support and the support, hard work and dedication of many others in town.
- The donation of countless personal volunteer hours to trail building and ongoing garbage cleanup on the property behind the Bradford Area Community Center.

- The recent founding of a foundation for the express purpose of funding various interests which would serve Bradford - specifically in the areas of beautification and the furthering of agricultural, conservation and historic preservation interests.
- Ongoing and direct support of the Bradford Historical Society and the Bradford Meetinghouse, and other groups in town.

This past March, the townspeople cast their votes for Select Board and in so doing, made a clear statement of support for Marlene Fryler. It is unfortunate but unequivocally true, that my thoughts, visions and hopes for the town are in direct contrast to Marlene's - and irreconcilably so. This on its own, though challenging, would not necessarily represent an insurmountable obstacle. However, there are circumstances under which it becomes next to impossible to bring forth and/or accomplish any meaningful or productive agenda items in a truly successful and civilized manner. A Board Member consistently voting in support of certain agenda items during a Select Board meeting, and then deliberately and consistently undermining that vote outside of said meeting, would be one such circumstance. The use of gossip and innuendo, specifically against fellow Select Board members to influence opinions and/or votes on other town boards would be another. Marlene has unfortunately engaged in both on a consistent basis since officially assuming her position on the Board. I find this behavior to be distasteful, destructive and ultimately dishonest. In any case, I cannot and will not work

under such circumstances. I myself am plain-spoken and often rather blunt, which may sometimes rub people the wrong way, but there is no wondering where I stand at any given moment, like me or not. I do not deal in sneaky, underhanded behavior and innuendos, and have very little tolerance for it.

We currently stand at a point where there are certain rather difficult decisions which must be made in service of moving the town forward and operating under even higher and better standards. I am confident that I would have the supporting votes from Jason Allen needed to accomplish this, effectively outnumbering Marlene. However, rather than pushing through these structural changes to the town under such circumstances - changes which I believe are very much needed - I would rather resign, and give the townspeople what they desire: a board moving forward under Marlene's leadership and vision. The townspeople will then be able to judge Marlene's performance solely based on her own actions and decisions. There will be no one left to slander or blame.

The townspeople deserve to know about and observe these things, and come to their own conclusions, unencumbered by my presence on the board, any of the aforementioned and attendant gossip or innuendo connected to that, or any related scapegoating.

Therefore and given all of the above, I hereby submit my resignation as a member of the Select Board effective immediately.

*Michael James*

*(Continued on page 9)*



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## Taking Care in 2021

Excerpt from a Kearsarge Food Hub Blog Post, January 19th, 2021

*[Kearsarge Food Hub] Editor's Note: We wanted to offer this blog post to our community as a tool for managing life as we know it in this day and age, because things are so particularly difficult for so many of us right now. We ourselves here at KFH are diving deep into this notion of taking care, acknowledging the importance of prioritizing self care, because all of us are worthy of care and also because we wish to extend care to our families and communities...*

### If 2020 taught us anything, it's that uncertainty is the new normal.

In addition to the hardships presented by COVID, the world as we know it is going through some hard and essential reckonings. As Charles Eisenstien puts it, we are in "the space between stories". The old order is no longer acceptable. New stories are being written on many levels. One story in particular - one of interbeing and interconnection - is emerging to replace our false narrative of separation (from ourselves, from each other, from the natural world). *We are living through a paradigm shift.*

This is a very special, and indeed very challenging, time to be alive. Uncertainty and unrest is sure to continue as long as we are in this essential phase of shedding old narratives to grow into who we are meant to be.

As hard as it is, it's imperative that we lean into this process. We do ourselves, and our communities, a tremendous benefit to learn how to feel it all and continue to show up, even (especially) when it's uncomfortable, hard, and unknown.

To be able to do this, *we must build our capacity to manage the intensity of our lives, of this lifetime in particular, and face the unknown with courage and resilience.* As Dolly Parton puts it, "We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails." We simply must take care of ourselves if we are to navigate these stormy seas.

Self care is *the practice of taking action to preserve or improve one's own health by one's own standards, not society's.* It's not passive or fixed. It's a verb, and it exists on a continuum that we each get to define for ourselves. Through practice, we can each come to more fully understand our own unique definition of health, sharpening the tools and honing the methods that contribute most to our own wellness.

When misappropriated, self care becomes indulgent. When honest and intentional, it is restorative and encompasses the whole being: mind, body, and soul.

### Self care becomes radical when you prioritize this practice over all else and adhere to it with unapologetic determination.

Radical self care has another dimension, too, based in getting back to the basics. The meaning of radical for many centuries was related to its origins radicalis meaning "root." Instead of being something extreme, radical referred to getting to the root of the problem. So in that sense, radical self care is very much about building a solid foundation of wellness, on your own terms, from the ground up.

While we all have our own unique needs, there are at least 10 fundamental elements of self care that benefit many human beings: 1. Breathe, 2. Sleep, 3. Be nice to yourself, 4. Eat clean and nourishing foods, 5. Move your body, 6. Feel it all, 7. Get outside, 8. Drink Water, 9. Connect with others, and 10. Set boundaries.

Of course, to have a chance at focusing on these fundamentals, slowing down is absolutely essential in our face paced modern world. The value of slowing down and generally doing less is perhaps one of the most profound among them that some of us have been privileged enough to be able to learn.



Hanna Flanders

Read the full blog post at <https://www.kearsargefoodhub.org/the-kfh-blog/2021/1/19/taking-care-in-2021>

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Donna Forest  
BROKER ASSOCIATE

### Hindsight is 2020

If only we had a crystal ball last January to predict what the year would be like. There are so many words to describe 2020 – unprecedented, challenging, surreal. It's the year we lived our lives online. But amazingly, the housing market gained strength after hitting pause in March & April, and 2020 became a record-breaking year in residential sales. The demand for housing was driven by

low mortgage rates, millennials reaching prime home-buying age, changes in housing needs, and the ability to work remotely.

Nationwide, the median selling price (thru 11/2020-December's statistics will not be available until late January) was up 14.6% from 2019 to \$310,800. In NH, the median selling price for 2020 was up 11.7% to \$335,000. The average days on market was 47 days and homes basically sold for their list price or more. Despite the fact there had never been that many homes for sale at one time, the volume of sales was up 4.6% statewide. In New London, Newbury & Sunapee combined, sales were up from a total of 218 solds in 2019 to 238 homes sold in 2020 with a median selling price of \$429,500 (compared to \$378,750 in 2019). The housing market is expected to shine in 2021 and continue to have a positive impact on our economy.

If you are wondering if now is a good time to buy or sell, feel free to contact Donna, or any one of us, for a no pressure conversation on what the best plan of action is for you.

Marilyn Kidder, *Broker Owner*



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## Talk of the Town

What's the Talk of the Town? Well, it's whatever you are saying! The Bradford Bridge is starting new column to share quotes from our friends and neighbors in answer to a common question to be posed each month. This month, we are asking you, "*What makes you feel cozy?*" Cozy is giving a feeling of comfort, warmth, and relaxation. Here's how some of us find it!

 **Cozy is...**

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*My family home,  
as I sit on my porch looking  
at Lake Todd wearing warm  
socks, a blanket on my lap,  
and sipping on tea from my  
favorite mug. -KRIS*

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*Blankets! Keeping warm  
snuggled up on the couch  
watching all the movies!  
-DEEGAN*

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*Wearing two pairs of pants,  
a hot bowl of soup, and  
snuggling on the couch for a  
movie marathon. -HANNA*

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Next month we will be asking, "*What are your hopes and dreams for our town?*" A lofty question, yes! We'd love to hear from you! Submit your response to [603leah@gmail.com](mailto:603leah@gmail.com).

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## MONTHLY BRIEFING: Town Board Reports

*(Continued from page 1)*

to work with the Planning and Zoning Boards to create a new position to focus proactively on planning and zoning compliance.

**Town Signs** The Board accepted donations for new Town signs. Total donations received are now above the 100% project funding level.

**Fire Chief Salary** The Board approved motions to re-encumber unspent funds designated for the Fire Chief salary in 2019 per article 23, and to encumber \$7,500 from the operating budget designated to cover the Fire Chief salary from January 1st through Town Meeting.

**Surplus Funds** The Board approved a motion to accept \$11,341.34 in surplus funds for 2020 from HealthTrust

Timber Warrants signed for Map 3/Lot 45, Map 13/Lot 19 & 22, Map 11/Lot 56, Map 5/Lot 104 & 105, and Map 10/Lot 43

### BUDGET COMMITTEE

**Police Department** The Committee discussed the Police Department Budget and have concerns about an increase of 6-7% proposed in the overall general budget request. Lieutenant Ed Shaughnessy spoke about some of the increases which have been driven by increasing responsibilities as well as an equity adjustment. The Department is also focused on retaining and growing its number of employees to the benefit of the Town. The Committee penciled in \$586,900.

**Highway Department** The Select Board has outlined a decrease of \$45,000 from the Highway Department's requested budget. The Budget

Committee reviewed expenses including part time wages, contract services and equipment repair with Steve Hall, Road Agent. The Committee penciled in \$550,000. Steve was asked to provide feedback on whether he felt he could manage within that amount which is a reduction of approximately \$15,000.

**Budget Recommendation** The Board reviewed budget line items and voted on finalized recommendations. The Budget Committee approved a recommended general budget of \$2,337,948.

**Public Hearing** For the purpose of open disclosure and discussion on the proposed 2021 budgets prior to the Budget Committee's recommendation of the same, per RSA 32:5. Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 6:30pm, and if needed on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 6:30pm.

### PLANNING BOARD

**Building Code Ordinance** A public hearing was held on January 12, 2021 for the Repeal of the Town of Bradford Code Ordinance. The Planning Board would like to know in detail what the building inspector's duties were, what was done in the past and what makes sense for Bradford moving forward. The Planning Board motioned for a continuation of the public hearing to be held on January 26, 2021.

**Table of Uses** Steve Henninger from Central New Hampshire Regional Plan-

ning Commission presented an overview of the table of uses. A table of uses is a chart that describes in detail what use is permitted in each zoning area. The Board would like to look at the Master Plan and revisit the current zones as well as the table of uses.

### ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

**Variance Appeal** The Board approved a motion to deny the request for a re hearing for Rick Deschenes's variance appeal for Map 7 Lot 76.

### CONSERVATION COMMISSION

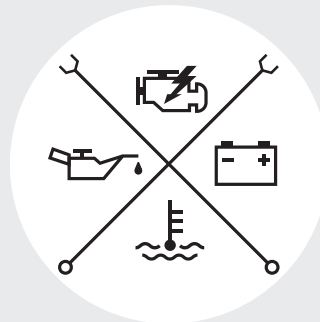
**Shoreland Complaint** Commission members Ann Eldridge, Doug Southard and Patty Furness investigated the site at the Bradford Fish and Game. There was no indication of recent tree clearing activity.

**Abenaki Trails Project** Anne Payeur, Ausbon Sargent Stewardship Manager, came before the Commission to discuss concerns regarding the environmental impact of the design plan that was presented for the Abenaki Trails Project at the Bradford Hotel Site. The Commission drafted a statement of position and recommends consultation with DES, Natural Heritage, NH Fish and Game, and the Bradford Select Board by the Abenaki Trails Project.

**Bradford Town Properties** There are five town owned properties that are wet

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or unbuildable. Ann will write a petition to the Select Board for a warrant article to be presented at Town Meeting that these lots be offered to abutters as non-buildable lots.

**LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

**Library Director Reviews** Ellen completed a self-evaluation of her duties as Library Director, and the board is also working completing its performance evaluation for Ellen. She stated that digitizing our collection and providing a cohesive online catalogue are her top priorities. Other goals include resuming programming, and professional development and training for all employees.

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

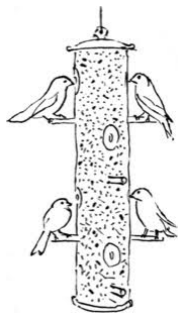
**Membership** The Commission approved a motion to recommend Jonathan Roy as a voting member to be appointed by the Selectmen.

**KEARSARGE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**STEAM** The Board approved a motion for the approval of a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) wing at Kearsarge Regional High School.

**Health and Dental Insurance** Increases to staff benefits include 8.9% for medical and 1.3% for dental. The Board approved a motion approving the increases.

Minutes of all meetings are on file at the Town Office and online at *bradford-nh.org*. Some meetings are now streamed live - check website!



**Cozy is...**

*Is reading a book with a child by your side.* -LAURIE

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**Selectmen Resign**

*(Continued from page 5)*

**Mike and Marlene,**

After much reflection, it is with a heavy heart that I submit my resignation as a Bradford selectman effective immediately.

I entered into this role two years ago invigorated to make positive change in our beloved town, foster community among our residents and show my children how to give back. In many ways I think I fulfilled those goals.

While my time was rewarding in many ways, it has become more of a burden than I can bear. I want to be clear that I'm not leaving because things are hard or complicated. I can do hard – I even excel when times are tough. What I can't do is ignore my mental health. I'm leaving because my town responsibilities are impeding my personal and professional life. I am not the husband, father and business owner I want to be because of the weight I carry on my shoulders as a selectman. I take this position seriously, dedicate a lot of my time and energy and there have been consequences in other areas of my life as a result.

I feel I need to be honest because I still have the best intentions and would love to see improvement where it's needed. I would be remiss to not draw attention to the slippery slope we are on as a town. Our board, employees and volunteers are experiencing or participating in divisiveness, finger pointing, assumptions and dishonesty. It is not healthy or productive. There are many wonderful people here that are so lucky to call Bradford home. It shouldn't be this difficult to work together to manage and improve a town we all love. We're all on the same team. I need to get back to being a resident who loves his hometown instead of feeling like a villain.

I very much appreciate the time and commitment you both give to Bradford. This is an incredibly difficult role to have and one I did not understand before signing up. Please accept my deepest apologies for ending my term early. I did not make this decision lightly but it's the right one for me at this time.

With gratitude,

*Jason Allen*

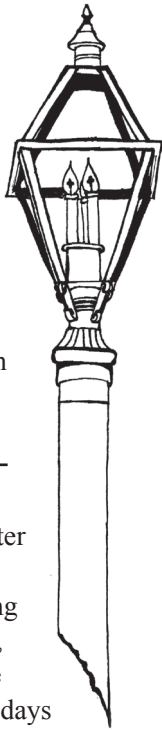
# Library Lantern

## Brown Memorial Library

78 West Main Street  
bmlbradford@gmail.com

### Library Hours:

Monday 10:00am – 6:00pm  
Wednesday 11:00am – 7:00pm  
Friday 10:00am – 6:00pm  
Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm



### From the Director's Desk:

I have started to feel a bit lighter in spirit; kids have returned to school, the vaccine is becoming available to those who want it, there was a peaceful exchange of presidential power, and the days are gradually growing longer as we move through the winter months. My family has begun to discuss places we might like to visit once things feel less restricted. Maybe we'll go on a tour of the northwest. My husband keeps discussing the idea of getting an RV to travel cross country, but I remind him how the last ten months have felt at home with very few outside outlets. This idea has been tabled for now.

Here at the library, we have started talking about the future in a hopeful way. We are looking at virtual programming to get us through the summer, and then perhaps we'll be able to gather outside for music or a speaker. We will be doing a few fundraisers that

will include a car wash; no you will not be seeing any of us in our bathing suits, but we will be fastidious in cleaning your car. We will also be hosting Spring into Spelling: a spelling bee for kids/adults, a team effort, so everyone will feel a bit more courageous standing up to spell.

The library will be providing a take home craft for Valentine's Day. There will be two crafts per bag. Craft bags are limited so please call and reserve yours. They will be available to pick up on Friday, 2/12, and Saturday, 2/13.

We continue to plug along with digitizing our collection. Laurie Buchar has been a great help in working steadily to complete the project. We have had turnover recently with trustee members. I want to thank Laurie Farrell and Seth Benowitz for volunteering their time and energy to serve on our board. A huge thank you to Annette Leonas who will remain as a trustee until the election in March, and who will continue to train Jason Grey until he is elected. The position of Treasurer is not the easiest of volunteer jobs, as it is time consuming and detail oriented. Annette, thank you so much for helping with the library finances and welcome, Jason!

If you love this library and are looking for ways to get involved, think about becoming a trustee. We need new members! Please email or call me if you are interested in learning more about the position.

*Ellen Barselle*

### Staff Recommendations

Dustin Laverack: *How to Be A Good Creature* / Sy Montgomery

Deborah Gregory: *Monogamy* / Sue Miller

Maggi Ainslie: *Borges* / Jay Parini

Connie Scheffy: *The Things We Cannot Say* / Kelly Rimmer

Ellen Barselle: *Never Rarely Sometimes Always* / Eliza Hittman (DVD)

**THERE IS ALWAYS  
LIGHT, IF ONLY  
WE RE BRAVE ENOUGH  
TO SEE IT. IF ONLY  
WE RE BRAVE  
ENOUGH TO BE IT.  
-AMANDA GORMAN**



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**Bradford Historical Society**

**Adding to the History of Bradford**

Records show that at the Bradford Town Meeting in March 1879 it was voted that a History Committee be formed for the purpose of starting work on recording the early events of the town and to report back to Town Meeting. There are no records of this happening until the 1960's when the subject was broached again. It was not until 1971 when the town voted to place \$500 in trust to help toward printing costs of a Town History, that a committee was formed and research commenced in earnest.



*Bradford holds many stories to be told and nurtures more in the making.*

The History Committee worked relentlessly sending out letters to all homeowners and businesses in Town asking for Town history, stories and photographs. This became the basis of the book Two Hundred Plus printed in 1976. From this committee grew the Historical Society and then the Bradford Historical Society was incorporated in 1978 and has grown immensely since those committee day beginnings.

That brings us to 2021, which is 50 years on from the start of that mammoth research project. The most requested information from the Society today is usually regarding a house in Bradford.

As our winter project has been to reorganize and archive much of this original information, it would seem a good point to update this part of Bradford's history. So just as they did back in 1971, we are asking you to send us any updated photos, history, stories that you have so we can continue to add to our collection.

Bradford has seen many changes in 50 years! There have been many new homes and businesses, additions, changes that we would like to document for the future. Please feel free to send what you have by email to [bradfordhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:bradfordhistoricalsociety@gmail.com) or by mail to PO Box 551, Bradford NH 03221. So, in another 50 years people will be reading and updated what you have added to Bradford's story.

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# Obituaries

## Thomas Pitts



Thomas Pitts, 92, formerly of East Main Street, Bradford, died January 4, 2021, at Pleasant View Healthcare Center in Concord where he resided for over a year. Previously he lived at the Austin Home in Webster for many years and before that lived in Bradford.

He was born in Lynn, MA, Jan. 1, 1929, the son of Thomas Pitts and Priscilla (Remick) Danforth. He lived in Lynn and Brookline, MA, before moving to Sutton, NH where he attended Bradford Grammar School. Tom worked for the Town of Bradford and the Bradford IGA. He mowed lawns, helped in the cemeteries and did odd jobs for people.

Tom was a member of The First Baptist Church of Bradford and was a former member of the Grange. He liked all kinds of music. A huge sports fan, Tom would often be found at a high school basketball or soccer game. He loved helping kids and used to help coach the fifth and sixth grade girl's soccer team and helped coach baseball for many years from Rookie League to Babe Ruth. Tom loved his Boston sports teams and would enjoy many trips to Fenway. He was a member of the Bradford Volunteer Fire Department for many years.

Tom is survived by his friend, Sandra Terrio; nieces and nephew, Paul, Gaye and Carol and their families; step nephews and step niece, Edward, James and Paula and their families.

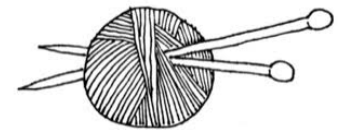
A graveside service will be held in Sunny Plain Cemetery, Bradford, in the spring with a Remembrance gathering at Tom's longtime friend, Joe Torro's, Bradford Village Inn following. Memorial contributions may be made to the Bradford Newbury Youth Sports, P.O. Box 291, Bradford, NH 03221. To sign an online guestbook please visit [www.chadwickfuneralservice.com](http://www.chadwickfuneralservice.com).

## A Few Words

*Readers are invited to share a few words here. Submit your fiction or non-fiction stories of 100 words or less to the Bridge. It could be a story about your cat, or the moose antlers you came across hiking one day. Readers may want to submit stories about how you helped a friend in need or making a favorite food. Share your words with us.*

A cup of steaming hot cinnamon tea was by my side with a warm, toasted, buttered and plain bagel to its left. This wasn't just any bagel, oh no. This was a ring of baked dough with a smooth, shiny crust and a scent that brought me back to childhood. A bagel whose dense, doughy, yet light texture inside made it scrumptious. I bought this bagel in town from a baker whose culinary skills rival those of the finest bagel bakers in New York. Tea and toast on a cold morning? It's tea and a bagel for me.

*Mary Keegan-Dayton*



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## We Made it!

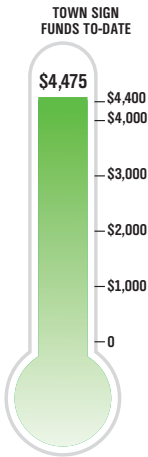
Thanks to the many individuals and local businesses who donated, our goal of raising \$4,400 to fund the making and installation of four signs has been reached!



The work now begins for our resident master signmaker, Clark Roberge. The new town signs will be installed in the spring to greet travelers to and thru Bradford at points on routes 114 and 103.

We also wish to thank the Bradford Bridge for making it possible for us to get the word out at a time when Covid made it difficult to raise money in the usual ways, and to Maureen Brandon for receiving and managing the donations at our town offices.

Thank you all!  
The Bradford Community Gardeners



# TRANSFER STATION NEWS

## Cleaning Up Our Woods

Many homes in Bradford have a patch of woods nearby, and some homes are nestled in extensive areas of forest. The natural shedding of leaves, pine needles, twigs and small branches, along with the occasional broken or downed trees, can be a burden to homeowners.

Although cleaning up the woods around our homes can be controversial to some degree, there are some advantages to reducing the amount of large wood debris. Broken and fallen trees can promote the infestation of diseases, insects, and smaller animals that can be detrimental to larger, healthier trees. Broken and fallen trees can hinder our enjoyment of hiking or snowmobiling through the woods. Woods containing large debris may help increase the danger of forest fires in our neighborhoods. A messy-looking woods nearby can be an eyesore and may negatively influence

the value of our homes.

To answer the concerns of disrupting the natural life of a patch of woods, it may be that the natural shedding of leaves, pine needles, pine cones, twigs and small branches provides enough nutrition to keep the trees healthy. The presence of small wood debris can help mitigate erosion and flooding issues. Leaving the small debris in the woods also avoids disrupting the subterranean networks that contribute to the healthy woods that we all enjoy.

The Bradford Transfer and Recycling Center can help homeowners in disposing of unwanted wood debris. Leaves, pine cone, and pine needles can be added to the station's compost heaps. Ken regularly turns the compost to enhance the quality. Unwanted brush, twigs and logs up to five inches in diameter can be placed on the burn pile. Ken supervises a burn when the weather is favorable to do so.

Ken and I enjoy helping residents keep Bradford trash free and beautiful!

*Lois Kilnapp, Manager*



*Cozy happens while I am sitting in an overstuffed armchair in the filtered afternoon sunshine, reading an Inspector Maigret 1930's mystery. -AUDREY*

*Snuggling in bed with mom. -CHASE*

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## Town of Bradford Budget Committee Notice of Public Hearing

Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 6:30pm  
*and if needed on*

Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 6:30pm

Bradford Area Community Center  
134 East Main Street, Bradford, NH  
Phone: 603-938-5900

For the purpose of open disclosure and discussion on the proposed 2021 budgets prior to the Budget Committee's recommendation of the same, per RSA 32:5.

\*Due to the COVID 19/Coronavirus Pandemic and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Committee is authorized to meet electronically. The public has access to listen and participate in this meeting through ZOOM video conferencing at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89756887586>. If you already have the ZOOM app on your computer, you can join the meeting using Meeting ID 897 5688 7586 and Password 318185, or you may participate by telephone by calling 1-929-205-6099 and using the same Meeting ID and Password. For technical difficulties, call 603-938-5900.



*My idea of "cozy" is, getting myself and the kids all bundled up, on a bright, sunny day; sitting outside on the hill, sipping mugs of hot chocolate while soaking up the sunshine on our faces. Basically, collecting fresh air, beautiful scenery and a little vitamin D. I know it would seem that cozy would be somewhere inside, but since the pandemic, we're tired of looking at the inside!* -DEANA



**Bradford Community Church**  
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### February Happenings

#### Our Sunday Services start at 10am.

In house and live streamed through Facebook. Our Communion Service is held the first Sunday each month. We are following the recommended CDC and NH Guidelines and NH travel guidelines. We ask that you wear a mask, use hand sanitizer and please stay home if you are not feeling well.

**The office will be open on Wednesday mornings from 10-noon.**

**An Ash Wednesday Service will be held on February 17 at 7 pm.**

Food Pantry Donations can be mailed to: Bradford Community Church, PO Box 57, Bradford NH 03221 and memo: food pantry. The Pantry is open the 3rd Wednesday each month 5:30-6:30pm. Please feel free to call if you have any questions or would like to sign-up. 938-5313.



*Soup and scrabble!*

-LEAH

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friendly cribbage opponent.*

-KATHLEEN

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## Photos and Submissions for 2020 Town Report

It's that time of year. The Selectmen's Office is gathering information for the 2020 Town Report. If you have photos of the Town's faces, places or events that you would like to share, please forward them to [administrator@bradfordnh.org](mailto:administrator@bradfordnh.org). Old and historic photos are welcome too. Be sure to include the photographer's name (if known) so proper credit can be noted.

Similarly, if you represent a local organization and would like to submit an update of your 2020 activities for the Town Report, please forward it to [administrator@bradfordnh.org](mailto:administrator@bradfordnh.org). Please include photos of your organization's 2020 events as well!

Submissions received by February 5th are most appreciated. Thank you!

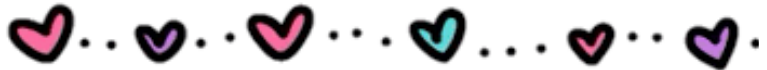


## Friends of Brown Memorial Library

The Friends of Brown Memorial Library will be hosting a virtual program entitled *Wit & Wisdom: Humor in 19th New Hampshire* by presenter Jo Radner Thursday March 4th at 7pm. Email [friendsbmlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsbmlibrary@gmail.com) to register.



Whatever did New Englanders do on long winter evenings before cable, satellite and the internet? In the decades before and after the Civil War, our rural ancestors used to create neighborhood events to improve their minds. Community members male and female would compose and read aloud homegrown, handwritten literary "newspapers" full of keen verbal wit. Sometimes serious, sometimes sentimental but mostly very funny, these "newspapers" were common in villages across Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont and revealed the hopes, fears, humor and surprisingly daring behavior of our forebears. Jo Radner shares excerpts from her forthcoming book about hundreds of these "newspapers" and provides examples from villages in your region.



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## Out & About: Prints

Prints left by animals in the snow reveal their movement and spark the imagination. Was the otter who left the tracks on the bottom right having as much fun as it seems as it took a leap [foot prints] and slid for six or so feet? This seems to be definitely as much fun as the kick and glide of cross-country skiing. And was it two porcupines or one that left the beautiful pattern in the picture on the bottom left? Thanks to Ann Eldridge for the pinecone print and Susan Moss for the otter and porcupine prints.

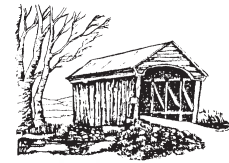


*Tracks of a wild white pine cone.*



Many of you are enthusiastic about recording the beauty that surrounds us. Therefore, I'd like to invite photographers to share images to be included in this article. An accompanying caption would be nice. Please submit the images in .jpg or .jpeg format.

*Kathleen Bigford*



The  
Bradford  
Bridge

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

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