



The Town of Newington E-Newsletter includes information about Town-sponsored events, projects and special announcements. Visit [www.newington.nh.us](http://www.newington.nh.us) to join the distribution list, or to be removed.

Board of Selectmen

Timothy “Ted” Connors, Chair  
Kenneth Latchaw  
Michael Marconi

Town Offices will be closed on  
Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> in  
celebration of Christmas Day.



and Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> in  
celebration of New Years’ Day.



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Upcoming Meetings:

12/1/2020	Board of Selectmen	10am	Town Hall
12/1/2020	Police Commission	4pm	Police Station
12/2/2020	Board of Fire Engineers	5:30pm	Fire Station
12/3/2020	Economic Development Committee	6pm	Via Zoom
12/7/2020	Board of Selectmen	3:00pm	Via Zoom
12/9/2020	Budget Committee	6:30pm	Via Zoom
12/14/2020	Library Trustees	1:30pm	Via Zoom
12/16/2020	Sewer Commission	9am	Waste Water Treatment Plant
12/16/2020	Budget Committee	6:30pm	Via Zoom
12/17/2020	Zoning Board of Adjustment	6:30pm	Town Hall
12/28/2020	Board of Selectmen	3pm	Via Zoom
12/28/2020	Planning Board	6pm	Town Hall

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COVID UPDATE- WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

**WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP WHEN THE VACCINE**

**ARRIVES?** Governor Sununu has announced that the first batches of COVID-19 vaccine may arrive in New Hampshire before Christmas; and the state Department of Health and Human Services said in a draft policy that "the first phase to get the vaccine will include older adults living in residential care settings like nursing homes and assisted living facilities, first responders and high-risk workers in health-care facilities." A corps of qualified vaccinators and non-vaccinators for coordinating the process will be needed as the vaccination effort ramps up. The City Health Department asks residents who are interested in volunteering to visit the [NH Responds website](#) and fill out the [online registration form](#). **Volunteers should make sure they check off the "Seacoast COVID Team" in the "COVID-19 Teams" drop-down list in the Organization section of the form to volunteer for Greater Portsmouth efforts.**

## **The Challenge and Opportunity Presented By Newington's Retail Sector**

This is another in an ongoing series of communications developed by the Town's Economic Development Committee regarding issues confronting the Town's taxpayers and its business community.

Newington's commercial zone is at the heart of the third largest retail market in the State that also draws customers from Southern Maine. Commercial properties are approximately 27% of the Town's tax base. Both Portsmouth and Newington have seen the impact of economic trends in the retail sector with store closings accelerating. The Town's Board of Selectmen and Planning Board responded by commissioning a Newington specific study of potential mixed -use redevelopment. The Study by knowledgeable NH planning professionals was released earlier this year and can be found on the Town's website:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1a9lukRocRbnUVGX17qPtSKUywivIEcsT/view?u...>

A fundamental finding of the Study (which was done pre the Covid 19 pandemic) was that the winds buffeting Newington's retail sector are not unique to Newington or NH generally:

1. The U.S. as a whole is vastly over retailled as compared to other developed nations and a reduction of retail capacity was inevitable.
2. The disruption brought about by the rise of on line retailers has substantially impacted retailers unable to integrate that channel with their brick and mortar business model – this has impacted many of the traditional “anchor” tenants of retail shopping complexes across the country as well as the secondary stores. In Newington, we see it in the shuttered Sears facility and empty store fronts at the Fox Run Mall.
3. The future of the retail sector, and therefore of successful efforts to revitalize existing retail centers like the Mall lies in diversification that attracts customers for the experience and ideally, as demonstrated by the success of so called “life style” or “village” centers, has customers built in by the inclusion, not only of office uses, but also a complimentary residential component designed to be attractive to the millennial and younger demographics.

To evaluate the possible impact on Newington's tax base of the changes in the retail sector the Economic Development Committee (EDC) met recently with the Town's Contract Assessor responsible for the commercial sector. The EDC learned that generally through 2019, while all values (especially residential) in the Seacoast have been appreciating, there is an identified downward trend potentially developing in parts of the commercial sector. Looking ahead, there will be a Covid induced impact on facilities in the hospitality sector, like restaurants and hotels, as well as theaters and possibly office buildings. As leases are re-written in the retail sector at reduced rates to retain or attract tenants, values will decline and requests for tax abatements will follow.

The Town has time to address these issues. The Town's response should be measured and thoughtfully developed with substantial public input, beyond that required by the traditional zoning amendment process. Fortunately, the Town benefits from the Study and the experience of other identified NH communities. This information provides the foundation to build a comprehensive Newington specific response.

Some years ago, Portsmouth and Bedford tackled similar situations. With deteriorating strip centers like Southgate Plaza, and a large, closed Macy's site, both communities engaged in a similar process to what Newington has now begun. The result was the adoption of specific zoning changes using an overlay zone designed to diversify the uses allowed in certain designated large commercial parcels in need of redevelopment. Salem followed a similar path in the redevelopment of the Rockingham Park, a large former racetrack property. Recently, the Newington Planning Board used such an overlay zone to designate parcels in the Office Zone on the west side of the Spaulding Turnpike for multi-family residential use to address the State's workforce housing requirements.

In Portsmouth, the zoning provision is known as the Gateway Zone and it applies to commercial parcels larger than 10 acres and allows for a residential use under certain very detailed regulations, designed to maintain retail and office as primary use and to insure that the residential component (rental apartments), is fully compatible and enhances those primary uses. As cited in Newington's Study the revitalization of Southgate Plaza, now known as Portsmouth Green, utilized expanded mixed-use zoning to add a residential component with minimal impact on the City's school system. Currently, the redevelopment of the former Frank Jones Function Hall and Conference Center off the Route 1 By-Pass into the West End Yards project is underway, also utilizing the Gateway Zoning. Each of these projects can be viewed in the following links:

[Portsmouth Green | Waterstone Properties \(waterstonepg.com\)](#)  
[West End Yards | Waterstone Properties \(waterstonepg.com\)](#)

Though not highlighted in the Study, properly guided redevelopment of previously built out parcels, presents an opportunity to apply the principles of Smart Growth to increase the taxable value of each acre of land by encouraging more vertical development (including garage parking), which generates more tax revenue with the additional potential benefit of freeing up land to create green spaces and other environmental and community benefits as outlined below.

While the EDC's focus is economic development, all Committee Members live and/or work in Newington and appreciate its uniqueness. Apart from economic benefit, there are potential environmental and community benefits of repurposing existing commercial properties, rather than consuming undeveloped property to continue sprawl which Newington has long sought to avoid. With the proper regulations in place, a redevelopment of older commercial sites can:

- Upgrade structures to meet the higher LEED environmental standards with resulting energy efficiency and reduced carbon emissions.
- Reduce impermeable surface and provide improved drainage incorporating state of the art storm water treatment to increase water quality.

- Incorporate green space to create a vibrant walkable neighborhood experience with safe and attractive pedestrian and bicycle connections.
- Improve traffic circulation and encourage vertical parking that will free up land for multiple compatible uses and green space.
- Encourage experiential uses including entertainment facilities that benefit the entire surrounding community.

These are all benefits of taking a proactive and thoughtful “smart growth” approach to preserving and increasing the Town’s tax base. As an advisory committee to the Board of Selectmen, the EDC is committed to continuing to work cooperatively with other Town Boards to meet the challenge of any threats to the Town’s enviable tax rate, while taking advantage of the opportunity presented by the ongoing restructuring of the retail sector. The Committee will continue its efforts to provide information to the Town’s residents in order to assist them in participating in the ongoing public process and discussion of these and related issues. As encouraged by the Town’s Study and the Board of Selectmen, the EDC is also reaching out to the property owners to let them know the Town is committed to a mutually beneficial redevelopment effort. To advance these objectives, the EDC is considering the sponsorship, in conjunction with other Town Boards, of forum(s), on line or in person, where additional information on mixed use development can be made available to all residents with an opportunity to participate and ask questions.

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### **Ice Skating Rink**



**The rink will be open as soon as the ice freezes!**



## **Wilcox Industries and Wilcox Way**



### **Thank You Wilcox Industries!**

The impending acceptance of Wilcox Way as a Town Road will be a milestone in the Planning Board's work to develop infrastructure key to Newington's tax base. The initial planning of this road began in the late 1990s with a concept for an industrial corridor roadway (ICR) that the Planning Board coordinated with State and Regional agencies and have secured industry funding to develop and construct. The Board's 4-phase engineering design provides access and frontage for additional industry and commerce East of Woodbury Avenue. The center two phases were constructed as Shattuck Way by the gas-fired utility plant and a large portion of the Southern phase, to be known as Wilcox Way, has now been completed by Wilcox Industries. The Town is very appreciative of the commitment made by these industries to contribute such a valuable asset to our town! New development along the ICR already makes up over 35% of our tax base. Wilcox Way and Shattuck Way have been nominated to become designated as New Hampshire's contribution to the US National Freight Highway system. A short section of the ICR (River road to Exit 4) will require refurbishment in the near future. With steady, visionary planning by the Planning Board, growth will continue to diversify Newington's tax base while fortifying our position regional as a employment center that provides good, high paying jobs in the manufacture of US made products.

*~Christopher Cross, Planning Board Member*



Poinsettias were first introduced into this country in 1828 by the U.S. ambassador to Mexico, Joel Poinsett.

Poinsettias are now grown in all 50 states and represent over 85 percent of potted plant sales during the holidays. Over \$220 million worth of poinsettias are sold during holiday season!

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**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Happy December Newington!!! Hoping for a great Holiday Season for all!!

For the older residents in town, I regret to inform you of the passing of Chief John Stimson, who served the town of Newington as the Chief of Police for 27 years. I know this announcement is over a month old, but I was reminded by a resident that there are still “folks in town” who remember Chief Stimson.

John Keith Stimson, 77, died following a short illness at Lee Memorial Hospital, in Fort Myers, FL, on October 9, 2020. He was born and went to schools in Hanover, NH. John joined the US Army in 1964

and served in the Vietnam War earning a Bronze Star award. He attended the University of New Hampshire and then went on to become the Chief of Police in Newington, NH, for 27 years. During

this time, he was President of the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police (1991-92) and the New England Association of Chiefs of Police. Following his retirement John moved to Herons Glen in North Fort Myers, FL, where he was an avid golfer. John was a member of the Good Shepard United Methodist Church in North Fort Myers. He is survived by his wife, Louise Meehan, two step-daughters, Victoria Jones and Heather James and her husband Jeff, seven grandchildren, Luca and Isabella Rusin, Callie and Emily Jones, and Ty, Paige and Jacob James, three great grandchildren, and his brother, Bob and Bob's family. He was preceded in death by his parents, his daughter Judith Carol Atteberry and Rhoda Stimson, his past wife.

I had the opportunity to know Chief Stimson for a short period of time when I became the chief four years ago. What I learned was, he was a dedicated servant to the town, who lead with a strong moral compass and empathy. Though stern at times, some would say "bull headed," he believed in principals and the Law Enforcement profession.

God Bless you Chief Stimson and thank you for your service.

This is the time of year where SCAMS are more prevalent, taking advantage of our seniors and kind heartedness. Recently, Officer Burns took a report from a senior resident who was almost a victim of the Grandparent SCAM, with a twist. The resident received a telephone call from an "attorney" advising her that her grandson was arrested and needed money to be bailed out. She was instructed to go to her bank, withdraw funds and to call him back once the funds were received. She was then told to provide her home address so the attorney's associate could collect the bail money.

This was the twist. They were actually going to go to her residence to collect the money.

The resident went to her bank and took out over \$10,000.00. Once home, she called her grandson, who advised her to call the police and report the SCAM.

The great news is, we were contacted by the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office who informed us an arrest was made on the perpetrators of the SCAM. After a search of the suspect's phone was conducted, the resident's phone number was saved, connecting the suspect to the attempted fraud.

Each year, billions of dollars are fraudulently obtained from SCAMs. We need to collaborate as a team to stop these perpetrators and protect our community. The police department remains vigilant in educating our seniors, local businesses, and banks on reporting suspicious activities.

If you have any questions or concerns or if you just want to talk, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 431-5461 or send me an email; [mbilodeau@newingtonnhd.com](mailto:mbilodeau@newingtonnhd.com)

Be safe and have a happy, healthy, Holiday Season!!

Michael Bilodeau

Chief of Police





### *Newington Fire & Rescue*

We hope you all had a great Thanksgiving holiday with all things being considered. As it appears, we are in the midst of another wave of COVID-19 increases, I just want to remind everyone to remain vigilant and continue to practice social distancing and follow safety measures whenever you are not able to. It's understandable this is much tougher this time of year with the cold weather and holiday season when we are supposed to be with friends and loved ones. We, as a community, are doing very good at preventing the spread. Especially compared to the neighboring Cities and Towns around us. Keep up the great work.

With winter weather nearly here, please remember to take the extra time to make it to your destination safely. Don't forget to help out your neighbors that may need the extra hand. As the Thanksgiving holiday has come and gone, Christmas season will be coming into full swing. We will be starting our annual toy drive at various businesses throughout Town. As this has been a very tough year for many people, I would like to encourage you to help out in any way possible, even if it's to another drive, if you are able to. Though many of the toys and donations we get don't go to Newington residents, we use the excess items that don't go to our residents to assist other communities that are in much greater need.

Have a great Holiday, and as always, we are here if you have any needs or questions. Stay safe.

EJ Hoyt  
Fire Chief  
436-9441 x6  
[ehoyt@newingtonfire.org](mailto:ehoyt@newingtonfire.org)

# PUT A THERMOMETER ON FREEZE WINTER FIRES

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, **be fire smart!**

**Half of all home heating fires** occur in the months of



Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and **as far away as possible from your home.**

**Install and test** carbon monoxide alarms at least **once a month.**



Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year.**

**Heating equipment** is involved in **1** in every **7** reported **home fires** and **1** in every **5** home fire deaths.



Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least **10** feet from your home and any nearby buildings.



Keep anything that can burn at least

**3** feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, or space heaters.



Plug only **1** heat-producing appliance (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov/winter](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/winter) and [www.nfpa.org/winter](http://www.nfpa.org/winter).





**Langdon Library (Debra Obertenac Photograph)**

## **Langdon Library News**

In-library and curbside appointments are available; please call the library at 436-5154 or email [info@langdonlibrary.org](mailto:info@langdonlibrary.org) to schedule. *Note: for same day appointments we recommend calling rather than emailing.*

Our hours of operation are:

**Tuesday, 1 to 7 PM**

**Friday, 9 AM to 3 PM**

**Saturday, 10 to 3 PM**

4 people limit per appointment. Browsing limited to displays in lobby area. Masks and hand sanitizing or hand washing are required upon entering. Gloves are available but not required. Please use outside book drop for all returns.

## **Virtual and Take-Home Programs:**

### **New Foreign Language Club**

Starting in January 2021, the library will virtually host a monthly “foreign language” club, in which you may converse with other speakers in a foreign language, utilize Mango Languages software to learn a new language, and share your learning with other learners. We will launch Mango Languages in December. Stay tuned in our newsletter and our website [www.langdonlibrary.org](http://www.langdonlibrary.org) for more information about the meeting schedule, how to sign up, and using Mango.

### **Book Groups (adults)**

Last month we discussed *The Gratitude Project* by Jeremy Adam Smith and were validated of the positive effects of gratitude even in these uncertain times. We are taking a month off in December but

will resume meetings in January, reading the book *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett. Reads to Go kits are available through Interlibrary Loan again so we will receive copies of the novel on the van beginning in mid-December, and meet virtually to discuss it in the new year on **Tuesday January 12 at 6:30 PM** and **Thursday January 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM**. You may find the access information for this event at <https://www.langdonlibrary.org/programs/book-groups/>  
New members are always welcome!

### **Imagination Bags (ages 4+)**

Make an appointment with the library to pick up a bag of fun activities to complete at home. This month's craft is a winter "half snowglobe". Bags also contain a list of great library books for winter reading. We would love to see creations! E-mail photos to [programs@langdonlibrary.org](mailto:programs@langdonlibrary.org) for a chance to be featured on our website and social media. Imagination Bags are available for pickup at library appointments beginning Tuesday, December 1.

### **Leaping Learners Virtual Family Storytime (ages 0-6)**

Every Friday at 10:30 AM, Miss Amanda will post a pre-recorded storytime for children aged 0-6 and their caregivers on the Langdon Public Library Facebook page. Miss Amanda presents fingerplays, songs, and a story to promote early literacy through play, and discovery. Learn more at [www.langdonlibrary.org/leaping-learners](http://www.langdonlibrary.org/leaping-learners).

### **Out Loud with Miss Amanda (all ages)**

Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM, Miss Amanda highlights a picture book from the Langdon Public Library collection in a special read-aloud video. Perfect for a cozy family night in! See <https://www.langdonlibrary.org/out-loud/> for more details.

**December 2:** *Digging for Words: José Alberto Gutiérrez and the Library He Built* by Angela Burke Kunkel

**December 9:** *The Mitten* by Jan Brett

**December 16:** *Paddington* by Michael Bond

**December 23:** *Dasher* by Matt Tavares

**December 30:** *Wintercake* by Lynne Rae Perkins

### **December Schedule:**

The library will not be open for appointments on Friday, December 25 or Friday, January 1. Please book your appointments for the Tuesdays before or Saturdays after, to be sure you have what you need those weeks!

See you online, and at the library!

Lara Berry, Langdon Library Director

[director@langdonlibrary.org](mailto:director@langdonlibrary.org)





**Newington 1872 Old Town Hall- Newington Historic District**

The Old Town Hall was built in 1872 and housed a schoolhouse on the bottom floor and a town meeting room on the upper floor. The school educated all 8 grades and, in about 1890, was divided into two rooms with younger students in the back.

The Newington Grange used the Hall for many years. In 1913 the Grange Fair attracted over 3,000 people to the Newington Center. In the 1950's residents gathered here to fight the Air Force over the impending base location. The school was in use until the Stone School opened.

The Newington sign on the front of the Old Town Hall came from the fourth ship built at the Shattuck Shipyard.

In 2005 the building was renovated and returned to active use.

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**2020 TAX RATE**

The total assessed valuation for Newington dropped by \$37,056,873 which resulted in a tax rate increase of .36 cents if the budgets approved at 2020 town meeting had been the same as 2019.

The total appropriated at 2020 Town Meeting for the Town, County and School increased by \$397,576 resulting in an increase of .19 cents. Combined with the valuation drop the tax rate increased .55 cents.

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>Impact to Tax Rate</b>
<b>Assessed Valuation</b>	1,061,074,253	1,024,017,380	(\$37,056,873)	+ .364
<b>County</b>	916,105	896,467	(\$17,638)	-.001
<b>School ( Local)</b>	695,663	853,997	\$158,334	+.023
<b>School (State)</b>	1,251,018	1,119,376	(\$131,642)	-.004
<b>Municipal</b>	6,069.076	6,459,598	\$390,522	+.168
<b>Net Appropriation TOTALS</b>	<b>8,931,862</b>	<b>9,329,438</b>	<b>\$397,576</b>	<b>.55</b>

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**Education Funding and Donor Town Issue**

You will recall from the November Newington E News issue one of the threats to our low tax rate is the return of the donor towns legislation in which Newington along with other property rich towns and cities will pay for the adequate education of students in other towns and cities. Read this article in NH Business Review at the link below for an update:

<https://www.nhbr.com/a-comprehensive-look-at-nhs-school-funding-commission-report/>



## The Meetinghouse at Bloody Point

**Stone steps to nowhere tell a story of long ago**

*Reprinted from: November 19, 2020 [NH Business Review](#)*

by Marshall Hudson

The oddly shaped boulder in front of the Newington Meetinghouse caught my attention. Thirteen yoke of oxen had labored to drag it there in the early 1700s. Someone had flattened off the top and chiseled steps into it. Why? I tried the steps. They still work. I'm wondering what this rock has seen come and go over the last three centuries.

This old meetinghouse predates the Town of Newington having been erected when the area was known as "Bloody Point," which was claimed by both Dover and Portsmouth. Supposedly, around 1631, a representative of the Swampscot land grant (Dover) and a representative of the Piscataqua land grant (Portsmouth) met to discuss resolution of the conflicting grants. The negotiations did not go well, tempers flared, and swords were drawn. No blood was spilled, but the disputed lands acquired the name "Bloody Point."

Surrounded on three sides by the Piscataqua River and the Great Bay estuary, early residents of Bloody Point found it difficult to attend town meeting or church service in either Dover or Portsmouth when the tide was running against them. Tired of boundary disputes and rowing against the tides, Bloody Point residents decided to establish a township, or parish, independent from both Portsmouth and Dover. The granting of a separate parish with town privileges in the early 1700s required the election of town officers, the construction of a village meetinghouse, and the establishment of a church with a settled minister. There was no requirement for separation of church

and state at that time, so a meetinghouse would serve the dual purpose of being both a place for feisty town meetings and solemn worship.



Construction of the Bloody Point Meetinghouse began in 1712, and the first meeting was held in it on January 21, 1713, even though the building was far from completed. There were no seats, and the windows were only holes in the walls. The cold but hardy participants gathered to consider the calling of a minister, the next step in the process of becoming a separate township. On August 6, 1713, a meeting was held to organize the parish. The necessary officers were elected, and the parish was set off. The name "Newington" was chosen after an English village that provided a bell for the new meetinghouse.

By 1714, the building was completed enough to hold a meeting for the sale of "pues." "... It was voted that inhabitants who would have a pue should pay twelve pounds for the largest and ten pounds for the smaller ones ..." The meetinghouse was not heated, so box pews with doors were constructed, minimizing drafts to keep occupants warmer. Foot warmers filled with hot coals or heated stones helped to keep huddling families warmer inside their enclosed pew box.

The Rev. Joseph Adams was the first settled minister in the new meetinghouse, and he preached there for 68 years. Adams graduated from Harvard College in 1710, and began his ministry service at



this meetinghouse in 1715. Rev. Adams was the uncle to John Adams, second president of the United States, and great uncle of John Quincy Adams, the sixth president.

John Adams, second president of the United States, visited his uncle in Newington in 1770 when the future president was a young lawyer and circuit-rider judge. In his journal he wrote that he admired his uncle's preaching style, described as "delivered in a powerful and musical voice, consisted of texts of scripture, quoting chapter and verse, delivered memoriter and with-out notes ..."

The meetinghouse was also used as a school up until about 1750 when a schoolhouse was built. One scholar is recorded as saying, "In 1738 we went to school in the meetinghouse. Rev. Joseph Adams was our teacher. There were about twenty of us. We brought our own slates and food — and the Teacher et most of it."

A freestanding bell tower with steeple was added to the west side of the meetinghouse to accommodate the bell from England. This tower was struck by lightning, necessitating repairs in 1744. Apparently, rum was required to fix the belfry, as records show that it was voted to expend 5 pounds and 14 shillings for five gallons of rum to be used raising the belfry and another 308 pounds for other costs. This steeple was struck by lightning and repaired several times over the next decades, until the townspeople decided that maybe the steeple portion was not meant to be and left it off, repairing only the belfry.

In 1803, the original bell was struck by lightning and it cracked. Newington selectmen had it hauled by ox team to a bell maker in Boston named Paul Revere and asked him to recast it. Revere offered a better deal and, being frugal selectmen, they took his deal. They exchanged the damaged bell and \$210 for a different bell Revere had already cast for a church in Pembroke, Massachusetts. Revere's bell was too small for Pembroke, but the right size for replacing Newington's damaged bell. Revere's original 1804 handwritten bill of sale is on display in the meetinghouse. I pulled the rope and rang Revere's bell. Still works.

The building was modernized in 1838-39 to its present church-shape appearance. Windows were reconfigured, the main entrance was moved from the long south side to the east gable end, and the freestanding belfry was relocated onto the roof of the east gable end, effectively rotating the building 90 degrees without moving it. Why this was done is lost to history. The present main entrance on the east side had originally been constructed as a private entrance to the pew of the settlement's wealthiest citizen, Col. John Downing. In addition to his private pew entrance, the colonel was also granted his own window and permitted to construct a tomb beneath a corner of the building. The slab of the tomb remains and indicates that Downing died in 1739. Legend says that Downing was buried in this tomb but was relocated to a cemetery 100 years afterward during the 1839 building renovation.

Behind the old meetinghouse is a row of horse sheds. Once common at meeting-houses, they provided a place for meeting-goers to park their horses while attending town meetings or church services. These old horse sheds provide a clue to the purpose of the stepped rock outside the front door. This meetinghouse was constructed before there were roads and carriages to bring people to meetings and church. Travelers arrived by foot or on horseback, and ladies wearing petticoats and long dresses found it challenging to swing up onto a horse in a proper 1700s ladylike manner. So, while their husbands held their horse in front of the rock, the ladies ascended the steps to the flattened top and demurely scotched onto the horse, thus avoiding any ankle flashing or wardrobe malfunctions. This rock certainly has seen things come and go.

*Historical source: "Newington New Hampshire" by John Frink Rowe, based on the writings of Frederick M. Pickering*



Every snowflake has approximately 200 snow crystals. A snowflake has six sides. A snowflake falls at a speed of 3 to 4 miles an hour. The majority of the world's fresh water supply is in ice and snow. You won't find any four or five or eight sided snowflakes in the wild, but you may spy some three-sided crystals. As with the twelve sideds, these crystals appear along with the more common hexagonal variety.

Snowflakes can be categorized into six main types, plate (flat), column, stars, dendrite, lacy, needle, and capped column.

When it is extremely cold the snow is very fine and powdery and snowflakes become quite simple in design, usually needle or rod-shaped.

When the temperature is near to freezing point (0 degrees Celsius), snowflakes become much larger and a lot more complex in design.

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Hours of Operation: Town Offices - Mon - Fri. 9 - 4:30pm

**NEW HOURS:** Town Clerk/Tax Collector Tuesday and Wednesday 9am-1pm, Thursday: 12noon-4:30pm

Building Dept. - Mon - Thurs 6:30am- 4:30pm

Planning Dept. - Monday & Thursday 9 - 4:30pm (Planner by appointment)

**Langdon Library - COVID HOURS - BY APPOINTMENT ONLY: Tuesday 1-7pm and Friday 9-3pm and starting Saturday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> -Saturday appointments from 10-3pm**

Transfer Station Wed 5 - 7pm, Sat 9 - 3pm

Subscribe or *Unsubscribe* at this link: <http://www.newington.nh.us/subscribe>

Newington Town Hall 603-436-7640