

March

2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Select Board @ 7 pm	2 Town Office Open 11:00 am to 6:00 pm	3 Community Association @ 6 PM	4 Town Office Open 9:00 am to 2:00 pm History Committee @ 4 pm	5	6
7 Westport Island History Center Open 11 am - 1 pm	8 Select Board @ 7 PM	9 Town Office Open 11:00 am to 6:00 pm	10 Planning Board @ 7 pm	11 Town Office Open 9:00 am to 2:00 pm	12	13
14 Westport Island History Center Open 11 am - 1 pm	15 Select Board @ 7 pm	16 Town Office Open 11:00 am to 6:00 pm	17	18 Town Office Open 9:00 am to 2:00 pm	19	20
21 Westport Island History Center Open 11 am - 1 pm	22 Select Board @ 7 PM	23 Town Office Open 11:00 am to 6:00 pm	24	25 Town Office Open 9:00 am to 2:00 pm	26	27
28 Westport Island History Center Open 11 am - 1 pm	29 Select Board @ 7 pm	30	31			Please refer to the town website: www.westportisland.us for meeting information.



THE WESTPORT ISLAND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

Westport Community Association
6 Fowles Point Road,
Westport Island, ME 04578

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Original Painting by Aurise Randall



"Lennie"

Thank you, Copy Shop!
The printing of February's newsletter has been donated to us from Chris at the Copy Shop in memory of Richard Denzer of Westport Island.

Newsletter Submissions

If you have an interest in contributing to the Westport Island Newsletter please contact Rose at lulusbarnshop@gmail.com or 215-7039. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month. I would love to hear from you!

Town Office

Nomination papers for candidates for town offices to be voted on June 8, 2021 will be available beginning on March 1, 2021 and are due back April 9, 2021. Positions available are:
2nd Selectman (3 year term)
RSU #12 School Board Member (3 year term)
RSU #12 Board Member (2 year term) Questions, please contact Julie Casson, Town Clerk, 882- 8477, ext 3 or townclerk@westportisland.us

BIRTHDAY ZOOM PARTY

And, you're invited!

Let's celebrate our favorite 2nd selectman, **Jerry Bodmer**, on his birthday, **Monday, March 1st from 1:00 pm to 3 pm.**

Email or call Rose at lulusbarnshop@gmail.com or 215-7039 for instructions on how to "zoom in" or, if you would like to send a card, the address is Jerry Bodmer 389 Main Road Westport Island, Maine 04578.

Rose

Westport Island History Committee

Historic Home Site Inventory and Catalogue Project

The History Committee is undertaking a project to identify and catalogue historic home sites on Westport Island. They will be using historic maps from 1772 and 1878 which depict buildings identified at those times. Using GIS mapping technology, they have digitally overlaid those old maps on current base maps derived from aerial imagery. This will give GPS coordinates for where these buildings may have been located, subject to the accuracy of the map makers. This data will be posted on the Digital Tax Map and GIS page on the town's website.

The focus of this year is on 1772 when our first wave of permanent settlers had arrived. There were 52 buildings noted on that map representing approximately 31 home sites (some of the buildings were barns, no doubt). Some of these sites are well known today. Others have yet to be identified.

In subsequent years, we will expand the search for homes or cellar holes on the 1878 map, when Westport Island was booming. There were 303 buildings noted on that map which represent about 193 likely home sites plus barns and outbuildings.

Do you know of any old cellar holes on your property or in your neighborhood? If so, let us know, so we can help find its history.

Contact Dennis Dunbar at dunbarden@gmail.com or 882-8143.



Broadband & Cable Committee

Maine Wants to See Your Internet Service Problems!

Maine has been struggling for years in its attempts to map current broadband internet availability throughout the state. Accurate, street-address-level data on internet connection speeds are needed to develop projects and steer investments to communities that need it most. Obtaining accurate data and maintaining up-to-date maps has proven to be a very difficult problem and Westport Island's online map is a perfect example, showing extensive areas of broadband coverage that don't really exist.

The Maine Broadband Coalition is attempting to solve the problem by getting the data as painlessly as possible, directly from YOU, the long-suffering customers of slow DSL or costly and unreliable alternatives.

The Westport Broadband and Cable Committee is asking residents to participate in this initiative by taking the less-than-a-minute test to map their internet speeds at mainebroadbandcoalition.org. The Coalition will use the information they collect to create and maintain up-to-date service maps. One of the uses of these maps is to evaluate Connect Maine grant applications, such as the one currently being prepared by the Broadband Committee. It's an important step on the road to better internet connectivity for the island.

In addition, if you haven't sent us a letter of support for expanding broadband availability there's still time and we really need them so please email one to us at westportbroadband@gmail.com.

Seen & Noted by Island Resident, Debbie Williams

I have been working on the Fred Bailey diaries, donated by Deb Crawford to the town. Bailey lived on the East Shore Road at what now is the Crawford house.

Fred and his Aunt Jane lived there for many years. He was very active in the Church and schools. This is an excerpt from his diary of 1901. "Friday, March 8, 1901, I was over to the store of E.H.Lewis on Sawyer's Island in the forenoon. Carried over some eggs and did some trading. Went into the woods in the afternoon. Weather has been more moderate." Fred cut his own winter's wood every year and with the help of neighbors hauled it home. When he speaks of going to the stores on the other side of the Sheepscot he was rowing his own boat. Later on, he acquired a motor launch. His diaries are an opportunity to see island life in the late 1800s and early 1900s. We are fortunate to have them in the collection.