

# KENNEBUNK CURRENTS

Town of Kennebunk, 1 Summer Street, Kennebunk, Maine 04043 207-985-2102 www.kennebunkmaine.us

## Charter Commission Update

The Charter Commission has been meeting regularly since they were formed in December of 2022 with the task of reviewing and bringing forth recommended revisions to the Town Charter. For the past few months the Charter Commission has been diligently working on drafting the language around recall of elected officials and forfeiture of office. This was the first topic to discuss as it is independent of form of government and was the top commented item during a public forum on the Charter Commission. Once the Commission has approved draft language, the Charter Commission plans to hold another public forum to discuss the draft. They then plan to move on to discussions around form of government.

The Charter Commission meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd floor of Town Hall. The current Charter can be viewed at [www.kennebunkmaine.us/charter](http://www.kennebunkmaine.us/charter).

## BOATING TIPS FROM THE HARBORMASTER

How do you know it's been a WET SPRING if you're a boater on the Kennebunk River?

- Your boat batteries are dead from pumping out all of the fresh water.
- There's a ring around your boat at the waterline that "Ty-D-Bol" won't touch.
- All your new SPC clothing and sunscreen you bought for summer are still in their packaging.
- You dropped your favorite rod and reel off the dock but can't see it on the bottom because the water is the color of Espresso.

Welcome to Summer 2023!

All kidding aside, I'd like to refresh some of our basic safe boating principles.

- ☀ Our current Town ordinances identify the entire Kennebunk River as a "No Wake" zone!
- ☀ In the State of Maine, it is unlawful to operate a watercraft at greater than "headway speed" while:
  - within 200 feet of any shore, including islands.
  - within any marina or an approved anchorage in coastal or inland waters.
  - "Headway Speed" means the slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steering and control of the watercraft.
- ☀ Find a comfortable life jacket and WEAR IT! 90% of all drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket!
- ☀ Maine law prohibits anyone from operating or attempting to operate a watercraft while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs! **DON'T DRINK and BOAT!** For additional details please visit: <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/maine-boating-laws.pdf>

Have a safe and wonderful time on the water this season, and, as always, feel free to reach out to me any time: **Jamie Houtz, Harbormaster Kennebunk River, Phone: 207-205-0991 Email: [harbormaster@kennebunkmaine.us](mailto:harbormaster@kennebunkmaine.us)**

## National Night Out

hosted by the Kennebunk Police Department



**TUESDAY**  
August 1, 2023  
5-8PM

Join us!

at the Waterhouse Pavilion

- Meet our local Police, Fire-Rescue & Community Partners
- Live music
- FREE hot dogs, lemonade stand
- FUN Kids Games! Safety Kits for Kids
- Safety displays: Home/Scam/Personal/Financial Safety
- Face Painting, Scavenger Hunt
- Amazing raffles from generous local businesses



## Staff Updates

### New hires:

- Brandon Jones, new Maintenance Worker/Truck Driver-Highway
- Stephen Houdlette, new Director of Economic Vitality

### Goodbye and thank you for your service:

- Amber Crone resigned as the Deputy Tax Collector
- David Boyd retired as the Parks & Facilities Supervisor after 6.5 years with the Town of Kennebunk Public Services Department
- Madison Lavoie resigned as a Firefighter/AEMT after 2 years part-time and 1.5 full-time with Kennebunk Fire Rescue
- Melissa Medeiros resigned as one of the Town's Behavioral Health Liaison/Clinicians with Kennebunk PD

### Open positions:

- Full-time Police Officers
- Full-time Deputy Tax Collector (application acceptance period closes on 7/16!)
- Full-time Facilities Supervisor
- Full-time Lister/Appraiser



To learn more please visit [www.kennebunkmaine.us/jobs](http://www.kennebunkmaine.us/jobs)

## Kennebunk Free Library Happenings

- **Grown-Up Craft Night:** July 17 - 5:30 p.m. - Create a beachy mason jar and enjoy refreshments. All materials provided. 21+ only. Registration required.
- **Messy Art:** July 19 - 2:30-4:00 p.m. - Get your hands dirty while creating art! For kids and families.
- **Blueberry Book Sale:** July 22 - 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- **Anime Club:** Chibi Key Chains: July 26 - 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. - Make Kawaii Chibi art into keychain rings (ages 10-18).
- **Marc Black Concert:** July 26 - 6-7:30 p.m. - A history of the 50s and 60s through popular song.
- **Community Yard Sale:** August 5 - 8:30-12:30 - Apply to be a vendor or stop by to shop.
- **Amazing Animal Builders:** August 10 - 2:30-3:30 - Investigate the river ecosystem and learn about animal builders with the Children's Museum of New Hampshire. For kids and families.

For more information and the rest of our program lineup, or to provide feedback, email us at [kfl@kennebunklibrary.org](mailto:kfl@kennebunklibrary.org), call us at 985-2173, or visit us at [kennebunklibrary.org](http://kennebunklibrary.org)



## Manager's Corner

Heather Balser, Town Manager

Although the weather was touch and go, the Independence Day fireworks at the beach went off as planned on July 4th after the skies cleared. We hope you enjoyed them!



It's beach season and our Ocean Guards are on duty daily keeping an eye on swimmers and our Community Service Officers are monitoring parking. Please make sure you have your beach parking permit for designated parking spots near the beach.

If you haven't gotten one yet, they are available for purchase at Town Hall. Visit [www.kennebunkmaine.us/beachpass](http://www.kennebunkmaine.us/beachpass) for details.

The Town recently widened the shoulder of the road on Beach Avenue across from Fairfield Drive, near the monastery, to accommodate the overflow of beachgoers. These parking spaces now require a beach parking permit.

Other Summer activities in Kennebunk include the Concerts in the Park at Lafayette Park on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Thank you to Kennebunk Parks and Recreation and our sponsor Kennebunk Savings!

The Kennebunk Police Department invites you to come out for National Night Out, a fun, free event on August 1st at the Waterhouse Center from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Meet our Police, Fire-Rescue and community partners and enjoy some fun, games and free hot dogs and lemonade provided by local businesses.



We recently welcomed our new Director of Economic Vitality, Stephen Houdlette. Stephen will design and manage strategies, programs and outreach that support the Town's overall vision for sustainable economic vitality and development. He will be the initial point of contact on economic vitality and development initiatives providing customer service to residents,

businesses and developers. If you are a business in town or interested in doing business in town, please reach out to him at 207-985-2102 ext.1349 or via email at [shoudlette@kennebunkmaine.us](mailto:shoudlette@kennebunkmaine.us).

## OUTSTANDING TAXES DUE

Outstanding 2023 Tax Bills must be paid by the end of July 2023 to avoid the lien process. If you have questions regarding your balance, please contact the tax office at 207-985-2102 ext. 1606. If you are in need of tax assistance please visit:

[www.kennebunkmaine.us/taxhelp](http://www.kennebunkmaine.us/taxhelp)



**THE KENNEBUNK OCEAN GUARDS LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE BEACH. AND HOPE EVERYONE HAS A SAFE, HEALTHY AND HAPPY SUMMER!**



## Upcoming Events

**Concerts in the Park** - Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at Lafayette Park (Concerts are moved to the Waterhouse Center when it rains.)  
**July 19** - The Dock Squares  
**July 26** - North River Music  
**August 2** - Dann Wolfe  
**August 9** - Nomadic Grooves

**July 26** - Town Hall CLOSED from 8 a.m.-10 a.m. for staff training

**National Night Out** - Tuesday, August 1st, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. at the Waterhouse Center

**Artisans Marketplace** - Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. from May 27 through October 7 at the Waterhouse Center

**Farmers Market** - Saturdays 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. from May - November at the Garden Street Bowl parking lot

## Meetings

### Select Board

**\*Summer Schedule\*** - Select Board will meet **July 11, August 1, August 29**

### Planning Board

Meets on the **2nd and 4th Monday** of each month at 7:00 p.m. Town Hall Room 301

### Charter Commission

The Charter Commission meets on the **2nd and 4th Wednesday** of each month at 6:30 p.m. Town Hall Room 301