

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Town of Newton has been confronted with a difficult economy and another year in a default budget, (this makes the third year in a row). Members of our Board of Selectmen are as follows: Trisha McCarthy (term expires in 2013), Ray Thayer (term expires in 2011) and Bob Donovan Jr. (term expires in 2012/however resigned in January 2011). The Board of Selectmen had 53 selectmen's meetings, 3 hearings, 8 FEMA meetings, 2 Safety Committee Meetings, 2 Safe Route to Schools Committee Meetings, 2 Plan NH presentations and meetings (for the village district), three town wide winter-weather emergencies and individual time assisting other committees and site walks.

The more positive energy we have, the more we will accomplish for the town. We are lucky to have such a committed group of employees, volunteers and societies participating in activities for the Town of Newton. All of our departments have done outstanding work, and you will read their reports in the following pages. I would however, like to highlight a few:

We would like to thank Kevin Jolicoeur our Transfer Station Manager, along with the employees of the Transfer Station, the Road Crew, Road Agent, Conservation Commission, Town Administrator Nancy Wrigley and our youth volunteers that assisted Selectmen Thayer and McCarthy at the transfer station for 2010 Amnesty Weekend. Kevin will give a report in the following pages, but we did learn that the Amnesty Weekend was abused by some of our residents costing the town money, so we are exploring other methods for Amnesty Weekend in future years, but not for 2011.

Our Bookkeeper, Kim Hughes has worked closely with our Town Treasurer/Deidre Castle, Town Administrator/Nancy Wrigley, Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Mary Jo McCullough, Mike Pivero/Road Agent, Kevin Jolicoeur/Transfer Station Manager, Police Chief Larry Streeter, Fire Chief Bill Ingalls, and Emergency Management Director/Larry Foote to improve our systems. Kim has worked tirelessly to achieve a well-organized end result showing her ability to run her department like a smooth sailing ship. Kim works closely with every department making sure we have the required paperwork for Best Management Practices. She remains positive and always has time to assist and/or explain when people have questions.

Nancy Wrigley, (our Town Administrator), and Mary Winglass, (our Board of Selectmen Office Manager) work together to provide a productive town office. In addition to their day to day requirements, they stay on top of the legislation for municipalities. The decisions made today will affect all of us all in the future and they keep the Board of Selectmen informed. Nancy has done an outstanding job on the Safety Committee, Solid Waste Committee, Safe Route to Schools Committee and numerous policies and procedures. Nancy continues to look for ways to save the town money & encourages education of our employees. In addition to this Nancy works endless hours on assembling and proofing all the information submitted by the Department Heads and the Board of Selectmen for our Annual Report. She works closely with our IT Consultant Sylvania Maddock producing our fabulous Annual Report. Mary has been instrumental in taking our Cable Committee to new heights, by thinking out of the box. She also is our web-master and the liaison for our Code Enforcement Officer. Mary posts important



messages on the Town Web Site in addition to agendas and minutes for all departments. Words can't express how valuable Nancy and Mary are to the smooth running of the Town of Newton.

Our Emergency Management Director, Larry Foote, has done an outstanding job again in 2010. We were faced with Town Wide (Weather Related) Emergencies and under Larry's leadership, managed to assist those in need. One of our technology improvements (as a result of Larry's research) is our "Alert Now Phone System". Here is how the system works. Once you fill out the confidential form with your phone numbers, you will receive daily updates from the Town concerning the current town emergency. If you haven't filled out this form, look for it on voting day at Town Hall. Another major accomplishment, under Larry's leadership, is the certification of our employees, allowing them to work during emergencies. The program is sponsored by Home Land Security and is called the "National Information Management Systems". Emergency Director Larry Foote held joint classes for all to attend. A yearly class is required followed by an exam. By taking these yearly classes, it allowed the town to accept grant money, regardless of the department that applied for the grant. The added burden of going to class and taking exams was well received by our employees and volunteers and we would like to thank those that stepped up to the plate to participate in this program, (which was over and above their day to day job requirements), making "Newton" a safer place during emergencies. We want to thank those that participated in these classes under the direction of EMD Larry Foote: Nancy Wrigley, Mary Winglass, Mary Jo McCullough, Cheryl and Ron Saunders, Tina and Brian O'Rourke, Mike Pivero, Ron Jackson, Glenn Hughes, Harry & Deidra Castle, Kim and Mike Hughes, Bill Landry, The Police and Fire Department, Tom Dickey, Tom DiFalco, Pete Gagnon, Kevin Jolicoeur, Josh Olsen, Bonnie Burnham, Marilyn Landry, Ray Thayer, myself Trisha McCarthy. It is because of these people we have been able to take Newton to the next level during emergencies. Larry wrote numerous grants that were approved and because our employees were certified, we were able to accept the grant.

The Newton Historical Society is another unsung hero. Bill Landry/President of the Society worked with this group of 17 members and some non-members who donated their time and energy to projects in town. One successful project (which they hope to complete in 2011) is the renovation work at the Primary School. The Society also had the 3rd Annual Wine and Cheese Social in the Lobby of the Merrimac Savings Bank in Newton. John and Kathy Meserve worked to make this a fabulous gathering and the place was packed. This is becoming one of the best events to attend in Newton. If you haven't had the opportunity to attend this festivity and help support our Newton History, please come to the next Wine and Cheese Social at the Merrimac Bank on Saturday, October 23rd, 2011. Great food, fabulous wine and wonderful people, it doesn't get better than that!

All our departments continue to advance their skills by keeping up with the demands of the community, legislation, infrastructure issues, smart growth, open space, environmental concerns, population growth, and natural resources. We are fortunate to have a talented and loyal group of employees and volunteers working for the town. In a tough economic time, many towns are experiencing problems with employee retention. Newton, however still maintains a strong employee base with good longevity. We search for ways to educate employees, provide good equipment and maintain what we have, including the very controversial ambulance, (which by the way brings revenue to the town), and gives the Fire Department it's very first revenue



producing activity. We must continue to give our employees the equipment they need to do the best job for the town, and in turn, this enhances our employee retention. Let's not be known as the town that is a "training ground". We don't want employees leave Newton to work in another town with better equipment and room to grow. We have the best of the best when it comes to our public safety employees. When you are on the other end of the phone and need help, there is a sense of security in knowing the employee has what they need to do the best job for the situation at hand, regardless of whether it's Police, Fire, Road Crew, Emergency Management Department, EMT's and/or Paramedics.

Another department that has had a recent face lift, is our Cable Committee under the leadership of Diane Morin. They have improved the visibility of the town with more meetings on cable TV, the Memorial Day Parade, Candidates Night, Family Fun Fair, Wine and Cheese Social and infomercials on town events and much more. This committee is thinking out of the box and coming up with great ways to inform our residents of activities and events in town using advanced technology (with no additional cost to the town). Check out the Newton Cable TV channel. You will love it.

The other Department that deserves a mention is our Road Agent, Mike Pivero. Where do I start? Mike has taken our town to a new level. He has written grants and participated as a leader during FEMA meetings and emergencies. Mike has written grants for the town and worked closely with EMD Larry Foote and the Hazard Mitigation Committee in writing a Hazard Mitigation Plan that has been accepted by the State. As a key contributor to our Emergency Operating Procedures, Mike has been instrumental in developing a good relationship with utility companies, area Road Agents and the State Department of Transportation. As a result of his leadership we have a communication plan with outside agencies that results a smoother and faster response for those in need during emergencies. Mike is a fabulous team player and has the best interests of the town in mind. He tells it like it is, and his responses to issues are always timely. Mike has set up a maintenance plan for town roads, culverts, catch basin, swales and storm water management. He has worked closely with the Board of Selectmen, Police and Fire Departments, Conservation Commission and Recreation Commission. Mike is a true leader and we are lucky to have him in our town.

Last but not least, the Conservation Commission is protecting our natural resources and one way to do this is to protect our water. They would like to establish a town wide water district making it difficult for a commercial operation to come into town, tap into our aquifer or ground water source and draw it down or even worse, try to sell our water. They don't want to establish a water municipality that would charge us for water; they just want to protect our water from being sold by some independent company. Please vote "YES" on Article 8. This will make it difficult for a commercial business to come into town and tap our water source.

Preserving our rural character in this an ever changing environment is not an easy task. The Board of Selectmen will continue to search for viable ways to improve our infrastructure, rural character and quality of life for our residents. In order to do this, we need your help. Please come to the polls and vote. We have very important warrant articles that need your "YES" vote to keep Newton a better place to live. You will be pleased to know that our 2011 Operating

Budget is \$46,099.00 less than the 2010 Default Budget. This was possible as a result of our Department Heads drilling down their budgets, without cutting services. We need you to approve this operating budget by voting "YES" on Article #4. In addition the following Articles # 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 27 have no tax impact, so please vote "YES" on these Articles.

See you on March 8th 2011 at the Newton Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Trisha McCarthy, Chairperson  
Board of Selectmen