

REPORT OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

The Egremont Agricultural Commission held quarterly meetings throughout FY 2015. We invited anyone interested to come join us. During FY 2015 we had a large amount of change on our board. Our long time chairman David Sheldon retired and was replaced by Carla Turner as acting chairman. We also replaced David's position with Andre Vankov of North Egremont. In September Elizabeth Keen took a years leave of absence as she and her children tour both the USA and South America. Elizabeth has been our secretary since the board was formed. Her absence has been greatly felt as she and David were the two strongest members on our board. Andre is now acting secretary. Peter Maggio has returned as vice-chair and Jennifer Brown has returned as an active voice and member. Because of all the major changes to the board other than answering complaints from towns people the board has basically been learning the ropes.

Once again we added to the Massachusetts Ag in the classroom cause with a \$50 dollar donation. One conference was attended but the member declined to have the reimbursement from the town budget. Two conferences loom in the future and the hope is that a few of the members will be able to attend in this upcoming FY 2016 year.

The Board has decided to post information items in their column of the town newsletter. The last issue was informing towns people of what to expect when our local farmers spread manure and how to approach farmers with important dates so they hopefully can change schedules making big events, happy events. The next of our series is scheduled to be information as to what is eating the heads of local chickens. Both questions which have been brought before the board in the last year.

The only issue we have coming up to the Selectmen will be the need for another member for the commission. The group which we presently have are all finding it hard to make all the meetings even though they are scheduled way in advance. We need a three person quorum and with Elizabeth's absence it is hard to keep the quorum.

Respectfully we submit this report.

Carla Turner, Chairman

Peter Maggio, Vice-Chairman

Andre Vankov, Acting Secretary

Jennifer Brown, Active member

Elizabeth Keen, member on leave of absence

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS
Fiscal Year 2015

The Board of Assessors, along with our assessing staff provided under contract by Regional Resource Group, continue to assure the fair taxation of all Egremont properties.

During the past year, we reorganized and updated assessment records. Other efforts included inspecting property after building permits are processed and auditing property files for accuracy and completeness.

Our Board strives to build and maintain good public relations. We provide our residents with:

1. pertinent information by placing notices in the Egremont newsletter covering topics such as property tax abatement information, statutory exemptions for veterans, legally blind and our elderly property owners, and specialty properties including Forest, Agricultural, and Recreational land.
2. abutters lists required for property permits,
3. mailings to those eligible for special tax classification and exemptions,
4. assistance in completing forms for residents who are eligible for exemptions.
5. current property ownership information by processing registered deeds, name and address changes,
6. motor vehicle excise abatements,
7. information on a host of tax and property assessment issues.

As the town's principal revenue generator, the Assessors are constantly on the lookout for properties subject to taxation. We seek to enhance tax revenues by:

1. identifying second homeowners whose household furnishings are subject to taxation; along with businesses that have inventory or fixtures that may be taxable. We have added several parcels to the Personal Property tax records that had previously not been inventoried;
2. making sure that new construction is monitored and assessed, and that property given a certificate of occupancy is taxed at the fully assessed value;
3. reviewing prior years' deeds to verify current property values;
4. monitoring individual assessments to insure that abatements are kept to a minimum, and
5. assuring that all requests for abatements are reasonable and properly processed.

Other office activities included:

1. photographing structures and attaching those photos to computerized assessment records, processing land divisions,
2. reviewing and processing abatement requests,
3. processing personal property forms and chapter land applications,
4. preparing various Department of Revenue reports.

Our GIS mapping system is available online through the Town's website.

Our office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9AM-12Noon. We and our Regional Assessor from RRG are also available by appointment. Residents can contact us by e-mail at assessors@egremont-ma.gov or by phone at 413-528 0182, Extension 14. Current property information can be accessed at our website: www.csc-ma.us/Egremont.

Town of Egremont

Information:

Total Parcels	1159
Total Acres	13,060.55
Acres in Agriculture	2,316.10
Owners of Agr. Land	48
# of Agr. Parcels	72
Market value Agr. land	\$29,426,500
Chapter Land Parcels	74
61 (Forest)	17
61A (Agriculture)	55
61B (Recreation)	2
Businesses	74
Single family residences	763
Multiple	20
Vacant	216
Commercial	16
Non-profit organizations *	13

Forms Processed:

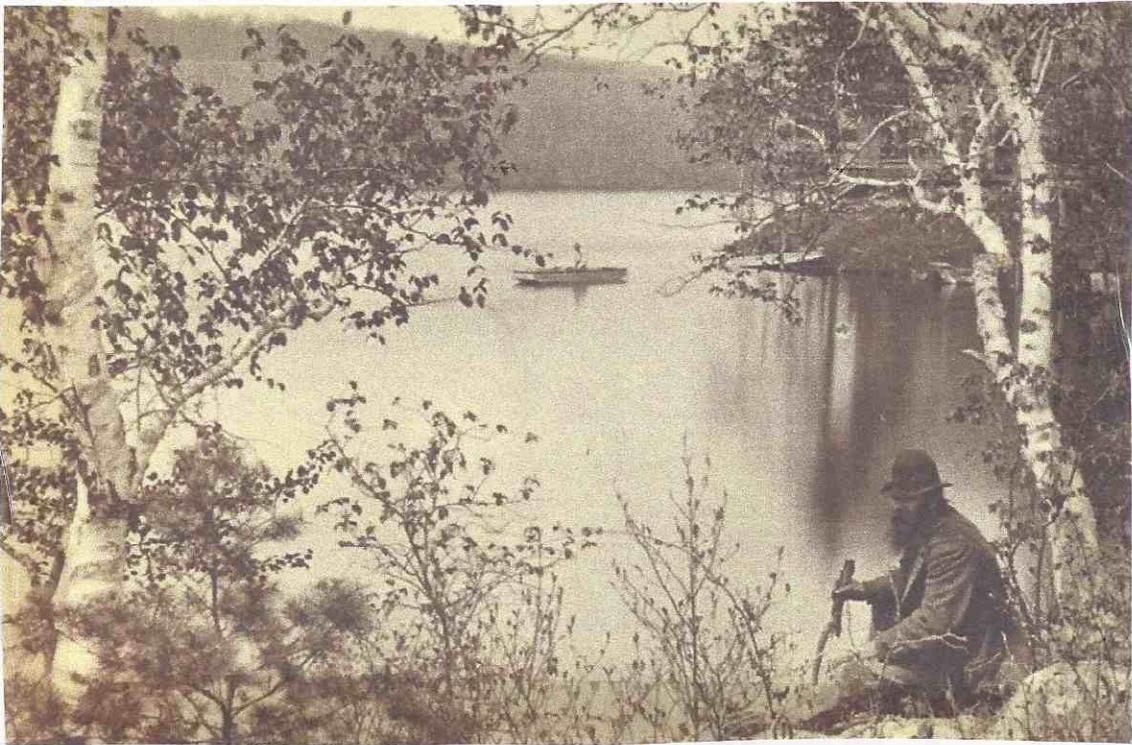
Abutters lists	6
Auto Excise abatements	55
Building Permits	130
Chapter Land forms	74
New Deeds Processed	75
Personal Property forms	343
Statutory Abatements	
Veterans	11
Seniors	2
Legally Blind	2

Non-Profit Organizations:

Name	Parcels	Acres
Appalachian Trail Conservancy	6	224.636
USA Appalachian Trail	10	195.53
Berkshire Natural Resources	1	50
Berkshire Village	1	10.6
Blue Rider Stable	3	12.15
Churches	2	1.82
Egremont Land Trust	7	98.52
Mt Everett Reservation	1	16
Mt. Everett Cemetery Association	1	2.77
Nature Conservancy	9	143.76

Town of Egremont and Egremont Fire Department	17	543.09
United States of America	6	95.23
Commonwealth of Massachusetts	21	2778.57

Robin Goldberg
Florence Browner



*View of Prospect Lake from the corner on the road circa 1890. Cliff house in the background.
Photo courtesy of Gary Leveille.*

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BUILDINGS
FY 2015

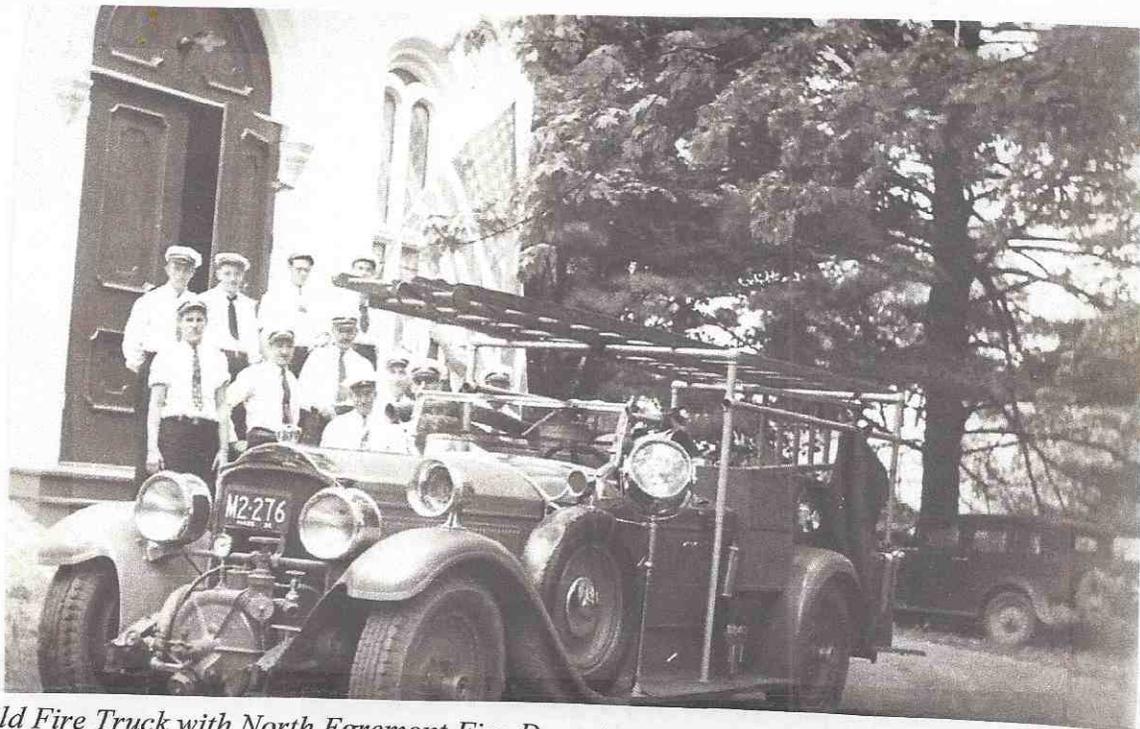
During the fiscal year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 a total of 127 Permits were issued. The permit fees collected and turned over to the Treasurer were \$30,540.00

A breakdown by category follows below.

New Dwellings	4
Additions & Alterations	46
Accessory Structures & Garages	4
Porch & Decks	5
Repairs	4
Demolition	5
Roofs	22
Sheet Metal	2
Temporary Structure	2
Wood Stove	7
Solar Installation	26

Respectfully Submitted,

Ned Baldwin
Building Commissioner



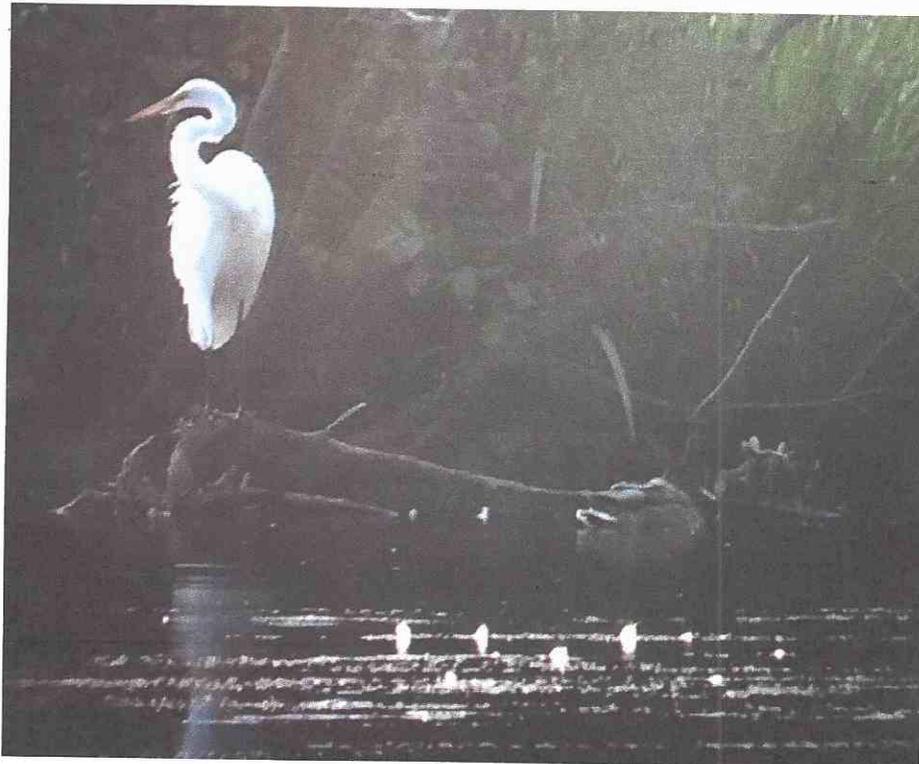
*Old Fire Truck with North Egremont Fire Department members in front of the old Men's Club.
Photo courtesy of Cynthia Boice Stoltz.*

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

We have maintained, with mowing, trimming, and some monument resets, the three town cemeteries this year. They are Hillside Cemetery, on Hillside Drive, a left off of Route 71, past the North Fire Station; Riverside Cemetery on the right side of Route 71, past North Egremont Center; and Town House Hill Cemetery at the intersection of Phillips Road and Town House Hill Road.

We work closely with Richard Atwood, Jr of A&A memorials for internments and monument work at our cemeteries. Any questions about our town cemeteries should be directed towards our Chairman, Henry D. Granger or our clerk, David D. Campbell.

Respectfully submitted,
Henry Granger, Chairman
David D. Campbell, Clerk
Herman Trudeau



Snowy Egret visiting Smiley's Pond

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

There are two levels of permits issued by the Commission. One is called a Determination of Applicability which is issued by a property owner's submission of a Request for Determination. In this case the Commission determines whether or not a project is in a wetland resource area and/or in a buffer zone, or out of jurisdiction. The extent of work is a determinate. A public hearing is required with only a newspaper posting. In this past fiscal year, there were 12 Requests, half of which were for septic system upgrades. The remaining six varied from removing invasives to grading to culvert outlet repairs. Eleven determinations were issued with one remaining in the new fiscal year.

The higher level of permit is called an Order of Conditions which is required if the project is not only in jurisdiction, but in a resource area. Applicants submit a Notice of Intent which includes engineered plans. In addition to the newspaper posting of the hearing, abutters are also notified. Two Notices were received and Orders issued; one for removal of invasives and the other to raise and lower a pond. The Commission can issue Enforcement Orders for unpermitted work, wrongly executed work, or neglect of a resource area. Remedial action begins with the submission of a Notice of Intent. Two Enforcements were initiated for wrongly executed work and subsequent Orders of Conditions were issued. Two other Enforcements were issued for neglect to remove silt from a pond. Orders of Conditions were issued in the new fiscal year. Orders of Conditions can be Amended or Extended. The Commission issued one of each.

It is important to note that each Request and Notice must be copied by the applicants to the Department of Environmental Protection for review and comment. Notices receive a file number which is posted at work sites. After each permit issuance, the Commission must copy DEP which has ten working days to overturn or amend the Commission's decision. Any citizen may appeal to the DEP within the same ten day period.

Dave Johnson, Chair
Ben Barrett
Bill Tynan
Penny Pitts (now resigned)
Ted Rubsamen
Alina Hsu (Penny's replacement)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EGREMONT COUNCIL ON AGING
July 2014 through June 2015

Each year we tend to be increasingly active, attempting to reach out to Egremont seniors, and to promote intergenerational activities. However in order to sustain our efforts, we really need more support from the community. We could use help from a few energetic seniors. If you have time and energy to volunteer, please do contact us.

We are pleased that seniors from the town of Mt. Washington are now joining us in several of our projects. They have been active participants in our iPad classes, the Balance Grant, and our monthly lunches. For the next year we are looking to include other towns. This will allow us to expand our friendships, increase participation, and possibly share some of the expenses.

We held six monthly lunches at the Egremont Village Inn. Once again the Inn has been welcoming, gracious, and generous. At one meeting we gave special recognition to seniors 90 and above, at others we showed classic films. We will be continuing these events in the coming year.

The EVI was also the host of our well attended Holiday party. In addition we co-sponsored an over subscribed "Hour of Opera" with the Inn. This event was so outstanding and well received that we have decided to continue the "Hour of..." format in the coming year.

The COA received a Keep Moving Grant, that included an intergenerational Go the Distance One Mile Challenge that we conducted in cooperation with the Rudolph Steiner School. This was our first attempt at getting seniors in Egremont moving, with help from Bonnie Oloff and Vicki Windman. We established a good working alliance with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, allowing us to have several guided Friday walks on the Appalachian Trail. Thanks especially to Dave Johnson and Georgette Kinney we published a brochure "Walking Trails in Egremont" that has been widely distributed by our Town, Kenver's, and the AT Conservancy. Participation was lower than we anticipated, but we are likely to continue this activity, with hopefully greater outreach to those seniors who most need to get moving to improve their health. It is a major challenge to get those seniors who most need to move, to do so.

As part of senior fitness, we sponsored regular senior fitness classes at the Congregational Church, and water exercise classes at the Kilpatrick Center of Simon's Rock College, and will be continuing those. The water exercise classes are very well attended.

The COA participated in the "A Matter of Balance" Grant, held in Town Hall and then in the North Egremont Fire House.

IPad classes for seniors were successfully taught by Vickie Windman in July and August. The feedback was very positive, and we hope to be able to offer them again.

The COA worked closely with AGE (Alford, Great Barrington, Egremont) Triad this year on the matter of improving transportation for seniors in this area. Bruce Bernstein, Chair of the Triad, represented the Egremont COA at monthly meetings of the BRTA, the Berkshire County

Regional Coordinating Council, and the Southern Berkshire Elder Transportation Council. As part of our membership on the Berkshire County RCC, our COA organized a special walk on the Appalachian Trail to support the Berkshire County Clean Air Challenge, and helped establish two days of free rides with SBETC during the Clean Air Challenge Week.

French Park was the site of our Spring luncheon. This included a talk by Elizabeth Keene of Indian Line Farm on growing herbs, and distribution by her of free herbs for planting. As they have all year, the Great Barrington Bagel Shop supplied us with wonderful food at special rates.

The Egremont COA meets the third Thursday of most months from 2-3pm at Town Hall. Our meetings tend to be interesting, and we welcome visitors.

Bruce Bernstein
Chair, Egremont COA



REPORT OF THE ALFORD-EGREMONT CULTURAL COUNCIL

This year, the Alford-Egremont Cultural Council was allotted \$8,800 by the State run and State funded Massachusetts Cultural Council and had a unencumbered balance of \$300 to make a total of \$9,100 to award in local grants. In making grant decisions, the committee followed the carefully structured guidelines of the state program while keeping in mind local needs. Essentially, the committee awarded grants to programs and events that benefit the local community, have a strong cultural component, and have a determined venue and date. As always, more requests for funding were received than the budget allowed, and so the committee members had to make difficult decisions as to who received a grant and which programs were funded.

The mix of programming the Alford-Egremont Cultural Council supported was evenly split between events for children and adults. The local 4-H Club, the Sheffield Whinnies, received aid to compensate for the increase in their annual dues. The Cultural Council grants brought hands-on arts and science programs and a sculpture workshop to our local schools. Trips by students to Plimoth Plantation, the Berkshire Botanical Gardens and the New England Aquarium were sponsored. Local children received scholarships to attend choral and performance groups. Local cultural groups – Berkshire Playwright Lab, the Pythagoras Theatre Works, Music in Common and the Bach Society – received grants to introduce the magic of live theater and music to local children and for the enjoyment of adults. Adult programming also included support for a variety of activities such as a pastel workshop, a ukulele band and a presentation on edible wild plants. In addition, the Cultural Council helped fund the Egremont 1865 Basket Picnic, the Berkshire Human Rights Speaker Series and the Berkshire Festival of Women Writers.



*Firemen Kevin Wheeler and Greg Peck being presented recognition plaques by Fire Chief Bill Turner for 50 years of service to the Egremont Volunteer Fire Department.
Photo courtesy of Jennifer Peck.*

EGREMONT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT
FY 2015

The Egremont Emergency Management Team consisting of the Emergency Management Director, Fire Chief, Police Chief, Board of Health, Highway Superintendent and several other citizens, meets monthly throughout the year. Mandated NIMS (National Incident Management System) trainings are accomplished as courses are updated and new personnel are hired. Monthly meetings of the Southern Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee are attended by several members.

Summer thunderstorms and winter snows and ice provided opportunities to exercise pre-planning and fortunately little damage was realized. The South Egremont Church is used as a reception center in case of emergencies.

Emergency Management Planning Grants were used to update communications, including new radios and computers.

The Town's emergency telephone alert system has been used on several occasions with good results. It is reviewed and updated monthly.

The TEEM continues to work closely with the Alford Egremont Great Barrington TRIAD to provide planning and information for senior citizens as well as those in our town with special needs.

The Egremont Emergency Management Team also meets with other Town Boards as necessary and thanks them for their cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward G. McCormick
Emergency Management Director



*Egremont's newest Fire Truck, Tanker 5, put into service in May of 2015.
Photo courtesy of Roger Meyer.*

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
JULY 1, 2014 through JUNE 30, 2015
Fiscal Year 2014-2015

The primary responsibility of the Finance Committee is to make recommendations to town residents on all financial matters that come before the town, including the budget presented at town meeting.

At the May 2014 annual town meeting, Egremont voters approved an operating budget of \$2,355,962 for the 2014-2015 fiscal year (FY15), an increase of 8.3% over FY14, and a school operating and capital budget of \$1,392,219, an increase of less than ½% of 1 over the FY14 school budget, for a **total line item budget of \$3,748,181** for FY15, an increase of 5.3% over FY14.

The voters also approved special articles totaling \$520,973 with funds coming from the town's Free Cash* except as noted below:

1. \$246,980 for the Water Department budget (comprised of \$180,000 from user fees, \$66,048 from a town taxpayer subsidy and \$932 from Water Department excess funds)
2. \$60,000 to repair Hillside Cemetery road
3. \$4,800 to purchase a military surplus dump truck
4. \$15,000 for deposit into the GASB 45 Special Stabilization fund for retired employees' health costs
5. \$12,000 for repair and maintenance projects at town cemeteries
6. \$5,000 for the Friends of Prospect Lake to support weed treatments at Prospect Lake (from general revenues)
7. \$40,600 to install a solar array at the Water Department comprised of \$24,935 from Free Cash, \$5,000 in recycling proceeds, and \$10,665 in various grants and credits
8. \$8,593 to finish the police facility basement (from a transfer of bond proceeds)
9. \$128,000 to purchase a new backhoe for the Highway Department (comprised of \$28,000 trade-in and \$100,000 in town borrowing)

The total budget was \$4,269,154.

State mandated adjustments reduced the total budget to \$4,207,021 of which estimated receipts and other revenue sources are expected to be \$824,586, leaving \$3,382,434 to be raised via tax levy. This resulted in a tax rate of \$8.88 per \$1,000 of assessed value, a significant increase in the tax rate of 7.5% over FY14.

Salaries/wages for FY15 totaled \$695,403, a 2.8% overall increase. This does not include the salaries of police department personnel, other than the chief. Both health insurance premiums and dental premiums increased slightly. Life Insurance costs remained the same. It

should be noted that the town pays 75% of total premiums for our employees; retirees' premiums are split 50-50. Total salaries/wages and benefits for our employees for FY15 were \$892,181 (2.9% over FY14).

The Police Department budget, excluding the payment of debt on the police facility, totaled \$335,741, an increase of 4.9% over FY14.

The Highway Department budget was down \$1,563. However, we went over our snow and ice budget by \$20,452, which is normal. The town also approved purchasing a new backhoe, as previously noted.

The Water Department's budget of \$246,980 was \$9,128 less than FY14. The town taxpayer subsidy of \$66,048 was lower than the FY14 subsidy of \$77,008. The solar installation at the plant will reduce electricity costs of the Water Department and hopefully it will pay for itself and reduce the taxpayers' subsidy.

In municipal accounting jargon, *"Free Cash" is the total of funds not expended and revenues in excess of projections as of the end of a fiscal year. A "Stabilization Fund" accumulates amounts for capital and other future spending purposes but it may be appropriated for any lawful purpose by a two-thirds vote at town meeting. Free Cash and Stabilization Funds are types of "available funds" and are frequently appropriated to meet unforeseen expenses or capital expenditures, or for other one-time costs. "Reserve Fund" is a required fund designed to cover smaller unexpected and/or unforeseen costs and is a budgeted line item in the town's annual budget. For FY15, after appropriations and transfers the balance in the town's Stabilization Fund was \$406,250, available Free Cash was \$157,074 and the Reserve Fund was \$25,000, totaling \$588,324. That total amounts to 13.8% of the total budget of \$4,269,154. It is good financial practice to have in total reserves at least 5-7% of a town's annual budget. Some municipalities and bond rating agencies believe a 10% reserve is more prudent.

On the liability side, the town's debt as of June 30, 2015 (entering FY16) totaled \$1,167,200. That number is comprised of outstanding debt for (1) Water Department loans of approximately \$660,000, (2) the police facility of \$210,000 (3) the backhoe of \$57,200 and (4) the fire truck of \$240,000. The highway truck loan was paid off in FY15. At a Special Town Meeting on March 2, 2015, the town also approved the borrowing of up to \$7,741,000 by the Southern Berkshire Regional School District for the purpose of paying costs of a boiler/roof replacement project at the Mt. Everett/Undermountain School. Expected grants are to cover approximately 39% of the total cost of the project. Based on that assumption, total cost of borrowing should not exceed \$4,000,000 if total project costs amount to \$7,741,000. The borrowing is expected to take place sometime in the spring of 2016 and payments on our share of the borrowing will commence in 2017 -18. The share of repayments that Egremont is expected to carry will vary depending on the amount borrowed, repayment schedule and its % share of capital costs/bond repayment. In FY15, our percentage share of the SBRSD capital

costs was 11.55%. Assuming \$500,000 a year to be spent on capital improvements and bond repayment and assuming 11.55%, our share would be \$57,750.

The town approved borrowing at its May, 2015 (FY16) town meeting of up to \$2,940,000 for the buildout of a broadband network for the town. A grant from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute is expected which would reduce our borrowing to approximately \$1,600,000. Because of these prospective borrowings, we are looking at over \$2,000,000 in additional debt.

While the town's total debt load is manageable, careful planning and consideration should be given to any proposals to take on further debt. To that end, the Board of Selectmen has established a Long Range Financial Planning Committee consisting of members of the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen to consider various scenarios, costs and the best way to plan ahead for the town's financial future.

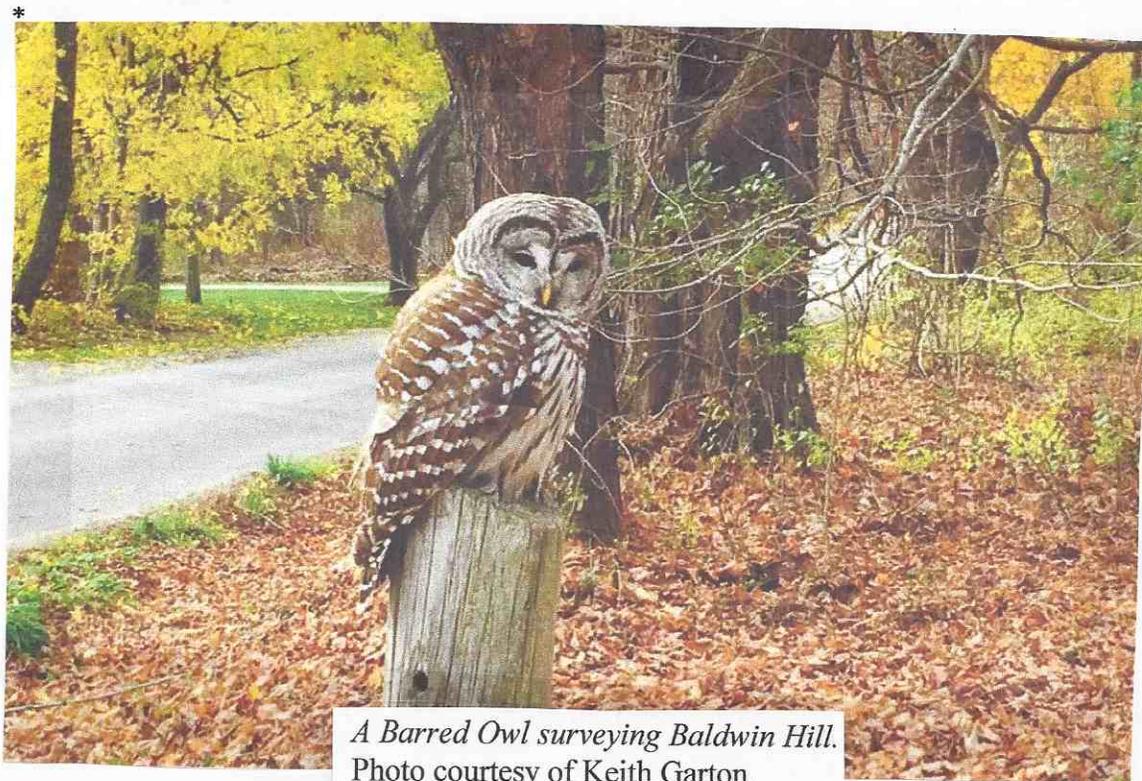
As always, the Finance Committee strives to recommend a budget the community can support and that is fair to the people who work for us and to the taxpayers.

Respectfully submitted,

The Committee for July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2015

Laura Allen, Chairman
Thomas Berkel, Secretary
Edward (Rocky) Scarbro

Michael Bandzierz, Vice Chairman
Ralph Noveck
Eric Swanson



A Barred Owl surveying Baldwin Hill.
Photo courtesy of Keith Garton.



Egremont Fire Department Inc.

Serving Our Community With Pride Since 1932

P.O. Box 232
South Egremont, MA 01258

Report of the Egremont Volunteer Fire Department

The members of the Volunteer Fire Department, who are your neighbors, responded to 163 calls for Assistance. This is an increase over past years and includes 80 calls for medical assistance and 31 false alarms that require a full turnout of personnel and equipment.

The Fire Department received delivery of the new tanker in May and it has been placed in service in North Station. The firefighters have been trained on the new apparatus.

The additional outfitting of the tanker amounting to \$45,000 was taken from the fire department reserve funds.

The Department is now making plans to replace the SCAB, (self contained breathing apparatus) that have run out of warranty and safety codes.

Your support of our fund raising activities, the steak dinner in October, the pancake breakfast in the spring and our annual fund letter in the fall, helps build up our reserve funds for occasions like this.

The Fire Department is still in need of new members. Anyone interested helping their neighbor can come to the fire houses on Tuesday evening for an interview.

Please check your 911 signs for visibility. They allow us to reach you quickly in your time of emergency, be medical or fire related.

If you still do not have a 911 sign, contact the Town Hall to apply for one.

William Turner, Chief

James Olmsted

Deputy Chiefs

Joseph Schneider

EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT - 2015

Richard Allen, Susan Bachelder, Robin Goldberg, Juliette Haas, Tom Haas, Pat Konecky, Maura Rose, and Marj Wexler (rotating chair)

As a follow-up to our 2014 participation in SolarizeMass, a program intended to increase the use of solar energy, we held a meeting to present alternative energy sources for Egremont residents who were unable to install solar. The three presenters were from Viridian, Community Energy, and NuWatt Energy. Interest and attendance were high.

In late winter, the Green Committee voted to support Egremont's efforts to become a Green Community, which, if successful, would bring money into the town for energy-efficiency improvements in town buildings. Two of the five criteria (a Solar Bylaw and the Stretch Code) required approval by Town Meeting vote. They passed at the May 5 Annual Town Meeting, and we are grateful to Jim Barry of the DOER for his help. Juliette is working on Criterion 3, to establish an energy use baseline and develop a plan to reduce energy use by 20% within 5 years. The application is due in late October.

In April, we held our 7th annual Egremont Recycles Day. More than 90 volunteers scoured Egremont's 41 miles of roads to pick up roadside trash. More than 105 bags, weighing more than 838 pounds, were brought to Green Committee members for sorting and recycling. We are grateful to Heidi Zorn and her 4-H Bunnies, who redeemed the returnable bottles and cans. That evening, our thank-you pizza party at the North Firehouse was enjoyed by all volunteers who attended. Join us in April 2016 for the 8th annual event!

Also during April, we arranged to have a dumpster in front of Town Hall for collection of bulky rigid plastic. The result: 30 yards of BRP diverted from the trash stream!

Ongoing projects include continuing to foster Egremont's relationship with Goodwill Industries. Their truck comes to the Town Hall parking lot once a month to make it easier for residents to recycle household goods, including small appliances and all computer supplies.

Household composting at the Transfer Station has increased in popularity as residents who do not compost in their own backyards discover how easy it is to take their kitchen scraps when they take their trash. The result has been that much of this relatively heavy component of trash is diverted from landfills, and residents can take home the final product to enrich their gardens. We are grateful to the Highway Department for their invaluable work in turning the compost piles.

The Green Committee continues to have compostable tableware (plates, cups, utensils) available for residents to purchase for parties. We buy in bulk and sell at our cost. Call or email any of us for more information.

And finally, we enjoy providing the Eco-Tips for Egremont's Town Newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,
Marj Wexler

BOARD OF HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

Nancy DuVall – Chairman
Tom Carpenite
Tom Haas

Local boards of health in Massachusetts are required by state statutes and regulations to perform many important and crucial duties relative to the protection of public health, the control of disease, the promotion of sanitary living conditions, and the protection of the environment from damage and pollution. The following is a short list of BoH core duties:

- Health Care and Disease Control
- Housing
- Hazardous Waste/Solid Waste
- Septage/Title 5
- Nuisance Complaints
- Food Inspections
- Drinking Water Protection
- Tobacco Regulations

Egremont is a small town and our public health work load often reflects our size. While small, we did have the following matters come before us in FY2015:

- Issued 24 food permits
- Issued 30 Disposal Works Construction Permits for new or upgraded septic systems
- Witnessed 20 Title 5 inspections
- Witnessed 20 perc tests
- Annual flu clinic
- Provided numerous sign-offs on building permits applications
- Disease surveillance
- Held 100 bi-monthly board meetings to address various public health topics
- Received over \$18,000 in permit fees

Issuing permits and signing off on building permit applications often require numerous inspections, research and conference with other town boards and committees. In Egremont we not only have a committed and active volunteer board who discuss policy and vote on matters in an open meeting forum, we also have a paid part-time BoH Director, whose responsibilities include issuing permits, record keeping and billing, receiving and inspecting valid complaints as well as attending to the day-to-day needs of the community. The Egremont BoH is also very fortunate to employ the services of the Berkshire Public Health Alliance who provides the town with highly trained, experienced field inspection and public health nursing services.

Respectfully submitted,
Juliette Haas
Director

Report of the Egremont Highway Department

2014 - 2015

Over the summer, the highway crew spent many days mowing and weed-whacking the roadsides and guardrails. The dirt roads were graded and dust control was applied.

On July 3rd, 2014, a defect was found in the Mount Washington Road Bridge by the Highway Crew while doing routine, roadside maintenance. The state inspector was called in immediately and, later that day, instructed that the bridge be restricted to one lane due to the deterioration of the aging concrete. The Highway Crew obtained and placed some safety barriers and signage. Later, the determination by the state inspector and the Town was that the bridge should be completely replaced.

July 18th, the Crew repaired the blacktopped swale and road edge at the bottom of Bott Hill Road. In the second part of July, due to rain storm washouts, the Crew worked on Baldwin Hill N/S Road, Townhouse Hill Road, and Tyrell Road. Restoring Whites Hill Road used 68 yards of processed gravel, on Shuntoll Road, 172 yards were used and Nicholson Road used 40 yards processed gravel. On July 21st, a failing culvert that was washing out the hillside on Mount Washington Road was replaced. This project used a 13 foot piece of steel culvert and 40 yards of bank run gravel. 5 tons of rock was used to build a retaining wall to keep the bank from eroding further. At the request of the Police Department, on July 25th, the Highway Crew stenciled a 25 MPH sign on Sheffield Road. On Jug End Road a concrete block catch basin was rebuilt using new blocks and 2 yards of gavel.

With a contractor, on August 4th, a section of Prospect Lake Road was resurfaced using 280 tons of fresh black top. On August 25, potholes were filled in with black top on Pumpkin Hollow Road, Boice Road and. On August 26th, rough areas on Rowe Road were blacktopped using 2.5 tons of product. The end of summer brought a mild, uneventful weather season. This allowed the Highway Department to catch up on lots of road side maintenance and they spent many days, removing low hanging limbs, removed downed trees on the road side, chipping brush, mowing and weed-whacking.

The Highway Department was excited to receive delivery of the new backhoe on September 9th. On September 25th, with a contractor, the second half of Jug End Road was resurfaced. The project used 1,199.88 tons of product and was started at 5am and completed by 6:30pm. This completed the resurfacing project started last year, and all of Jug End blacktop has now been resurfaced.

Together with the Cemetery Commission, the Highway Superintendent coordinated the repaving project on Cemetery Hill Road. In preparation for blacktopping, a 20 foot, 12 inch culvert was replaced and the road was resurfaced with 1 ½" of new blacktop on October 14th.

As part of the continuing project to rebuild Town House Hill Road, a 600 foot section was dug down and completely rebuilt in October. This project used 1,200 feet of fabric, 488 yards of bank run and 200 yards of processed gravel. Two new 40 foot, 24 inch culverts were installed and new markers were added.

On Sunday November 2nd, a wind storm had the Highway Department called out several times for downed trees on Shuntoll Road and McGee Road. The next few days were spent on storm damage clean up. Two days in early November were spent working with a contractor cleaning out 72 of the towns catch basins in preparation for winter weather.

On November 13th the Highway Crew readied the trucks for the first predicted snow of the season which brought the crew out in the early morning to treat the roads for snow and icing. The crew treated the roads four more times for small events before the first real winter storm on November 26th at 8am. This 24 hour Nor'easter continued throughout the night and into November 27th. The storm totaled 9" of heavy snow and brought down trees and limbs, and caused many power

Report of the Egremont Highway Department

2014 – 2015

outages. Also in November, engineers paid a visit to Mount Washington Road Bridge to do testing for the first phase of the bridge reconstruction and on November 17th the Department participated in CPR class along with other Town staff.

Early December had the Highway Department cleaning up from the Nor'easter and treating the roads for four more small snow/ice events before a storm brought 6" on December 11th. Regular vehicle maintenance and repairs busied the Department in mid-December as well as many pothole and small road repairs. A light snow had the Department treating the roads on both December 21st and 22nd.

Saturday, January 3rd, 2015 brought a storm that started with 3" of snow then turned to freezing rain which continued into Sunday. On January 8th the men attended a highway safety class in Springfield where they learned about construction zone safety and designing work zone traffic management plans. From 4am on January 9th to an 8" storm on January 31st, the crew treated snow, ice and drifting on 14 different days. The most notable being storm Juno on January 27th when a state of emergency was called and we received 10" of snow. And a January 18th rain that started in the morning and down poured all day. All the dirt roads were covered in a thick layer of ice and the heavy rain washed away the sand as quickly as it was put down making most of the dirt roads impassable.

February brought no relief from the monotonous weather pattern as we continued to receive approximately two snow events each week. There were 10 different weather events in February, some of which were multiday storms. Most notably, Winter Storm Linus which brought us 13" of snow. The crew dealt with snow, icing and drifting on 23 days in February. Many towns recorded record breaking snow totals for the season.

The overwhelming weather caused a nerve-wracking salt shortage in the Northeast. But, with good planning our Highway Department managed to keep a supply of salt on hand to maintain safe driving conditions on our roadways.

We still weren't finished with the snow in March with four more measurable snow falls. In between, the crew spent many days cleaning up and push back snow piles at intersections and keeping up with drifting snow and icy roads. In late March, with the snow and cold weather fading away, the crew turned their attention to road clean up, filling pot holes and truck maintenance.

When not responding to spring storms that brought trees down, much of the spring was spent restoring the roads and roadsides from the harsh, long winter. Grading was resumed and potholes filled.

On June 25th, a section of the rotten wooden post on the Route 71 guardrails were replaced with new steel posts.

The Highway Department would like to thank everyone who helped us throughout the year including the Board of Selectmen, the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Maintenance Department and the staff at the town hall.

Respectfully,

Timothy Hosier
Highway Superintendent

REPORT OF THE EGREMONT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

August 23, 2015 saw the 240th anniversary of the incorporation of Egremont with walking tours of both North and South Villages and a party to celebrate.

In July, Friends of Egremont History took over South Village for a second basket picnic to promote the Commonwealth's celebration of the end of the Civil War. The State's Sesquicentennial Commissioner, Thomas Turner, under the Mass. Historical Commission recognized Egremont's contributions to the state's celebrations in his letter to Governor Charles Baker. Egremont is the only town from Western Mass. to be so recognized. The final "retiring of the flags" ceremony will be held in Boston in December 2015.

The second floor of the Mt. Everett Academy, now home to some of the town's archives, received a new paint job and, following the acquisition of several collections from the Storr family, the Egremont Land Trust and the Mulvaney estate, the Commission was able to secure another SHRAB grant for assistance in assessing how best to catalogue our holdings. We also received a grant to purchase archivally acceptable fabric for relining our display cases; new shelves, and boxes. Margaret Cherin and Susan Bachelder finished a computerized shelf read of every object in the archives. Now no one has to remember where something is, the information is available online. Gregg Siter is upgrading the egremonthistory.org website.

The Commission hosted a South County Commission meeting to research appropriate methods for updating the state's MACRIS files, (Mass. Cultural Resource Information System) and has determined for our needs to work with Fisher/Larson. This work will begin in the winter of 2015-16.

Concern on outreach to owners of historic properties is high on our list as the MACRIS is updated. Storm windows, insulation upgrades and full scale restructuring projects can be accomplished with little additional cost, increase the value of your property and, in certain cases, allow for tax credits at state and federal levels when done with an eye to preservation over replacement. The MACRIS is another way to increase your presence to potential buyers. We welcome all questions about your house, or your neighborhoods.

Ongoing issues the Commission will continue to monitor is the Historic Preservation Restriction now in place on the Kellogg Farm; the developing Village by law and its impact on the National Register Historic District, and the North Egremont Baptist Church to facilitate in whatever way we can the transition of this icon of our community into private hands.

Serving Commission Members: Susan Bachelder, Margaret Cherin, Nicoll Cooper, James Parrish, Gregg Siter, William Wood.

Egremont Free Library

2015

Membership to the Central Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing C/W MARS network has brought new patrons to Egremont Free Library. Egremont home owners who frequent other area libraries discovered EFL offers many "in demand" books and DVDs. Delivery of requested books took some time at first, but the system is running smoothly as we receive interlibrary loan books from libraries as far away as the Midwest! As a reminder, with membership to C/W MARS, patrons may order items online and have them sent to EFL's location rather than sending them to Sheffield or Great Barrington. EFL has 6,755 items "in house", so access to the volume and quality of materials increases dramatically with C/W MARS membership. As always, Lesliann is happy to order books for patrons if they would rather order interlibrary loan books at the library rather than online. Also, patrons may now order audio books and e-books on their devices via C/W MARS. Another huge benefit is the ability to return books from other libraries to EFL's drop box outside the library. For example, if you have items from Mason Library and you would rather not fight the traffic in Great Barrington, you may drop your items in the "drop box" at EFL located at 1 Buttonball Lane in South Egremont. The items are checked in at EFL and delivered to Mason Library.

EFL recently joined the New England Historic Genealogical Society, which allows patrons to research their many genealogical databases at no cost. Patrons must research during library hours on library computers. As a reminder, the library is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Lesliann hosted several successful game nights throughout the year. Patrons of all ages enjoyed the fun and camaraderie of game night. Lesliann will continue to host game nights throughout the year. Also there is a Lego Club for children ages five and up on the second Saturday of each month. Legos are provided!

Egremont Free Library also has an iPad, which can be used for a variety of purposes. The iPad is available for patrons during library. Lesliann also helps several patrons download audio and ebooks via C/W MARS digital library and Boston Public Library onto their personal devices. She has helped patrons on several devices including Kindles, Nooks, iPads, iPhones and Kobos.

EFL offers museum passes to several area cultural attractions, which have been widely used by patrons. Passes to Norman Rockwell Museum, Chesterwood, The Clark Museum, Berkshire Museum, Hancock Shaker Village, Naumkeag, The Folly at Field Farm, Mission House, Bartholomew's Cobble and The Ashley House are available seasonally and throughout the year.

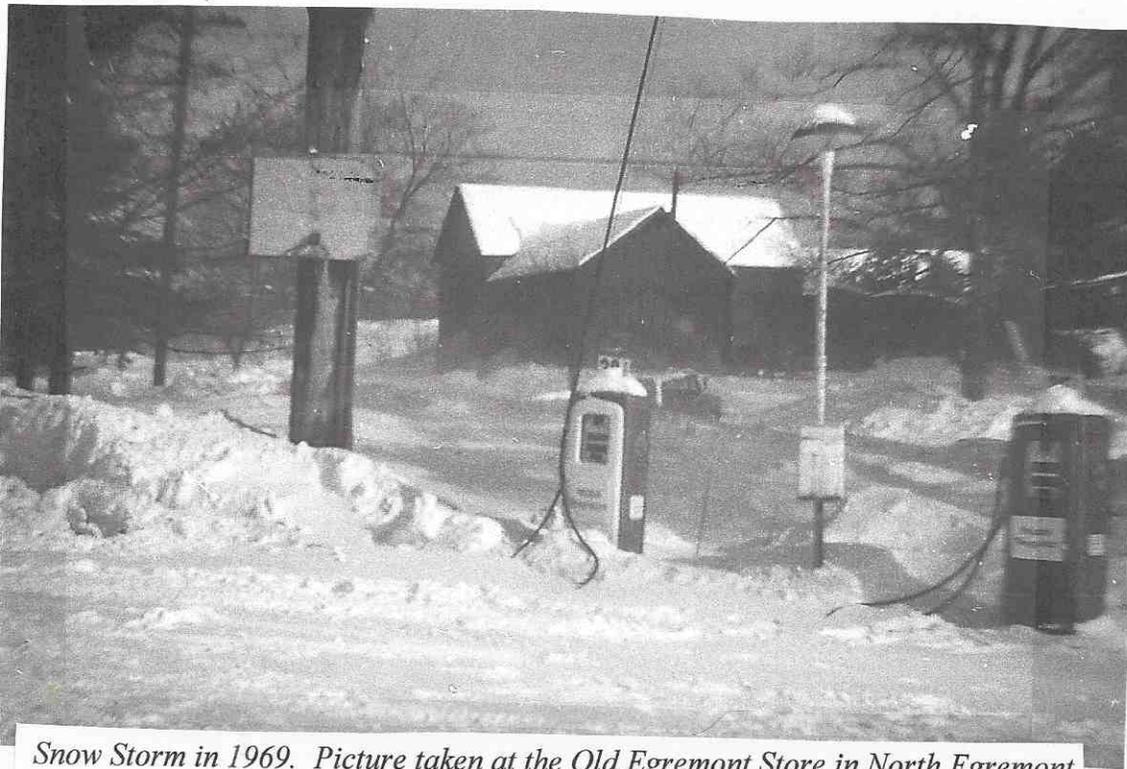
We would like to thank Bonnie Oloff for organizing and handling the lion share of the Arts and Crafts Fair fundraiser to benefit the Egremont Free Library in July of 2014 & 2015. We appreciate her dedication and commitment!

Respectfully Submitted,
Peg Muskrat
Library Trustee Chair

EGREMONT MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT
ANNUAL REPORT 2015

The Egremont Municipal Lighting Plant still functions as a conduit for interactions of Egremont with the WiredWest Cooperative. Egremont's 2 representatives continue to attend monthly meetings of WiredWest to iron out and resolve issues regarding the forming of the new WiredWest LLC Cooperative and it's agreements and design elements for the regional fiber network which the MLP was formed to facilitate the formation of.

Jonathan Taylor
John Wells



*Snow Storm in 1969. Picture taken at the Old Egremont Store in North Egremont.
Photo courtesy of Gary Leveille.*

PLANNING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Personnel: The Board continued with the officers from 2013-2014: Janis Martinson-Sagarin, Chair; Gwen Miller, Vice Chair; Don Pulfer, Clerk; Helen Krancer, Treasurer; Mark Holmes, BRPC representative.

Janis resigned to take a job in Cambridge, and Gwen resigned to take a job with the Town of Lenox. In May 2014, Bill Bodinger was elected to fill Janis's remaining year, and Lucinda Vermeulen was appointed by the Select Board and Planning Board to fill Gwen's seat.

When Bill Bodinger decided not to run for re-election, Greg Cherin was elected in May to a 5 year term. The Board reorganized on May 18, 2015 with Helen Krancer, Chair; Don Pulfer, Vice Chair; Mark Holmes, Clerk; Greg Cherin, Treasurer; and Lucinda Vermeulen BRPC representative.

Divisions of Land: The Board reviewed and approved two applications for Form A land divisions.

Bylaw Work on Proposed Village and Rural Districts: The board has continued developing a proposed bylaw revision by working with comments received by the various town boards and the public at large. Progress has been slow because of the heavy workload the Board has borne this past year. The board intends to present a revised proposal at another public informational meeting.

Zoning Bylaw Changes: The Board finished work on drafting a bylaw for a Medical Marijuana Overlay District. The proposed change was passed by vote at the annual town meeting in May.

The Select Board sent the Planning Board a bylaw proposal from Catamount Ski Resort for a Public Hearing and on to town meeting for a vote. The proposal was for an Open Space and Recreation District in the Town of Egremont. During the period when the Board had scheduled a Public Hearing for the first proposed bylaw, a second citizens' petition collected enough signatures to also be heard at a Public Hearing. The Planning Board heard input from citizens at both hearings and recommended to the Select Board against their approval. Both were withdrawn. At the request of Catamount Ski Resort, the Select Board set up a special *ad hoc* committee to study Catamount's needs and draft a recreational bylaw.

Green Communities: A proposed bylaw change for a Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation Overlay District was prepared for the town by Juliette Haas and Marj Wexler. The Planning Board worked with them to fine-tune the proposal, held a Public Hearing, and the bylaw was passed at the town meeting in May.

Appalachian Trail Conservancy: The ATC came to the Board with an outline of changed needs at the Kellogg Conservation Center: safe access, expanded parking, and future renovation of the barn. They later submitted an application to modify their current special permit for permission to build two parking lots, one to meet their current and near future needs and a second unpaved one for overflow parking. The total request was for 60 spaces plus space for two bus turn-arounds where the buses could also park. After the Public Hearing, which included two continuations, and a site visit, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy withdrew their application (in July 2015).

Telecommunications: A new owner, SBA Communications, took over operation of the Catamount cell towers. The Planning Board saw to it that their continuing Special Permit requirements for recertification, specifically electromagnetic emissions and structure, are being met.

Common Driveway Permit: The application was revised in response to a resident's need and to make the application process clear.

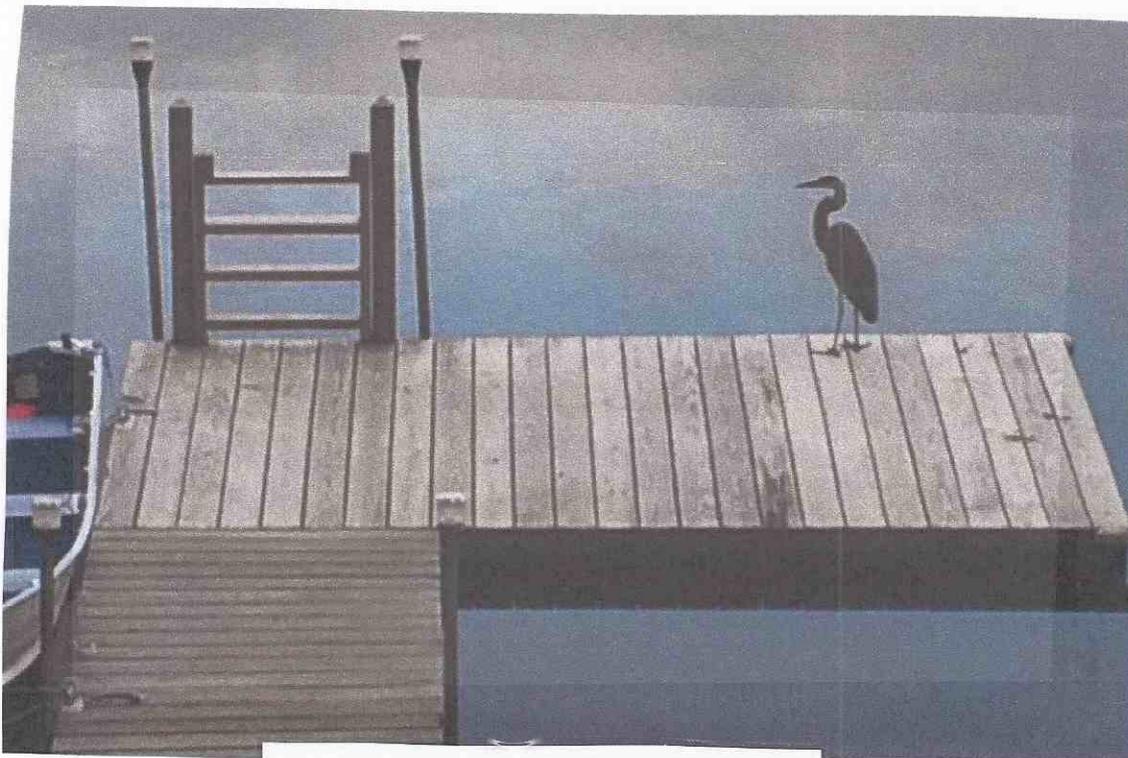
Miscellaneous:

The Board met with several citizens who had questions about the town's zoning bylaws, and land divisions.

The Board sought advice of town counsel when needed.

The Board submitted bi-monthly articles for the town newsletter.

The Board worked with the Select Board on proposed bylaws, a Planning Board appointment, and the *ad hoc* committee on recreation.



Grey Heron visiting Prospect Lake.
Photo courtesy of Nina Friemdan DeLuca.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE EGREMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT 2014-2015

To the Honorable Select Board and Citizens of Egremont:

This is the report for the activities of the Egremont Police Department for the fiscal year July 2014 through June 2015.

I am pleased to report this has been a safe and rewarding year here in Egremont. Our office is always open to receive reports, information and complaints regarding our community. We have and will continue to respond in order to insure a high quality of life in our great community.

Egremont is feeling the effects, as most Towns and cities across the State, of the sudden surge in opiate abuse. For those that like to call it like they see it, HEROIN is not just a drug from the 60's and 70's but has reached an epidemic level in our society today. The court system and correctional facilities are over run with the effects of this powerful and inexpensive drug. The department is taking steps to be more prepared for the effects of this and other drugs on our citizens and to be better prepared to assist with medical and social emergencies surrounding the growing use and abuse of these drugs.

Another issue that is in the forefront of our nation and our community is public perception and community relations with law enforcement. During a recent mandatory training session for all Chiefs of Police in the Commonwealth, (in response to the final report of the Presidents Task Force on 21st Century Policing), it was very clear that Berkshire County and small departments across the State have been doing a very good job in regards to community involvement and transparency in policing and just all around good COMMUNITY POLICING. Our big city neighbors are looking to us, the smaller agencies to see how we get out and interact with our diverse and local populations. This all comes down to a philosophy that the Egremont Police Department subscribes to, "We the People." The police work for you, and we, the police officers are all part of you, or in this case "We."

In our efforts to combat the most frequent complaint, "SPEEDERS" and other traffic offenses, I am sure by now you have all become familiar with the GHOST PATROL. Maybe you are not familiar or have been under the effects of the GP without even knowing it. The placement of unmanned units around Town during high traffic (Violator) times has been widely accepted and greatly appreciated by many of our residents. Fool me once, shame on me but fool me twice as the saying goes, you can never be really sure that the units are "unmanned."

This year we have received many reports of scams and harassing calls, "This is the IRS" etc. and we are not alone with this annoying menace. With more sophisticated phones and computer systems and the use of the internet, these calls are virtually impossible to trace back to the caller. The old adage still holds true, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is." Please do not give out personal identifying information to callers that would normally have your information if they were who they claim to be.

Additional, this year has shown continued alliance building with our neighboring Towns and neighboring States. We continue to advocate these good alliances through communication and mutual aid to assist our partners in law enforcement and emergency services in New York and Connecticut, as well as working with our neighboring departments on a daily basis.

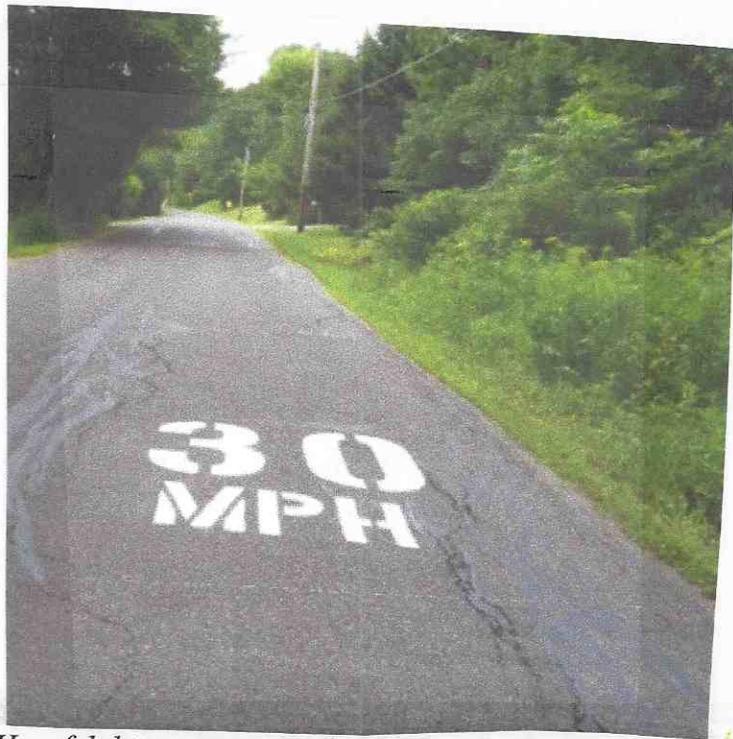
I would like to thank the Board of Selectmen for their support this year as well as the Finance Committee, Conservation and Planning boards and the Board of Health. We hope to continue working together with these citizens who give their time and effort to make Egremont such a great place to live and work. Thank you also to Chief Turner and the entire Fire Department who we work closely with during stressful times and emergencies on many levels. Our department also works jointly with Timothy Hosier and the Highway Department as they are an intricate part in reporting and stopping crime and also reporting citizens in need of assistance.

I would like to say thank you to Officers, Tyler Race, Hans Carlson, Kyle Kemp, Joe Pravia, Brennan Polidoro, Dan Bartini, Bruce Reynolds, Matthew Sutton and Jennifer Brown for their dedication to the Egremont community and the desire to respond when people are in need. A special thanks goes out to our office administrative assistant Rebekah Dellea for supplying a watchful eye over the daily paperwork and endless reports in a sometimes, chaotic workplace we call the Egremont PD.

Respectfully,

Brian Shaw

Chief of Police



*Hopeful deterrent to speeders on Prospect Lake Road.
These markings are being placed throughout Egremont by our Police Department.*

EGREMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT JULY 2014 - JUNE 2015

CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS/ INVESTIGATIONS

015- 209A MATTERS	002- HUNTING COMPLAINT
000- ABUSE	007- ILLEGAL DUMPING
148- ALARMS & FIRE ALARMS	259- INFORMATION
077- ANIMAL	017- LANDLORD/TENANT DISPUTE
012- ANNOY. & HARASSING PHONE CALLS	002- LARCENY IN A BUILDING
044- ARREST: SUMMONS & CUSTODIAL	001- LARCENY BY CHECK
001- ARSON	006- LARCENY OVER \$250
003- ASSAULT	007- LARCENY UNDER \$250
000- ASSAULT & BATTERY	015- LOCKOUT
096- ASSIST CITIZEN	096- MEDICAL EMERGENCY/911
223- ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	003- MENTAL HEALTH
089- ASSIST OTHER POLICE DEPARTMENT	003- MISSING PERSON
002- ATTEMPT TO COMMIT A CRIME	072- MVC/REPORTS
000- ATTEMPT TO LOCATE	520- MV STOPS
000- ATTEMPTED SUICIDE	011- NO TRESPASS ORDER
000- BAD CHECKS	005- NOISE COMPLAINT
057- BOLO (BE ON THE LOOKOUT)	164- OFFENSE REPORTS
007- BREAKING & ENTERING	011- OPEN DOOR
119- BUILDING PERMIT	003- PARKING COMPLAINT
001- BURGLARY	1119- PATROL
084- CALLS RECEIVED/COMPLAINTS	015- POWER OUTAGE
000- CHILD CUSTODY	019- PROPERTY RETURN
025- CJIS/LEAPS	005- PROPERTY TURNED IN
064- COURT	688- RADAR
095- CRUISER	012- ROAD/TRAFFIC COMPLAINT
000- DEATH NOTIFICATION	009- SCAM
011- DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY	023- SCHOOL CROSSING
088- DETAILS	026- SERVE SUMMONS
043- DISABLED MV	002- SEXUAL ABUSE/ASSAULT
010- DISTURBANCE	010- S.O.R.B.
015- DOMESTIC	033- SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
024- DRUG INVESTIGATION	015- SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE
015- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	058- TRAFFIC CONTROL
034- EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	054- TRAINING
047- EVIDENCE CONTROL	046- TREE DOWN
006- FINGERPRINTS	028- UNATTENDED MV
042- FIRE	003- UNATTENDED DEATH
044- FIREARMS	008- UNWANTED PERSON
173- FOLLOW UP/INVESTS	006- WARRANT
005- FOUND PROPERTY	028- WELFARE CHECK
003- FRAUD	015- WIRES DOWN
002- GUNSHOTS	028- WELFARE CHECK
001- HAZMAT	015- WIRES DOWN
097- HOUSE CHECK/VACANT	4864- TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board wishes to thank all of the town's dedicated employees, and board and committee members, for the exceptional service and dedicated support that you have provided to the town this year. Further, we want to thank all of Egremont's residents for your support and all of what you do to make Egremont a great place to live.

At the annual town meeting, residents voted to make the town's Water Commissioners appointed instead of elected. The first appointments will take place in June of 2016. The Water Department continues to move forward in addressing problems identified on last year's audit and their progress is monitored by both the Board and the Finance Committee.

The Board has formed an Ad Hoc technology committee to review proposals from vendors to build out and provide broadband service to Egremont's residents. There are three very strong proposals for service to Egremont. The Board hopes to have the Committees recommendation on a provider by mid-December or possibly earlier. Two of the proposals could theoretically be ready to provide service to residents within the next 12 to 24 months. The other provider relies on the state build which is expected to be completed by 2020.

The Board also formed an Outdoor Recreation By Law committee to research and develop a proposed bylaw to address commercial outdoor recreation in Egremont. This committee has enlisted the assistance of the by law experts at the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and hope to have a proposal that it can place before residents at the annual town meeting.

The Board reported last year hiring Ben Pigott to be the third full-time Police Officer for the town. He moved on to a different career path. The Board then hired Egremont resident Kyle Kemp to fill the position pending his successful completion of the Full-time Police Officer's academy in March of 2016. There continues to be a problem with speeders in the town. The Board is working with Chief Shaw and several concerned residents to identify an enforcement solution that will have a lasting impact. Potential solutions could be expensive but could have a major impact on road safety in the town.

Unfortunately the Mt. Washington Road Bridge remains partially closed. The final engineering work has been submitted to the Mass DOT for approval. The primary issue slowing the process of this bridge's repair is the complex and somewhat disjointed permitting and design requirements placed upon towns by the Commonwealth and the Federal Government. The Board has expressed its concerns regarding this to the Lt. Governor Polito as have other neighboring towns and are guardedly optimistic that there could be changes that would save construction and engineering costs in the future. Initially, the Board projected that construction would begin this fall but due to delays in the aforementioned state approval process work is now slated for the spring of 2016.

The town ended the year financially as follows:

Free Cash: \$488,843

Stabilization: \$451,597.06

Levy Limit: \$\$3,936,179

Excess Levy: \$399,439

Tax Rate: unapproved FY 16 \$9.21

The Board is working with the Finance Committee to develop a long range Financial Plan for the town. We will report on this project in more detail in the future.

Also, residents should be aware that while the town's financial status is healthy, we will be facing additional expenses in the upcoming fiscal year with respect to the School Bond as well as the Broadband buildout that could begin this fiscal year.

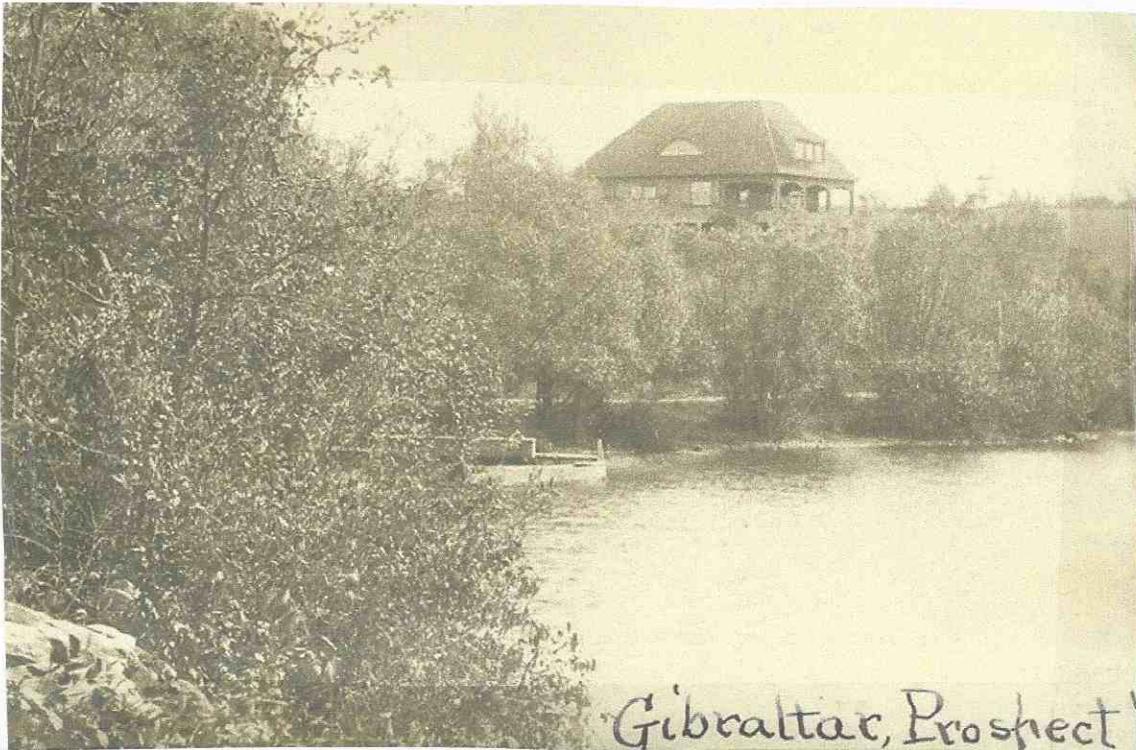
Again, the Board wishes to thank all Egremont residents for the privilege of serving you in our great little community.

Respectfully,

Bruce Turner, Chairman

Charles Flynn, Vice-Chairman

Mary Brazie



Gibraltar, Prospect

Gibraltar Lodge on Prospect Lake 100+ years ago. It was located on the knoll near where the road goes close to the lake. It burned down in the 1950s, but ruins of the foundation are still there.

Photo courtesy of Gary Lavielle.

REPORT OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

The town, through the Sustainability Coordinator, continues to look into avenues of energy efficiency, energy conservation and reduction, renewable energy exploration and waste diversion to lower our municipal carbon footprint and harmful impacts on the environment and public health. The added bonus of these measures is that they also lower the town's operating expenses savings tax dollars on related energy and trash hauling costs.

In February of 2015 work began on the installation of a photovoltaic (pv) solar array at the Egremont Water Department. The project was completed in September of 2015 and is projected to reduce the Water Department's annual electricity costs by 42%. This project was partially funded by a \$6,100 grant overseen by two state agencies, DOER and DEP. It is anticipated the town's share of the remainder of project costs will be paid off within 6 – 7 years resulting from the savings in electrical costs and the annual Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SREC) payments the town will receive for the next 10 years.

At the annual Town Meeting in May of 2015 voters approved two measures which were needed for Egremont to continue moving towards becoming a state designated Green Community. If approved, the town will be eligible for considerable state funding, which would then go into continued municipal energy conservation projects. The grant application for becoming a Green Community, which is only open for certain months in the calendar year, was quite complex and multi-layered. The application was finalized and submitted to the state in October 2015 and the official announcements will be made early 2016.

Finally, through added town trash collection programs and the support, attention and dedication from many of our residents Egremont was able to lower our annual trash hauling tonnage for the third straight year. Lowering our trash tonnage not only saves landfill space or incineration costs, but lessens truck hauling and disposal costs. The tonnage reduction translated into an estimated annual savings to the town of \$7500.

Egremont is proud to take a positive stance in addressing climate change concerns. We continue to be thankful to our residents who participate in municipal programs as well as living day-to-day in a more sustainable way.

Respectfully submitted,
Juliette Haas