

## **Assessor**

I have continued to perform the duties of Assessor for the Town of Harrisville for 2020, working remotely due to the pandemic and at the Harrisville Town Hall as needed.

As Assessor, my duties consist of the inspection of new construction and building permits. I will visit properties to make sure the data is correct per Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) compliance. Routine responsibilities of the Assessor are to generate the equalization ratio report which is submitted to DRA, intent to cuts, timber and excavation warrants, current use applications, land use change tax, subdivisions, mergers, annexations, tax map updates, deed and address changes, and abatements.

If you think you qualify for any of the following Exemptions or Credits: Elderly Exemptions, Veterans Tax Credits and Tax Deferrals, which have specific requirements, please contact the Assessor's office.

You may contact me at the Harrisville Town Hall to make an appointment at 827-3431 or email: [assessor@harrisvillenh.org](mailto:assessor@harrisvillenh.org).

My goal is to maintain consistent and equitable assessments for Harrisville and provide the Taxpayers of Harrisville with knowledgeable explanations concerning their assessments.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Cook CHNA

## **Broadband Committee**

At last year's Town Meeting, by a large margin the Town approved Warrant Article #3 supporting the Broadband Infrastructure Project. A contract was entered into with Consolidated Communications, Inc. (CCI), a bond procured, and, per the contract, the proceeds were paid to CCI to fund the infrastructure work. An initial percentage was paid at the outset of the project, a further amount has been paid recently, when work passed the 50% mark, and the balance will be paid upon completion. CCI is required to repay Harrisville for all payments subsequently coming due on the bond. CCI has also invested a considerable further amount in this work.

CCI has been at work on this project all around Town. As a reminder, the contract with CCI required them to provide fiber for high-speed internet service to every residence and business in Harrisville (and to provide regular internet service for free to Town facilities). CCI's work has been overseen by two Project Managers, Jeff McIver (appointed by CCI) and Doug Norman (appointed by the Town). While there was a small delay regarding a problem subcontractor, CCI is now back on the original schedule and well ahead of the contractual requirements regarding timeframes. CCI now anticipates that all pre-registered subscribers will be connected to the new service before the end of May, 2021. Note that folks can pre-register for service via CCI's website. Of course, folks are not required to sign up for such new service and can keep their existing service if they prefer. However, speeds up to 1 gigabyte (symmetrical) will be available under the new plans.

If residents have any other questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned, or any member of the Broadband Committee.

Respectfully submitted, Andrew Maneval, Chair, Harrisville Broadband Committee

## **Building Inspector / Code Enforcement**

We issued 74 permits this year for decks, solar panels, interior renovations, electrical upgrades, sheds, etc., as well as for a lot conversions of seasonal home to year-round dwellings. A friendly

reminder that you need a permit to do any work on your property, including sheds, electrical, plumbing and renovations. Please call me if you're not sure if you need a permit, as we do have fines for not securing one when needed. If you haven't done so, please put up your house number so emergency personnel and delivery drivers can find you.

Thank you, Mike Wilder

## **Cemetery Trustees**

This year has proved quite interesting doing the needed work while socially distancing. This has been true for all of us and our work has continued.

The grass, or lack of grass, at Island Cemetery is still a concern and we have tried to deal with the grub infestation. Using a biodegradable removal, we did a section in the south-eastern corner two times. If this helps, the rest of the cemetery can be done in the same manner. If it does not do the job we will have to decide on a much more involved and expensive treatment by an expert.

Plans are in place for the Scattering Garden in Island Cemetery for the summer and fall of 2021. The plot for the center of the garden has been opened and covered for the winter and it is starting to take shape. We have devised a plan for the stone work with Adam Drew who lives in town and has given a very much appreciated estimate with much work actual work volunteered and the design is nearly complete.

The plantings and bushes on individual plots are still being worked on. The plantings are the responsibility of the plot owners to keep them within the plot lines and under 4 feet. There have been two years for owners to deal with this and there has been much support, but some of the bushes and trees are still "misbehaving" and will have to be removed.

Last winter the monuments at Riverside Cemetery had a difficult year. Peterborough Granite was able to fix this problem and Randy regrassed and maintained the plots and all is well again.

There are now five lots in the front area of Willard Hill Cemetery for "Green Burials". This allows for another method of honoring our loved ones. This involves neither embalming nor a casket. There are very explicit and simple requirements to be followed which the Trustees can provide to anyone interested.

Randy was able to keep all three cemeteries in very good shape. He was also able to nurse our riding lawn mower thru another season involving much care and maintenance. In November we were able to replace the lawn mower and stay within our budget. This year there were four burials and three full plots sold at Willard Hill cemetery.

A final reminder that the roads at Island and Willard Hill Cemeteries are closed to motorized vehicles from December 15 through April. Thank you for your compliance.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Downing, Julie Lord and David Robins

## **Conservation Commission**

A Conservation Commission is an advisory body that watches for threats to our town environment, suggests solutions to other town boards including the Select Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Adjustment, and collaborates with other conservation minded town organizations. This past year we've been reviewing a number of key issues including:

- Worked with the Ordinance Review Committee, a Planning Board committee, to update Harrisville's Wetland Protection Ordinance from 1987. The new ordinance will be voted on at Town Meeting in March 2021. Revisions included updated wetland definitions and establishing a Wetland Setback Overlay District to prevent disturbance in and near various wetlands.

- Completed construction of the Harrisville Pond Boat Ramp Rain Garden and Pervious Parking area, a demonstration project to protect the pond from stormwater runoff by creating settling areas for silt and sediment as waters infiltrate the ground on their way to the pond. Many thanks to Wes Tarr and the Harrisville Road Crew for construction of the project, and to Don Scott for the Rain Garden design and construction management. A crew of 15 volunteers helped plant suitable flowering vegetation to create a lovely roadside park by the boat ramp. In 2021 HCC will add educational signage about methods homeowners can apply to reduce stormwater runoff and increase groundwater infiltration on private properties.
- Received approval at the 2020 Town Meeting to transfer \$5,000 from the Land Conservation Capital Reserve Fund (LCCRF) to reimburse the Conservation Fund for 2019's contribution toward the Harris Center purchase of a 17 Acre parcel along the south side of the Eastview Rail Trail. This purchase completes full protection of the Eastview Rail Trail between Hancock Road and Jaquith Road ensuring the future of the trail for coming generations of residents.
- Continued a spring Amphibian Crossing Program (Salamander Brigade) to help amphibians return to their wetlands and vernal pools of origin. Amphibians are active on the first warm night (40 degrees or higher) of spring rain. They sit at the base of the forest and lake food chain, eating insects and plants to create protein for fish, reptiles and mammals of the woods. They breed in wetlands and vernal pools. Volunteers are welcome to join the Salamander Brigade – contact Andrea Polizos for details.
- Held an Earth Day Weekend Roadside Cleanup on April 25<sup>th</sup>, recruiting town members to help pick up accumulated winter roadside trash. Annual cleanup efforts preserve our beautiful environment and help build pride in keeping our town pristine.
- Held a regional online Weed Watcher training program conducted by Amy Smagula, NH DES Limnologist and manager of NH aquatic invasive plant species prevention programs. Weed Watchers can identify early blooms of invasive species. Caught early, NH DES can create effective plans for mitigation and eradication of small blooms. Unfortunately, once established in lakes or ponds, invasive weeds can clog lakes and rob them of oxygen causing loss of wildlife. If blooms become fully established, it can cost \$100,000 or more annually to remove weeds and maintain open water. Homes on infested lakes can lose up to 20% of their market value.
- Began work with the Harrisville Trails Committee to identify valuable ecological features along our public trails. The Trails Committee is working to increase the number of trails available to the public and to create trail-head and parking signs. The Conservation Commission will develop an inventory of interesting and significant ecological features along the trails to be shared with residents.



- Reviewed and approved a half dozen Wetland / Shoreland applications, including several Permit By Notification applications for smaller projects that the NH DES generally considers approving without review. New 2020 Wetland rules allow homeowners to apply for simplified 5-day processing on small projects like docks and beach sand replenishment if the Conservation Commission sees no problems with the project and signs off on the PBN. If the Con Com does not sign off due to local concerns, the project must go through a full wetland permit application and careful review by DES.
- Monitored local Cyanobacteria outbreaks on Russell Reservoir and in the Harrisville Pond canal. With warming waters future outbreaks are likely to be more common in the region.

We appreciate Harrisville's strong support of our work and applaud the efforts of so many of our citizens to ensure that our local environment remains pristine and unspoiled. We welcome new members Earl Horn and Diana Shonk to the commission, and thank Winston Sims for his many years on the commission. The Con Com can have up to seven members, so there is one more open seat available to interested residents.

Harry Wolhandler, Chair, with Don Scott, Vice-Chair, Les LaMois, Secretary and Liaison to Historic Harrisville, Andrea Polizos, Earl Horn, Liaison to the Trails Committee, Diana Shonk, and Kathy Scott, Select Board Representative

### **Electric Aggregation Committee**

See page 93 for a recap of the year.

### **Emergency Management & Safety**

As we are all aware, the events of March of 2020 brought about a drastic change of focus to the roles of Emergency Management, Emergency Response and Safety, not just for Harrisville but the whole world. Ice storms and floods, we are used to. They are generally local in scope and limited in duration. It became quickly evident that this Covid-19 event was very broad in impact and was going to be over an unknown, extended period of time.

From the start of the event, it was recognized that the management at the local level was going to be similar in approach to other emergencies, but the day-to-day efforts very different. In March, an Emergency Operations Organizational Chart was created of the key players. Included were the Select Board, Health Officer, and Fire and Police Chiefs. Others on the Team to be called upon as needed included the Building Inspector, Town Clerk, Road Agent, Welfare Director, a Volunteer coordinator, Community Church Representative and Wells Memorial Representative. Because of meeting restrictions on groups and other restrictions, only one meeting of the core team was held; otherwise communications were either by phone, e-mail or individual discussions. Awkward and not traditional, but this was not a traditional emergency.

This initial meeting centered on the local needs appropriate to this global event. We looked at the areas that we had control over and could influence, and the areas where we had none. The team prioritized protection of the First Responders, Fire and Police to ensure that we were able to increase our inventories of supplies and personal protection equipment to face the unseen foe. Secondly, we needed to sift through the ever-changing information for how to protect the other Town employees and the public in their interactions with the Town employees and their visits to town facilities. Thirdly was the importance of accurate communication to the community. With so many information sources, many of questionable origin, we decided to focus on such sources as the State of NH Covid website, the State of NH Emergency Operations Center website, daily and weekly on-line meetings of the governor, the NHEOC and the CDC website. Many hours were spent participating in these sessions and, where appropriate, forwarding information to the appropriate target audiences.

Initially supplies for the emergency responders for the hazards arising out of this type of emergency were in short supply but, over time, the inventories for resources for use in all town departments has been brought to a manageable level and distributed. It should be noted that in 2020 the bulk of expenses arising from this event were reimbursed by the Federal Government and the State of NH.

An enormous thank you to those involved in managing this event. The Town should be proud. At the top of the list: the First Responders, Emergency Medical Personnel, the ones with the one-on-one contact in calls where the risk of exposure to the virus was either real or had the potential; the members of the Fire Department who supported this effort; the Police Department, often on the scene with the other Responders, as well as the invisible potential for exposure in their day-to-day activities on the street; as mentioned above, the Emergency Operations Team, those leading this response, as well as those on the reserve list as needed, and others operating in the background to assist residents in need; and the Select Board and Health Officer with whom we worked closely and for their amazing support.

And a special recognition to the businesses in town, the ones most affected, the retail outlets, the Community Church, the food, lodging and event venues, and other businesses in town, and other residents who had the added dilemma of keeping their businesses viable, as well as working with all the restrictions placed upon them. Thank you! Have I missed some, for sure with apologies to those omitted but remember the sign in the center of town, "It takes a village".

REMEMBER PLEASE: This is the time to revisit our wearing of masks, social distancing, and personal hygiene. The C-19 virus is real in the Town of Harrisville. At the date of this writing we have 5 active cases and 18 over time.

Due to the nature of 2020 the Town Safety program took on a different approach. Meetings were canceled, communication was on a one-on-one basis with the members of the Committee. As concerns came up, they were addressed. Keep in mind that the Safety effort for 2020 was focused on the pandemic and Covid 19. All efforts were for the protection of the responders, personal protection equipment, protection of all town facilities and employees using them, reducing the close contact between town employees and residents seeking their services and to managing a number of projects in the town buildings to improve the work environment. This will continue to be a focus into 2021. On a Home Safety note, remember to check under sinks, in closets and in garages and cellars and if you find household chemicals or other substance no longer used or usable, the best thing to do is collect them and dispose of in a safe and appropriate manner.

Jeff Cady

### Finance Coordinator

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) made federal and state grants available for the reimbursement of unanticipated and necessary expenditures incurred in response to the C-19 pandemic. CARES reimbursed the Town \$4,188 for additional expenditures incurred to carry out the state primary and general elections. The Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFFER) reimbursed



Harrisville \$22,466 for unanticipated supplies and expenditures necessary to address the public health emergency. Amy Roberts, Finance Coordinator

## Fire Department

Thank you to all Fire and Rescue Department personnel. Here is our incident report for the year. Harrisville Fire Chief Wayne DeRosia

### **HARRISVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

#### **Incident Type Period Comparisons**

**Alarm Date Between {01/01/2020} and {12/31/2020}**

Incident Type	01/01/2020 to 12/31/2020	01/01/2019 to 12/31/2019	01/01/2018 to 12/31/2018	01/01/2017 to 12/31/2017
11 Building fire	8	5	4	10
14 Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or	2	0	2	0
30 Mobile property (vehicle) fire, Other	0	0	0	1
38 Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire	0	1	0	0
11 Forest, woods or wildland fire	0	1	0	0
21 EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	38	39	29	23
22 Motor vehicle accident with injuries	0	3	3	0
24 Motor Vehicle Accident with no injuries	0	1	0	1
11 Search for person on land	0	1	0	0
50 Extrication, rescue, Other	0	0	0	1
12 Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	1	1	5	1
13 Oil or other combustible liquid spill	0	1	2	0
24 Carbon monoxide incident	1	0	3	0
40 Electrical wiring/equipment problem, Other	0	1	0	0
41 Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	1	0	0	0
14 Power line down	23	11	19	22
45 Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	0	1	0	0
50 Accident, potential accident, Other	1	0	1	1
52 Aircraft standby	1	0	0	0
53 Vehicle accident, general cleanup	6	2	4	3
30 Service Call, other	0	1	1	0
20 Water problem, Other	1	0	0	0
22 Water or steam leak	0	0	0	1
31 Smoke or odor removal	0	0	1	2
11 Animal problem	0	0	1	0
12 Animal rescue	1	0	0	0
51 Assist police or other governmental agency	4	5	11	4
53 Public service	18	8	12	9
51 Unauthorized burning	5	2	4	0
71 Cover assignment, standby, moveup	0	1	1	0
11 Dispatched & cancelled en route	1	1	1	0
21 Wrong location	1	0	0	0
22 No Incident found on arrival at dispatch address	2	0	0	0
31 Authorized controlled burning	1	3	1	3
32 Prescribed fire	0	0	0	1
52 Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke	0	0	0	1
33 Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	1	0	1	2
36 CO detector activation due to malfunction	2	1	1	0
11 Sprinkler activation, no fire - unintentional	0	0	0	1
13 Smoke detector activation, no fire -	0	0	2	0
14 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	1	0	0	1
15 Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	12	5	6	10
16 Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	4	2	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>98</b>

## Health Officer

Covid-19 has dominated the Health Officer's and other town officials' time for most of the past year, beginning in the middle of March. The Health Officer, Emergency Management Director, the Select Board, and first responders in the Police and Fire Departments spent a considerable amount of time dealing with the virus issues in our community.

We had 18 positive cases and no deaths. Information was shared by various state and local agencies regarding Personal Protection Equipment, Governor's orders, and guidelines for residents of New Hampshire. Town officials, including the health officer, put up signage around the town to give guidance to town residents. The General Store volunteered early in the pandemic to provide meals for pickup to residents who needed food. The town set up a volunteer coordinator to help residents with food, prescriptions and anything else they needed.

The Center for Population Health at the Cheshire Medical Center was helpful to the town with signage. Dealing with Covid is an ongoing challenge for the town, but we look forward to the availability of vaccines in 2021 and getting the virus under control.

In 2020, The NH DES Subsurface Bureau approved 12 new or replacement septic systems.

Some good news. In 2020, New Hampshire reported through the Arbovirus Surveillance Program no human cases of West Nile Virus or EEE virus, and only 4 cases of Jamestown Canyon virus. Some not so good news. We don't have the 2020 report, but New Hampshire still has, comparatively, a high rate of Lyme Disease. The most recent data from the CDC in 2018 reported 927 cases in New Hampshire. That rate was likely stable or higher during 2019-20.

Because of drought conditions likely affecting the ground water supply to the Town Spring, we had some high readings for Coliform bacteria during July and August. As a result, the Spring was temporarily posted asking residents to not use the water. There is a new kiosk (thanks to Jeff Cady) at the Spring that offers new and improved space for postings. The most recent water test is posted there, as well as other messages. Once again, it is posted that the town does not guarantee the water quality, and residents are advised to use it at their own risk. During the past year, we had a brief closing of Sunset Beach because of a high E.Coli bacteria. The cause was attributed to birds, such as Canada Geese. An advisory was posted for Russell Reservoir Beach due to a bloom of Cyanobacteria. This was attributed to drought conditions.

Starting in 2019, free water test kits have been available to residents at the Town Office. There are instructions included for various types of water tests. After collection, the water bottles can be submitted to a local lab for analysis. There is a charge for the analysis. All residents with drilled wells are encouraged to do a standard test every 3 years, and a bacteria test every year.

It been a tough year dealing with Covid-19 issues, but I think there is a light at the end of the tunnel as we move into 2021. With the increasing availability of vaccines, there





should be a gradual return to normalcy. Everyone stay safe and well, and please continue to follow the guidelines: wear a mask and try to maintain social distancing as much as possible.

Respectfully submitted, David Belknap, Health Officer

### **Highway Department**

A year like no other began in an unusual way with two 70-degree days in January followed by ice and rain and a little snow. Thankfully, we were able to have Town Meeting, the purchase of the new grader and gravel pit were approved, they are vital components for upkeep of town roads for many years to come. We completed roads projects on Brown Road, and Willard Hill and Mason roads.

Mid-summer we found ourselves a man down. Jim was unable to return to work after a serious illness. We Thank him for years of service and wish him all the best!

Crack sealing was done on Bonds Corner and Hancock roads with the anticipation for chip sealing, unfortunately that did not happen, it will be completed this summer (2021). The Prospect Street water garden was finished in September. The Towns of Nelson and Harrisville continue to work well together. This year, we helped them with sand sealing, and they helped us with the Brown Road and Mason Road projects by hauling gravel.

Heavy snow fell in December and winter started again followed by 3 inches of rain that caused flooding and washouts.

Let us hope that 2021 will be better than last year. Thank you to all who help keep the town running smoothly.

Wes Tar, Road Agent

### **Historic District Commission**

This was another busy year for the Historic District Commission (HDC) with 8 applications coming forward along with two sub-committees actively engaged on two different projects.

Sub Committee Group 1: Rules of Procedure; Anne Howe, Sherry Sims, Kathy Scott and Doug Walker logged in many hours updating this body of legislation and secured final HDC Approval.

Sub Committee Group 2: Regulations; Kathy Scott, Scott Oliver, Rex Baker and Doug Walker. This group tackled the total revision of the HDC's 1969 Rules and Regulations along with re-designing all application forms. This body of work is wrapping up with HDC board approval targeted for February and with final approval by a formal HDC hearing set for May. The final draft will be made available on the town's website for public review prior to our May hearing date.

Respectfully, Doug Walker, Chair

### **Library Trustees**

The year 2020 was certainly the strangest year in Library-land that I know of! As usual, we started off with great plans, had procured several Museum passes, planned for the Town celebration with a float for the parade, and a special performance by Odds Bodkin. We planned to continue with our Cookbook Group dinners, Coffee Hour, Movie Nights, Fiber Arts group and special programs for children and adults, etc., etc.

When COVID-19 first became an issue we conferred with the Select Board and the Emergency Planning Committee, to try to come up with plans. Following guidelines set out by the NH Library Association (NHLA) and the NH Library Trustees Association (NHLTA), as well as



consulting with other library directors throughout the state and region, we stopped allowing patrons to come into the building on March 17<sup>th</sup>. We began what is now known as “curbside service”, where patrons could request items which were then checked out to them and left outside of the library in a “pick-up” bin.

On March 27<sup>th</sup> when the “Stay at Home” order was declared, we stopped providing curbside service as recommended by the NHLA and the NHLTA. Once the order was lifted, and some restrictions were relaxed, we were able to resume curbside service.

Many patrons (including several new ones) took advantage of our Downloadable books/magazines option, which we subscribe to through the NH State Library. Our online presence has become stronger, as more people are following our blog and Facebook pages, and subscribe to the library’s email list. The Inter-Library Loan program via the NH State Library was curtailed for a while, but resumed in August, much to the pleasure of our patrons!

During this time there were monthly and later weekly meetings (online) with library directors from around the state, to discuss health and safety concerns with regard to potential contamination of materials, methods of cleaning and disinfecting spaces, tools, library material, etc. This library, like most in the state, instituted a quarantine/cleaning protocol for items being returned to the building.

The Trustees and the library director worked to establish policies and procedures for dealing with this pandemic and any future pandemics. We developed a phased re-opening plan to begin to allow for patrons to re-enter the building in a safe manner. We started by allowing people to come in by appointment for limited browsing and computer usage two days a week. Curbside service continued five days a week for those who preferred to not come in the building, or for those whose schedules would not permit them to come in. This continued until the numbers of COVID cases in the state/area began to climb, and projections were for things to get worse between Thanksgiving and New Year’s. At that time, our library and most others in the region made the decision to return to curbside service only. Fortunately, at the time of this writing, we are still able to provide patrons with most of what they want/need via curbside service (including printing and photocopying), Downloadable books and Inter-Library Loan.

**Coffee Hour/ Movie Night/Cookbook Group/Knitting and Fiber Arts Group.** All met as scheduled until March 17<sup>th</sup> when we had to shut down due to COVID-19

**Mysterious Book Group.** Started this year off with “in-person” meetings but was able to continue by switching to Zoom meetings once the pandemic hit. They usually meet on the third Thursday of each month. Ten to fourteen people usually participate.

**Museum Passes.** This year the library had museum passes available to patrons from the following museums: VINS (Vermont Institute of Natural Science), The Currier Museum of Art, Mariposa, and the See Science Center. Sadly, once the pandemic began, people were not able to use most of these passes. The VINS pass, which has outdoor programs/exhibits DID get used quite a bit once the “Stay at Home” order was lifted.

**Other Programs.** In May, we had a Zoom program with Susie Spikol from the Harris Center, who did a presentation about opossums. 23 people attended.

**Downloadable books and Ebsco databases.** As members of the NH Downloadable books program our patrons can download audio, e-books and periodicals to their personal devices. One hundred twenty-three patrons are now set up to use this service, forty-seven people are regular users. During 2020 they checked out 1,030 e-books and 985 audio books and 2 periodicals. We also subscribe to Ancestry.com (Library edition). Forty-six searches were made through this database.

**Trustees.** Currently the Library Trustees are: Michael Price, Karen Coteleso, and Sharon Wilder with Seth Farmer and Les LaMois as alternates. The Library Trustees meet the third Wednesday

of each month at 4:00. Once it became inadvisable to meet indoors in person, meetings were held either outdoors, or via Zoom.

**2020 Children's Librarian Report.** The year of 2020 held so many changes. As a children's librarian I started the year off with story times, buying books, and planning programs. And then the pandemic came and the building was closed, but not library services. I had to re-think how to offer services to the community in a safe way. There were many virtual pathways to discover. I met with librarians online to see how they were handling the situation, especially in small New Hampshire rural libraries. I also took several storytelling classes virtually and then set out to offer stories to the Harrisville community. FaceTime live was the best platform to use. Every week I record a story and a reminder of how to access books at the library. There have been over 30 stories that have been viewed over 2500 times. The most popular being the "monkey and the crocodile" with over 338 views. These have also been posted on the blog spot for the library. In the physical library, the children's and teen library book collection are being added to on a regular schedule. We have many new books to take out. So come and see us virtually or borrow some books, DVDs or CDs from your community library.

### **Acquisitions and Withdrawals**

#### **Total of new Adult materials, 288**

Withdrawn (Adult) Fiction-60, Nonfiction-92, DVDs-29, Audio books-7 (total 188)

#### **Total of new Juvenile materials, 130**

Withdrawn (Children) Juv. Fiction-17, Juv. Nonfiction-24, Easy-36, DVD-10 (total 87)

### **Usage Statistics**

Days Open (When patrons could come in either by appointment, or pre-pandemic) 90

Adult patrons	997	Juvenile patrons	178
Adult Reference Questions	1,143	Juvenile Reference Questions	89
Adult Fiction checked out	917	Juvenile fiction checked out	215
Adult Nonfiction	327	Juvenile nonfiction checked out	139
		Easy books (picture books)	510
Adult videos checked out	733	Juv. videos checked out	156
Adult audio books ckd. out	61	Juv. audio books ckd. out	12
Museum passes	9		
Games	1		
Puzzles	2		
Downloadable e-books checked out	1,030		
Downloadable audios checked out	985		
Downloadable periodicals checked out	2		
And Ancestry/HQ searches	12		
Ebsco database searches	0		
Computer users	151		
In-house usage (inc. Comp.)	423		
Periodicals checked out	206		
Interlibrary Loans (lent)	294		
Interlibrary Loans (borrowed)	413		

A detailed rundown of how we have allocated the budget is available at the library or by contacting the librarian or one of the trustees.

Susan N. Weaver, Director, and Kristine O. Finnegan, Children's Librarian

### **Planning Board**

During 2020, the Planning Board (PB) continued to meet on our regularly scheduled nights, having only one meeting cancelled (April 8) as a result of COVID-19. Since this time, all

meetings have been held via Zoom with nearly full participation supported by minimal representation at the town office to assist with social distancing recommendations.

In prior years, board members have typically attended a variety of lectures, workshops, and/or conferences; however, the current environment has significantly affected educational opportunities and participation. We now are seeing on-line options slowly becoming available and will encourage our colleagues to engage in these opportunities and will support one another by sharing knowledge through board-training sessions.

Throughout this year, the Board consulted with several property owners about potential land actions. Along with the PB's continued efforts to improve and expand on the Zoning Ordinances through the Ordinance Review Committee (ORC), the PB also acted on an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Conditional Use Permit.

The Ordinance Review Committee (ORC) continued its work on priorities established with the Planning Board and the Select Board. The ORC consists of volunteer members from the PB, SB, Conservation Commission and the Zoning Board, and was supported by a professional consultant. The Conservation Commission collaborated with the ORC to research and provide vetted resources for decision-making. The PB would like to recognize that the ordinance proposals would not be possible without the work and commitment of these residents. Thank you. Additionally, with collaboration between departments and public feedback, the ORC provided the Select Board with a Noise Bylaw for review/edit/use per the SB process. The Committee's efforts led to six (6) proposed ordinance revisions at the 2021 March ballot voting. (Refer to page 79 for a copy of the ballot and a complete version of the amendments.)

The Transportation Committee has "covered a lot of ground" this year and hats off to this small committee! From researching the possibilities, challenges, and costs of installing a crosswalk from the General Store across Main Street, to securing a grant to fund traffic calming measures at the Hancock Road - Route 137 intersection and on Main Street in the village center, the group collaborated with many different stakeholders and entities. We are grateful for the Transportation Committee's dedication and forward-thinking persistence.

In 2014, a newly formatted Master Plan was approved for the Town. A number of dedicated residents worked to identify town priorities, a vision and goals that impact land use and land-use policy. The aforementioned Transportation Committee was created as a result of the 2014 Master Plan, as was the Broadband Committee. The latter committee was responsible for the effort that led to the Town's agreement with Consolidated, and to financing through a town-backed bond, to bring the much anticipated high speed internet service.

One of the functions of a Planning Board is to "prepare and from time to time amend the master plan to guide the development of the municipality". Thus, in 2019, we began a process to assess/edit/amend the Master Plan, and soon realized there were varying opinions on which priorities would be the best starting point! So, we went to the public (pre-COVID), asking about 25 residents to give us informal initial thoughts. What we learned is, though the Master Plan does reflect the general interests of the Town, it should be a better known and more user-friendly document to assist the various Boards and the community at large with problem-solving and thinking things through. This will be a big project which may require the formation of a focus group and/or committee in spring 2021.

Respectfully submitted, Ryan Stone and Lisa Anderson, Co-Chairs

## **Police Department**

The year 2020 was another busy year for the police department with a total of 683 calls. Calls break down as follows:

- 321 miscellaneous calls (a call that requires a log entry only) – Example: a power-line down, assist fire department with traffic, loose dog, assist another department, etc. – no arrest;

- 338 calls for service (a call that needs a state incident report) – Example: assault, criminal mischief, domestic violence or a call where is an arrest or could result in one;
- 7 motor vehicle accidents – includes all accidents, with or without personal injury;
- 17 burglar/fire/medical alarms – cause found or no cause found.

Calls for service were down in 2020, some of that due to the Covid-19 pandemic and some due to follow-up calls not being logged for the original call. Police departments across the country and New Hampshire saw calls drop with the pandemic and we were no exception.

The new speed zone signs have been installed by the Wells Memorial School and will be monitored when school gets back to in-house classes.

The department was involved in numerous hours of training in 2020, some at a local level and some at state and county level. The department must meet mandatory training every year and every other year there is additional training. This year, the department spent most of the time cross-training with departments that we work closely with daily – police, fire and medical.

I continue to ask that when you see something that you may think is nothing but is out of the ordinary to call the station (827-2903) or the dispatch center (355-2000). Things that we never thought would be a problem a few years ago seem to have made it to this area.

I would like to thank Vira Elder, Zach Byam, and Dana Hennessy for assisting me in the police department. I would also like to thank the other town departments and the Select Board for their continued support. As many of you know, I will be stepping down as I look forward to retirement. I have worked almost twenty-five years between part-time and full-time service in the police department. I have also been a volunteer for forty-five years in the Harrisville Fire and Rescue. I would like to say that whoever replaces me will be fortunate to work in one of the best towns in the county.

Respectfully submitted, Chief Russell J. Driscoll

## Recycling Center

Thank you for another year of your support at the Recycling Center.

We appreciate your help keeping up with the changes in the recycling market, including increased costs to haul garbage, cardboard and mixed paper, and plastics #1 and #2.

Not all residents are aware that proper sorting of items and thorough cleaning of plastic items before disposing them in the recycling bin is of paramount importance. One wrongfully disposed of, or inadequately cleaned, item can render a whole container unusable and headed for the landfill. If you have *any* questions about where or how to dispose of an item, please do not hesitate to ask. Your cooperation helps the whole facility and the town. We have attempted to post adequate signage explaining the sorting and disposing process, but please let us know if anything seems unclear.

One final request: please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to gate-closing to allow adequate time for end-of-day responsibilities.

<b>Recyclables (tons)</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Co-mingle	17.62	17.27
Mixed Fiber (paper)	192.34	69.38
Metal	13.29	16.32
Household waste		
Compactor	173.72	162.51
Demolition	40.52	36.14
<b>Total tonnage</b>	<b>437.49</b>	<b>301.62</b>

### **Revenues**

Tipping fees	\$9,390.41	\$7,865
Recycle permits	\$3,360.00	1,545
Returnables	---	600
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$12,750.41</b>	<b>\$9,410</b>

Thank you to all who use and support the facility, Randy Tarr, Jr.

### **Tax Collector**

Like most people, companies and organizations all over the world, we did our best to adapt to the pandemic with new procedures to keep us all safer. There were no in-person workshops or conferences to go to in 2020, but we continue to network with other Tax Collectors to keep each other up to date on the laws pertaining to tax collecting. Please continue to feel free to call or email us any time with questions or concerns relative to property taxes, including timber yield, current use, land change and excavation taxes.

We hope you have enjoyed the convenience of using the New Hampshire Tax Kiosk for making payments on property taxes. You can also use it any time to see your property's assessed value, your balance, or to see the information from your latest bills. Please check it out if you have not done so yet. If you need to make a payment of less than \$10.00, please send or deliver a check or cash instead of using the kiosk.

The total property tax rate for 2020 was \$17.68 per thousand dollars of assessed value. This was a small increase from 2019's tax rate of 17.40. The amount of liens executed this year was a decrease from the previous year, and these amounts have decreased each year since 2017. The Tax Collector's financial report is included in this Town Report.

<b>Year:</b>	2020	2019	2018	2017
<b>Liens executed:</b>	\$45,787.95	\$47,385.62	\$60,452.36	\$74,457.38

I want to thank all the residents of the Town of Harrisville for your patience during the challenging year of 2020, and for making me feel welcome in the Town of Harrisville. I wish you all health and happiness in the new year!

Jeannine Dunne

### **Town Clerk**

To say the year 2020 was a challenge would be an understatement – 4 elections in a year is always a challenge for our office, add a pandemic and all the processes enacted to enable us to do our jobs while protecting our community, and you have a year for the history books! Amy and I would like to begin by thanking all of you for your cooperation, your understanding and your willingness to protect each other within our community.

Our Office was closed to the public from mid-March until July, due to the COVID emergency with all business done with the Clerk's Office done through the mail. These were challenging months. Processing Town Clerk business through the mail doubled our workload but knowing we were safeguarding our community lightened the load. The residents of Harrisville proved to be supportive and resilient as we charted new territory. We still managed process more than 16,000 vehicle registrations and titles as well as boat registrations.

In addition to registering cars and boats, we are also the keepers of all Town records including, but not limited to, Town Board & Committee minutes, Appointments, and Oaths of Office. We record Wetland and Shoreland Permits, Residency Applications and keep public records

accessible to our residents. Thank you to all of the town boards and committees that promptly provide us with minute of their meetings, we appreciate your commitment and punctuality.

We are responsible for keeping a chronological record of births, marriages and deaths reported and the issuance of certified copies of such records as well as the issuance of marriage licenses. In 2020 the Clerk's Office issued 8 marriage licenses and a number of certified copies of birth, marriage and death certificates. The office also recorded 2 Marriages, 1 Birth and 3 Deaths of town residents.

The State tasks the Town Clerk's office with the licensing of dogs; in 2020 the town registered 277 dogs. Last March the Clerk's Office offered a Rabies clinic as a convenience to our residents.

We welcomed many new residents to Town, the pandemic causing many folks to seek a quieter, more remote lifestyle – 60 new residents were registered at our Office in 2020.

Through all of these activities and UCC revenue, the Town Clerk's Office generated revenue for the Town of Harrisville of \$ 227,427.86. This includes a reimbursement of \$4,187.22 from the CARES Act for expenses incurred during the COVID emergency for election expenses, essentially leaving the revenue generated by the Clerk's Office flat from the year before.

We, along with our Town's Moderator and the Select Board, are responsible for all elections. This past year we coordinated four elections –

<b>Election</b>	<b>Names on Checklist#</b>	<b>of Voters#</b>	<b>Voted in Person#</b>	<b>Voted Absentee</b>	<b>Voter Turnout</b>
2/11 Presidential Primary	839	537	478	59	64%
3/10 Town Elections	852	242	234	8	28%
9/8 State Primary	868	429	233	196	49%
11/3 State Election	898	766	456	310	85%

We were fortunate that the Presidential Primary, the Town Elections and the Town Meeting were completed before the State locked down due to the Covid-19 emergency. The State of New Hampshire provided PPE equipment to insure safe elections for the State Primary in September and the November election. The November election was moved to the Wells Memorial School where we had more room and better air exchange to help provide a safe and healthy environment to vote. I must thank our ever- present, reliable Ballot Clerks for their time and energy helping to insure that the voting during elections ran as smoothly and safely as possible.

I would also like to acknowledge the risk these folks took to provide us all with the right to vote. Thank you as well to Deputy Clerk Amy Roberts and Assistant Clerk Neil Sandford for assisting in the processing of all of the requests for absentee. We processed an unprecedented 626 absentee ballot requests in the year 2020.

One project we have begun here in the Clerk's office, with the support of the Select Board is the preservation of historic town documents. We are hoping to make sure that these documents are safe from fire and stored in acid free sheaths, files and boxes so they might last another 150 years!

We would like to remind you that we offer Notary services at no charge as a courtesy to the residents of Harrisville. It is a small way that the Town Clerk's Office can say thank you to the residents of Harrisville for the courtesy and support you have shown our office throughout the. We still have limited hours and COVID restrictions here at the Clerk's Office. We are not able to be open nights or weekends for DMV business as Concord has not resumed these hours for support, as soon as they do, we will return to business as usual!

Again, thank you for your support and understanding, we look forward to serving you in 2021, Cathy Lovas, Town Clerk

# **Town Clerk's Report of Vital Statistics** **01/01/2020 – 12/31/2020**

## **Births**

<b>Child's Name</b>	<b>Birth Date</b>	<b>Birth Place</b>	<b>Father's Name</b>	<b>Mother's Name</b>
Brown, Brinley Ella	06/15/2020	Keene, NH	Brown, Zachery	Brown, Kristi

## **Deaths**

<b>Deceased's Name</b>	<b>Death Date</b>	<b>Death Place</b>	<b>Father's Name</b>	<b>Mother's Name</b>
Powdermaker, Marina	06/28/2020	Harrisville, NH	Powdermaker, Frank	Mackay, Dorothy
Vanaria, Arthur	07/01/2020	Harrisville, NH	Vanaria, Basile	Papa, Rose
Whitaker, Kenneth	11/08/2020	Swanzey, NH	Whitaker, Wilbur	Russell, Maude

# **Treasurer's Report for Town of Harrisville 2020**

## **Conservation Fund**

Balance 1/1/20	\$53,722.91
Interest	\$9.78
Deposits (LUCT collected 2020)	\$11,300.00
Withdrawals	<u><u>-\$3,981.08</u></u>
Balance 12/31/20	\$61,051.61

(withdrawals: rain garden construction expenses, Harrisville Pond)

## **Mascoma Bank Checking, Debit, and SWEEP Accounts**

Balance 1/1/20	\$1,205,334.52
Tax Collector Deposits	\$3,687,676.95
Town Clerk Deposits	\$227,553.09
Selectmen Deposits	\$136,810.96
SWEEP acct Interest	\$1,455.36
Transfers from the Trust Funds	\$514,075.00
Transfers from Conservation Fund	\$3,981.08
State & Federal Deposits	\$111,558.89
Municipal Bond Bank Loan	\$896,375.00
Net transfers between sweep & check & debit accts	\$20,681.07
Bank Service Fees & Check charges & equipment	-\$410.00
Checks paid & debit card expenses	-\$4,464,850.05
Electronic Payroll Related Transfers	-\$486,360.19
Transfers to the Trust Funds	-\$110,375.00
Transfers to Conservation Fund	-\$11,300.00
Loan repayments + interest	-\$30,399.36
Balance 12/31/20	\$1,701,807.32

## **Police Department Account (opened 5/27/14..drug bust revenues)**

Balance 1/1/20	\$35.54
Withdrawals	<u><u>\$0.00</u></u>
Balance 12/31/20	\$35.54



## Trustees of the Trust Fund

A summary report of town trust funds appears below. The date funds were established, the name and purpose of the funds, balances, additions, earned income and withdrawals, including end of year balances are reported.

2020 Harrisville Trust Funds							
Trust Fund [CR = Capital Reserve]	Year of Inception	Acc. #	01/01/20 Opening Balance	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest	12/31/2020 Closing Balance
FIRE EQUIPMENT (CR)	1961	#0002	\$255,910.80	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,610.33	\$277,521.13
ROAD EQUIPMENT (CR)	1963	#0003	\$404,055.49	\$20,000.00	\$349,075.00	\$1,874.32	\$76,854.81
SCHOOL DISTRICT (CR)	1986	#0006	\$170,017.26	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,066.22	\$176,083.48
BEACH EQUIPMENT (CR)	1957	#0007	\$2,857.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17.90	\$2,874.90
POLICE EQUIPMENT (CR)	1980	#0009	\$31,228.71	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$197.32	\$36,426.03
SILVER LAKE GRANGE	1963	#0010	\$385.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.42	\$388.14
SCHOOL & CHURCH	1990	#0011	\$3,143.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19.70	\$3,163.32
CEMETERY TRUST	Various	#0012	\$56,214.07	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$352.34	\$56,566.41
BRIDGE (CR)	1996	#0015	\$99,676.80	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$627.93	\$110,304.73
Land Acquisition (CR)	1996	#0016	\$98,088.33	\$0.00	\$95,000.00	\$442.20	\$3,530.53
DAM (CR)	1997	#0017	\$28,544.73	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$182.08	\$38,726.81
RECYCLING EQUIPMENT (CR)	1999	#0018	\$32.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.20	\$32.82
SCHOOL OUT OF DISTRICT TUITION	2002	#0019	\$237,345.30	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,490.65	\$263,835.95
TOWN BUILDINGS (CR)	2003	#0020	\$159,055.06	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.08	\$170,055.14
CEMETERY MAINTENANCE	2008	#0023	\$4,201.00	\$375.00	\$0.00	\$26.67	\$4,602.67
LAND CONSERVATION (CR)	2008	#0024	\$20,202.49	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$125.04	\$15,327.53
ROADS (CR)	2009	#0025	\$72,673.93	\$30,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$449.30	\$38,123.23
Re-evaluation (CR)	2012	#0026	\$10,142.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$63.59	\$10,206.51
Employee Benefits Capital Reserve	2017	#0028	\$886.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5.56	\$891.62
Gravel Pit Manage. Reclam. CCR	2020	#0029	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.12	\$5,000.12
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,654,661.91</b>	<b>\$140,375.00</b>	<b>\$514,075.00</b>	<b>\$9,553.97</b>	<b>\$1,290,515.88</b>

## Zoning Board of Adjustment

First, I want to express my gratitude and appreciation for the members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, who provided invaluable service and judgment on the matters coming before the Board this past year under difficult circumstances.

They are: Hal Grant; Jeff Trudelle; Rex Baker; Patrick Gagne; Jay Jacobs, Select Board Representative; Andrew Maneval, Alternate; Pegg Monahan, Alternate; and Mary Ann Noyer, Alternate. In particular, I would like to commend Hal Grant, who has adeptly chaired and directed the ZBA for many years. At the September 16, 2020 meeting, an election of officers for the board was held, the results of which are: Charles Sorenson, previous Vice Chair serving as Chair, and Hal Grant serving as Vice Chair for the coming year.

Here is a summary of the matters which came before the board this year. Detailed minutes are available at the Town Office and on the town website.

### January 22, 2020

Skyfield Trust, 19 Morse Road (Map 30 – Lot 3) applied for a Special Exception under Articles

4.1.6 and 5.2.2 to replace an existing 1.75-story, converted barn of approximately 3,251 square feet with a new 1.75-story dwelling of approximately 3,570 square feet, on approximately the same footprint. Considering the special exception criteria under Articles 5.2.2 and 20 of the Zoning regulations, the Board unanimously voted to approve a Special Exception.

**May 20, 2020**

Tom and Sue Weller, 124 Main Street (Map 30 – Lot 69-2), reapplied for a Special Exception under Article 5.3.3 of the Zoning Ordinances. Twelve years ago, the Wellers applied for and received a Special Exception for this project. The applicants proposed to remove a temporary garage and construct a new, 3-car garage with an attached woodshed. The property is a non-conforming lot located in the village residential district. After a lengthy discussion of the plans and regulations, the Board unanimously granted the Special Exception under Article 20.

**September 16, 2020** (Zoom and in-person meeting)

Mark and Karen Bemis, 129 Eastside Road (Map 71 – Lot 1), requested a Special Exception under Article 5.3.3 of the Zoning Ordinances to expand their existing home in a direction away from the lake. After a lengthy discussion of the substantial information presented by the applicants and the relevant zoning regulations, including Article 20 special exception criteria, the Board unanimously approved the application.

Preliminary consultation, 60 Westside Road (Map 73 – Lot 16). Property owners sought zoning guidance from the ZBA for a newly purchased parcel. The applicants presented a conceptual plan that involved removing the existing dwelling and replacing it on the same footprint with a year-round, two-bedroom home. ZBA members explained that the required approvals would depend upon the exact proposal and whether or not the application involved a new footprint or any other additional elements, such as an expansion in volume or an accessory structure. The property owners were advised that aspects of the proposal would require consultation and approval from the Select Board. The property owners indicated they would return to the ZBA with a complete application when possible.

**October 21, 2020** (Zoom and in-person meeting)

Eduardo Moura and Sharman Howe, 60 Westside Road (Map 73 – Lot 16), requested a Special Exception under Articles 5.3.3 and 5.4.1 of the town zoning ordinances pertaining to non-conforming lots and structures. The applicants proposed to reduce the existing 24' x 32' footprint slightly, but remain within the footprint, and that, for the proposed increase in volume, the height of the new structure would remain less than 35 feet. They also presented substantial information as to the overall improvements to the property, including drainage and surface impact aspects of the project. After a lengthy applicant presentation and substantial Board discussion, the Board applied the special exception criteria under Article 20. The ZBA voted unanimously in favor to grant the Special Exception, noting that the approval pertained only to the increase in volume and height.

Respectfully submitted, Charles Sorenson, Chair, Harrisville Zoning Board of Adjustment

## **2020 Community Reports**

### **Historic Harrisville, Inc.**

As is probably true for all organizations and businesses, 2020 did not go as planned for Historic Harrisville, Inc. The COVID-19 pandemic caused a significant change in the way we operate and interact with each other and the community. We were not able to have our annual meeting in April, or our fall meeting of Incorporators in October. We missed seeing those of you who

usually attend! We are hoping that we will be able to convene again in 2021 and invite anyone who is interested to join us.

In November, we launched our updated website [historicharrisville.org](https://www.historicharrisville.org) that makes information about Historic Harrisville, Harrisville's architecture and history, and our talented tenants easily accessible. The website includes a video that summarizes our activities in 2020 at <https://www.historicharrisville.org/news/fall-2020>.

Despite the pandemic, Historic Harrisville's building team was able to continue work on several maintenance and preservation projects. In addition to regular ongoing maintenance, 2020 projects included:

**Weatherization:** build and install interior storm windows for the large steel windows in Mill 6

**Preservation:** replace 4 lights on the store porch and replace and paint the porch ceiling

**Preservation:** structural repair, new roof and painting at the white shed on Church Street

**Rehabilitation:** create two new additional tenant spaces in the Granite Mill basement

**Rehabilitation:** remove vinyl siding, structural repair, siding repair/replacement, priming, foundation work, drainage improvements at St. Denis church as a first phase in a larger rehabilitation project

**Conservation:** purchase of 5 acres on Chesham Road for conservation

The Harrisville General Store is always an important part of Historic Harrisville's activities. This year the store's staff worked especially hard to adapt to our changing circumstances. The café was closed in the spring and efforts were focused on providing groceries and supplies for porch pickup and delivery. We obtained a liquor license for on-premises beer and wine consumption and launched Friday Nights at The Store this summer. This winter the store is offering take-out dinners on Friday nights to provide variety in the lives of our customers who are staying close to home and to generate much-needed revenue.

We feel especially fortunate this year to have such a strong base of local support. We hope you all stay well. We look forward to reconnecting in the coming year.

#### **Historic Harrisville Board of Trustees (April 2020-April 2021)**

Michelle Aldredge, Vice Chairman  
Peter Allen  
Lisa Anderson  
Laurie Appel  
Kathleen Bollerud  
Cathy Buffum  
Ann Colony  
John J. Colony, III  
Nick Colony  
Katrina Farmer  
Doug Gline  
Nancy Hayden  
Jay Jacobs

Colin Kennard  
Bryanne Kingsbury, Chairman  
John Knight  
Les LaMois  
Drew Landry, Treasurer  
Dan Langille  
Shane Long  
Andrew Maneval  
Deirdre Oliver, Secretary  
Pam Thayer  
Doug Walker  
Alison Weber

#### **Streetlight Committee**

The Streetlight Committee has continued to preserve and maintain the Boston Wheeler brand radial wave street light fixtures (vintage heads) in partnership with Eversource. We are monitoring the streetlights and communicating with Eversource regarding outages. As of January 10, 2021, 52 streetlights in Harrisville are functioning and 3 lights are out. We will follow up with Eversource about this.

Eversource has agreed to maintain the vintage system under the Town's current utility plan, replacing broken fixtures with refurbished ones on the condition that the Town supplies the parts that Eversource no longer keeps in inventory. The vintage heads are cast aluminum with ceramic enameled tin shades, made in the USA in the 1950s. The simple design is easy and inexpensive to maintain, and can be adapted to LED bulbs. Refurbished, they should last another 50-70 years.

Under the existing utility plan, there is no additional charge to Harrisville for maintenance. Thus, broken lights are replaced with refurbished heads with no additional cost for installation. In 2020, 3 heads were replaced with the vintage model and 14 light bulbs have been replaced. This equipment came from existing town supplies and the work was done at no additional cost to the town, other than the cost of the light bulbs. We purchased 7 vintage heads in 2020 in order to incrementally build up our inventory. We currently have an inventory of 8 heads in the town garage. Over time, 32 heads will be needed to replace the entire inventory of town streetlights.

At this point, lights are fitted with 100-watt, 1000-lumen incandescent bulbs that are rated for outdoor use with a service span of roughly 5 years. We have identified a Westinghouse Wet-Rated LED 11 watt (comparable to 100 watt incandescent) bulb that we would like to test for durability. We have approached the Public Utilities Commission about converting to LED bulbs but the Covid-19 pandemic made it impossible to meet face to face. Our goal is to bring Eversource and the PUC together to solicit approval for the LED bulbs.

In conjunction with donations to Historic Harrisville for the Streetlight project and through the sale of T-shirts donated by Mountain, the committee has raised \$4600 for this project. We plan to use these funds towards obtaining more refurbished heads and shades.

**Looking forward, the Streetlight Committee recommends the following next steps:**

- The Town continue to refurbish our inventory of streetlights incrementally and budget \$1,500 to refurbish lights and purchase radial wave shades in 2021; this will gain an additional 6 new heads with shades
- The Streetlight Committee purchase an additional \$4600 of inventory which will add 18 heads with shades. This will mean that we have acquired 47 of the 55 vintage heads and shades needed to replace the entire inventory.
- The Streetlight Committee continue to work with Eversource to replace non-functioning streetlights with refurbished heads and radial wave shades as they fail. We need support from the Select board to reinforce with Eversource the agreement to replace the heads when replacing the bulbs.
- Determine the cost to hire an electrician to replace the non-conforming lights with vintage radial wave lights. Replace the Beach light and move the box to the new pole.
- Continue to evaluate and monitor new LED products and prepare for an LED-bulb conversion when the technology reaches a quality of light similar to the current, incandescent bulbs. This year we will test the durability and electric usage of the Westinghouse A21 11 watt LED bulb.
- Set up a joint meeting to collaborate with the Public Utilities Commission and Eversource to obtain approval for using LED technology in our refurbished heads.
- Once the entire system has been converted, support the SB to negotiate a new lower rate plan

With thanks to the Select Board and Town representatives for their support,

The Street Light Committee: Don Scott, Kathy Scott, Seth Farmer, Barbara Watkins, Erin Hammerstedt, Chick Colony, Ryan Stone, Kathy Bollerud

## Trails Committee

The year of 2020 was busy for the Harrisville Trails group of volunteers. Despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, Zoom meetings and outdoor venues allowed Harrisville Trails to complete a number of important projects.

The restoration of the town rail trail was started in the fall. A crew of volunteers cleared small trees and brush to allow for the grading of the trail to improve drainage. This work will be completed in 2021.

The Mosquito Bush Bridge, built in 2019, required the gravel ramps to be completed to allow for safe pedestrian crossing. This work was completed in the fall, allowing access to the Bancroft and Cobb Hill trails.

The third project was the most urgent and required all hands on deck, literally. The Chesham Depot Bridge, built in 2009, was showing signs of rot. The deck and guard rails needed to be replaced. The work was planned for a weekend in October and in two days the construction crew removed the old decking and built the new bridge.

The final outdoor project to be completed before winter was trail restoration and bridge work on the Aldworth Manor Trail. The trail had been badly rutted and washed out and a small bridge need to be constructed. After the old log bridge was removed the trail volunteers planned an onsite visit to decide what type of replacement bridge should be built. When they arrived at the site, they discovered that a creative and generous citizen had built a simple stepping-stone bridge that was perfect for pedestrian use. The trail restoration will be completed in the spring.

Over the years, there has been interest expressed in the creation of maps of pedestrian trails available to the community. This year a subcommittee of Harrisville Trails took on this project. Landowner contacts were conducted, a grant was applied for and successfully awarded and production of trail signs was started. The plan is to have the maps available in the spring of 2021. Stay tuned.

The volunteers of Harrisville Trails thank the landowners and the citizens of Harrisville for their generous stewardship and support of the private and public trails. Special thanks to Jay Jacobs and Mike Davidson for donating grading and backhoe work.



Harrisville Trails volunteers:

Barbara Watkins, Alison Weber, Don Scott, Colin Kennard, Scott Oliver, Tom Weller, David Webb, Rich Taylor, Winston Sims, Don and Dona Page, Earl Horn, Lida Stinchfield, Erin Langille, Suzanne Brouillette, Ted Braun, Becca DeFusco, Nick Colony, Shane Long, Bryan Kingsbury, Diana Shonk, Russ Cobb and Reed Hedges.