

SORRENTO NEWSLETTER

November 2025

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

townoffice@sorrentomaine.org www.sorrentomaine.org

OFFICE HOURS

Office will be closed Nov 27th & 28th in honor of

Monday: 8 am – 3 pm **Thanksgiving**

If Monday is a holiday the office will be open

The following Tuesday

Wednesday: 9am-5pm

Friday: 7 am – Noon

Office Staff

Town Clerk: Sherri Tracey

sherri-townclerk@sorrentomaine.org

Deputy Clerk/Registrar of Voters:

Joanne Holmes

townoffice@sorrentomaine.org

Select Board:

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

Hilly.crary@sorrentomaine.org

Rob Wilpan 207-422-9115 term expires 2027

rob.wilpan@sorrentomaine.org

Sue Macey 781-560-3414 term expires 2028

Sue.macey@sorrentomaine.org

Code Enforcement Officer & Plumbing Inspector:

Stephen Cox 207-263-6887

dennysriverpipe@yahoo.com

Fire Chief/Road Commissioner/Public Safety Officer:

Joey Clark 207-812-2208 term expire 2027

tonkajoe801@yahoo.com

Harbormaster:

Lou Sutherland Jr 207-266-5706

harbormaster@sorrentomaine.org

E-911 Addressing Officer:

Maggi McCaw

911officer@sorrentomaine.org

Public Access Officer

Maggi McCaw

Public.access@sorrentomaine.org

RSU 24 School Board Member:

Newbold Noyes 207-422-3396 term expires 2026

nnoyes@rsu24.org

Hancock County Animal Control

Daniel McKay ACO 207-460-0623

Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Conservation Warden

Michael Boucher 207-479-0620

Reminders from the Clerk

Now is time to register your dog

Licenses will be available at the office or online

October 15th thru January 31st

1st half of taxes were due 9/30/2025

They are now accruing interest. Please contact the
Town Office for the current amount due

Select Board Meetings

11/5/2025 & 11/19/2025

SORRENTO SELECT BOARD MEETINGS

Are held the first and third Wednesday of each month

7:00 p.m.

In person at the Sorrento Community Building

and via ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86535623920?pwd=d010ajZHVE9sbStmQXpZSGMzZkNwUT09>

[ajZHVE9sbStmQXpZSGMzZkNwUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86535623920?pwd=d010ajZHVE9sbStmQXpZSGMzZkNwUT09)

Meeting ID: 865 3562 3920

Passcode: 307652

Sorrento Comprehensive Plan Committee

The latest draft is with the State for review.

Please visit the Sorrento town website for info
on reading and making comments.

<https://www.sorrentome.org/>

PLANNING BOARD MEETING

Regularly scheduled meetings will resume

First Thursday of each month

Sorrento Town Office 6PM

Meetings in person unless otherwise noted on

www.sorrentome.org

planningboard@sorrentomaine.org

November 4, 2025

Referendum Election

Sorrento Community Building

8AM to 8PM

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

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

Minimum Fee \$1 up to \$40.00

2.5% Fee on charges \$40 and over



UPDATED and APPROVED (10/15/2025)

Town of Sorrento

FOAA Policy Regarding Requests for Public Records

1. If a citizen wants to inspect the records in person, the requester must make an appointment with staff at the Town Office for a time during office hours when it is convenient for the staff.
2. Or requester can ask for copies to be made and mailed to them, (there is a fee for this).
3. A FOAA Public Records request form must be filled out, either by requester or by Town Office.
4. FOAA request do not require a reason.
5. Request form is kept in FOAA binder.
6. Town Office must acknowledge the request within 5 working days.
7. Request must be fulfilled in a “reasonable amount of time” based on the nature of the request.
8. A private citizen is not allowed to have unsupervised access to municipal records.
9. Records may not be lost, altered or damaged.
10. If your request requires a memory stick you must purchase one from the Town Office for \$5.00. You may not supply your own, as to prevent viruses as stated under government guidance.
11. State rules for copy fees are currently \$.10 per page, and for staff time over the first 2 hours are \$25 per hour. Fees may change.

FOAA NOTICE

**For your convenience,
FOAA requests to access public documents
will be honored by appointment only for
adequate accessibility**

Town of Sorrento Select Board (SB) Meeting Minutes October 1, 2025 Community Building - 7 pm

Present: Hilly Crary, Rob Wilpan, Sue Macey, several observers.

1. Crary called to order at 7:00 PM.
 - a. Good News Report: Grant reimbursements received from FEMA and MEMA for the Ocean Avenue repair work for over \$900,000.
 - b. Bad New Report: Severe drought.
2. Minutes of September 17 and September 24, 2025. **Motion was made and seconded to approve. Motion passed: Crary aye, Wilpan aye, Macey aye.**
- 3 Disbursement and Payroll Warrants #7. **Motion was made and seconded to approve the payroll warrant and to approve the disbursement warrant conditionally after checking with the auditor regarding the three charitable disbursements from prior years. Motion passed: Crary aye, Wilpan aye, Macey aye.**
4. Adjustments to the agenda. None.

Unfinished Business:

5. Update Ocean Ave : repairs/construction/steps/plantings/culvert. **A motion was made and seconded to approve pavement restoration work on Ocean Avenue as recommended by Walsh Engineering for \$64,500 beyond the original contract amount. Motion passed: Crary aye, Wilpan aye, Macey aye.**
6. Community Building updates. **A motion was made and seconded to approve allocating \$1,400 for material from the repairs to town property account; these funds will be used to renovate the old furnace room in the Town Hall, converting it into a break room for the town staff. Motion passed: Crary aye, Wilpan aye, Macey aye.** Dale is kindly volunteering to do the labor, free of charge.
7. Pollinator Meadow update. General discussion.
8. Abatements per auditor request. **A motion was made and seconded to approve various property tax abatements for unpaid back taxes, as per auditor request, totaling \$7,974.12. Motion passed: Crary aye, Macey aye, Wilpan aye.**
9. Board of Appeals appointment. The first organizational meeting will be October 8, 2025. **Due to one member resigning, a motion was made and seconded to appoint Newbold (Terry) Noyes to the Town of Sorrento, Board of Appeals. Motion passed: Crary aye, Macey aye, Wilpan aye.**
10. BlueHost mail server update. The Sorrento Town Clerk has requested an appointment to meet with Roy Gott, the Sorrento IT contractor, to review the use of BlueHost mail server for the town email and discuss alternatives. **A motion was made and seconded to allow these discussions, with the possibility of a selectboard member joining. Motion passed: Crary aye, Macey aye, Wilpan aye.**

New Business:

11. Agenda request from Susan Dougherty regarding Planning Board procedures, via **email** with subject 'REQUEST TO BE ON SELECT BOARD 10/1/2025 AGENDA PLANNING BOARD OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES' dated 2025-09-22 from Susan Dougherty sent to Hilly Crary. A copy of the email can be found in the Town Correspondence File in the Town Office.

Point 1: Request mandatory FOAA training for all Planning Board (PB) members, and for the selectboard to review procedures regarding meeting and minutes with the PB.

Remediation: Hilly Crary will attend the 10/2/2025 PB and review FOAA requirements with the members. The Town of Sorrento tracks all FOAA training details applicable to the town.

Point 2: Legal counsel regarding quorum for PB if 3 members have to recuse themselves.

Remediation: Hilly will seek legal counsel regarding a few points. **(1) A motion was made and seconded to allow Hilly to seek legal counsel for guidance on steps to be taken if the PB does not have a quorum due to recusals. Motion passed: Crary aye, Macey aye, Wilpan aye. (2) A motion was made and seconded to allow Hilly to seek legal counsel for a second matter; the purpose is to gain guidance on whether individuals who either wrote the letter soliciting donations to the Dougherty Legal Defense Fund or donated to the legal fund need to recuse themselves when discussing Dougherty permits or other related matters. Motion passed: Crary aye, Macey aye, Wilpan aye.**

Point 3: PB and Town Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) to operate within their powers and duties as outlined in state and municipal ordinances.

Remediation: Hilly will attend the Oct. 2 PB meeting and review these policies with the board. The CEO will be attending.

Point 4: Comprehensive plan overview. Remediation: The plan is being submitted to the state. See #12 below.

Point 5: Policy for Legal Counsel. Remediation: Policy will be created that requires Selectboard approval before seeking legal guidance.

12. Comprehensive plan submittal form. The Comprehensive plan submittal form was signed by Hilly Crary and Ann Hoffner as requested by the Hancock County Planning Commission.

13. Ballot clerk appointments. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the ballot clerk appointments for November 4th, 2025. Motion passed: Crary aye, Macey aye, Wilpan aye.**

14. Citizen Petitions. Receipt acknowledged of 3 petitions.

15. Agenda request from B. Malmrose regarding the Community Building and the Pollinator Meadow. Not discussed as Mr. Malmrose was not present.

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

1. There is a request from the public that voting on the Comprehensive Plan be timed and conducted in a way that allows for maximum public participation. This includes making provisions for absentee voting if possible. Board members agreed.

Motion to adjourn at 8:53 PM was made and seconded!!! Motion passed: Crary aye, Wilpan aye, Macey aye.

Dog Licenses

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

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

****Any dog living in the Town of Sorrento must have a Sorrento license/tag.**



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

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

Online licensing is available October 15 thru January 31

www.apps1.web.maine.gov

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

**The Community Building is reserved November 4th
Please contact the town office to reserve
The Community Building or the Village Green**

Greetings from RSU #24

It is hard to believe that we are close to the end of October and that the colder weather is just around the corner. With roughly seven weeks of school completed, our schools seem to be operating smoothly and our students and staff settled in for the year.

The RSU Board of Directors approved our strategic plan that will serve the district through 2030. After soliciting feedback from the various stakeholder groups, the mission statement is as follows:

"Regional School Unit No. 24 educates all students through relevant and engaging instruction to become lifelong learners and contributing citizens."

And the mission statement:

"Regional School Unit No. 24 will empower every Pre-K through adult learner to reach their full potential in a supportive, inclusive, and future-ready learning environment. Through innovation, collaboration, and high expectations, we will cultivate curiosity, character, and a commitment to lifelong learning and community engagement."

In the coming weeks, we will be sharing the complete strategic plan and I encourage you to check it out to understand the focus of our work moving forward.

From the Sumner Sports Boosters:

The Sumner Athletics Boosters has had a busy and rewarding fall season supporting our student-athletes through concessions at soccer and volleyball games. Our year-long goal is to provide a Sumner Athlete sweatshirt to every participating student — a symbol of pride in our teams and school spirit. We're proud to say that middle and high school athletes from soccer, volleyball, and cross country proudly wore their Sumner blue this fall!

As we look ahead to winter, we're gearing up to support basketball, cheering, and indoor track. Our main fundraising efforts during this season include running concessions at all middle and high school home games. Basketball season, in particular, draws strong crowds from both home and visiting teams, making this an essential part of our fundraising.

We would be incredibly grateful for any community support — whether it's volunteering in the concession stand alongside a Booster or donating baked goods or hot crockpot meals. Every contribution helps make our efforts successful and directly benefits our student-athletes.

If you're interested in helping, please contact:

- Lucille Null – lnull@rsu24.org
- Ginny Dennison – ginnydennison@gmail.com
- Cindy Crowley – cindylcrowley@gmail.com

If email isn't your preferred method of contact, feel free to call Sumner Memorial High School at 207-422-3510, and we'll gladly get back to you.

Thank you for considering the Sumner Athletics Boosters, a group worthy of your time and support!

We are certainly blessed to have this group working to support our students!!!!

For those planning ahead, we do not have school on Tuesday, November 11th in honor of Veterans Day. A heartfelt thanks to all that have served our country! In addition, we do not have school on November 26, 27, and 28 as we take a break for Thanksgiving.

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

Sincerely,

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

SULLIVAN HISTORY OF NOTE

On November 20, 1798, the ship "Rachel" was lost off Cape Cod in a terrible storm. All of the men aboard drowned, and all were Sullivan men. The ship was built by John Simpson, and he was the captain. In our collections is a piece of art made by Simpson's grandson

John S. Emery in 1878. It reads:

"This Tablet marks the burial place of Capt. John Simpson of Sullivan Maine, Aged 35 years, Master of the Schooner Rachel of that place, who, with his entire crew consisting of the following persons, viz.:

Paul D. Sargent, Jr. (passenger), William Abbott, Stephen Merchant, Zachariah Hodgkins, and James Springer, were all lost on the wreck of the above vessel near this place in the memorable snow storm November 20th 1798 and afterwards buried here."

Due to ongoing traffic concerns on the Town of Sorrento roads

Rules and Regulations regarding golf carts on Maine public roads

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

To drive on allowed low speed roads:

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

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2093

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

[Rapid Renewal | Vehicle & Trailer Registration Renewal Service](#)

If you would like an email reminder for you motor vehicle registration renewal at the beginning of the month, please send your name and email to:

townoffice@sorrentomaine.org

Online Boat Registration Renewal:

[maine rapid renewal boat registration - Search](#)

Online Fishing and Hunting licenses:

[IFW Hunting & Fishing Licenses | Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife](#)



When transferring your auto registration from your vehicle to a new/newer vehicle, you

MUST bring in the registration of the vehicle you are transferring from.

Sorrento Town Office hours Monday 8am-3pm, Wednesday 9am-5pm and Friday 7am-12pm

Sorrento now has vehicle plates!

EXPIRATION DATES

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

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

Trailers expire in Feb. (1 or 2 years)

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

MOTORCYCLES: Expire March 31st of every year, except antique

SORRENTO SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

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

Please make checks payable to: Sorrento Scholarship Fund

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

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

To submit news or advertise in the Sorrento Newsletter, email townoffice@sorrentomaine.org or call 207-422-6889



The deadline is the 20th of the month.

The Schoodic National Scenic Byway Committee would like to have a member from Sorrento!

If you are interested please email:

info@barbaraeshanahan.com

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

CARTER BROTHER'S SCRAP METAL PICK-UP

Danny Carter 207-422-9120

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

Call us to schedule a pick-up



JUNK
REMOVAL SERVICES

Wyatt Burke
207-460-4353

WE HANDLE YOUR JUNK SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO

We offer great rates
Fast & dependable service
References available
Call today for a quote!

- WEEKLY TRASH PICKUP
- YARD JUNK/WASTE REMOVAL
- FURNITURE/APPLIANCES
- HOUSE CLEANOUTS
- GARAGE, BASEMENT, ATTIC CLEANOUTS
- SNOW SHOVELING
- LEAF BLOWING, RAKING & MULCHING
- AND SO MUCH MORE!

Sorrento Fire Department

BURN PERMITS

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

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

This online service allows you to request an open burning permit from 9am - Midnight, 7 days a week, provided that the fire danger is not high.

www.maineburnpermit.com

Required for burning:

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

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

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

TAKE NOTE

BURNING TRASH IS ILLEGAL!!

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

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

ONLINE BURNING PERMITS

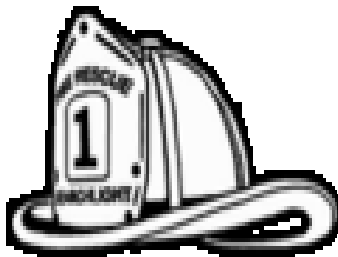
Traditional hand-written burn permits are still available, but the state online system allows permits to be acquired 24 hours a day, seven days a week, throughout the state, provided that the fire danger is not high.

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

SORRENTO FIRE FIGHTER MEMORIAL

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

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



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