



AGENDA
Communications Committee
Hybrid Meeting
Thursday, July 17, 2025—4:00pm

TO VIEW THE MEETING & OFFER PUBLIC COMMENT:

<https://scarboroughmaine.zoom.us/j/82630696609>

TO VIEW THE MEETING ONLY:

<https://youtu.be/bSoQyVAvmxs>

Item 1. Call to Order.

Item 2. Roll Call.

Item 3. Public Comment.

Item 4. Approval of Minutes: June 4, 2025.

Item 5. Staff Updates: Discussion & Consideration.

- New Print Opportunities Update.

Item 6. Councilor Corner Live Debrief.

Item 7. Council Corner Articles.

Item 8. Community Survey Review.

Item 9. Future Agenda Items.

Item 10. Adjourn.

Town of Scarborough



Town Manager Message

Summers in Scarborough are often a time in our Town government when we try to lighten the workload and make the most of this fleeting season in Maine. The Town Council takes time to recharge and we drop to one council meeting in July and August, trading them for outdoor walks and backyard barbecues. That said, our work doesn't stop; we are still here serving you.

Bigger projects are on the horizon. You've seen and experienced that our town is growing, a product of demands affecting the region. Our staff and elected officials are focused on strategies to effectively manage the impact this has on our infrastructure and services. Studies and further funding opportunities are underway for improved traffic safety, sidewalks and trails, land conservation, and more.

Another priority project is coming to a solution for our schools to be future-ready and equipped for evolving needs in education.

We understand that our staff play a big role in shaping your Scarborough experience. We hope you'll get a sense of the care they have for our community in some of the highlights here and in interactions you have with them.

Tom Hall, Town Manager
thall@scarboroughmaine.org
(207) 730-4031



Service & Program Spotlight An Age Friendly Community

The calendar is never empty for Scarborough's 55+ crowd. Our Community Services department offers a variety of weekly programs, events, and classes to ensure that active living doesn't slow down with age—it just gets more interesting. Nearly 40% of Scarborough's population is above the age of 55, and that's the target group for our Active Adult programs.

Programs range from movement-focused (chair yoga, Active Living Every Day), mental acuity (educational classes), and building community and connections (games, lunches). Plus, they hit the road for some memorable excursions!

"Being able to get out, meet new people, learn new things, and find a sense of belonging is essential for mental health, especially as we grow older," says Gail Platts, Active Adults Program Coordinator. "Our programs are an important factor in contributing to a healthier and more connected community".

Scarborough is also a dedicated Age Friendly community, a classification that is part of AARP's Livable Communities



Getting snuggles in on an Active Adults trip to Sunflower Farm.

Initiative. The aim of the initiative is to engage older adults in an Age-Friendly Committee and ensure local resources are available to support older adults. Platts leads this effort with volunteer community members and is eager to see it grow.

- See the programs brochure anytime from our website homepage under *Quicklinks*
- Register online, in person (at the Hub, 418 Payne Road), or by phone at (207) 730-4150
- Find Age Friendly Scarborough resources on our website, scarboroughmaine.org

"Being able to meet new people, learn new things...is essential for mental health"



A Commitment to Conservation

A new Town Hall display shows progress toward "30x30", a goal to conserve 30% of Scarborough by 2030. An Open Space Plan, completed this year, determined that we are now at 23% with 2,200 more acres needed. Sand will be added to the display as more land is conserved.

Trail-Building Project Takes Shape

The Eastern Trail has become as synonymous with Scarborough as its marshes and beaches. Now it's about to become even more of a benefit to the community as work begins on the long awaited "Close the Gap" project.

The completion of a 1.6 mile "gap" in trail will provide 16 miles of continuous off-road connection from South Portland's Bug Light to Downtown Saco. It requires the construction of two bridges, one over the Nonesuch River off Eastern Road in

Scarborough and the other crossing the railroad track near Pleasant Hill Road. Funding was sourced from the Town of Scarborough, City of South Portland, Maine Department of Transportation, Eastern Trail Alliance individual and corporate donors, and state and federal funds.

After several years of work to raise the necessary funds, complete the project design, align stakeholders, and acquire the necessary permits and land rights,

the trail construction is underway with an estimated completion date of October 2027. Work will be conducted by Shaw Brothers and faces conditions that require the project to be done in phases, such as working with the railroad (CSX) and power line companies (CMP). The section from Pleasant Hill Road to Wainwright Sports Complex in South Portland is anticipated to be complete by October 2026.

➔ Visit scarboroughmaine.org/close-the-gap for updates

History of the Trail in Scarborough

Concepts for a continuous, traffic-free trail date back to a 1973 study published by the Maine Bureau for Parks and Recreation.

1998

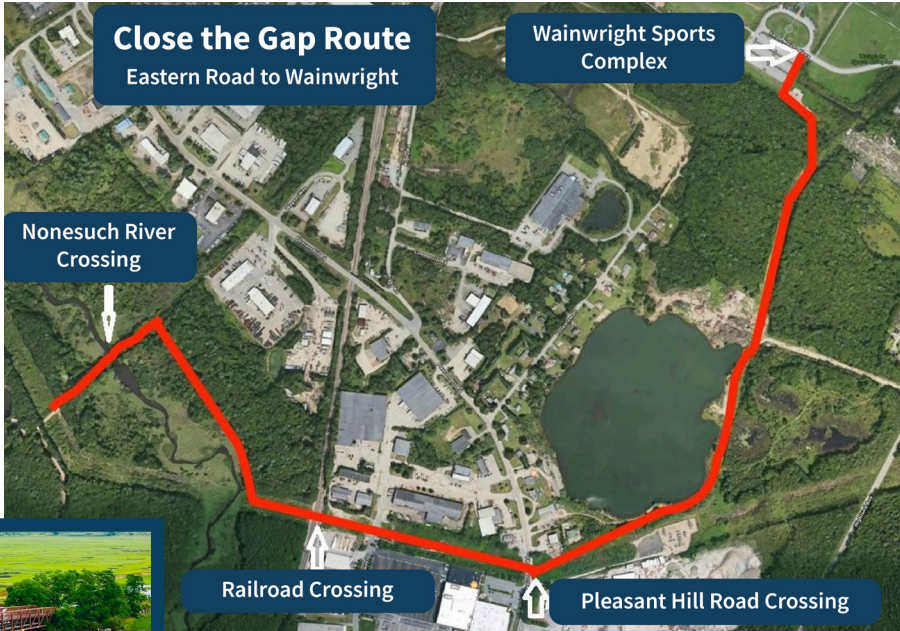
The Eastern Trail Alliance organizes and holds its first meeting.

2004

The steel footbridge is installed over the Scarborough Marsh.

2012

A \$4.1 million "Close the Gap" fundraising campaign is launched.



Above: Route of new trail to be constructed.

Left: Eastern Trail Bridge off Pine Point Road (Photo by Towle Tompkins)



A More Walkable, Bikeable Community

Scarborough is making steady progress on prioritizing a network of sidewalks, trails, and bike-friendly routes to help residents stay active and get around safely. The approved Fiscal Year 2026 budget includes funding for a Trails and Sidewalks Master Plan, which will identify new trails and trail networks, as well as incorporate new sidewalks and shared use paths throughout town. It will also provide targeted timeframes for completion and identify funding sources.

The timing for this Plan ties in cohesively with two plans that were completed last

year, the Open Space Master Plan and the Townwide Transportation Assessment. They all fit into a greater goal to make connectivity improvements over the next 5-10 years. This was a major finding from the Parks and Facilities Master Plan, also completed recently.

Residents have continued to voice support for pedestrian connectivity. In the 2023 community survey, sidewalks and bikeways were identified as two of the top three infrastructure services that should receive the most emphasis of the next two years.

2025 Road Improvement Projects

Signal Improvements

North Scarborough
Payne Road/Maine Mall Road
Gallery Boulevard and Spring Street

Intersection Safety

Broadturn/Burnham Rd
Mussey Rd at Payne Rd (traffic signals)

Paving

See the list of roads to be paved this year on the Public Works page of our website.



Scan for a **Transportation Map** with road project timelines and details, available on our website.

Police, Fire & EMS Keeping Us Safe

Advanced technology is vital to our public safety operations. Last year the Town implemented an updated core public safety software, essential for managing records for the Police and Fire departments, and for the computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system. This is what's used by 911 operators to record incident calls and dispatch responders.

These software systems are critical to a successful modern public safety system. Every call for service, report taken, arrest

made, and suspect booked creates some form of data, which is collected and stored in the Public Safety core system. This data can be analyzed to improve procedures, assign staffing, provide a knowledge base for decision making, identify trends and improve overall safety and security within the community.

In 2025 the Police department also installed cameras in the cruisers and on officers' uniforms. Scarborough was one of the only towns in the region who had

not yet implemented this technology. With situations now being recorded, officers will be safer (location tracking and live streaming with dispatch), and the recordings can be used after for training purposes or in criminal prosecutions.

Technology upgrades allow our public safety departments to operate more efficiently and keep our community safe.

➔ Visit scarboroughmaine.org/departments/police for Weekly Reports



Fire Department Grows to Meet Community Demand

Scarborough is growing and the Fire Department is evolving to meet its needs. In 2024, the Fire Department responded to 6,403 calls for service. This was up 33% from five years prior and is anticipated to continue to trend upward.

To meet this increased demand, the department has been scaling up staffing. They added 4 new full-time firefighters in 2024 by converting part-time positions to full time. Another 8 new positions will be added this fall. This increased staffing has a significant impact for the department, as it will allow for full shift coverage for a third ambulance.



New Firefighter Ella Boucher stands with the Chiefs at her swearing-in ceremony.

New firefighters undergo an intensive 3-week academy designed to prepare them to onboard with their new shifts. The training is led by Deputy Fire Chief Ian Tenney and covers basic and advanced firefighting, life support EMS skills, and a full day on department history.

Make Your Voice Heard

Take the Townwide Community Survey

From Council goal-setting to budget funding priorities and more, the Town of Scarborough relies on input from residents to influence direction. While staff and elected officials hear from the public throughout the year, conducting a statistically valid survey has been found to be the most effective way to get a pulse of the community. The Town resumed this method in 2021—the first since 2010—and again in 2023.

The next town-wide community survey is planned to launch in early fall, keeping with the two-year timing to track trends. It will be mailed to randomly selected households and covers questions regarding satisfaction with town services and the direction the community is headed. **Learn more at scarboroughmaine.org.**

Vote on School Solution this November

For several years, the Town of Scarborough has anticipated the need for addressing aging and under capacitated school facilities. After a proposed unified school solution was defeated in a November 2023 election, the School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC) was formed. The committee is made up of dozens of citizen volunteers and has met since February 2024.

This June the committee voted to recommend a K-8 solution that would maintain the three neighborhood schools (K-2), Wentworth (3-5), and the Middle School (6-8). It includes replacing one neighborhood school (Eight Corners) on its existing site and putting additions on the other schools. The estimated project cost is \$130 million. **Learn more at scarboroughschools.org.**

Make an Impact

See how our local government works and help shape policy by applying to one of the Town's boards and committees. To learn more and see current vacancies, search "Boards and Committees" on our website.

Boards and Committees

- Coastal Waters Advisory Committee
- Community Services Advisory Board
- Conservation Commission
- Long Range Planning Committee
- Parks and Conservation Land Board
- Planning Board
- Scarborough Housing Alliance
- Shellfish Conservation Committee
- Sustainability Committee
- Transportation Committee

Upcoming Town Events

Mark your calendars for these fun, family-friendly events and activities. Head to our website or Town of Scarborough Facebook page for details.

August 5: National Night Out with Scarborough Police Department

Stop by Memorial Park from 5:30-7:30pm for a kid-friendly event to meet our police officers and K9, have a treat from the ice cream truck, and activities. This is an annual community-building campaign to promote neighborhood camaraderie.

August 15: Summerfest

Come celebrate the end of a great summer with your friends, family, and neighbors at our annual Summerfest event! Festivities begin at 5:00pm on the Clifford Mitchell Sports Complex by the High School and end with a spectacular fireworks display at 9:15pm.

Ongoing Community Programs

Search "Brochure" on our website for the latest programs for all ages.

September 13: Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Scarborough Public Works offers collaborative, multi-town opportunities to safely dispose of household hazardous materials like batteries, pesticides, paints, and more. Held at Biddeford Public Works, 371 Hill Street, from 8:00am-Noon (free for residents).

October 5: Sustainable Scarborough Day

Celebrate being green in your community! This third annual event brings together everyone from the environmentally conscious to the eco-curious for a day of learning and fun. Meet with experts, nonprofits, local businesses and more for activities at the Wentworth School. Free, all ages!

Town Council Meetings

August 20

September 3

September 17

October 1

October 15

- Meetings are held on Wednesday evenings and begin at 7:00pm in Council Chambers at Town Hall.
- Council and committee meetings are open to the public and include a public comment period (up to 3 minutes per person).
- Remote participation is available through Zoom (public comment available) and YouTube (view only).
- There is occasionally a Council Workshop held prior to the meeting.



Scan for the **Town Calendar** to see meeting dates and links for remote participation, agendas, and materials.

Stay Connected, Get Engaged

The Town of Scarborough relies on community members to inform the direction of Council decisionmaking and capital investments. Here are some ways to participate in your local government:

Attend a Public Meeting

Access dates, agendas, and links to participate remotely from the Town Calendar on our website.

Email the Town Council

Share your comments to towncouncil@scarboroughmaine.org.

Follow Us on Social Media

We're on Facebook & Instagram! Follow the Town of Scarborough, Community Services, Police, and Fire.

Join a Board/Committee

We rely on citizen volunteers for our several boards and committees. View current vacancies and apply online.

Subscribe to our Newsletter

Sign up for updates emailed twice monthly at scarboroughmaine.org/stay-connected.

SCARBOROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICES
PRESENTS

Summerfest

AUG 15 @ 5 PM
HS SPORTS COMPLEX

LIVE MUSIC WITH SLANE U2 TRIBUTE

**FOOD TRUCKS • LOCAL VENDORS • BOUNCE ZONE
CHILDREN'S MARKET • FIREWORKS • & MORE!**