



The Bethel Journals

Bethel Maine History
April 21, 2017

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2012 Highlights from the Bethel Journals News

May

Norm Milliard was moving the Artistic Endeavors frame shop and art gallery from Mayville to 171 Main Street.

Carl Colby set up Colby's Small Engine Repair at 59 Irish Neighborhood Rd. Carl services lawn mowers, garden tractors, rototillers, snow blowers, log splitters and minor repairs for ATV's.

Randy Bennett showed a visitor the Bethel Historical Society's collection storage room in the Moses Mason House—it has a tailored special storage environment.

"The Sound of Music" was presented at Gould Academy.

"Grease" was presented at Telstar it made for another great night at the theatre. Tom Coolidge directed.

The town sign ordinance and compliance with it came up as an issue in April and May.

Bethel Community Players Presented Dinner Theatre Mystery Drama at Bethel Inn

At Gould Academy Head of School's home Since early January, demolition, rebuilding of interior rooms, re-engineering and adding a closed in porch/sun room has occurred. Dave Berry, Denny Wheeler – floors and painting - and Brooks Morton – tile and etc's - and others have had their hands full with a deadline of the end of May.

Remodeling the Gould Academy Library was in progress

Before work starting on tearing out and building new at Hanscom Hall, the goal had two main objectives: make it inviting and make it comfortable – also make it a place for research, general reading and comfortable place to study.

Suds Pub opens—new owners

Steve Thomas and Ali Smith are the new owners but Scott Davis will be General Manager. Bob Lausier is Pub manager.

June

A public hearing was held by the Town of Bethel to receive comments and discussion related to a petition submitted by Rick and Ron Savage calling for repeal of Bethel's sign ordinance. Thirty-three members of the public plus four Selectmen, Town Manager, Town Clerk and Planning Assistant attended.

Community Sports Grand Opening—Heather Carver owner of Community Sports a new retail business at Philbrook Place held a grand opening on Saturday. Ms. Carver classifies her business as a sports emporium for new and used clothing and equipment.

Windmill tower sections have been arriving at the "Mason Farm Rail Yard" in Gilead. These shipments are on their way to a new wind farm near Groton, New Hampshire, a little west of Plymouth, NH.

Bethel Town Meeting – 2012: This year 79 voters attended the town meeting June 13th at Crescent Park School. Speechifying was focused mostly on four articles: a. Voters defeated an article to reduce the planning board membership from seven to five. b. An article to eliminate Noise from the Entertainment Ordinance due to noise being an unenforceable condition brought many speakers to their feet. It passed on a close 34-33 vote. (c) Article 12 about raising \$10,000 for a sign consultant and organizing a new sign committee also got many voter comments before the article passed.

Town Manager is Jim Doar.

June 26, the Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce held a strategy meeting. Dr. Bill Strauss chaired the meeting; he also chairs the Chambers planning task force. About 35 chamber members and interested citizens attended this very interesting two hours gathering.

July

At Mollyockett Day The Penobscot drummers proved a big plus for this year's early Saturday evening's activities. The six men drew an audience of maybe 150-200 between 7 and 8 P.M. Their leader did a very good job of telling about their culture and answering questions. Some drumming communicated spiritual messages while other times when the drummers also sang the group was telling a story.

August

Alan Taylor lecture at BHS—Pulitzer Prize winning history author Alan Taylor spoke at the Bethel Historical Society last Thursday. Seventy-seven attended the talk and slide show at the Moses Mason House. Mr. Taylor's presentation was based on his latest book The Civil War of 1812.

September

Forestry Field Day at the Angevine's Tree Farm— about 100 visitors had signed up for lunch and maybe 50 or more were also taking tours and socializing. Having the Maine Department of Conservation Forestry Service send in a helicopter turned out to be a "Wow" attraction for the midday crowd.

No Movies Tonight—The sign on the Casablanca Cinema reads "Closed – Thank You for Your Patronage".

October

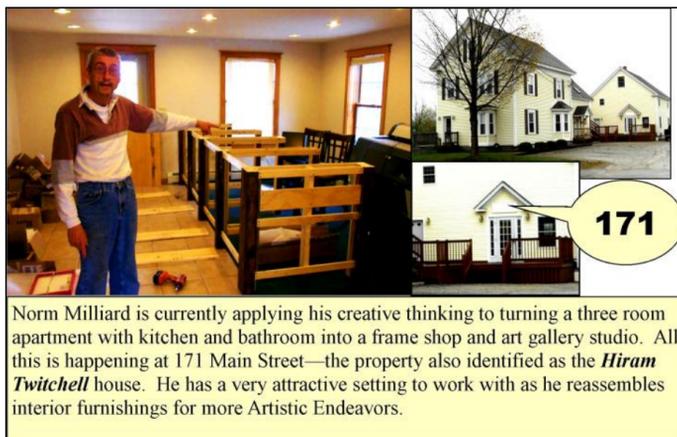
Bethel's BIG Event of the Decade—October 4th mineral and gem museum founders, Dr. Lawrence Stifler and Mary McFadden, hosted a reception, celebration and ground breaking to mark the start of construction bringing together the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum's two buildings. The event drew an unexpectedly large crowd of perhaps two hundred plus including Bethel residents and invited guests from the world of minerals and gems. It was announced that the firm of Davis & Hanscom, Inc. of Steep Falls (from the west Sebago Lake area) would be the general contractor – three of the company's principals attended.

Saving Casablanca—At the end of the last selectmen's meeting, a question came up about is there anything to be done about the Casablanca building now that the cinema has closed? The question is what is to be done about the Casablanca?

Work Begun on the Mineral and Gem Museum— Everyone traveling Main Street witnessed the workmanlike activity around the Odd Fellows Hall but for those who live away work on what will be the new Maine Mineral and Gem Museum began this week. COLEX (excavating contractors) from Gray and Don's Electric from Monmouth were the most visible workers. The first big job was finding the water connection via an excavator and Don Katlin with spade and magnetic finding equipment.

November

Bingham Forest Authority- Monday evening Bethel's selectmen and town manager had a work shop meeting to hear all the 40 details about Bethel's side of Barker Mountain that lies in Newry. Jerry Bley from Readfield, Maine told the Board his grand idea for a whole new slice of Bethel life. Summing it all up, our side of Barker will change from a mountain of natural beauty to a mountain of government red tape and challenge for Bethel taxpayers. Water District and Newry people did not attend the workshop. A whole new authority is proposed to handle details and convince our budget committee it is for the



Norm Milliard is currently applying his creative thinking to turning a three room apartment with kitchen and bathroom into a frame shop and art studio. All this is happening at 171 Main Street—the property also identified as the *Hiram Twitchell* house. He has a very attractive setting to work with as he reassembles interior furnishings for more Artistic Endeavors.



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October 4, 2012 ground breaking and public reception at the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum hosted by Dr. Lawrence Stifler and Mary McFadden

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