



# The Littleton Weekly Record

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023

LOCAL NEWS

## Residents Turn Out For Landfill Bill Hearing

Page 7

FREE



Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



**Back In Charge.** Smith Outlines Plans In Return As LHS/DBMS Principal. **Page 2**

# Littleton Middle-High School Principal Outlines Plans

BY ROBERT BLECHL  
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — Following his appointment on April 19 as the permanent principal of Daisy Bronson Middle School/Littleton High School, Al Smith outlined the programs and plans he'd like to build on in the next few years.

The Littleton School Board unanimously voted to transfer Smith, who since 2011 has been the director of LHS's career and technical education center, into the position of DBMS/LHS principal.

Smith previously served as assistant principal and principal of LHS before becoming CTE director. He has served the Littleton School District for 34 years. Until his appointment on Wednesday, he had been serving as interim DBMS/LHS principal since November.

Smith said he values the CTE programs and enjoyed being its director, taking on a role in which he helped create pathways to careers or college for students, and wasn't looking to make a move back into the principal position.

But once serving as interim principal, he said he felt that he was having a beneficial impact on middle-high school and that his approach was welcome by the Crusader community.

"I haven't lost touch with the high school or the middle school," said Smith. "Part of my responsibility as an admin-

istrator is to be out and about and I had been out and about at the middle school and high school throughout my career at the CTE. I wasn't coming from a different school across town. I was still very involved in the high school, but in a different role."

Shifting roles a bit, he felt that he was accepted into the interim principal position, and until recently, still viewed it as temporary role.

But Smith said that in today's world it's difficult to find new principals and, in the past few months, has also enjoyed working with the middle-high school teachers at a more professional level.

"It's tough on students and tough on faculty and staff when there's so many changes going on," he said. "I really think that Littleton High School and Daisy Bronson deserve some consistency, and I'm hoping I can provide that."

Smith said his goals and priorities are essentially those of the Crusader community.

"We have our big three goals and that's another reason why I feel it's important for consistency," he said. "We strive to be a competency based school. That is one of our goals we've had for a number of years and I feel it's very important to continue that work. Even as director, I worked closely with our leadership team and our faculty in deciding what our needs are, and I think everyone is in agreement that we



On Wednesday, Al Smith, who has served the Littleton School District for more than three decades, was appointed the permanent principal of Daisy Bronson Middle School/Littleton High School after a recommendation by the superintendent and a unanimous vote by the school board.

See **Principal**, Page 10

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**Prices Effective Fri. 4/28 — Sun. 4/30/2023**

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**Prices Effective Fri. 4/28 — Thu. 5/4/2023**

**Round up this April to Support Response Domestic & Sexual Violence Support Center**



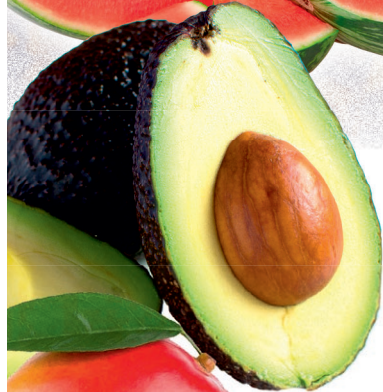
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**2/\$7**



16 oz • Local  
**Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream**  
**2/\$8**



750 mL  
Fair Trade • Organic  
**La Rioja Cooperative Wines**  
**\$7.99**



**Avocados**  
**79¢**



**Sweet Vidalia Onions**  
**99¢ Lb**



16 oz  
Select Varieties  
**Xochitl Tortilla Chips**  
**2/\$7**



48 oz • New  
**R.W. Knudsen Low Sugar Juice**  
**2/\$7**



**Organic Mangoes**  
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Local  
**Robie Farms Ground Beef**  
**\$6.99 Lb**



23.5 oz • Organic  
**Muir Glen Pasta Sauce**  
**2/\$4**  
*WITH COUPON*



4.6 oz  
**Lesser Evil Popcorn**  
**2/\$6**



**Certified Angus Sirloin Steaks**  
**\$6.49 Lb**



**Boneless Whole Pork Loins**  
**\$1.99 Lb**



6 oz • Organic  
**Organic Valley Cheese Shreds**  
**2/\$6**



32 oz • Local  
**Brown Cow Cream Top Yogurt**  
**2/\$6**



**Boar's Head Blackforest Turkey Breast**  
**\$8.99 Lb**



**Boar's Head Pepper Jack Cheese**  
**\$5.99 Lb**



7 oz • Local  
Maple Cheddar, Tilsit Cranberry or Blueberry  
**VT Farmstead Windsordale Cheeses**  
**\$5.99**



12 oz • New  
**Kevin's Pasta Entrées**  
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**\$4.99 Lb**



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**\$4.99 Lb**



6 oz • Sea Fresh  
**Jason Toothpaste**

**2/\$8**



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## Obituaries

**Joyce R. Roy**

A memorial service for Joyce R. Roy, Gilman, Vt., who died Feb. 12, 2023, will be held Saturday morning, April 29 at 11 a.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church, Littleton.

Arrangements are entrusted to Bailey Funeral Home, Lancaster, N.H. For more information or to send an online condolence, please go to [www.baileyfh.net](http://www.baileyfh.net).

**Alvin G. Derrington**

Alvin G. Derrington, 82 of Littleton, N.H. passed away Monday, April 10, 2023. Alvin was born in August of 1940 and was a long-time resident of Acworth and the Littleton area throughout his life. He was the youngest of three to Albert and Agnes (Westney) Derrington and is survived by his sisters Alva (Derrington) Grant and Alice (Derrington) Young, both of Acworth, N.H.

Mr. Derrington worked at various jobs and was once employed at the Mittersill Ski Area in his younger days and a highlight was watching Lucille Ball ski! Alvin then dedicated a career working 30 years for the NH DOT until his retirement in 2001.

Alvin raised and trained beagles for hunting and he loved spending his days fishing

out on his boat. He enjoyed hunting deer, quail and rabbits. He was an avid race car fan and spent many weekends there.

Alvin is survived by his girlfriend Ivy Pelletier of Littleton, his children Eleanor (Derrington) and Kevin Birard of Jefferson; Melody Gallant; Alan and Jeanne (Emmons) Derrington of Bethlehem and Crystal Pelletier of Littleton. His grandchildren Brandon Birard of Lancaster; Trevor Birard of Jefferson; Homer Bailey of Woodstock; Todd Derrington and Trista Leighton of Littleton; Courtney (Derrington) and Vance Edwards of Littleton; Arthur Gonyer of Littleton and five great grandchildren and his constant, faithful pomeranian Bear-Bear.

**Kerwyn Gipson Daniels Jr.**

Kerwyn Gipson Daniels Jr. (Danny), age 86, of The Villages, Fla., passed away peacefully April 5, 2023, after a valiant and courageous battle against several illnesses. Danny was born Sept. 2, 1936, to his parents, Joan and Kerwyn Daniel, in New Haven, Connecticut.

Danny lived his life both purposely and fully. After graduating from Hamden High School in Hamden, Connecticut, he entered the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in Chateauroux, France where he met Marcelle



(Minou) Imbert, the love of his life, and they were married in 1957. Upon returning home from his time in the Air Force, Danny continued his life of service as a law enforcement officer with the North Haven, Conn. Police Department. Following his 15 successful years of public service in North Haven, he and his family relocated to West Barnet, Vt. where he began a career as a salesman for Sheppard Corporation, a plumbing and heating wholesale distributor. He progressed to branch manager in the Barre, Vt. office and eventually became the General Manager of Vermont operations. Danny then continued his career at Sondik Supply for 18 years. He ultimately retired from Central Supply in Woodsville, N.H. During his time in West Barnet, Danny excelled in his favorite pastimes of softball (Home Run King!), ice fishing, hunting, snowmobiling and golf. In all his endeavors, Danny always exhibited his strong sense of quiet strength, his ability to create friendships with all whom he met and his unending devotion to family. Danny and Minou retired to The Villages, Fla. in 2010.

Danny is survived by Minou, his wife of 66 wonderful years, son Philip and wife Mary Ellen of Williston, Vt., son Todd and wife Wendy of Colchester, Vt., his cherished grandchildren Rebecca, Amanda and Tyler, and many nephews and nieces. He preceded in death by his infant daughter Carol, his parents Joan and Kerwyn, his brother Robert Daniel and his sister Carol Pascale.

Danny was loved by all and will be missed by all.

The family will hold a private service at a later date.

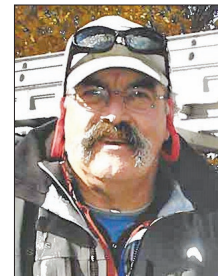
In memory of Danny, please consider supporting Your Humane Society SPCA of Lake Panasoffkee, Fla. ([www.hsspsca.org](http://www.hsspsca.org)).

Arrangements are entrusted with BALDWIN BROTHERS Funeral & Cremation Society-Spanish Springs, Fla. Sentiments are encouraged at [www.baldwincremation.com](http://www.baldwincremation.com).

**James "Jim" Callender**

James "Jim" Callender, passed away on April 11, 2023 at the age of 70, at his home in Lisbon, N.H.

Jim was born on Oct. 30, 1952 to parents, Wilbur "Bill" Callender and Marion "Gert" Callender (Gould) in Littleton, N.H. Jim graduated from Lisbon High School in 1970, and went on to study architecture and building construction at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston, Mass., where he graduated with associate's degrees in both architectural drafting & design and building



construction.

After graduation, Jim began working at DCI Furniture in Lisbon, N.H., where his father held the position of Vice President. Following an eight-year period at DCI, Jim left the company and held various jobs before kick-starting his 20-year career as a General Foreman in the Boston Carpenters Local Union No 33, from which he retired in 2018.

Throughout his life, Jim had many interests. In high school he played basketball and baseball; he enjoyed x-country skiing and playing golf. As he grew older he developed a great appreciation for photography and loved to capture images of nature and the local high school sports events that his two sons, Chris and Taylor, participated in. He was an avid skier and passed the love of the sport down to his sons early in their lives. As anyone who had ever talked with Jim would know, his greatest passion in life was fly fishing. He loved everything about the hobby and was always researching the next best boat or accessory, mapping out an upcoming fishing adventure, or simply relaxing at home tying flies for himself and his friends.

Those that came across Jim for the first time could surely be put off by his no-nonsense, straightforward way, but those that knew him well recognized that his seemingly brass demeanor was just part of his overall charm. He kept a close circle of friends and family that he would do anything for. He was adventurous, meticulous with whatever project he had going on, and he was always open for a good meal with the people he cared for, especially if that meal ended with a tasty dessert!

Jim was predeceased by his eldest son, Christopher Callender of Waterville Valley, N.H., brother, Peter Callender, of Concord, NH, father, Wilbur Callender and mother, Marion Callender, both of Lisbon, N.H. He is survived by his youngest son Taylor Callender and his wife, Danielle Callender of Scarborough, Maine, granddaughter, Colby Callender, of Scarborough, Maine, as well as cousins and many, many friends who will miss his one-of-a-kind attitude and cantankerous personality dearly.

A celebration of life planned for this summer will be announced at a later date.

The Cremation Society of New Hampshire has been entrusted with arrangements. To view an online tribute, leave a message of condolence or for more information please visit [www.csnh.com](http://www.csnh.com)

**Gayle Irene Snow**

Gayle Irene Snow, 86, of North Monroe, N.H., died on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022, at River Glen House, Littleton, N.H. Burial will be on Friday, May 5, 2023, at North Monroe Cemetery.

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## News Briefs

## Select Board Chair Answers “Undue Influence” Accusation

HAVERRHILL — Select Board Chair Katie Williams this week fired back against public criticism.

During the April 24 meeting, former Selectman Matt Bjelobrk suggested that Vice Chair Michael Graham had undue influence over Williams’ decision-making, particularly regarding the Woodsville Fire District.

Bjelobrk said it would be problematic if the board chair carried out the agenda of the vice chair.

“I honestly feel we have a right to know why our elected officials take the actions that they take,” Bjelobrk said. “If there is an undisclosed relationship that impairs your [Williams’] ability to vote independently.”

When making his point, Bjelobrk cast aspersions on Williams and Graham, making unsubstantiated comments about their friendship that many in attendance found inappropriate.

An hour later, near the end of the meeting, Williams responded emphatically, saying she was “disgusted,” “embarrassed,” and “mortified” by Bjelobrk’s assertions.

A married mother of three, Williams has known Graham since she worked at his insurance agency when she was younger, at a time when he was battling cancer and needed office help, she said, and clarified their relationship has always been professional.

Graham was not present due to illness.

**“I’M NOT GOING ANYWHERE”**

Bjelobrk’s comments stem from the ongoing debate about whether town taxpayers should fund Woodsville Fire and Highway operations.

He inferred that Graham, a precinct supporter, told Williams how to vote on the matter.

Williams denied such claims and described herself as a self-made, independent-minded person.

“I have a full-time, extremely demanding job [Director of Human Resources for the Town of Hanover] that I am passionate about, and I work my butt off. Everything I have, I got myself. I bought my house almost eight years ago with my husband. We work hard for everything that we have,” she said.

Coincidentally, four weeks earlier, Williams obtained “reputational harm coverage” through town insurance provider Primex.

She did not attempt to stop Bjelobrk during his comments, and defended his right to address the board in open meeting, but condemned what he said.

“Everyone has the right to make these comments, and I can take it. It might not look like I can take it, but I can take it. And I’m still here, and I’m not going anywhere, and I’m just insulted that you would make this accusation about me. Because I’m a hard worker and I’m a good person. I hope someday that you realize that,” she said.

“It’s already hard enough being the only woman up here. And I’m young. So it’s two

strikes against me already. And these types of comments make me wonder if I was a guy if I’d be getting the same type of criticism.”

**“LET’S DO BETTER”**

In conclusion, Williams sounded an optimistic note. She pointed to changes made earlier in the meeting to ease the Select Board public comment policy.

The goal of the policy change, Williams said, is to support constructive dialogue in efforts to overcome town-village tensions that have divided the community.

“I hope that we can all try to get along and be respectful to each other. And let’s have a good year. We had a crappy year last year, let’s make it better,” she said.

Drawing applause, she added, “I need everyone’s help to make it better. Let’s do better guys, we can do better.”

## Lancaster One Step Closer To Winning Recycled Percussion “Chaos & Kindness” Experience

LANCASTER — A nationally-known Las Vegas headliner may be coming to the North Country.

Recycled Percussion on April 24 announced that Lancaster was among eight finalists for five exclusive prizes.

The Laconia-based band will visit the winning communities to meet locals, perform a free concert, and film an episode of their Emmy-nominated TV series Chaos & Kindness.

The Top 5 will be selected by popular vote.

To support Lancaster, visit [www.facebook.com/recycledpercussionband](http://www.facebook.com/recycledpercussionband) and write in “Lancaster” under the April 24 post beginning, “Finalists for the towns with the most pride.”

Every vote will matter for Lancaster, the smallest of the finalist cities and towns at around 3,200 residents, according to 2021 state estimates.

The others are Derry (34,700), Dover (33,300), Farmington (6,800), Litchfield (8,600), Bow (8,300), Salem (30,700), and Windham (16,000).

Among those making a case for Lancaster is Town Manager Ben Gaetjens-Oleson, who wrote the band twice in the past week.

He described how Lancaster embodied the community spirit and “town pride” that Recycled Percussion was looking for.

In his first letter, he wrote, “We take care of our own and are an example of how a strong and thriving community should operate. I, as a life-long resident and now Town Manager of Lancaster, am inviting you to come to town and experience the pride. Meet the people that make me proud to have called this place my home for over 50 years. See the Town I am proud to work for every day. Come be welcomed into the community and feel the pride we all have.”

After Lancaster reached the Elite Eight, Gaetjens-Oleson sent a second letter which said, in part, “If you want to represent the state, you

can’t exclude us as we are the only community within the three northern-most counties (Coos, Grafton and Carroll). We are a thriving and welcoming town that believes in supporting our neighbors and providing opportunity for all to succeed if they choose to take advantage of it. We understand that no community is able to do great things alone so collaboration is key to our success. We are proud of who we are and appreciate new people moving to Town to experience the great things we have created.”

Filming in selected communities will take place in May.

Based in Laconia, Recycled Percussion was formed by Justin Spencer in 1995, began touring the country in 2001, and placed third in season four of America’s Got Talent in 2009.

From there, they performed runs at various Las Vegas venues (MGM, Tropicana, The Quad, Planet Hollywood).

In 2017, the band started the ABC television and web series Chaos & Kindness, where they give back to communities around the state (and beyond).

Chaos & Kindness has since grown into a lifestyle brand and movement with the goal of doing good, making positive change, and supporting charitable endeavors.

It continues the band’s longstanding efforts to promote kindness, positivity, and mental health awareness.

For more visit [www.recycledpercussion.com](http://www.recycledpercussion.com)

and [www.facebook.com/chaosandkindness/](http://www.facebook.com/chaosandkindness/)

## With Mission Accomplished, Board Dissolves Littleton River District Commission

LITTLETON — In one sense, the River District Redevelopment Commission is a victim of its own success.

For the past decade, its members have guided the redevelopment of the river part of town to make it a draw for new businesses, create new jobs, provide recreation for visitors and residents, and add to Littleton’s tax base and overall appeal.

To that end, they successfully secured millions of dollars in state and federal grants for the investment and helped the town actualize the vision set out years ago by community members.

Mission accomplished.

During Monday’s Select Board meeting, the board voted 3-0 to discontinue the commission,

See News Briefs, Page 8

ON THE COVER: An artist’s depiction of Greg Cloutier Memorial Park planned for a vacant lot at the corner of Canal and Main Street in Lancaster.  
**SEE STORY PAGE 6**

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# Lancaster Park Planned To Honor Cloutier

BY PAUL HAYES  
Staff Writer

LANCASTER — In the decade before his death, Greg Cloutier helped revitalize the downtown.

Now, that work will continue in his name.

Community members have unveiled plans for Greg Cloutier Memorial Park at the corner of Main and Canal Street.

It will transform a vacant lot that Cloutier owned into an urban oasis.

Plans call for a pavilion, bench seating, an arboretum, and public art installations.

Local artist William Rugh, Cloutier's friend and tenant has spearheaded efforts to make the park a reality.

"There was a big outpouring of people that would come into my gallery, or that I'd talk to around town, who'd say 'Boy, I sure hope there's something to memorialize [Cloutier] because he's just a great guy,'" Rugh said.

Fundraising for the approximate \$100,000 project is already underway.

Rugh will host an auction at the proposed park location on Thursday, May 25, from 4 to 7 p.m.

He estimates more than 50 items will be up for bid, including handmade furniture, craft items, and wall art.

In addition, a fundraising committee will apply for grants and solicit donations "all summer long," Rugh said.

Contributions of land, services, and materials will help the project. Cloutier's wife, Rita, has

agreed to gift the property for the park and has given the project her blessing. Meanwhile, local contractors have pledged low-cost or free labor to get the project done.

"Our time frame is, I'd like to see at least the pavilion built by the time snow flies," Rugh said. "Then next year we'll continue with walkways, and shrubbery, and sculptures."

Rugh envisioned the park as a place for people to relax, hold events, and draw tourists. He said the "epic" outdoor sculpture garden would be a "car stopper."

"I want to get more people to stop in Lancaster and say 'Wow, look at this place,'" Rugh said.

Getting people to stop — and stay in Lancaster was what Cloutier strived for.

In the decade before his death in September at age 72, the North Country native worked quietly and behind the scenes to revive downtown Lancaster.

Investing his time, energy and resources, he was the catalyst for the town's Main Street renaissance. He supported business creation, refurbished and restored historic buildings, and reinvigorated the town center.

He acquired downtown properties, renovated them, and filled them with types of businesses that could attract and retain young people and boost the local economy.

First, he bought the Rialto Theatre at foreclosure in 2011 and partnered with David Fuller to re-open the landmark movie house and performance venue.

Next, Cloutier purchased a burned-out building at 79 Main St. in 2014, renovated it, and re-



Efforts are underway to build a park in memory of Greg Cloutier (left) in Lancaster. Plans call for a pavilion (right), bench seating, and public art installations.

cruited entrepreneurs to open a cafe and bakery (The Polish Princess) and a locally sourced market (The Root Seller) in street-level retail spaces.

And finally, he assumed ownership of the former Lancaster National Bank Building in 2017 and re-opened it with a brewpub (The Copper Pig), an art gallery (William Rugh Gallery), and office space.

He made a concerted effort to support those businesses.

And when the pandemic struck, Cloutier and his wife ensured those businesses survived.

Cloutier's economic development work went

beyond those buildings.

He also helped to create a public parking lot on Canal Street, redevelop the historic P.J. Noyes Block, and initiate a Plymouth State University market analysis, which explored ways to attract business people and millennials to town.

Through his efforts, Cloutier put Lancaster on the road to revitalization. Now his friends want to see through those efforts.

"We've got a good start on it," Rugh said. "There's some very nice businesses in town, and the key is now just to keep building on that. Lancaster is such a beautiful town."

## NCIC Members Vote To Dissolve Non-Profit

BY PAUL HAYES  
Staff Writer

ST. JOHNSBURY — Northern Community Investment Corp. will be shutting down.

On April 19, NCIC members approved a proposal by the Board of Directors and management to dissolve the 48-year-old organization due to ongoing challenges.

The non-profit will transfer or sell its assets, including a \$9 million loan portfolio and \$500,000 in St. Johnsbury-Lyndon Industrial Park land holdings, to one or more successor organizations by the end of the calendar year.

Successor organizations have not been selected, and talks are ongoing.

In a press release last month, NCIC outlined the reasons behind the decision.

"The economic landscape has shifted, and it may be time for another organization to expand upon NCIC's mission," it said. "The economic development world has changed dramatically in the most recent two decades. The 2008 financial recession and the 2020 COVID epidemic disrupted NCIC's traditional business model. The rise of internet-based lending brought increased competition from a host of new players. The low-interest rate environment of the past decade depressed earnings on loans that were the prin-

cipal source of revenue supporting the NCIC's economic development activities and made it possible for NCIC to maintain a highly skilled staff to advance its mission."

"Even though NCIC staff and Board diligently pursued expanding lending opportunities and increasing innovative programs, eventually, NCIC's Leadership concluded that the best way to build upon and preserve NCIC's good work is to consider combining resources with one or more similar organizations."

Since 1975, NCIC has significantly contributed to economic development efforts in Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans Counties in Vermont and Carroll, Coos, and Grafton Counties in New Hampshire.

Through 2,000 direct and leveraged investments, NCIC has pumped over \$540 million into local businesses and communities, creating or preserving more than 20,000 jobs.

A small fraction of NCIC's members (approximately 180) attended the vote. They unanimously supported plans to dissolve the organization.

Because it is a New Hampshire corporation, NCIC would be dissolved under N.H. law and in concert with the N.H. Attorney General's Charitable Organization Unit. The Vermont AGs of-fice has also been notified.

See NCIC, Page 11

58th Annual Rotary Scholarship Fundraiser

# MONTE CARLO IN THE MOUNTAINS

Friday, May 19th  
Mountain View Grand  
Whitefield, NH  
Ticket Price - \$49

Doors Open at 5:30pm  
Gaming Starts at 6pm  
www.LittletonRotaryFundraiser.com

DESIGN BY PAUL HAYES

# North Country Residents Turn Out For Landfill Bill Hearing

BY ROBERT BLECHL  
Staff Writer

After passing the New Hampshire Senate in March, two landfill-related bills went to public hearings on April 25 before the New Hampshire House of Representatives Environment and Agriculture Committee.

Senate Bill 159, addressing the issue of imported waste that has elicited concerns from several North Country residents, seeks to establish a committee to study unlimited service area permits for landfills and out-of-state waste coming into New Hampshire.

Senate Bill 61, supported by the solid waste industry and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and opposed in its current form by some residents who turned out to the statehouse in Concord to give testimony, seeks to require DES to adopt rules relative to site-specific surface water setbacks for landfills and make a \$150,000 appropriation to DES for hiring an independent consultant to undertake hydro-geologic and other studies.

SB 159

"We are seeing New Hampshire become a dumping ground for trash from other states," said state Sen. Donovan Fenton, D-Keene, the prime sponsor of SB 159. "A report from the environment department published in November shows that more than 45 percent of the trash coming to our landfills comes from out of state. Massachusetts has not built a landfill in 30 years because it seems like their solid waste plan is to dump it in New Hampshire. Maine passed legislation prohibiting the disposal of out-of-state waste in the state's landfill. Vermont has also established aggressive standards for what can be disposed of in its landfills."

Mike Wimsatt, director of DES's Waste Management Division, said the 45-percent figure is accurate and New Hampshire exports less than 10 percent of its waste.

Unlimited service area landfills can take waste from anywhere.

Limited service area landfills, which include municipal facilities, take waste from a smaller area, an example being the facility in the city of Nashua, which is essentially limited to waste within that city's limits.

Private facilities typically ask for unlimited service area landfills, said Wimsatt.

New Hampshire recently updated its solid waste management plan with goals to reduce its in-state waste and trash toxicity, but it fails to address the problem of nearly half of waste coming in from out of state, said Fenton.

Although previous legislation authorized a solid waste working group in New Hampshire, Fenton said the issue of imported trash is not being addressed while other states are phasing out building landfills and New Hampshire is

debating the possibility of more landfills.

State Rep. Nicholas Germana, D-Keene, asked if there's a benefit to pursuing the goals of SB 159 under a new study committee, which would be made up of members of the New Hampshire Legislature, as opposed to the solid waste working group, which includes non-lawmaker members.

"The whole purpose of this is how long can we wait?" said Fenton. "We're at 45 percent out of state. Is it going to go up to 50 or 55 percent? Where does it end? ... It's really to get something out by, hopefully, the next legislative session."

Fenton also fielded questions about the Interstate Commerce Clause and if any new rules would violate it.

"Given that some of these landfills are made to be profitable, and the permitting probably includes ways to be profitable, including taking trash from out of state, what would you like to see the committee conclude regarding commerce?" asked state Rep. Molly Howard, D-Hancock.

"Regarding commerce, I think we all want a cleaner New Hampshire," said Fenton. "I think if you're not upset at 45 percent of our trash coming from out of state, that is an issue. We are not trying to hamper business by any means, but we're also not in the business of becoming the trash state to accept other people's waste."

Germana said there's a question about landfill capacity and increased costs for New Hampshire if landfills closer to municipalities are being filled with nearly half of the imported waste, and the result is local trash having to be transported farther away, with tipping fees and increased costs because local landfills can't accommodate it.

"In the long run, it's going to cost the citizens of New Hampshire a lot more money and maybe the quality of our state, our air," said Fenton. "We're also seeing garbage trucks literally driving up from Massachusetts ... and dumping their trash. Those

trucks don't get great gas mileage. It's cheaper for them to do that than it is to figure out the problems."

State Rep. Linda Haskins, D-Exeter, asked Fenton if he would like to see the permitting of New Hampshire unlimited service area landfills be more restrictive.

That's why there would be a study committee, said Fenton.

"I believe we can find a solution in here somewhere," he said. "I think we're all in agreement that we want to do something here dealing with out-of-state trash. If that's in a permitting process, if that's new language in terms of how we approach solid waste or out-of-state waste then I think there's a ton of options I and would hope that a study committee can figure that out."

SB 61

Drawing nearly three hours of testimony and, at times, the most heated discussion was SB 61, which would give DES a deadline of two years to complete the studies and adopt the landfill-to-surface water setback rules.

Some House committee members who voiced concerns about SB 61 were supporters of HB 56, which sought a 5-year setback or distance of travel between any new landfill and any surface water based on maximum seepage velocity measured in units of feet per year that determine how fast the groundwater flows between the landfill and surface water.

The intent of HB 56, which was killed by the Senate on April 14, was to allow enough time to identify a problem and remediate it before contami-

nants from a landfill spill or breach reach surface or ground waters.

Under HB 56, DES would not have been able to issue a permit to any facility with a footprint that overlies a significant sand and gravel aquifer.

Concerns voiced Tuesday about SB 61 include how the state would avoid a conflict of interest in the hiring of a consultant and if that consultant could remain independent, as well as the fact that, under the current bill, if DES does not adopt rules within 24 months DES shall apply its existing rules in determining the required setback to any application being held in abeyance when the 24-month period expires and approve the application if it complies with the current rules.

That current rule includes the 200-foot setback, which some House committee members and residents said is inadequate in today's world, where more is known about contaminants, such as PFAS contamination, and is not enough to protect water bodies and drinking water.

They suggested that the two-year deadline be struck from the bill.

Wimsatt said he's confident that the rules could be adopted before the deadline.

Assistant DES Commissioner Mark Sanborn took some fire from committee members when he said SB 61 would pass as is and be signed by the governor, but any amendment or alteration to it would derail it from becoming law.

"It's frustrating to have it suggested that the bill

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based on a request by now-former commission chairman John Hennessey.

"They are seeking a motion to disband the commission due to project completion," Littleton Town Manager Jim Gleason said to the board.

In a letter to Gleason and the Select Board, Hennessey said the Littleton River District Redevelopment Commission was established by a previous Select Board in 2013 as a special purpose commission to plan, raise funds, and guide improvements in downtown Littleton to benefit the community and its residents.

"Alongside over 100 volunteers, town employees, local business, town contractors, and the Select Board, the commission has substantially completed the work it was intended to do," said Hennessey. "The two remaining projects currently in process are the \$1 million Cottage and Mill street sidewalk reconstruction and the \$1.5 million Riverfront Commons project. They are all fully funded and under the leadership of the town manager, whose team will lead them to successful completion. During the past 10 years, the town and commission together raised and invested over \$5 million in town-owned infrastructure, repairs, and improvements with less than a 20-percent contribution required from the Littleton taxpayers."

On behalf of the commission members, Hennessey said he recommends that the commission be discontinued, effective at Monday's Select Board meeting.

The board agreed and took the vote, but not before giving thanks.

"I want to thank John," said Select Board member Carrie Gendreau. "He's done a fantastic job taking the lead. He'll tell people it was team, and it truly was a team effort, but I really would like it known publicly that John did a phenomenal job."

"Above and beyond," said Select Board Chairman Roger Emerson.

"I enjoyed working with him the past two years, and the other members," said Gleason "His leadership in particular helped get us over the hump."

Select Board member Linda MacNeil said Hennessey is easy to work with.

### Annual Bear Take For Hunters To Increase From One To Two

Aiming to address a high-density black bear population in the White Mountains that is well above New Hampshire Fish and Game's population goal, NHFG is preparing to increase the annu-

al bear take for hunters in the region from one bear to two.

Four wildlife management units make up NHFG's White Mountains region.

On April 18, following three public hearings in early April, the NHFG Commission voted on the proposed rule change to allow the taking of a second bear in the White Mountains region, said Andy Timmins, NHFG's bear project coordinator.

"That process won't be fully complete until mid-May, but it's moving forward," he said.

A larger bear population in a region can lead to more human-bear conflicts, with risks to both people and bears.

Statewide, the estimated bear population density is .76 bears per square mile, above the ideal .52 bears per square mile and thus requiring a management action plan by NHFG to reduce the overall population by 32 percent.

Certain WMUs, though, such as those in NHFG's White Mountains and in Central and Southeast regions, far exceed the ideal population.

In the White Mountains, the current population is 1.58 bears per square mile, nearly double NHFG's 2016-2025 management goal of .8 bears per square mile.

NHFG's WMUs in its North region, which stretches from southern Coos County to the Canadian border, have a current estimated population of .65 bears per square mile, which is nearly in line with the 2016-2025 management goal of .6 bears per square mile and requires stabilization as the plan and not population decrease.

Statewide in 2022, hunters took 1,156 bears, the second highest harvest in New Hampshire's history.

General hunting season for bears begins in most WMUs on Sept. 1 and ends in November.

Some units allow hunting by bait and hounds.

In addition to reducing the White Mountains bear population, NHFG is working to address what has been a growing number of motherless cubs.

"We're seeing an increase in the number of orphaned cubs on the landscape in recent years, particularly in 2019 and last year, in years when they have poor food conditions and bears are more vulnerable," said Timmins. "There's a lot of factors that lead to that. Bears are getting shot due to conflicts in the summer as well as getting struck by motor vehicles, but decisions by hunters are also a factor."

In New Hampshire, hunters can shoot mother bears that still have cubs.

Those cubs, if captured before they die, are taken to rehabilitation centers until they reach an age where they can be released back into the wild.

"What we're planning to do is create an educational video that we will have up and running by this summer," said Timmins. "We're asking that bear hunters take 10 minutes to sit down and watch the video. We're going to try to educate hunters on ways

that they can avoid this and give some reasons to be a little more conservative within their bear harvest, because ultimately it's not helpful to have these cubs orphaned. It's not a good image for bear hunters and it puts a lot of responsibility on both biologists and rehabilitation facilities."

### WMRSD Educators Call For Full-Time Preschool

WHITEFIELD — Young kids need more help.

However, there isn't enough money.

The White Mountains Regional School District was forced to slash \$750,000 in projected spending after the annual meeting voters rejected the proposed budget in March and imposed the default budget.

As part of those cuts, the district leadership team scuttled plans for full-time, five-day preschool and recommended a scaled-back part-time, four-day program for three- and four-year-olds.

According to school administrators, it was an unfortunate but necessary decision to maintain core services.

However, WMRSD educators Emily Robertson and Morgan Kopp want the school district to reconsider.

"...FURTHER BEHIND"

Appearing before the school board on April 20, Robertson and Kopp said the plan would hurt learning readiness.

Fewer kids would enroll in preschool because of the transportation challenges posed by a half-day schedule, and those who do enroll would learn less because a big chunk of the 2 1/2 hour, half-day schedule would be eaten up by meal time, recess, settling in and packing up, they said.

Robertson, a Whitefield Elementary math teacher and mother of children ages two, four, and six and math teacher at Whitefield Elementary, said working families like hers would be unable to ferry preschoolers in the middle of the day.

"My second child who turned four in December [has] been eager to attend preschool at Whitefield [Elementary] but the return to half day [preschool] would keep him from doing so. His father and I both work full time and are unable to transport him mid-morning to and from child care in Twin Mountain where we live," Robertson said. "Even as a teacher in the school he would be attending we can't get him there. This means he may not be able to start from school until kindergarten at which point you will be five years and nine months old."

Kopp, a Kindergarten teacher at Lancaster Elementary and mother of a four-year-old, said the tight half-day schedule would worsen the existing problem of students entering her class without baseline reading comprehension skills.

"Next year, when we have our Kindergarten students coming in, those four-year-olds who will be five-year-olds are going to be further behind," Kopp said.

Superintendent Marion Anastasia explained the school district could not revert to the full-time five-day Pre-K plan because it would require an additional 3.5 staff positions, which cannot be hired under the default budget.

As a compromise, Robertson suggested four-day, full-time

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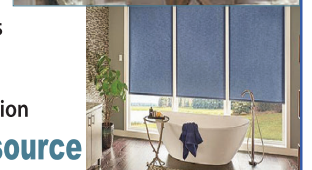


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Pre-K for four-year-olds to address transportation issues and Kindergarten readiness and that three-year-olds be limited to special education services only.

According to Anastasia, the district leadership team will reconvene to consider Robertson's recommendation.

Meanwhile the district is expected to re-submit plans for full-time five-day preschool for ages 3/4 at a later date.

### STATE FUNDING

The preschool matter relates to a bigger issue.

New Hampshire provides the lowest amount of state funding for public education in the country, downshifting the burden onto local taxpayers.

"When the state decides that the cost of providing an adequate education to our kids is a quarter of what it really costs to educate kids in the state of New Hampshire, we're not even like in the same library forget being on the same page with the same book," said school board member Kirsten Van Bergen-Buteau.

She called on Concord lawmakers to fully fund education and invest in statewide Pre-K in the best interest of New Hampshire's children.

"The district has worked really hard for a very long time to push Pre-K supports into our communities because we see the value in that," Van Bergen-Buteau said. "But without policy-driven support and financial support from our state leadership, the entire burden of pre-K falls on our local taxpayers. And what we heard loud and clear this year from the local taxpayers is that they couldn't support the full burden of what we think is best for our kids, and that's how we get to a default budget."

Addressing Robertson and Kopp, she added, "We're not the only body that can benefit from hearing this information loudly, regularly, and in constructive ways like the two of you have brought this information."

"Our elected representatives and senators and governor and our appointed Commissioner of Education need to hear as well, and particularly from teachers who know, what this means in terms of Child Development and long-term trajectory of children's ability to learn and be the graduates we want them to be in the state of New Hampshire."

### Littleton Removes Slip-Prone Green-Painted Crosswalks

LITTLETON — For the town's crosswalks, the green is out and the piano keys are in.

In November, following several citizen complaints and concerns, town officials discussed removing the green-painted crosswalks because the paint, while aesthetically pleasing, was a slip hazard, especially during wet and icy conditions.

Soon after Main Street reconstruction, the town had double-white line crosswalks (no longer used by the state).

But several years ago, the double white lines were removed to enhance the area, and the green

paint was applied to the crosswalks on streets including Main, Union, Cottage, and West Main.

This month, crews were out sandblasting the green away, intending to redo the crosswalks with the standard and less slick black-and-white "piano keys," with the majority of the crosswalks expected to be completed by Friday.

The piano keys crosswalks, now the state standard for crosswalks, are painted white steps, but not with paint that makes for a slip hazard.

In all, 23 crosswalks are getting the makeover, Bill Sargent, operations foreman at the Littleton Department of Public Works, said April 20.

"Everything that was green is gone," he said. "The only thing left is the opera house."

In speaking with L&D Striping, the entity contracted to do the work, the opera house intersection, because of how busy it is, will need to be done at night, but the nighttime temperatures are presently not conducive to painting, he said.

"So we're going to attack the opera house intersection in a couple of weeks, along with the crosswalk by Jax Jr.," said Sargent.

The green crosswalks on Cottage Street and West Main Street will also be ground off, though not by the town and instead by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, which will include the work as part of state paving projects on both streets.

"They are doing the grinding and they will repaint those when everything is all done," said Sargent.

The material on all redone crosswalks will be white and retro-reflective and will be the standard piano keys that one sees in many other places, he said.

The opera house intersection, because of its location and being a busy intersection with a traffic light that must meet certain state standards, will get parallel striping from one side to the other.

Spring weather has also allowed other Littleton DPW projects to begin.

As the town completes the crosswalks, DPW has hired a contractor to do in-town street sweeping, which Sargent said is nearing completion.

"We are doing out-of-town sweeping with the machinery that we have and we are gearing up for another busy season of paving around town," he said.

### Three N.H. Towns To Study Feasibility Of A Regional Police Department

Following the March town meeting, three towns in northern Grafton County are embarking on a no-cost feasibility study to determine if it's worth it, in terms of cost and coverage, to implement a regional police department.

If practical, the towns could go back to voters for the 2024 town meeting with numbers and a proposal.

The committee undertaking the study will meet for the first time in May.

"We'll look at the numbers and see what it would entail and what it would look like," Lisbon Board of Selectmen Chairman Scott Champagne.

On March 14, Lisbon voters passed Article

13, which asked them if their town should conduct, with surrounding towns, a feasibility study with interested towns for a regional police department.

Each town will provide a Select Board member or their designee and other committee members by board appointment to conduct a meeting at least once a month, with no money to be expended and the results of the study to be available by March 2024.

In addition to Lisbon, articles were presented to Lyman, Bath, Landaff, and Monroe voters.

The idea had been for the five towns, but voters in Landaff and Monroe rejected the study, leaving Lisbon, Lyman, and Bath willing to look into the feasibility.

The idea for a regional police department was conceived by Lisbon Police Chief Benjamin Bailey and part-time Bath Police Chief Todd Eck, who had approached Bailey about the idea.

At Lisbon's town meeting, Bailey said the concept of the regionalization study is to look at cost, equipment, grants, and personnel.

A possibility is a part-time police chief with a certain number of full-time officers.

If all five towns participated, the costs would go down, and there would be more coverage and more people for less money, Bailey said to town

meeting voters.

But now the five have been reduced to three.

"Both the chief of Lisbon and chief of Bath put together this whole thing and looked at some potential numbers, but it would depend on who passed it and who didn't," said Champagne. "So we'll get together with whoever the Lyman and Bath reps on the committee are going to be and start talking about feasibility and does it make sense to go forward with just the three and what would it cost?"

Small-town police departments have been challenged in recent years as they try to maintain an adequate staffing level in an era where it's hard to find qualified candidates and people who want to become police officers and where some existing officers take jobs in other municipalities because of higher pay, and all while some towns are experiencing higher levels of crime and calls for service.

Eck, who used to work as a police officer in Lisbon, has noted more activity in Bath, said Champagne.

"[Bailey and Eck] started talking about it because Bath has gotten more criminal charges and investigations as of late, and he is one person

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## Al Smith Appointed As Littleton Middle-High School Principal

LITTLETON — After a non-public session that lasted less than 10 minutes on April 19 evening, the Littleton School Board voted unanimously to appoint Al Smith as the permanent principal of Daisy Bronson Middle School/Littleton High School.

Smith has served the Littleton School District SAU 84 for more than three decades and served as the principal of DBMS/LHS before becoming director of LHS's career and technical education center.

Since November, Smith has served as interim DBMS/LHS principal after Principal Mark Fiorentino was placed on paid administrative leave.

As part of Fiorentino's settlement with the district, he will remain on paid leave until June 30.

Smith will be in the first year of a three-year contract, making him principal through the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

Littleton School Board Chairman Matt St. John made the motion to transfer Smith into the position of DBMS/LHS principal, consistent with the recommendation from SAU 84 Superintendent William Hart and with instruction to Hart to review Smith's contract and make any recommended revisions to the board, including the possibility of extending out the date of Smith's contract.

School board member Travis Howard seconded the

motion.

In an announcement to the Littleton school community, the Littleton School Board and Hart said, "At the recommendation of the Superintendent, the School Board voted unanimously to transfer Al Smith into the position of Principal of the Daisy Bronson Middle School/Littleton High School, cementing Mr. Smith's role as Principal both for this academic year and into the future. Mr. Smith's current contract runs through the end of the 2024-2025 academic year.

"Mr. Smith's exemplary leadership during the last several months, and — more broadly — during the last several decades, have earned him a stellar reputation among students, staff, parents, and the broader community," they said. "Mr. Smith has worked in the Littleton School District for 34 years. He was the Littleton High School Principal for 11 years and Assistant Principal for eight years. For the last 12 years, Mr. Smith has served as the Director of our Career and Technical Center. We are confident that DBMS/LHS School will flourish under Mr. Smith's leadership. Please join us in congratulating Mr. Smith and welcoming him into his new position."

The board's vote transferred Smith's current contract, which has been in effect since July 1, 2022, and cements that Smith will serve as principal next year and beyond, said St. John.

With Smith taking the reins as principal, the CTE director position will be posted, said St. John.

## Principal

Continued from Page 2

want to continue with our competency work."

Another goal is to advance the Universal Design for Learners program, which Smith said is instruction that meets the needs of every student.

"We have students at a variety of levels, in academics and social-emotional health," he said. "We are all over the board and we want to reach out and have all of our students be successful. We're going to continue the social-emotional work that we've been doing."

In addition, he plans to help the schools identify issues around climate and culture and make the schools a better better for teachers, staff, and students.

"We're partway through that work now and we're definitely going to continue that," said Smith. "We have some goals we've created around school safety and respect issues, and that work will certainly continue."

Regarding the CTE, he said he wants to expand the work around creating pathways for students, be it pathways that lead to college or pathways that lead to work and careers.

"In education through the years, we've tried to do one set of curricula or one set of pathways for all students and I think we have to diversify that," said Smith.

The pathway for a student who wants to be an electrician, for instance, can involve the CTE as well as other courses that can be aligned, he said.

And for students who want to go on to a four-year school, LHS, because it's a small school, might lack courses for those students, but the school can partner with White Mountains Community College, said Smith, who has had conversations with WMCC President Chuck Lloyd.

"Our enrollment is telling us we're not in a position to hire more teachers, but how do we work more closely with the college to create more opportunities for those students?" he said. "We might not be able to offer the higher-end courses here, but we want to continue working with [Lloyd] so we can create that college pathway for those students."

The goal is pathways to careers in general, whether a student wants to be a lawyer, journalist, electrician, or work in any occupation, said Smith.

"We're going to create that pathway for you," he said. "My statement to every student is you need to do something post-secondary, even if it's doing an apprenticeship. You can't just get your diploma and walk into a decent-paying job you can advance in."

Another part of the program of studies is ensuring that students have a five-year plan.

While eighth-graders are often focused on how they will complete high school in the next five years, those in the 10th grade are looking beyond high school and can more clearly identify where they want to be heading, said Smith.

"A great goal would be for every kid who's sitting on the stage getting a diploma to have a plan," he said. "Obviously, plans are subject to change, but they have a sense where they are headed and they will hopefully take advantage of the coursework here and accumulate some college credits and have a plan that makes sense for them."

Initial conversations with teachers indicate that teachers are embracing that way of thinking, said Smith.

While the middle-high school has assets and programs to build on, it also has challenges to navigate.

"The biggest challenge I see from my last tour of duty at the principal's office is finding teachers," said Smith. "We've had an opening for a math teacher for a year. And it's not just Littleton, it's everywhere. People I talk with just can't find personnel. I'm finding that extremely difficult. We are not immune to the employment issue that other people are suffering from."

Today, not as many people are going into the teaching profession. And for those who do go into the profession, schools in the region often compete against one another by offering the highest salary they can afford, said Smith.

"It's a huge challenge," he said. "Math and science and language arts, it's critically important that you have good people in those roles ... We can't afford to lose any of our good teachers. We are trying to be creative, but we need bodies in the classroom. I think that would be my number one challenge, to find good people that you can build programs around."

Smith said he is up to the challenge and the work ahead.

"I want to work closely with the Crusader community, our faculty, staff, students, and parents," he said. "We're all in this together so we need to work together."

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on a part-time basis," said Champagne. "So they started talking how to spread this around and make it beneficial for all the small towns around here to have some type of coverage. They went around to each town and presented it to put it on a warrant article for a study. It's thinking outside the box, it's something different."

While some smaller towns, such as Monroe and Lyman, are covered by New Hampshire State Police, NHSP has reached the point where it is sometimes short on manpower and can't get to everything, he said.

On a smaller scale, Landaff, for the past several years, has paid Lisbon money for police coverage in Landaff for a few hours a week.

Any regional police department, though, might

need approval beyond the local town level.

Because some of the towns use different courts (Lisbon and Lyman, for instance, use Littleton Circuit Court while Bath uses Haverhill Circuit Court), state representatives and the New Hampshire Judicial Branch might need to become involved and a determination made if it's more beneficial for the towns to use one court, in Haverhill, said Champagne.

"We can't do that on our level, but state reps and the court system can do it," he said.

And a question that needs to be answered is if a new state law must be created to allow a regional police department among the towns, said Champagne.

"You might need special authority to create and do that in those three towns," he said. "The feasibility study will have to look into how this can be done and how we can go forward with it or if we have to wait because it needs a special RSA through the state reps."

"It won't affect the availability but it does affect the bandwidth, in terms of who's out there that can help a municipality, private business or non-profit to access those programs. Grants have become incredibly complex, both applying for them and managing them," Corey said.

"If you don't have somebody experienced — who knows the systems, the agencies, and the programs and can write you a competitive application — then you won't get the grant."

"And if you do get the grant, it has to be properly managed. We've certainly seen more than one example where folks have been able to capture a grant, either through writing it themselves or with the help of another entity or consultant. But then, once they've got the grant, there was no one there to manage it. They got in a difficult place. And [NCIC] got called in by the grant-awarding agency to step in and help clean this up. It's a real need out there."

another failed attempt at water protection," said Doucette. "Most important, your work can make certain New Hampshire never again uses the existing and frightening 200-foot setback rule as a buffer between landfills and perennial water bodies."

She said the process would most likely require a timeline that cannot be set in advance at 24 months.

State Rep. Peter Bixby, D-Dover, said he's concerned that if the new setback rules are not adopted within 24 months, the state will return to the current rules, with which it has had problems.

State Rep. Sherry Dutzy, D-Nashua, said her concern is that the state had HB 56, and with what it already knows about groundwater flows, is "kicking the can down the road for another two years."

Of those who watched the hearing online, SB 61 in its current form had 47 people in favor and 81 opposed.

State Rep. Judy Aron, R-South Acworth, who chairs the House Environment and Agriculture Committee, said the plan is to bring the two bills back to a committee discussion on May 9, discuss any amendments that would be given to committee members in advance, and then vote to recommend or not recommend the bills.

## NCIC

Continued from Page 6

NCIC President Peter Corey said current loans would not be impacted.

However, ongoing grant management would shift to other entities, contractors or freelancers.

"It's not uncommon for a grant award period to be three to four years. So some of those grant awards we manage will outlive us," Corey said.

The goal, said Corey, is for the organizations' work to continue through a more stable and sustainable partner.

While NCIC's dissolution will not impact grant availability in the region, it will pose challenges to future grant applications and management.

Grant writing and management has become increasingly complicated and time intensive, making it difficult for small entities to secure funding.

## Landfill

Continued from Page 7

we're presented with is a take it or leave it option," said Germana. "That's not how the legislative process is intended to work ... You guys do a great job and I think it will be done in 24 months. That's another reason why I don't think we need to have this statement that it will revert to the old rules."

Nancy Morrison, a Whitefield property owner, said SB 61 would be a much better bill if it is amended so DES cannot accept and process new landfill siting permits during the two-year study period.

Whitefield resident Sarah Doucette said several thousand residents during the last four years have called on the New Hampshire Legislature and the governor to implement responsible siting of landfills to protect the environment, families, and communities.

An amendment to SB 61 can be put in place to better protect New Hampshire waters and public health, she said.

"Anything short of that will leave the state with an empty process and illegitimate outcome and yet

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