

SORRENTO NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025

79 Pomola Avenue, Sorrento, ME 04677 ☎Tel (207) 422-6889 ☎Fax (207) 422-3737

townoffice@sorrentomaine.org

The Town of Sorrento website is now live: www.sorrentomaine.org

Monday: 8 am – 3 pm
Wednesday: 1pm – 6pm
Friday: 8 am – Noon

Closed Monday
January 20th
Martin Luther King Day
Open Tuesday
January 21, 8am-3pm

Office Staff

Town Clerk: Sherri Tracey

sherri-townclerk@sorrentomaine.org

Deputy Clerk/Registrar of Voters:

Joanne Holmes

townoffice@sorrentomaine.org

Select Board:

Diana Gazis 207-422-3697 term expires 2025

diana.gazis@sorrentomaine.org

Hilly W. Crary 207-422-3462 term expires 2026

Hilly.crary@sorrentomaine.org

Rob Wilpan 207-422-9115 term expires 2027

rob.wilpan@sorrentomaine.org

Code Enforcement Officer & Plumbing Inspector:

Mike Gurtler 207-460-5544

ceo-lpi@sorrentomaine.org

Fire Chief/Road Commissioner/Public Safety Officer:

Joey Clark 207-812-2208 term expire 2025

tonkajoe801@yahoo.com

Harbormaster:

Lou Sutherland Jr 207-266-5706

harbormaster@sorrentomaine.org

E-911 Addressing Officer:

Maggi McCaw

911officer@sorrentomaine.org

Public Access Officer

Maggi McCaw

Public.access@sorrentomaine.org

RSU 24 School Board Member:

Newbold Noyes 207-422-3396 term expires 2026

nnoyes@rsu24.com

Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Conservation Warden

Mike Hall 207-400-6183 or 207-963-7104

Meeting

SORRENTO SELECT BOARD MEETINGS

Are held the first and third Wednesday of each month
7:00 p.m.

In person at the Sorrento Community Building
and via ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86535623920?pwd=d010ajZHVE9sbStmQXpZSGM rZkNwUT09>

Meeting ID: 865 3562 3920

Passcode: 307652

FYI

**January Selectboard Meeting
Wednesday January 8, 2025
Community Building 7PM**

PLANNING BOARD MEETING

Regularly scheduled meetings will resume
First Thursday of each month

In person at the Town Office 6PM or ZOOM

Meeting ID: 889 8753 3935

Pass Code: 470621

planningboard@sorrentomaine.org

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER YOUR DOG
Licenses available at the Town Office or
www.apps1.web.maine.gov

Sorrento Comprehensive Plan Committee

Please visit the Sorrento Comprehensive Plan
website to review presentations and
discussion group results.

<https://aphilson.wixsite.com/sorrentocomppl>

Credit and debit cards are now accepted at the Town Office!

Minimum Fee \$1 up to \$40.00

2.5% Fee on charges \$40 and over



MONTHLY_SUBMISSION

Greetings from RSU No. 24,

The holiday season is upon us! The schools are filled with lots of energy and excitement!

In November, the Adult Education Program received a certificate of achievement for being a Top Performer in FY24 by successfully meeting three out of four Adult Education Performance Targets in Maine Adult Education. These performance targets are established by the Maine Department of Education and include: the percentage of students who take the post assessment, percentage of students who make gains, percentage of students who allow for formal designation by the Maine Department of Education, and the percentage increase in enrollment. The goal missed was the expected 10% increase in student enrollment, a lofty goal given our limited resources. We are blessed to have such a strong adult education program. If you see the following employees out and about, be sure to offer your congratulations.

Ander Thebaud - Director

Jean Girmsheid - Adult Education Workforce & Community Life Coordinator

Megan McOsker - STEM Teacher

Silas Sifton - Administrative Assistant

Erin Shanahan - Ed Tech

Phil Wormuth - ELA & Workforce Instructor

Winter weather is upon us and with that comes the need to cancel or delay the start of school or to release students and staff early. For parents, we will communicate using our Infinite Campus Messenger system which sends the message to the cell phone numbers and emails that we have on file. We also contact and post on the local media stations and Facebook. A reminder that a delayed start on a Friday will result in a full student day, as there is no early release.

The district has started the strategic planning process. This process will result in a formal plan that will chart the course for the foreseeable future. In the coming weeks, we will be providing an online survey to allow for our community members to provide input that will help inform the plan. Please be sure to check out our website and Facebook page to access the survey and provide your thoughts. In addition, we will devote time for community input at a couple of our future Board meetings. More information will be forthcoming with specific dates and times!

Thank you for your continued support of the school district. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at meastman@rsu24.org.

Sincerely,

Michael Eastman, Superintendent
Regional School Unit #24
2165 US Highway 1
Sullivan, Maine 04664
Email: meastman@rsu24.org

Town of Sorrento Select Board
Meeting minutes of October 16, 2024

Present: Select Board Chair Hilly Crary, deputy Chair Rob Wilpan, and observers.

Absent: Select Board member Diana Gazis

Hilly called the meeting in the Community Building (CB) to order at 7 pm.

Good news report: CB kitchen has been Well organized and cleaned thanks to many hours of work by volunteers Trina Wellman and Averill West. The very heavy pin board remains of the old piano has been mostly removed from the wood by volunteer labor from Leslie Potashner and Mason and Darla Crocker, and will be picked up by Danny Carter (the scrap metal guy) tomorrow.

Motion to approve disbursement and payroll warrants #9 was 2nded and passed: Crary aye, Wilpan aye.

Motion to temporarily approve arrangement with Sullivan EMS if needed was 2nded and passed: Crary aye, Wilpan aye.

To be further discussed at next regular SB meeting.

CB update: Coastal Energy was here today and will give us a quote next week for rewiring.

Motion: to approve D and S Construction quote of \$20,000. to reroof both the Town Office, and the main south roof of the Community Building was 2nded and passed: Crary aye, Wilpan aye.

We have a speed limit petition for any resident to sign. This May help our request to the Maine DOT for a speed limit review. Petition is available in Town Office.

Macy Neleski gave a report on her Puzzles Games and Food Pantry shed (which was her Eagle Scout Project). She will wait til spring before stocking non-perishable foods. The shed is full of games to share, it is unlocked and she gave the TO a key.

The Mural on the TO exterior wall is still deteriorating. Discussion about removing it to the CB for repairs, and then hang it on a wall in the CB. It is 8 feet x 8 feet. Hilly will email Connie Dedam about all this.

Motion to appoint Burt Merchant to Town Buildings Committee was 2nded and passed: Crary aye, Wilpan aye.

Motion to appoint Mike Gurtler (our current Code Enforcement Officer) as our Health Officer also, was 2nded and passed: Crary aye, Wilpan aye.

Motion to abate \$464.00 (from what we believe was a tax bill in error in 2021 regarding deceased Ben Welch (son of Earl Welch III)) was 2nded and passed: Crary aye, Wilpan aye.

Motion for an extra/special SB meeting to commit taxes on October 23, 2024 at 7 pm at the CB was 2nded and passed: Crary aye, Wilpan aye.

Motion to adjourn was 2nded and passed: Crary aye, Wilpan aye at 8:05 pm

Town of Sorrento
Board of Selectpersons Minutes
11/06/24

Attending. Hilly Crary (chair), Diana Gazis, Rob Wilpan, five observers in person, and two observers on ZOOM.

Call to order and good news report. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM. Good news was that our first Trunk or Treat party, held in the parking lot with 8 cars and two fire trucks, was well attended and a big success. Let's make it an annual event! Other good news: the missing first two books of historical records (warrants/minutes) have been found, Ruahan Bullock was named September Star Student at Maine Connections Academy, the on-line school he attends, and last, but not least, many thanks to the volunteer election workers (Debbie Gordon, Jane Savage, Trina Wellman, Leslie Potashner, Ann Hoffner, Hilly Crary, Tom Bailey, Maggi McCaw) who worked under the careful eye of Volunteer Election Warden Wendy Worrell and were all overseen by our Registrar of Voters, Joanne Holmes, and who in yesterday's election gave from 4 to 15 hours of their time. Six of them counted ballots until 11PM on election night. All this work saves the taxpayers well over \$700.

Agenda adjustments. An update on FEMA funding for repairs to Ocean Avenue was added.

Approval of minutes of Selectboard meetings on October 2, October 9, October 16, and October 23 2024. A motion was made by Hilly and seconded by Rob to approve the 10/02/24, 10/09/24, 10/16/24, and 10/23/24 Selectboard meeting minutes. This motion was passed unanimously, and the minutes were then signed.

Approval of Disbursement and Payroll Warrants #10. A motion was made by Rob and seconded by Diana to approve Disbursement Warrant #10 and the associated payroll warrants. The motion passed unanimously, and the warrants were signed.

Schoodic Scenic Byway. A presentation of the Schoodic Scenic Byway project was made by Barbara Shanahan and Larry Johannesman, the landscape architect who developed the plan. A letter to the granting agency supporting the project was reviewed, a motion to approve the letter was made, seconded, and approved, and the letter was then signed by the selectpersons.

Update on FEMA projects. Rick gave an update of the FEMA projects restoring the waterfront along Ocean Avenue. The total cost could potentially be \$1,600,000, with the town expected to pay 10% of this in matching funds. A visual presentation and more extensive description can be held at a special selectboard meeting on November 13 at 7PM in the Community Building. A motion to hold this meeting was then made, seconded, and [passed unanimously.

EMS coverage Sullivan, A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the previously discussed Sullivan EMS repayment schedule for certain emergency medical services not covered by the contract with Northern Light.

Community Building update. Shingling of the south side of the main roof of the Community Building is starting. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the \$6000 Bud Lee estimate for labor and parts for rewiring the back room of the Community Building.

The Mural. The mural needs to be removed and taken to the Community Building to be repaired. It was decided that the basement of the Community Building would be the best place for it. The wall the mural will come off of needs to be repaired also. The individuals involved will meet after November 9 to make arrangements for this.

Animal control. Because no local option was found, the selectboard decided to return to the county option for animal control. We will tell the Town Office to ask the county for a contract that we can review and adjust to our requirements before signing.

Snow shoveling. Liability coverage is needed for the snow shoveller and therefore no underage shoveller can be employed. A possible candidate for this position was identified and will be contacted.

Amend September 18 minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to amend the September 18 minutes by substituting "Waukeag" for "Ocean Avenue" and adding "from the DOT" to the phrase "recently obtained grant."

Old electronics. To deal with the old keyboards, printers, telephones and hard drives no longer used in Sorrento's elections, Rob will see whether Jackson Lab will take them.

- Public Comments on Agenda Items. There were no comments.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

**Town of Sorrento
Board of Selectpersons Minutes
11/20/24**

Attending. Hilly Cray (chair), Diana Gazis, Rob Wilpan, 12 observers in person, and one observer on ZOOM.

Call to order and good news report. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM. Good news was that the roof of the Town Office and the south roof of the Community Building were re-shingled very quickly and that this work has been paid for.

Agenda adjustments. A request for school choice, an update on FEMA, and Versant Electric's maintenance and repair offer were added to the agenda.

Approval of minutes of Selectboard meetings on November 6 and November 13. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rob and seconded by Diana to approve the 11/13/2024 selectboard meeting minutes. This motion was passed unanimously, and the minutes were then signed. Approval of the 11/6/2024 minutes was postponed until suggested additional information was included.

Approval of Disbursement and Payroll Warrants #117. A motion was made by Rob and seconded by Diana to approve Disbursement Warrant #11 and the associated payroll warrants. The motion passed unanimously, and the warrants were signed.

Community Building update. Re-shingling the south wall of the roof has been completed, electric work has been finished as far as possible until the dry wall is installed, and quotes for sheet rock installation have been obtained. After a discussion, Rob moved and Hilly seconded a motion to accept a bid of \$6392 from D and S Builders to do sheet rock installation and associated finishing work on the ceiling. The motion was passed unanimously. Additional news was that wiring for potential heat punps has been installed, and that a meeting of the town building committee will be held on this Sunday at 10AM.

The Mural Connie Dedham and a carpenter came and removed the mural from the outside wall of the Town Office and took it down to the basement of the Community building where it can be repaired by the artist. The holes in the wall where the mural had been installed have been filled with silicone. It is not clear when the mural repair will be completed and where it will be installed at that time.

Animal control. We have requested a copy of the county animal control contract to examine and adjust before signing but haven't received it yet.

Snow shoveling. We have not yet heard from the potential snow-shoveler.

Storm water grant. A motion to approve a contract with Oliver and Associates to design a plan for storm water and sewer drain contract to be funded by an MDOT grant was made by Rob, seconded by Diana, and passed unanimously. The contract was then signed.

Versant. Hilly moved, Rob seconded a motion that we do not decline the repair or replacement by Versant Power of town-owned electrical equipment service. The motion passed unanimously.

FEMA update. Our FEMA administrator, Lorrie Taylor, has been assigned to a new location and will be replaced by Eric Wynn.

Macy Neleski and school choice. Macy Neleski asked Sorrento to endorse school choice between Sumner and Ellsworth High School so that she would be eligible to join the Ellsworth swimming team. Sumner does not have enough students to be able to form a team. After a discussion, Hilly said she would ask MMA legal for their opinion and find our from another school district how they obtained school choice.

Public Comments on Agenda Items. There were no comments.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

State of Maine's Rapid Renewal system for Sorrento is now available:

<http://www.1.maine.gov/online/bmv/rapid-renewal/>

If you would like an email reminder for your registration renewal, please send your name and email to: townoffice@sorrentomaine.org

Online Boat Registration Renewal: <https://apps1.web.maine.gov/online/boat/>

Online Fishing and Hunting licenses: <https://moses.informe.org/cgi-bin/online/mosesv3/index>

Due to ongoing traffic concerns on the Town of Sorrento roads

Rules and Regulations regarding golf carts on Maine public roads

Golf carts are not allowed on a public road that does not have conspicuous signs placed at regular intervals stating that the road is for golf cart access. These roads are only near golf courses or in areas with a large number of courses.

To drive on allowed low speed roads:

The cart must weigh less than 3,000 pounds, must be registered with the [local DMV](#) and operated by a licensed driver. This requires you to get the cart inspected to meet federal and state safety standards. At this point, you'll get a VIN and can register and license your cart. Upgrades that you need to add to your cart include windshields, seat belts, stop lights, turn signals, taillights, headlights, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, and more. These upgrades must be done according to state and federal law or they may be null and void.

Contact a local golf cart repair technician to upgrade your cart in this way.

Sec. 1. 29-A MRS §2093

Dog Licenses Available October 15

****Dogs must be licensed by January 1 of each year or when they reach 6 months of age.**

\$6 for neutered/spayed... \$11 for unaltered

**Any dog living in the Town of Sorrento must have a [Sorrento](#) license/tag.



Please let the Town Office know if your dog is no longer with us

***When licensing your dog, you must bring with you your dog's **rabies certificate showing the tag number and date of expiration** and your **certificate of proof of spay or neuter**, unless these are already on file at the Town Office.

Online licensing is available October 15 thru January 31

www.apps1.web.maine.gov

Starting February 1 a fine of \$25 will be due along with the registration fee on any unregistered dog. If you no longer own a dog that was registered last year, please call the Town Office to update our records.



When transferring your auto registration from your vehicle to a new/newer vehicle, you **MUST** bring in the registration of the vehicle you are transferring from.

Sorrento Town Office hours Monday 8-3, Wednesday 1-6 and Friday 8-12

Sorrento now has vehicle plates!

EXPIRATION DATES

VEHICLES: Expire a year from when they are registered (unless you are transferring)

TRAILERS: Can be registered for 1 or 2 years, same month, except over 2000 lb.

Trailers expire in Feb. (1 or 2 years)

BOATS: Expire Dec. 31st **ATVs:** Expire June 30th **SNOWMOBILES:** Expire June 30th

MOTORCYCLES: Expire March 31 of every year, except antique

SORRENTO SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Residents of Sorrento are eligible for scholarship funds to pursue additional learning after high school. These scholarships can be used for a wide variety of education – college, technical school or many other accredited programs. Students receive up to \$1500 per semester plus a bonus for achieving top grades.

Please consider a gift to this fund and become a part of the community encouraging the next generation of high school graduates to pursue additional education after high school.

Please make checks payable to: Sorrento Scholarship Fund

and mail or drop off checks to: Gina Bennett, PO Box 93, Sorrento, ME 04677

Sorrento residents, who are currently or will be starting post high school education in the future, please contact Wendy Worrell at 402-689-8682



To submit news or advertise in the Sorrento Newsletter, email townoffice@sorrentomaine.org

or call 207-422-6889. The

deadline is the 20th of the month.

CARTER BROTHER'S SCRAP METAL PICK-UP

Danny Carter 207-422-9120

We pick up appliances, plumbing material, household wiring, or any metals.

Call us to schedule a pick-up

The Schoodic National Scenic Byway Committee

would like to have a member from Sorrento! If you are interested please email:

info@barbaraeshanahan.com

or call 207-479-2699. And check out their website: schoodicbyway.org

Sorrento Fire Department

BURN PERMITS

You are required by Maine law to have a permit to burn, even for a small pile of grass clippings or leaves. **A Forestry Warden** will be called if you burn without a permit, possibly resulting in you being **summonsed to court and fined.**

The person who signs the fire permit is responsible for the fire. Do not leave any fire unattended.

To obtain a burn permit contact:

Joey Clark, Fire Chief	207-812-2208	Craig Clement, Chief Engineer	207-460-7340
Brian Clement, Deputy Chief	207-460-4772		
Mike Parker, Asst. Chief	207-460-7340		

Required for burning:

****at least two adults to attend the burn,**

****some form of water supply and hand tools must be on hand,**

****and it is recommended you have a cellular phone or other communication device to call for assistance should the fire escape. YOU are responsible to see that the fire is out before leaving.**

TAKE NOTE

BURNING TRASH IS ILLEGAL!!

State Laws (12 MRSA 9321-25) governing the backyard burning of household trash are enforced by the Maine Forest Service.

If you think someone is burning trash **please call 973-3700 immediately!** 24 hours/day, 7 days a week.

ONLINE BURNING PERMITS

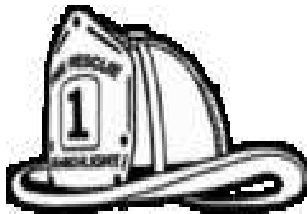
Traditional hand-written burn permits are still available, but the state online system allows permits to be acquired 24 hours a day, seven days a week, throughout the state, provided that the fire danger is not high.

For more information, call 287-4989 or visit www.maineburnpermit.com.

SORRENTO FIRE FIGHTER MEMORIAL

Fire Chief Joey Clark is looking for volunteers to form a committee for the Sorrento Fire Fighter Memorial to be built on the old Sorrento fire house property, honoring deceased members of the Sorrento Volunteer Fire Department.

Contact Joey at 207-812-2208 or email tonkajoe801@yahoo.com



Please consider donating to the Sorrento Fire Fighter Memorial Fund. Checks can be made out to the Town of Sorrento (write FF MEMORIAL in the memo field) and mailed/dropped off at the Town Office, 79 Pomola Avenue, Sorrento, ME 04677