



**Town of Egremont  
Office of the Board of Assessors  
P.O. Box 368  
South Egremont, Massachusetts 01258-0368  
Email: [assessors@egremont-ma.gov](mailto:assessors@egremont-ma.gov)  
413-528-0182 Ext. 14**

Robin Goldberg, Chair  
Florence F. Browner, Member  
Susan Turner, Member  
Harald M. Scheid, Regional Tax Assessor

## Annual Report of the Board of Assessors, Fiscal Year 2017

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,
2. processing land divisions,
3. reviewing and processing abatement requests,
4. processing personal property forms and chapter land applications,
5. preparing various Department of Revenue reports.

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

# Office of the Board of Assessors

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](mailto: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](http://www.csc-ma.us/Egremont).

## Board of Assessors Statistics:

### Town of Egremont Information

Total Parcels	1169
Total Acres	13,060.55
Acres in Agriculture	2,278.87
Owners of Agr. Land	55
# of Agr. Parcels	73
Market value Agr. land	\$39,123,000
Chapter Land Parcels	73
61 (Forest)	17
61A (Agriculture)	54
61B (Recreation)	2
Businesses	60
Single family residences	766
Multiple	20
Vacant	220
Commercial	16
Non-profit organizations*	13

### Forms Processed

Abutters lists	11
Auto Excise abatements	84
Building Permits	94
Chapter Land forms	73
New Deeds Processed	61
Personal Property forms	310
Statutory Abatements	
Veterans	13
Seniors	2

### Non-Profit Organizations:

Name	Parcels	Acres
Appalachian Trail Conservancy	6	125.17
USA Appalachian Trail	10	195.53
Berkshire Natural Resources	1	50
Berkshire Village	1	10.6
Blue Rider Stable	3	12.15
Churches	1	1.10
Egremont Land Trust	7	77.07
Mt Everett Reservation	1	16
Mt. Everett Cemetery Association	1	2.77
Nature Conservancy	9	143.76
Town of Egremont and Egremont Fire Department	18	541.76
United States of America	6	95.23
Commonwealth of Massachusetts	22	2798.63

## REPORT OF THE BUILDING COMMISSIONER

During the fiscal year July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 a total of 87 Permits were issued. The permit fees collected and turned over to the Treasurer were \$35,928.76 based on \$5,198,146.00 of construction as follows;

New Dwellings	2
Additions & Alterations	42
Accessory Structure's & Garages	4
Decks & Porch's	9
Roofs	11
Wood Stove	7
Solar Installation	5
Repairs	7

Respectfully Submitted,

Ned Baldwin

Building Commissioner

## REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

We have maintained, with mowing, trimming, and some monument resets, the three town cemeteries this year. At Town House Hill the borders are being trimmed and cleaned up. 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.

There are still lots available for purchase in the Hillside Cemetery. The other cemeteries are all sold out.

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 Jr.



## Annual Report Conservation Commission Fiscal 2017 (7/16-6/17)

This past year has been no exception—busy, busy, busy.

Of course there are the numerous projects and public hearings dealing with everyday issues such as buffer zones along small, sometimes intermittent, streams. But there have been and are larger projects.

Most noticeable to townspeople has been the Mt. Washington Rd/Karner Brook Bridge project, which involves just about every aspect of the WPA (Wetlands Protection Act) from wetlands to land under water to NHESP. Begun last year in October, the project ran into numerous delays, mainly regarding weather. While the road has been open for many months, at this writing (10/17), the project still awaits final approval from the Army Corp of Engineering (ACE) and the ConCom is on the sidelines awaiting ACE approval.

We're also on the sidelines of an involved project regarding expansion of a jointly owed pond (Jack's Pond) between Catamount Development Corp. and the co-owner. Currently, the State is reviewing the proposal from the neighboring co-owner regarding expanding the pond and doing various landscaping on his property.

A beehive of activity certainly has surrounded Prospect Lake. You name it: simple deck replacement to dam replacement to extensive wetlands-involved landscaping. We've dealt with a half dozen projects here and have another four active as of this writing.

And, of course, there have been the usual simple projects—septic system upgrades, minor improvements along stream banks, etc.

Regarding projects of any level of complexity, we have initiated a new procedure to start a project—a Project Review form--available on the Town website under Misc. Forms or at Town Hall on the shelves outside the ConCom Office. This form now is *required* for the ConCom to discuss any project outside of formal DEP filings. The form is similar to ones used by Commissions in neighboring towns.

As always, we are looking for additional commission members. Currently, we can use one fulltime member, as well as any number of associate members. We're always trying to attract younger members, and in this regard we've signed up with BCC's Career website.

And, last, but certainly, not least, we need to note the evolution of the Commission--the goings and comings. This past June Ben Barrett, a member of the ConCom for 12 years and for many its secretary, decided to step back and take a break. Earlier Ted Rubsamen retired after four years on the ConCom. With a long career in civil engineering Ted gave us valuable insights into the Mt. Washington Rd. bridge project.

And, yes, we do have new blood. David Seligman, who moved here from Wisconsin, is a regular presenter on environmental ethics and fly-fishing related topics, a life-time member of Trout Unlimited in which he has held several significant leadership positions, and is active in such organizations as River Keepers, Sierra Club and a life-long sportsman and environmentalist. Ron Ronan previously served a Town representative on the School Committee and has a continuing interest in environmental issues..

A reminder that the best way to reach us is at [ConCom-egremont.ma.gov](mailto:ConCom-egremont.ma.gov). Emails to this address are automatically sent to all members of the ConCom, ensuring someone will be able to respond to your enquiry within 24 hours, if a specific individual is not available.

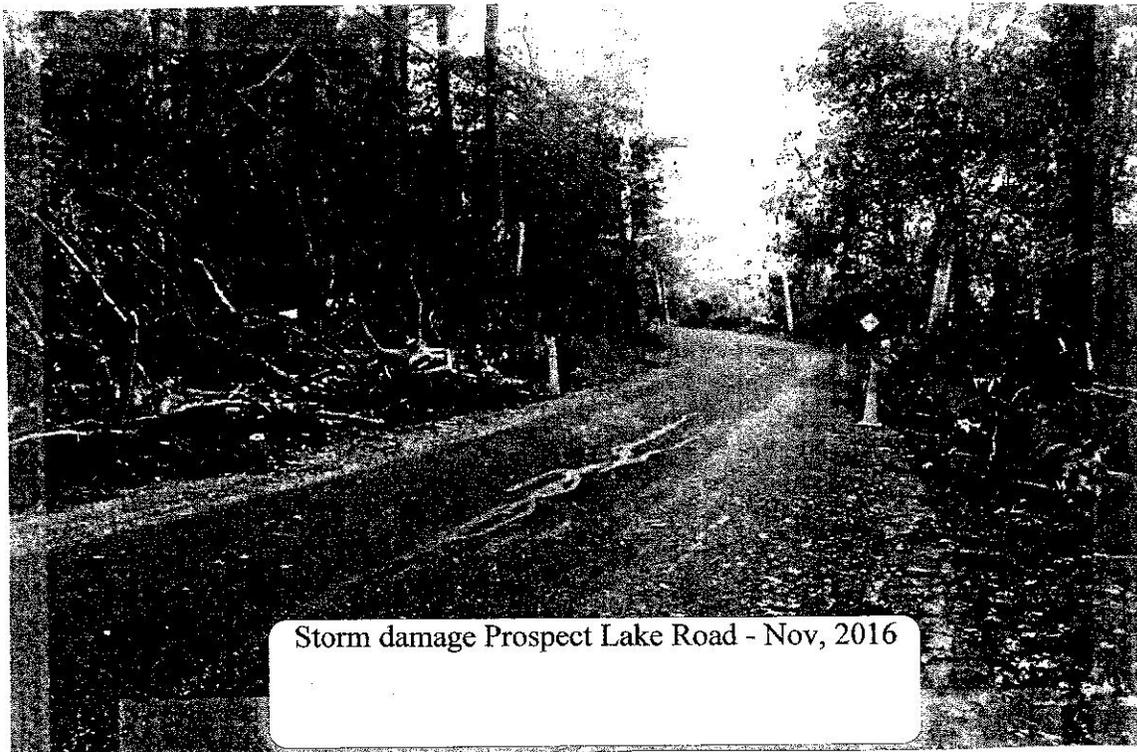
Sincerely,

Bill Tynan, ECC Chairman

Alina Hsu, Secretary

Ron Ronan, Commissioner

David Seligman, Commissioner



## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

Bruce H. Bernstein, Chair

Chet Delaney

Eve Goldberg

Georgette Kinney

Helen Krancer

Peg Muskrat, Coordinator

This year we identified some “Rules of the Road” to complement our mission in Egremont. Among them were:

- Identify the town’s seniors and implement effective ways of communicating with them
- Identify issues of importance to aging and to Egremont seniors
- educate the town, particularly its seniors, on these issues and possible responses to them

We knew we’d need additional help in doing this, along with increasing our outreach to seniors to learn more about their needs and how we might be helpful. Thanks to the Select Board, Peg Muskrat is now working with us on a part time basis to allow us to fulfill this mission. As a result of her initial calls to seniors, we’ve learned that many of them cannot effectively hear over their phones. This has many implications, including not understanding emergency notices. We are now looking into solutions.

This increased outreach is a part of our general goal of providing support to those seniors who wish to Age in Place, and creating the kind of community necessary for making that happen.

### Activities:

Monthly luncheons. We continue our first Wednesday luncheons at the Egremont Village Inn. Topics this year included a birthday celebration for those turning 90, quilting as an American art, scamming, iPhone photography, a reading from “Bev Almond: an ageless adventurer” by Anne Hamlin, the author and Bev’s daughter, senior juggling by Roger the Jester, and a cooking demonstration by Bob Climo of the GB Bagel Shop.

Senior Fitness: our expanded activity schedule includes Egremont, Mt. Washington, Great Barrington, and Sheffield....the Claire Teague Center, Simon’s Rock, Berkshire South, and the South Egremont Congregational Church. We also organized two guided hikes with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Printed material: we distributed bright yellow “Senior Support/Emergency” cards to the community with significant phone numbers, and mailed a poster that included our fitness schedule, monthly luncheons, emergency numbers, and safe walking advice.

### Special Events:

Our annual French Park luncheon included a one mile Go the Distance walk and a gardening talk by Liz Keen from Indian Line Farm

Holiday Party: the guest speaker was noted author, NPR commentator John Hockenberry who provided his outlook on the world scene. Festivities followed

A holiday sing along at the EVI, led by Christine Dellea, followed by refreshments.

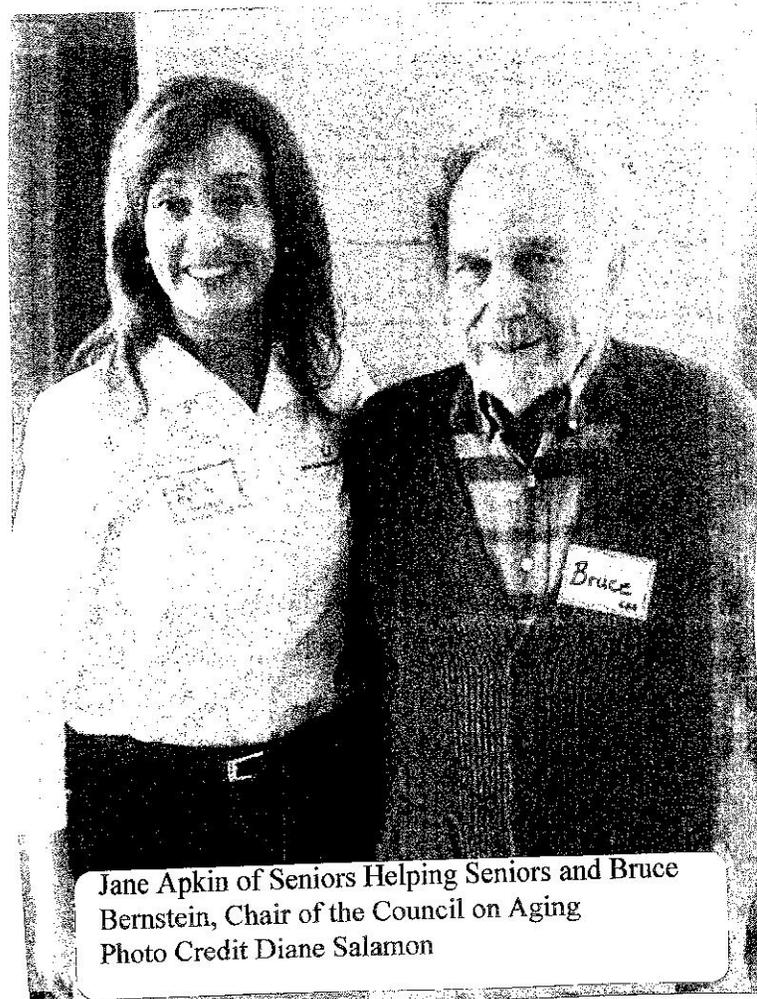
“An Hour of Music” at the Egremont Village Inn, co-sponsored with the Mt. Washington COA. This past April we presented a young Romanian pianist, Matei Varga, who had performed at Carnegie Hall and the White House. A reception followed with wine and cheese donated by Domaney’s.

Two courses were given during the summer on the iPad and iPhone

“Be Seen, Be Safe” We worked with the AGE Triad to create brightly colored vests to increase safe walking and biking on our roads. A picnic was held at the GB Senior Center to kick off this safety campaign, which included decorating scooters used by seniors. Free vests were distributed and are available in our town hall.

Representations:

We actively participate on the boards of the Southern Berkshire Elder Transportation Council, the Egremont Emergency Management Team, AGE Triad, the Advisory Council of Elder Services, the Berkshire County Regional Coordinating Council Human Service Transportation Office, and the Board of the BRTA. .

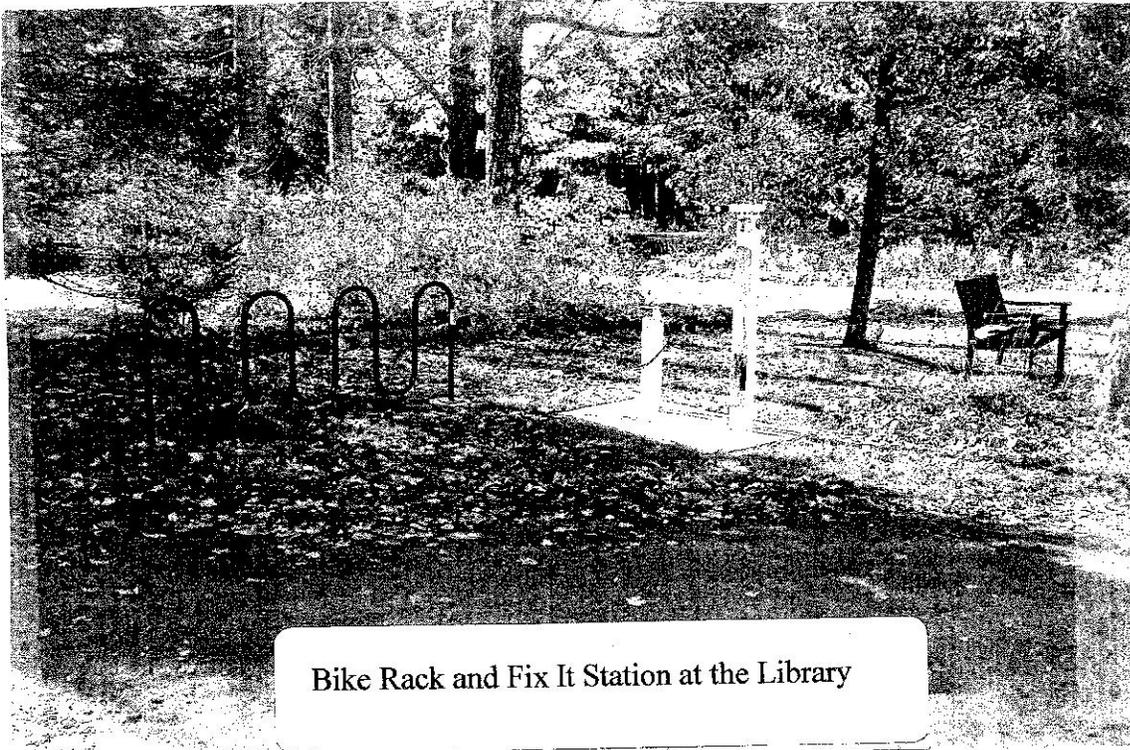


Jane Apkin of Seniors Helping Seniors and Bruce Bernstein, Chair of the Council on Aging  
Photo Credit Diane Salamon

## REPORT OF THE ALFORD-EGREMONT CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Alford-Egremont Cultural Council is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and works closely with the State Agency. We have strict guidelines for accepting grant applications and each member must undergo online training to understand the state requirements. The committee presently consists of 8 members, 3 are from Alford. Members serve for 6 year terms.

This year we were awarded \$8,800 from the state and had an additional \$1,400 in our unspent account (several approved proposals did not occur). We received 38 applications for grants and approved 29 of them for a total of \$9,720. Applications approved were for local, community enriching events. Not all projects were fully funded in order to stretch the funds to as many applications as possible. The local 4-H Club, the Boots and Bridles, received aid to compensate for 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 and the Berkshire Botanical Gardens were sponsored. Local children received scholarships to attend choral and performance groups. Local cultural groups – Berkshire Playwright Lab, Aston Magna Foundation and the Bach Society – received grants to introduce 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 timber frame building. In addition, the Cultural Council helped fund the Alford's Saturday in the District, Mount Everett Middle and High School Spring Fling and the Handiwork class at the Egremont School.



Bike Rack and Fix It Station at the Library

## **EGREMONT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

### **2017 TOWN REPORT**

The Egremont Emergency Management Team consisting of the Emergency Management Director, Fire Chief, Police Chief, Board of Health, Highway Superintendent and several other citizens, meet monthly throughout the year. Federally mandated National Incident Management System trainings are accomplished as courses are updated and new personnel are added to Egremont Boards and Committees. Monthly meetings of the Southern Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee are attended by several members; we also meet with National Grid to keep informed about winter storm procedures and power outages from storms.

Our range of seasons provides opportunities to exercise pre-planning efforts. As a result of several lost persons calls, new procedures are being worked out for incident response and command decisions.

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

The Town's emergency telephone alert system has been used for several calls regarding road closures, water main repairs, meeting announcements and other timely issues with good feedback. 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

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT  
JULY 1, 2016 through JUNE 30, 2017  
FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

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 2016 annual town meeting, Egremont voters approved an operating budget of \$2,485,379 for the 2016-2017 fiscal year ("FY17"), an increase of 4% over fiscal year 2015-2016 ("FY16"), and a school operating and capital budget of \$1,594,660, a decrease of 4.5% over the FY16 school budget (which saw a 20% increase, later amended to a 4.5% increase) for a total line item budget of \$4,080,039 for FY17, an increase of less than 1/2% over FY16.

Voters also approved special articles totaling \$769,495:

1. \$250,005 for the Water Department comprised of \$200,000 from user fees, \$23,688 from a town taxpayer subsidy and \$26,317 from Water Department retained earnings. Additionally, in February a reserve fund transfer of \$6,463 was made to the department for a new bridge construction problem, raising the total taxpayer subsidy to \$30,151.
2. \$2,574 bill from prior year
3. \$15,000 for deposit into the GASB 45 Special Stabilization Fund for retired employees' health costs
4. \$115,000 as matching funds for South Egremont School rehab
5. \$170,000 for new dump truck for Highway Department
6. \$3,200 for Planning Board technical assistance with by-law
7. \$119,000 air packs for Fire Department
8. \$5,000 for Hillside Cemetery
9. \$5,000 for Friends of Prospect Lake
10. \$4,000 for Historical Commission for updating state records
11. \$2,000 for Historical Commission for book restoration
12. \$14,716 for Police Department for a new limit monitor trailer
13. \$64,000 for deposit into the Stabilization Fund

The special articles, including the Water Department's budget of \$250,005 totaled \$769,495 with \$7,574 coming from raise and appropriate, \$5,000 from the Sale of Lots account, \$119,000 from the Stabilization Fund and \$387,916 from Free Cash.

The balances in reserve accounts after town meeting were (a) Free Cash \$100,927, (b) Stabilization Fund \$396,936 and (c) Reserve Fund \$25,000. Free Cash was then recertified adding in FY17's numbers by the Department of Revenue in the fall of 2017 as \$335,773.

On May 2, 2017, prior to our annual meeting for Fiscal Year 2018 (“FY18”) a special town meeting was held for FY17. \$19,000 was transferred from Free Cash to the Highway Construction account to replace funds taken from that account to finish the bridge on Mt. Washington Road, \$98,500 was transferred from the Mt. Everett Academy (library) repairs account to the South Egremont School rehab project. To fund a contractual obligation to a former police chief \$37,567 was transferred from Overlay Surplus and \$62,333 from Free Cash. After the meeting, the balance in Free Cash was \$254,440. It should be noted that the library repairs account will need to be replenished at some point.

2017 adopted line item budget	\$4,080,039
Special articles	<u>769,495</u>
Total	\$4,839,534

Our reserves as of June 30, 2017 totaled \$522,950, about 10.8% of FY17’s total budget. Best practice rules are to maintain reserves of no less than 6 to 10%.

Tax rate for FY17 was \$9.34 per thousand dollars of assessed value versus \$9.19 per thousand dollars of assessed value the prior year, an increase of 1.6%. Property values have continued to rise (with the market) and, with the addition of broadband, may continue to rise over the next few years.

Salaries, wages and fringe benefits for FY17 totaled \$1,459,360, an increase of 5.7% from FY16. Health & dental rose 17.5%, pension payments stayed level. Longevity pay rose 8.2% with sick leave pay and unemployment compensation staying level.

The Police Department budget (including collective bargaining and the debt payment on the police facility (\$33,600)) totaled \$394,816. Computer expenses, maintenance expenses, insurance for the chief and employees (included in insurance premiums) totaled approximately \$96,000. When other incidentals are added in, the Police Department costs nearly \$500,000 a year to run. This will increase as the years go by, as we will be paying more for service, buying vehicles, updating software, etc., so long as the town wishes to have 24/7 coverage by our own police force.

The Highway Department budget, including collective bargaining, totaled \$504,338. Also, the town authorized the purchase of a \$170,000 one-ton dump truck paid with Free Cash this year. Snow and Ice was over budget by \$71,777. FY17 was not a snowy year. It should be noted that snow and ice expenditures may also be used to repair and maintain the trucks and plows. The Construction and Maintenance account was left with a balance of \$31,759, which went into Free Cash. Although the highway department has authorization for three personnel as well as the superintendent, it operated with two personnel most of this year. Our selectmen, in concert with the highway superintendent, have authorized road studies to determine the condition of

the roads in Egremont. They were conducted by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, one in 2014 and one in 2016. It is apparent that monies in addition to the Chapter 90 funds we receive from the state each year will be needed to augment funds set aside for road maintenance and repair.

The Water Department's budget for FY17 was \$250,005. In addition, a Reserve Fund transfer was authorized by the Finance Committee, resulting in a total budget of \$256,463, and the taxpayer subsidy increased to \$30,151. Our operator will be retiring in 2018, and there are capital improvements and repairs to consider. The Water Department is debating how to deal with these changes from both an operational and financial standpoint. The taxpayer subsidy has decreased overall from past years but the expenses of operating the Water Department continue to rise. In addition, as noted above, there will be significant capital expenditures because our aging water lines need to be repaired or replaced. This will be expensive for both the town and the users of the water system.

The South Egremont school continues to be an increasing burden on the taxpayers of the town. In 2013 an engineering study, based on an updated EDM report, was contracted for at a cost of \$25,000, with \$12,500 being paid for by the town and \$12,500 by grant. In 2014 the town received a Massachusetts Historical Commission grant of \$118,000 for the library plus \$58,000 for the school. (We have spent some of that money for both library and school). In 2016 the town provided \$115,000 matching funds hoping to get a grant of \$100,000, and finally received only \$50,000 for FY18. The Southern Berkshire Regional School District set aside \$25,000 for the South Egremont school. At a special town meeting on May 2, 2017, the townspeople voted another \$98,500 for the rehabilitation of the school. These funds were taken from the library repairs account and will need to be replenished. To date the townspeople's contribution and grants for the school project have exceeded \$371,500. Another grant for \$107,000 to allow the town to proceed with handicapped accessibility has been applied for and there is a campaign among private citizens to come up with an additional \$20,000.

\*In municipal accounting jargon, "Free Cash" is the total of funds not expended and revenues in excess of estimated receipts as of the end of a fiscal year. "Raise and appropriate" means money from real estate and personal property taxes. 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 line item in the town's annual budget which is funded to cover unforeseen or unexpected expenses. Historically, the town budgets the Reserve Fund at \$25,000. If something so catastrophic as to exceed available funds should come up, the Finance Committee believes a special town meeting should be called.

On the liability side, the town's debt as of June 30, 2017 totaled \$918,600, comprised of outstanding debt for the Water Department of approximately \$620,000, the police facility of \$150,000, the fire truck of \$120,000 and the backhoe of \$28,600.

In 2016, the town meeting authorized borrowing \$2,940,000 to build a broadband network to provide internet service to Egremont homeowners. With funding allocated to Egremont by the Mass Broadband Institute, townspeople will not have to pay the entire cost of installation, and may not have to borrow at all. A local broadband company named Fiber Connect is also bringing fiber optic internet to our town, without the financial support of the Mass Broadband Institute. Only time will tell how much Egremont may be required to spend to bring internet/broadband to all of us.

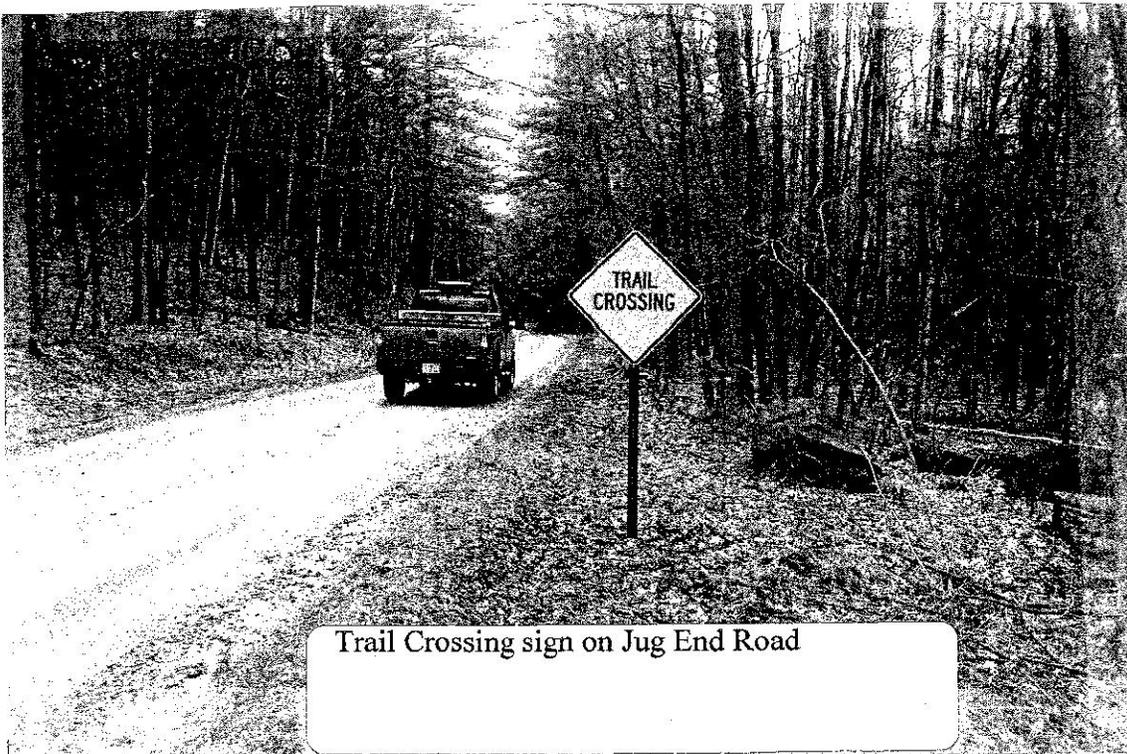
While the town's total debt load is manageable, careful planning and consideration should be given to any proposals to take on further debt.

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, 2016 thru June 30, 2017 (FY17)

Laura Allen, Chairman	Michael Bandzierz, Vice Chairman
Thomas Berkel, Secretary	Ralph Noveck
Edward (Rocky) Scarbro	Eric Swanson (for part year)
Steve Rawlings (for part year)	



## REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fiscal 2017

We again thank 35 year veteran Egremont Fire Chief, William Turner, for his exceptional past and continued dedication and leadership. Chief Turner retired as Chief in 2017, passing the baton to then Deputy Chief Joseph Schneider.

### Roster

Chief Joseph Schneider

Deputy Chiefs William Turner and James Olmsted

Captain Jim Golden  
Captain David Guidi  
Lt. Paul Sierau  
Lt. Roger Meyer  
Gregory Peck  
Lane Farnum  
Bruce Turner  
Zachery Wright  
Roger Bailey  
Vincent Murphy

David Katzenstein  
John H. Wells  
Tom Sierau  
Robert Brown  
Kevin Wheeler  
Herman Trudeau Sr.  
Ed Rossi  
Jay Keefner  
Emma Hobson  
Robert McGraw

The members of the Egremont Fire Department meet at least every Tuesday for training, maintenance of equipment and organizational meetings. We additionally train as a group with neighboring departments. Some individual members participated in ice/water rescue and rope rescue training. A core group trains in rope rescue skills several time a month. We continually refresh our First Responder Medical training including the use of Naloxone and Epi pens. Chief Schneider continues his Code Enforcement classes. We hosted a Massachusetts Fire Academy course in Pumps and Hydraulics. Students came from across the Commonwealth.

The SCBA units purchased last year were placed in service following several weeks of training. Ironically the units were used at a mutual aid structure fire the week they were placed in service. Equipment upgrades continue, most purchased with donated funds. As most of our calls are of a medical nature, most of our upgrades are focused on helping us perform our duties on the medical and rescue side. We are grateful for your donations.

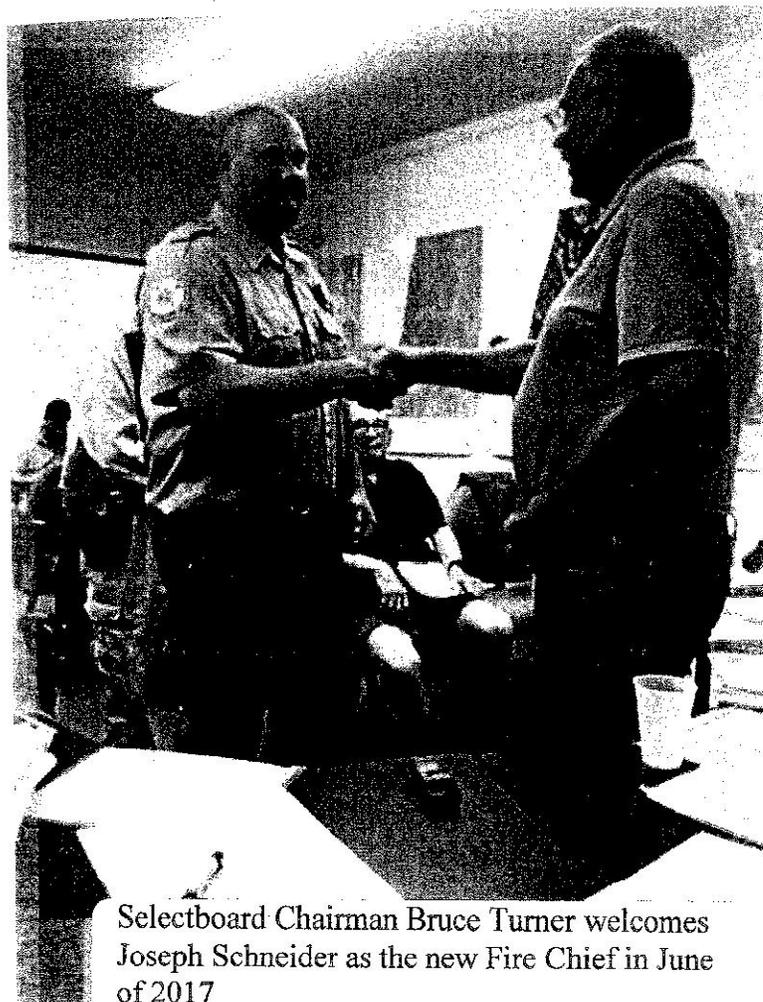
We have had another very busy year. There were 204 responses to calls for help in fiscal year 2017. 98 calls were medical calls. 6 were rescues. 10 were responses to car accidents. Training and equipping for these calls is proportional to the percentage of our calls that they represent. We also train in water supply, pump operations and all aspects of fire suppression.

We still occasionally encounter homes without clearly displayed 911 signs. We also encourage that all homeowners, particularly those with reporting alarms, purchase a Knox Box. Knox Boxes eliminate the need for us to use force to gain entry to your home if an emergency occurs and no one is available to let us in. Information regarding 911 signs and Knox Boxes is available at Town Hall.

We are always looking for new recruits. We are looking for motivated, disciplined men and women. Firefighting is a challenging opportunity to serve your community. If you think that you have what it

takes to be a firefighter, please join us any Tuesday evening at either firehouse. We serve with pride. We thank you for your continued support and hope that we all have a safe year.

Fiscal 2017	2017 1st Half	2017 2nd half
Calls	7/1-12/31/ 2016	1/1-6/31 2017
Medical	55	43
MVA	7	3
CO Alarm	0	5
SMOKE/FIRE ALARM	10	3
ALARM/FALSE	21	17
STRUCTURE FIRE	5	2
CHIMNEY FIRE	1	1
MUTUAL AID	0	5
RESCUE	4	2
SEARCH	2	3
Tree/Wires Down	5	2
Outside Fire or Brush	3	1
Vehicle Fire	0	1
Service Call other	1	1
Appliance Fire	0	1
Total	114	90



Selectboard Chairman Bruce Turner welcomes Joseph Schneider as the new Fire Chief in June of 2017

## REPORT OF THE GREEN COMMITTEE

Richard Allen, Susan Bachelder, Corinna Barnard, Emily Eyre, Robin Goldberg, Juliette Haas, Pat Konecky, and Marj Wexler (rotating chair)

In April, we held our 10th annual Egremont Recycles Day. More than 83 volunteers scoured all 41 miles of roads in Egremont to pick up roadside trash. More than 73 bags, totaling more than 680 pounds, were brought to Green Committee members for sorting and recycling. That evening, our thank-you pizza party (paid for by the returned bottles and cans) at the South Egremont Congregational Church was enjoyed by all volunteers who attended. Join us in April 2018 for the 10th annual event!

We've been making a special effort to spread the word about plastic film recycling. "Plastic film" is the industry term for shopping bags, bread bags, dry-cleaning bags, etc., that we used to throw away in the trash. Plastic film can be taken to bins at the Big Y and Price Chopper bottle redemption rooms.

This year, we began a series of almost-monthly articles in the Berkshire Edge. The first was titled "Will Our Waste Line Go Under 400?" The October 6 edition carried this article: "Historic Hurricane Season Leaves Us Wanting a Better Bottle Bill," which described our efforts to redeem bottles and cans instead of sending them to the Materials Recycling Facility, and to send the proceeds to hurricane recovery efforts.

One member has been involved with the Berkshire Green Committees Network, which usually meets in Pittsfield. She keeps us informed of their activities.

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 continues to be popular, with the result that much of this relatively heavy component of trash is diverted from landfills. Residents 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 has 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

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Charles Ogden, Chairman  
Dr. William Rose  
Ellen Maggio

The Egremont Board of Health, granted authority under the Commonwealth's General Laws, the Sanitary Code, the Environmental Code and other relevant laws and regulations, work to ensure the public health vision of healthy people in healthy communities. The board, made up of volunteers from the community, meets twice a month in a posted, open meeting forum, to discuss, deliberate and often vote on policy in matters under their jurisdiction.

Following is a list of duties and responsibilities which come under the public health umbrella:

- Records, Record keeping and Reports
- Health Care and Disease Control
- Housing and Dwelling
- Hazardous Waste
- Solid Waste
- Septage and Garbage
- Nuisances
- Food
- Pools and Beaches
- Camps
- Smoking/Tobacco Control

We are lucky in Egremont to have a well staffed, dedicated department to address these issues. We are also lucky to rely on the services of the Berkshire County Public Health Alliance. The Alliance provides our town with highly trained, experienced field inspection and public health nursing services which has included Title 5 related work (septic system inspections, perc tests for new or upgraded septic systems), restaurant inspections, flu shot clinics and housing inspections.

Egremont is a small town and our public health work load often reflects our size. While small, the following is a breakdown of permits, inspections and health related topics addressed:

- Issued 25 food permits with necessary food establishment inspections.
- Issued 20 Disposal Works Construction Permits for new or upgraded septic systems.
- Witnessed 20 Title 5 inspections
- Held an annual flu clinic
- Received over \$16,000 in permit fees

Of note in the last year, the board overhauled the town's local well regulations to provide more in depth language and understanding on required testing, reporting and drinking water standards. The board also brought all of the food establishments into full compliance of the Federal Food Code by requiring, in some cases, new kitchen equipment or additional food handling training.

Respectfully submitted,  
Juliette Haas, Director  
10/15/2017

## REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The Mount Washington Road bridge over Karner Brook replacement project was completed in April. Chapter 90 money, used for paving roads, was saved up to complete the project which came in at approximately \$600,000. The Town receives about \$150,000 each year from the State to resurface roads, repair culverts and drainage, and repair or replace bridges.

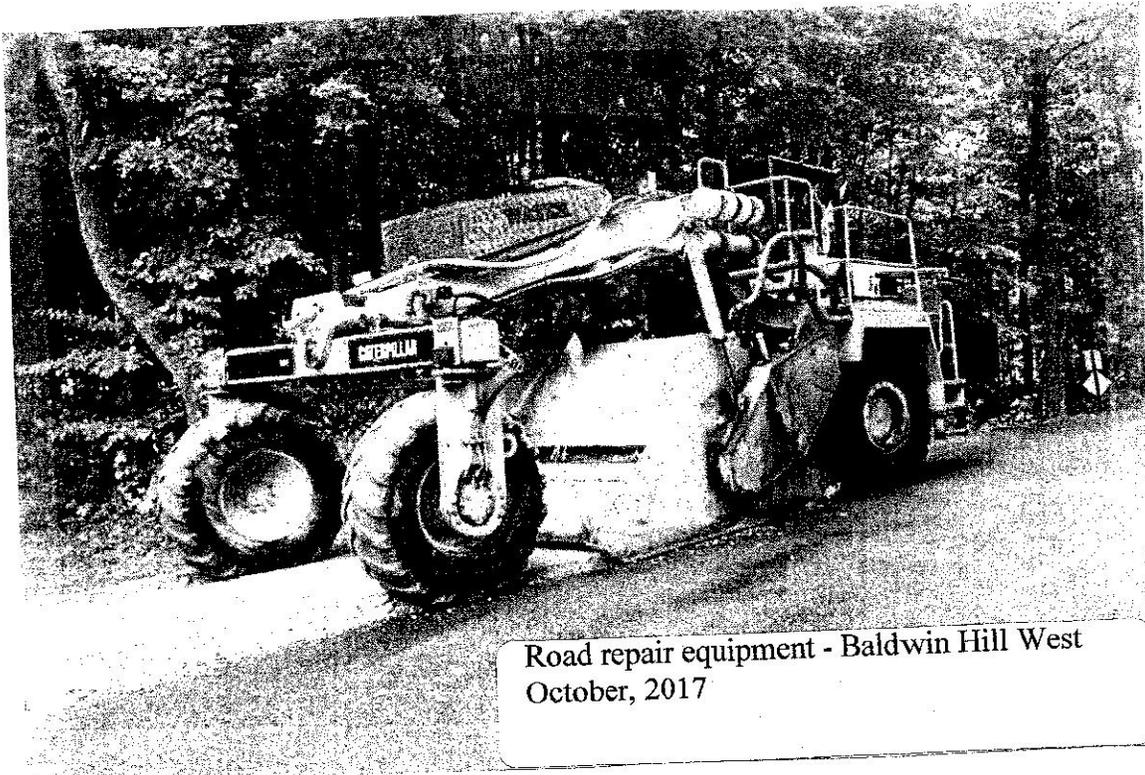
The Highway Department performed the annual grading and graveling of unpaved roads. Roadside drainage ditches were cleared and catch basins cleaned out. Storm clean-up of trees and branches was completed throughout the year. Roadside mowing and brush cutting along with weed-whacking was also performed. Guardrail was repaired along Route 71 and installed on Prospect Lake Road. Damaged or missing street signs were repaired or replaced. Line painting of roads was done in the Fall. Potholes were patched and blacktopped.

During the Winter months the roads were plowed, sanded and salted during and after each storm.

The Highway Department would like to thank all those who assisted the Department this year, including the Board of Selectmen, the Fire Department, the Police Department, Town Hall office personnel and numerous contractors. Thank you all for your hard work.

Respectfully submitted,

James Noe  
Egremont Highway Superintendent



## HISTORICAL COMMISSION

General: The Historical Commission is tasked with promoting through architecture and historic landmarks a sense of pride of place and preservation in many ways. This year has seen the commission involved in the following:

1: The Congregational Church. The Commission has attended meetings and offered as an observer advice and counsel where we can to assist in the transition of ownership. As this is a private non profit, the Town and Commission will do whatever we can to help secure the Church and the Rectory as the architectural gems that they are in our town center.

2: The North Egremont Baptist Church. This building has been returned to private hands. However, the records of the Church have been left in the Town's care. This year we have fully boxed, folderized and catalogued all of these files under the guidance of Commissioner Margeret Cherin, staff archivist at Simon's Rock, and one of her proteges, Molly McGowen.

3: The ATC and Kellogg Conservancy. What had seemed to be plans for expansion under the ATC and a rather contentious discussion of expansion of a parking lot, the ATC has determined that their resources would be better spent in expansion in Virginia and Maine so the Kellogg Conservancy will be de-accessioned. While the terms are vague, the entire property of 99 acres is being offered in the range of \$700,000 asking. It appears that while this is a new development, the re-assignment of the Historic Preservation Restriction that has been in negotiation for the year with Historic New England will go ahead. As the revised paperwork has not been finalized, this is not definitive. Also, the conservation restrictions on the rest of the property will be retained by the ATC and are not in review for reassignment.

4: the Schoolhouse. The Commission assisted in obtaining an MHC emergency grant this year to continue the foundational work that will be undertaken this year.

5: The Mt. Everett Academy building, under the oversight of Commissioner Rebecca Turner, installed a new heating system and window upgrades to increase the building's energy efficiency while abiding by the HPR contract we have with the state.

6: Lastly, the Commission worked with Karner Brook LLC consulting on the appropriate color palette for the Victorian building referred to as the Spirit Shoppe using a yellow green combination that reflected what had been a similar palette of the Dalzell home across the street at #64.

The Commission has available for reference color charts from Historic New England and several specialty paint companies, as well as texts for architectural tips and guidelines for repair and maintenance available.

## Beyond Buildings.

This was year 3 of the ten year cycle leading to the Town's 250th anniversary on August 23, 1775. This year, to promote the BOS initiative of Volunteerism, we moved the party from the Archives onto the lawns of the Meeting House with an all boards presentation. It was hoped to bring attention to the building and expand awareness of the variety of ways to serve. The take away was that the cake was great. We need to work on promotion and a few more children's events next year, but we hope that everyone will keep this week end in mind as a way to promote particular events or interests of our boards.

The Nolumeka Project, a group from the eastern end of the state working to protect Native American burial grounds made several presentations in the region. Bill and Lynn Wood attended the Northfield meeting in December and reported on the work. While we find it of interest, the request for \$500 and their apparent focus beyond our own tribal lands caused the Commission to refrain from active participation at this time.

Healthy Streets and Healthy Aging are topics of interest to the Commission. As mentioned, we are concerned with promoting ways of keeping seniors intact in older homes without damage to original architectural elements, and installing proper sidewalks and IDA compliant lighting to assist in mobility issues. The ongoing work of the Planning Board to address these issues in the two National Register Historic Districts as they begin to revise the proposed Town and Rural District plan will be a major focus of the commission going forward.

Susan Bachelder  
Elliott Snyder  
Margaret Cherin  
Rebecca Turner  
William Wood



REPORT OF THE EGREMONT FREE LIBRARY  
2017

Egremont Free Library saw many new young patrons visit the library. New families have moved in and/or grandparents are visiting with their grandchildren. There is a fun kids area with Legos, puzzles, Calico Critters, a doll house, Thomas the Tank Engine trains and finger puppets, and of course books! Thank you to a local resident who donated \$500 because his granddaughter and great grandchildren had a great time visiting the library this past summer.

Egremont Free Library is a welcoming place for community members to gather. Patrons and visitors also have access to 24/7 high speed internet. We have a new computer with a large, wide screen HD monitor. Two computers are available to patrons for personal and work use. A cozy “nook” area with a rocking chair and comfortable reading chair are available to those who would like to enjoy some quiet time while visiting.

Lesliann hosted several fun game nights throughout the year. We have a non-fiction book club that meets about once every few months. Some of our books this year were *Thank You for Being Late: An Optimist's Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations* by Thomas L. Friedman, *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century* by Timothy Snyder, *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J.D. Vance and *The Book of Joy Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* with Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams.

Egremont Free Library also has an iPad, which can be used for a variety of purposes. The iPad is available for patrons during library hours. Lesliann regularly 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, and Mass MoCA are available throughout the year.

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. 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. 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.

All are welcome to visit Egremont Free Library during library hours on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Francine Groener  
Library Trustee Chair



## PLANNING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

**Personnel:** Helen Krancer, Chair; Don Pulfer, Vice Chair; Mark Holmes, Clerk; Lucinda Vermeulen, Treasurer; Gregory Cherin, Representative to Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. On May 22, 2017, the Board Reorganized, resulting in the following changes. Don Pulfer, Chair; Helen Krancer, Vice Chair; Lucinda Vermeulen, Clerk. Also, Mark Holmes left the Planning Board in May after six years of service, and was replaced by Ed Regendahl, who now holds the position of Treasurer. Gregory Cherin remains Representative to BRPC.

**Work on Citizens Questionnaire:** The Board continues to work on production of a questionnaire which will be presented to town residents, asking their views on Egremont's preservation and potential growth and/or changes in the future. The Board has been reviewing similar past questionnaires from other Berkshire towns and discussing possibilities at great length toward the goal of producing an effective questionnaire.

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

### **Special Permits:**

October 17, 2016: Appalachian Trail Conservancy presented a new parking lot plan.

October 17, 2016: Tighe and Bond presented two applications for Large Scale Ground Mounted Photo Voltaic Arrays; one on Pumpkin Hollow Road, and one on McGee Road.

October 26, 2016: Hearing was held regarding an application by Jonathan and Amanda Hohman to operate a boarding facility for dogs on their property.

November 7, 2016: Hearing Continuance was held for the Hohman application, at which their permit was granted.

November 9, 2016: Tighe and Bond withdrew their application for a solar array on Pumpkin Hollow Road.

November 18, 2016: Hearing was held regarding Tighe and Bond's application for a solar array on McGee Road.

November 29, 2016: Hearing continuance was held for Tighe and Bond, at which their McGee Road solar array application was withdrawn without prejudice.

February 22, 2017: Application was accepted from 377 Builders, LLC for a Change of Use of a building at 64 Main Street from residential to a Consumer Services Establishment.

April 4, 2017: Hearing was held for 377 Builders, LLC application.

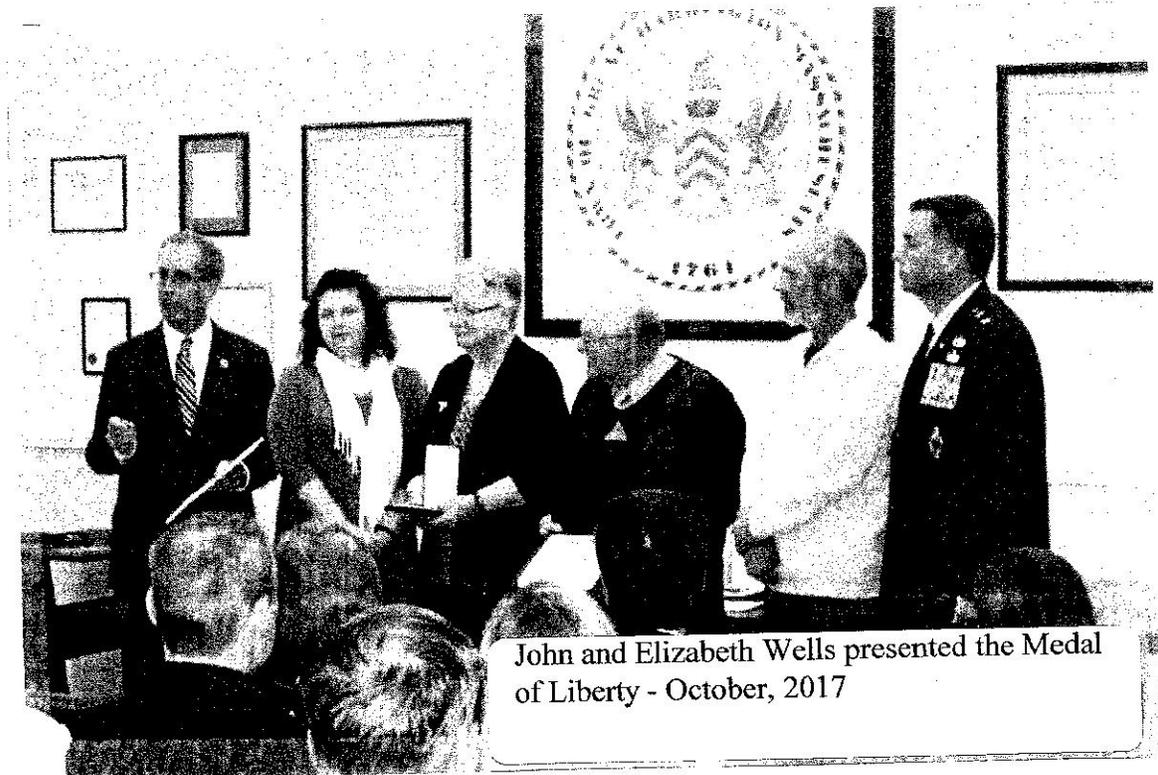
**Selectmen's AdHoc Committee:** The Board's Chair, Helen Krancer, participated in the committee's work to create an Outdoor Recreation ByLaw.

**Common Driveway Permit:** The Board received one application for a common driveway, and one amendment for a common driveway permit.

**Miscellaneous:**

- April 5, 2017: Hearing was held for the Planning Board's proposed "Temporary Moratorium on Retail Marijuana Sales." That moratorium was approved by the Massachusetts Attorney General in August, 2017, which will remain in effect until December 31, 2018.
- Krancer and Pulfer attended a BRPC Recreational Marijuana Workshop.
- Pulfer attended a seminar on "How to Hold a Perfect Public Hearing."
- The Board made three sight visits regarding special permits and land divisions.
- The Board consulted with citizens seeking information about the town's zoning bylaw, about land divisions, and about special permits.
- The Board sought advice of town counsel when needed.
- The Board submitted articles for the town newsletter.
- The Board attended Berkshire Regional Planning Commission meetings and educational sessions.

Don Pulfer  
Helen Krancer  
Lucinda Vermeulen  
Greg Cherin  
Ed Regendahl



John and Elizabeth Wells presented the Medal of Liberty - October, 2017

**Bob Krupski Plumbing, Inc.**

*-Licensed Master Plumber – License# 10391*

*Oil Burner Technician—License # 022053*

Plumbing Inspector Towns of:  
Alford - Egremont  
Great Barrington  
Monterey - Mt. Washington  
New Marlborough  
Sheffield

P.O. Box 111, Sheffield, MA 01257  
(413) 229-8019  
(Fax) 229-2210

September 25, 2017

**TO: Town of Egremont**  
**RE: Plumbing / Gas Inspections – July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017**

**During the year July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017:**

**PLUMBING:**

Issued 27 plumbing permits

Conducted 38 on site inspections.

Collected \$ 2,820.00 in fees.

**GAS:**

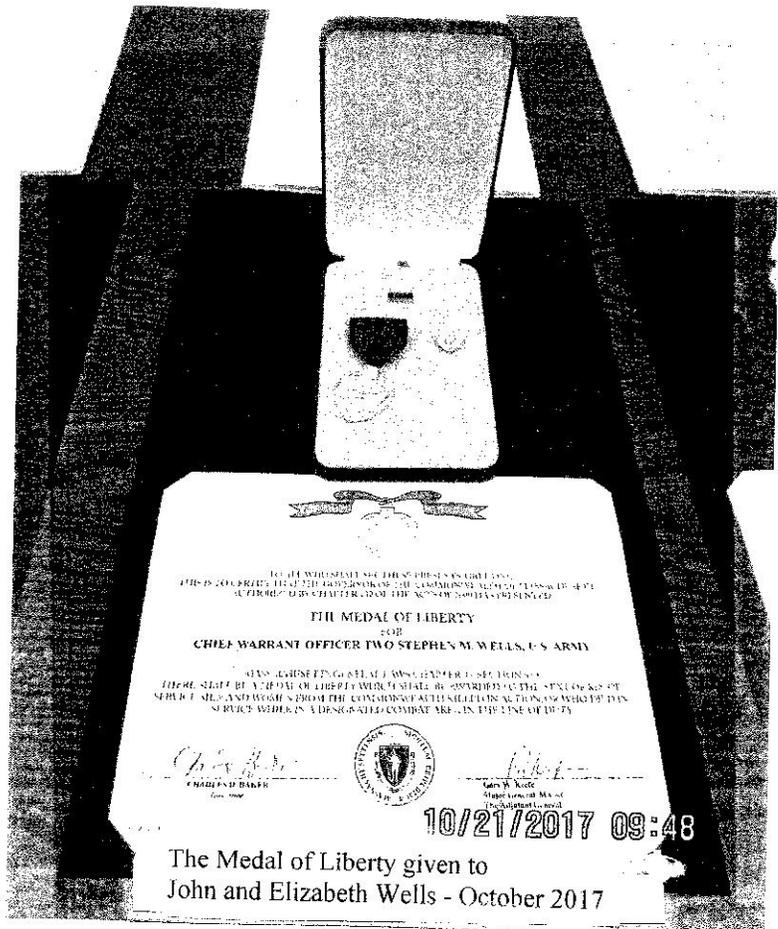
Issued 8 gas permits

Conducted 11 on site gas inspections

Collected \$ 660.00 in fees

Sincerely,

  
**Bob Krupski,**  
Plumbing Inspector



## Annual Report of the Egremont Police Department

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Egremont:

The following is the annual report of activities for the Egremont Police Department for the fiscal year 2017.

Another year has come to pass, and your Police Department was hard at work keeping the community safe and secure. The Egremont Police Department has continued to solidify its bonds with the Town residents by embracing the realization of what Policing has become in the modern era. We continue to seek out positive interaction with Town residents and visitors in an attempt to form vital relationships that will undoubtedly determine how successful we are at protecting and serving all that enjoy this beautiful place. Although the majority of our time is spent enjoying the company of the wonderful people that live, work and visit Egremont, we are certainly not immune from the issues that all communities deal with from time to time.

We have seen a substantial increase in arrests/criminal applications. The Department has made a total to 66 this past fiscal year. That is almost a 50 percent increase over last year. We attribute this to the trend that Police Departments all over the state and nation are also experiencing, with criminal activity and Officer Contacts on the rise. We also have seen an increase in Officer-initiated activity, which has a profound impact on the number of arrests and criminal applications Officers are involved in.

In August, a new Portable Breath test device was obtained with a grant written by Officer Carlson. The device was placed into service after Officers received operational training. The new PBT has been very useful in the detection and prosecution of drunk drivers.

The heroin epidemic continues to be an issue that requires our attention on a daily basis. Even in Egremont, this dangerous narcotic has changed the lives of so many. It has also increasingly become associated with a majority of the serious crimes committed in the area. It is absolutely vital that we continue to offer treatment to individuals that seek our help. Your Police Department will continue to help those who are in need.

This year has brought a number of changes to the Egremont Police Department roster. In September of 2016, Officer Kyle Kemp rejoined the ranks after completing his rigorous twenty-four-week full-time Police Academy training held in Springfield, MA. Officer Kemp's return had certainly been a welcome one. It has become increasingly more difficult to find individuals that want to serve either full or part-time. The difficulty we have experienced in finding qualified personnel is certainly not a problem isolated to Egremont. All of the surrounding communities are experiencing similar issues. The era of individuals willing to serve part-time as Police Officers as the job continues to become increasingly more dangerous and demanding may have come to an end.

One area of concern that's frequently mentioned is vehicles speeding on our roadways. We have also heard several concerns over aggressive drivers. We are attempting to address these issues by utilizing the newly purchased "speed board", that you may have noticed strategically placed in various locations around Town. Not only does the "speed board" act as a deterrent, but it provides us with valuable data regarding the actual vehicle speeds. We are then able to extract the data and identify specific times during the day that our Officers can be posted for radar duty. By doing so, we are able to maximize our efforts to slow down traffic down. This campaign has shown great promise, and we have noticed a drastic drop in the complaints we've received. Please accept our thanks to all the concerned citizens that take the time to make us aware of areas in Town that

may need a little extra attention.

In December, Officer Kemp volunteered to attend Field Training Officer training, and after a week-long course hosted by the MPTC (Massachusetts Police Training Committee), he returned with valuable skills and information that will help to train future Officers and ensure that they are ready to provide the top-notch Police services that the Egremont citizens enjoy and expect. Officer Kemp joins Officer Carlson who is also an FTO, and the two will share responsibilities getting future Officers into tip-top shape!

Throughout the School year, I continued to assist our school children and parents alike with safely crossing Main Street. This will undoubtedly continue if the school is re-opened in the future. The Department also participated in "high five Friday" many times throughout the school year. This is a program designed to foster positive interaction between students and the Police, by simply saying hello to the children and giving them a "high five" as they enter their school in the morning. Several other Police Departments participated in the program, which seemed to be received well. I was also able to speak with many of Egremont's senior citizens during which I gave a presentation on the dangers of identity theft and the many scams that are being utilized to solicit vital information such as social security numbers, dates of birth, account numbers and password information. Please remember to guard your information closely, and if there is ever a time where you feel uncomfortable with a situation on the telephone or computer, simply end the conversation and contact Egremont Police Department.

At the beginning of the new year, all of the Egremont Police Officers completed their annual in-service training which included CPR/first aid, legal updates, Alzheimer's and dementia, and youth interactions to name a few. All Egremont Officers have also recently completed a rigorous firearms training course held in Sheffield, during which they displayed their proficiency with a variety of weapons platforms. This training is vital in helping to prepare, maintain and improve Officer's skills in the event that a life-threatening emergency should present itself.

Finally, we would once again like to thank all of you for the unwavering support that you have shown us on a daily basis. Working in this wonderful Town is truly a pleasure. Your Police Department will continue to work hard each and every day to keep Egremont one of the safest communities in Massachusetts, and in return, we simply ask "if you see something, SAY SOMETHING!"

Please see the attached for the fiscal year 2017 activities of the Egremont Police Department.

Respectfully,

Chief Tyler A. Race

Statistics for 2017 (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017):

<b>Crime(s)/Incidents</b>	<b>Number of Offenses</b>
1. 911 Hang-up	18
2. Abandoned Motor Vehicle	16
3. Animal Control Officer/Animal Related	113
4. Alarms (Burglar/Hold-up)	172
5. Assist other Police Dept.	90
6. Assist Citizen	91
7. Assist Other Agency	116
8. Breaking and Entering/Burglary	5
9. Be On Look Out (BOLO)	61
10. Building/House Check	84
11. Complaints	43
12. Court	67
13. Death Notification	1
14. Disturbance/Dispute	12
15. Disabled MV	30
16. Domestic Disturbance	7
17. Detail Request	142
18. Fire Alarms/related Calls	48
19. Follow-up Investigation	59
20. Gunshots	2
21. Harassment/Harassing Calls	10
22. Larceny	7
23. Lock Out	15
24. Medical Emergency	84
25. Mental Health	3
26. Missing Person	7
27. Motor Vehicle Crash	42
28. Motor Vehicle Stop	810
29. Noise Complaint	6
30. Property Return/Lost/Found	27
31. Radar	576
32. Police Reports	106
33. Sex Offender Registration(annual)	5
34. Speed Board	9
35. Scam	8

36. Sex Offenses	1
37. Suspicious Activity/Vehicle	60
38. Traffic Control	24
39. Tree Down	51
40. Trespassing	28
41. Unattended Vehicle	69
42. Unattended Death	3
43. Serve Warrant	5
44. Wellbeing Check	20



## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board welcomed George McGurn as its new member in May 2017. George has a particular interest in broadband as has continued seamlessly the on-going work of the Technology Committee.

Egremont is unique among Commonwealth towns since it is offering residents two Broadband options. Fiber Connect has almost completed its Phase 1 build-out as this is written. Negotiations with Charter are scheduled to commence in early November. It is anticipated that some form of high speed internet service will be available to all households by winter 2018-2019.

The saga of the historic South Egremont School house continues. The Board remains committed to renovate the building so that it is safe for all students and staff and compliant with ADA upgrades. A campaign to raise private funds was launched by the Historical Commission. As of this writing the Board is preparing to rebid the project.

The Southern Berkshire Regional School District didn't fund the South Egremont School program for the school year 2017-2018, effectively closing the school. The Town took legal action against the district and ultimately signed a settlement agreement requiring the District to either fund the program or implement the proper process defined in the original District Agreement as amended over the years. As of this writing, the School Committee has voted to fund the program. But listening to the debate, clear intentions not to re-open the School house no matter what educational program is proposed are afoot. The Board will keep a close eye on this situation and on region-wide discussions about the future of all Berkshire County school districts. A vibrant educational activity at the South Egremont School is crucial for Main St.'s vitality.

The future of the South Berkshire Regional School District, the first ever regional district in the Commonwealth, is critical for our efforts to attract young families to the environmental and recreational wealth we so much enjoy. Our triad pillar is weak because of the uncertainty about the education we can assure young families. The Board will do all it can to assure an educational system second to none. Of that, all can be sure.

The South Egremont Church has struggled for years to keep its congregation and to fund necessary repairs. The Congregation's contribution to the life of our community is incalculable. The Church's trustees have given up the struggle and closed the church. True to Egremont tradition, a volunteer group of concerned citizens- Friends of the Egremont Meeting House- has formed to save and restore our church as a Community Center and a tribute to the living memory of the congregation that nurtured the Church from the earliest years of the twentieth century. And those that built the first structure.

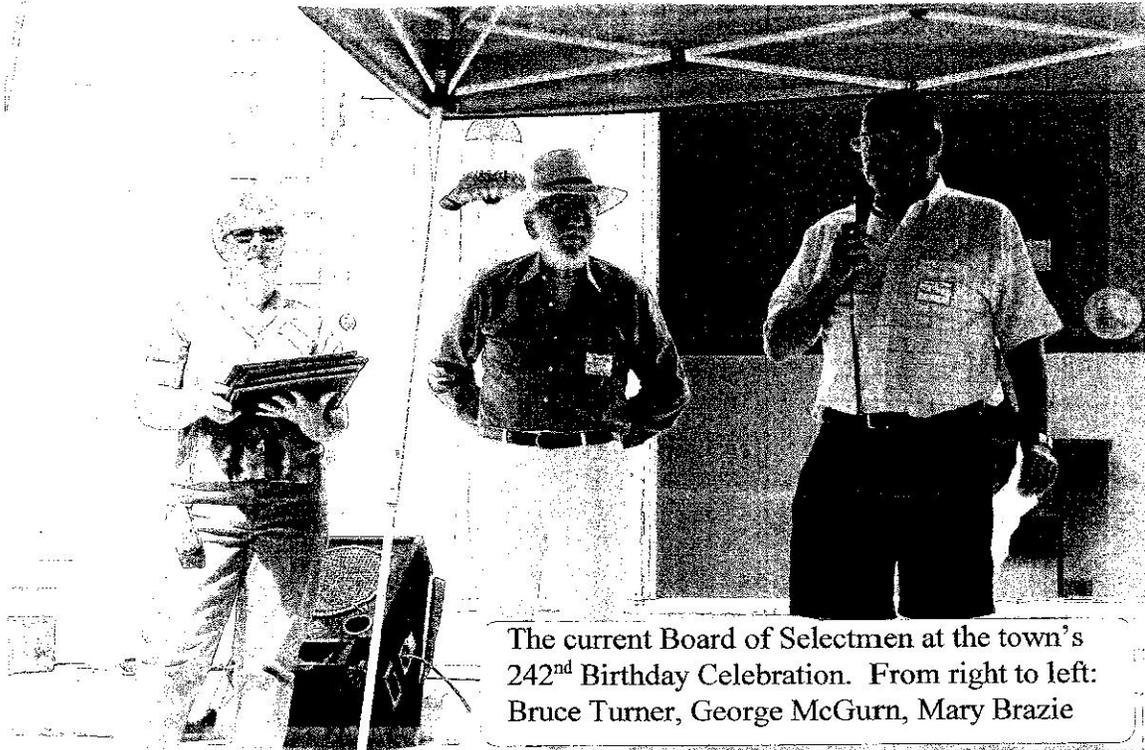
The Mount Washington Road bridge was finally completed and re-opened in April at a cost of \$600,000, most of it funded by MassDOT's Chapter 90. These funds are awarded towns to supplement their local road repair funds. Using Egremont's scarce road repair

funds for the bridge placed our road repairs for the entire Town behind schedule. As the October repaving of Oxbow Rd. and Baldwin West Rd. bears witness, the Town is aggressively looking at catch up in road repair and will continue to do so for the next few years. Grant funds for major repairs to some roads are also being sought.

There is much joyful Egremont news to report and appreciate as well:

- Joseph Schneider, born and raised in Egremont and the EFD, was elected to fill the position of Fire Chief. Fire Chief Bill Turner retired after 35 years of service. Joe is a long-serving member of the Department and follows in the footsteps of his father and grandfather.
- The joyful news is that Bill Turner will continue to serve as an Assistant Fire Chief.
- French Park's playground was expanded and up-graded to include innovative equipment geared toward younger children and colorful temptations for all ages.
- Greenagers, with the support of local merchants, will plant eight raised beds in French Park to grow organic produce and provide both the produce and the experience growing it to our community.

Board of Selectmen  
Bruce Turner, Chair  
George McGurn, Vice-Chair  
Mary Brazie



The current Board of Selectmen at the town's 242<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Celebration. From right to left: Bruce Turner, George McGurn, Mary Brazie

## REPORT OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

In February 2016, as a result of Egremont becoming a state designated Green Community, the town received \$138,000 in grant funding for energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy projects. All of those funds were expended and projects included the upgrading of furnaces in two town buildings, the installation of custom storm windows in the Mt. Everett Academy Building (library) to reduce heat lose, energy conservation measures and lighting upgrades in five town buildings and the installation of an 11 kwh pv solar array at the Police Department. These investments will save energy, reduce energy related capitol costs and lower the town's carbon footprint for many years to come.

The electricity usage at the Egremont Water Department has been reduced by 40% in the past five years thanks to installation of a very simple float control switch on the pumping system and the installation of an 11 kwh pv solar array. Electricity costs went from \$12,500 in FY2015 to \$7,500 in FY2017.

A pv solar array on the roof of the Egremont Police Department was installed in May of 2017. Reductions in monthly electricity usage and costs were immediate once the system went live. The system is projected to save the town an estimated \$2,500 a year over a 20 year period. Additionally, the town will receive SREC II payments for the solar production in the amount of \$1,400 a year for 20 years.

In January 2017 Egremont entered into a contract with Colonial Power to provide residential electric aggregation services. Residents who chose Colonial as their electricity supplier received electricity from a green source with kilowatts rates that were less expensive than standard/brown power rates offered by National Grid.

At town meeting in May of 2017 voters approved entering into a 20 year contract to receive the benefits of pv solar net metering for municipal electricity usage. Once this is done, the town will purchase electricity from a large commercial solar installation and receive a 20% discount through net metering credits. This is estimated to save the town \$5000 a year in energy costs.

On the solid waste front, the town's annual tonnage of trash fell to 390 tons, a reduction of 20% over a 5-year period. This is due in part to a greater awareness on behalf of Egremont residents who are recycling and composting more, as well as taking advantage of the many waste reduction and diversion programs the town offers. Recycling and waste diversion programs like our partnership with Goodwill Industries which collects textiles and electronics, as well as our very popular Swap Shop made the town eligible for the MassDEP Recycling Dividends Program. Through that program in October of 2016 the town received \$3600 which was used to purchase two very attractive recycling trash stations for French Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Juliette Haas  
Sustainability Coordinator