



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

The Way We Were SCOTT MACKENZIE

By Joe Poindexter

Scott MacKenzie's first car was a '47 Buick she bought from Chum Stalker's auto repair shop in Hartsville for \$50 he had earned mowing lawns. Nice deal, except for one thing: At age fifteen — the year was 1969 — Scott wasn't old enough to apply for even a learner's permit. Asked by his father, Robert, whether he had a driver's license, Scott answered "No," and then was ordered to return the car — and get someone else to drive it. Scott enlisted his pal Dave Carson to take the car back to Chum's, and, perhaps inadvertently, failed to mention that Dave didn't have a license either. All in all, the transaction may have set a record for brevity in first car ownership: one hour.



photo by Joe Poindexter

Scott MacKenzie and Scottie Mills at home on Adsit Crosby Road

The wheels were gone, but not the drive for independence. Scott had begun mowing lawns at age twelve, "the beginning of my

worklife," he calls it. At fifteen, he asserted a kind of self sovereignty by moving to a shack in Egremont. At sixteen, he bought a Triumph 250 MX and used the bike to get him to Mount Everett High School and part-time jobs at Butternut Basin. A year later, he returned to the homestead on Adsit Crosby Road but set up living quarters in an out-building on the farm.

Scott's focus on self-reliance may have been inherited from his father. After graduating college, Robert MacKenzie was determined to become a farmer and moved from Holyoke, where he was reared, first to Brewer Hill and then to farmland in Hartsville he bought from George Gibson for \$30,000. ("For another \$7,000, he could have bought Gibson's Grove," says Scott, who regrets that that land on Lake Buel is not now a Town park.) Scott recalls moving at age four to the family's newly acquired farmstead in the bed of a pickup truck loaded with five-gallon cans of hot water — the farmhouse had no water heater.

In Scott's recollection, childhood was spent mostly outdoors. The MacKenzie children — Scott had an older brother, Bob, now deceased, and two younger sisters, Gail and Kathy — would, as infants, be parked outdoors in a baby carriage to take in the fresh air. Scott and his friends, the Sellew brothers, John and Dick (later Sanjiban), who lived in New Marlborough village, and Dan and Rob-

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MacKenzie, continued

ert Miller of Southfield, built hay forts and made Lake Buel their own campground. Swimming the width of the lake, says Scott, was a rite of passage. Along with John Davidson of Mill River, they established what Scott refers to as a “museum,” a naturalist display of toads, lizards, caterpillars and other insects, kept alive with varying degrees of success in a workshop on the farm property.

Transportation between villages required no parental assist: they had bicycles. Scott once rode his bike, around age twelve, to visit his grandmother in Windsor, Massachusetts, some forty miles north of Hartsville.

By Scott’s telling, his father had a sense of humor but could be stern, though Scott can recall only one or two instances of physical enforcement. One was triggered when Scott said “No” to a request from his mother: his father, he says, threw him across the room. When his brother, Bob, opined that he did not care for cauliflower, he was ordered to finish off an entire serving bowl of it. Scott, for his part, had to eat a box of ice-cream sandwiches after he complained that Robert had gotten an extra one.

In truth, Scott may have required a bit of reining in. He admits to being a cut-up in grade school and spending numerous sessions sitting in the corner of the classroom — and once, in the second grade, under the teacher’s desk. He didn’t back down from conflict — he and brother Bob fought all the time — and in the fifth grade Scott got into a fight with Steve Shmulsky over which of them would claim Jill Lipsky as a girlfriend. (Who won? “Neither of us. I’m not sure she was even aware of us,” says Scott.)

In high school, Scott hit his stride. He played basketball, ran cross-country, and was rhythm guitar in Winds of Prophecy, a band he formed that “dom-



Bob, left, and Scott during a moment of comity



Scott at about age nine

inated the garage party/high-school dance circuit.” Scott was earning high honors in the fall term of his senior year, when he decided he had better things to do with his time. At eighteen, he bought thirteen acres of his parents’ dairy farm with a fifteen-year loan from Great Barrington Savings Bank. (In the late 1960s, the herd was stricken with vibriosis, which causes infertility and sporadic aborting of calves, leading to a failure of the farm and MacKenzie pere taking a four-day-a-week administrative position with the Animal Medical Center in New York City.) Scott wanted to get on with his career but earned enough credits by taking an early morning English class to graduate high school with a diploma.

The seeds of rebellion may have been sown three years earlier in 1969, when Scott and the Sellew brothers decided on a whim to go to the Woodstock Festival. They set up a tent off by themselves at the edge of a field at the Bethel, New York, farm where the festival was held, then rose the following morning to discover that they were completely surrounded by hippiedom. By Scott’s reckoning, they may have been the only people in attendance who were not stoned, but the three-day immersion in the counter-culture left a deep and abiding impression.



From left, Gail, Kathy, Scott, and Bob at their farm on Adsit Crosby Road

Another spur-of-the-moment adventure was launched two summers later when Scott stopped at Dan Miller's house and asked if he wanted to join him for a trip west. Within minutes, says Scott, Dan was packed up, and they headed into the sunset. Three weeks and 10,000 miles later, Scott's VW Bug gave out in Fargo, North Dakota, and they hitch-hiked back to New Marlborough.

With high school out of the way and living quarters set up in a shack on his family's property, equipped with a hand pump for water, a wood stove, and, eventually, a propane refrigerator, Scott started raising livestock and selling vegetables at a roadside stand. When he was 25, he was clearing a field with a bushhog when he ran over a beehive. In his panic to stop the equipment, he managed to get thrown under it. The result: a shattered foot, a broken arm, broken ribs, and a deep laceration. Neighbors drove him to Fairview Hospital where he spent the next six weeks in traction. None of this prevented a planned wedding to Marthe Hess (they have since divorced), which proceeded on schedule right in the hospital room.

While he was recuperating, friends Ted Shmulsky, Dave Anderson, and Paul Hess, Marthe's brother, completed the deck of the house he had planned to build. When he was released from Fairview, he and Marthe kept building, Scott hobbling around on a walking cast, and they moved in on Christmas day. With much of the timber and excavation acquired through barter, the cost of the house came to \$12,000.

Maybe Scott is settling down a little. Thirty-five years ago, he fell in love, he says, with Scottie Mills, a cousin of the Sellevs, and they have been together ever since. Over time, he has transitioned from farmer to excavation contractor. He and Scottie have added to the house and formed a team of avid volley ball players, called Cause for Alarm. If you happen to come up against them, don't be lulled into over-confidence by the mellow vibes. Word on the street is that the team still plays to win. □



As a teen in the hayfield



Scott gives Bob a lift

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

January 24: With all three selectmen present, Nat Yohalem addressed the request of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District that a School Committee meeting be held in New Marlborough. Although the town welcomes a School Committee visit at least once a year, he said, this year the town is dealing with accessibility concerns. Following a discussion, the Board decided to offer the Committee the use of the New Marlborough Central School's lunch room or the Town Hall's upstairs on February 14 at 6:00 p.m., the latter with a warning that the spaces are not handicapped accessible.

The selectmen agreed that the Town should appoint a three-to-five-member cable advisory committee that can keep the Board and New Marlborough residents informed of Charter Communications's progress in creating a broadband network for the town. Its responsibilities, to be defined by the Board, could include: assessing the community's cable needs, conducting regular meetings with Charter — particularly to ensure that it is meeting its construction schedule, providing updates on Charter's compliance with the license agreement, and supervising Charter's responses to subscriber complaints. Steve Klein, who chaired the Broadband Advisory Committee and was in attendance, noted that other towns with Charter licenses have held monthly or even weekly meetings with Charter when necessary. The Board would like to have the committee in place by at least the beginning of March.

The Town's contract with Virtual Town Hall (VTH), which operates the Town website, is up in April. Town Administrator Mari Enoch, pointing out that the Town is free to go elsewhere, said her research on website providers showed that other firms might be able to do more for less. If the Town goes forward with VTH, it will



have the option of investing either \$3,000 or \$4,500 to rebuild the site — the latter providing more features. Town Secretary Sharon Fleck will prepare a report showing the differences between the two options. Selectman Tara White noted that the Town needed to have a website in place by April. **Chair Michele Shalaby said that while functions that would, for example, make the site more searchable would be welcome, the goal is to find a website design that optimizes new features with the ease of entering new content.**

The Board then turned to requests for business licenses from Pamela Hardcastle for her floral design business and Berkshire Wildflower Honey. After it was noted that contact information was necessary for the latter, Selectman Yohalem moved that approvals for the licenses be read into the record.

Ms. Enoch reported that the Town had received necessary broadband paperwork from Charter but not from the commonwealth. She expressed concern that the Town not be "caught up in pole permitting no-man's land," where Monterey now finds itself. Mr. Yohalem recalled that when Verizon had given the Town trouble with pole issues, the intervention of State Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli had helped bring prices down. Ms. White questioned whether the Town will be fully informed on pole negotiations if only Charter and the state are involved in talks. Mr. Klein noted that as Charter already has contracts with local utilities, obtaining the necessary pole licensure agreements should not be too cumbersome. Ms. Shalaby concluded that the Town should stay on top of all Charter-related issues so it can know "where we are going and where we need to go."

The State Department of Transportation has, Ms. Enoch noted, secured the necessary right-of-ways for the



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repair of the Umpachene Road Bridge and is beginning to work on winning them for four other bridges: those on Lumbert Cross, Norfolk, Campbell Falls, and Canaan Southfield Roads. The scope of design work has been done on three of the bridges.

Mr. Yohalem asked that a letter be written to the Highway Department expressing gratitude to the team for the around-the-clock work they did responding to the snowstorm that hit the previous weekend. "The roads are great," he said, "and we want to thank them." Later, Mr. Yohalem requested a similar acknowledgment of the "hundreds and hundreds of hours" put in by the Broadband Advisory Committee, and Ms. Shalaby advocated for some kind of public event.

Ms. Shalaby announced that the Town's new grader had arrived the previous day, January 23.

Ms. Enoch reported that New Marlborough is a member of a regional Southern Berkshires emergency response evaluation group, which meets once a month at Fairview Hospital. A consultant was hired through a state-funded grant to help the region evaluate its strengths and weaknesses and determine what shared resources are available.

In reply to Mr. Klein, who, in his role as Finance Committee Chairman, asked that a joint meeting with the Finance Committee scheduled for this evening be rescheduled, the Board agreed to hold a joint meeting February 4.

Anne Sommers

January 28: The Board, with all three members present, met with representatives of the Fire Department, including Fire Chief Chuck Loring, Assistant Chief Bob Dvorchik and Bob Fedell, who is also a vice president of the rescue squad, to discuss fire alarm permits and the KnoxBox, a secure metal key box homeowners can mount on the outside of their homes to provide

firemen access in the event of an alarm when no one's at home. **Despite promoting the device in a 5 Village News article (see NM5VN, March 2017, page 13), on Maggie's List, and at last year's Elihu Burritt Day, the response, according to Mr. Dvorchik, "has been pitiful. So far there have only been ten takers."**

Not that the need isn't there. Last year, according to Chief Loring, "We had forty false fire alarms plus fourteen carbon monoxide alarms, only a few of which, he said, were not false alarms. "Our concern is what do we do when we get there, and there's no one home. Should we gain entry by breaking a window, or do we drive away, and in two hours there's a fire in the house. I think it's a huge liability for us and for the town."

The KnoxBox, which costs \$175 to \$300 depending on the model, is opened with a master key kept in key safes mounted in the fire trucks. Its use is authenticated by an electronic audit of each extraction from the key safe. The Fire Department would like to see the device, which it says is accepted throughout the United States and in some seventy-five fire departments in Massachusetts, mandated either through a bylaw or via a Board of Selectmen requirement. "All we're looking for is a way to immediately enter a building," explained Mr. Dvorchik, "whether it's a fire, CO2, or medical life alert alarm."

Mr. Loring said he believed there is a bylaw on the books requiring homeowners with central alarm systems to register them with the Town and pay a \$25 annual fee. He would like to see alarm-system equipped homes be required to also install a KnoxBox. Ms. Enoch said she could find no such bylaw but said she would look into it further. The Board supported the Fire Department's position and plans to discuss with town counsel whether, in Mr. Yohalem's words, "the selectmen have the power to require [the device], and if so, whether we do it by bylaw or as a Board of Selectmen requirement."

"We had forty false fire alarms plus fourteen carbon monoxide alarms, only a few of which, he said, were not false alarms."

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In other matters, Town Administrator Enoch responded to a question from Mr. Yohalem by saying she had not yet received from the state the signed Contribution and Assessment Agreement governing the repayment terms of the Town's \$720,000 obligation to the state toward the installation of broadband infrastructure and would follow up with Michael Baldino, associate general counsel of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute.

The Board authorized Ms. Enoch to sign a letter to Lieutenant Governor Karen Polito in support of a proposed change in the Chapter 90 road repair funding formula. The formula, which is fifty years old, awards state funding to cities and towns on the basis of road mileage, employment, and population. The proposal, backed by state Representative Pignatelli, would add 10 percent to the road mileage weighting, while reducing the weighting of the other two criteria by 5 percent each. The current weighting is 50 percent for mileage, and 25 percent each for population and employment. This would benefit rural towns like New Marlborough that have large geographical areas with lots of road mileage but not a lot of population or employment.

Lastly, the Board approved a business license renewal for Johnston America 21st Century Folk Art of 1050 Sisson Hill Road and then adjourned.

Under Public Comment, Lucinda Shmulsky of Adsit Crosby Road asked if the Board had come to any decision on the marijuana opt-out question. Ms. Shalaby assured her there will be an opt-out vote on marijuana business licenses, the date of which depends on when the Planning Board finishes writing up the intent of the marijuana bylaws. Ms. Enoch said she will follow up with Planning Board Chairman Peter Tiso about it.

The Board then voted to go into executive session

to discuss the payment-in-lieu-of taxes (PILOT) negotiations between the Town and two solar development companies that plan to operate commercial solar arrays in New Marlborough.

February 4: The Board met with the members of the Historical Commission, John Schreiber, David Hosford, and Claudette Callahan, to discuss preservation initiatives for the Town. As Dr. Schreiber explained, a number of things have already been accomplished by the Commission. These include creating an inventory of most of the historic houses in Town and the designation of New Marlborough and Mill River villages as National Register Historic Districts. However, lamented Dr. Schreiber, this designation places no restrictions or conditions on

what private owners of buildings in those districts can do. They are, he said, "symbolic only. They have no teeth."

In fact, as he tells it, there is only one building in all of New Marlborough that is in any way protected, the Meeting House, which because it provided some of the funding used to restore it, is under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Even the Old Inn on the Green, he noted by way of example, could theoretically be torn down. "There's no preservation ordinance here whatsoever."

By contrast, he said, many towns in the commonwealth have at least "a knock down," or demolition review ordinance. This typically provides for a delay of anywhere from six months to a year before a building in a historic district can be demolished, during which time "there is opportunity to move the building, to reuse it, or find another buyer who wants it. It gives you time to save the structure," he said. Still other towns require an architectural review by the local historical commission of any new construction going into a historic district.

"All we're looking for is a way to immediately enter a building, whether it's a fire, CO2, or medical life alert alarm."

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The Commission asked for the Board's blessing to proceed with preservation planning initiatives and award it an annual stipend of \$300 for secretarial help in taking minutes of the its meetings, something that is not presently done. In Dr. Schreiber's view, publicly available minutes of the Commission's deliberations would help "engage the public in this process." He said one of its early priorities is to have a public meeting to find out how the townspeople feel about all this. The Commission also wants to meet with the Planning Board to determine what preservation initiatives "fit in with how they see their future planning for the town," said Dr. Schreiber, "because ultimately they would be the ones to put this forth."

The Commission eventually would like to see a bylaw enacted that would include a knock down ordinance and an architectural review requirement for new construction in the town's historic districts. It is also interested in securing National Register Historic District status for Southfield. "There are a whole cluster of old, old houses there," said Ms. Callahan, who has been compiling an inventory of all the houses in New Marlborough built before 1900.

The Board endorsed the Commission's efforts, and Ms. Shalaby asked for "that budget request as soon as possible."

Next up was Laura Endacott of Mill River Great Barrington Road to request that a bylaw be created that establishes the number or percentage of voters required to call for a secret ballot at town meetings. In response to Ms. Shalaby, who explained that it is now the moderator's call and that he typically goes with a simple majority vote, Ms. Endacott stated she's looking for something requiring less than that. The Board concurred in its opinion that a percentage of voters present at a meeting, rather than a set number of voters,

should determine whether a vote should be taken by secret ballot and then asked Ms. Endacott what she thought this percentage should be. "I would suggest what the [Massachusetts] secretary of state says," she replied, "which is 25 percent."

Asked why she sought a lower barrier to a secret vote, Ms. Endacott said she has "had some experiences, and talked to a lot of people who've had similar experiences, who've been intimidated and have decided not to vote because of fear."

"I think you have a good point," said Mr. Yohalem. "I've spoken to people, too, on controversial issues, who've said to me 'I voted yes on certain issues, but if it had been a secret ballot I would've voted no.'" Citing

the press of other business, Ms. Shalaby asked Ms. Endacott if she would be willing to research the matter and draft a proposed bylaw for review by the Board and town counsel, which she agreed to do. Otherwise, Ms. Shalaby explained, it probably wouldn't get a vote until next year's Town Meeting. As Ms. Enoch noted, "The deadline for the adding articles to the warrant is March 22. So the draft should be submitted well ahead of that date."

Under Town Administrator updates Ms. Enoch reminded the board of a special permit hearing scheduled for the proposed CPV solar project at 100 Hartsville Mill River Road on February 25 and a public hearing February 11 on the Town's application for a Community Development Block Grant. **The grant application covers two projects, one for additional low- and middle-income housing rehab work and the other for design work to bring Town Hall into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.**

Finally, under selectmen updates, Ms. Shalaby said Southern Berkshire Regional School District Business

"I've spoken to people, too, on controversial issues, who've said to me 'I voted yes on certain issues, but if it had been a secret ballot I would've voted no.'"

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Administrator Chris Regan has come up with some new methods for calculating the School District assessment formula, including backup materials showing how the changes in the formula would have affected the district towns' assessments for the fiscal years 2014-2019, which Ms. Shalaby will distribute to the other members of the Board and the Finance Committee for their review.

As previously reported, any change in the assessment formula will have to be approved by the voters in all five district towns. It is her hope, Ms. Shalaby said, to include it on the warrant for a vote at this year's Annual Town Meeting. (For more on the formula and the proposed changes, see the Board of Selectmen Report in the November 2018 NM5VN starting on page 5.)

The Board then adjourned and immediately convened a joint session with the Finance Committee for the annual budget kickoff, a meeting that has been delayed for a month by a spate of issues — marijuana, solar installations, broadband — that have absorbed the Board's attention. Attending for the Finance Committee were Chairman Steve Klein, Rob Miller, Doug Newman, Prue Spaulding, Marilyn Fracasso, and John Pshenishny.

The stage was set by Town Administrator Enoch, who recapped for the combined group the current state of the Fiscal 2019 budget. "We had a good year in FY19," she said. New growth — the value of new residential construction and improvements — was \$55,000, "quite a bit a more than we anticipated," creating more room under the Proposition 2½ levy limit, the amount the town can legally raise from property taxes. As a result, excess capacity, which is the amount the Town could have taxed under the levy limit but didn't, was \$88,000.

This considerably brightens the outlook for the coming fiscal year. That \$88,000, plus new growth and some \$38,000 in non-recurring appropriations from this

year can all be added to the allowable Prop 2½ increase next year, giving the Town some \$290,000 to use for recurring expenses, if necessary, provided all other revenue — primarily state aid and local receipts — stays the same.

Indeed, as Chairman Shalaby explained, increasing excess capacity was one of the key long-term financial strategies the Town set for itself last year to minimize the impact of a sudden increase, say, in the Town's school assessment. "We've been in that position before, where we had no excess capacity when our school assessment went up," she said. "And we got turned down by the voters on our Prop 2½ override and had to cut from Town operating expenses instead. So that's been the goal, and I think we're seeing some accomplishment of it."

The Town's debt service picture remains stable. The Town borrowed for the new grader, which will add \$45,500 to its debt service costs, but a front-end loader and the 2014 highway truck came off the debt schedule, resulting in a reduction of about \$42,000, making debt service almost a wash.

One of the big unknowns, however, is the Town's share of the school district's loan payment costs for the boiler and roof replacement on the Sheffield campus in FY20. In FY18 the Town's share came to \$98,000, then dropped to \$68,000 in FY19. Next year's figure awaits the Town's school assessment percentage, which won't be known until later in the budget cycle.

Employee health insurance, originally expected to rise in cost, happily will remain level, as will the Town's auto and liability insurance. The retirement assessment, on the other hand, will increase by \$13,000, and worker's comp is likely to go up, too, Ms. Enoch said.

Looking further ahead, in FY21 or '22 depending on

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when construction is completed, the Town will begin repaying its broadband obligation to the state at the rate of \$62,515 per year and continue for the next fifteen years. On the plus side, there are two commercial solar projects that have already received special permits, for which the Town is currently negotiating PILOT agreements, and there's a third solar development company currently going through the permitting process. **"These are going to be key for us," Ms. Enoch said.**

"We're going to have recurring revenue from these PILOTs, not this year, but probably starting in FY21 or '22."

What wasn't covered at tonight's session was free cash, stabilization, and the Town's capital plan, including the five-year road plan. These will be discussed at a later date, "sooner rather than later," Ms. Enoch said.

As for scheduling, budget requests went out to Town department heads on January 28 and are due back, including capital requests, on February 15. But instead of reviewing them separately, as in the past, the Board and the Finance Committee will want to hold joint sessions starting the week of March 4 to review the budgets together with department heads — or, according to Mr. Klein, at least the major budgets: Highway, Police, Fire, and the Library."

The annual budget presentation to the town will take place on Friday evening, May 3, and will be followed by the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 6.

Peter Schuyten

February 11: Following approval of minutes of past meetings, the Board convened a public hearing to give residents an opportunity to hear Patricia Mullins of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission present an overview of the Community Development Block Grant the Town will apply for, which seeks funding for design work for Town Hall and for the rehab of private homes

whose owners meet income guidelines. The grant, which may be worth up to \$1.3 million, will be divided among New Marlborough and its 2019 partner applicants, Otis and Sheffield.

Homeowners wishing to be considered for rehab grants needed to make their intentions known by February 22. The Town must submit the full grant application by March 8. Homeowners who reach out too late for this

grant cycle should still apply, as their names will remain on file and they may be eligible for funding through future grants. The homes of 2019 rehab applicants will be visited to assess what each property needs. Decisions will be made by summer.

The part of the Town's grant application dealing with Town Hall will likely focus on design work that makes the second floor

accessible and addresses American with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. While barrier removal is the term often used to describe what must be done to make the building accessible to all, Ms. Mullins also spoke of the need to help the physically-disabled "transition" from the parking lot onto both levels of the hall.

If it receives the grant money, the Town must appoint a committee of between three to five residents that will be responsible for determining the goals and needs of the project. The committee will then send out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to state-certified architects, who must be interviewed before a contract is awarded. The architect will be tasked with determining how to meet stated goals and communicating its possible solutions to community groups. Once the Town settles on a design proposal, all paperwork must be completed before construction planning can begin.

To strengthen the Town Hall portion of the application and to demonstrate the Town's long-term commitment to correcting its structural flaws, Ms.

One of the big unknowns, however, is the Town's share of the school district's loan payment costs for the boiler and roof replacement on the Sheffield campus in FY20.



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Mullins recommended that the Town include any design work, including recommended ADA modifications already done by EDM, an architectural/engineering firm employed by the Town. Also helpful for both parts of the application, Ms. Mullins said, would be letters of support from community members, especially the fire chief, building inspector, and the Town's Commission on Disabilities.

In view of the commercial cannabis moratorium that expires on June 30, Ms. Shalaby then went over a draft timeline for Board actions to address local cannabis issues:

- February 15 – Send to town clerk a request for an April 8 special election on cannabis-specific opt-out issues/licenses along with ballot language;
- March 22 – Complete articles on cannabis options/issues in time for inclusion in the Annual Town Meeting warrant;
- Late March – Educate residents on the eight cannabis-related options so they can better determine which options to allow or prohibit;
- Monday, April 8 – Hold a special opt-out election;
- April – After special election results are in, revise related warrant language as appropriate;
- Monday, May 6 – Annual Town Meeting.

These actions are the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen. Concurrently, the Planning Board will be responsible for:

- Developing intentions for cannabis specific bylaws;
- Completing zoning bylaws (village/agricultural districts);
- Deciding whether to hold a public hearing prior to the annual meeting to address issues concerning the proposed zoning changes;
- Holding a public hearing after the Annual Town Meeting to discuss its proposed marijuana-specific bylaws;
- Scheduling a special town meeting for a vote on the bylaws. The warrant for the bylaws election must be posted fourteen days before the vote.

Mr. Yohalem advocated for at least one public education meeting to be held prior to the special election in collaboration with the Planning Board.

In other business, Ms. Enoch announced that Owen Wright has passed all licensing exams and is eligible to be named the Town's Provisional Building Commissioner. Mr. Yohalem moved to award Mr. Wright the approved commissioner weekly salary of \$399.78, effective immediately.

The Board delayed decisions on several questions about bids for highway road materials and the timing

of contracts until conferring with the Highway Department. It approved a \$4,500 contract, payable over three years, to have Virtual Town Hall build a new platform for the Town's website. The rebuild, which will start in April, will make the site more searchable. KellyAnne McGuire, chair of the Town's Commission on Disabilities, requested that any new website design take into account ADA compliance.

Under Town Administrator updates, Ms. Enoch said the Highway Department has requested that the Board ask residents to avoid using the town's dirt roads whenever possible. Extreme changes in temperatures this winter have caused the roads to expand and contract, causing damage that is exacerbated by traffic.

The Department would like to discourage residents from using dirt roads, East Hill Road for example, as shortcuts.

Mr. Yohalem reported on School District Superintendent Beth Regulbuto's recent roundtable meeting, to which she invited selectmen from all five towns as well as members of their finance committees. In preparation for budget season, she presented key SBRSD statistics, such as the total number of school-aged children living in the District: 668, an increase of 24 students (while in New Marlborough the number dropped by two). Ms. Shalaby said she is continuing discussions with SBRSD officials on reformulating the school assessment formula and has been conferring with officials of other district towns in preparation for the Board's meeting with the Finance Committee on this matter.

With letters in hand from those interested in serving on a new cable advisory committee, Ms. Enoch said the committee appointments will be an agenda item at the next Board meeting. □

Anne Sommers

It approved a \$4,500 contract, payable over three years, to have Virtual Town Hall (VTH) build a new platform for the Town's website.



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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

February 9: With Commission members, John Schrieber, Rona Easton, and David Hosford present, Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering requested a continuation until April of the public hearing for the Notice of Intent (NOI) involving work to dredge Harnett Pond on behalf of her client, Ian Devine of 61 Steepletop Road. The Committee agreed to continue the hearing.

Ms. Boomsma then presented for her clients Mitchell Koch and Michele Noe of 226 Lake Road, regarding a Request For Determination (RDA) involving the installation of a dock on Lake Buel. Ms. Boomsma submitted revised plans for the dock per the request of the Department of Environmental Protection Waterways Program. Revisions include moving the location of the dock by two feet and reducing its size. Ms. Boomsma also explained that, because the land under the dock is owned by the state of Massachusetts, regulations require that the property owner allow access across the dock in the event that the public wants to walk around the lake. To meet this regulation, five-foot-wide steps will be built onto the dock, which will permit the public to freely circumvent the lake. The Commission voted to give the RDA a negative determination, meaning that the project does not require any further permitting.

Finally Ms. Boomsma presented an update to the NOI for her clients, Steven and Allison Litvack of 156 Woodleigh Road, for work involving construction of a stone patio at grade. Ms. Boomsma addressed the comments and concerns on the permit submitted by the DEP. A concern about the total square footage of the patio located in the bordering land subject to flooding was addressed by reducing the square footage of the patio in the area of concern. Ms. Boomsma stated that the required permitting with Chapter 91, the Massachusetts Public Waterfront Act, is in progress. The Commission voted to approve the permit as submitted.

After approving the minutes of last month's meeting, the Commission moved to new business and a discussion of the special permit submitted to the Board of Selectmen by CPV Mill River Solar LLC. The Commission received letters of concern about the project from Deanna Mummert, Broc and Fiona Kerr, and Josh Knox, Regional Director for the Trustees of Reservations, all of whom have property abutting the proposed project. According to protocol, the selectmen ask for comments on the permit from the Conservation Commission, the Board of Health and the Planning Board.

Fiona and Broc Kerr and Shawn Fields (on behalf of Deanna Mummert) were on hand to explain their

concerns about the project including an analysis of the impact on the water table and drinking water as well as the visual and audible impacts to abutting properties. The Trustees expressed several concerns including the project's obstruction of wildlife migration across Questing Reservation. The Commission referred to a wetlands overlay map of the project area and clarified that its jurisdiction is restricted to the impact on regulated wetlands. It agreed to submit its comments to the Board of Selectmen.

The commission then moved to a hearing on the New Marlborough Highway Department's request for an extension of the order of conditions issued in a 2016 NOI involving various work on town roads. Permission was granted. Finally, the Commission noted that it will invite the New Marlborough Land Trust to a future meeting to discuss stream crossings on Land Trust hiking trails. □

Martha Bryan



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IT'S CAUCUS TIME

As winter trudges along, we can look forward to spring and New Marlborough politics. The Town's Annual Election will be held on Monday, May 13. But before that, on March 26 at 6:00 p.m., downstairs in the Town Hall, the Annual Town Caucus will be held. ("Caucus," my wife informs me, comes from the Algonquian language, meaning advice or advisor. The word has evolved, but in the sense that it lets us register a preference for a nominee, it retains a bit of its original meaning.)

Most larger Massachusetts towns and cities hold caucuses for the two major political parties – Democratic and Republican. In small towns like New Marlborough the caucus is nonpartisan. We're all one not-so-big happy family, and the caucus serves as a nominating mechanism for the Town Election to be held on May 13. The caucus requires a quorum of twenty-five registered voters.

For example, this year we will elect one member to the Board of Selectmen. Since Michele Shalaby has announced her retirement from the Board, her replacement will likely be nominated at the caucus. Candidates for this and the other open positions wishing to be on the caucus ballot should notify Town Clerk Kathy Chretien before 3:30 p.m. on March 18. Write-in candidates are eligible also. If more than two candidates are interested in any given position, the two highest caucus vote-getters' names will be printed on the Annual Election ballot.

Here are the positions to be filled by this year's election:

1 Moderator

1-year term (currently held by Barry Shapiro)

1 Selectman

3-year term (currently held by Michele Shalaby)

1 Assessor

3-year term (currently held by Marsha Pshenishny)

1 Tree Warden

1-year term (currently held by Nathan Redman)

1 Cemetery Commissioner

3-year term (currently held by Tammi Palmer)

1 Planning Board Member

5-year term (currently held by James Mullen)

1 Planning Board Member

2-year term (currently held by Eric Schaefer)

1 Board of Health Member

3-year term (currently held by Jack Bellinger)

1 Library Trustee


3-year term (currently held by Brian Mikesell)

3 Finance Committee Members

3-year term each (currently held by Prudence Spaulding, Marilyn Fracasso, and John Pshenishny)



David Lowman



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Real Estate Guide**



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CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANTS FOR 2019

The New Marlborough Cultural Council is pleased to announce that it has awarded \$16,000 in grants to twenty-one organizations that provide cultural and educational programs for people of all ages in New Marlborough. In keeping with its mission, grants are awarded to applicants who are New Marlborough residents, to organizations that provide programs that benefit residents of our town, programs that feature the creative work of New Marlborough residents, and for events or creative work that occurs in New Marlborough, including in our schools.

Grants are awarded to a wide-range of people and organizations. For 2019, grants were awarded to the New Marlborough Village Association for its Music and More series and in support of its gallery shows, to the Flying Cloud Institute for its SMArt Kids Art and Science Programs, to Greenagers for its Environmental Stewardship program, to SculptureNow for arts programming at Mount Everett High School and Undermountain Elementary, and to Berkshire Playwrights Lab for its Berkshire Voices program.

The New Marlborough Cultural Council is supported by an annual grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, by funding from the Town of New Marlborough and, most importantly, by the wonderful generosity of the residents of New Marlborough. The Council looks forward to seeing you at the upcoming annual potluck supper on April 6 and, of course, at Elihu Burritt Day on August 17.

The recipients:

- WAM Theatre** – Season of Events Year 10
- Berkshire Children's Chorus** – Scholarship Program
- Mass Audubon** – Community Outreach Programs at the Library
- Aston Magna Foundation** – 2019 Music Festival
- Shakespeare & Co.** – 2019 Fall Festival of Shakespeare
- IS 183 Art School of the Berkshires** – Learning through Arts Program at Undermountain Elementary
- Bidwell House Museum** – High School History Student Internships
- Berkshire Playwrights Lab** – Berkshire Voices
- Berkshire Pulse** – Cultural Traditions: Music and Art of Africa at Southern Berkshire Regional School District
- Berkshire Bach** – Operating Support
- Undermountain Elementary School** – Wolfree Programs

New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery – Publicity in support of gallery shows

Dewey Hall – 2019 Dewey Hall Presents

SculptureNow – SculptureNow and Berkshire Students

Greenagers, Inc. – Nurturing a New Generation of Environmental Stewards

Jane Burke – Second Saturdays Science at the Library

Berkshire South Regional Community Center – Berkshire Ukulele Band and Berkshire Sings!

New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery – Renovated Lighting for the Meeting House Gallery

New Marlborough Land Trust – Connecting Youth to Our New Marlborough Landscape

Flying Cloud Institute – SMArt Kids: Science and Art for New Marlborough Youth

New Marlborough Village Association – 2019 Music and More Concert Series



Nancy Barbe

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PLANNING BOARD

The New Marlborough Planning Board held two regular meetings since its January 9 joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen, one on January 23, and then again on February 13. The focus of both meetings was two-fold: 1) To review the application by Competitive Power Ventures, Inc. (CPV) for a solar farm to be located at 100 Hartsville Mill River Road, in and around the former Homer Stanton gravel pit; and 2) to move forward with its objective of establishing cannabis-related protective bylaws for the Town.

With regard to the solar project, the Planning Board is functioning only in an advisory capacity to the Board of Selectmen, which is the Special Permit granting authority, as it prepares for a public hearing on February 25. (Due to publication deadlines, that meeting cannot be covered in this issue of the NM5VN.)

At the **January 23** meeting, the Planning Board reviewed the application with CPV's director, Robert Mastria, Jr., who assured the Board that his company intended to comply with state regulations and the Town's solar bylaw. He said that the plan for the 4.4 megawatt facility would entail a thirty-five-year lease, followed by decommissioning and remediation of the property, and he did not rule out the possibility of applying for an extension beyond the initial thirty-five years.

Members of the Planning Board had a number of questions and suggestions for Mr. Mastria. James Mullen noted that storage batteries were mentioned in the plans, and Mr. Mastria said that these were hypothetical – a future possibility for which his company simply wanted to set aside some space on the property. Mr. Mullen also had a question on the cost of decommissioning the property, which Mr. Mastria pointed out is a difficult number to assign, given that it wouldn't be happening until the second half of this century. Lon Combs had concerns about what he saw as a massive amount of grading in the gravel bed, to achieve the proper slope for the solar panels. James Mullen voiced a concern about the possibility of hazardous material leakage from the heavy truck traffic that would be present for the construction period. Planning Board chairman Peter Tiso urged Mr. Mastria to contact the Trustees of Reservations, as the property in question borders Questing, which is overseen by the Trustees. He also wanted to know if NationalGrid would be able to absorb the peak amount of electricity that this site could produce. Mr. Mastria said he was in that conversation with NationalGrid on this subject and would have feedback before the public hearing.

Daniel Doern, attending as a concerned citizen,



Photos by Larry Burke

Fiona Kerr, whose property abuts the proposed solar field on the Hartsville Mill River Road, points out the location of the spring house that supplies her family's water to project engineer Brian Huntley.

recommended that the maps being prepared for display at the February 25 public hearing contain information on the homes that are in the immediate area of the proposed project. Mr. Combs urged, in view of the proximity of the New Marlborough Central School, that anticipated truck traffic in and out of the site during construction be quantified. And lastly, Mr. Mastria was encouraged by the Board to provide a viewshed analysis of the area, for the benefit of the abutters.

Three weeks later, on **February 13**, Mr. Mastria was again in attendance at the Planning Board's bi-monthly meeting, this time accompanied by project engineer Brian Huntley, representing the Westfield, Massachusetts engineering firm Tighe and Bond. In response to Mr. Combs question from the previous meeting on the amount of grading, including the likely need to import massive amounts of fill, Mr. Huntley stated that he expected the grading process to be "fill neutral." In other words, no gravel would be imported or exported from the site, only moved around and compacted, "according to standard engineering practice." The only imported material would be approximately 5,000 cubic feet of loam, to be used as topsoil for the seeding of meadow grasses at the conclusion of the construction.

As the meeting proceeded, it became apparent that the Planning Board was mostly concerned with the section of the proposed solar array outside the abandoned gravel pit, nearer to abutters, called "the lower site," which several members of the Board had visited prior to the meeting. It will require that a stand of white pine be removed, but otherwise not much changed, according

to Mr. Huntley. The Board wanted to be assured that sufficient natural vegetation would be planted to screen the solar installation from the view of abutters, as well as from the road. Mr. Combs had a more fundamental question: Why build there at all? Mr. Mastria's answer was that it was his company's desire to "maximize the usable space and to avoid buffer zones," meaning areas where there might be wetland.

The question of water issues being raised, Peter Tiso referred to two letters to the Planning Board, one from Deanna Mummert, who lives adjacent to the property, and the other from abutters Broc and Fiona Kerr, who were also in attendance at this meeting. The letters requested that there be a water impact study, including a storm water control study. The Kerrs had a particular concern over a spring house that supplies their drinking water.

Over the ensuing hour and a half, the Planning Board evolved a list of suggestions to pass on to the Board of Selectmen: 1) Sufficient screening with trees and dark fencing; 2) an "as built" plan, to reflect all the revisions of the initial plan upon completion of the project; 3) provision for a vehicle service and hazmat containment area, with particular focus on protection of the Kerr's water source; 4) use of unseeded mulch to control invasive plant species; 5) a view shed analysis of the lower site; 6) concern for the health, safety, and welfare of the abutters during and after construction; and 7) a pre-construction meeting with abutters and neighbors, including representatives of the New Marlborough Central School, to address traffic control.

When asked for a timetable on construction, Mr. Mastria said that his company hoped, once the special permit is obtained, to start by the end of this year and finish within five months.

Flashing back to **January 23**, the Planning Board spent the latter part of the meeting on the subject of cannabis regulation. Chairman Peter Tiso pointed to the productive nature of the solar project discussion as evidence of the importance of having a solid bylaw in place when applicants come forward. Likewise, he said that there is "a good deal of support to introduce some level of zoning," despite the tight deadline of the cannabis moratorium (ending on June 30). "We have a lot of the tools in place" to fashion a cannabis bylaw, he said. He added that it was important for the Planning Board to work on bylaws dealing with the various possible marijuana businesses, because an opt-out vote, a vote to prohibit all commercial marijuana in New Marlborough, might fail. This led to some members expressing their lack of understanding at the Board of Selectmen's push for an opt-out vote at the January 9 joint meeting. "Their [the Board of Selectmen's] stance took me by surprise," said Mr. Mullen. Planning Board member Eric Shaeffer

thought the opt-out avenue was "premature." Member Mark Carson said he felt "unsure of where the selectmen stand." And Peter Tiso added, "The Board of Selectmen doesn't have a firm grasp on the particular uses. The Planning Board is better informed."

Turning to next steps, the Board agreed that a letter to the public, laying out the intentions of the Planning Board, was in order. It would describe how a sensible bylaw would focus on the appropriate scale of cannabis businesses for New Marlborough, including location and manner of operation and limits on the number of establishments for each given kind of business. Mr. Mullen asked Mr. Tiso to write a draft of this letter and circulate it to the other members before the next meeting on February 13. Mr. Tiso agreed, and, before adjourning the meeting, asked Eric Shaeffer to develop, for discussion at this meeting, a picture of what each of the businesses would look like in a New Marlborough setting.

Jumping forward now to 8:45 p.m. at the **February 13** meeting, Chairman Tiso asked the other members to give him feedback on the draft of the letter of intention he had written and circulated after the previous meeting. But editing of this draft had barely gotten underway when audience member Barbara Marchione asked if the Planning Board was aware of the Board of Selectmen's decision two nights previously to schedule an opt-out vote for April 8. Mr. Tiso checked his laptop and confirmed that he had received an email to that effect. The

POTLUCK DINNER

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

April 6, 6:00 p.m.

**at the New Marlborough
Meeting House Gallery**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Bring a dish and enjoy conversations
with your New Marlborough
friends and neighbors and
music by singer-songwriter Christa Joy**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Potluck contributions by last name
initials ~ bring**

A – G ~ appetizers or snacks

H – N ~ salad or vegetable

O – S ~ main dish

T – Z ~ dessert

Please feel free to bring your own wine or beer

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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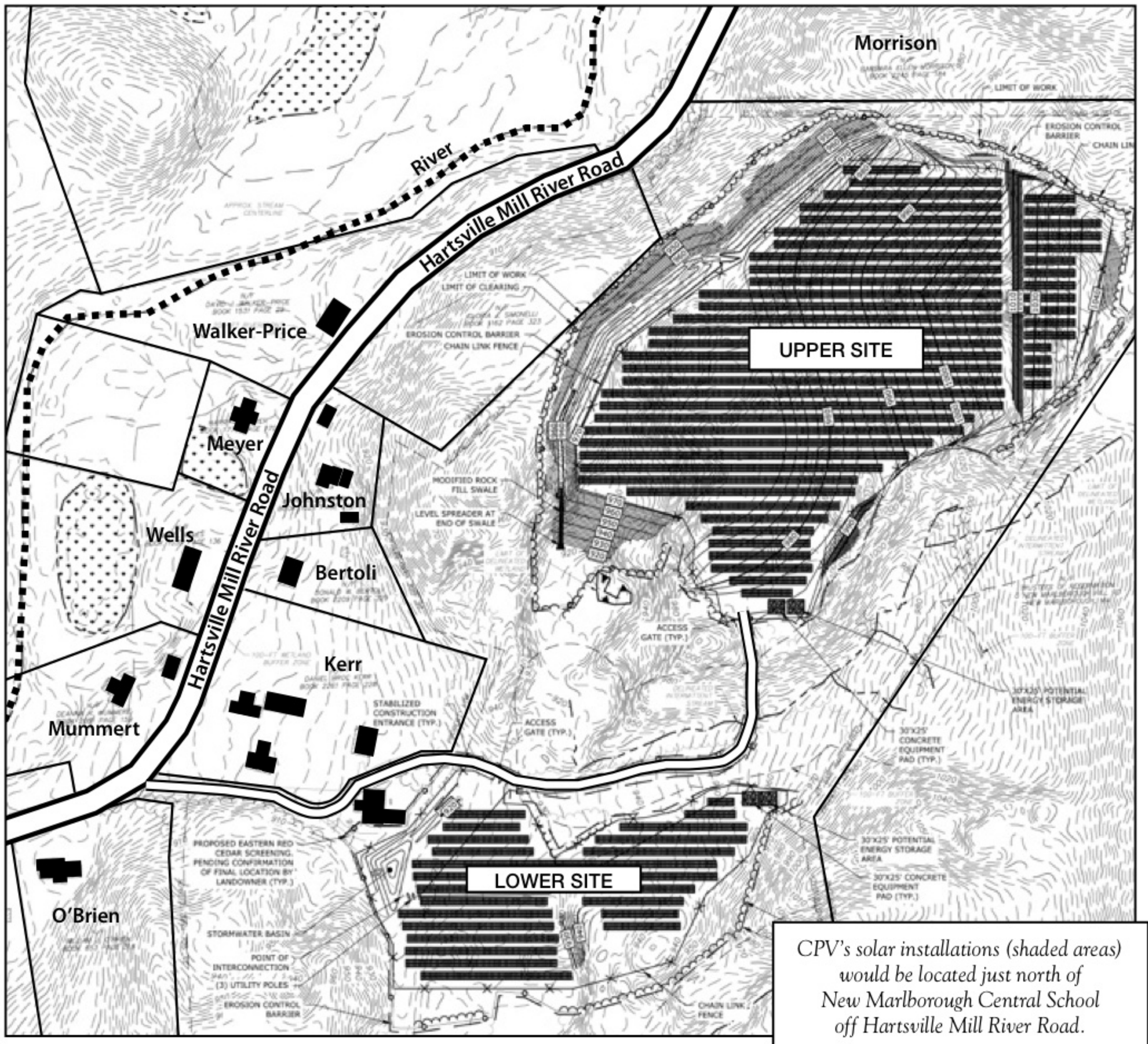
other board members seemed unaware of this turn of events. Ms. Marchione further said that it was her take-away from the selectmen's meeting that they expected a cannabis bylaw draft from the Planning Board by February 22. This seemed to be news to the Planning Board, and Mr. Tiso responded by saying the Board will make an effort to give voters relevant information on potential cannabis businesses prior to an early April vote. However, a bylaw draft, he added, would not be doable by such an early date.

The Board then returned to the task of editing the letter of intention and agreed to meet on the morning of February 20 to finalize the letter (it appears on page 17). It then turned to an attempt to establish a reasonable timeline for presentation of bylaws. That pointed to presentation of a village zone bylaw at the Annual Town Meeting on May 6 (with the Warrant article being

submitted by the March 22 deadline). This would be followed by the cannabis bylaw at a special town meeting prior to the expiration of the moratorium on June 30. How this schedule complies with the timetable of the Board of Selectmen remains to be seen.

As the meeting wound toward its end, Peter Tiso reiterated the thought expressed in the last few meetings that the Board's immediate priority should be to build the "scaffolding" of the cannabis bylaw. James Mullen brought up again the need to create an inventory of current businesses in New Marlborough, to establish a sense of appropriate scale for cannabis enterprises. And Lonn Combs suggested that the Board work on a listing of sensible locations for the specific cannabis businesses that would be allowed in town. The meeting drew to an end at 9:45 p.m. □

Larry Burke



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH PLANNING BOARD
807 MILL RIVER SOUTHFIELD ROAD, MILL RIVER, MA 01244**



**A STATEMENT OF THE 2019
CANNABIS BYLAW STRATEGY
FOR THE
NEW MARLBOROUGH PLANNING BOARD**

February 10, 2019

During 2018, a survey conducted by the Cannabis Ad-Hoc Committee made clear one preference held by the residents of New Marlborough who responded: there is a strong desire for specific bylaws regulating cannabis businesses in the town. In response to this feedback, the Planning Board is undertaking a process to write bylaws that reasonably regulate cannabis businesses with the goal of maximizing their economic benefit while minimizing their negative impacts. Other feedback from this survey is also important: residents prefer smaller-scale businesses and prefer some business types over others, and these preferences along with others that will no doubt emerge during the public process will be incorporated into the final regulations offered to the town to vote on.

Regulating marijuana businesses effectively involves considering many different aspects of commercial operations. There are different types of businesses that may need to be addressed specifically, and the Planning Board will coordinate its efforts with the Board of Selectmen, who will hold a vote on April 8, 2019 to allow the town to consider completely barring some of these. Determining an appropriate scale and number for these businesses is essential, and the Planning Board intends to study the size of current non-cannabis businesses in order to write bylaws that require cannabis businesses to fit alongside these. Effective regulation of cannabis businesses includes a geographic context that recognizes that certain types of these businesses, such as retail stores, are more appropriately located in existing village centers and other types, such as cultivation, outside of them. Since much of the work of defining village centers has already been done by the Planning Board, and because having clear and specific definitions for "village centers" is necessary for locating cannabis businesses appropriately, the Planning Board will revisit previous efforts and build on the extensive work that has already been done in order to formalize these definitions for use in these and other future bylaws. Finally, the manner of operations, including setback, signage, and screening, will be reviewed to ensure consistency with other local commercial enterprises.

The public process to develop cannabis-specific bylaws has already begun with the work of the Cannabis Ad-Hoc committee, and it is the goal of the Planning Board to continue this work and have these regulations written, passed, and in effect before the expiration of the temporary moratorium on June 30, 2019. While some elements of this work may at times be presented separately to voters, it is the goal of the Planning Board in this letter to present them as different aspects of a single coherent plan to regulate an emerging industry to the greatest benefit of our town. □

Thank You to Our Contributors

Edward & Claire Stiepleman; John & Judy Ladd, for Roberta Roy; Jane Tant; Richard Flintoft;
Holly & John Valente; Alice Fahs & Charlie Chubb; Adele Holman; Michael Skrak; Bette Ann Stalker

Harbingers: “If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?” asked Percy Bysshe Shelley. Certainly not in New Marlborough, as evidenced in these photographs taken by Erik Callahan of past seasonal reawakenings — a goldfinch, a hummingbird, a Baltimore oriole, a Monarch, a pollinating bee, and a bit of morning dew. Patience, please. They will return. □

Photos by Erik Callahan



Upcoming: Events Calendar for March and April

March 17: Violinist Sarah Vonsattel and pianist Sayaka Tanikawa perform works of Bach, Ravel, Gershwin, and Szymanowski at a New Marlborough Village Association Winter House Concert, postponed due to heavy snows from its original date in January; call (413) 229-2785 to reserve — \$25, \$20 for members of NMVA (see page 21 for details)

March 18: Final day (and hour) to place your name on the Town Caucus ballot for nomination to an elected office — with Town Clerk Kathy Chretien at the Town Hall until 3:30 p.m.

March 26: Town Caucus, 6:00 p.m. downstairs at the Town Hall (for more information on the caucus, see page 12)

March 29: Certification and acceptance of nomination to an elected position in Town governance, with Town Clerk Kathy Chretien at the Town Hall until 3:30 p.m.

April 6: Potluck Supper, 6:00 p.m. in the New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery with entertainment by singer-songwriter Christa Joy (bring a dish; it's delish — see page 26 for details)

April 17: The New Marlborough Fire Company Annual Spring Dance, music, dinner and a cash bar, 6:00 to 10:00 at Gedney Farm. Tickets, \$35, will be available soon from any New Marlborough firefighter. For more information, contact David Smith at 413-229-0291 or 413-429-6680



LAND TRUST NEWS

Even as the winter cold tries to keep us inside, the Land Trust is busy planning for a productive upcoming season. We continue to consider the best future for the Rooney farmhouse and remain available to show the farmhouse to anyone interested. Please call Martha at 229-8633 to set up an appointment. We will need to make our plans by April 1.

Meanwhile, winter is a good time for some outdoor work. Thanks to Tom Brazie of The Farm New Marlborough, who is farming the Land Trust's Phillips property and the New Marlboro Preserve pastures, we are getting a jump on the coming spring while making improvements to the land. The stone walls along New Marlborough Southfield Road have been cleared of weedy growth, and once-neglected areas in the Phillips pasture are being restored and will be maintained by Tom's grazing animals come spring.

We also are making plans for improving the parking area at the New Marlboro Preserve trailhead, scouting out trail possibilities at the new Goodnow Preserve, and taking stock of necessary trail maintenance. To that end, we welcome any and all strong hands who would like to volunteer with trail work for the coming season. Again please contact Martha at 229-8633 if you would like to help.

Meanwhile, can't wait for early signs of spring when we can get out there!



Winter cold and gray are stunning at the new Goodnow Preserve.

photo by Martha Bryan

Martha Bryan

TRAINING FOR FIRE & RESCUE

A Commitment for Sure, But Also Immensely Rewarding

By David Smith

What is involved with joining the New Marlborough Fire & Rescue squad? The simplest answer: an interest in serving the community and a willingness to learn the ropes. Yes, there is much to learn, but these assets are the keys toward a rewarding volunteer experience, one that is of immense benefit to the community and your neighbors.

New members, young and old, come from all walks of life — blue collar and professional careers, longtime residents and newcomers, and they are always welcome. There are many roles to fill, and not all of those roles involve entering a burning building or operating a fire engine. One of the best ways to learn more is to speak with a current member, or, better yet, stop by the fire station in Southfield on any Tuesday night starting around 7:00 p.m., when fire training and business meetings are held, or on the first Wednesday of the month when rescue training is held.

First, a few details about the organizational structure:

- New Marlborough Fire and Rescue (NMF&R) — The fire department and ambulance squad; the folks who show up when you dial 911. NMF&R is funded by the town and is headed by the Fire Chief Chuck Loring.
- The Fire Company — The nonprofit organization that owns the fire station and supports the fire department through fundraisers such as the Spring Dance and Pig Roast.
- The First Responders — The nonprofit organization that supports the ambulance squad. They often sell food and refreshments at Burritt Day and have held wine tastings.
- The Emergency Services Fund (ESF) — The nonprofit that supports New Marlborough's emergency services — ESF has purchased an ambulance and paid for construction of the new fire station — typically with larger fundraising initiatives.

NMF&R is a single organization that includes both the fire department and the ambulance squad. Whether they concentrate their experience on one or the other (some serve on both), it's important to note that fire department members assist with medical calls and ambulance squad members with fire calls.



photo by Ed Harvey

New Marlborough firemen douse the flames on a burning car.

Beyond an interest and a willingness, potential new members should be prepared for the time commitment. For the fire department, the Tuesday night training, running the gamut from reviews and refreshers to drills covering several facets of firefighting, typically lasts a couple of hours each week. The learning curve often begins with gaining a familiarity with apparatus — fire engines (learning to actually operate one may come further down the line) and equipment and its location on each engine. While much of this equipment requires additional training, new members can frequently assist with setting up and operating equipment as their skills allow. For example, emergency calls at night often require portable lights and flashlights, and most members possess these skills before they even walk through the door to the fire station!

Typically, new members are assigned a sponsor, who shepherds the recruit through the learning process. Many experienced members also assist in this regard. Going out on calls gives new members an opportunity to observe and learn practices and skills, which are refined through training. Only when they are properly trained and demonstrate proficiency, do they take on larger responsibilities — for example, operating water hoses, driving and operating fire engines or entering a burning building. As members progress through training, they learn to operate the apparatus.

Additionally, all members of NMF&R are trained to First Responder certification, meaning they are

trained in first aid, CPR, and in the use of defibrillators. Further, new members often devote additional time beyond Tuesday nights to individual training with more experienced members.

Beyond in-house training, members also often attend training, mandatory for certain tasks, such as interior firefighting, provided through the Massachusetts Fire Academy (MFA). MFA courses are held on a regular basis at fire departments throughout the area and at the MFA's training centers in Springfield and Stowe. The MFA also offers Firefighter I/II certification. While not yet mandatory, this training is encouraged. Some departments require the certification to be considered a full-fledged member. The training is extensive and thorough, consisting of about 240 hours completed during the course of about four months. Recently, the class consisted of two nights of training each week, from mid-July through October, full days on Saturdays, and occasionally on Sundays. Much of this training was done in Springfield.

New members who choose to focus on the ambulance squad, or medical calls, will progress through training focused on those competencies and skills. This in-house training, held on Wednesday nights, runs the gamut from first aid and CPR training to learning the latest medical protocols. There is an additional level of training to become an EMT, an Emergency Medical Technician. This is a highly skilled and critical component of NMF&R, as EMTs are in short supply.

EMT training generally takes about four months and

involves approximately 150 hours of classroom and practical training. Courses frequently are sponsored by the Southern Berkshire Ambulance Squad, other rescue squads, or medical organizations. A course recently taken by New Marlborough EMTs required two five-hour nights of weekly training, followed by a practical exam and a national written exam. Passing both of these brings national certification. Massachusetts, however, requires an additional license. Once an EMT is certified, he or she is required to complete forty hours of continuing education every two years. Some of this training is done in New Marlborough, and other towns and services offer training that members can take advantage of as well to complete the required amount.

Last, but not least, membership in Fire & Rescue requires a willingness to interrupt commitments, including work and sleep, in order to respond to calls. Much knowledge is gained by attending, observing, and assisting at calls, which can come at any time of the day or night. Of particular need are members who are available during daytime hours, when other members are otherwise unavailable.

Joining NMF&R is no small commitment. That said, no one is expected to learn everything at once, and a willingness to learn is the most important first step. Stop by any Tuesday night or the first Wednesday of the month. It all begins with showing up! □

FROM BACH TO GERSHWIN

The New Marlborough Village Association presents the second of two Winter House Concerts on Sunday, March 17, 2019. This concert, postponed from January 20 because of bad weather, will feature violinist Sarah Vonsattel and pianist Sayaka Tanikawa, performing works of Bach, Gershwin, Ravel, and Szymanowski. Sarah has appeared in the House Concert Series twice, most recently as a member of a string trio last winter. She also performs with the Metropolitan Opera. In addition to winning top honors in national and international competitions, Sayaka has an active career as piano soloist and recitalist. She teaches at Hunter College and the Julliard School.

The Winter House Concerts begin at 4:00 p.m. and last an hour with wine and hors d'oeuvres served



Sarah Vonsattel and Sayaka Tanikawa

afterwards. They take place in private homes. Seating is limited, so please make reservations by calling 413-229-2785 or by going online at www.newmarlborough.org. □

Lucy Bardo

NEIGHBORS



At 3:00 a.m. on February 11, **Laurel and Tom Brazie** welcomed their daughter, **Adeline Ivamy**, to their family. Adeline weighed in at 7 pounds, 13 ½ ounces, 21 inches long, and she and her mother are doing very well.

In discussions with his parents, **Foster**, age three (he will be four on March 27), learned that he was going to become an older brother, and was asked for his suggestions in naming the baby. He thought “Pig” or “Fig” would be appropriate. He was steadfast in this

opinion; in an attempt to broaden the options, they asked what name a girl or a boy should have. Foster pondered a moment, and then opined that it should be “Pig” for a boy, and “Fig” for a girl. So a warm community welcome for Fig Brazie – and congratulations to all.

Correction: In the February 2019 Neighbors column, Lucy Hankey’s daughter was misidentified. She is Debrah Menin, who lives in Sterling, Massachusetts, but commutes to Mill River every weekend. Lillian Hankey, the wife of a cousin, is the housekeeper and cook for Norman and Lucy when Debrah is not available. Further correction: Norman and Lucy were married for sixty-seven years, not sixty-two. □

compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com



photo by Laurel Brazie

Foster and Adeline Brazie

A MINDFUL APPROACH TO EATING

Fairview Hospital will present “Mindful Eating: An Effective Approach to Weight Loss,” a health series held on Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., beginning March 7 and continuing for eight consecutive weeks through Thursday, April 25. Classes, under the direction of Robert Hoehster, RD, LDN, of Fairview’s Outpatient Nutrition Services, take place in the Conference Room at Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington.

The Mindfulness-Based Eating Awareness Training Program uses mindfulness meditation, eating exercises, instruction, and self-reflection to cultivate awareness and help repair the relationship an individual has with food. The program is modeled after mindfulness-based stress reduction practices that are effective in helping treat stress, addictions, anger problems, relationship problems, and more. The concepts and skills learned in this program are designed to empower an individual to make balanced food choices and gain control of eating and weight.

This program is not a clinic for eating disorders or a program focused on losing weight. Past participants, however, report success applying mindfulness to food choices and eating behaviors, greater meditative practice,

and a healthier emotional attitude and awareness of eating and food choices through techniques designed to support better health. Past participants are welcome to repeat the class.

The program fee is \$75. For more information or to register, please call Robert Hoehster, RD, LDN at (413) 854-9661. □



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OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

A number of people in town have noted reduced numbers of birds at their feeders this winter. **Tom Sachs** has seen slightly fewer than normal **chickadees**, **nuthatches**, and **titmice**, and no **goldfinches**, which he saw in great numbers all through the previous winter. **Larry Burke** has also noted the absence of goldfinches at his feeders, and a significant reduction in the amount of birdfeed being consumed overall. Has anyone seen goldfinches around town lately? And how about those squirrels? Has there been a population explosion of **gray squirrels** around town, or did they just decide to spend the winter together at one spot – up on Woodruff Mountain!

Tom Sachs additionally reports that, apart from the lessening of the bird population, his backyard is rich in wildlife neighbors, especially **bobcats** and **foxes**. **Paul Clark**, also in Mill River, managed to snap a shot of a **bobcat** by his house. On February 13, he wrote, “I watched this cat slink across the iced pond and off into the woods last month.”

One winged creature that does not seem to be in short supply this winter is the **barred owl**. **Doug Hyde** has a handsome regular visitor to his yard near Southfield. On Valentine’s Day, **Don Beauchamp** saw one sitting on a telephone wire at the intersection of County



photo by Paul Clark

Bobcat

photos by Larry Burke



A barred owl on the hunt



Right: Barred owl



photo by Doug Hyde

Road and Mill River Great Barrington Road. On February 18, **Larry Burke** happened to have his camera handy as a barred owl swooped down to grab a tasty morsel, most likely a vole, from its perch on a tree limb above a field.

Don Beauchamp has had numerous bird sightings near his home along the Konkapot in Clayton: “On January 21, visiting **purple finches** filled my feeder tree, and on the 31st, a **yellow bellied sapsucker** and a **red bellied woodpecker** stopped by. On Sunday, February 10, **robins** filled the yard and the fields across river, along with **cedar wax-wings**. And there was a **duck** in the river. On February 14, a pair of **cardinals** came to eat and one **bluebird** stopped by.”

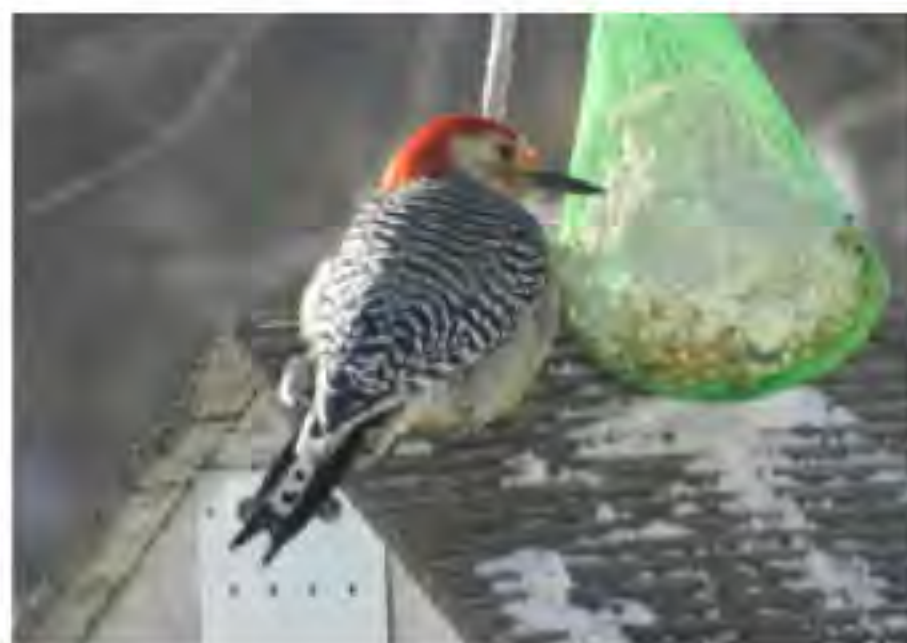
Here’s hoping that, as we progress through March, we will all be as fortunate as Don in our wildlife encounters! □

Compiled by Larry Burke.
Send your wildlife stories to him at
lburke2@me.com

Clockwise from above right: purple finch, yellow bellied sapsucker and red bellied woodpecker



photo by Don Beauchamp



photos by Don Beauchamp

THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- Jan. 1 2:38 a.m. Officer takes a distressed caller from a Mill River residence into protective custody.
- 11:25 a.m. Following a call from a Brewer Hill Road resident, officer removes a branch blocking the road and alerts the Highway Department to clear the rest of the tree.
- 4:02 p.m. An injured bear, reported by an East Hill Road resident to have crawled under a hunter's shack on South Sandisfield Road, is gone by the time an officer arrives.
- Jan. 4 8:17 p.m. Officer investigates a campfire at Thousand Acre Swamp, a state park in which camping is prohibited after nightfall.
- Jan. 5 7:27 a.m. A Canaan Southfield Road resident reports a Honda Civic, with its airbag deployed, abandoned in his yard; investigation reveals it was stolen from a Canaan residence.
- 12:08 p.m. An Adsit Crosby Road resident reports construction debris dumped on his property sometime in the previous two weeks.
- 4:49 p.m. Tree on telephone wires on Clayton Mill River Road.
- Jan. 8 5:17 p.m. A motorist hits a deer on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- Jan. 10 4:19 p.m. A motorist reports following a driver the previous evening on Mill River Great Barrington Road, who was swerving from side to side and occasionally stopping abruptly in the middle of the road.
- Jan. 11 5:19 p.m. A caller alerts the department that a person whom he understands is wanted by law enforcement is presently located in town.
- Jan. 17 3:05 p.m. A caretaker reports items missing from the front porch and yard of a Canaan Southfield Road residence.
- Jan. 19 9:55 a.m. A caller reports a yellow Labrador retriever running loose near Umpachene Falls on Clayton Mill River Road.
- 7:28 p.m. Investigating a possible break-in at a Corashire Road residence, officer secures an open window and relocks an unlocked door.
- 11:27 p.m. A vehicle is disabled and in need of a tow when it is driven into a bank on Brewer Hill Road.
- Jan. 20 1:39 p.m. A caller reports that a white van has driven off South Sandisfield Road.
- 2:23 p.m. A vehicle is disabled at the side of Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- Jan. 21 2:00 p.m. The Department receives a complaint that a Hartsville New Marlborough Road resident is blowing snow from his driveway onto the road.
- 3:11 p.m. A Hotchkiss Road resident calls with concerns for a snowshoer who went into woods near Thousand Acre Swamp at around noon and has not reappeared; she calls back at 3:57 p.m. to say that he has safely returned.
- 6:36 p.m. Tree down on Mill River Great Barrington Road.
- 10:01 p.m. A driver reports that her vehicle, disabled by a dead battery at the side of Canaan Southfield Road, will receive a replacement battery the following morning.
- Jan. 22 10:18 a.m. A caller reports a vehicle disabled on a dangerous corner of Mill River Great Barrington Road.
- Jan. 26 10:41 a.m. A driver collides with a utility pole on Brewer Hill Road.
- 9:33 p.m. Officer patrols Mill River village after a caller reports seeing a suspicious person running from the back of the Mill River General Store toward Town Hall.
- Jan. 28 6:18 p.m. A Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road resident reports receiving harassing phone calls from out-of-state scammers.
- Jan. 29 9:21 a.m. Environmental police are notified when a Canaan Valley Road resident reports a wounded deer in her backyard with an arrow in its neck.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

Fire and Rescue

Jan. 1	3:03 a.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call	Jan. 14	6:15 p.m.	Stand-By for Southern Berkshire Ambulance
Jan. 4	11:23 a.m.	Hayes Hill Road Medical Call	Jan. 15	10:40 a.m.	Church Road Medical Call
Jan. 4	11:48 a.m.	Stand-By for Southern Berkshire Ambulance	Jan. 17	8:28 p.m.	Foley Hill Road Fire Alarm
Jan. 7	4:26 p.m.	Norfolk Road Fire Alarm	Jan. 19	3:15 p.m.	Stone Manor Drive Fire Alarm
Jan. 8	8:22 a.m.	Norfolk Road Medical Call	Jan. 21	3:49 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sheffield Medical Call
Jan. 8	5:17 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road MVA	Jan. 23	7:24 a.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call
Jan. 9	9:44 a.m.	Brewer Branch Road Fire Alarm	Jan. 26	11:01 a.m.	Brewer Hill Road MVA/Medical Call
Jan. 9	10:45 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm	Jan. 26	1:32 p.m.	County Road Medical Call
Jan. 13	3:48 p.m.	Church Road Medical Call	Jan. 26	2:23 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
Jan. 14	2:49 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call			

David Smith, Fire Company President

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Late Winter Update: Berkshire County has experienced a fairly busy winter season so far. Although there have not been many snow events, we have had many smaller nuisance-type storms with sleet mixing with rain. Winter rain is a particular hazard. When it is cold and a rain storm ends, black ice forms, creating very dangerous situations that require treating paved and unpaved roads with salt or sand. During a rain event, roads will ice over and refreeze, even when air temperatures are well into the 40s, which has happened frequently this year. We have had at least six mud seasons so far this season.

When temperatures range from below freezing to 60 degrees with rain, it may seem like a welcome warm up, but as a highway superintendent this type of weather makes me cringe. It wreaks havoc on the roads causing large potholes to erupt on the paved roads and creating mud and ruts on the gravel. Little can be done to prevent this. Sixty-degree days would seem the perfect time to fix unpaved roads, but heavy Highway Department vehicles this time of year can do more damage than good to dirt roads. I am sorry to admit that with the weather we have had since last August, some of our gravel roads are the worst I have seen them in years. Because of this, I would like to request that residents refrain from joy riding on dirt roads until they have dried. Along with an increase in population and new homes comes an increase in traffic: school buses, fuel trucks, delivery vehicles. An increase in package deliveries due to online shopping has impacted traffic in a way that was unknown thirty years ago. The highway crew will continue to do our best to keep the roads safe for motorists. We encourage you to use your best judgment while traveling on them.

New Marlborough is lucky to have an experienced

highway crew, which is expected to be on call twenty-four hours a day, every day, from mid-November into April. They need to be ready to go within a moment's notice and are expected to plow and sand sometimes for days at a time with little sleep. My thanks to this six-man crew for its dedication and diligence.

Residents are welcome to use the sand located at the Highway Department. For your convenience, a small sand shed has been set up at the entrance. Please take no more than two buckets at a time.

The Department's new grader is expected to arrive toward the end of March. The new grader you may have noticed in the highway yard is an interim machine while our permanent grader is being assembled.

Once again, thank you for your patience. We appreciate your support. □

*Chuck Loring,
New Marlborough Highway Superintendent*



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BE PREPARED TO POTLUCK

Get out your calendars, turn to April 6, and ink in the New Marlborough Annual Potluck Dinner, the fete of the season. We'll be back at the Meeting House Gallery, starting at 6:00 p.m. Dinner attendees are always multigenerational and in good spirits, especially now that we have been welcomed to bring our own wine and beer. Soft drinks and coffee will be provided.

These photos from last year's event will help recall how much we all loved singer-songwriter Christa Joy. Well, great news. She'll be back with her homey songs, delivered in her honeyed voice and accompanied by dobro master Michael Stephens. She has opened for such notable singer-songwriters as Loudon Wainwright III and performed at folk venues throughout New England, including Club Passim, The Iron Horse, and The Parlor Room. Her third studio album will be released this year. Back to business and who brings what:

- A-G appetizers or snacks
- H-N salad or vegetables
- O-S main dish
- T-Z dessert



Anne Sommers



photos by Anne Sommers



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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

With the world turning green on March 17, I thought I'd embrace the spirit of the Irish and share two of my favorite recipes, given to me many years ago by my good friend Noreen who lives in Cahirciveen, County Kerry, Ireland. □

Fiona Kerr

Noreen's Soda Bread

Preheat oven to 300 degrees F.

Ingredients:

1 oz bran
 1 tablespoon wheat germ
 10 oz wholemeal flour
 6 oz white flour
 1 teaspoon bicarb soda
 Pinch salt
 Approximately 1 pint buttermilk

Directions:

- Combine all the dry ingredients in a bowl.
- Add most of the milk, mix with a metal spoon until a moist dough forms. Adjust with small amounts of milk until the dough is moist but not wet.
- Shape into a 8-9" circle on a lightly floured baking sheet. Using a knife dipped into flour, cut a cross shape across the entire circle, to allow heat to enter the centre.
- Bake for 20 minutes, then turn around; after another 20 minutes turn upside down.
- Wrap in a damp tea towel, until ready to eat. Serve with butter and jam or with **Irish Stew**

Noreen's Irish Stew

Ingredients:

1 large onion, diced
 1-2 tablespoons vegetable oil
 2 lbs diced lamb or lamb shoulder chops (we recommend those from Mill River Farm)
 4 medium potatoes, peeled and diced into large chunks
 2 carrots, peeled and diced into chunks
 1 sprig of thyme (or a teaspoon of dried thyme)
 3 cups of chicken or beef broth
 Salt and pepper

Directions:

- Heat oil in a dutch oven over medium heat and fry the onion until golden
- Add the lamb and brown; season with salt and pepper
- Add the potatoes and carrots; stir until coated
- Add the broth and thyme
- Bake in oven for 1 hour until lamb is tender and vegetables are cooked through
- Adjust seasoning, serve with the soda bread

Note: This can also be cooked on the stovetop for an hour at a gentle simmer, or if you have an instant pot, follow directions using the saute setting up to the addition of thyme and broth; use only enough broth to cover the meat and vegetables (or thicken the stew at the end with a small amount of corn flour rye), set it to pressure cook for 8 minutes if using diced lamb and 10 minutes for the chops (halve the potatoes if cooking for longer than 8 minutes).

SCHOOL NEWS

By Jane Burke

There is a lot of learning happening at Southern Berkshire Regional School District beyond the regular classroom instruction. At Mount Everett High School, tenth-grade students participated in Job Shadow Day, spending time at the job site of their choice — including Fairview Hospital, construction companies, an Air Force base, and with State Representative Smitty Pignatelli.

Andrew Rapport and Eagle Fund chair Missy Zdziarski brought twelve economics students to New York City for a guided tour of Wall Street and a visit to the 9/11 Museum. Eighth-grade girls attended Money Matters, a financial literacy training session held at Miss Hall's School, led by an economics professor from Smith College. Middle school students interacted with family and community at their Expo showcase of the research projects they had completed. After putting in a minimum of fifteen hours of work, students proudly shared their accomplishments. There were impressive 3-D models, laboratory reports, and posters explaining their findings.

Mount Everett boasts some athletic prowess, too. Wrestler Zach Lupiani won the Western Mass title in his weight class of 106 pounds and competed in the State Championship on February 16.

In after-school activity, more than fifty students in grades six through nine were involved in the production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Outside theater directors William Wade and Ralph Petillo worked with teachers Tom Masters and Courtney English. The performers, demonstrated the students' spirit and talent. Caroline Haiss of New Marlborough starred as Belle. "Acting, dancing, and singing is what I have loved since I was little," she said, "and to have this experience was just magical." Mount Everett's production of the musical *Little Shop of Horrors* will be performed in the TAC PAC on the Mount Everett campus March 22 at 7:00 p.m. and March 23 and 24 at 3:00 p.m.

Children in the elementary schools have participated in enrichment programs offered after school: an art class conducted by IS 183, science explorations for kindergarten by Flying Cloud Institute, and Community Builders by the Berkshire Coop for grades five and six. Berkshire Pulse has offered African music and dance in the fourth grade during school time.

Two new elementary school hires promise to be positive



Caroline Haiss as Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*.

photo by Darcy Haiss

additions to the educational experience of the students. Dr. Amy Lyn has come on as assistant principal. In addition to teaching, she has experience as an elementary principal, assistant principal, school designer, instructional coach, and reading specialist. Nicole Miller is the new elementary art teacher. Dedicated to helping children grow through creative expression, she has been teaching art to students from kindergarten through college over the past seventeen years.

At an open hearing March 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mount Everett Library, the School District superintendent and business manager will discuss projected income and expenses in the FY20 budget. Those interested are encouraged to attend. □



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413-229-2919 woodruffmountain@aol.com

SECOND SATURDAY SCIENCE

The New Marlborough Library in Mill River will again be buzzing with the sound of children's science chatter. On the second Saturday morning of the month, children in grades one through six will gather to try to answer various questions in science and technology with guidance from science educator Jane Burke. They will have two hours to do experiments of their choice. These junior scientists develop skills using equipment, collecting data, and drawing conclusions. There is much they can prove about the laws of physics and chemistry. Engineering challenges will also be offered.

Librarian Deb O'Brien is blessedly tolerant of noise and mess, so children feel welcome to dig into their explorations. The students are encouraged to take science

books out of the library to learn more at home before the next session.

The program is free thanks to a grant from the New Marlborough Cultural Council. Families can choose to sign up for individual meetings or for the whole series. The first four sessions will be held on March 9, April 13, May 11, and June 8, from 10:00 to noon. Space is limited so reservations are required. Contact Jane by email, janesburke@gmail.com or by phone 413-229-3321.

Even those without children are welcome to enjoy seeing the action in the library on Second Saturday Science days. □

Jane Burke

Bears in the Berkshires

Black Bears and Their Lives Among Us



Learn about bears, ways to avoid problems around your home, and their fascinating natural history

45-60 minute slide show program
Q&A and discussion

Adults & Families Welcome

Price: **FREE**

Zach Adams is a lifelong naturalist who graduated from Junita College where he studied environmental science. In his free time he enjoys birding, fly fishing, and cooking. Zach is a new addition to the education staff at Pleasant Valley and is excited about joining the Mass Audubon community.

New Marlborough Library

1 Mill River Gt Barrington Rd, Mill River, MA 01244

Saturday, March 23 1:30 pm

This free program is made possible by the generous support of:

New Marlborough Cultural Council

 **Mass Audubon**
Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries



Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries
472 West Mountain Road, Lenox, MA 01240
berkshires@massaudubon.org www.massaudubon.org

In case you misplace this copy of the paper or want to get a jump on next month's issue (it's usually on-line a day or two ahead of delivery to your mailbox), you will want to know that the 5 Village News is always available at our website NM5VN.org (back copies, too). Better yet, it comes in full color. Check it out.



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Free Estimates



Herbert W. Eichstedt III
Jason W. Eichstedt

Library News

BOOKS, OF COURSE, BUT SO MUCH MORE

There's more to the New Marlborough Library than you may know of. Here is a brief summary of services and programs that may have escaped your notice:

- CW MARS (Central Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing) is a library consortium dedicated to resource sharing and access to information. The network includes nearly 150 public and academic libraries from Route 495 to the New York State line with more than 8.5 million physical items and ebooks available to borrow by library patrons.
- With the Online Catalog (catalog.cwmars.org/eg/opac/home), you can find books, DVDs, audiobooks, and ebooks — lots of things! You can make requests for things and also take care of your own library account.
- If the material you want is not available, you can request it via the Commonwealth Catalog. The Commonwealth Catalog extends your search beyond the CW MARS library network. Search through millions of items at participating libraries across Massachusetts. Requests will be delivered to New Marlborough Library for pickup.
- OverDrive is a free service offered by New Marlborough Library through CW MARS that lets patrons borrow digital content anytime, anywhere. The CW MARS OverDrive collection includes over 70,000 ebooks and audiobooks. All a patron needs to get started with free digital content from CW MARS is a library card. We encourage new users to start with the "Libby" app for OverDrive, available from the Google Playstore, the Apple store, and Windows 10+. Libby has its own built-in features for setting up the app, learning Libby, and getting help and support. (The older OverDrive app is still available and there are no immediate plans to retire it.)
- Statewide databases provide access to full-text magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias, academic books, and other reliable research and reference sources to all Massachusetts residents. They can be accessed directly from the Massachusetts Libraries portal (mass.gov/libraries)
- All of this in addition to our regular offering of books, videos (including box office hits and documentaries), magazines, newspapers, audiobooks, DVDs, and museums passes.

And then there is our broad array of programs:

- Wednesday mornings playgroup from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. lead by Sally Turner and sponsored by South Berkshire Kids. Free of charge!
- Qi Gong Classes lead by Nanci Worthington, Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. — suggested donation \$5.00
- Monthly Book Discussions 10:00 a.m. Saturday mornings — dates vary
- Friday Night Knitting and Crafting 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Annual Book Sale
- Pre-Thanksgiving Pie Sale
- Valentine Chocolate Sale
- Spring Egg Hunt
- Halloween Extravaganza
- Documentary Movie Series
- Children's Summer Reading Club
- All these are offered free of charge!!!

The staff at New Marlborough Library will be happy to help with any questions you may have regarding the online catalog, downloading the Libby or Overdrive app, or other questions regarding services or programs the library offer.

Our Next Program: Bears in the Berkshires, by naturalist Zach Adams, Saturday, March 23 at 1:30 p.m., free and open to the public.



Winter Library Hours

Mon. Wed. Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Tues. & Thurs. 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Fri. 1:30 – 7:30 p.m.

229-6668

Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

Please fill in the form and send with your contribution to:

New Marlborough 5 Village News, P.O. Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

YES, I WANT THE *New Marlborough 5 Village News* TO CONTINUE!

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Town Times

Board of Selectmen: Every Monday at 6:00 p.m.

Town Administrator: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Planning Board: Second and fourth Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Board of Health: First Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission: Last Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

Board of Assessors: Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Fire Department training: Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the fire station

Building Inspector: Monday 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Thursday 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

First Responders: Meeting/training: First and third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the fire station

Cultural Council: Second Thursday at 4:15 p.m. at the library

Post Office: Mill River (413) 229-8582

Window hours: Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Southfield (413) 229-8476

Window hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

(The Southfield Post Office lobby is open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Town Treasurer: Monday & Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Tax Collector: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Selectmen's Administrative Secretary: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Dog and Animal Control Officer: John Springstube 413-232-7038

Town Clerk: 229-8278; 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. weekdays; Saturday by appointment

Town Hall: 229-8116

Police: Business office: 229-8161

Library: 229-6668

Transfer Station Hours:

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

PERMITS ARE DUE JULY 1

and can be purchased for \$125 at Town Hall, the Transfer Station, or by mail. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Late fee of \$150 after August 15.

Emergency calls:

**Police, Fire, Medical
911**

New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.

Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

PO Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244

(413) 229-8165

We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.

Other businesses can be listed in the Service Sector (see back page). Questions, rates? Call Barbara Lowman: 229-2369

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For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369

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SERVICE SECTOR 03/19

- ♦ **Dellea.biz Computer Services:** has provided local residents with on-site Windows computer repairs and technical support since 1996. Book appointments online at <https://dellea.biz> or call (413) 528-1141.
- ♦ **Design+Planning:** Christopher Blair; Since 1986, creative, budget-aware design. Achieve your goals for additions, alterations to an existing home or new construction. (413)528-4960. chris@design-planning.com.
- ♦ **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield (413)229-0050
- ♦ **One call does it all!:** Vinyl siding cleaning; pressure washing; deck refinishing; floors refinished; window washing; odd landscape jobs; all odd jobs. David Goewey, (413)229-2787
- ♦ **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. ssmithlaw@barringtonlawoffice.com or (413)528-4300
- ♦ **Reiner White:** General Contractor; (413)229-8450
- ♦ **Woodruff Mountain Landscaping:** Excavation and landscape contracting, all forms of stone work and masonry, and outdoor services, including lawn mowing and yard work. (413)229-2919 woodruffmountain@aol.com

To list your business here, contact Barbara Lowman (413)229-2369