

From the Town Hall

Submitted by Janice Boudreau

Ford Hill Road Culvert:

By the time you receive this the Board of Selectmen will have voted to accept the final design plans to proceed with the bids for the work. Due to the permitting process, there has been delays and, as a result, I applied for an extension for the construction and with construction costs came in higher than projected and requested additional funding to cover the costs. I was able to obtain a confirmation that the state will provide the \$90,000.00 shortfall and the extension. So exceptionally good news to share.

Changes:

The quote, "change is the only constant in life" is attributed to Greek philosopher Heraclitus. One of his most notable applications of this idea was to the concept of impermanence; he saw the world as constantly in flux, changing as it remained the same, which he expressed in the saying, "No man ever steps in the same river twice".

I see the passage of time in my own life reflecting upon the fact that I have been working for Rowe, as of late November, for 10 years. I started working as a temporary worker to help with the building of the Rowe School following the tragic fire, then full-time in January of 2014. So much has changed for me since I began working for the town; both personally and professionally. Ten years can seem like yesterday and forever ago at the same time!

In addition to myself, Terry Green joined the Town Hall staff 3 years ago as Treasurer and later was as the Tax Collector position was changed to a combined position full-time position of Treasurer/Collector. Christine Bailey first started as Assessors Clerk in late March of 2021 and was later hired as Board of Health Clerk in January of this year.

And two recent additions to the Town Hall staff are Rachel Lewis , hired as Town Nurse in May, and Brooke Shulda, a Rowe resident, as Administrative Assistant in August. Both are high energy people with a 'can do' attitude who contribute greatly to the community. We are very fortunate to have them working with us.

Happy Birthday to our Gold Cane Citizen:

Remaining in the theme of changes, I reflect on all the changes our oldest town citizen has witnessed over the course of 106 years! Florence Bjork will be celebrating her 106th birthday on the 17th of this month. Wishing a Happy Birthday in advance to our dear citizen Florence Bjork, who we will be thinking of on her special day.



photo by Claudine Poplawski

Assessor's News Recent Property Transfers (Oct 2022)

The following are recent property transfers in Rowe. Further details may be obtained by researching the specific deeds at the Franklin County Registry of Deeds website at masslandrecords.com/franklin

Deed Bk 8077 Pg 87, Summers/Younk to Bershof/Kramer/Clark, Dell Rd, \$55,000 (portion of Map 403 Lot 058)

Deed Bk 8077 Pg 92, Younk to Summers, Dell Rd, \$1 (portion of Map 403 Lot 058) **Deed Bk 8080 Pg 166**, Lenth to Parrington/Lattonzi, 544 Tunnel Rd, \$435,500 (portion of Map 404 Lot 006)

FY23 Quintennial (5yr) Revaluation

FY23 is a quintennial revaluation year. As such, updated values are determined for residential, commercial, and industrial properties through the use of appraisal consultants. GESansoucy PE, LLC was contracted jointly by the Towns of Rowe, Florida, and Monroe for appraisal of the Bear Swamp and Great River Hydro hydroelectric generating facilities. GESansoucy PE, LLC was also contracted by the Town of Rowe for appraisal of the Yankee-Rowe Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI), the New England Power Company transmission lines and the Mass Electric Company distribution lines. Lisa Quackenbush of Mayflower Valuations was contracted to assist with appraisal of the residential properties.

Power Company ATB Appeals: Appeals by Bear Swamp, Great River Hydro, New England Power Company and Mass Electric Company for FY19 thru FY22 valuations are still pending before to the Appellate Tax Board (ATB). The COVID-19 pandemic caused postponement of ATB activities for the most of 2020 and into 2021 resulting in a significant case backlog. Attorney David Klebanoff of Boston law firm Gilman, McLaughlin & Hanrahan LLP was retained to provide legal counsel for the three Towns for the ATB cases (including potential settlement negotiations). The ATB encourages involved parties to try to work out negotiated settlement(s) to resolve their disputes. To that end the three Towns are currently seeking Town Meeting authorization for their respective Boards of Assessors and Selectmen to *negotiate and execute* potential tax agreement(s) with the owner(s) of hydroelectric generating facilities on behalf of the respective Towns in accordance with Mass General Law Chapter 59 Section 38H(b) and Department of Revenue (DOR) Informational Guideline Release IGR 21-17.

The FY19 thru FY22 cases involving the respective power companies will be consolidated for the three Towns if and when the ATB cases come to trial. The following outcomes, or some combination thereof, are possible for these appeals cases:

1. negotiated settlement(s) will be reached between the taxpayer(s) and the Towns prior to the ATB hearing(s) taking place,

- 2. ATB finds in favor of the taxpayer(s),
- 3. ATB finds in favor of the Towns,
- 4. ATB declines the appeal(s) for any number of reasons.

Assessors Overlay/Surplus: The DOR requires towns set aside sufficient funds in Assessors Overlay for tax abatements. In light of the above ATB appeals which have yet to be resolved, the Assessors have planned

for potential abatements with annual appropriations to the Overlay account. The Overlay account balance is currently just over **\$600K**. Once the appeal cases are settled (or resolved at the ATB) and any resulting abatements paid out, the remaining Overlay funds can be declared "surplus" by the Assessors and turned back to the town as a revenue source for that same fiscal year. Any Overlay Surplus balance at year end closes out to the general fund to become part of the subsequent year's Free Cash.

FY23 Values: Proposed values for FY23 are still being finalized and need to receive *preliminary certification* from the DOR before being disclosed to the public for a review and comment period. DOR *preliminary certification* is expected in November followed by the public disclosure period. Proposed values will be posted online at the Town website and at the Rowe Town Hall. DOR *final certification* of values and the Classification Hearing with the Selectmen to set the tax rate will occur thereafter such that the tax bills should go out by early December.

REAL ESTATE TAX RELIEF:

Tax Exemptions: The following Mass General Laws (MGL) Chapter 59, Section 5 property tax exemptions are currently available to eligible Rowe taxpayers who satisfy eligibility requirements:

- Clause 17D Surviving Spouse, Minor Child, Seniors (Exemption amount: \$195)
- Clause 22, 22A-E, Paraplegic Qualifying Veterans (Exemption amount: varies)
- Clause 37A Blind Persons (Exemption amount: \$500)
- Clause 41C Seniors (Exemption amount: up to \$1000)

Tax Deferrals:

• Clause 41A – Seniors who meet certain ownership, age, and domiciliary requirements and whose annual gross receipts are within certain limits may be eligible to defer payment of their taxes. Deferred taxes, with interest, must be repaid when the property is sold or the taxpayer dies.

Notes on Exemptions/Deferrals:

- Certain Clauses (17D, 41A, 41C) require full disclosure of personal financial information.
- Applications-and any supporting documentation-are kept confidential (not open to the public).
- Applications are available on the Assessors page of the Town Website or at the Assessor's Office.
- Applications may be submitted <u>before</u> tax bills come out.
- Applications must be submitted by April 1 or three months <u>after</u> the first tax bills are mailed, whichever is later.
- Following submittal, the Assessors have three months in which to act upon your application.
- The filing of an application does not stay the collection of your taxes.

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PERSONAL PROPERTY EXEMPTION: Per MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 54 the Town previously voted to establish an exemption from taxation on personal property valued \leq **\$10,000**. This automatic exemption is applicable to residents, businesses, or second homeowners. Taxpayers with personal property assessed at >**\$10,000** will receive a personal property tax bill based on the <u>full</u> assessed value of their personal property (i.e., no exemption for the first \$10,000 in value.)

HOW TO CONTACT THE ASSESSORS: Assessor's Administrative Assistant Christine Bailey has posted office hours on <u>Wednesdays from 8A-1P</u>. She can be available other times by appointment. Christine can be reached at the Assessor's Office at **413-339-5520 x-104** or via email at **assessor@rowe-ma.gov**. You may also check the following websites for more info and/or to download applications:

Town of Rowe website - Board of Assessors (BOA) page: <u>https://rowe-ma.gov/g/39/Board-of-Assessors</u>

Department of Revenue (DOR) website: https://www.mass.gov/service-details/taxpayer-forms-and-guides



Book Chat- November 16th @ 3:30 pm Pick up your copy of "The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot" by Marianne Cronin

Programs:

Thursday November 10th Community Event planning group meeting @ 7pm

Saturday (October 22) at the Rowe Library was the first, hopefully annual, Fallapalooza-chili cook off and pumpkin carving. Roughly 35 people attended this great community event. Community members got the chance to sample 7 different chilis and vote their favorite. Entries included, Pork and Beef Chili (winner), a couple vegetarian options, spicy pumpkin chili, Bear and black bean chili and Beef Garden Chili. Dawn Beaumier was the favorite with her Pork and Beef chili.

Stay tuned for a community Holiday event coming in December.

If you would like to help plan these great community events for our town. Join us Nov. 10th at 7pm for a planning meeting.

Contact the library if you would like to be put on our email notifications for programs Rowelibrary@gmail.com

Rowe Town Library News

HOURS: Tuesday 10-5 Wednesday 12-8 Thursday 3-7 Saturday 10-3

Have you been in to see Donnas' picks? Every couple weeks Donna picks a few books to order multiple copies of books she has researched and found to be highly recommended. Stop in for a quick read.

The library will be closing early Wednesday November 23rd @ 3pm and will be closed on Thanksgiving Day the 24th.

Submitted by Molly Lane, Library Director

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October was a busy month at the Rowe School. October saw all students hike at Dubuque State Forest in Hawley, some enjoying the Hawley Bog as well. The P1 and P2 classes (3, 4, and 5-year-olds) went to the Pine Hill Orchards for a fun day of picking apples, cider donuts, and a hayride. Students in Grades 1-6 students visited The Mashantucket Pequot Museum in Ledyard, Connecticut for a day of learning about Native American history and culture...it was a great day! The PTP helped defray some of the cost of the coach bus on that field trip. They also helped organize the annual Tailgate Trick or Treat the Friday before Halloween, followed by a movie at Pelham Lake Park. Our after-school hiking club made it up Adams Mountain in October as well.

Classes have completed their Benchmark Assessment tests of reading comprehension and reading fluency, These tests are administered throughout the school year to give teachers feedback on how their students are performing and as a tool to boost student achievement. These tests, in addition to in-class observations and student-teacher conversations, help teachers form groups of students who are currently at the same instructional level for reading and math. This is, of course, in addition to the teaching and learning that is going on every day at the school.

The school is working with Rowe resident and parent Julie Moran to take school pictures this year, and the results are amazing. Beautiful and personal, families will love the pictures. We also had our first all-school chorus in October, singing together for the first time since COVID. Speaking of COVID, FR-COG held a flu and COVID vaccination clinic at the School in October, and had 100+ attendees! It was great to see the school being used for events that support the community again. Thanks to the School nurse Lydia and Town nurse Gretchen (and the FRCOG folks) for organizing this and including us.

Outdoor learning will continue to be a big part of how we engage and educate our students, even as the weather turns colder. All of the classes have been making regular use of the beach and trails at Pelham Lake Park, it's exciting to see so much learning going on outside the school building. Thanks to Sean and the Park for accommodating us.

November will bring Family Conferences, parents and guardians meeting with the teachers about how we can best help the students learn together, more math, reading, science, social studies, Spanish, art,

music, and PE. I encourage you to participate at the school, on whatever level you're comfortable with. Attend meetings, volunteer or observe in classrooms, join the Parent Teacher Partnership...be a part of the Rowe School. If you have questions or are interested, please call me at the 413-512-5100. You can also email me at wknittle@roweschool.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

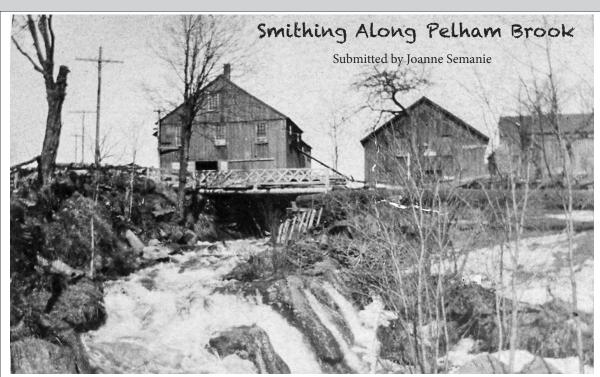
-Submitted by Bill Knittle



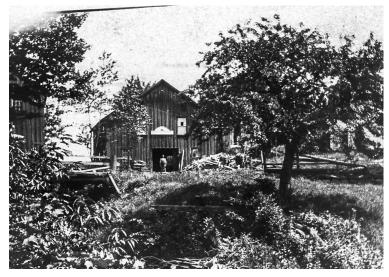


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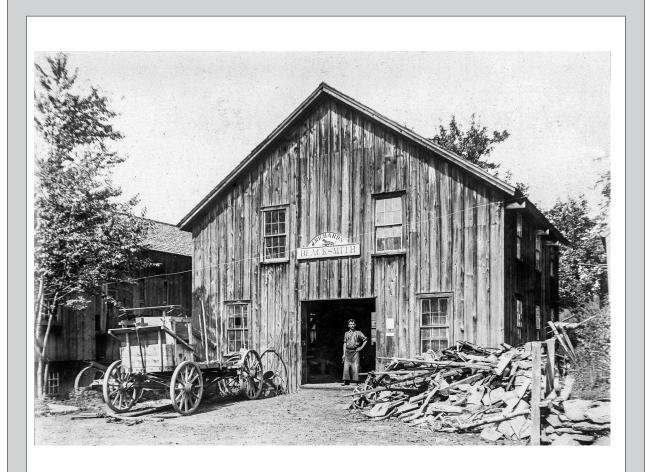
Mark D.



Blacksmithing in Rowe has a long history beginning with the first records of 1781 listing George Bennett. Louis Whitney (1842) and I. Sumner Lincoln (1858) both maintained a shop on the southeast corner of the crossroads at the Old Centre with Ebenezer Starr being the last one there. As with everything else Starr moved his shop down the hill to a location on Mill Pond just east of the dam on Kings Highway.



Peter and Philo Sibley, along with Philo's son Joseph later conducted a thriving business there. Farmers from Florida, Monroe, Readsboro, Whitingham and Heath would drive to Rowe. In a typical day they would shoe sixteen horses, and up to twelve yokes of oxen.



John Richards purchased the blacksmith shop on March 14, 1893, at the age of 19 and worked that business until 1910. According to the 1900 census he was renting at what is now the Gracy House and lived there with his wife and adopted daughter until he moved to Deerfield in 1910. Bradley Newell ran the blacksmith shop in 1911. Charles Newell reopened the shop in 1922 for part time work and later opened an adjoining store.

Sometimes it's hard to imagine the amount of activity that Rowe saw day to day. There are signs along Pelham Brook and around town pointing out some of the factory locations and other places of interest. Make an appointment to come to the museum where the history of these places is recorded in records, photographs and artifacts. There is always a trustee happy to make your visit an interesting one.

Have you taken the Climate Resilient Open Space and Recreation Plan survey?

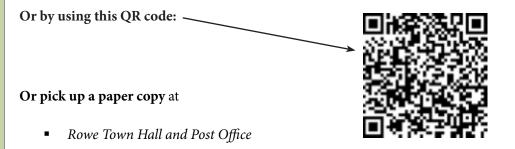
The Town of Rowe wants to hear from you!

Please take the following 17-question, 12-minute survey, **DUE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11th**.

Your response is an essential part of the Town's ongoing work to identify, prioritize, and develop projects that 1) meet our recreation needs, 2) protect our natural, recreational, scenic, and cultural resources, 3) plan future land use, and 4) help make our community more resilient to a changing climate.

WIN A \$20 GIFT CERTIFICATE Three completed surveys will be randomly selected to win a \$20 gift certificate to a local business. To participate, please leave a way to contact you at the end of the survey.

Take the survey online at *https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RoweOSRPsurvey*



- Rowe Town Library
- Rowe Elementary School

A Climate-Resilient OSRP The Rowe OSRP will integrate climate change considerations using feedback from climate-specific questions in this survey, the latest climate projections and adaptation research, and the findings of the *Rowe Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan*, and the *Pelham Lake Park Forest Stewardship Plan*, both of which were created with feedback from town residents.

For more information about the OSRP and its development, check out <u>tinyurl.com/Cli-</u><u>mateResilientRoweOSRP</u>

Save the Date for Frost and Flannel December 11, 2022

Events begin at 2 pm in the Town Center Come celebrate winter with crafts, food, tree decorating and more

Potluck begins at 5 pm at Kemp-McCarthy Museum

Stay tuned! Event details will be posted on the Rowe Town Library and Rowe Historical Society Facebook pages and be advertised in the December Goal Post



After School Hiking Club

photo by Claudine Poplawski

News & Notices

To Vax, or Not to Vax?

The topic of vaccinations has been at the forefront of a country divided in the last few years during the Covid-19 pandemic. Some people feeling very strongly for all vaccine, while others fiercely defending their rights to abstain from vaccination altogether. Many of us hover in the middle ground, eager to obtain scraps of truthful and reliable information before we roll up our sleeve for another needle. If you happen to be wavering on the fence, please keep reading to find out some simple truths about ALL vaccine.

Vaccines help prevent disease by creating protective antibodies, which help to fight off infection. The protection of some vaccinations can fade over time, requiring a booster to be given to provide optimal immunity. An example of this is the Tetanus Booster, which must be administered at least every 10 years, to provide protection against dirty wounds.

Vaccination provides protection not only against the disease itself but also against the dangerous complications or consequences that it can bring. Some examples of diseases with serious complications, which can be prevented by vaccination are the seasonal flu, Covid-19, Hepatitis B, and HPV.

Vaccinations not only protect you, but also your loved ones. Sometimes people are unable to receive vaccine due to age restrictions or being immunocompromised. Those people are less likely to acquire a preventable disease if those around them are vaccinated.

Vaccinations are safe; The CDC is continuously monitoring the safety and efficacy of vaccinations used in the USA. Usually there are only minor side effects with vaccinations, including fever, tiredness, body aches, or redness, swelling, and tenderness where the shot was given. Mild reactions usually go away on their own within a few days.

You may not realize that you need vaccines throughout your life, it is best to have a personal record of vaccinations received. Adults should keep their vaccinations up to date because immunity from childhood vaccines can wear off over time. Vaccination is one of the most convenient and safest preventive care measures available. Certain people may be at higher risk for getting some diseases or having more serious illness if they were to get sick- such as young children, older adults, and those with health conditions, like heart disease, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and diabetes. These are some of the most vulnerable, high-risk populations, who should ALWAYS (if possible) get vaccinated to protect themselves against preventable disease.

References: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/adult-vaccine-information

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/reasons-to-vaccinate.html

SIDE NOTES:

The next **Foot Clinic** is Thursday November 3rd followed by a subsequent clinic Thursday December 1st. If you would like to partake- please set up an appointment for the Foot Clinic with the Town Nurse. This service is FREE for Rowe residents...if you are unsure, please call the Town Nurse to enquire.

There is a supply of Flu Vaccine in the Nurse's office. If you were unable to make the Flu/ Covid Clinic, please call the Town Nurse to set up an appointment!

A <u>Wellness Clinic</u> at the Town Hall is tentatively scheduled for December 8th, 2022- please mark this in your calendar. There will be health and nutrition information, falls/balance training, blood pressure checks, and more.

Submitted by the Town Nurse



News & Notíces





9K for K9 2022 Trail Run

Presented by the Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter







In memory of Ray Brown



🔆 RınReg

Sunday, November 13th, 2022

Registration begins at 8:00 AM Run – 9:00 AM Walk – 9:05 AM

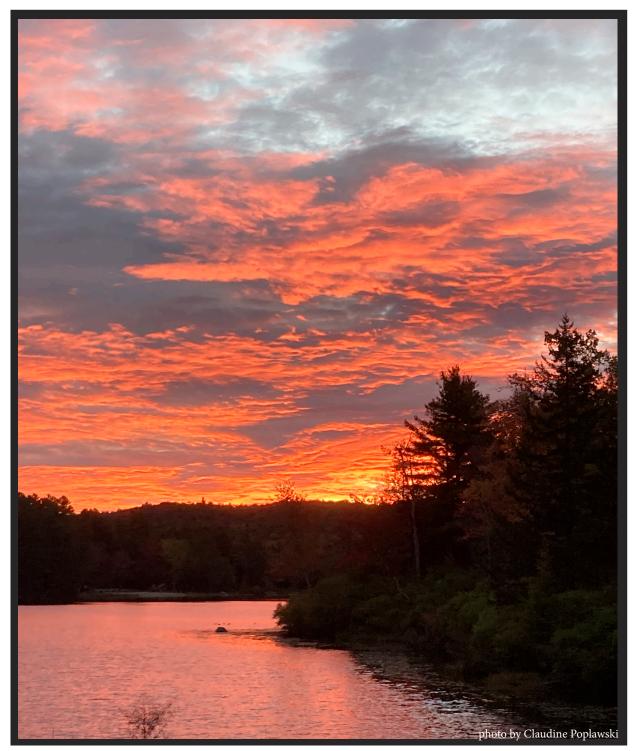
A 9 km (5.6 mile) trail run or 3 mile walk on the dirt roads of Wendell State Forest (Ruggles Pond) 392 Wendell Road Millers Falls, MA 01349

Runners: Preregistered \$30 On race day \$35 Walkers: Preregistered \$20 On race day \$25

To benefit the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter

9K for K9 t-shirts are promised to those who register by October 13th!

We love our four-legged friends, but safety first! To comply with sanctioning rules, we cannot allow dogs on the running route while the race is in progress. Leashed dogs, however, are welcome to join you on the walking route.



From the Beautification Committee

The Beautification Committee welcomes new two volunteers, Ann Greico and Virginia Gary to assist with weeding, planting, etc. Dawn, Myra, and I are very happy to have their help.

Thank you so much to the person who heard my call to weed whack around the barrel. What a difference! It looks great.

Also a new flower bed is in progress at the Brittingham Hill Road triangle. We've rearranged the fall sedum, planted lilies donated from Karen Soviecke and planted asters. In time, we hope to enlarge the bed and add some color to enhance our town.

Again, thanks to everyone who has helped beautify our wonderful Rowe.

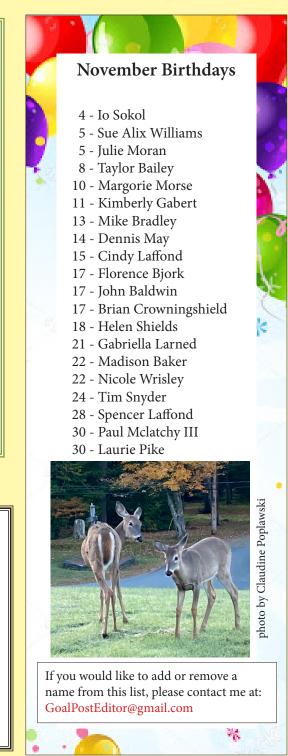
Submitted by Cyndie Stetson

Rowe Community Church

Submitted by Ros Mullette

- Nov. 6 Observance of The Lord's Supper
 - 13 Praise and Worship Service
 - 20 Praise and Worship Service
 - 27 #1 Advent and Praise and Worship Service

May you all have a truly blessed Thanksgiving!



Town Servíces <u>Town Main Line at 413-339-5520</u>

Position/Dept.	Ext #	Email Address	Hours	
Admin Assistant	101			
Assessors Office	104	assessor@rowe-ma.gov	Wed 8-1 or by Appt	
Board of Health	105	boh@rowe-ma.gov	Tues 8-1 Clerk	
DPW	111	dwphighway@rowe-ma.gov (339-5588)		
Executive Secretary	100	townadmin@rowe-ma.gov	<u>Mon-Thurs 9:30-5:00</u>	
Fire Dept	112	firechief@rowe-ma.gov (339-4001)		
Fitness Room	149			
Library	114	rowelibrary@gmail.com Tues: 10	-5 Wed: 12-8 Thu: 3-7 Sat: 10-3	
Park	110	parkmanager@rowe-ma.gov (339-8554)		
Police	113	policechief@rowe-ma.gov (339-8340)		
Tax Collector	106	collector@rowe-ma.gov	Mon-Wed: 9:00-5:00	
Town Accountant	102	accountant@rowe-ma.gov	<u>By Appt.</u>	
Town Clerk	103	townclerk@rowe-ma.gov Wo	ed: 6-8:00pm or by Appt.	
Town Nurse	107	nurse@rowe-ma.gov Mon: 8-4, V	Ved: 10-6, and Thurs: 8-4	
Transfer Station		Sat: 8- 2:00pm, Sun: 8- Noon, Wed: 7 -10am & 4 - 7pm		
Treasurer	108	treasurer@rowe-ma.gov	<u>By Appt.</u>	
School	(413) 512-5100			

Town Hall is open for normal business hours 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday

MASKS REQUIRED TO BE WORN IN ALL INDOOR TOWN PUBLIC SPACES - Per Board of Health as of 09/08/21

Please contact Executive Secretary at: (413)339-5520 ext. 100 for appointments whenever possible.

Seasonal resident MUST notify the Executive Secretary of any change in address.

The Rowe Goal Post P.O. Box 462 Rowe, Masachusetts 01367

The Rowe Goal Post

Available on the Town's website (https://rowe-ma.gov/p/64/Rowe-Goal-Post) the first of every month with paper copies sent out by mail the first week

Published by the Board of Selectmen 'in the interest of information exchange between all departments and all Rowe citizens.'

All submissions for the next issue are due by the 25th. Any articles received after this time cannot be guaranteed that they will appear in the next issue.

> Please e-mail all items to: GoalPostEditor@gmail.com

Please send only high resolution images (do not resize).

If you have a question about your subscription or want to make a change to the mailing list, please contact the Town Administrator at: (413) 339-5520 x100 admin@rowe-ma.gov

Seasonal residents MUST notify the Administrator of any change in address.