

Town of Frenchboro, Maine

Welcome Frenchboro residents and visitors! This document contains helpful information to navigate living on our unique and vibrant island. The character of Frenchboro is deeply rooted in its traditions and maritime heritage, which we work hard to preserve.

Government: Our five-member selectboard meets regularly at the town office and by Zoom. Community members are welcome to join meetings and observe the workings of town government. Issues and comments can be brought to the board or to our town administrator by email (frenchboro@gmail.com)

Our annual town meeting on the third Wednesday in June and the town report comes out a few weeks before that. Everyone is welcome to attend but only registered voters in Frenchboro can vote. The town meeting is held in the fire barn at the town office building. Special town meetings can be called by the select board when there is an issue that needs a town vote.

Town Administrator: Can be reached by email and generally comes out to Frenchboro on round-trip days (1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month).

Town Clerk / Excise Tax: First Tuesday of the month from 10-1 or by appointment.

Treasurer / Tax Collector: He is here on most round-trip Wednesdays.

Post Office: The post office is located in the Municipal Building and is open Monday through Saturday from 10-1. If you order food from TIMS on Swans Island, the postal employees will leave your items in the refrigerator or on the counter in the kitchen. If you pick them up at the boat, please wait in the parking lot until after the postal delivery is complete to get your items. There are only a limited number of post office boxes available. For a one-time fee, a post office box may be available after filling out an application.

Trash on the island: You are responsible for bringing your trash to the town dumpsters across from the town office. There are covered bins for your convenience. These bins are designated for household trash only. If they are full, please hold your trash at home until the next scheduled pickup. Overfilling prevents the lids from closing, which attracts crows and seagulls and leads to scattered waste. Do not leave trash beside or behind the dumpsters. The town arranges regular service to ensure adequate capacity for all residents—your patience and cooperation is appreciated.

If you have construction debris or an excessive amount of trash to get rid of, you need to order a roll off dumpster from: **Gott's Disposal**. Telephone: 207-244-7461 Open: Mon - Fri, 8-4.

From time to time the town provides a roll off dumpster for large items beyond everyday trash. A whole house clean-out or any large bulk amount of trash requires a private roll-off. If you have burnable items or brush, that can be placed behind the small buildings near the road. Do not leave anything toxic. Don't just pile it on the burn pile. **NO TRASH IS TO GO UP TO THE PIT!!** Once or twice a year the town participates in a regional hazardous waste removal program and that will be posted on the two community websites.

Building Permits: Town permits are required for all planned construction of buildings, driveways, docks and related structures or any changes in land use. Frenchboro's 1991 land use ordinance and 2024 shoreland zoning ordinance clarify what uses and standards apply in the four different land use districts (Resource Protection, Shoreland Residential, Rural Development, and General Development). See the town website for information on the

ordinances, the land use map, the building permit application forms, and permit fee schedules. State standards apply for septic installation. The Frenchboro Planning Board reviews all permit applications, and the Board of Appeals hears objections to any Planning Board decisions.

There are currently no stores or restaurants on Frenchboro. You can order grocery items from TIMS- The Island Market & Supply on Swan's Island. Phone: 207-526-4043. Check out their website: Tim's-swans-island.com

Frenchboro Library: Hours are 24/7 all year. There is free internet that is pretty reliable and a couple of computers the public may use while in the library. This is a self-serve library and we ask that you treat it respectfully. We are all volunteers working in the library and are open to new volunteers to help or join the board. There is a sign out ledger next to the desk when borrowing books. Please feel free to make book suggestions. If you are the last one out in the evening, make sure the lights are out and the doors are shut (not locked). Donations of books and money are appreciated.

Frenchboro Historical Museum, Gift Shop and Gallery: Open from July to September, Wednesdays - Sundays, 1-4pm. This is run all by volunteers and has a board that meets 1-2 times a year. Donations are appreciated.

Church: The church is the cornerstone of spiritual and community life, hosting services when a pastor is available. The church is: Outer Long Island Congregational Church, UCC.

Natural Resources: In March 2000, the Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) acquired nearly 1,000 acres, or roughly two-thirds of the island. Since then, additional land was added to the preserve, ensuring continued access and long-term preservation. MCHT works cooperatively with the Town and provides support through payments in lieu of property taxes. There is no camping or fires permitted, and visitors are asked to respect private property boundaries.

Ferry service: Frenchboro is serviced by the Maine State Ferry Service. The schedule and fees can be found on the website: www.msferry.com. You can also call the terminal at 207-244-3254. When using the ferry, it's important to be at the Bass Harbor terminal at least a **half hour** before the ferry is due to leave. On the Frenchboro side, be there at least **15 minutes** before ferry departure even if you have a reservation. **RL Gott** (passenger boat) runs Fridays from the first Friday in April until the last Friday in November. **We share the ferry with Swans Island so make sure you are getting on the one to Frenchboro!**

School: We have a one-room school on the island and are part of AOS #91. There is a three-member school board with rotating terms. Currently, operation of the school has been suspended as we have no students enrolled for the 2025-26 school year. If a family with school age children were to move to the island, we would look to hire a teacher and reopen the school.

EMS and Emergency Services: **Frenchboro does not have emergency services**, which is why residents and visitors should calculate their risks very carefully. As you enjoy the trails, tides, and neighborly charm of Frenchboro, please take a moment to review the following information and tips:

- In case of emergency, DIAL 911 immediately.
- Be sure to inform the dispatcher that you are on the OFFSHORE ISLAND OF FRENCHBORO, Hancock County, Maine.
- Carry a charged phone when hiking or exploring.
- Learn a few local landmarks to help emergency responders locate you.
- AED is available at the Town Municipal Office.