

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Town of Newton is by far a wonderful community to live in. This year forty occupancy permits were issued, of which, the majority were for single family homes. Elderly Housing (55 years of age and older) complexes will be a major component of growth in 2006. One complex has been started on Heath Street, one approved on Smith Corner Road and another to be approved also on Smith Corner Road. However, overall, growth seems to have slowed, fewer subdivision applications are currently coming before the Planning Board. Commercial development on Puzzle Lane is slowly moving forward but once completed it will help broaden the tax base in the Town.

Newton has experienced rapid growth which has placed an extreme burden upon the Town infrastructure. The Town Hall is bursting at the seams because of a lack of useable space. The Federal Government may be placing unfunded demands upon the available space to record, store and secure vital records (The Patriot Act). This past year we were able to do some minor work such as replacement of the handicapped accessible hand rail outside the Planning Board office and some of the lighting was replaced in an effort to be more cost effective with our energy expenses. There continues to be rodent traffic inside the Town Hall due to the old fieldstone foundation. There is a whole third floor that cannot be used because it is inaccessible, but with careful planning this space could be structured into viable office and storage spaces. The Town Hall is not insulated. It has inefficient doors and windows and has not complied with State Code to be sprinkled. Parking space for Town employees and citizens doing Town business continues to be problematic.

With the growth the Town has experienced and the fact that both Fire and Police Departments are housed in old, outdated buildings that do not meet today's emergency preparedness (due only to facilities issues) and building codes. The citizens of Newton approved the formation of a Safety Complex Committee in March 2005. This committee has met on a regular basis exploring the options available regarding building size, configuration and a location that will support minimum response times to each area of Town. Generally most people are satisfied with the quality of services provided by both Fire and Police, however, most people are not aware Newton is located in the EPZ Zone for the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant, there is a 30 inch high-pressure natural gas line running directly through the middle of Town, our railroad has been upgraded so faster and larger trains travel within the Town limits (at one point extremely close to our Memorial Elementary and Middle School), we are also on the flight paths for major airports in Boston, Massachusetts, Manchester, NH and Pease International Trade Port and we have no major facility suitable for emergency evacuation.

Towns in New Hampshire rely upon the many Boards, committees, organizations and dedicated volunteers who must work together as a team in order for the Towns to move in a forward manner for governmental and strategic planning. Newton is no exception to this. However, this past year two Boards have experienced difficulty attaining the cooperative spirit needed to maximize Town governmental procedures. The Board of Selectman and the Planning

Board, whose members are made up of elected officials and who are answerable to the governing body need to understand that teamwork is beneficial and key to the success for the future of Newton. One of the major areas of concern is the resolution of the NPREA (Newton Professional Review Engineering Account) which is used by the Planning Board for the financial expenses incurred by the Planning Board which is paid for by developers. With the change of an administrative assistance within the Planning Board some fiscal procedures have come into question and are currently trying to be resolved through a reconciliation of the accounting practices. The NPREA account is under the control of the Planning Board and the Town Treasurer with the Board of Selectman responsible for the ultimate fiscal accountability.

Tragically, as first in the State of New Hampshire, Newton was thrust into the limelight of national news coverage when one of our young citizens succumbed to Eastern Equine Encephalitis. For three years Dragon Mosquito Control has been *larviciding* and doing limited spraying in an effort to help control EEE and West Nile. There is more that can be done! Procedures to prevent reproduction of mosquitoes is dependant upon the citizens of this and Town and their diligence in keeping their property free of areas where standing water can occur, such as in old tires, junk vehicles of all kinds, and even waterways that have been obstructed by beaver dams. For more information or if you have concerns about possible reproductive locations, such as, ponds, streams, storm drains, cisterns and neighborhood junk yards please contact Dragon Mosquito Control very early in the spring.

Annually many citizens of Newton voice their concerns regarding the community appearance and how it presents itself. What are the attractions Newton has to offer and what are its detractors. The one issue that surfaces time and time again is property value. New Hampshire's motto "Live Free or Die" means to some people "Life, Liberty and the Accumulation of Junk" or "It's my property and I can do what I darn well want to do with it." The citizens of Newton have passed zoning that prohibits this practice. The Board of Selectmen is the code enforcement body and we are currently dealing with several properties that are in violation with this code. Keep in mind that it is not one person's right to cause degradation of their neighborhood property values. Currently the Town is in the process of taking legal action against four of the major offenders. Ultimately it is a drain on the Town legal expenses which then result in increased property taxes, and becomes a burden on each homeowner. This added expense and the time spent on this issue could be better used elsewhere.

The Town completed its comprehensive town wide property tax revaluation conforming to New Hampshire's constitutional requirements of reassessing every five years. The Town hired a part-time assessor who will work toward keeping the Town's valuation current so the coefficient of dispersion will stay aligned with current market values and State law.

Lastly, and on a personal note, this is your Town and why should you get involved? This is how it began for me. In 1998 my wife and I answered a flyer sent out by the 250th Celebration Committee. They were looking for volunteers to help with the preparations needed to celebrate Newton's incorporation. In 1998 there were approximately 4200 people living in Newton and we were the only two to respond. It was through this beginning I became a member of the Cable Committee along with joining the Grange, the Historical Society and Planning Board. As a member of the Cable Committee I had the opportunity to be present at all Board of Selectman meetings, Planning Board meetings, NEDC, and Sanborn Regional School Board and Budget Committee meetings and other related events. I ran, and was elected, as a Planning Board member. In 2002 I was appointed to the Board of Selectman to fill the vacancy left by Debra Elia, and then was elected in 2003. The point of this bit of history is to encourage the citizenry of Newton to take charge of their own destiny, become a member of this Town by learning more on what is so badly needed here. There is a huge need for people to become actively involved and there are so many areas that need attention, that with a minimum amount of time one could find one area they would be interested in helping. Town's people must rely upon one another to do what is right – this is your opportunity – this is your Town – Take Control of It.

There are some wonderful people who are already working very hard for Newton, I would encourage you meet them. It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve the Town of Newton.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman P. Harding, Chairman
Newton Board of Selectmen

POLICE DEPARTMENT

When you stop and think about it, there's very little in our lives that we have a lot of control over. Most of us have a degree of faith, we work, marry, send our kids to school, try to pay our bills, and if we have any time or energy left over, we try to involve ourselves in something that we truly enjoy.

Those scanty little pieces of therapeutic relaxation time might involve antique vehicles, motorcycles, gardening, the church, running, exercising, sewing, listening to music, involving ourselves in politics or a multitude of other things, including sometimes just vegging-out in front of the television.

But, the fact remains that we have very little time left over to really involve ourselves in something that will affect change to the extent that we can make a meaningful difference. Television commercials are too long, gasoline prices are too high, the State House is out of control (forget Congress), telemarketers drive us bananas, healthcare continues to spin out of control and the list goes on and on depending upon when, what, where and who we are talking to or what happens to be affecting us the most at that particular time.

One of the places our voices can be heard and one of the things we do have some control over however, is our community and our local services. For the most part, we can call or stop by our Town Hall, Police or Fire Stations, the Library, the Middle and especially the Memorial School be treated like we mean something and also see where and how our tax dollars are being spent.

Most of us have a tendency to accentuate the negative, look at the glass as half empty rather than being half full and our frustration grows. We squawk about taxes, taxes, taxes but, we really never take a good look at where the money is going or what we're getting in return.

Over the past three (3) years I have an opportunity to take a good, and hopefully objective look at our community. What I've seen is an elementary school that has a caring and dedicated staff and faculty. An elementary school principal who, despite the weather, is outside every day under the overhang personally greeting every student as they arrive. A police department that watches your property while you're away or on vacation, greets, watches-over and assists parents and students as they arrive to school everyday, and will arrive at any location within minutes of your request for any problem when you don't know who else to call. A fire department that is there within minutes, provides superior care and never requires a second tone-out. A town hall that is open, receptive and innovative. The web-site recently created by town hall staff allows the public to log on to their computer to see what's going on, what's coming up and to download almost any Town or State form without leaving the comfort of your home. And, a library that still does story hours. I could go on but I'm running out of space so, I apologize to any department or group of persons that I did not include, but I think you get my drift.

What I've tried to say is that despite all our complaining about things being out of control, not having a say, and our taxes being too high, from my perspective we need not look very far in any direction to see, not only that we don't have it too bad here, but there aren't too many places that I would rather live, raise a family, or just plain outright enjoy than the Town of Newton.

Thank you for supporting the Newton Police Department.

2005 POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

ARRESTS:

Aggravated Assault	2
All Other Offenses	20
Bad Checks	2
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	4
Driving Under the Influence	7
Drug/Narcotic Violations	3
Drunkenness	6
False Pretenses/Swindle/Co	1
Family Offenses, Nonviolent	1
Intimidation	2
Kidnapping/Abduction	1
Liquor Law Violations	12
Simple Assault	10
Traffic, Town By-Law Offenses	76
Weapon Law Violations	1
TOTAL ARRESTS	148

CALLS FOR SERVICE:

911 Hang-up/Abandoned Call	52
Motor Vehicle, Abandoned	14
Administrative, Other	1419
Alarm	153
Alcohol Related	3
Animal Complaint	413
Assault	7
Assist Fire Department	72
Assist Motorist	24
Assist Officer	23
Assist Other Agency	88
Assist Rescue	130
Suicide, Attempted	3
Bad Check	11
Burglary	9
Business Check	2397
Civil Dispute-Domestic Related	5

Civil Problem	22
Civil Standby	23
Court	16
Criminal Mischief	21
Criminal Threatening	11
Criminal Trespass	3
Cruiser Maintenance	614
Despondent Person	5
Directed Patrol	2335
Disturbance	17
Domestic Disturbance	40
Domestic Related	34
Drug-Related	2
Dumping, Illegal	6
Escort/Transport	6
Field Interview	22
Fight/Brawl	1
Fingerprint Non-Criminal	20
Fireworks Complaint	2
Followup	981
Fraud	6
Harassment, Other	5
Harassment, Phone	10
Internal Investigation	1
Juvenile Problem	61
Lockout, Motor Vehicle	8
Lockout, Residential	6
Mental Incompetent	7
Message Delivery	12
Missing Person	16
Motor Vehicle Accident	64
Motor Vehicle, Other	80
Motor Vehicle, Speed/Reckless	63
Motor Vehicle Stop	872
Motor Vehicle Theft	2
Mutual Aid	196
Neighbor Dispute	11
Noise Complaint	36
Non-Criminal	12
Obscene Phone Calls	1
OHRV Complaint	14
OHRV Maintenance	8
OHRV Patrol	35
Park & Walk	1
Parking Complaint	43
Police Complaint	3

Police Information	314
Property Damage, Unknown Cause	20
Property, Lost	17
Property, Recovered	19
Public Assist	136
Reported Hazard	79
Report Writing	181
Robbery	1
School Crosswalk	138
Serve Paperwork	303
Sex Offender Registration	8
Sex Offenses	3
Smoke/Fire Investigation	13
Suspicious Circumstance	83
Suspicious Vehicle	64
Theft	28
Suicide, Threatened	5
Traffic Hazard	42
Tree Down/Wires Down	28
Truancy Check	23
Death, Unattended	3
Use of Force	3
Unsecured Building	2
Vacation Watch	392
VIN Verification	80
Serve Warrant	11
Weapon Related	10
Well-Being Check	39
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	12622

Respectfully submitted,
Lawrence E. Streeter
Chief of Police

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department had a fairly average year in 2005. Calls for service were down slightly averaging 1.06 calls per day. I happy to report there were NO serious structure fires in 2005. The average response time for an officer or piece of apparatus to be on scene is approximately six minutes.

The department applied for 4 grants this year:

Federal Aid to Firefighters—Denied

SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response)—Denied

NH Homeland Security—Accepted. This grant was a tri-town effort with Plaistow and Kingston. We received approximately \$16,722 in equipment.

NH TEMSIS (Trauma and Emergency Medical Services Information System)—Accepted.

We received a new computer and printer for electronically sending reports to the state.

In cooperation with the NH State Fire Marshals' Office, the Fire Department has started a Juvenile Fire Intervention Program. The following is a short overview of the program: "The Newton Fire Intervention Program serves youth ages 3 to 16. Through a screening, educational component and fire intervention needs assessment; area children and teens are held accountable for fire misuse behavior while linking youth and families with appropriate community resources to reduce the likelihood of a repeat incident."

Another program stated this year was a survey program. We are sending out a questionnaire to those people who have requested service. The questionnaire asks several questions regarding overall performance of the service that was provided. We ask that it be filled out honestly as this is a valuable tool for finding our weak and high points. All comments are welcome.

In closing I would once again like to thank the citizens of Newton and the members of the department for your continued support. Please call (382-8811) or stop in if you have any questions, concerns or comments.

Remember, smoke detectors save lives and house numbers save time!

Medical Aid	197	Unauthorized Burning	6
Motor Vehicle Crash	26	Assist Police	6
Structure (inc. chimney fires)	1	Smoke or Order Removal	3
Tree, Brush, Grass	2	Spill or Leak	5
Vehicle Fires	1	Carbon Monoxide Incident	8
Alarm Activation	37	Lock Out/Lock In	4
Cooking Fire Contained	1	Authorized Controlled Burn	2
Smoke Scare	9	Water/Steam Problem	5
Trash/Rubbish Fire	1	False Call-other	5
Arcing, Shorting Elec. Equip.	12	Lightning Strike-no fire	1
Power Line Down	13	Mutual Aid Provided	23
Assist Invalid	18	Service Call-other	4

Total Calls as of 12/31/05 **390**

Direct Property Loss (approx.)	\$1000
Total Number Oil/Gas Burner Permits	46
Total Number Solid Fuel Permits	9
Total Number Tanks	15

Respectfully,
William Ingalls
Fire Chief

Rescue Squad Statistics - 2005

The Rescue Squad responded to 197 medical aid calls, 18 assisted invalid requests and 26 motor vehicle accidents that resulted in treating 268 patients.

Cardiac Arrest	6	Seizures	5
Chest Pain	21	Back Pain	16
Cardiovascular Accident	3	Choking	2
Trauma	1	Vomiting	4
Patient Refusals	40	General Weakness	22
Overdose	9	Assault	11
Diabetic Reaction	5	Dizziness	6
Allergic Reaction	2	Behavioral	11
Untimely	3	Eye Injuries	1
Fractures	3	Difficulty Breathing	26
Lacerations	10	Asthma	0
Falls	33	Public Assist	4
Abdominal Pain	7	CO2 Alarm (Patients)	5
Hypothermia	1	Head Ache	4
Burns	3	Neurological	1
		Total	268
Total Medical Calls	197		
Motor Vehicle Accidents	26		
Motor Vehicle Accident Patients	52		
ATV Patients	1		

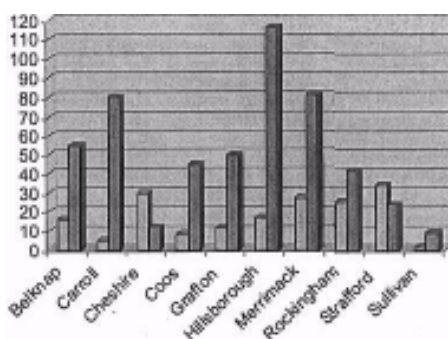
Respectfully submitted,
Dale G. Putnam EMT-I
Captain Newton Fire Department

REPORT OF FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER

Your local Forest Fire Warden, Fire Department, and the State of New Hampshire Division of Forests & Lands work collaboratively to reduce the risk and frequency of wildland fires in New Hampshire. To help us assist you, please contact your local Forest Fire Warden or Fire Department to determine if a permit is required before doing ANY outside burning. A fire permit is required for all outside burning unless the ground is completely covered with snow. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services also prohibits the open burning of household waste. Citizens are encouraged to contact the local fire department or DES at 1-800-498-6868 or www.des.state.nh.us for more information. Safe open burning requires diligence and responsibility. Help us to protect New Hampshire's forest resources. For more information please contact the Division of Forests & Lands at (603) 271-2217, or online at www.nhdfi.org.

Fire activity was high during the first several weeks of the 2005 fire season, with red-flag conditions issued by the National Weather Service and extreme fire danger in the southern and central portions of the state. This period of increased initial attack activity prompted a 5-day ban on open burning, the first such ban in several years. Despite the dry conditions, the state's largest wildland fire was contained at 29 acres. Our statewide system of fire lookout towers is credited with keeping the fires small and saving several structures this season due to their quick and accurate spotting capabilities. Fires in the wildland urban interface damaged 10 structures, a constant reminder that forest fires burn more than just trees. Homeowners should take measures to prevent a wildland fire from spreading to their home. Precautions include keeping your roof and gutters clear of leaves and pine needles, and maintaining adequate green space around your home free of flammable materials. Additional information and homeowner recommendations are available at www.firewise.org. Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe!

2005 FIRE STATISTICS



CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED

Arson	2
Campfire	34
Children	29
Smoking	40
Debris	284
Railroad	1
Equipment	7
Lightning	5

	<u>Total Fires</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>
2005	513	174
2004	482	147
2003	374	100
2002	540	187
Misc* 111	(*Misc powerlines, fireworks,electric fences, etc.)	

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRE