

# The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXI No. 1

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

January 1, 2021

All activities and meetings may be postponed until after the Covid 19 Pandemic has passed. Please call your contact for each specific activity or meeting for more information.

## Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

**January question:** What was the post office at "The North" called? **December question:** The saw used in early water-powered mills was called a "frame saw". How did it differ from saws used in today's saw mills? answer: A frame saw was an "up and down" or "rip" saw. Modern mills use a circular saw. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to [WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org](http://WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org)

## Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed

### FREE WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE COBBOSSEE WATERSHED\*

**Save the date** of Monday (2/15) for the first ever Winter Family Fun Day with the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed!

**Enjoy a variety** of free FUN family winter activities designed to safely explore the outdoors! Activities may include ice fishing on Little Cobbossee, tracking adventures, snow sculpting and of course, hot chocolate to enjoy.

**Cost of the day is FREE** and includes the use of all equipment and supplies. Further details concerning the FREE Winter Family Fun Day will be announced in the February edition of the Litchfield Sodalite.

**For more information** or questions, please contact Cami Wilbert, Education & Outreach Director at 395-5239 or [camil@watershedfriends.com](mailto:camil@watershedfriends.com).



The Litchfield Senior Center is open. No fee to attend.

"Aging is more fun when you share it"

When we are open, your attendance is a personal choice. Masks will be provided as well as temperature checks if desired.

The hours at the Center are Monday 10-4, Wednesday 10-12 and Friday 8:30-4 subject to change. Come in for card games, Unlucky 7's, etc. Check out the books and puzzles available for your use.

**The Center will be closed** on January 1 and January 18.

**FREE Winter sand is available in 5 gal. buckets for Litchfield Seniors.** If you would like to be on the list for delivery, please contact Pat Soboleski at 215-4595/441-9005.

**Indoor walking** exercise on Fridays at 8:30 with Dian White using an "Leslie Sansone Walk at Home" 5 mile tape-mile markers let you choose a 1 mile, 2,3,4 or 5 mile walk. Your choice. The easy and safe way to exercise especially during these winter months. We also have exercise equipment available for use when the Center is open. Come in and check out what we have to offer.

**The Senior's Advisory Committee** meeting is at 1pm on Thursday January 21.

**There is a WiFi hot spot** available at the Senior Center. We hope to set up a schedule to train Seniors on basic computer applications at the Senior Center once a week. If interested, call 215-4595 leave a message with name & phone#.

**At this time, we will not** be offering Line Dancing, Tai Chi or Music. The Feldenkrais Method lessons called Awareness through Movement will not be held until further notice as well.

**Book club, making cards** with Anne Thompson and the Potluck lunch have also not been scheduled.

*We have a number of books donated pertaining to healthy living and eating, i.e: Eating for good health, Alternative Cures that really work, Chicken Soup & other Fold Remedies and many, many more.*

Please stop in to the Senior Center located on Academy Rd. next to the Libby Tozier Elementary School for more information, a cup of coffee or tea and check out our books (paperback & hard cover), puzzles and items on the table you may like. Donations always appreciated. Or work on the 1000-piece puzzle already set up on the table.

### Litchfield Broadband Committee

The Broadband Planning Report from Casco Bay Advisors was presented to the Select Board on December 14. It is available for viewing on the town website. The video of the presentation will also be posted within the Zoom recording of the 12/14/2020 Select Board Meeting. As our primary providers, Spectrum or Consolidated (CCI) may be the best two providers to propose financial support for our broadband build-out due to their existing investments here. In the short term, if Spectrum can complete a coaxial cable build-out of the town, our primary goal to get everyone connected can be achieved. However, we do realize that many people in town have expressed dissatisfaction with Spectrum's service, quality, cost and performance overall, so we all will have to take that into consideration. Longer term, we need to consider better options that will address our broadband needs for the next 20 years. Many Maine towns are working diligently to accomplish this via fiber to the home (FTTH). Excellent broadband has become and will continue to be a huge factor in property values and economic stability of the town. We should not be left behind without the same vital resources that are being developed around us in many other rural Maine communities. Even though the fiber would run along the same poles as the coaxial cable does currently, FTTH is much simpler from an electronics perspective, with battery-backed hardware at both the central station and home-owner ends. The fiber itself has tremendous elasticity, and usually remains operational during storm power outages caused by falling trees. FTTH is considered THE future proof broadband solution for the next 20+ years and beyond. (FTTH) from CCI could be a very exciting solution based on what they are currently implementing in other New England towns. Their early successes in VT and NH have shown that they are willing to put in large financial dollars to accomplish these successful partnerships. There is no guarantee that we'll be the next ideal town for them to work with, but showing them that we are interested in a FTTH proposal will at least put us on the list for consideration. CCI will likely offer lower cost monthly service over Spectrum to gain market share (but this will need to be confirmed with their proposal). From their current example towns, no tax increases were needed from households to finance the new infrastructure. Each town floats the bond to finance the FTTH infrastructure. CCI guarantees payment of the principal and interest on the bond - with no risk to the town. A small monthly amount (\$10 in the other towns) from subscribers is used to service the bond debt. In these cases, the town owns the fiber network while CCI maintains the fiber network and gets a 20-year exclusive lease on the network. Moving forward, we welcome the input of everyone in this endeavor. Thank you.

### LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

**BIG SALE - DON'T MISS IT!!** Every Saturday in January -Buck a Bag for paper grocery bags, \$2 for reusable grocery bags (bring your own). Refill your closets with new (to you) items to refresh body and soul.

### Town Clerk's Corner

**While COVID vaccines** are fast becoming available, it is expected that overall public risk will remain high for at least a few months. In response to the current guidance for increased vigilance, beginning in January Selectmen's meetings will be open to the public via Zoom only.

**Public Works** has purchased two plow trucks, one new, one used, with the funds allocated at Town Meeting. These trucks are larger than many in our fleet and will be able to handle longer routes before returning for more sand/salt mix. We expect to get many years of use from both of these trucks. If you have to be on the road when any of our plow trucks are out, slowing down for an approaching truck or even stopping when it is safe to do so will make it easier for our drivers to safely pass you.

**The Town Office will be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr Day, Monday, January 18th**

**2021 Dog Licenses** – \$25 late fee starts Feb 1

You may license your dog(s) for 2021 at the Town office (beginning October 15<sup>th</sup>) or online at [https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog\\_license/index.pl](https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl). If rabies vaccinations are due please bring a copy of the new vaccination. To avoid a late fee your dog must be licensed by January 31, 2021.

**2021 Snowmobiles** and Boat Registrations; Fishing and Hunting Licenses

Snowmobiles may be registered for 2021 at the Town Office, or online:

Boats: <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/atv-snowmobile/index.html>

Snowmobiles: <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/boating/index.html>.

Fishing/Hunting Licenses: [https://moses.inform.org/cgi-bin/online/moses\\_v3/index](https://moses.inform.org/cgi-bin/online/moses_v3/index)

### Fuel Assistance

Applicants for the KVCAP Fuel Assistance Program should contact KVCAP directly by calling either 1-800-542-8227 ext. 1500 or (207) 859-1500 to schedule an appointment. Applicants may also access the KVCAP website ([www.kvcap.org](http://www.kvcap.org)) click "For The Home", select "Heating Assistance", click the highlighted "Click Here" and book your appointment. Information is available in the Town office.

**Upcoming meetings at the Town Office** (see the town website for changes or updates):

Planning Board – Thursday, Jan 7th, 6:30 pm

Select Board – Monday, Jan 11th, 6:30 pm

Budget Committee – Monday, Jan 18th, 6:30 pm

Select Board – Monday, Jan 25th, 6:30 pm

### LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

Still welcoming new clients with curbside service. Wear your mask and we'll assume you are smiling to us as we are smiling to you. Our donors have been very generous and we thank them. A brand new upright freezer was recently purchased and we are delighted with it. Best wishes for a better New Year in 2021.

## January Community Calendar

1 Fri		17 Sun	
2 Sat	<b>Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.</b> <b>Academy Thrift Store OPEN— 9am to 12pm</b>	18 Mon	  <b>Town Office Closed</b> <b>Lit. Budget Comm—6:30pm via Zoom-See</b> <b>Town Website</b>
3 Sun		19 Tue	<b>Lit. Fire Assoc &amp; Regular Meet-6:30pm</b>
4 Mon	<b>Litchfield Recreation Comm.-Contact Town</b> <b>Office for more information</b>	20 Wed	<b>Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd</b>
5 Tue	<b>Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers- 6:30pm; Station</b>	21 Thur	<b>Senior's Advisory Comm –1pm –Center</b> <b>Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd</b>
6 Wed	<b>Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd</b>	22 Fri	<b>Town Office, closed</b> <b>Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m</b>
7 Thur	<b>Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd</b> <b>Planning Board –Thursday, Jan 7th, 6:30 pm</b>	23 Sat	<b>Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.</b> <b>Academy Thrift Store OPEN— 9am to 12pm</b>
8 Fri	<b>Town Office, closed</b> <b>Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m</b>	24 Sun	
9 Sat	<b>Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.</b> <b>Academy Thrift Store OPEN— 9am to 12pm</b>	25 Mon	<b>Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office &amp;</b> <b>on line-See Website for more information</b>
10 Sun		26 Tue	
11 Mon	<b>Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office &amp;</b> <b>on line-See Website for more information</b>	27 Wed	<b>RSU 4 School Board—6:30pm-Zoom</b> <b>Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd</b>
12 Tue	<b>First Responders Meeting-6:30pm; Station</b>	28 Thur	<b>Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd</b>
13 Wed	<b>RSU 4 School Board—6:30pm-Zoom</b> <b>Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd</b>	29 Fri	<b>Town Office, closed</b> <b>Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m</b>
14 Thur	<b>Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd</b>	30 Sat	<b>Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.</b> <b>Academy Thrift Store OPEN— 9am to 12pm</b>
15 Fri	<b>Town Office, closed</b> <b>Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m</b>	31 Sun	
16 Sat	<b>Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.</b> <b>Academy Thrift Store OPEN— 9am to 12pm</b>		

# BOX HOLDER

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ECRWSS  
 PRSRT STD  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Litchfield, ME  
 Permit #2

*The Litchfield Sodalite*  
 Litchfield Town Office  
 2400 Hallowell Road  
 Litchfield, ME 04350  
 Tel.: 207-268-4721 FAX: 207-268-2196  
[sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org](mailto:sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org)  
[www.litchfieldmaine.org](http://www.litchfieldmaine.org)  
 Open: Mon.: 8:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m.  
 Tue.—Thu.: 8:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.  
 Closed: Every Fri.

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## The Litchfield Sodalite

### Conservation News

Come join us for a New Year's Day Snowshoe walk! What better way to put 2020 behind us than to usher in 2021 with a snowshoe walk. The Litchfield Conservation Commission is sponsoring a 2-hour snowshoe tour of the private Small Burnham Conservation Area. Don't have snowshoes? No problem, sturdy boots work too! Just remember to wear a mask (it will help keep you warm) and we'll stay 6 feet apart on the trails. **When:** Friday, January 1, 2021 at 12 PM EST – 2 PM EST **Where:** Small Burnham Conservation Area - Pine Tree Road (please park right on the road) **Cost:** FREE – we're not limiting attendance so anyone can join, we'll break into multiple groups as needed. The walk will end with a toasty warm bonfire. Bring your own drink and snack to enjoy. We hope you will join us, all walks are free and open to anyone who likes nature, enjoys walking or snowshoeing, and wants to see new places. Special thanks to Ina and Delmar Small for the annual access to their land. Reminders: To share project updates, local events, and other conservation news, we have created the **Facebook page** 'Litchfield Maine Conservation Commission'. To view the page, simply enter <https://www.facebook.com/LCC04350> in your internet browser. Next meeting is Wednesday, January 13 at 6pm, via Zoom. Contact Diane Clay for Zoom connection, [c112a3y4@gmail.com](mailto:c112a3y4@gmail.com). The Community Park is great for winter outdoor activities; access from Town Office parking lot.

**February Issue Deadline:** Jan. 22, 2021 5p.m.  
 Deliver material in any of the following ways:  
**E-mail**  
[sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org](mailto:sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org)  
**U.S. mail to:**  
 Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd. 04350  
**Hand deliver to:** Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd

