

## Select Board Sidelines March 9, 2021

### Submitted by John Shepard

The Select Board has now finalized appointments to the newly formed TCC Committee. This is an advisory/outreach committee consisting of 7 members including a select board representative, Martha Johnston-Nash, who will act as chairperson of the group and liaison with the select board. The group will be exploring all aspects of the TCC and its potential to become a more viable community center serving our fair town of Union.

The MSAD 40 budget planning is underway. We don't know yet how the Covid-19 relief funding will factor into the budget process and there are many variables in school funding this year as a result of the pandemic. We strongly encourage all Union taxpayers to monitor the budget process and attend meetings if possible. The upcoming meetings are scheduled for March 15, 22, and 29 at the central office in Union. As always, we encourage all citizens to attend the final school budget hearing when it's scheduled. We'll remind everyone about that hearing. Meanwhile, please contact our school board representatives, Erik Amundsen, Robert Williams, and Matthew Speno with any thoughts or concerns regarding the budget.

There is a volunteer opportunity available on the Tri-County Solid Waste Management Organization Board of Directors. We need 1 volunteer representative from Union. This is an excellent chance to become involved in the critical efforts to reduce waste, encourage recycling, and improve operations at the solid waste facility. Please contact John Shepard, President of Tri-County at 785-4319, or our town manager for details.

### Submitted by Bill Lombardi

**Meetings & Volunteers:** Did you know that the links to all Zoom meetings are posted on the Town's website? If you go to [union.maine.gov](http://union.maine.gov) and click on the "Our Town" tab you will see the "Calendar" as the first item in the drop-down menu. We have a busy week of committee meetings this week, Broadband is on Tuesday, March 9 and Food Ordinance is on Wednesday, March 10. Both are at 6:30 PM. A special Select Board meeting to review and approve the Road Bond Resolution documents has been posted for Thursday at 6:30 PM. We've just had 3 new volunteers for the Broadband Committee. Great! The committee continues to ask for additional involvement. No technical expertise is required. **Even if you are not on either of these committees you are invited to participate.**

This also applies to the Aging in Place in Union Committee that meets on the first Monday of every month. Additional participation is needed for this committee. Aging in Place is having a St. Patrick's Day, take away luncheon on March 18. Over 40 Union Seniors have signed up. Terrific participation!

Over 70 towns in Maine have adopted local food ordinances that make it possible for small farmers and food producers to sell their products to their friends and neighbors. Union's local Food Committee is working to draft an ordinance to put on the town warrant for a vote June 8. Local food ordinances embody Maine's tradition of local control, which value the small farmer

and food producer, protect our rural atmosphere, and make healthy and high-quality local food more available to our residents. More info is available at <https://www.localfoodrules.org/>

**Roads Workshop:** The Select Board expects that as soon as the Town receives the engineering report for work on North Union Road that we will schedule the next Road Workshop.

**Did you know we have a Photo Contest?** The Town of Union is holding a “Submit Your Photo” open to residents, employees of the Town of Union, and Union-based businesses to use on the front cover of our annual report, website, social media, and any and all other town venues. More info and the entry form are on the town website, click on the “Our Town” tab you will see the “Photo Contest”. Submission deadline is April 29.

### **Submitted by Marth Johnston-Nash**

**Thompson Community Center Committee:** The first meeting of the *Committee for the Future of the TCC* will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, March 17 at 6:30pm. The link will be posted on the Town Calendar via the website.

For your information, the following is directly from the Town’s website:

### **Nomination Papers Available March 1 at 8:30 a.m.**

#### **Available Positions & Terms**

Board of Selectmen	2-year term to expire June 2023
Board of Selectmen	3-year term to expire June 2024
RSU #40 Board of Directors	3-year term to expire June 2024
Nomination Papers Filing Deadline	Friday, April 9, 2021 by 12:00 p.m.