

Volume 42

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Established 1975

# The Rowe Goal Post

January 2023



#### From the Town Hall

Submitted by Janice Boudreau

The year ended with a very successful Holiday "Frost & Flannel" event. It included many events and collaboration with several town depts. A number of families participated visiting Town Hall, Library, Fire Station and to the Rowe Conference Chapel to have a photo taken with the "Grinch". A light snow added to the spirit of the day but didn't stop the s'mores station by the Gazebo. Games were held, ornaments were made, face painting and a reading at the Library were a few of the events. The day closed with a potluck dinner at the Historical Museum.

There are so many people that came together to plan, decorate and participate, it was truly a group effort. Those participating included, Donna Butzke, Molly Lane, Brooke Shulda, BJ Roche, Susan Tomlinson, Dana Williams, Ben Werner, Cindy Stetson, Alana Calhoun, Dawn Beaumier, Rob Beaumier, Christie Beamier, Danielle Beaumier, Brandon Sprague, Kathy Atwood and many more. Thank you all for creating a fun event and enlarging the 'Community Spirit'.

#### **Dam Issues**

Another round of appreciation is due to Henry Dandeneau for his efforts to open the Pelham Lake Dam on December 7th to release water spilling over the dam following considerable rain. Due to drought conditions over the Summer and Fall, there was not the usual need to open the dam mechanism to release water causing a build up of silt. This buildup made it near impossible to open the dam with the mechanism. With the assistance of many people over the course of numerous hours, Henry was able to adequately open the dam. Appre-

ciation to Ed Silva, Julie Shippee and several members of the the Fire Dept.: Dennis Annear, Christie Beaumier, Brandon Sprague and many others who came to help out.

Selectmen are working out details on ways to improve the situation with required repairs to both Pelham and Mill Pond Dams to be safer for workers and having mechanisms work more effectively. It was heartening to see the collective effort that went into solving the issue. The grants received by the Fire Dept. allowed purchase of more effective radio equipment which enhanced communication between people working on the dam using a headset.

#### **Grant Award**

Kudos to Treasurer/Collector Terry Green who, working with out IT Consultants at Northeast IT, will receive a \$133,400.00 Massachusetts State Compact Community IT Grant that will be used to update Tax Collector software that is obsolete with additional components for the Accountant and Assessors. This work to upgrade our systems will take place in early Spring.

Wishing you all the best in the year to come. Happy New Year!

## **New Transfer Station Requirement:**

When disposing of your "button" batteries such as hearing aids and watch batteries, please first sandwich them between each battery so they do not touch each other.

#### Town Clerk

Submitted by Paul McLatchy III

Office hours continue to be on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-8:00 and by appointment.

By the time this issue of the Goal Post has been produced, I will have closed on a house outside of Rowe. This will make me ineligible to run for re-election in May as it remains an elected position rather than appointed, requiring the clerk to live in town. I did not make this decision lightly as I love this town and love doing the job as town clerk. However, with an extremely limited amount of housing going on the market each year and in very high demand, I was simply unable to afford a home in Rowe and I needed to look elsewhere. It has been a great pleasure to serve in this capacity these past three and a half years, and I look forward to seeing who will be selected by the voters to be the next town clerk in May.

The annual street list and dog license forms went out at the end of December. It is very important to fill out the street listing, as it provides information for our emergency services, school enrollment, and voter registration. Voters who do not return the street listing after a certain period will be inactivated as voters, and if they remain inactive long enough, can even be removed from the voter rolls. It's also annoying for <u>you</u> to re-activate when you go to vote, so it's easier to return them before it gets to that point.

Dog licenses will be available on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Fixed dogs are \$5 and intact dogs are \$10. A valid rabies vaccination must be provided if not already on file. A dog clinic will likely take place in March, details to be made available when known.

Voting by mail for local elections has been made permanent under the VOTES Act adopted by the legislature last summer. As of the time of submitting this article, the plan is to include applications in each issue of the Goal Post. If for whatever reason you do not receive one, you can contact the office for an application or find one on the website to mail in. Ballots will not be mailed out until April as the ballot is not finalized until then.

Nomination papers are available as of January  $3^{\rm rd}$ . To qualify for the ballot, you will need to first contact me to obtain a set of papers. After, you will need to have twenty (20) registered voters sign the nomination papers and return them to either myself or a registrar by March  $25^{\rm th}$ .

The following officials' terms are up this year and must be re-elected in May to continue serving. Each term is for three years unless noted otherwise.

Board of Assessors Frederick Williams

Board of Health (3 Years) Daniel Poplawski

Board of Health (2 Years) Joanne Semanie (Appointed)

Board of Selectmen Joanne Semanie

Cemetery Commission Joanne Semanie

> Constable Henry Dandeneau

Finance Committee (3 Yrs)
Daniel Pallotta

Finance Committee (3 Yrs)	Loretta Dionne
Finance Committee (1 Year)	Marilyn Wilson (Appointed)
Library Trustees (3 Years)	Rebecca Bradley
Library Trustees (2 Years)	Lauren Werner (Appointed)
Park Commission	Laurie Pike
Planning Board (5 Years)	Daniel J. Burke
School Committee	Susan Zavotka
Town Clerk	Paul McLatchy III

Below are brief descriptions of two positions up for election this year- constable and town clerk. These are elected only once every three years, whereas other positions are up each year and have been listed annually. If you would like to learn more about one of those positions, please feel free to reach out to me or someone currently serving in the position.

Office Name:	Constable		
Seat(s) Open:	One (1). 3-Year Term.		
Annual Stipend:	\$549.00 (+Election Pay)		
Basic Duties:	The main function is to sign and post town meeting warrants in appropriate places, serve as an election worker at the polls, and help manage the voting process during secret ballots at town meetings. In practice all law keeping duties have fallen to the Police Department.		
Office Name:	Town Clerk		
Seat(s) Open:	One (1). 3-Year Term.		
Annual Stipend:	\$13,835.00		
Basic Duties:	The town clerk is the chief elections and records official in town. Some of the many responsibilities include issuance of licenses (dog tags, marriage licenses, etc.), record requests, filing of important town documents, voter registration, annual census, running elections, and taking minutes at town meetings. Though not required, the individual holding the office is often a notary as well. Hours can vary between 2-4 per week during slower times of year and up to 15-20 during state elections.		



Town Hall Staff bought presents for the "Adopt a Child" program sponsored by the Mary Lyon Foundation.

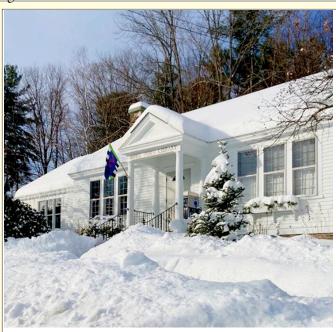
Pictured are Janice Boudreau, Brooke Shulda and Rachel Lewis. Missing from the photo are Terry Green and Chris Bailey.



photo by Sue Williams



photo by Joanne Semanie



# Rowe Town Library News

Submitted by Molly Lane, Library Director

#### **HOURS:**

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

**Happy New Year!** If you have a new year's resolution to read more books in 2023, we can help with that!

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.

## Programs:

January 11 @ 6 pm "Nerd Night" Games Night – Come play cooperative, tabletop games with elements of fantasy, sci-fi, and a strong element of storytelling. Will be held the second Wednesday of each month.

January 12 Thursday @ 5:30pm Vision Boards- Pre-registration required

**January 14 Saturday** @ **11am Books & Biscuits** - Come relax with friends and chat about the interesting, inspiring books you read in 2022 or hope to read in 2023, while eating a cookie or 5. We all love to know what our friends and neighbors thought was a great read.

January 18 @ 3:30pm Book Chat "Lavender House"

**January 19 Thursday** @ **5pm LBGTQ+** presentation and discussion. Learn about inclusive language, a way of acknowledging and respecting the diversity of bodies, genders and relationships, how people express their gender and sexuality in different ways. Everyone is welcome, no registration required.

Library Trustee meetings, moving forward, will be held @ 10am on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. All town residents are welcome to attend.

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

#### Assessor's News

FY23 Tax Rates/Tax Bills: Following a public disclosure period of November 28 through December 2, the Department of Revenue (DOR) granted Final Certification of Values for FY23 on December 8. A Tax Classification Hearing with the Board of Selectmen was held on December 15 where a MRF (Minimum Residential Factor) of .5804, as recommended by the Assessors, was adopted representing the tax burden shift from Residential (R) to Commercial-Industrial-Personal (CIP) properties. The resulting FY23 split tax rates are \$5.18/\$9.48 (R/CIP) (as compared to last year's rates of \$5.33/\$8.69). The DOR approved the tax rates on December 19 and the Assessors signed the FY23 Real Estate and Personal Property tax warrants on December 23. The first half tax bills were mailed on December 24. Tax payments are due to the Tax Collector by January 30.

**Property Tax Abatements:** Applications for abatement for FY23 real estate and personal property taxes must be submitted to the Assessor's Office by **January 30.** The filing of an Abatement Application does not stay the collection of your taxes. The Assessors have three (3) months from the date an application is filed to act on it.

**Property 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)

#### **Property 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 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.

**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.)



2023 will begin as 2022 ended at the Rowe School, on a positive note. In 2022, we were able to start doing some of the traditional things again: all-school hike, after-school activities, having visitors in the school, skiing, etc. And there are the things we have always been able to do. We can take advantage of the tremendous natural resources at our disposal to support student learning and engagement: the Park, the woods, our excellent sledding hill. We can continue to enhance the social/emotional and academic education of our students despite the pandemic. We can continue to be a thriving educational community, one that supports our students, families, and staff, knowing that we're all in this together.

Also this month at the Rowe School, in addition to getting outside, students worked hard in all the traditional courses, learning new Math skills, tackling new reading books, and working on their writing skills.

Exciting things will be happening in 2023 as well. The 3/4 class will continue making improvements to their outdoor classroom, getting the kids outside as much as is reasonable during the school day. P1 (our 3-year-old Preschool Class) will keep learning how to be in school and continue to develop their outdoor classroom. P2 (our PreK/K class) and P3 (grades 1 and 2 class) will continue to visit the pond and trails in the Park to study the natural world. The 5/6 Class will continue to hike and snowshoe in the Park.

I encourage you to consider attending the next School Committee meeting, Thursday, January 19 at 4 p.m. at the school. Please attend if you can. Please be in touch in any way that works for you, call or email. Please call 413-512-5100 or email me at wknittle@roweschool.org. I want to hear what you think, and look forward to seeing people in person again.



P1 & P2 Latkes



Avery with snowman

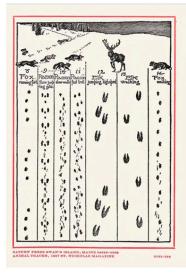


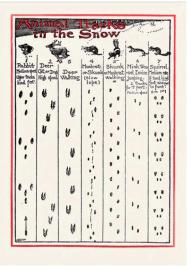
At the beach

## Winter Weather

Submitted by Joanne Semanie

December showed us some particularly wintery weather before the close of the year. Snow is something I look forward to, it's the wind that I could do without. Not having a game camera, I look forward to having a means to discover what critters are walking through my yard.





Animal Tracks in the Snow was originally published in 1897 in St. Nicholas Magazine, an American children's magazine with submissions by Mark Twain and Rudyard Kipling

I would think that the majority of residents in Rowe in the 1890s had a pretty good grasp of what was wandering about their property and probably learned it from their parents or a mentor. It's hard to know what was walking around at the time given the lack of restrictions on hunting and trapping that we have today.

Snow also marked a seasonal change over to modes of transportation – wagons to sleighs, skis, skates and snowshoes, sleds and toboggans. There are a number of these items in the Browning Bench Tool Factory building that gives one a clear perspective on what could be seen after the first snowfall as well as a reminder of the total disregard for human safety.



Ed Henderson snowshoeing on Leshure Rd. (Butzke residence)

The one thing that is lacking in the vast photography collection at the museum is photography of snow. What few pictures we have give a glimpse of the same sort of things we see today. The roads were rolled instead of plowed, and everything was shoveled out by hand. Many farmhouses were at-

tached to their barns. When the wind is howling, and snow is blowing I can understand not wanting to brave the weather to do your morning and evening chores.

The photographs we do have are lovely – you get a sense of a village made quiet by winter. Manufacturing slowed, the pond froze over but you could still hear the sawmill running at the dam or the blacksmith working metal by the heat of his forge.



Town center from the hill in back of where the library now stands.

The photographs are a testament to the beauty that a snowstorm can bring, and I like to think that is what these people were recording. Winter is here for months but we only see the snow-covered trees on limited occasions and want to record its beauty, if only to look back on it in the middle of July and remind ourselves that hot weather here really is fleeting.



On December 7th after days of rain Henry Dandeneau, the town's dam keeper ran into problems with the gate on the dam at Pelham Lake. He had previously informed the Selectboard of a very similar issue opening and closing the gate due to a buildup of silt, this time it required help. Ed Silva spent a good part of the day helping and the Fire Department was called in as it got dark. Using some good ole Yankee ingenuity they eventually got the water to flow properly and gave the Selectboard members a glimpse of the urgency in taking care of this current problem.

This is where a small town shines. It was refreshing to see a community come together and work towards solving a problem. This situation could not have been resolved by

one person and the coordinated efforts of the Fire Department, Police and residents resolved a serious situation. In an era when it seems that old way of lending a helping hand has been lost we saw first hand that it hasn't. All you need to do is reach out and neighbors still rise to the occasion. When so much time is spent trying to build a community it is nice to know that it has been here all along.



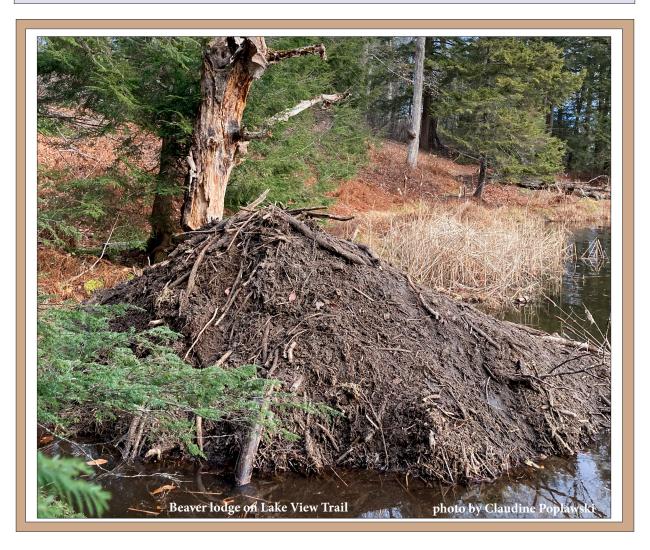


The Rowe Park Commission is excited to offer a Black Bear presentation with Historic Northampton and Dave Wattles! The free presentation will be **February 2, 2023 at 7PM** on zoom. If you are interested in listening or have questions about black bears please email Hannah Poplawski at <a href="https://hmppplawski7@gmail.com">https://hmppplawski7@gmail.com</a> for the zoom link and registration.

Dave Wattles has been the black bear and furbearer biologist with the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife since 2016. He will present on the ecology of black bears and their history and population status in Massachusetts. He will also present his collaring research which provides information of black bear survival and causes for mortality, reproduction, habitat use and movement, and how humans coexist with bears.

The Open Space and Recreation Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in our recent survey. We received 61 responses! The results will help to inform us as we set goals for the Town's OSRP plan. The results of the survey can be accessed by a link on the town's main webpage. The three winners of the \$20 gift certificates to a local business were chosen at random by the FRCOG staff and have received their prize.

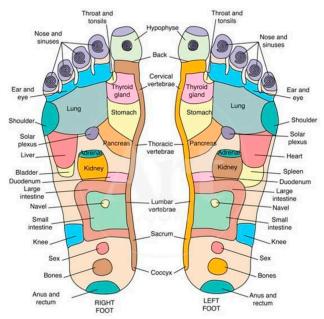
Thank you again for your participation!
OSRP Committee
Alexandra Reisman
Laurie Pike
Dana Williams



## Reflexology

Reflexology is a form of alternative or holistic medicine, which uses a 'map' of your feet to identify pressure points that correspond to different organs and muscle groups. For example, a Reflexologist may apply pressure to specific pressure points, such as the tops of your 4 small toes to focus on your sinuses, or the side of your foot to focus healing of the spine. Reflexology is a great complimentary therapy, but it should not take the place of or be relied upon to treat serious health conditions. Several studies have shown that reflexology has reduced pain and psychological symptoms (like anxiety or stress), while also enhancing relaxation, healthful sleep, and improving circulation. Reflexology is based upon ancient Chinese medicinal beliefs and practices and it is widely used today in many alternative and massage therapies. Reflexology is very safe to try in most situations; A few contraindications include extensive diabetic neuropathy, pregnancy, and history of deep vein thrombosis (DVT). You should consult your practitioner if you have any of the forementioned conditions, prior to initiating reflexology.

Christine Bailey is a certified Reflexologist, with the Laura Norman School of Reflexology. She will be holding 10-minute reflexology sessions at the Wellness Clinic held on January 26, 2023. Please contact the Town Nurse for an appointment, or walk-in during the Wellness Clinic hours!



#### References:

 $https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/consumer-health/expert-answers/what-is-reflexology/faq-20058139\#: \sim: text=Reflexology/20 is \%20 the \%20 application \%20 of, and \%20 systems \%20 of \%20 the \%20 body.$ 

Wellness Clinic at the Rowe Town Hall

When: Thursday, January 26th 10am-12noon Where: Rowe Town Hall, 2nd floor gym area

What: Health and wellness screenings, falls/balance/coordination education, nutrition education, FRCOG nurses will be here to take health questions and provide Dementia/Alzheimer's

education, Reflexology with Christine.

Come check it out or call Rachel, the Town Nurse, to enquire!

Submitted by the Town Nurse

## **HOLIDAY RECYCLING REMINDER**

**Happy Holidays!** Thank you for your recycling efforts over the past year. Following are some guidelines for recycling during the holiday months and all year long:

Please **DO** include the following items in your paper recycling mix:

**YES** 

- ✓ wrapping paper, gift bags, tissue paper (except those with metallic inks, glitter, or foil)
- ✓ corrugated cardboard boxes, paperboard gift boxes
- √ paper shopping bags (any type of handle is okay)
- ✓ paper greeting cards (not with metallic inks, glitter, or foil; remove batteries)
- √ Catalogs, calendars and magazines

#### Please **DO NOT** include the following items in your household recycling:



- ☑ ribbons, bows, and tinsel (reusable from year to year)
- ☑ holiday light strings (accepted in scrap metal dumpsters, + WtE scrap metal, Greenfield)
- ☑ packing peanuts, Styrofoam<sup>™</sup>, bubble wrap, inflatable "air pillow" packaging (clean, dry packing materials accepted for reuse at The UPS Store in Greenfield.)
- ☑ plastic bags, plastic shipping envelopes, bubble wrap, air pillows (these materials plus clean, dry plastic bags marked #2 or #4 accepted in retail plastic bag bins. plasticfilmrecycling.org)
- ☑ formed plastic packaging from items like toys and electronics
- ☑ glossy photographs, paper envelopes with bubble wrap inside, ornaments, decorations

Questions? Franklin County Solid Waste Management District: <a href="mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org">info@franklincountywastedistrict.org</a>, springfieldmrf.org.

MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD).



TIP: Keep a recycle bin or paper bag handy near gift unwrapping.



Rick Williams manning the s'mores station



Candy Cane game



The Grinch & Donna Butzke



Face painting





Library fun!



"Twas the night before Christmas...

PTP Wreath Sale



Dreidel games

# First Tuesday Fun

The Historical Society will continue to host their monthly games potluck on the first Tuesday of every month. Starting at 5:30, bring your favorite game and a dish to share. Friends of all ages are welcome.



Submitted by the Kerri McLatchy

## **Rowe Community Church**

Submitted by Ros Mullette

January

- Observance of The Lord's Supper" & Praise Service
- 8 Praise & Worship Service
- 15 Praise & Worship Service
- 22 Praise & Worship Service
- 29 Praise & Worship Service

May the Lord grant you all a happy & healthy New Year

# January Birthdays

- 2 Leonda Hardison
- 2 Scott Boutwell
- 3 Myra Carlow
- 3 Caleb Brenneman
- 5 Brittani Sprague
- 8 Lillian Danek
- 8 Sandy Daviau
- 8 Maryann Corarito
- 10 Ruth Loomis
- 11 Felicity Pickett
- 12 Christie Beaumier
- 13 Stephen Fisher
- 13 Jenn Wood
- 14 Lesley McLatchy
- 14 Peter Besgen
- 17 Roberta Baker
- 18 Donna Butzke
- 18 Mike Kuehl
- 19 Dan Poplawski
- 21 Ken Shippee
- 22 Lisa Jackson
- 23 Ashton Morse
- 25 Jenalyn Duval
- 25 Dean Rice
- 25 Susan Tomlinson
- 30 Mary Ann Dykeman
- 31 Travis Albrecht

If you would like to add or remove a name from this list, please contact me at: GoalPostEditor@gmail.com



# Town Services

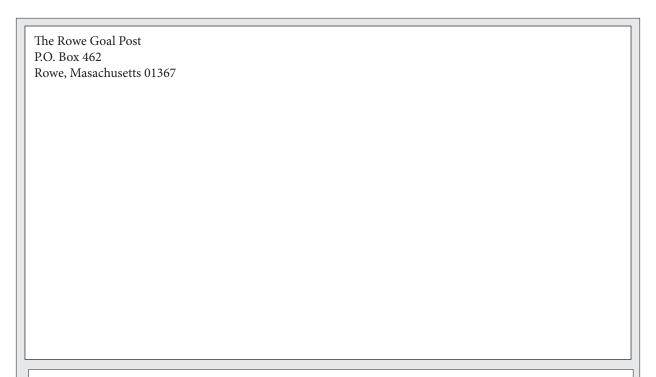
# **Town Main Line at 413-339-5520**

Position/Dept.	Ext #	Email Address	Hours	
A locky Assistant	101			
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	Mon-Thurs 9:30-5:00	
Fire Dept	112	firechief@rowe-ma.gov (339-4001)		
Fitness Room	149			
<u>Library</u>	114	rowelibrary@gmail.com Tu	es: 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	By Appt.	
Town Clerk	103	townclerk@rowe-ma.gov	Wed: 6-8:00pm or by Appt.	
Town Nurse	107	nurse@rowe-ma.gov Mon:	8-4, Wed: 10-6, and Thurs: 8-4	
Transfer Station		Sat: 8- 2:00pm, Sun: 8	3- Noon, Wed: 7 -10am & 4 - 7pm	
Treasurer	108	treasurer@rowe-ma.gov	By Appt.	
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

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.