

TOWN OF THOMASTON

P O BOX 299

THOMASTON, ME 04861



APRIL—MAY



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
15-April PATRIOTS DAY OBSERVED T.O. CLOSED	16-April Planning Board Public Hearing 6:00pm W.H.	17-April Comp Plan 6:30pm Watts Hall	18-April Historical Resource Group 7:00pm Watts Hall - Solid Waste 7:00pm O.H.	19-April
22-April Select Board 7:00pm Watts Hall	23-April	24-April	25-April Historical Resource Group 6:00pm Watts Hall	26-April
29-April Select Board Public Hearing 6:00pm Watts Hall	30-April	1-May Comp Plan 6:30pm Watts Hall—Clam Drawing 2:00pm W.H.	2-May Historical Resource Group 6:00pm Watts Hall	3-May
6-May Shellfish Comm. 6:30pm W.H. Fired Dept. Mtg. 6:30pm F.S.	7-May Ambulance Dept. Mtg. 6:30pm F.S.	8-May	9-May Joint Clam Board 6:00pm	10-May
13-May Select Board Mtg. 7:00pm Watts Hall	14-May Watts Block Trustees 7:00pm Watts Hall	15-May Comp Plan 6:30pm Watts Hall	16-May Solid Waste 7:00pm O.H.	17-May

ALL MEETINGS LISTED ABOVE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND MAY BE CANCELLED IF THERE IS NO BUSINESS

Town of Thomaston

Select Board Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Select Board of the Town of Thomaston will hold Public Hearings on Monday, April 29, 2019 at 6 p.m. in the Auditorium at Watts Hall, 174 Main Street, Thomaston, Maine to discuss the following items:

To be voted on by Referendum Ballot at the Municipal Election on Tuesday, June 11, 2019:

“Shall the town vote to disband the Thomaston Police Department and to authorize the Selectmen to contract with the Knox County Sheriff’s Department to provide police protection to the Town of Thomaston at such terms and conditions as the Selectmen deem appropriate?”

To be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday, June 12, 2019:

“Shall ordinance amendments to Chapter 7 of the Land Use, Section 704 Administration be enacted?”

“Shall ordinance amendments to Chapter 7 of the Land Use, Section 707 Urban Residential District R3 be enacted?”

“Shall ordinance amendments to Chapter 7 of the Land Use, Section 725 Pre-Application Procedure (Step One) be enacted?”

“Shall ordinance amendments to Chapter 10 of the Land Use, Definitions be enacted?”

“Shall ordinance amendments to the Budget Committee Ordinance be enacted?”

“Shall ordinance amendments to the Personnel Committee Ordinance be enacted?”

“Shall ordinance amendments to the Village Cemetery Trustees Ordinance be enacted?”

The hearing notice and ordinance amendments will be available 7 days prior to the Public Hearing.

The date for the informational meeting in regards to the Thomaston Police Department Referendum Ballot question is to be determined.

Thomaston Law Enforcement

Thomaston voters face a decision regarding the future of law enforcement in the Town. Either change what was for years the status quo of the Thomaston Police Department, or contract the Knox County Sheriff’s Department for law enforcement coverage.

This issue arose as the Town experienced a high staffing turnover rate of full time patrol officers. A total of seven officers left the department (a four member department) within a fourteen month period, between January of 2018 and March of 2019. This left the Town with the Chief of Police and reserve officers. The Knox County Sheriff’s Office has stepped up and assisted with coverage of two, ten hour shifts per day as a necessity, thanks to Sheriff Timothy Carroll.

The budgetary side of this equation, without consideration of the expectations of the community’s citizens and their opinions on any change in what was the Thomaston Police Department, bares resolution.

The Knox County Sheriff stated at the April 8, 2019 Select Board meeting, that the cost, based on the current Proposed Contract offer as written, is \$450,000 annually to provide full time law enforcement coverage.

The current Thomaston Police Department budget as recommended by the Budget Committee for 2019/2020 with all wage and benefits totals \$526,517 . This amount would increase to \$609,334 if the Town considers full family union health insurance. This amount does not include annual capital cost for police cruisers.

Proposed Economic Development Committee

For the past several years Thomaston has been a member of the Midcoast Economic Development District Board. MCEDD's mission is to foster economic development and job growth in our area. The organization makes it possible for municipalities to access Federal Economic Development Administration grant funds, as well as other resources, and they work with both the private and public sectors to bring needs and opportunities together. Working with MCEDD this past year resulted in Thomaston being awarded the Northern Borders grant for completing the upgrades behind the business block and a Belvedere Historic Preservation grant for energy conservation items at the Watts Block.

As a small service center, Thomaston is faced with continually increasing costs of services, which results in constant pressure on taxes. An ongoing targeted effort is required to increase the tax base and provide employment opportunities. The east end developments and Dragon Cement reconstruction were major efforts that continue to support our community and it is unlikely that projects of this magnitude will appear in the near future. Therefore, as other communities have found, it is necessary to research and acquire outside resources to enable planning and preparation to be able to take advantage of economic opportunities as they arise.

Given other immediate needs that must be addressed, it does not appear possible to create a full time position for an economic development person at this time. As a less expensive but hopefully productive first step, an agreement has been reached with MCEDD to provide consultant services and an Economic and Community Development Committee has been created, at least on paper, to work with and direct the consultant. Duties of the committee might include:

- ◆ Develop and update as needed an economic and community development plan for the Town based upon the Town Comprehensive Plan.
- ◆ Plan and develop projects and seek Selectboard and Town approval.
- ◆ Identify project funding methods including grants and other financial sources.
- ◆ Undertake projects as assigned by the Selectboard.
- ◆ Communicate with the business community and other social and service organizations about community needs.
- ◆ Interface and assist businesses interested in locating in Town
- ◆ Cooperate with other regional economic groups
- ◆ Develop projects to be included in the annual CEDS (Federal Community Economic Development

Strategy)

Assistance in this effort is welcomed and needed. Participants with the following skills are particularly important to the success of the mission:

- ◆ Management experience
- ◆ Strategic Planning
- ◆ Volunteer recruitment and management
- ◆ Research skills, especially regarding "shop local" dynamics ,market trends, town planning, etc.
- ◆ Grant research and writing

If you have interest in participating, please contact Kara in the Town Office for an application form.





SENIOR TRIP

To be fair to everyone, this season sign-ups begin the first day of the month before each trip; signing up for only one trip at a time.

The bus leaves St. George at 8:30am and picks up in Thomaston at 8:45am, behind the Business Block. Estimated arrival at the Gardens is 9:45am. After arriving at the Gardens, there will be a guided tour before lunch. For lunch, seniors may bring a bag lunch or purchase lunch at the café there. During and following lunch, there will be more time for self-guided exploration of the gardens. Bus leaves the Botanical Gardens at 1:30pm, with a stop at Round Top Ice Cream on the way home. Estimated return to Thomaston 3:30pm and St. George 3:45pm. Open to 40 Seniors. Sign up begins June 1st.



SECRETARY OF STATE VISITS THOMASTON TOWN OFFICE

Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap arrived for a visit at the Thomaston Town Office Friday, March 22, 2019. He wanted to personally congratulate the Town on becoming the 250th Municipality to offer Rapid Renewal, the Department of the Secretary of State's online service for the renewal of motor vehicle registrations. Rapid Renewal is an e-commerce service allowing citizens to conduct business with municipal government and state government in one seamless online transaction.

While municipal participation in Rapid Renewal is optional, the service has now grown to over 250 municipalities. The Town of Thomaston will accept payments via e-check and credit card. Residents can continue to visit the town office to pay in person, but now also have the option of conducting these transactions online. Rapid Renewal may be accessed **24/7** through www.sosonline.org, the Secretary of State's site for online services.



Photo by Beth Birmingham, Village Soup



WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS

thomastonmaine.us

WHY THE CHANGE?

THE NEW ADDRESS IS

EASIER TO

REMEMBER AND SAVE\$ MONEY!

Please delete all shortcuts and bookmarks that reference the old web address and replace them with new shortcuts or bookmarks to the new web address.

During the transition to the new web address some links provided by search engines may cause warning messages in your browser. These links will eventually disappear when the search engines index the new site.

For the best experience it is suggested that you use the most recent version of Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Mozilla Firefox.

