

E. KINGSTON EDITION

Happy New Year, East Kingston!



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Girl Scout Troop 59300

by Karen Cummings, Girl Scout Leader

Girl Scout Troop 59300 has been busy this month! We braved the weather in the Exeter Holiday Parade and were pleasantly surprised that the rain paused just long enough for the parade. Then we participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the East Kingston Public Library. Next month, we are starting the girls' favorite program—cookie sales! The girls will be taking preorders from 12/26-1/22, and we'll have a couple of booth sales for anyone who wants to come to see us. We'll have more information about booths in the next newsletter (once delivery dates have been confirmed), but if you would like to pre-order cookies, email Karen or Robyn at gsgwmtroop59300@gmail.com and we'll help you find your cookie connection!



Looking for New Year's Resolutions ideas for 2023?

by Cathy Belcher, Land Board Secretary for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment

There are the most popular ones to consider:

- Eat healthy and exercise more
- Spend more time with family
- Make better financial decisions

How about something outside of the box? Maybe consider getting involved with town activities by serving as an alternate on the Planning Board or the Zoning Board of Adjustment?

Alternates serve a vital role to maintain the function of these boards; responsibilities which include:

- attendance at monthly meetings (Planning Board meets the 3rd Thursday of each month and Zoning Board meets the 4th Thursday of each month as needed)
- keeping up to date on current board applications and discussions
- offering opinions, perspectives and information relative to board business and functions

Alternates may be seated as a regular voting member in the event a full voting member is absent or a quorum is not convened. Alternates can participate in board discussions of applications and other board business but cannot cast official votes in official duties and other matters unless they are filling in for a regular member. Interested or want to know more? Email landboardsecretary@eastkingstonnh.gov. or log onto www.eknh.org/planning-board or www.eknh.org/zoning-board-adjustment

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.

A New Chapter

By Zoe Sucu

As of January 1st, 2023, the East Kingston Public Library is officially changing hands. Tracy Waldron retired at the end of 2022, after 28 great years as East Kingston's one and only librarian. While her retirement was something we knew about for a little bit, it was something we kept putting out of our minds until the very end. We know she'll be back to visit, but we'll miss her all the same.

So with that said, I wanted to introduce you, the town of East Kingston, to the new management. Hi! For those who don't know me yet, my name is Zoe Sucu. Tracy hired me back in 2012 as a library page. I had just received my license as a high school sophomore and I took my first joy ride... to the library (this says so much about me). I've been here ever since, working through school. To say I've been here only eleven years, however, is a bit misguided. I've lived in East Kingston my entire life. My sister and I spent those early Friday mornings sitting around that table in the Pound School listening to Miss Tracy read stories at story hour. Let me tell you how difficult it was for me to stop calling her "Miss Tracy."

I have my Associate's degree in Liberal Arts from Great Bay Community College, a Bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature from Southern New Hampshire University, and a Master's degree in Library and Information Sciences from Drexel University. Tracy's simple hiring of a high school kid to shelve books really carved a path for me to find something I enjoyed, a place that I felt I could make a difference.

As I'm the one attempting to fill Tracy's shoes, someone has to fill mine. Sherry Castle has been hired as my Assistant Director, starting January 3rd. She joins us from North Hampton Library where she has been working as Library Assistant while earning her Masters in Library and Information Science (MLIS). Sherry, a Louisiana native, has been a NH resident for 20 years and active in the local EK community, where she moved in 2018. She was elected EK Supervisor of the Checklist in 2022 and is a former Friends of the Library Board member. "The library is a community hub and I am excited to be an integral part of the town I live," Sherry says.

While we have to create a new normal here at the library, we are so very excited for the future. 2023 will be the year of community building, and we've got a whole slew of ideas in store for all the fun we will have.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, great program ideas, etc., please don't hesitate to stop by, send an email or give us a call. We want to provide the best possible library service to East Kingston that we can.



Friends of EKPL (FoEKPL) News

By FoEKPL

As the new year dawns, we want to thank you for generous support of East Kingston Public Library last year and ask that you consider continuing your support into 2023:

- Join us at the **Friends Annual Meeting** on Wednesday, January 25th 5:00-7:00 in person or via Zoom. Here's your chance to join us as a Board member! The Treasurer position will be open for elections. Email us with your questions about the role and responsibilities. For anyone wanting to attend and vote, stay tuned for meeting materials and the Zoom link.
- The **Friends Membership Drive** is our most important fundraising period. The support we receive during this drive allows us to budget and plan for the year ahead with confidence that we can continue to support the library's ability to offer the kinds of programming and opportunities to help enrich the lives of our community. If you have already sent in your 2023 Membership donation -THANK YOU! If not, please consider renewing, or joining us, for 2023. Membership forms are available in the library or via email friendsofekpl@gmail.com.
- If your News Year Resolution includes cleaning out your bookshelves, please consider donating your books to the **USB (Used Book Store) at the Pound School**, or if you'd like to read more, why not visit and check out the January sales? ALL books are 50% off and all cozy mysteries and middle school books are 4 for \$1. The USB is open Fridays 10-5 & Saturdays 10-1.
- Log into Amazon.com and sign up for Amazon Smile designating the "Friends of the East Kingston Public Library" as the charitable organization associated with your account. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the Friends of the East Kingston Public Library at no additional cost to you.

We leave you with a few pictures of the East Kingston Friends who joined us at the **Friends Holiday Social** last month. Take a peek inside the library on the evening of December 2nd....



The USB donated books for 7 raffle baskets



Santa stopped by to share one of his favorite books



Guests created crafts together, shared cocoa and treats and enjoyed getting to know one another, chatting about favorite books and holiday plans



Happy New Year from the FoEKPL Board

(left to right) Cara Gray, Sherry Castle, Carol Powers, Áine Cronin & Stacy Friedman



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.

Open Space: Protect It or Lose It

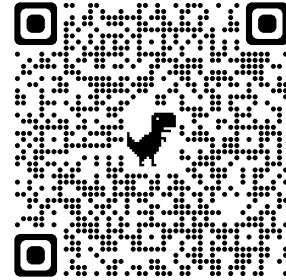
By Vicki J. Brown, East Kingston Conservation Commission

The East Kingston Conservation Commission (EKCC) is proposing 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.

The Select Board has scheduled a public hearing to discuss the open space warrant on Monday, January 16, 2023. Please join us! "Open space lands offer many benefits, such as agriculture, scenic vistas, wildlife habitat and groundwater recharge," said Dennis Quintal, chair of the East Kingston Conservation Commission.

The article will be voted on at the next Town Meeting, Tuesday March 14, 2023.

Contact any EKCC member for more information. Or email us at EKconservation@gmail.com. Find more details online at www.eknh.org/conservation-commission/pages/protect-it-or-lose-it-land-conservation



Jan.10 Deadline for Barry Summer Camp Scholarship Application

By Gordon Powers, East Kingston Conservation Commission

EAST KINGSTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION SPONSORING BARRY SUMMER CAMP

Once again, this summer, the East Kingston Conservation Commission will sponsor up to three interested young people for Barry Conservation Camp in the White Mountain National Forest. Applicants must be 8-16 years old, residents of East Kingston and first-time campers.

To reserve a spot, interested parents should apply on or before January 10, 2023 to Dennis Quintal, Chair of the East Kingston Conservation Commission, at (603) 382-7650, with the session and gender of the camper. Parents are asked to furnish a \$150.00 nonrefundable deposit at the time of the application registration; the balance of the tuition will be paid by the East Kingston Conservation Commission.

Operated by the UNH Cooperative Extension 4-H Program in cooperation with the NH Fish and Game Department, the Camp provides a small close-knit community for its 40 campers and 11 staff. Small, cozy cabins house 7 campers and a counselor. Hands-on experience is the rule. Campers are grouped by age and gender and have access to modern central toilets; shower facilities and a beautiful dining hall complete with a great kitchen which produces legendary meals.

Each week has a theme along with traditional camp activities such as swimming, hiking, campfire, canoeing, skits, fishing, archery and more. The 2023 sessions are as follows:

- 4-H Shooting Sports - June 25-30, for Ages 10-16
- Fish Camp "C July 9-14, for Ages 10-16
- Mini-Camp "C July 5-8, for Ages 8-12
- 4-H on the Wild Side - July 16-21, for Ages 10-16
- Hunter Education - July 23-28, for Ages 12-16
- North Country Adventure - July 30-Aug 4, for Ages 12-16
- Junior Conservation Officer Camp - August 6-9, for Ages 14-17

For more information and the various sessions, go to: <https://extension.unh.edu/new-hampshire-4-h/barry-conservation-4-h-camp>

East Kingston Voter Registration

By Supervisors of the Checklist

The Supervisors of the checklist will be in session on Tuesday January 24, 2023, from 7:00pm to 7:30pm at the Pound School, Depot Road, East Kingston NH.

This session will address checklist items, register new voters, and accept change of party requests.

To register to vote, please bring the following:

- Proof of Identity (photo ID)
- Proof of Age
- Proof of Citizenship (passport, birth certificate or naturalization documents)
- Proof of Domicile (town you which you live)

If you do not have these available, you will need to sign an affidavit attesting to your ID, age, citizenship, and residence (domicile).

The Friends of EKPL are looking for a Treasurer

by FoEKPL

Interested in a volunteer role to support your local library? The Friends of the East Kingston Public Library are looking for a Treasurer. The perfect candidate is organized with attention to detail. No prior accounting experience required. The role, which requires a background check, includes the following:

- Co-signer on the bank account
- Primary contact for NH Lottery Games of Chance, Charitable Gaming
- Perform monthly financial reconciliation
- Draft quarterly Treasury Reports to the membership
- Draft, with the President, the annual budget

The election will be held on January 25, 2023. The Friends' Board is available to answer any of your questions!

EKPL is seeking Board Members!

by Zoe Sucu, Library Director

Is your New Years resolution to become more involved in your community? Maybe you want to find a volunteer experience that could get you out of the house and help you meet new people? We are looking for one Board Member and a few Alternate Trustees to join the EKPL Board of Trustees.

An Alternate Trustee is similar to an alternate on a jury. You can learn about the inner workings of the library and ensure your voice is heard. If a Trustee is absent, then you step in to ensure the Board has quorum and you can vote, so we continue to move the work of the EKPL forward. A Board Member is quite similar, if not more a permanent place on the Board of Trustees. The biggest difference between the two positions is that board members are elected positions, meaning the town votes you into office at March's local election. An Alternate is an appointed position.

Requirements for these positions are quite minimal. We have one meeting on the fourth Monday of every month (meetings generally run 1.5 - 2 hours). Occasionally special meetings will be held, or attendance at a program is required, but not often.

If you are interested, please email or call Robert Minicucci at chair.ekplbod@gmail.com or (339-206-1722) to learn more.

A Final Word

By Tracy Waldron, *Library Director*

In 2022, we seemed to get closer to our new normal after two years of constant change due to Covid. We focused heavily on bringing back programming and reintegrating the library into the everyday lives of East Kingston townspeople. We started by helping the elementary school celebrate Read Across America in March. In May, we had two broken-down propane furnaces replaced by new heat pumps. With our roof full of solar panels slated to be ours in 2023, many thanks to the Friends of the Library for raising the funds, we are looking forward to producing enough electricity to run our building entirely off the power of the sun.

Oceans of Possibility was this year's fabulous summer reading theme. Under Zoe's artistic direction, the library became an undersea masterpiece, complete with waves, jellyfish, sea creatures galore and the yellow submarine. Programs were plentiful and attendance exceeded our expectations. It was, by far, our most attended Summer Reading Program to date.

Yoga returned to the library this year. East Kingston's own Angela Macero started teaching two days per week. She started outside on the lawn during the good weather where attendees could be warm in the sun and listen to the birds. The program has since moved inside as the weather got colder. We look forward to more yoga in 2023.

We were approached in May by Tim and Becky Jones to see if we would be interested in hosting a Farmer's Market in the months of July, August and September. We worked with the Jones' and hosted three wildly successful markets. We thank them for their spirit of community and look forward to working with them again.

In the fall, we hosted Courageous Community Conversations with surrounding libraries. We put on six weeks of programming about diversity, gender and justice for all. We concluded with a Human Book where you could check out a person for 15-20 minutes. We had "books" ranging from a young adult with autism, to a transgendered person, an adult with ADHD, a mother who went through adoption, and so many more. They opened themselves to questions and helped spread understanding. We look forward to doing this programming again in the years ahead.

The EK Conservation Commission continues to work hard for the town and we hosted them twice this year to help spread information about conservation easements. Shelby Stabile graciously volunteered to take care of our community gardens. She planted flowers and vegetables that the kids and guinea pigs enjoyed and we appreciate her efforts.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the people of East Kingston. I started my job in 1995 when I had two small children at home, just as a way to get out of the house and talk to adults. It became something very different and it never has never once felt like work. I started at the Pound School when we were open just 28 hours per week. We had over 17000 books in that tiny building. Just when I thought that the floor couldn't possibly take any more weight, the town voted to build a new library. The new building presented so many new possibilities, and we were soon open 36 hours per week. Today the library is a community center that offers so much more than books. It is a place that people who live in a bedroom community can connect. I am proud to have been part of that evolution. I want to thank all the people who helped to make the library what it is today.

In October I was surprised to be awarded Library Director of the Year, by the NH Library Trustee Association. Thank you to the trustees and staff who nominated me. It was quite an honor and a fabulous way to end my career.

I am so thankful to be leaving the library in the hands of Zoe Sucu. Zoe has been using the library since she was a toddler and she has worked for the library for eleven years. Two years ago she completed her Masters Degree in Library and Information Sciences. The skills she brings to the library are vast and I know she will continue to make the library an inviting and welcoming place.

I am very much looking forward to 2023 and all that the Library will do. I will be back to visit soon.

Respectfully,
Tracy Waldron

Important Dates

- **January 9th @ 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.
- **Wednesday, January 11th @ 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.
- **Monday, January 16th @ 6:30pm - Public Hearing on Budget**
 - In Person with Zoom Option. Meeting will be held at the Pound School, located at 41 Depot Road.
- **January 19th @ 7:00pm - Planning Board**
 - In Person. Meetings are held at the Pound School. More information can be found at www.eknh.org/planning-board.
- **January 23rd @ 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.
- **January 25th @ 5pm - Friends of the East Kingston Public Library**
 - 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/friends-of-ekpl.