

MINUTES

Cumberland Town Council Meeting

Town Council Chambers

MONDAY, February 28, 2022

6:00 P.M. Budget Workshop

7:00 P.M. Call to Order

Present: Councilors Copp, Edes, Foster, Gruber, Storey-King and Vail

Excused: Councilor Segrist

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to accept the February 14, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

III. MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Shane introduced Jessie, a Greely High student who spoke about the Climate Action Group at the high school and a presentation that they gave at a School Board meeting urging the school to consider installing a solar array.

Town Manager Shane added that Councilor Segrist and Denny Gallaudet, of our Lands & Conservation Commission Climate Action subcommittee, drafted a letter to the School Board urging them to consider the recommendation that the Greely Climate Action Group made regarding a MSAD #51 solar farm. He would like to add the consideration for the Council to endorse the letter on the next Town Council agenda.

IV. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mike Doyle of Portsmouth, New Hampshire said: *I came here to comment on what I have seen going on and give a brief history. Two years ago, when Jeff Porter sent out his ridiculous inclusion and white supremacy letter to the community, I had several people call and ask me what I thought about it. I was unaware of it, so I came up and looked at the group demonstrating on the green and talked to a few people. I thought it was interesting to see which way it was going to go and from that point on it seemed to have taken a very bad turn to critical race theory. Whether it's taught in school or not, if the essence of it is taught in school, I don't think that's good. Some of the books that have come to light in different school systems, I wouldn't want my daughters back when they were eight years old to bring that home from school. These things have just escalated over a period of time, and I had no idea who Ann Maksymowicz was until I said to the School Board that I would like to start their meeting by dedicating the Pledge of Allegiance to all the men and women serving overseas to protect our freedom of speech. Ann didn't stand up to do the Pledge of Allegiance, which is fine. In this room I referred to her as an a-hole for doing that. At the same time, I said that I would fight to the death to protect her right to protest like that, but I said at the same time that I am going to point out that she's an a-hole when she does it. Nothing's happened since I got arrested at the School Board meeting last May, but recently Ann gave testimony in Augusta at the committee looking at this new LD1939, which basically usurps the First Amendment and says that we can't speak about any of the people on the School Board, or if you're a janitor at the school, we can't speak*

harshly about you. If this new bill passes it completely overrides the First Amendment, which I object to. So, in her testimony, Ann made the comment that somebody had threatened to steal something from her property and destroy it. She was referring to me because she stole my sign format and changed it to a campaign sign for herself. Now the Chief of Police didn't send her any notice of harassment, but I got one this past Saturday. Two counts of harassment because I wrote her an email saying you're acting like an ass again and I sent a very detailed report to the all the members of the committee about what happened when she stole my sign. I said that I predict someone's going to steal something off your property and destroy it so you'll never even know it's gone until you look for it. I wasn't going to steal it, I didn't threaten to steal it, but she has now filed a harassment charge and I have to go to court on March 16th for it. Well folks I have a 19-page federal lawsuit that I typed up this weekend that I'm filing against the Town of Cumberland Chief of Police for condoning this by giving me a summons on a false charge. I'm also suing Ann. So, if Ann thinks that this is a game she can play by jerking me around, she's making a big mistake. I understand that she's been on the phone a lot with the District Attorney complaining about me. Maybe the District Attorney will defend her for this federal suit, but I'm taking both of them to court.

V. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

22 – 017 To hear a report from the Prince Memorial Library Advisory Board.

Tom Foley, outgoing Chairman of the Prince Memorial Library Advisory Board, introduced new Chairman, Paul Dexter and Vice-Chair, Jill O’Conner, who presented the following:



Your Dedicated PML Team

- Thomas C. Bennett, Library Director
- Elizabeth Manning, Assistant Director
- Kelly Greenlee, Community Outreach Librarian
- Jennifer Benham, Youth Services and Teen Librarian
- Pam Copenhagen, Technical Services Librarian
- Arabella Eldredge, Circulation Librarian
- Diana Fowski, Circulation Assistant (PartTime)
- Michael Lewis, Circulation Assistant (PartTime)
- Sally Somes, Circulation Assistant (Part-Time)
- Rachel St. Pierre, Circulation Assistant (PartTime)

Our PML Supporters

<p>Prince Memorial Library Advisory Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kelly Barnes (Secretary) (NY) Jill O'Connor (Vice Chair) (C) Paul Dexter (Chair) (NY) Jerry Benezra (C) Linda Draper (C) David Echeverria (C) Thomas Foley (C) Barb Hauke (NY) Linda Putnam (C) Eli Rivers (C) Bill Stiles (C) Shirley Storey-King (C) 	<p>Friends of Prince Memorial Library Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pam Green (Secretary) (C) Mary Gulezian (Secretary) (C) Dale Hahn (Vice President) (C) Elaine McMahon (President) (C) Barbara Hauke (Communications) (NY) Kelly Hankinson (C) Bob Abbott (NY) Marge Aube (C) Jill Coale (C) Linda Draper (C) Cindi Farris (C) Pat Muzzy (C) Vicki Plaget (C) Sheila Skeffington (C) Polly Wright (C) Mary Miles (NY) Nancy Smith (NY)
--	--

Part I:

Highlights From 2021



Visits to the Library are Up



Summer Reading Program

PresK-Gr. 6
356 participants

Minutes of Reading logged: 270,959 minutes

*Participation increased by 75% over 2019

*Kids read for more than 4,500 hours this summer. Of those who submitted reading logs, that translates to an average of 14 hours of reading per child.

*More than 10,000 raffle tickets were earned toward the 7 prizes raffled at the end of the summer (donated by The Friends of the Library).

"Thank you — the incentive has kept her going and turned her into a beginning reader!" — Kelly M., parent of a preschooler



"I just wanted to thank you so much for putting this all together! My boys read more this summer than they EVER would have because of this!" — Allison B., parent of 2 boys, ages 5 & 8

Summer Reading Program

Grades 7-12

99 participants

232 Scratch Tickets given out

This is a 300% increase over 2019, when we asked this group to sign up for the Summer Reading Program. Some kids made frequent trips (twice weekly or more) to the library just to participate.

*108 prizes (of varying sizes) were awarded.

"I usually struggle to get my kids to sit and read in the summertime. This year, it was all about the prizes, and they read ALL summer." — Katie C., parent of 4 boys, ages 4-10

So Many Programs

In 2021, despite not being open for in-person programming, PML hosted many programs outdoors...



-Story Times - reached families in the park and on local nature trails. These were enormously successful until the weather became too cold to be comfortable. Parents particularly enjoyed being in a place they could explore (and move!) with new friends after story time.

-Star Party - An annual favorite with Edward Gleason, astronomer from Southworth Planetarium. This event was rescheduled a few times due to cloudy/rainy conditions, and the actual event was too cloudy for any star sightings. However, the crowd of about 75 people of all ages gathered together under the big sky at Twin Brook to enjoy ice cream and an otherwise lovely late-summer evening.

Nature Walks

-Four monthly Family Nature exploration walks with a Maine master naturalist, got families with preschoolers out on the trails in wintertime. These took place at Chandler Brook Preserve in No. Yarmouth. All walks were filled to capacity.



Nature Explorer

-PML co-hosted monthly workshops for kids on CCLT properties. All were filled to capacity (12 kids per workshop). Some of the topics: Animal tracks and traces; Trees 101; Using the five senses on the trail. Partnership program with CCLT.



Monarch Release, Twin Brook, Cumberland



Stories Under the Sky

-A collaborative effort. Community members and MSAD51 teachers read their favorite stories aloud to families as they enjoyed a picnic at the MSAD51 amphitheater. Two were held, in June and in October (including a Halloween costume parade). Roughly 60 people showed up to each event.



Arrival & Renovation of the Historical Society



Our Community Is Growing



2019 Community Poll Results

In 2019, with the planned move of the Historical Society Building to the library campus, the LAB surveyed the community to determine what they loved and needed from their library

- More programs
- More space
- A dedicated Children's area

**Library staff have continued to be creative with the available spaces whenever possible.*



Accommodating High-Demand Programs



Part II:

Looking to the Future

SPOC Member	2018 Population	2020 Population	Population Change	% Change
Cumberland	7,211	8,473	1,262	17.50%
Warrenton	18,519	22,131	3,616	19.53%
Westbrook	17,494	20,400	2,906	16.62%
North Yamouoch	5,565	6,072	507	9.12%
Docham	16,381	18,336	1,955	11.93%
Edinboth	11,101	12,664	1,563	14.08%
Deluge	1,518	1,611	93	6.13%
Treepart	7,279	8,737	1,458	19.99%
Durham	3,448	4,173	725	21.03%
Windham	17,001	18,434	1,433	8.43%
Yamouoch	8,349	8,950	601	7.20%
Gray	7,761	8,349	588	7.58%
Freemont	1,474	1,566	92	6.25%
South Portland	23,012	26,476	3,464	15.05%
Cape Elizabeth	9,611	9,531	-80	-0.83%
Bridgton	5,110	5,418	308	6.03%
Standish	9,874	10,244	370	3.75%
Portland	66,134	68,408	2,274	3.44%
New Gloucester	5,342	5,876	534	10.00%
Deport	3,872	3,872	0	0.00%
East	3,742	3,646	-96	-2.57%
Harrison	2,730	2,487	-243	-8.90%



Existing Floor Plan



Utilizing the Open Footprint



Serving All Ages



Mr. Drew at West Cumberland Hall

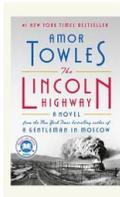


Guiding Questions

- What are the avenues for improving and increasing PML spaces?
- How can PML reach and serve more community members who do not always make their needs known?
- How can PML continue to play a vital role in building a local "cultural campus" for our residents?
- How can PML expand both the access and impact of library services and initiatives, both within and beyond our walls?



What's Happening At PML?



PML's Thursday Afternoon Book Group meets monthly at 3 p.m. (fourth Thursday of the month). PML contact: **Elizabeth**. Next up: *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles (February 24).

LEGO CONTEST

Submissions due this week! (through Tuesday, Mar 1) Grades K-8

It's back! And we are so excited to see what kids build this year.

Here are the rules: Original work only. No kits. Use your own Legos. New this year: Builds must not exceed a 15" by 15" base.

Voting: Wednesday, March 2 to Saturday, March 12. Lego creations will be on display in the Children's Room, and ballots will be available for the public to vote.

Bringing Nature Home with Maine Audubon

Wednesday, March 16 6-30 p.m. (Virtual) Registration required.



Wherever you are in Maine, the smallest planting and maintenance choices you make can have a profound impact on your local food web. Our yards and local green spaces are refuges for species of plants and trees facing real challenges across broader landscapes.



Increased Programming Beyond the Library Walls

"Ideas are everywhere! As the weather warms library staff are hoping to be out in the community – on the trails, at the Farmer's Market, in community gathering places. They will continue to offer virtual programming and will likely also offer hybrid and in-person programs as the conditions allow. In youth services, the focus will continue to build on a strong foundation with an eye toward increasing teen programming and circulation, developing and honing the collection, and, hopefully, re-instituting some in-person youth programming."

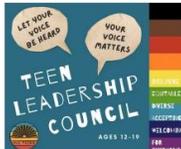


- Kelly Greenlee, Community Outreach Librarian

Fostering Community and Meeting Critical Needs



Passport Acceptance Services at PML



Teen Leadership Council



Legacy Letters
Sharing Your Values with Loved Ones



Aerial Rendering



Entry Courtyard Rendering



MINERVA : A Shared Library System

- Brings together over 60 libraries of all types from across the state
- Over 6 million items available for borrowing
- Easy access to more books, DVDs, audiobooks, magazines, and music CDs
- Library staff can easily and quickly order interlibrary loans for patrons from any library in the collaborative
- The statewide delivery service, which is subsidized by Minerva, reduces postage costs and shortens delivery time

Patrons can find and access materials without having to appear in person



Growth Takes Planning and Innovation

PML embraces this opportunity through:

- Seeking avenues for improving and expanding PML's physical, virtual, and human resources
- Responding the community's diverse and growing needs
- Leveraging existing and potential partnerships
- Offering PML's experience and energy to the community's future planning efforts



Thank you for your time!

Thomas Bennett, Director, Prince Memorial Library
tbennett@cumberlandmaine.com

Paul Dexter, Chair, Prince Memorial Library Advisory Board
pauldexterj@gmail.com

We welcome your questions and feedback.
(And make sure to sign up for and read the weekly PML e-newsletter!)



22 – 018 To consider and act on a Right of First Refusal per the agreement with the Maine State Golf Association. *TABLED*

Motion by Councilor Edes, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to table.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

22 – 019 To consider and act on a Party Wall Agreement with the new owners of the Val Halla Banquet Center. *TABLED*

Motion by Councilor Edes, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to table.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

22 – 020 To authorize the Town Manager to execute a lease agreement with the Cumberland Historical Society.

Chairman of the Historical Society, Steve Moriarty said that the Historical Society building is very close to being completed and the Historical Society is presently poised to finally get back into the building. The shelving will be installed on the lower level on March 9th and then the collection can be taken out of storage. Now that the building has been preserved, there should be some sort of formalization between the Town and the Historical Society in terms of a lease. He and the Town Attorney have drafted a lease that spells out what the obligations are for each party.

Chairman Vail asked for any public comment.

No public comment.

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Foster, to authorize the Town Manager to execute a lease agreement with the Cumberland Historical Society.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

22 – 021 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on a Farm Based Special Events License renewal for Joanne Fryer of Mowfield Farm, LLC.

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Storey-King, to remove this item from the table.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

Chairman Vail explained that as requested at the last meeting, our Town Attorney reviewed this and determined that Joanne Fryer does have the right to hold 3 events at the premises, even though she has sold the property.

Chairman Vail opened the Public Hearing.
No public comment.
Chairman Vail closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Storey-King, seconded by Councilor Foster, to approve the Farm Based Special Events License renewal for Joanne Fryer of Mowfield Farm, LLC.
VOTE: 5-1 (Edes opposed) MOTION PASSES

22 – 022 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on a liquor license renewal for Rachel’s on the Green.

Chairman Vail explained that this is an annual renewal.

Chairman Vail opened the Public Hearing.
No public comment.
Chairman Vail closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Edes, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to approve the liquor license renewal for Rachel’s on the Green.
VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

22 – 023 To consider and act on Commercial Hauler’s License for Breggia Sanitation, LLC.

Chairman Vail explained that when we have a company that operates in the Town of Cumberland as a Commercial Hauler, they are required to have an annual license.

Chairman Vail asked for any public comment.
No public comment.

Motion by Councilor Storey-King, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to approve the Commercial Hauler’s License application for Breggia Sanitation, LLC.
VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

22 – 024 To appoint members to the Planning Board.

Councilor Copp said that he and Councilor Segrist met last week to interview 4 Planning Board candidates. They were all very good candidates and choosing only 2 was a difficult decision.

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to appoint Peter Bingham and Bridget Perry to the Planning Board.
VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Storey-King – for years she taught World Cultures and wants to send her thoughts and wishes to the people of Ukraine. We have a lot of Ukrainian immigrants in our country. We have difficult times ahead and she wished for peace for all of us.

In January, the Prince Memorial Library, in collaboration with the Cemetery Association (led by Robert Storey), published a digital book entitled “Cemeteries of Cumberland Maine Select Occupant Genealogies”. There was a lot of collaboration on this, and she extended her thanks to her uncle, Robert Storey.

Councilor Gruber – the Food Pantry had to close on Friday due to the snowstorm, but a lot of people worked very hard behind the scenes to make sure people got their food on Thursday. Thank you to all of our great Food Pantry volunteers.

Chairman Vail – his heart also goes out to the citizens of Ukraine, and they deserve our prayers.

Greater Portland Council of Governments put on a session called “Chairs in a Circle”. It was an interesting session, the conversation was wide-ranging, and he picked up some ideas. A lot of communities talked about problems with their Select Board or Town Council. He was struck by the absence of any types of these problems with our Town Council. We don’t allow things to fester. We have a Town Manager that steps right up to any issue and we don’t allow people to let a grudge grow. They also talked about hybrid meetings that allow people to participate via Zoom or in person.

Councilor Foster – our third coffee chat session is coming up this Thursday at 8:30 a.m. in the Solarium Room at the Library. There is also a Zoom link on the Town website for those who want to attend virtually. We will highlight the budget process for the Cumberland, North Yarmouth and MSAD 51. The first two sessions were well attended, and the community has been engaged, which is great to see.

Our community survey is now live, and we ask that all residents, 18 and older, participate. It will take approximately 15 minutes and is user friendly. Postcard reminders to take the survey should be hitting mailboxes this week. There will be a phone number on the postcard for those who prefer to get a hard copy of the survey mailed to them. As of right now, we are just over 10% of our target of a 50% response rate.

Councilor Edes – he echoed Councilor Storey-King’s sentiments about the people of Ukraine. The news has been breaking his heart all week and there is no need for it. It’s almost like history is repeating itself. His thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Ukraine.

He wants to say thank you to our first responders. Our fire department responded to a structure fire Saturday on Tuttle Road, and they did an admirable job, as always. Our police department also does a great job. If anybody ever questions why the police need qualified immunity, tonight was a perfect example why.

Councilor Copp – as he does at every meeting, he made his \$20 donation to the 4-H fund that benefits the Food Pantry. He urged everyone to consider donating to this worthy cause.

He reminded the public that the lottery for kayak storage at Broad Cove Reserve ends on March 31st. Applications and more information can be found on the Town website.

- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION** pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A., § 405(6)(C) re: real property.
Motion by Councilor Storey-King, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to recess to Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A., § 405(6)(C) re: real property.
VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS
TIME: 8:13 P.M.

Reconvene to regular session at 8:28 P.M.

- VIII. ADJOURNMENT**
Motion by Councilor Edes, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to adjourn.
VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS
TIME: 8:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda L. Moore
Council Secretary