

THE OGUNQUIT BREEZE

A MONTHLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE COMMUNITY
FROM THE OGUNQUIT RESIDENTS ALLIANCE

Town News

Special Town Meeting (Election) November 7th

- Dunaway Lower Level Polling Station 8am-8pm
- Absentee Ballots can be turned in until 8PM



Why Your Vote Matters

In addition to eight State referenda and a vote for **ONE** new member of the Town Budget Review Committee, there are Town warrant articles that merit your attention:

\$522,800 the amount of our money that will be moved from the Undesignated Fund (Rainy Day Fund) to reserve accounts in Warrant Articles #5 to #13, and #15.

Approval of this procedure with a Yes vote on the 7 articles will mean that the use of these monies will only then be determined by the Select Board **with no public vote required.**

Particularly, **Articles #5, 7, 8 and 15 total \$435K** for the purchase of new vehicles (Fire Command Vehicle, police cruiser, and public works trucks). Additional funding to complete these purchases will then be requested in June.

Article #14 asks the voters to approve borrowing funds for a new truck for the DPW related to plowing Route #1 by a 30 year bond for **\$185K**. Of note, the Select Board approved the contract for plowing using trucks purchased by Articles #7 and #14 on October 17th **prior to voter approval.**

In a government by the people, **the voters must be included** in matters that concern the use of tax dollars.

CONTENTS

- Town News
- Election Reminder
- Two Women and a 100 year old house
- Ogunquit: A World Class Town?
- Responses from our Readers
- Local Announcements & Events

For a 51 minute Select Board meeting... the last Public Hearing before the November election, the public

- was only able to speak on Zoom
- was only allowed **8 seconds** to raise a hand before the public comment was cut off. See [October 17th 9:02-9:10](#))



[One in seven children in Maine](#)

suffer food insecurity. As we approach Thanksgiving, here are some ideas for supporting families in our community

- Weekly food delivery service by Anne and Elaine. See Drop Off info at [ORA Food Taxi](#) or send donation to PO Box #192, Ogunquit 03907 and indicate the Biddeford Food Pantry
- [Become a Food Partner](#)

[Read more](#) about Maine's Roadmap to End Hunger by 2030

See more details on the Town Warrant Articles in the [October Breeze](#) pages 2-4

Faces and Places

Two Women and a 100 year old House

The Joneses

In 1923, the Glendenning family finished building and occupied a cottage on Agamenticus. They sold it to Lavinia Jones sometime during the 1950's or 60's. When Lavinia died, her daughter Annie Jones, an elementary school principal from New Jersey, inherited the house and it was seasonally used by her and her sister Marguerite. Annie had the house moved back from the road where it had originally been constructed.

Upon Annie's death in 1995, the house was inherited by her niece, Elizabeth Jones, a nurse also from New Jersey. In back of the house, a **stabbur** (a Norwegian shed) had been built with plumbing and water. That shed building became the site for a year round house that Elizabeth built when she retired and moved permanently to Ogunquit about 18 years ago. The original house was moved forward about 10 feet so that the two lots were separated. Elizabeth sold the original cottage in 2014 and, in 2017, it was bought by Sarah Martin and Tom Lewis.

The Martins

Sarah Martin attended the Old Village School in Ogunquit and later Wells Junior High. She grew up on Ledge Road; her family had been in Town since the 1930's. Her mother Carol taught English at the High School and served as Town Moderator. Her father, Col. Bruce Martin (USMC) was a naval aviator, long time Ogunquit lifeguard, and also served on the Town Zoning Board. When her parents separated, they moved to Virginia.

On her way back from Mt. Agamenticus while visiting her father in 2017, Sarah saw a small for sale by owner sign at 86 Agamenticus and the deed transfer happened swiftly. Wanting to renovate the property, they hired her brother-in-law and a local builder who restored original windows and doors, maintaining the charm and surrounding porch from 1923 while designing an updated and stylish interior.



1926



1940 Lavinia raking



1990



2023 with Moseley



Sarah and Liz

The Friendship

It seems so common that people find their way back to Ogunquit where experiences and memories overlap and endure. Old histories can promote new connections.

If you walk down Agamenticus, Sarah and Elizabeth are a common site on the cottage porch in front. They might even beckon you to join them and you will be greeted by dog Moseley. Elizabeth will explain to you that she lives in the house in back, and will then smile at you and say, "and I get to sit on this porch."

Natural Resources

Ogunquit: A World Class Town (or is it?)



Is this Town beautification ?



Who enforces no dogs on the estuary?

Bacterial Counts were as high as 7x acceptable on Riverside and Little Beaches this summer



Lifeguards gone as of September 5th despite warm weather, rip tides and lots of swimmers



Alternate Path to the Beach may be crucial access at high tides



What's the plan for flooding and storm surge?



Ongoing, longstanding erosion on the dunes, roads and Marginal Way



Select Board Code of Ethics

#1 "Recognizing that stewardship of the public interest must be their primary concern; Members will work for the common good of the Citizens of Ogunquit...."

Responses from Our Readers

In the August *Breeze* article on Citizen's Petitions, we elicited ideas for changes that residents wanted to see in Ogunquit. Here are some of the responses:

The most commonly used term was **moratorium**:

- on building new structures without strengthened ordinances
- on short term rentals
- on gas operated leaf blowers
- on liquor licenses
- on parking lots
- on tree cutting
- on traffic congestion

More **action** on services to residents

- Such as **designated parking spaces for residents** should be made available

More **action** to control property taxes

- Such as **Costs** for Police, Fire, Public Works and parking lot closures for non-Town designated events **should be reimbursed**

More **value** placed on Town resources

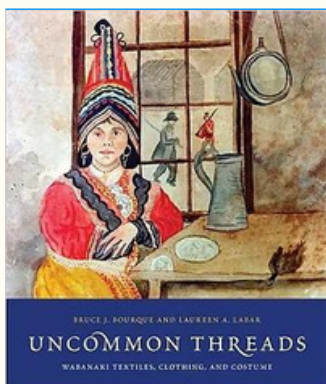
- Such as **Clean water beaches**
- Such as **Agamenticus Field and courts**

Recommendations included:

- **Restore the democratic process** where Town residents attend meetings and feel free to participate
- **All new building and large renovations** (not limited to pre-1930) must go before the **Planning Board**, have a site visit, notify abutters and have a public hearing
- A **Registry of historical buildings** should finally be accomplished *without interference*
- **Dark Sky lighting** should apply to residences
- Dye or smoke tests to determine **leakages** should be required at intervals for residences with sewer access in addition to septic and leach field **active monitoring**
- **Town beautification** should be improved

Thank you to those who offered their suggestions!

*Maybe some will appear in the updated **Town Comprehensive Plan?***



Hear Maine State Curator Laura Labar discuss Textile Arts of the Wabanaki

November 4th at 10am

[Wells Ogunquit Historical Society](#)

Looking for a Fall Outing?

Check out [Gisland Farm](#) in Falmouth
Maine Audubon Society

Guided Tours and Seed Sales
Birds, Marshes, Owls, Plants

Outdoor activities for Kids and More



Leave the Leaves

"Did you know there is an entire world hidden amongst the leaves that rely on this critical habitat for survival," writes the

[Center for Wildlife](#)

Learn more at

[National Wildlife Federation](#)



The *Breeze* welcomes your questions on Town issues. Your confidentiality will be maintained. Comments are moderated for relevance and civility.

