



AGENDA
Communications Committee
Hybrid Meeting

Thursday, September 18, 2025—4:00pm

TO VIEW THE MEETING & OFFER PUBLIC COMMENT:

<https://scarboroughmaine.zoom.us/j/89254231596>

TO VIEW THE MEETING ONLY:

<https://youtu.be/-OdMGbnaf3c>

- Item 1.** Call to Order.
- Item 2.** Roll Call.
- Item 3.** Public Comment.
- Item 4.** Approval of Minutes: August 21, 2025.
- Item 5.** Staff Updates: Discussion & Consideration.
- Item 6.** School Communications Update/ Direct Mail / Council Workshop.
- Item 7.** Survey Review & Next Steps- How to Communicate Results?
- Item 8.** Council Corner Live in Neighborhoods.
- Item 9.** Election Day Booth.
- Item 10.** Growth Workshop.
- Item 11.** New Business.
- Item 12.** Adjourn.

Town of Scarborough



Town Manager Message

Every election is an opportunity for the community to elect representatives who reflect their values. This is an important election for our community, one that will guide a critical community discussion on growth and shape the next steps for capital investments. Finding a school solution has been front of mind for many staff, elected officials, and involved citizens for many years. Since a previous version was defeated in the November 2023 election, a dedicated committee of volunteers has met weekly over the last 18 months as part of a more engaged, citizen-led process.

Election results signal resident opinions, but we have more to glean. We've launched a townwide community survey—the third since 2021—to gather a statistically valid representation of feedback on levels of satisfaction with town services. Between this and two school building surveys this spring, we know there have been a lot of questions sent your way. Engagement is essential for good government, and I expect the Town Council and staff will continue to engage residents and respond to the feedback we hear.

I hope we'll hear from you this season—we're in the "people business" and rely on your voices to inform our work.

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



Engineering

A New Road Map for Traffic Safety

In July the Town Council formally accepted a new Townwide Transportation Assessment. Infrastructure, development patterns, and priorities have changed a lot since the last comprehensive study was last completed in 2006. Payne Road, for example, was once a small rural road and now has become a major thoroughfare for commuters from Exit 42. As streets become busier, the need to be safer, more connected, and multi-modal is essential.

The study looked at broad categories of Scarborough's transportation system to create a "road map" for prioritizing future projects and capital spending needs related to traffic and transportation needs.

Safety and mobility were key guiding principles of the study. It lists intersections and roadway corridors that are recommended for corrective action in the areas of safety, mobility, and potential for connectivity. The intersection of Payne Rd at Cummings Rd, for



"Complete Streets" are designed create safe and accessible streets for users of multiple modes of transportation.

instance, was found to have both safety and mobility issues. It also proposes locations for bicycle facility improvements, like adding shared use paths and sidewalks along segments of Payne Road. The first project being developed from the study is the East Grand Ave Complete Streets project, which will focus on balancing the needs of all users of the road (pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, transit).

The Transportation Assessment is not the only document setting the Town up for future plans. It will be utilized hand-in-hand with the Vulnerability Assessment (more on next page), Open Space Plan, Complete Streets Policy, and Vision Zero Policy, which all serve as resources for decision-making for improvements. Learn more on the "What's Happening" page at scarboroughmaine.org.

Scarborough's Town Engineer **Angela Blanchette, P.E.** was a key lead in the Transportation Assessment project. She and the Transportation Committee spent months reviewing document details.



"Safety and mobility were key guiding principles of the study."

Exposing Scarborough's Flood Risk

New Vulnerability Assessment Identifies Future Scenarios for Rising Waters



January 13, 2024, WGME

When a storm hits and a high tide comes in, it's a potential recipe for flooding in our coastal communities. Recent winter storms have underscored the need to anticipate and prepare for what are expected to be more frequent occurrences. These storms lead to costly fixes (for both the Town and the property owner) and even dangerous situations. Flooded, impassable roads complicate ambulance access in the event of an emergency.

The new Vulnerability Assessment studies these scenarios and predicts a future for sea level rise in both storm

events and at high tide. And it's not only beachfront properties affected; areas along saltmarshes and tidal rivers will also see the impacts. An interactive online dashboard shows these potential scenarios on a map of town. Toggle through different sea level rise scenarios to see how flooding will impact Scarborough over the next 75 years.

It doesn't stop here, though. With this point of reference, the Town can hone in on areas that should be improved more immediately, and understand how existing needs should be designed with these risks in mind. For example, the plan to address the failed culverts on Scottow Hill Road

should allow tidewaters to flow more freely. The assessment also includes an adaptation guide for homeowners that outlines how to elevate structures and make properties more resilient to flooding.

The Vulnerability Assessment is a first step toward making Scarborough more resilient to coastal flooding. It helps prioritize needs by highlighting what is at risk of flooding now and what will likely be at risk in the future. Implementing the recommendations in the Assessment will take more planning, public engagement, and investments.

Visit scarboroughmaine.org/stay-connected/municipal-projects for updates

Jami Fitch is Sustainability Manager for the Town of Scarborough and led the work for the Vulnerability Assessment and Open Space Plan. Other priority projects include the Spurwink Marsh restoration and upcoming Climate Action Plan. Meet Jami and learn more about these critical resilience efforts at Sustainable Scarborough Day on October 5th!



Interactive maps on the project website (under "Flood Exposure Results") show ten flood scenarios for Scarborough. Scenarios 1-4 show water elevation during a coastal storm event now, and what high tide could look like in 2030, 2050, or 2100. Scenarios 5-10 show storm events or high tides in 2100 with even higher water surface elevations. Scan the QR code to view the project website and maps.



Sea level rise scenario 4 in Scarborough (equates to the January 13, 2024 storm)



Sea level rise scenario 4 in Pine Point (coastal storm now & high tide in 2100)

Service & Program Spotlight

Crafty Art Night

Thursday, October 23, 4:00-4:45pm
Community Services Hub, 418 Payne Road
Ages 2-5, \$10 per session, register online

Each session features a specific art medium to explore, like coloring, painting, or clay. Sessions are designed for parents to stay involved and enjoy the creative process alongside their kiddos (staff on hand to guide activities). The goal is to encourage open-ended creativity and quality time together! All supplies are provided, and any projects completed during the session are yours to take home.



Scan for the latest **Programs Brochure** for a comprehensive list of upcoming events & programs.

By the Numbers | Public Safety

15

Average calls for service per day to the Fire Department over the last 12 months. Calls for service have increased 5.5% annually over the last 20 years.

813

Police Department citations issued last year. This reflects increased proactive enforcement measures on the roads to keep our community safe and are only a portion of total traffic stops.

What's on the Ballot?

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4, 2025. General Elections are held nationally on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November. There is also a Municipal Election for the Town Council, Scarborough Sanitary District Trustee Board, and to vote on any Citizen Initiatives, Bond Issues, or other referenda proposed by the Town Council. Here are the November ballot questions:

Candidates

Town Council (3-Year Term)

Two seats

Michelle T. Hayes

Karin B. Shupe (Incumbent)

Sanitary District (3-Year Term)

Two seats

Anthony J. D'Amelio

Write-In

Board of Education (2-Year Term)

Special election: One seat to fill vacancy

Crescencia Maurer

Learn more about these candidates at **Candidates Night**, held prior to each Town election. It will be at Town Hall on Tuesday, October 7 at 6:15pm (link to view online on the Town Calendar) and a recording will be available on our website.

Referendum Questions

Question 1: School Project

Total Project Cost: Up to \$129.85 million

In the November election, the community will vote on whether to approve the proposed school solution to address capacity and facility issues at the current K-8 schools. It proposes on-site renovations and additions of the existing schools.



Scarborough Middle School

Eight Corners School

Replace with a new school on the existing Eight Corners site to accommodate up to 380 K-2nd grade students.

Blue Point School

Renovations & additions to accommodate up to 232 K-2nd grade students and eliminate portables.

Pleasant Hill School

Renovations & additions to accommodate up to 224 K-2nd grade students and portables.

Wentworth School

Small addition to accommodate increased 3rd-5th grade enrollment expected beginning in 2031-32.

Middle School

Renovations & additions to accommodate current 6th-8th grade population in the building, eliminate portables, and enlarge the undersized cafeteria.

Question 2*: School Project

Total Project Cost: Up to \$10 million

Middle School Larger Addition

Further expansion to accommodate increased 6th-8th grade enrollment expected beginning in 2034-35.

**Referendum Question 2 is contingent on Question 1 passing*

There will also be a State ballot with two Citizen Initiative questions. Learn more on the State of Maine website or view sample ballots on the Town of Scarborough website (Elections page).



Scan to learn more about the **Proposed School Solution** on the Scarborough Schools website.



Visit scarboroughmaine.org/vote for more Election information

Voter Registration & Absentee Ballots



Register to Vote

To register to vote, you must be a citizen of the United States, be a resident of the Town of Scarborough, and be 18 years of age by the date of the General

Election. Register online, in person at Town Hall (Clerk's office), by mail, or at the polls on Election Day. You may be asked to provide proof of identity (Maine Driver's License, State ID) and/or proof of residency to complete your voter registration record.

Absentee Ballots

Request an absentee ballot in person at Town Hall (or call), online through the State of Maine website, or by mail (application on our website). In 2024, the State of Maine introduced an ongoing absentee ballot request option for voters

65+, or self-identifying with a disability. Voters who enroll will be automatically mailed an absentee ballot for each election without having to request one.

Vote Early or on Election Day

Early voting by absentee ballot is available at Town Hall during regular business hours (Monday-Thursday, 7:00am-5:00pm) from October 6-30. Election Day is Tuesday, November 4 at Scarborough High School from 7:00am-8:00pm.

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.

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!

October 7: Candidates Night

Meet the candidates running for office in the November election. Moderator Kevin Freeman will introduce candidates for the Sanitary District, Board of Education, and Town Council, and have them give opening statements and answer a series of questions. *Council Chambers (Town Hall) at 6:15pm. Recording available on Scarborough Maine Public Meetings YouTube channel.*

October 24: Pumpkin Carving Night

Show off your carving skills and leave the clean up to us! Get in the spooky spirit with a night of games, treats and pumpkin guts. Perfect for families and friends of all ages. Carving supplies provided, costumes encouraged!

October 26: Jr. Firefighter Muster

The 4th annual Maine Junior Firefighters Muster invites junior/explorer firefighter programs ages (14-18) from across Maine to participate and test their skills. Free for all, public is encouraged to attend!

November 26: Passport Day

Planning your next trip? Community Services assists with the acceptance of U.S. passport applications. We provide necessary forms, but highly recommend checking all requirements and fees prior to the event. No appointment needed.

Ongoing Community Programs: Search "Brochure" on our website for programs for all ages.

Town Council Meetings

October 15

November 5

November 19

December 3

December 17

- 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.

scarboroughmaine.org/ssd

SUSTAINABLE Scarborough Day

FREE!

OCTOBER 5th | 10 AM - 2 PM
WENTWORTH SCHOOL, SCARBOROUGH

FOOD TRUCKS | MUSIC | GIVEAWAYS | FUN!

ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES | EV & E-BIKE TEST DRIVES
NATIVE PLANTS + LANDSCAPING | EFFICIENT HOMES + ENERGY SAVINGS
WILDLIFE + LAND CONSERVATION | RECYCLING + COMPOSTING

TOWN OF SCARBOROUGH, MAINE

SCAN ME!

RESERVED FOR POSTAGE

WHAT IS ON THE NOVEMBER REFERENDUM?

A STUDENT-CENTERED VISION

Created For The Community, By The Community

REFERENDUM QUESTION 1

TOTAL PROJECT COST = UP TO \$129.85M



NEW SCHOOL
ON EXISTING
EC SITE



RENOVATION/
ADDITION



RENOVATION/
ADDITION



ADDITION



RENOVATION/
ADDITION
FOR CURRENT
ENROLLMENT

QUESTION 2*

UP TO \$10M



LARGER
ADDITION
FOR PROJECTED
ENROLLMENT

EC = EIGHT CORNERS | PH = PLEASANT HILL | BP = BLUE POINT | WEN = WENTWORTH | MS = MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Referendum Question 2 is contingent on Question 1 passing



SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
K-8 SCHOOLS SOLUTION GOING TO VOTERS NOV. 4TH
www.scarboroughschools.org/building-project



WHAT IS THE **K-8 SCHOOLS SOLUTION**
GOING TO VOTERS NOVEMBER 4TH?

A STUDENT-CENTERED VISION

Created For The Community,
By The Community

YOU SPOKE, WE LISTENED

REFLECTING SCARBOROUGH'S VALUES



Put Students First

Build safe, functional spaces that support
current educational models & learning needs



Maintain the Neighborhood
K-2 Schools Model



Responsible Use of Taxpayer Dollars

Referendum Question 1 is:

- \$30M less than the rejected 2023 proposal
- Under \$130M (preferred by Scarborough residents in the 2024 community survey)



Flexibility for Future Needs

A COMMUNITY-LED PROCESS



After the failure of the 2023 school referendum, the School Board & Town Council **created** a **citizen committee**—the **School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC)**—to find a new solution.

The SBAC spent nearly 18 months exploring a wide range of options with frequent community input along the way.



VISIT THE WEBSITE TO SEE THE PLANS FOR
EACH OF SCARBOROUGH'S K-8 SCHOOLS
www.scarboroughschools.org/building-project



REFERENDUM QUESTION #1

TOTAL PROJECT COST: UP TO \$129.85M

EIGHT CORNERS SCHOOL

REPLACED WITH A NEW SCHOOL ON
THE EXISTING EIGHT CORNERS SITE

To accommodate up to 380 K-2nd grade students

BLUE POINT SCHOOL

RENOVATIONS & ADDITIONS

To accommodate up to 232 K-2nd grade students
and eliminate portables

PLEASANT HILL SCHOOL

RENOVATIONS & ADDITIONS

To accommodate up to 224 K-2nd grade students
and eliminate portables

WENTWORTH SCHOOL

SMALL ADDITION

To accommodate increased 3rd-5th grade
enrollment expected beginning in 2031-32

MIDDLE SCHOOL

RENOVATIONS & ADDITIONS

To accommodate current 6th-8th grade population
in the building, eliminate portables, and enlarge the
undersized cafeteria

REFERENDUM QUESTION #2*

TOTAL PROJECT COST: UP TO \$10M

MIDDLE SCHOOL

LARGER ADDITION

Further expansion to accommodate increased 6th-8th
grade enrollment expected beginning in 2034-35

*Referendum Question 2 is contingent on Question 1 passing

WHY NOW? CHALLENGES FACING OUR K-8 SCHOOLS:



Over Capacity & Overcrowded

Our K-2 schools and middle school are already over capacity. Temporary modular classrooms have been in daily use for over 20 years. Based on children already been born in Scarborough, an increase of almost 200 students are expected to enter the primary schools by 2028-2029.

Pictured: The entire 6th grade must travel between portables and the main building multiple times per day at the middle school.



Competing Use of Space

Spaces shared by multiple programs (such as gym/cafeteria, art/music, etc.) can inhibit programming due to time spent transitioning between uses or difficulty accommodating certain equipment or materials. Increasing enrollment will continue to exacerbate our space needs.

Pictured: Shared gym/cafeteria at Blue Point.



Aging, Outdated Facilities

The three K-2 schools were built in the 1950s and 60s. The outdated infrastructure does not adequately support modern teaching and learning, including special education, intervention, and state-mandated curriculum.

Pictured: Shared special education & student support program space at Eight Corners does not adequately support individualized learning.



Increased Security Needs

Safety & security needs are different today than when our schools were originally constructed. Improvements are needed to ensure all schools have sufficient emergency site access, secure entry vestibules, lockdown zones, and other infrastructure.

Pictured: Pleasant Hill entry lacks secure vestibule.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW WILL THIS PROJECT IMPACT MY TAX BILL?
Over the lifetime of the bond, the \$129.85M project (Question 1) will cost the median taxpayer an estimated average of \$386/year, based on a \$600K median home value.

Question 2, proposing \$10M for additional Middle School expansion will cost the same taxpayer an estimated average of \$30/year over the life of the bond.

Payments are estimated to be higher in the initial years of the bond but drop over time. Scarborough's Town Council Finance Committee has already discussed ways to minimize peak tax impact during the initial years.

Visit the project website and click "About the Project" to use the Tax Impact Calculator tool.



HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Visit the FAQs page to see more or submit a new question!

www.scarboroughschools.org/building-project

WHAT IS THE IMPACT IF REFERENDUM QUESTION 1 DOESN'T PASS?
If referendum question 1 does not pass, the incoming surge of almost 200 students would necessitate some other solution(s) to ensure adequate services. This solution(s) would likely be less ideal for students and staff while still presenting a significant financial impact. These 200 students based on kids who have already been born-arrive at our K-2 schools within 5 years, Wentworth Intermediate in the 2031-32 school year, and are followed by Scarborough Middle School in the 2034-35 school year.

IS THERE ANY STATE FUNDING AVAILABLE?
The Maine Department of Education (MDOE) opens state funding applications approximately every 7 years. Historically, MDOE has funded approximately 10 projects per funding cycle. The most recent state funding list was released in July 2025. Of the 95 schools ranked across Maine, Eight Corners ranked 34th; Pleasant Hill ranked 39th; Blue Point ranked 59th; and the Middle School ranked 60th. As such, it is unexpected that Scarborough will receive state funding for a building project in the near future.



WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT?

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE THE PLANS FOR EACH OF SCARBOROUGH'S K-8 SCHOOLS
www.scarboroughschools.org/building-project

