



Town of Sebago, Maine
Approved by the Board of Selectmen



SEBAGO HAPPENINGS

Volume 3, Issue 1

WINTER 2011
Jan., Feb., March 2011

ABE PARKER HAD A HEART AS BIG AS THE WHOLE TOWN!

By Allen Crabtree, Selectman

It is a rare person who can, just by their presence, touch an entire community and leave a lasting impression. Abe Parker had that gift, and with his passing the entire community of Sebago feels the loss.

In our small town Abe Parker knew just about everyone, and nearly everyone knew Abe. For many, their relationship was lifelong. Abe's roots in Sebago went back many generations. Neighbors and friends knew Abe as a hard worker who would go out of his way to help anyone in need. The list of people in town whom he had befriended was long.

Abe put a high value on honesty and trust, and underneath his sometimes gruff exterior he was a sensitive soul. Abe felt a strong kinship to Sebago and spent his 68 years giving back to his hometown and to his neighbors. He served as Sebago Selectman and Road Commissioner, Town Constable and Animal Control Officer, drove the town ambulance, was on the fire department, worked as fire police, and was a charter member of the Sebago Lions Club. He played a key role in developing the town beach, the town ball fields and worked on service projects at the school and library.



Road Commissioner Abe Parker with Public Works Crew Members Carl Dolloff, Ralph Brown, Tommy Watson, and Steve Douglas

He helped the fire department build several fire trucks at the town garage, back when the only trucks the town owned were the ones they made themselves.

A spot near and dear to his heart was Douglas Mountain, and he formed a committee to improve the trails and repair the stone tower on the mountain. When the town recently won a grant to weatherize homes of the elderly in Sebago, Abe lead the effort to identify homes and plan projects.

The town has lost a good neighbor and friend with Abe's passing and we all miss him.

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HOURS OF OPERATION TOWN OFFICE

- Tuesday
10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

TRANSFER STATION

- Tuesday, Thursday,
Saturday, Sunday
7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

SPECIAL ELECTION NEWS

By Michele Bukoveckas, Town Clerk



Due to the untimely passing of Selectman, Abe Parker, the Board of Selectmen will be holding a Special Election to fill the vacancy. The term will expire in June of 2012. Nomination papers will be available on January 4, 2011 and will be due back at the Clerk's Office on January 13th by 5:00 p.m. The Election will be held on February 15th. For information, please contact me at 787-2457.

Public Works “Winter” Update

By Dan Nowell, Public Works Director



This article is about snow plowing operations. As always it starts with an approaching storm, everyone is watching the weather to see what is going to happen. While that is happening, the Public Works Department is getting the trucks ready for whatever may come. We need to check all lights on the trucks to ensure they are working properly to avoid an accident, which could end in a lawsuit if the lights are not properly working. Secondly, we grease the trucks and the sander parts so we will be ready for a potentially long, drawn out period of plowing and sanding. Next, we check all the cutting edges on the plows to see if any need to be changed. Then we all go home and wait, the worst part of the storm is the wait. We try to get some sleep but it is difficult knowing there is a storm coming, not much you can do about it, it just happens.

Once the storm hits and snow has accumulated on the roads of about one to two inches, I call the crew in and the fight is on, this is where the term “Snow Fighter” comes in. The crew may be out for an extended number of hours at once, and it is not uncommon to be out for forty hours straight without going home. Just imagine going to work on a Friday morning and it starts snowing at 3:00 p.m. and you don’t get to go home until the storm is over and everything is cleaned up which happens to be Sunday morning. Then we come back at 3:00 a.m. to scrape the roads again before applying the salt so the morning traffic will help it work. It happens, and some times way too often. Most storms that hit Maine are at night, plowing continues all night to ensure that the citizens can get to and from work safely, and that Fire, Police, and Rescue personnel can get to the emergency calls safely. There are times that when an emergency call comes in that I will redirect the plow driver to the road where the call originated to ensure that they can get to whoever it is that needs emergency help.

The reason we stay out all night plowing is to eliminate the build up of snow on the roads, which makes plowing very difficult, which in turn, is harder on the trucks and the drivers. After the storm is over we start the clean up process. This is when we try to get the roads scrapped down to as much bare pavement as possible before applying the salt to the roads. Temperature is very important when salting, the warmer the road the better. In the winter the salt works the best if the road temperature is above twenty degrees. That is why when you leave your home in the morning and it is only ten degrees outside (or colder), and the road is still snow covered you might see the Public Works crew still sanding and scraping the roadway. This is because the salt takes longer to work in colder temperatures which means that we need to use more of it to be effective.

Some people have asked why we salt every road in the Town of Sebago? Sebago has many hills that would make it very dangerous for driving if we did not salt the roads. I have been told that not salting every road in Sebago was tried once before, and it did not work, too many car accidents occurred. Your safety is our number one concern!



“It won’t be warm till the snow gets off the mountain, and the snow won’t get off the mountain till it gets warm.”

New England Proverb



We have two seasons: winter and Sebago Days (3rd weekend in July)

Sebago Proverb

RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

ADULT SNOWSHOEING - If you are at least 18 years old and enjoy the outdoors, this activity is designed for you. Snowshoes are available, free of charge, for your use. If you are interested in joining us, contact Corinne Davis at 595-8173.

CLERK'S CORNER



By Michele Bukoveckas, Town Clerk

ELECTION NEWS UPDATE: Well, another election has come and gone, and as I write this, I am preparing my materials for the State Police to pick up for the recount of Question 1, the Casino Referendum. Sebago had 812 ballots cast, 117 of which



were absentee. Although very tedious and time consuming, elections are one of the most rewarding tasks that I am responsible for. I couldn't accomplish the task without the help of the office staff and many ballot clerks. Thank you all for a job well done and helping me do my job well. The ballot clerks spend many hours sorting and counting ballots. Please remember when writing in a "write in" vote, to list a valid name and to check the box next to the name. By not doing so, the vote

is invalid and will not be counted. In the case of a State Election, if the name you write in is not a "declared write in" and the box is not checked, the vote is invalid. The bottom line is, if you do not like the choices given, you are better off leaving that race blank.

2011 DOG LICENSES: Dog licenses for 2011 are currently available. The fee for neutered/spayed dogs is \$6.00, unaltered animals are \$11.00. **All dogs six month or older must be licensed by the end of the calendar year. A late fee of \$25.00 will be charged as of February 1st of each year.**



To license a dog, a current **State of Maine Rabies Certificate** must be presented. A rabies clinic will be held in Sebago at the Old Town Hall building on January 15, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Shots will cost \$8.00 each. Please bring the current rabies certificate to receive a 3 year shot, otherwise a 1 year shot will be administered. Dogs must be on a leash and cats must be in a carrier. I ask if you no longer have your dog, please contact the Town Office at 787-2457 so we may remove your dog from our database.

HUNTING LICENSES, SNOWMOBILE & BOAT REGISTRATIONS: It is also that time of year for hunting licenses, snowmobile and boat registrations. **Please bring in the prior year information as we will not be able to process renewals for snowmobiles or boats without them per the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's request.** Quite often people have



several machines and/or boats and we are not able to identify the proper one without the previous registration. Another solution would be to write down the registration number that is on the boat or snowmobile prior to coming in to renew the registration. 2011 Hunting and Fishing licenses will be available on December 1, 2010. Remember, Hunting, Fishing, ATVs, Snowmobiles and Boat re-registrations are also available on line.



SEBAGO HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTERS ARE ON LINE: Just a reminder, our "Sebago Happenings" newsletter is available on line, you can subscribe to the service and get a "ping" in your email when the new issue arrives. Just go to www.townofsebago.org and click on "subscribe to news" on the left side. You will be directed to a page where you enter in your email address. This is a great way to keep in touch with what is going on in Sebago whether you live here year round or seasonally.



WEATHERIZATION PROJECT UPDATE

By Edythe Harnden
General Assistance Administrator

In our Fall edition of the Sebago Happenings newsletter we reported that the Town of Sebago recently received a Cumberland County Community Development Block Grant to help with rehabilitation of homes owned by qualifying senior citizens which we refer to as the Weatherization Project.

So far, to date, we have been able to assist five senior citizens in weatherizing their homes for our tough New England weather. Some of the repairs made so far have ranged from a badly needed roof replacement, window replacement, the installation of a storm door, insulation and siding.



Funding provided pays for materials only. All of the work is performed by wonderful volunteers. If you are in need of assistance or are interested in giving us a helping hand, you may contact me through the Sebago Town Office at 787-2457.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE HOURS

Please take note that the General Assistance Administrator now sees clients at the Sebago Town Office on Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.





**TOWN OF SEBAGO
MAINE**

406 Bridgton Rd.
Sebago, ME. 04029

Phone: 207-787-2457
Fax: 207-787-2760

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide truthful, up-to-date, and educational information on how the community works, in order to provide the opportunity for making informed decisions while also enriching the lives of our citizens that want to live here, prosper, and raise their families.

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
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DENMARK, ME
PERMIT #2

**CARRIER ROUTE
PRESORT POSTAL PATRON
ECRWS**

We're on the Web!
www.townofsebago.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETINGS

(Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.)

January 4th
February 1st
March 1st & 15th



PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS

(Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.)

January 11th
February 8th
March 8th

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

There is an open position for the Zoning Board of Appeals. If you are interested in joining, please contact Maureen Scanlon at the Town Office at 787-2457.

SPECIAL ELECTION

Tuesday, February 15, 2011



Polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

(See page 1 for more details.)

SENIOR LUNCH

Tuesdays at Noon at the Nazarene Church. A \$3.00 donation is greatly appreciated.



RABIES CLINIC

January 15, 2011 at the Town Hall Building from 10:00 a.m. till Noon. Shots cost \$8.00 each. Please bring the most recent rabies certificate to receive a 3 year shot, otherwise a 1 year shot will be administered.



Dogs must be on a leash and cats must be in a carrier.



WINTER SALT/SAND AVAILABLE FOR SEBAGO RESIDENTS



Sebago residents and taxpayers may obtain salt/sand from the designated area in the lean-to building located in front of the Public Works

Garage (and next to the EMS Bldg.) to use only on their own property located in the Town of Sebago. Contractors shall not obtain or use any town salt/sand for commercial purposes.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

ADULT SNOWSHOEING

(See page 2 for more details.)



ICE SKATING RINK

Please take note that there will no longer be a public ice skating rink located at the Ball Field Complex behind the Elementary School.