

Newbury Update is published by the Town of Newbury to offer residents a view of the town government operations and activities. Copies are available at the town office, library, transfer station and post office, but we strongly encourage you to 'get your copy' at the town website: www.newburynh.org. To receive a copy via e-mail, send a request (and any comments or suggestions) to: newburyupdate@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon.	Nov. 2	Board of selectmen meet, 6:30pm, town ofc
Mon.	Nov. 2	Library – Book discussion, 7pm, see pg. 3
Tue.	Nov. 3	Planning board work session, cancelled
Wed.	Nov. 4	NBC – bow-making workshop, see pg. 5
Thu.	Nov. 5	Historical Society meeting, 7pm, town ofc.
Sat.	Nov. 7	Wood Chuck Day, Fishersfield Park, pg. 1
Mon.	Nov. 9	Library – Poetry Jam, 7pm, see page 3
Wed.	Nov. 11	Town offices closed
Mon.	Nov. 16	Board of selectmen meet, 6:30pm, town ofc
Tue.	Nov. 17	Planning board meeting, 7pm, town ofc
Fri.	Nov. 20	NBC – greening of the town
Sun.	Nov. 22	CMH – Thanksgiving celebration, see pg. 5
Thu.	Nov. 26	Town offices closed
Fri.	Nov. 27	Town offices closed
Sat.	Nov. 28	NBC – annual wreath sale, see page 1
Mon.	Nov. 30	Board of selectmen meet, 6:30pm, town ofc
Tue.	Dec. 1	Deadline to pay property tax bills
Sun.	Dec. 6	Library – Family Fun Day, see page 1
Sun.	Dec. 6	NBC – Lighting of the Tree, see page 5

Holiday Closings

The Newbury town offices will be closed the following days:

Wednesday, Nov. 11
Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26-27
Friday, Dec. 25
Friday, Jan. 1

Note: The Newbury transfer station will be open on Wednesday, Nov. 11, from 1-5 p.m.

Generous response

On behalf of all who benefitted from the community's generosity, a big thank you to all who donated canned or packaged goods, winter clothes and checks in response to the call for help. Newbury family services, with help from the generous members of our community, has successfully ended the winter clothing drive. On a Monday evening in late October, 15 families came, tried things on and all left with winter coats and clothes. Everyone was very happy and it was very worthwhile. I can assure everyone that they were greatly appreciated.

A thank you is also due for your support of the food pantry; it is greatly appreciated.

Help fill Thanksgiving baskets

Now Family Services' focus is on preparing Thanksgiving baskets. So far we have more than 22 families on the list for these baskets and I am sure there will be more for Christmas.

We are asking for donations to be put in the bin at town office of Thanksgiving items such as:

cranberry sauce	juices	stuffing
pumpkin pie mix	gravy	pie crust mix
canned sweet potatoes	vegetables	
bags of potatoes, onions, apples, oranges		

The Lake Sunapee Bank office in Newbury also has a receptacle for items for the food pantry.

Thank you to everyone for helping out.

If there are any questions, please call me at 938-2064, or if you know of a family who would benefit from getting holiday baskets.

Giving Tree – Calling all Santas

The Giving Tree is again up in the town office lobby, adorned with snowflakes carrying the wish of a Newbury child for Christmas. Take a snowflake and make the dream of a child come true for Christmas. I am asking people to have their wrapped packages – with the snowflake attached – back under the tree no later than Thursday, Dec 10.

If anyone would like to make a monetary donation (all donations go towards the baskets and the Giving Tree), please make out your check to the South Newbury Union Church, PO Box 37, Newbury, NH 03255, Att: Gail Bostic.

Again, a special thank you to the loving generous people of Newbury.

--Gail Bostic, Newbury family services director

If at first you don't succeed – reschedule!

On Oct. 17 only four people showed up for the Wood Chuck Day. Not enough people or equipment to safely or usefully accomplish the goal of cutting and stacking firewood for those needing assistance keeping warm this winter.

Dennis Pavlicek decided to postpone the effort and sweeten the pot with the offer of a free breakfast to workers. So, once again:

Wood Chuck Day – Saturday, Nov. 7

Meet at Fishersfield Park at 9 a.m.

(on Old Post Road opposite the transfer station; take the park road up the hill to the upper field area)

A warm breakfast will be served

by the town administrator to volunteers

Handy things to bring:

*log splitters - chain saws - axes *
work gloves and ear protection

No special skill required!

* These are really needed. It would help if you would call Dennis Pavlicek at 763-4940 x204 if you can bring any.

For more information contact Donna Long at 763-4940 ext. 202.

Annual Holiday Wreath Sale, Nov. 28

Be sure and visit town office on Saturday, Nov. 28, for the annual Holiday Wreath Sale of the NBC. For the same low prices as last year you can have Santa's Workshop create a custom wreath or purchase a signature wreath. Visit the hostess table and the new children's table for gifts for school and family. Complete your holiday shopping with Center Meeting House ornaments and Newbury's pictorial history book. The sale runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Place your advance order for special large-size wreaths, roping and kissing balls with a call to 927-4006.

Family Fun Day – Dec. 6

Help decorate the library!

Sunday, Dec. 6 3 – 5 p.m.

3 p.m. *Holiday stories for all ages*

3:30-5 p.m. *Seasonal crafts for the whole family--
create festive ornaments, decorate cookies and cupcakes*

**From the desk of the
Newbury Board of Selectmen**

*Jim Powell, Gary Budd, Dick Wright
and town administrator Dennis Pavlicek*

Tax rate breakdown – Following are the rates per \$1,000 of assessed property value, as set by NH Dept. of Revenue Administration for the 2009 Newbury taxes:

Town	\$ 3.46	up 5 cents	up 1%	25% of total
County	\$ 2.63	down 3 cents	down 1%	19% of total
State school	\$ 2.31	down 1 cent	down 0%	16% of total
Local school	<u>\$ 5.35</u>	up 22 cents	up 4%	38% of total
Total	\$13.75	up 23 cents	up 1%	

Property tax bills were mailed Oct. 20 and payment is due no later than Tuesday, Dec. 1.

Status of town budget – Town administrator Dennis Pavlicek said that at the end of October this year's budget is running better than last year. Revenues are down somewhat, such as vehicle registrations and current-use penalties, but revenue estimates were lowered in the budget to reflect last year's drop. Last year was the first year that we didn't make the projected revenues, so 2009 projections were decreased to 2008 levels, which we're now running slightly above.

The impact on Newbury of the state cutting revenue sharing is small, maybe \$5,000 once all is said and done. The projected increase in state retirement payments isn't as problematic for us as for others since only the police department is under the state system. Other town employees are on ICMA, which manages and administers 457 and 401 retirement savings plans exclusively for the benefit of public sector employers and employees.

Budget reviews begin – The budget committee – Jim Powell, Gary Budd, Dick Wright, Dennis Pavlicek, Joy Nowell, Ivor Freeman and Tom Vannatta – will begin meeting with town board and department heads to review their budget proposals for 2010. The schedule for these sessions, which will begin at 7 p.m. during meetings of the board of selectmen, follows:

Nov. 2 – Personnel administration, legal expenses, information booth, other general government, tax anticipation note interest/debt service, emergency management/health officer, historical society, conservation commission, elections

Nov. 16 – Police, welfare/family services, code enforcement, parks & recreation, street lighting, zoning, health agencies, executive

Nov. 30 – Financial administration, highway, planning, library, transfer station

Dec. 14 – Fire, forest fire, safety communications services, cemeteries, Blodgett sewer, general government buildings, insurance, capital outlay

Dec. 28 – Open

Jan. 11 – Department revisions (if any), COLA, warrant articles

Your input and participation in the budget process is encouraged, and is much more useful and effective earlier in the process than later.

Time line for Newbury's annual town meeting, March 2010

Jan. 1	Notice of bond hearing (first day possible)
Jan. 8	First day to hold public hearing for bond issue over \$100K
Jan. 20	First day for candidates to file for office with Town Clerk
Jan. 29	Last day for candidates to file for office with Town Clerk
Feb. 2	Last day for petitioned warrant articles
Feb. 5	Last day to post notice of public hearing on budget
Feb. 8	Budget Hearing
Feb. 12	Last day to hold public hearing on budget
Feb. 15	Notice of bond hearing (last possible day)
Feb. 22	Last day to post warrant and budget for annual meeting
Feb. 22	Last day to hold public hearing for bond issue over \$100K
Mar. 9	Town meeting voting
Mar.10	Business portion of town meeting

Selectmen hit the highway – On Saturday morning, Oct. 31, the selectmen and town administrator once again cleared trash, nearly 12 bags worth, from 'their' 2-mile stretch of Route 103.

They extend special thanks to Caela Budd who insisted on helping her father. She observed afterwards that, based on the bulk of what they collected, litterers tend to make poor health choices.

Thanks also to any others who share their pride in Newbury and help keep their neighborhoods green.

Snowmobile trail altered – The snowmobile club asked the select board if the snowmobile trail that runs behind the town office could be slightly altered to avoid the newly expanded parking lot. After looking at the proposed area of change, the selectmen said if abutters approve of the change, they would as well.

Blodgett WWTF out to bid – After months of back and forth between Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. and DES, the agency accepted revised plans and specifications suitable for bidding and authorized putting the project out to bid. Advertisements for bids ran on Oct. 30 for construction of Phase 1 wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) upgrade, Blodgett Landing.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference is set for Nov. 12 at 10 a.m. at the Blodgett Landing site. Sealed bids will be accepted until 2 p.m. on Dec. 1, which allows sufficient time to get the project awarded in early January and ahead of the drop-dead federal deadline for ARRA projects of February 17.

At this point the schedule calls for a 'recommendation to award' letter to be sent to DES by Dec. 4; 'authorization to award' e-mail notification from DES by Dec. 9 and notice of award to contractor by Dec. 11. The estimated completion time for the work, once begun, is about 16 months for substantial completion and 18 months for contract completion.

Stantec is also working on the hydro-geo analysis and has put in applications for shoreline and alteration-of-terrain permits to DES.

Bridge work permits, approvals pursued – The work on the two bridges (Village Road over Andrew Brook and Sutton Road over Ring Brook) has moved ahead on two fronts, at the state departments of transportation (DOT) and environmental services (DES).

DOT has reviewed the preliminary plans for both projects submitted by DuBois & King and found them satisfactory. There were minor comments on each that need only be addressed in the final plans, on which DOT approved the vendor proceeding.

Meanwhile DuBois & King has also filed standard dredge-and-fill applications with DES.

Senior housing site sought – Selectmen were informed in October that CAP of Belknap-Merrimack Counties, Inc. continues to look for property in Newbury on which to build senior housing. CAP has been awarded a HUD grant for the project. An earlier site did not work out due to wetlands issues; two others are currently being studied to determine their feasibility.

Thank you – Gary and Christine Daniels donated additional strings of lights for the 'town tree,' which was planted by Alice Lynn some 50 years ago on the corner of the Center Meeting House property (technically, she re-planted it after vandals had at it).

Herbicide-free zones – On Oct. 19 the selectmen voted to make it a town policy that no herbicides may be used under any circumstances on town property.

Traffic moving smoothly – There are no reports or observations of anyone having trouble with the one-way traffic flow for the town office / library parking area. The one-way signs along with lines and arrows on the pavement have been, as expected, clear to the motoring public.

For those who haven't stopped in recently, visitors enter off Rte. 103 and exit onto Fishersfield Road and then to Rte. 103A.

Public hearing on state transportation plan – At least 35 people attended the state’s public hearing in Newbury on Oct. 28 to review and receive citizen input on the Ten-year Transportation Improvement Plan (2011-2020). Dennis Pavlicek reports that the presenters mentioned the possibility of making all of Rte. 93 a toll road to increase monies available for upkeep of state roads. Dick Wright spoke to the select board’s safety concerns with the access off Rte. 103 to the proposed Wild Goose boat launch.

The meeting about Wild Goose between our selectmen and the commissioner of DOT that was also set for Oct. 28 was postponed due to scheduling conflicts until November.

Slideshow Tour of Lake Sunapee Scenic Byway

During October the Lake Sunapee Byway Committee offered a virtual tour of the Lake Sunapee Scenic & Cultural Byway via slideshow presentations in Newbury, New London and Sunapee.

The purpose of the slideshow was to inform the public of the resources along the byway and to spark discussion about potential future projects or improvements on the byway.

The byway committee is also looking for input and support to expand the current driving route around Lake Sunapee (along Routes 11, 103 and 103B) to include Route 103A and a loop through New London on Newport Road, Main Street and King Hill Road as part of the designated byway. The expansion must be reviewed by the state scenic byway council and public support is a key element.

In Newbury nearly two dozen people accepted the open invitation to virtually tour the byway. The reaction was positive to adding Rte. 103A in Newbury and suggestions for projects that might be funded through the Scenic Byways Grant Program were made.

After the outreach sessions were completed the byway committee met to review the ideas and identified a potential project that could be put in for next year’s grant round. They propose a total of 15 additional interpretive signs (such as the one in Newbury’s Bell Cove) to be spread along the route. Tied in to that would be a marketing plan and development of a website for use in the marketing. The committee is also looking at the possibility of parking improvements where the signs would be located.

Dennis Pavlicek, one of Newbury’s representatives on the committee, said that they are moving expeditiously to submit a preliminary grant request to the state DOT to ensure we have a placeholder in process. The committee will meet on Dec. 3 to finish the corridor plan to submit to the state scenic byway council, which will include the request to extend the route. Town and civic boards and organizations will be asked for letters of support for this effort.

Sign up to receive emergency notifications

To ensure you are contacted with relevant information in the event of an emergency, please go to the town website (newburynh.org) and click on the right where it says “*Click here to sign up for the CodeRED emergency notification network.*”

It will connect you to the CodeRED emergency public notification system which is providing emergency communications to Newbury and five other area towns. Should there be an emergency, all the households in the affected areas – from a street to the entire town – could receive a recorded telephone message with critical information.

The only way to ensure an accurate and complete listing of telephone numbers is to ask people to supply their own information. If you click through from the town website you can provide primary and alternate phone numbers to be sure you are reached; landline or cell numbers are accepted. Residents and businesses should do this.

As you will read on the site, this information will only be used for the emergency notification system and will not be shared or sold to any other party. For questions or additional information, please contact town administrator Dennis Pavlicek at 763-4940, ext. 204.

TRANSFER STATION

Construction of roofing to cover the second compactor in its new location has begun. Sweet Shelters’ bid was the one accepted for the work. Planning and preparation are ongoing for moving the plastic/tin container to the other side of the building alongside the paper container.

New 2010 dump stickers are in

The 2009 dump stickers (blue letters on white background) expire Dec. 31. The new stickers, good until Dec. 31, 2010, are green on white. You can pick up the new one at either the selectmen’s or town clerk’s window at the town office. It’s easiest if you bring in your old one or your license plate number.

The hours for the selectmen’s window are 8 a.m.-12 noon on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The hours for the town clerk are 1-7 p.m. Monday and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday (closed 12-1 p.m.) Town clerk Linda Plunkett said it can be done through the mail if necessary; call her for details at 763-5326.

HIGHWAY DEPT.

The hazard mitigation work on Mountainside and Winding Brook roads is done, reports highway administrator Cal Prussman, and the highway crew will next start work in Sunapee Hills. In addition, the new truck is in and the department is getting ready for winter.

PARKS & RECREATION

Recreation Committee: Inge Lee, Jane Pratt, Marilyn Hill, Jennifer Morris Sweet, Gail Bostic, Katie Seabury, Mark Cashin, Monica Valovic, John Valovic

The walking club formed for communal exercise on the town’s new sidewalk has been a non-starter this fall despite early expressions of interest. Recreation coordinator Travis Dezotell says he’ll try again in the spring. The final fall Fishersfield trail clean-up on Oct.19 had a turnout of two, counting Dezotell. Again, spring’s a new beginning.

In the success column is the Fall Festival, despite being postponed until Sunday, Oct. 25 by a colossal rainfall. Dezotell estimates 40-50 came through over the course of the event to enjoy games, crafts, snacks and the trick-or-treat trail walk in costume.

NEWBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library trustees: Liz Tentarelli, Pam Ritchie, Pat Sherman. Friends of NPL: Liz Moulton, Paula Falkowski, Ken Tentarelli, Mickey Noyer, Jackie Keegan, Suzanne Levine, Diana Morris

Library hours: Sunday 12- 5 p.m., Monday 12-8 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday 12-5 p.m., Friday closed, Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Book Discussion

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini is a remarkable chronicle of three decades of Afghan history and a deeply moving account of family and friendship. Join the group on Monday, Nov. 2, at 7 p.m. for a discussion of this breathtaking story.

The Humanities-to-go program on Dec. 13 (see below) will take the place of the December book discussion.

Poetry Jam

Let the spirit move you! Join us Monday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. with a spooky or spirited themed poem. Dianalee Velie will moderate.

Library Friends

The next quarterly meeting of the Friends is on Monday, Dec. 7, at the library at 6:30 p.m.; all are invited to attend. They will be building their budget for the new year and talking about doing the annual appeal letter again in May of 2010.

Family Fun Day – Dec. 6

Help us decorate the library! On Sunday, Dec. 6, the creativity is going to flow. To start things off, at 3 p.m. there will be holiday stories for all ages to set the mood. Then from 3:30 – 5 p.m. the whole family can work some seasonal magic with crafts to fill our library with festive ornaments and decorate cookies and cupcakes. We'll wrap up in time to head over to the tree lighting and caroling outside the Center Meeting House.

Humanities-to-go program, Dec. 13

On Sunday afternoon, Dec. 13, the library will host "Crime and Punishment on the Isles of Shoals: The Ballad of Louis Wagner" with John Perrault. It examines a murder and trial more than a century ago and the currents surrounding it all. Perrault will also perform his song, *The Ballad of Louis Wagner*. This is one of the Humanities-to-go programs of the NH Humanities Council (NHHC).

From the NHHC website: "Louis Wagner was convicted of, and executed for, murdering Anethe and Karen Cristenson on Smuttynose Island, Isles of Shoals, in March of 1873. Although sentiment against Wagner was at a fever pitch immediately following the murders, time and reflection have generated an ongoing debate as to the fairness of the trial and the validity of the verdict. Drawing from the trial transcript, media reports and the cultural milieu in which the trial took place, this program invites you to examine the law's judgment of Louis Wagner. Listen also to a guitar and vocal rendition of Perrault's song, *The Ballad of Louis Wagner*."

John Perrault lives on the seacoast and is a published poet, songwriter and musician.

To give you more background on the events, librarian Rosie Johnson recommends reading *The Weight of Water* by Anita Shreve, about the two women who were killed 136 years ago on Smuttynose Island and a woman who, while researching that crime and its aftermath, ends up on rocky emotional ground of her own.

Early reservations key to location – please call

The program will begin at 2 p.m. on Dec. 13 but the location depends on response so please call the library to reserve a spot, 763-5803.

ASSESSING OFFICE

Mary Morin, director of the NH State Veterans Council, gave a workshop to the assessors association earlier this year. Our assessor, Norm Bernaiche, thought the information might be interesting to veterans, some of whom may not be aware of the programs. The following material is from two of the council's brochures.

Morin said she would like to emphasize, "There is no charge for us to help veterans obtain these benefits or answer their questions."

NH State Veterans Council

Our mission is to assist NH veterans and/or their dependents in securing their federal or state veterans benefits or entitlements under the law. Generally, this means helping veterans or their family members in filing claims for compensation or pension benefits with the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA), yet we also provide information and assistance in a wide variety of ways.

Role of the Veterans Service Officer (VSO)

As employees of the state of New Hampshire, VSOs represent the veteran or his/her dependents throughout the VA claim process. This service is provided free of charge to the veteran or dependents. VSOs provide information, direction and assistance concerning a variety of topics including: available state benefits, disability compensation and pension, survivors' benefits, burial benefits, education benefits, the NH State Veterans' Cemetery and the NH Veterans' Home.

Veterans who are residents of Newbury can contact either Brian Toney, VSO in Claremont at 543-3111, or Carter Higginbotham, VSO in Concord at 228-4100. Call these numbers to make appointments with a VSO and get dates of site visits.

State benefits

Global War on Terrorism Bonus: Veterans who served at least 90 days on active duty on or after September 11, 2001, and who earned the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan or Iraq campaign medal, and who had an honorable discharge are eligible.

Property tax: Many veterans, and unmarried surviving spouses, are eligible for a credit of \$50 to \$500 on their residential property taxes. The veteran must have 90 days active service during a period of war, be a resident of New Hampshire for a minimum of one year and have an honorable discharge. Contact the town assessor's office for an application.

There is a \$700 tax credit on real estate occupied as principal place of abode by a permanently and totally disabled service-connected veteran, double-amputee or paraplegic, or unmarried surviving spouse.

License plates: Veterans honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces may be issued a special license plate. The plate will only be issued upon application, submission of proof of honorable discharge. Certain veterans who are permanently or totally disabled may be exempt from a fee for this.

State Veterans' Cemetery: Veterans are eligible for interment in the State Veterans' Cemetery in Boscawen. Contact NH State Veterans' Cemetery at 227-1592 or at the website, nhsvc.com for information.

State Veterans' Home: Located in Tilton, the Veterans' Home is a 250-bed facility for honorably discharged veterans who have served for a period of at least 90 days in the armed forces of the U.S. in time of war and who have been state residents for one year preceding application. Some restrictions on assets and medical treatment exist. For more information contact the NH Veterans' Home at 527-4400 or nh.gov/veterans.

State park admission: NHH veterans with any VA service-connected disability rating or any active member of a federally recognized unit of NH national guard who is a legal resident of this state and is serving (or who retired) in pay grades E-1 through E-6 shall not be charged a fee for admission to the state park. Any fees for the use of enterprise activities (including ski lifts, food service, campgrounds, etc.) shall be charged.

Wartime Veteran's Pension

The VA offers a pension benefit entitled the "Non-Service-Connected Improved Pension" or more commonly known as the Wartime Veteran's Pension (or for surviving spouses, the Veteran's Death Pension).

This benefit for wartime veterans and their families has become a very important benefit to those who require long-term care which can be very expensive. The NH State Veterans Council would like to help you to apply for this benefit earned through the veteran's wartime service.

This pension benefit is available in three rates: a basic rate based solely on means, a household rate and the aid-and-attendance rate to help defer long-term care costs.

Wartime and Service Dates: Generally a veteran must have served 90 days or more of service, of which at least one day must have occurred during a period of war. The veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

World War II: 12/7/41 – 12/31/46

Korean War: 6/27/50 – 1/31/55

Vietnam War: 8/5/64* – 5/7/75 (*2/28/61 for veterans who served 'in country' before 8/5/64)

Gulf War: 8/2/90 through a date set by law of Presidential Proclamation.

Information Sources

NH State Veterans Council, 624-9230, 800-622-9230 (NH only)

www.nh.gov/nhveterans

US Dept. of Veterans Affairs, 800-827-1000, www.va.gov

CEMETERY COMMISSION

Cemetery trustees: Paul Riley, Mike Moss, Judy Healey

Veterans Honored in Newbury Cemeteries -- a national observation continues

For close to a century we have given tribute to the veterans of our nation's wars through parades, speeches, concerts and the decoration of our soldiers' graves. The day of observation was first established by President Woodrow Wilson on November 11, 1919 to honor the first anniversary of the "armistice" which ended World War I at the "eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month." All businesses were to suspend activities for a two-minute period beginning at 11:00 a.m. with celebrations and tributes to follow.

Since 1919 Americans have observed this day for recognition. Originally called Armistice Day, it was not until 1954 that the Eisenhower Administration formally changed its name to Veteran's Day in the wake of both World War II and the Korean Conflict. It thus became the official time to remember and honor *all* American soldiers from *all* wars and not just those from World War I.

This year, as we approach November 11 in Newbury, Veteran's Day will be in evidence by the closing of our schools, suspension of mail delivery, closing of federal offices and perhaps the banks. But nowhere is tribute and remembrance more clear than at the nearly 150 gravesites of our town's veterans.

Since the end of the Civil War, various patriotic organizations have always installed veteran's markers with flags to identify the unique contribution of each soldier by the war in which they fought. In many areas, the American Legion has taken a lead role in supplying flags and flag holders; in Newbury, the town cemetery trustees have this role. During next year new veteran flag holders will be placed alongside the older wrought iron holders which themselves bear important historical information but, due to time, is no longer readable. The new markers will more sturdily hold veteran's flags and provide holders for some graves that did not have markers.

At present, cemetery trustees have placed American flags on all of the 149 veterans' grave sites to honor their service. The largest concentration of soldiers is understandably in the town's larger cemeteries and to residents passing by or visiting these areas, flags and historic veteran markers may be found and in the following breakdown. Chandler has 33 veterans, Lakeside is the largest with 53 soldiers, Marshall has 22 and there are 26 veterans buried in South Newbury. The town's older yet smaller cemeteries (i.e. Baker Hill, Bean, Bly Hill and Simons) have 15 veteran burials among them. The town's newest cemetery is Booth Sherman and it has no veteran burials.

So on November 11 as we celebrate this national holiday and express our gratitude, the words of John F. Kennedy may remind us that, "We must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

--Mike Moss, trustee

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

A couple weeks ago, several NBC members worked on the plantings at the historic town buildings in South Newbury. Trees, shrubs and perennials went into the ground so that their roots can get established and they can be ready to grow in the spring. Annuals and additional perennials will be added in the spring.

We want to thank Dennis Pavlicek, Will Willis and Travis Dezotell for all their assistance and a special thank you to the strong prisoners who helped dig in the rocky soil.

As you all noticed, the window boxes, barrels and hanging baskets have been put away for the winter. Thanks to our wonderful highway crew for moving the wooden barrels. We all appreciate everything our town employees do.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the town Thanksgiving gathering on Nov. 22 which will usher in the holiday season. We

hope you will all want to announce your Christmas spirit with a beautiful wreath from NBC hanging on your front door or/and inside your home. The Wreath Sale is the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 28.

We invite everyone to join us on the first Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m. in the town office meeting room. After our November meeting on Nov. 4, there will be a bow workshop in preparation for the greening of the town and our wreath sale.

Thinking ahead to December, the lighting of the town tree is the first Sunday in December (Dec. 6).

-- Joy Nowell, president

Upcoming NBC activities and events

A quick review of upcoming items on the NBC calendar:

Wednesday, Nov. 4 – The regular monthly meeting at town office at 9 a.m., as always open to all, will be followed by a bow-making workshop in preparation for the wreath sale.

Friday, Nov. 20 – Greening of the town with wreaths and swags, ribbons and bows. Rain date is Saturday, Nov. 21.

Sunday, Nov. 22 – Members will provide refreshments for the Thanksgiving Celebration at the town office.

Monday, Nov. 23 – A workshop in the basement at town office at 9 a.m., to make things to sell at the wreath sale – hostess gifts and children's table items.

Saturday, Nov. 28 – Annual Holiday Wreath Sale (see page 1)

Sunday, Dec. 6 – Lighting of the Great Tree, followed by caroling and refreshments at the town office.

CENTER MEETING HOUSE

Fabulous Fall News: We hope that you have been watching our progress. The bell tower is being renovated and North Branch Construction has told us we can expect replacement atop the tower by December 1, just in time for the annual Tree Lighting on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 5 p.m. Our beautifully reconstructed dome was delivered on Oct. 16 and now sits in front of the building under a blue tarp awaiting further work. Please give our exceptional craftsmen a silent blessing when you drive by our 'proud lady.' Their skills are of the highest order and we are so thankful for their talent. We are also thankful for Newbury residents who have so generously given their time and treasure to move the renovation forward. On Friday, Oct. 16 the board delivered its second application for an LCHIP grant to further our restoration work. Please send positive thoughts to that group for acceptance of our application.

Fifth Annual Thanksgiving Celebration – On Sunday, Nov. 22, at 3 p.m. the Center Meeting House will hold our annual Thanksgiving Celebration. Board member Chuck Kennedy will officiate. The Kearsarge Women's Choir has been invited to sing for us. Newbury Beautification Committee will provide decorations and refreshments.

We have asked Vickie Schubert to help with a children's production and perhaps sing a duet with husband Chuck. Please join us to honor all who serve our community. Gail Bostic is setting up the Newbury Giving Tree for all to contribute gifts for distribution to Newbury residents. She is also organizing a food drive for Thanksgiving baskets and asks that we bring nonperishable items for the baskets that afternoon. Please come and help us all give thanks.

We look forward to the day when our celebration will be in the meeting house.

The Tree Lighting is being organized by the Newbury Beautification Committee on Sunday, Dec. 6. They have generously donated money to pay for power to light the tree during the season and will also provide refreshments for the gathering after the ceremony. We are most grateful for the ongoing financial and working support they have given to the Center Meeting House over the last five years. Together we all are working to beautify Newbury and make it the jewel on the lake.

Prior to the lighting ceremony the library will be hosting a family day. Participants plan to join us at 5 p.m. when long-time resident Alice Lynn will light the beautiful tree she planted 50 years ago on Center Meeting House property. We are ordering 100 flameless candles to use when we sing one or two carols in front of the meeting house, perhaps *Silent Night* or *Let There Be Peace on Earth and We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. We will be able to save these battery-operated 'safe' candles for future use when we have events inside the meeting house. We will collect them after the carol singing so that we can use them again. The Kearsarge Jazz Band will entertain us at the carol singing and after the ceremony in the town offices where we will gather as a community.

Board member Doug Whelan and our newsletter editor, Susie Riley, have set up our wonderful website. To keep up with our progress please check the website at centermeetinghouse.org.

--Gloria Whelan, event chair

HEALTH OFFICER

H1N1 flu

With the presidential declaration of the H1N1 pandemic as a national emergency, there is a great deal of concern about the availability of the H1N1 vaccine and questions as to when the H1N1 flu shots will be available. The Newbury Health Officer continues to be heavily involved with the Greater Sullivan County Public Health Network and the NH Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in keeping up to date with the latest developments. There were two meetings with DHHS held the week of Oct. 19 which provided the latest updates from the state.

Although the quantity of the H1N1 vaccine delivered to the state is less than anticipated, the vaccine is arriving and will continue to arrive and be distributed by DHHS on a weekly basis for the foreseeable future.

As noted in last month's *Update*, the priority established by the federal Dept. of Health and Human Services and followed by their New Hampshire counterpart is as follows for the distribution of the vaccine:

- Pregnant women
- Healthcare workers
- Children and young adults aged 6 months to 24 years
- People who live with or care for infants younger than 6 mos. old
- People aged 25 to 64 who have medical conditions that put them at risk for influenza

In most cases the flu shots are being provided for these groups by the individual's own physician. Healthcare workers will be receiving the vaccine through the employer or the health region. It is expected that the vaccine being delivered will be sufficient to vaccinate all members of these groups who want the shots during the month of November. The plan is for there to be sufficient quantities of the vaccine to start the vaccination of the general public sometime in December. It is anticipated that most of the people that want the vaccine as it becomes available will receive the shots from their own physician.

The state's plan does include other options for people who may not have a doctor, including a vaccination clinic in New London at the former middle school on Dec. 14 from 4-7 p.m. A tentative schedule of all the vaccination clinics in the area can be found on the Greater Sullivan County Public Health Network website: <http://www.sullivancountynh.gov/publichealth/>

Please keep in mind that most cases of H1N1 are mild with a duration generally less than that of the seasonal flu and medical attention is not necessary for individuals that do not have other medical conditions. The vaccine is not effective once the symptoms develop.

The symptoms of H1N1 (also called swine flu) are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and may include:

- Fever (greater than 100°F)
- Sore throat

- Cough
- Headache and body aches
- Fatigue
- Stuffy nose
- Chills

If you do come down with flu-like symptoms you should stay home from work or school and continue to stay home until you no longer have the symptoms.

The best prevention for the flu is:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Try not to touch things that may have the flu virus on them.
- Stay home when you are not feeling well.
- After sneezing, wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol.
- Sneeze into a tissue, your sleeve or your elbow. Do not cover your mouth with your hands.

Continue to check the Health Officer's H1N1 information page on the Town of Newbury website (newburynh.org) for the latest information from the NH Dept. of Health and Human Services and other public health agencies. The site has links to www.flu.gov, www.dhhs.state.nh.us, www.cdc.gov and other H1N1 information resources.

--Wayne Whitford, health officer

DHHS activates H1N1 Flu Public Inquiry Line

The NH Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has activated the state's H1N1 Flu Public Inquiry Line.

DHHS is urging residents with questions about the H1N1 influenza virus, the H1N1 vaccine and any other questions related to H1N1 to call the inquiry line by dialing 2-1-1.

"People have questions about the H1N1 virus and the status of the supply of H1N1 vaccine. We are activating the public inquiry line because we want to be sure people have access to good information, are getting answers to their questions and are taking the proper steps to prevent the spread of the virus," said Gov. John Lynch.

DHHS has been working with 2-1-1 NH – a program of United Ways of NH in partnership with PSNH, the state of NH and Exeter Hospital – to be ready to respond as the state's public inquiry line for all questions regarding H1N1 influenza. Initially the public inquiry line will be open for H1N1-related questions from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

POLICE DEPT.

This isn't really news – it happens all the time at our police department because they don't like to carry a backlog of open cases – but since it happened just as we are going to press...

The Newbury Police Dept. has solved two burglaries and one attempt that occurred recently in Blodgett's Landing. Officers identified the alleged perpetrators who are now pending prosecution and returned all the stolen property to its owners. Thorough canvassing of the neighbors, resident and non-resident, generated the lead.

Chief Bob Lee credits his officers working together as a team in concert with help from neighbors as the essential part of making the resolution of this case, and the department's closure rate overall, possible.

FIRE & RESCUE DEPT.

Winter warnings, cold cautions

With weather cooling down people are beginning to use their wood stoves and need to use caution as well. First, be sure your chimney flue has been cleaned to avoid chimney fires.

Whether you use a wood stove or other heating device, be sure to keep combustibles a safe distance away – three feet is good.

Improper disposal of ashes is good for a couple of fire calls a year – please don't be one of them. Proper disposal of ashes requires a metal container with a lid. If you're going to spread them in the yard or garden, it's safest to first store the ash bucket with the lid firmly in place outside for several days, away from any structures. If there is no snow cover on the ground, be sure to wet the ashes down when you spread them. Ashes can also be brought to the transfer station; check with Churchill Heselton on how they're handled there.

Other important safety reminders

- o Fire extinguishers:** Every home should have at least one. Is it checked out and in working order? Do all older family members know where it is and how to use it?
- o House numbers:** Many houses in town still do not have house numbers posted. They can save valuable time when safety services personnel are trying to find your house in an emergency. If you aren't sure of your house number, check at town office on your tax card.
- o Keep driveway clear:** Keep your driveway plowed wide enough for emergency vehicles and be sure your vehicles are parked where they won't block passage.
- o Change those batteries:** If you didn't do it when you changed your clocks this weekend, don't delay any longer. Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors can save your life, but they only work reliably with a fresh battery.

Strong focus on training

The Newbury Fire & Rescue Dept. meets each Tuesday and three of those evenings are devoted to training each month. On Oct. 27, for example, there was a course on misuse of prescription and street drugs, what responders might have to deal with in physical reactions and behaviors and how to treat an overdose. Asst. Chief Jeff Libby of Lebanon Fire Dept. ran a very interactive and well-received program.

On Sept. 26 several Newbury firefighters attended a hazardous materials and decontamination training in Sunapee with the Midwest NH hazmat team. Major Mike Terry also came in with members of the CST Division of the National Guard to assist with the training using their decon trailer. Major Terry's team stages at the Loudon race track to handle hazmat and decon during race events. Some may remember the Guard's decon trailer from when it was displayed at the fire station during Old Home Day a couple years ago.

Pumper research begins

A committee has been formed to thoroughly research the right replacement for the 31-year-old pumper in the Blodgett's Landing station. The intent is to have it voted on at town meeting in March for delivery in 2011.

Firefighters throw great parties too

The firefighters held another successful Halloween party on Oct. 26, with plenty of kids winning prizes in the costume parade and playing games until the big finale. At evening's end they swung away until they cracked open a piñata full of candy.

Coming in December (date to be announced), the department is planning for its annual party with Santa Claus. Santa arrives at the station in a fire truck with lights flashing after firefighters pick him up at Mt. Sunapee (the station has no room for the sleigh and reindeer to land).

--Henry Thomas, fire chief

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Katheryn Holmes, chair; Eric Unger, vice-chair; Bill Annable, Chuck Crickman; Deane Geddes, Suzanne Levine, Frank Perrotta

Sunapee Conservation Commission

10/13/09 Crickman noted that, per his request, he received 2008 and 2009 minutes from the Sunapee Conservation Commission (SCC) and said they contain a great deal of useful and interesting information about their projects and financial allocations. Holmes

suggested that he prepare a synopsis of the SCC activities and present his findings at the next meeting.

Geddes noted that the Newbury Conservation Commission produced a year-long comprehensive conservation summary costing over \$10,000. Holmes said the feedback from that project was been very positive, particularly in the area of easements.

Holmes discussed the variety of recreational areas in Newbury, namely The Fells, Mt. Sunapee and Sunset Hill Trail. A project that is of interest is securing a trail head for the Andrew Brook.

The Fells, seasonal dock request

10/13/09 Holmes gave an update on the seasonal dock request from The Fells and noted that The Fells received notification from the NH Dept. of Environmental Services (DES) requesting additional information/compliance. Holmes said she contacted Karen Zurheide, executive director of The Fells, and asked her for information on the project. One of the concerns was restroom facilities for the rowing club members. Zurheide said The Fells' existing restroom facilities are opened early in the morning to accommodate the rowing club members' needs. In addition Zurheide said it is a trial project and the dock would be in place for this season only. Holmes said she is awaiting further contact from Zurheide on the status of the project.

Communications

10/13/09 Holmes reviewed the following communications:

-- Lake Sunapee Watershed Infrastructure Project Stakeholder Forum on Oct. 28 at Newbury town office. The forum examines the potential risk to storm-water infrastructure due to increasing runoff from development and natural storm intensities.

-- NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions annual meeting on Nov. 7 in Concord. Holmes invited the commission members to attend the conference.

-- A letter from the Newbury Planning Board to Baker Hill Golf Club on Sept. 18, notifying the latter of the board's approval, with conditions, of the final site plan application for the property.

-- Communications from DES to various individuals on the status of their wetlands minimum impact expedited applications or other permit applications.

-- On Sept. 18, the Town of Newbury received a letter from DES in response to the town's decision of reconsideration concerning the Wild Goose boat ramp. The letter indicated that DES reaffirmed its decision to issue an approval of the project.

Easement workshop review

10/13/09 Holmes reported on the success of the commission's first workshop, "Love Your Land Forever: Conservation Options for Newbury Landowners" on Sept. 12. She has received positive feedback from both attendees and interested parties who were not able to attend the workshop. About 20 people attended the two-hour session and heard presentations from the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, UNH Cooperative Extension, the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust and Newbury property owners who have established conservation easements.

Holmes suggested that the success of the workshop might lead to providing future workshops on trails, application processes and other conservation efforts.

Wild Goose Boat Ramp Project Summary

10/13/09 Holmes reviewed the opposition activities thus far: The Town of Newbury's letter to the DES Wetlands Bureau regarding the wetlands permit for dredging; an upcoming meeting between the town and the NH Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding the traffic safety issues; the Newbury Planning Board's letter in opposition; Lake Sunapee Protective Assoc. (LSPA) spending over \$80,000 in legal fees to fight the project; and the upcoming NH legislature meeting on Oct. 20 (described below).

NH Legislature session re Wild Goose project

10/13/09 Holmes invited commission members to attend the Oct. 20 public information session on the Wild Goose boat ramp project in

Concord. The session is being held by Sen. Martha Fuller Clark, chair of the energy, environment and economic development committee, and Rep. Judith Sprang, chair of the resources, recreation and development committee. Individuals from Fish and Game, DRED and DES will be presenting on the project and taking questions from the public. Holmes, Crickman, Annable, Geddes and Levine plan to attend.

Trail map revenue

10/13/09 Levine reported that the commission's Newbury trail map sales netted \$69.00.

LAND USE BOARDS

Please note –

The land-use board sections here first present topics the boards covered at work sessions and other administrative actions. This is followed by summaries of hearings, arranged by case numbers and date sequence within each case. In all cases these are very brief summaries and in some cases are from draft minutes. You are encouraged to read the full and approved minutes, available at the town office and website.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Katheryn Holmes, chair; Helen Wright, vice-chair; Steve Russell, Barbara Richmond, Peter Fichter. Alternates: Alex Azodi, Sue Russell, Harry Seidel

New board members

10/19/09 Holmes asked the board for a vote regarding accepting Harry Seidel as an alternate member to the ZBA, which was done by unanimous vote. She then asked the board to appoint Peter Fichter as a full member of the ZBA, noting that he will have to run for the full member seat at the town meeting in March 2010; the board agreed unanimously. His appointment brings the board to its full complement of five full members.

OEP conference report

10/19/09 Richmond reported on the conference, saying the informational content was excellent but that the program was overly ambitious with insufficient time to cover course material. She said each board member will get copies of the take-away material.

It was emphasized at the conference the necessity for board members to display badges when making site visits. Holmes said she will follow up with the police chief and the board to ensure everyone has his/her badge.

In addition, each board member will receive a copy of the *OEP Handbook for the Board of Adjustment in New Hampshire, October 2009*, which contains the most recent information available.

Applicant checklist in the works

10/19/09 Holmes and Denise Walter, land-use board coordinator, are working on an applicant checklist to help applicants obtain and organize the required pieces of information prior to appearing before the board.

Summaries of zoning board hearings

Following are brief summaries of recent zoning board hearings from draft minutes, listed by case number. You are encouraged to use the full minutes, available at town office, for any reference.

Emerson Cottage Trust, for property located at 336 Bowles Road, sought an area variance to permit the moving of existing building footprint.

10/19/09 Several board members noted that the phrase "moving of existing footprint" is an incorrect description of what the applicant wants to do. It was explained that the existing house is a seasonal, non-conforming structure that the Emersons want to tear down and build a new home that has a proper foundation and may be used year-round.

There was extensive discussion on which ordinance was appropriate to this situation. Some felt the ordinance that is addressed in this application for an area variance is not appropriate to this project. If so, the meeting was improperly noticed and the board's decision might be challenged.

After much give-and-take on how and whether to proceed, Holmes said the board could move forward with the application and process it at this meeting and any board member may appeal it. Holmes said the dilemma exists in the semantics surrounding the terms "same location" and "existing footprint." In addition, she said the board is considering the applicability to an article that has been noticed and during the course of reviewing the application the board may ask the applicant to address other articles that apply to the project.

Wright suggested making a formal statement that the board will address the two aforementioned phrases, that the board reviewed all the issues surrounding the noticed paragraph 15.1.2, and decided paragraph 15.1.2 was not appropriate but decided to move forward with the application. Holmes said the applicant could speak to paragraph 7.3.2 during the presentation. She said the project has public sewer, no increased violations and letters from the abutters; an injustice would be performed if the hearing were stopped.

Among topics covered were the placement of the house, water run-off and erosion control, neighbors' concerns, the construction, size and other aspects of the building and issues to do with a right of way.

Placement of the house was adjusted as a compromise with abutters during the hearing. When the board began deliberation it was clarified that it was based on the most recent proposal, to move the house four feet south west, not the one presented in the plan.

Wright requested that a statement be made concerning the board's concern with the use of Paragraph 15.1.2 as the governing ordinance for the project.

Holmes said that in lieu of the debate this evening over the existing footprint and Paragraph 15.1.2 semantics, the board has gone forth in good faith believing that Paragraph 15.1.2 is applicable to this application and all other articles of concern were addressed by the applicant.

Russell said the applicant has addressed all the board's concerns, adding that the applicant will have to address Articles 16.7.2.2 and 16.7.3 because the latest proposal changes the dimensions cited in the presentation.

The board voted unanimously to grant the request for a variance from the requirements of Paragraph 15.1.2 of the Newbury Zoning Ordinance to permit the following: Tear down existing house and build a new house 10 feet back from original footprint, with the following conditions: (1) A revised building plan, moving the building four feet west; and (2) Submit the new plan with changes and revisions to the Area Variance Articles 16.7.2.2 and 16.7.3.

Holmes advised that there is a 30-day appeal period in which an abutter or party of interest may appeal the board's decision(s).

PLANNING BOARD

Tom Vannatta, chair; Barbara Freeman, vice-chair; Travis Dezotell; Deane Geddes; Bill Weiler; Bruce Healey; Jim Powell, ex-officio (Dick Wright, alternate). Alternates: Ron Williams, Alison Kinsman; Ken McWilliams, advisor

Capital improvements program (CIP) report: 2010 - 2015

10/6/09 Ivor Freeman and Ray Spahl were present to review the draft of the CIP Report: 2010-2015 with the planning board. The CIP committee also includes Tom Vannatta, Ron Williams, Jim Powell, Dennis Pavlicek and Ken McWilliams.

Freeman highlighted the following recommendations:

- An increase in the docks expendable trust fund from \$8,000 to \$12,000 a year for the repair and replacement of the town docks;
- A 10-year bond for \$340,000 to improve the Veteran's Hall for use by the library's young adult program and as additional meeting space for town boards and community groups;

-- An increase from \$45,000 to \$55,000 for the fire equipment replacement program to pay for the replacement of the 1990 Spartan FMC Pumper in 2020 with a Quint Ladder/Pumper;

-- \$20,000 for an architectural/engineering study for the safety services facility for completion in 2011 instead of 2009;

-- A decrease in the road construction program from \$300,000 to \$250,000 per year, allowing the board of selectmen the flexibility to identify priorities for road construction projects;

-- \$7,000 for the acquisition in 2010 by the library for new computer software that will be compatible with the state library system;

-- An increase to \$5,000 for the recreation facilities capital reserve fund; and,

-- A rejection of the bikeways proposal along routes 103 and 103A as outlined in the master plan, and a recommendation that the town contact the NH Dept. of Transportation to include the bikeways proposal in the state plans as an urgent safety matter.

Capital improvement projects that were deferred until "sometime in the future" include:

-- An expanded library facility;

-- A study (as outlined in the master plan) of the potential for providing public water and/or sewer services for the shore land areas of Lake Sunapee;

-- A study (as outlined in the master plan) of the feasibility of providing sewer collection and treatment service to Newbury Center and South Newbury.

The planning board voted unanimously to accept and approve the capital improvements program report for 2010-2015.

Workforce housing

At the Oct. 6 work session a committee update on workforce housing was not available. There was general discussion among the board members concerning the topic of workforce housing.

Weiler said he researched the number of properties containing houses in Newbury and came up with the following information:

-- There are 267 properties (with houses) with valuations of less than \$175,000;

-- There are 771 properties (with houses) with valuations of less than \$275,000; and,

-- There are a total of 1,471 properties (with houses) in Newbury.

Freeman questioned whether properties valued at \$275,000 should be considered workers' housing. Weiler said that perhaps the figure \$175,000 better reflected workers' housing.

McWilliams said that the board needed to have an ordinance finalized in writing by December 2009 in order to have a public hearing in January 2010. Weiler asked if the board was required to have an ordinance in place this year. McWilliams said the state legislation requires that each town is expected to have their ordinances in place or at least noticed [public notice] by January 1, 2010. A model ordinance has not been developed by the state.

Weiler raised the point that there isn't enough information available to determine if the town even needs workforce housing. McWilliams said the law that was passed stated that if the current housing is sufficient to provide for the workforce housing needs (as defined in the legislation) then an ordinance is not needed. The challenge is determining if the town is exempt from the ordinance requirements. He said that the regional planning commission has not collected specific data on housing in the past few years so there are no numbers to use to support an exemption.

McWilliams said there are a number of other towns that are finding themselves challenged by the scope of the ordinance requirements and how to proceed.

The board voted unanimously to postpone developing a workforce housing ordinance until next year.

Sign Ordinance

10/6/09 Healey reported that the sign ordinance committee (Healey, Powell and Geddes) is working with the 17-page model ordinance as

a guideline and still has a lot of work to do before presenting a final report to the board for consideration.

The committee members have met with the businesses in town and plan to meet with them again to ensure all issues, problems and possibilities are discussed and understood. Powell said that the committee members understand the issues and problems facing the business owners and have an idea of what the businesses would like to see happen. However to incorporate the research into usable information will take some time and he believes that an ordinance will not be ready before next year; meeting the Nov. 30 deadline for a draft does not appear to be realistic.

Healey said the model ordinance is elaborately cross-referenced and can be time consuming. However he is encouraged and is looking forward to producing an ordinance that will be helpful to business owners while fulfilling the town's needs.

Powell said one of the issues is temporary signs and how to deal with them. He said the committee suggests two permanent signs, with one being removable. He added that there are many variables to each sign, such as the size of each side, placement at or on the business building, etc.

Healey said that, overall, the committee has found that there are many aspects to signage that need to be considered before a draft ordinance can be prepared for board consideration.

Vannatta raised the concern that not meeting the request for a sign ordinance would be an issue for the board of selectmen. Powell said the selectmen understand that work is progressing and business owners are encouraged that the town will address the issue. It's preferable, he said, to take the time to fully explore the issues with signage and end up with a solid ordinance as an end product.

The committee started with the existing town ordinance, overlaid the model and found that more detail was needed and more intensive research. Healey agreed, saying the ordinance should address not just current issues but also issues that could arise in the future. Even though the town currently has two categories of sign issues – free-standing and temporary – he said there are a lot of definitions for those two categories (flags, banners, etc.).

Healey said the committee identified three sign categories – or zones – included in the model ordinance and applied them to the town, namely residential, business and institutional. Within each category are subsets of descriptions and Healey said the model ordinance provides lots of definitive information that the committee will include in its final determinations.

Geddes said the initial objective was to provide business owners with a 4-5 page document that would be user-friendly but it became clear that it wasn't possible. It was suggested that the end result may be a larger ordinance that would be distributed separately from the town's existing ordinance and referenced in the zoning ordinance.

ZBA meeting follow up

10/6/09 Vannatta reviewed the concerns raised by Kathryn Holmes, ZBA chair, at the planning board's meeting on Sept. 15, specifically, the drawings used as examples for the applicant. It was concluded among the board that the ZBA might consider modifying the application guidelines to better help the applicant understand the scope of drawings needed.

Kinsman appointed alternate member

10/6/09 Vannatta introduced Alison Kinsman to the board regarding her interest in a position as alternate for the board. Kinsman, a native of Newbury, is a clinical psychologist with an extensive background in community programs and departments.

Vannatta reviewed the criteria concerning selection of alternates: They are appointed by the board; alternates serve a three-year term once the appointment occurs; they are expected to be at all meetings and may be appointed as voting members by the planning board chair if there isn't a full board (seven members) present.

Vannatta suggested that Kinsman obtain copies of the zoning ordinances, rules & procedures, subdivision regulations and site plan review.

The board voted unanimously to appoint Alison Kinsman as alternate to the planning board.

Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) Conference

10/20/09 Healey reported to the board on the OEP Annual Fall Planning and Zoning Conference on Oct. 17, saying it was well attended and offered a great deal of useful information, though time was too short. Conference topics of interest included zoning board ordinance criteria changes effective January 1, 2010; workforce housing guidelines; site plan review process; roles and responsibilities of the planning board and of the zoning board of adjustment; site visit requirements and green building guidelines. Conference hand-out materials are available on the OEP's website, nh.gov/oep.

Summaries of planning board hearings

Following are brief summaries of recent planning board hearings from draft minutes, listed by case number. You are encouraged to use the full minutes, available at town office, for any reference.

Case 2004-006: Angel Hawk LLC Subdivision Limited Revocation – Public hearing to consider reinstatement

10/6/09 The planning board conducted a public hearing to consider the reinstatement of the Angel Hawk subdivision approval on lots 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12 from the limited purpose of prohibiting the issuance of building permits until such time as provisions are made to secure the required road improvements.

The planning board voted unanimously to reinstate the subdivision approval for Angel Hawk subject to completion of the on-site improvements and verified by the board of selectmen and the highway administrator as listed in Exhibit A.

Case 2008-010: Continuation / Annexation – Brad LaClair - Three Park 10 properties

10/20/09 This hearing was continued on Sept. 15 from its original scheduled hearing on Aug. 1. The presentation was given by Roger Rodewald, appearing as agent for LaClair. Vannatta asked Rodewald if he was appearing before the board to ask for a date to continue the hearing; Rodewald said yes.

There was discussion of the nature, history and potential solutions to issues in Park 10 including paper roads and access. It was suggested an association with the landowners be formed to resolve the problem.

Two issues were identified with this application and discussed. One is the need for a variance and the second issue is access to the two proposed lots. McWilliams referred to the memo he sent to the ZBA on June 19 outlining why Rodewald was appearing before the ZBA. McWilliams said he will resend the memo to Rodewald, the board and the ZBA. McWilliams said that RSA 674:41 II refers to a land-locked piece of property and, in this case, the applicant needs to go to the ZBA. He said LaClair is correct in stating that there are a number of other lots in Park 10 that are in the same situation of having a paper road. However, paper roads do not qualify under RSA 674:41 II as providing the necessary road frontage for that lot. McWilliams said it is the ZBA that has the authority to examine the issue and grant a variance.

Rodewald said he will apply for a variance from the ZBA and then return to the planning board for a continuance on Nov. 17.

The board voted unanimously to continue the hearing on Nov. 17, at 7:15 p.m.

Case 2009-005: Rheta Heller Revocable Trust–Conceptual review for a minor subdivision to create a new lot on existing 75-acre property located on Rollins Road.

10/20/09 The presentation was given by Diane Heller who has power of attorney for her mother, Rheta Heller. The application concerns subdividing a lot for a house on the Heller tree farm of

about 75 acres. She said they are currently logging and have cut down some of the trees for the view. The lot is over two acres and has 234.8 feet of road frontage.

It was noted that Rollins Road is one of the substandard roads and has a multiplier of 1.5, so instead of a two-acre lot, it must be multiplied by 1.5 which results in a required minimum lot size of three acres. Other factors to check are the presence of any steep slopes, flood plains or wetlands that would need to be deducted from the acreage.

Heller was directed to the relevant zoning ordinances: Articles 5.12, Lot Size Density Requirements; Tables 5.1 and 5.2, on pages 31-34 of the zoning ordinance.

Heller asked if more research is needed before she applies for the final site plan review. It was suggested that the surveyor go through the town's subdivision regulations and respond to each one of the issues set forth for the application. Also, there is a requirement to include contours. Any item in the subdivision regulations that Heller believes does not apply must be addressed in a letter requesting a waiver.

Application requirements are listed on page 31 of the subdivision regulations under 'minor subdivision.' It was recommended Heller review sections 3, 4 and 5 of the subdivision regulations to gain background information and understand her responsibilities.

McWilliams explained that the zoning ordinance is a document that sets out the permitted uses of property (frontage, lot sizes, etc.) which are the standards. The subdivision regulations describe the process, requirements and time frames involved when making application for a minor or major subdivision of property.

Heller asked about the possibility of have a preliminary hearing prior to the site plan review. McWilliams said that is available to her and can be useful if the surveyor runs into a question that he wants to review with the board. However, if she finds that all the standards are being met as the application is being compiled, he suggested to Heller that she come in for a final site plan review. Weiler invited Heller to contact the board members if she had any questions.

Heller asked when the regulations were revised. McWilliams said the subdivision regulations were last revised in 2005 and the zoning ordinance is revised annually.

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