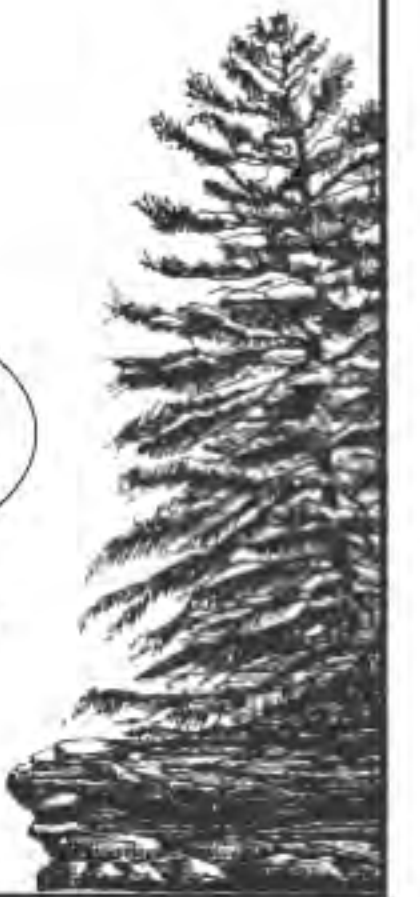




New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

THE PUREST FORM OF DEMOCRACY

The Unique Empowerment of the New England Town Meeting

by Barry R. Shapiro

“It is man who makes monarchies and establishes republics, but the township seems to come directly from the hand of God...”

—Alexis de Tocqueville,
Democracy in America.

“When, in some obscure country town, the farmers come together to a special town-meeting, to express their opinion on some subject which is vexing the land, that, I think, is the true Congress, and the most respectable one that is ever assembled in the United States.”

—Henry David Thoreau,
Slavery in America.

Did you know that most people in this country do not live in a democracy? (That is, by the way, not intended as a commentary on the state of our national politics.) In actuality, most people live in a republic, in which the power of the people is not to make the decisions that govern their lives, but merely to



Town Meeting 1940 by Norman Rockwell

elect those who do — and vote them out if they are unhappy with the results.

There is, however, one singular exception to this rule: the New England town meeting, which, for the smaller towns like New Marlborough, is direct democratic rule. Here the citizens don't merely elect someone to make the decisions for them—the citizens debate, discuss and vote on the decisions themselves, in essence

becoming the legislators. (Larger New England towns utilize a representative form of town meeting where individuals elected by the town do the actual debating and voting.)

Only after the citizens have decided the budgetary and other issues at the town meeting does the board of selectmen take over, operating within the budget and carrying out the mandate of the citizens. There is no intermediary between the citizens and the key decisions facing the town. No more perfect form of democracy would seem to exist.

Town meetings in America are a tradition dating to the 1600s, but their roots go back to Saxon England in the 9th century, if not earlier. In the New World, the first town meeting took place on the Mayflower, with the tradition of such meetings continuing in New England towns ever since (a handful of other U.S. states have since adopted the town meeting form of government). In the beginning, attendance was compulsory with fines levied for absence or tardiness. The cast of characters at the meeting was somewhat similar to those you'll find today with some amusing differences: past meetings required the presence of such officials as a hay warden, a hog reeve, a cowkeeper, and a pound keeper.

Meetings often took place in a building also used for religious worship, the division of church and state not being complete in New England until 1833. Until 1694, no man could vote unless he was a landholder and a church member. (Women, of course, were not even considered as potential voters.)

These meetings are the bedrock of our local democracy

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Democracy, continued from page 1

but only have meaning if the citizenry informs itself about the actions to be taken, actively participates in the meeting, and helps to forge an outcome that is in the best interests of the community as a whole.

Present-day meeting protocol: If you haven't previously attended a town meeting, or even if you have, here's a brief introduction to what you can expect.

New Marlborough Town bylaws call for the Annual Town Meeting to be held on the first Monday of May (May 2, this year), at Town Hall in Mill River, usually beginning at 7:00 p.m. There may also be Special Town Meetings called when the need for action by the citizens arises. All town meetings must occur within the Town limits unless a special law, charter, or bylaw permits otherwise (elections, however, must always be held in town).

When you arrive, you will be checked in by the clerk and issued a colored voter card that you will display to indicate a vote for or against a motion. You may also be issued a ballot in case there's a secret vote on any item. You will see a number of people in the front of the hall, including the selectmen, town counsel, the town clerk, and the town moderator.

The moderator (presently, yours truly) is elected annually for a one-year term and presides at the meeting. His or her principal roles are to assure that the meeting runs smoothly and that everyone has a chance to be heard. By law, no person may speak at the meeting without the moderator's consent. As stated in 1639, the moderator has the power "...to give liberty of speech, and silence unreasonable and disorderly speakings, to put all things to vote, and in case the vote be equal to have the casting voice." Little has changed since then.

The town clerk keeps a record of the votes. The selectmen, together often with members of the Finance Committee and the Planning Board, are present to explain proposals and answer questions posed by the voters. Town counsel will assist with any questions regarding the legality of any matter to come before the meeting.

All town meetings, whether annual or special, are called pursuant to what is called a warrant (Connecticut towns simply call it a "warning") that advises citizens as to what will be discussed at the meeting. To eliminate surprises, no action can be taken at the meeting unless it is included in the warrant, and all action must fit within what is called the scope of a warrant item. The warrant, issued by the selectmen, specifies when the meeting is to be held and the business to be acted upon. It must be posted at least seven days before the meeting in five public places in town. In New Marlborough, these include the Town Hall, the Post Offices in Southfield and Mill River, the town library, the transfer station, the town's website, and at the meeting itself. You should be certain to take one with you when you sit down so that you can refer to it during the meeting..

Each item of business contained in the warrant is

called an article. Articles are inserted into the warrant by the selectmen, but citizens can request that an article be added by following a designated procedure. (Ask the moderator or town clerk if you are interested; articles must be submitted at least forty-five days prior to the meeting to be included in the warrant.)

The meeting begins with a greeting from the moderator, a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, and a review of how the meeting is to be conducted. The moderator will report that the constable has properly served or posted the warrant. (The meeting cannot proceed if the constable has not done so.) The business at hand begins with the moderator asking for a motion on the first article of the warrant and a second for such motion. The floor will then be open for comments, questions and debate.

By tradition, speakers are limited to two minutes. Second-home owners may speak but by law may not vote. After others have been heard, someone who has spoken may request permission to speak again. Speakers need to identify themselves and indicate whether they are residents. Individuals who do not reside in New Marlborough may speak only with the consent of the moderator. Speakers who have a question for a Town official must address this question to the moderator, who will then turn to the appropriate official for an answer. All discussion must relate only to the article that is then under consideration. The moderator will insist at all times that discussion be impersonal and respectful. By law, the moderator has the right to have any person who materially interferes with the conduct of the meeting removed. Rulings of the moderator on order and procedure are final and not appealable.

If you wish to speak (and you are certainly encouraged to do so), you should raise your hand and wait to be called on by the moderator. You should then go to the microphone, identify yourself and make your voice heard. You can comment on the motion or even ask that it be amended. (An amendment will require a second and the majority vote of the meeting.) Once all discussion is over, the moderator will call for a vote in favor of the motion with a show of yellow cards. When they are counted, the moderator will ask for those opposed to raise their cards, count them, and then announce whether the motion has carried or failed. The meeting will then move on to the next article. Most motions require a simple majority vote to carry, but some, such as a motion to borrow money or to purchase land, require a two-thirds vote.

The moderator's job is to balance the need for everyone who wishes to be heard with the aim of holding the meeting to a reasonable time limit. Toward this end, if the moderator deems that a motion has been sufficiently discussed, he or she may suggest that people speak only if they have something new to add. In this vein, a voter wishing to end the discussion, may, after being recognized by the moderator, make a motion to "call" or "move" the

THE SPIRE IN THE FIELD

Andy Goldsworthy, the noted English sculptor, has nothing on Paul Hess. Okay, so Goldsworthy's Spire rises ninety feet in San Francisco's Presidio, Paul's just seven or eight, but their inspirations are uncannily similar. Goldsworthy's tower was prompted by a reforestation project in the Presidio, in which dying Monterey cypresses planted more than one hundred years ago were cut down to be replaced by young trees. The Hess Spire, assembled in a New Marlborough Land Trust field near New Marlborough village, resulted from the hazard presented by a half dozen aging sugar maples lining the northern end of the New Marlborough Southfield Road, which threatened to drop limbs on people using the field for parking during the annual Elihu Burritt Day.

In October 2014, Paul cut down the trees, piled the rotting trunks in the woods at the perimeter of the field, and salvaged what he could for cordwood. On instructions from Land Trust Executive Director Martha Bryan, he saved the limbs for a bonfire, which Martha thought would make a nice coda to a winter solstice hike up Old North



New Marlborough's land and its people.

A bonfire, if it came to that, would also be nice. □

Joe Poindexter

Goldsworthy's Spire

Illustration by Ann Gatsinger

Democracy, continued

question. The moderator has the discretion to reject a motion to end discussion if he or she believes there has been inadequate opportunity to discuss the issue at hand.

At any time before the start of voting, a voter may move that it be conducted by secret ballot. This motion needs to be seconded and approved by a majority of the voters. Because of the time entailed in holding a secret ballot (voters need to line up, get checked in again by the clerk, and vote, and then the ballots need to be counted), it should be sparingly used at a meeting where there are many other articles to be acted upon.

Once all articles have been voted upon, the moderator will accept a motion to dissolve the meeting and, when passed, the meeting will end (even as a rush to the exits drowns out the moderator's valiant efforts to formally close the meeting).

So, there you have it. True democracy in action: direct

control of our town and its future is in our own hands; a right and privilege bequeathed from generation to generation in New England for over 400 years; one that is now our responsibility to use wisely.

For this form of democracy to work, citizens should learn what is going to happen at town meeting and then attend, listen, and speak when moved to do so, sharing with friends and neighbors in a respectful and collegial manner their thoughts as the Town collectively exercises the responsibility of charting its future. (Questions about this process can be addressed to Barry Shapiro at merryfield@live.com or 413 229 3993.)

The New Marlborough Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 2, starting at 7:00 p.m. □

Town Business Is Your Business



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

February 22: After approving the minutes from the January 25 and February 1 meetings, the Board, in its first meeting in three weeks, voted to establish an Agricultural Commission comprising three to five members who will serve one-year terms. According to the Board, it will be charged with, among other things, representing the agricultural community and its interests to local government, enhancing agricultural awareness, and protecting farmland and other natural resources. Chairman Michele Shalaby, who had previously raised the idea at the January 25 meeting, said there's been interest in the community in setting up such a commission. The Board will be soliciting volunteers.

The Board voted to revise the signature page of the recently approved personnel policy which employees must sign when they're hired to indicate they've received and read the policy. The original version included language to the effect that new hires understand they are "at will" employees, subject to termination without cause. That language will be deleted as a result of the Board's vote and will appear instead in a new Memorandum of Understanding that employees will have to sign indicating they understand the terms and conditions of their employment, including job title, responsibilities, hours and salary. The Board's action came after receiving negative feedback from members of the Highway Department, who felt the "at will" language on the signature page was a negative note on which to start a new job.

The Board voted to appoint Robert Miller, a long-time town resident who runs the Ormsbee Bus Company, to the Finance Committee. He will fill the seat previously held by Burt Imberman, who because he spends the winters in Florida when most of the Finance Committee's business is conducted, agreed to resign. Mr. Miller will serve until Town elections in May.

In budget-related developments, Ms. Shalaby laid out a timeline of tasks the Board needs to complete prior to the Annual Town Meeting. Scheduled for May 2. They include, in reverse chronological order, a public presentation of the budget (April 30), the posting of the annual meeting warrant (April 25), and holding a joint meeting with the Finance Committee to finalize the budget (March 31). Ms. Shalaby also noted that the final version of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District budget must

be adopted by the School Committee by March 17. She said the Board will meet with School Superintendent David Hastings prior to that date to go over the school budget.

In broadband-related developments, Ms Shalaby said Governor Charlie Baker has put a hold on the disbursement of any of the \$40 million in state funding controlled by Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), pending a review by the state that money is being effectively used (see "Broadband Update" on page 14). She also noted that MBI director Eric Nakajima has resigned, and that efforts to contact

MBI Outreach Manager Christine Hatch for some "direct communication" about these events had been unavailing.

February 29: With all three members present the Board's first order of business was a utility pole hearing with National Grid, which was seeking to install a support pole across from 189 New Marlborough Southfield Road. The new pole will be cabled to an existing pole that's currently supported by a guy-wire attached to "a rotted tree that needs to come down," explained National Grid's Sandra Annis. She said there's a stream nearby, but the utility has already obtained the necessary clearances from the Department of Environmental Protection and has notified nearby abutters. By unanimous vote the Board approved the utility's request. The Board then reviewed and approved the minutes from the February 22 meeting.

In response to a request from the governor's Opioid Addiction Taskforce, the Board will ask Police Chief Graham Frank to take on responsibility for an action plan to deal with the problem. "Much of it is about

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communication,” noted Chairman Shalaby, “so it makes sense for the police department to take it on.” She said she will speak with someone from the ambulance squad about working with Chief Frank on the medical aspects of the program.

In a sure sign that winter’s on the wane, Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring has closed River Road — as he has in the past — for the duration of mud season, reported Town Administrator Mari Enoch. Separately, she said the Town received contract authorization from the MassWorks Infrastructure Program to begin work on the Clayton Mill River Road reconstruction project. As previously reported, the town received a \$1 million MassWorks grant in October to rebuild the 2.8 mile upper portion of the road. According to the terms of the grant, the work must be completed within the year. The Board voted to authorize Ms. Enoch to sign and send the contract back.

The Board approved a letter to Berkshire County Sheriff Thomas Bowler asking for assistance on behalf of the Highway Department from the sheriff’s Community Service Program. Citing Sheffield’s success in using the program, **the letter requests four to five people who have been sentenced to community service for weed-whacking duty in June “in and around the guardrails at various locations” in town.**

As part of its budget deliberations, the Board discussed salary increases for the Town’s contract employees, including Fire Chief and Highway Department Superintendent Chuck Loring, Town Administrator Mari Enoch and Police Chief Graham Frank, but postponed making a final decision on any of them until later in the budget cycle.

In the final discussion of the night the Board reviewed questions it plans to ask School Superintendent David Hastings at its March 3 meeting with him to review the school budget. These included why the Town’s budget assessment is outpacing the increase in the school budget

as a whole, and what are the District’s long term plans for New Marlborough Central School.

March 7: After approving the minutes from the February 29 meeting, the Board awarded the contract for the Clayton Mill River Road culvert to Concrete Systems, Inc., of Hudson, New Hampshire, which bid \$99,836 to supply the pre-cast concrete culvert and associated wing walls. There was only one other bidder, Arrow Concrete of Granby, Connecticut, at \$114,688. The work to prepare the site will be performed by Joe Wilkinson Excavating, while J.H. Maxymillian of Pittsfield is expected to provide the crane that will lift the culvert into place. The total budget for the project, scheduled to be completed by early summer, is \$180,000.

Town Administrator Enoch said she met with Bryan Slack of the state Department of Transportation (DOT) on February 10 to discuss right-of-way issues and land acquisitions in connection with the replacement of the Hadsell Street bridge. **The project will be bid out this fall for completion next summer.** She said DOT will hold a public hearing on it April 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the New Marlborough Town Hall.

Ms. Shalaby reported on the Board’s meeting with School Superintendent David Hastings to discuss the upcoming school budget. Also attending were Vito Valentini, chairman of the finance subcommittee, and outgoing Business Administrator Bruce Turner. Much of the discussion, she said, focused on New Marlborough’s budget assessment, which, as she has noted in the past, is increasing faster than the school budget as a whole. She said that as a result of the meeting, the superintendent’s office will be conducting research into student enrollment numbers and will call another meeting as soon as the research is complete to “justify and explain clearly” how the enrollment numbers play into the Town’s assessment.

Ms. Shalaby said she met with selectmen from

As part of its budget deliberations, the Board discussed salary increases for the Town’s contract employees.



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Sandisfield and Monterey (Otis and Tyringham were invited but neither attended) to discuss the creation of a semi-regional broadband network. The next steps: review responses from potential system operators to New Marlborough's request for information (RFI) and invite selected operators to the next meeting, to which MBI would also be invited. As a result of a story about the meeting in the *Berkshire Record*, Ms. Shalaby was contacted by the chairman of Tolland's broadband committee, who said Tolland "would be interested in joining the conversation."

The last item of the evening was a one-hour discussion of a preliminary version of the Town's operating budget for fiscal 2017. Based on requests from department heads and using a 2 percent cost-of-living increase for Town employees, the operating budget (not including the school district assessment or capital expenditures) came in at \$2,738,000, or 10 percent higher than this year's budget, presenting the selectmen with a formidable challenge of getting it under the 2 ½ percent levy limit and avoiding the need for an override vote.

March 14: With all three selectmen present, the Board approved the minutes from the March 7 meeting and then met with Joe Poindexter and Alan Lombardi of the New Marlborough Historical Society to hear their proposal for erecting a millstone monument to the right of the office entrance to Town Hall. The 36-inch millstone, which was donated by unofficial town historian John Sisson to the Historical Society, which in turn is donating it to the Town, comes from the Keyes gristmill on the Konkapot River, dating back to the late 19th century. The millstone will sit in a steel cradle welded to the top of a 4-inch-by-4-inch I-beam set into the ground in concrete. Addressing a concern expressed by Selectman Nat Yohalem that the installation might affect drainage around the monument's base, Mr. Poindexter said he would get an opinion from Highway Superintendent Loring as to whether it would be a problem. And with that the Board gave its approval for the monument.

The Board devoted the rest of the meeting to a nearly

two-and-a-half-hour discussion of the fiscal 2017 budget, meeting with key budget stakeholders to review their budget requests. **These included Police Chief Graham Frank, who is asking for \$5,000 for a random one-day-a-week, six-hour shift to augment the department's weekday coverage, as well as a new cruiser with an estimated price tag of \$60,000.** This compares with the \$45,000 the Town spent on the existing cruiser in 2012. Chief Frank attributed much of the additional cost to the inclusion of a state police radio, which he considers essential to the effective operation of the cruiser, although he indicated there may be a less expensive model of the radio on the market. He also said he wants to keep the current cruiser in service as a backup. Without committing to either request, the Board asked him to provide a cost for the additional insurance to cover two vehicles.

Next up was Solid Waste Coordinator Freddy Friedman, who asked for a \$5,000 increase in his salaries budget for the two existing transfer station attendants and mentioned he was also considering asking for a third attendant to help with the Saturday shift. But the Board told him not to bother, and instead to talk instead with Senior Services Director Prue Spaulding about using resources from her senior work tax write-off program.

Finally the Board met with Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring, who this year is asking for a \$140,000 excavator, a \$47,000 Ford F350 truck, and an addition to staff at a salary of \$41,000. He is also asking for a 75-cents-an-hour raise for the existing staff.

The Board took no action on any of the requests nor did it make a decision on whether to give Town employees a 2 percent or 2 ½ percent cost of living increase. In fact the Board, in accordance with Chairman Shalaby's stated intention to remake the budget process this year (See *Remaking the Budget Process* in the March issue of NM5VN), appears so far to be more focused on big picture budget issues, such as where the overall budget stands in relationship to last year's budget, than on individual line-item requests, as in the past. □

Peter Schuyten

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THE VIEW FROM THE BOARD

While we are in the midst of a particularly “interesting” presidential election year, as some have put it, it’s important not to overlook the important decisions you will be asked to help make right here in New Marlborough.

You have great influence here. Where a vote in the presidential election is approximately 1 in 125 million (the approximate number of votes cast in 2012 presidential election), your vote at Town Meeting is 1 of approximately 120 (the typical turnout at Annual Town Meeting and Town Election).

When you attend Town Meeting you are making legislative decisions. Only the legislative body (registered voters in attendance at Town Meeting) can decide to raise and appropriate Town funds. This has direct and significant effect on such matters as your property tax rate; the condition of Town infrastructure, particularly roads and bridges; Town bylaws; education (approximately half of our budget); emergency services; and the library.

It’s likely that everyone can identify a few of these areas

that impact your family’s life. Have I convinced you yet? If so, here are some dates to mark on your calendar:

Saturday, April 16, Planning Board public meeting

Saturday, April 30, Budget Presentation

Monday, May 2, Annual Town Meeting

Monday, May 9, Town Election

New this year is the Budget Presentation and Town Update. While this meeting will not preclude questions or comments at Annual Town Meeting, we urge you to attend this in-depth discussion of budget considerations to help inform your votes at Town Meeting and Town Election.

New Marlborough has an engaged electorate of which we can be proud. However, with 1,000-plus registered voters, we have plenty of room for improvement! If you have friends or neighbors who don’t participate, please encourage and offer assistance to those who might benefit. I hope to see you all soon. In the meantime, please don’t hesitate to call or write (229-9050 or mshalaby@newmarlboroughma.gov) with questions or opinions. □

Michele Shalaby

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

February 27: With Commission members Ned Wilson and John Schreiber present, the meeting opened with a hearing for a Request For Determination (RDA) for Alan and Marla Siskind of 106 Downs Road on Lake Buel. Charles Nelson of C.W. Nelson Landscaping presented the permit to the Commission and described the scope of work involved in repairing an existing retaining wall. The Commission requested that Mr. Nelson forward a more detailed drawing of the wall repair and construction, which would be added to the permit file. The request was approved with the condition that a silt fence be installed where any excavated material is stockpiled.

Next Laura Endacott of 37 Mill River Great Barrington Road presented an RDA to remove a Norway maple from the bank of the Konkapot River on her property. She explained that the tree would be cut at grade. The Commission approved the permit because, although the tree cutting is in a regulated area, the work would not alter the resource area. The Commission also noted that the work could begin after ten days from the date of the permit approval.

Kate Wilkins from the engineering firm of Tighe & Bond on behalf of National Grid next presented an RDA

for the installation of a utility pole on New Marlborough Southfield Road. Ms. Wilkins described the scope of work with clear consideration of the wetland regulations. The permit was approved.

Lastly Adam Chait from Fiber Connect addressed the Commission to review the permitting requirements for work for his client, Paul Joffe, of 390 Tamaridge Way. Mr. Chait explained that he will dig a trench 18 to 24 inches deep along the south side of the driveway to install a telecommunications cable. The Commission advised that an RDA would be required, because the work involved a culvert and stream.

The Commission then reviewed new business. It was noted that a resident, Rona Easton, has come forward to express a possible interest in becoming a new member of the Commission. Several Forest Cutting Plans were received: Michael Skrak for thirty acres on New Marlborough Monterey Road; Norfolk Nominee Realty Trust for harvesting twenty cords on Norfolk Road; and Weinstein Realty Management for 140 acres on Route 183.

Finally the minutes from last month’s meeting were read and approved with minor edits. □

Martha Bryan

Thank You to Our Contributors!

Alan & Elizabeth Lombardi; Andrea & Michael Taylor; Rita Kasky; Leonard Bass; Sy & Edi Mayerson

PLANNING BOARD

An amendment to the Protective Bylaws has been readied for a vote: Over the last several months, the Planning Board has gathered feedback from townsfolk on a single-issue amendment to the Town's Protective Bylaws to be brought forward for a vote at Annual Town Meeting on May 2. The aim of the amendment is to correct the discrepancy between traditional setbacks in New Marlborough's five villages and the setback requirements in the existing bylaws. The owners of non-conforming village properties (most of them, see chart)

have the unfair burden of seeking approval for any alteration through the special permitting process.

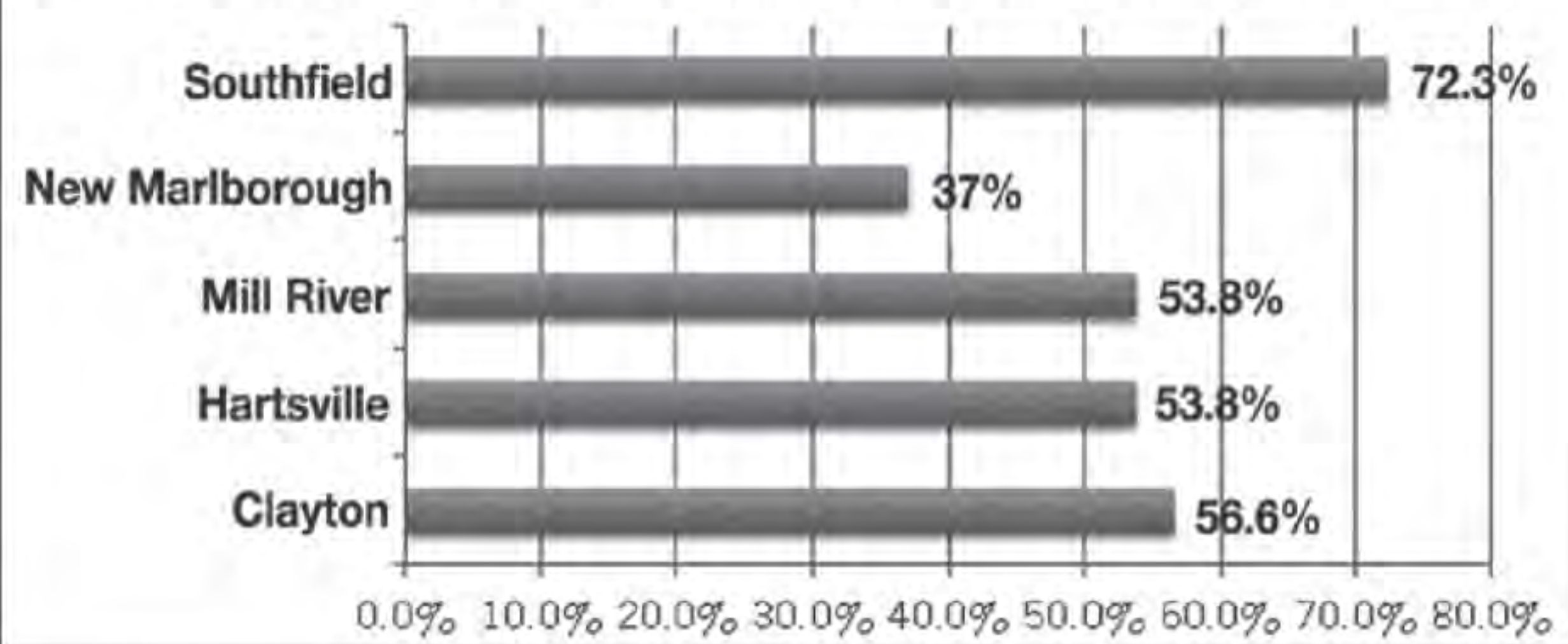
The fix is fairly simple: adjust the zoning to reflect the setback patterns of the majority of village properties. A requirement of a maximum front setback for village lots is added to preserve the historic building pattern in the villages — in general, village properties sit close to the road. The lot requirement of one acre for a buildable lot has not been changed.

The remaining proposed adjustments for the Proposed Village Zoning are as follows:

- Road frontage – minimum: 75 feet
- Front, side, and rear setbacks – minimum: 20 feet
- Front setback – maximum: the average of the buildings within 100 yards on either side of the target property. However, the maximum front setback is not to exceed 35 feet. In cases where the average maximum front setback of buildings within 100 yards is 20 feet, or less, the maximum front setback for the subject lot will be 20 feet.

To find a balance between standards that would bring the most structures into conformity while garnering support from townsfolk, the Planning Board conferred with our Fire and Highway Departments and New Marlborough business owners, who may be concerned about a variety of issues, including public health and safety. It has also reached out to, and will soon meet with,

PERCENTAGE OF NON-CONFORMING STRUCTURES, BY VILLAGE



the Board of Selectmen, the Historical Commission, the Conservation Commission, and the Land Trust, in advance of a scheduled public hearing on April 16, at 10 :00 a.m., at Town Hall.

Obviously, to set different zoning standards for village and rural properties, two zones or districts have to be created. These will be called the Village District and the Rural District. The proposed boundaries were based on the historic patterns of the most densely settled areas of the Town (see district maps, facing page, which also are available on the Planning Board page of the Town Website). Please note that the village boundaries for zoning purposes do not apply to, nor define, the broader village designations by which all of New Marlborough is loosely divided. The district boundaries will not impact tax rates or any "by-right" use of a property within either the village or rural district.

The goal of the proposed amendment is to reduce the burden on village property owners in non-conformance with the Town bylaws as well as to preserve and protect New Marlborough's small town atmosphere.

Please attend the public hearing at Town Hall on April 16 at 10:00 a.m. to learn more about the proposal before a vote. The Planning Board is eager to hear all thoughts and questions. □

Holly Morse

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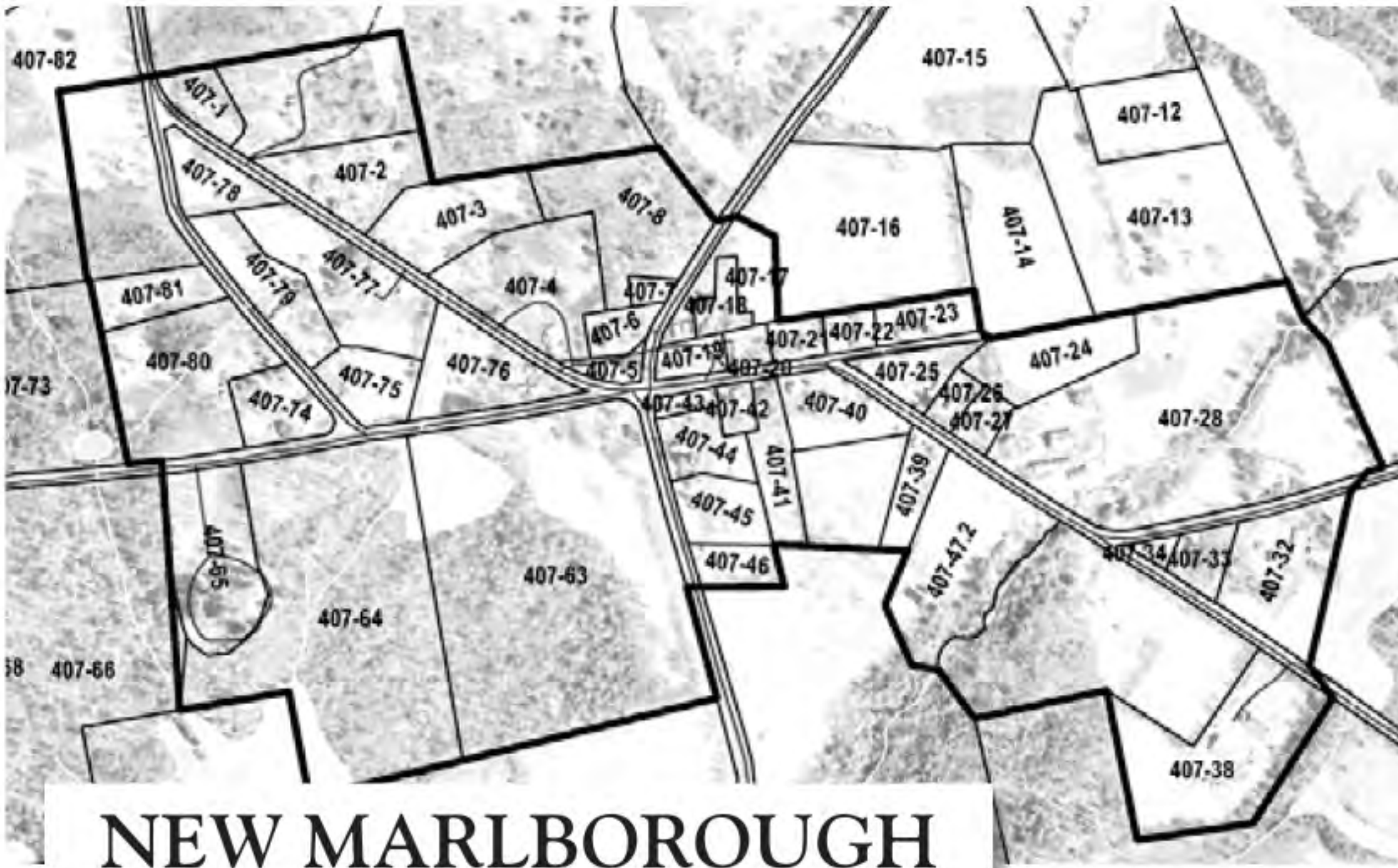
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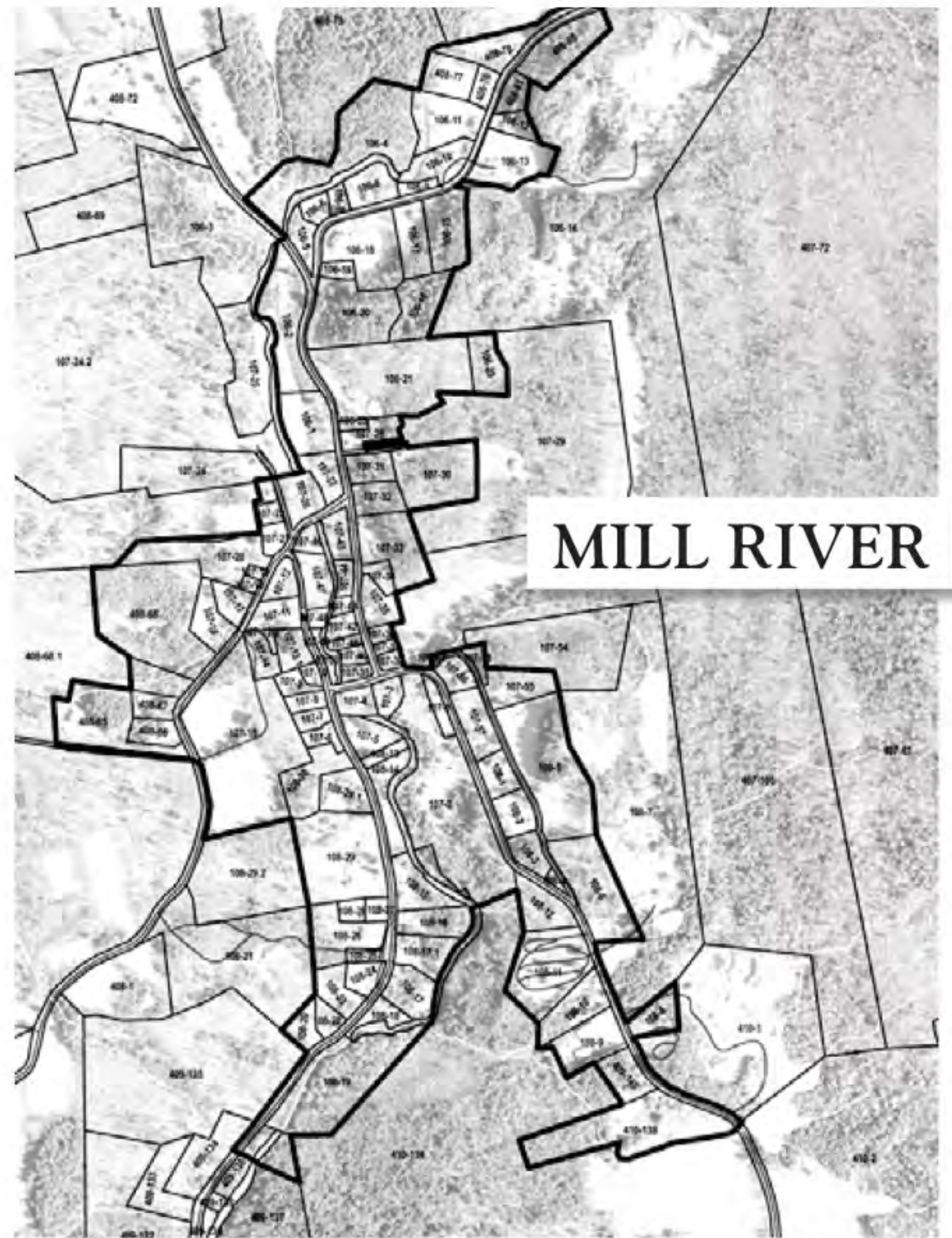
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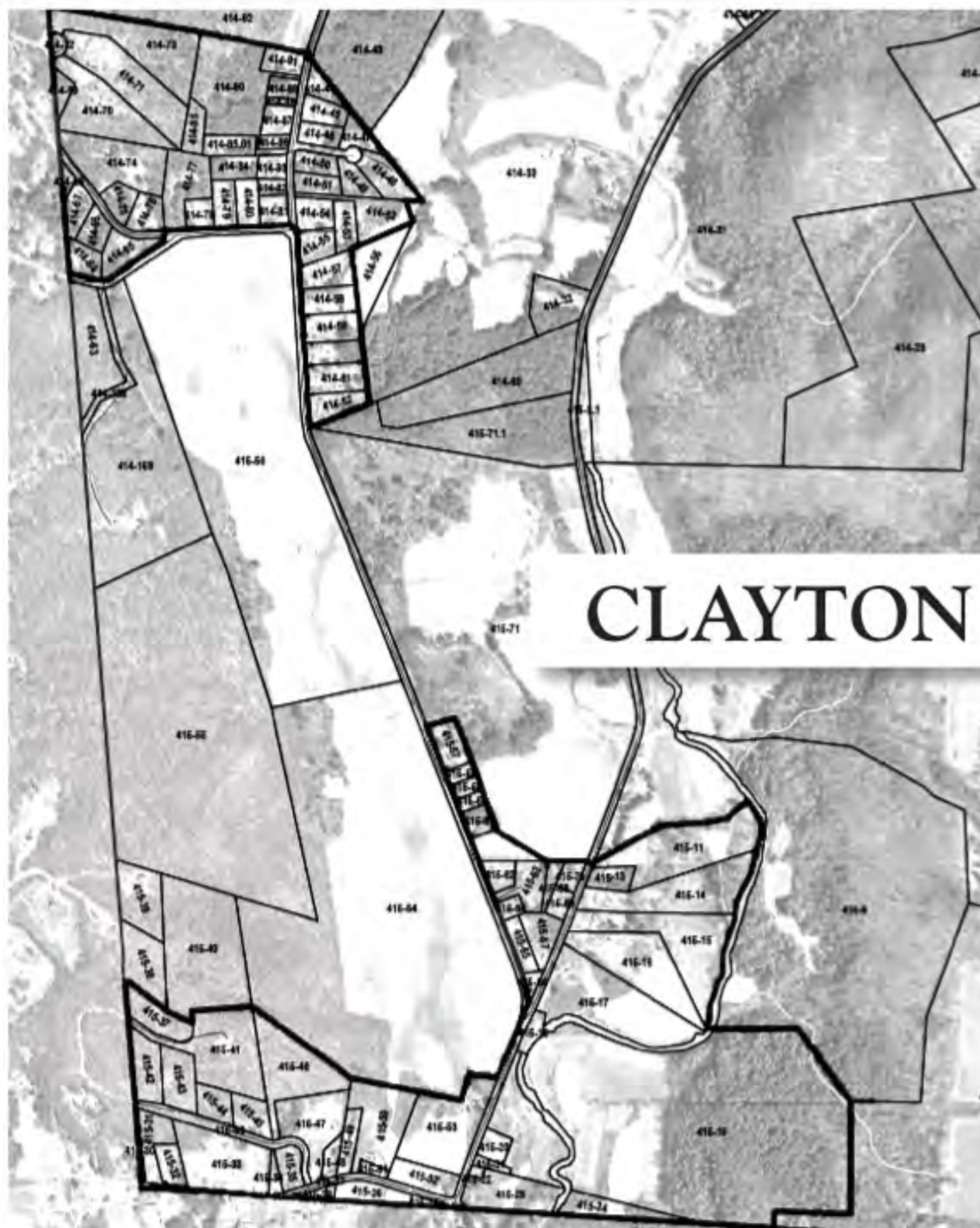
PROPOSED VILLAGE DISTRICTS



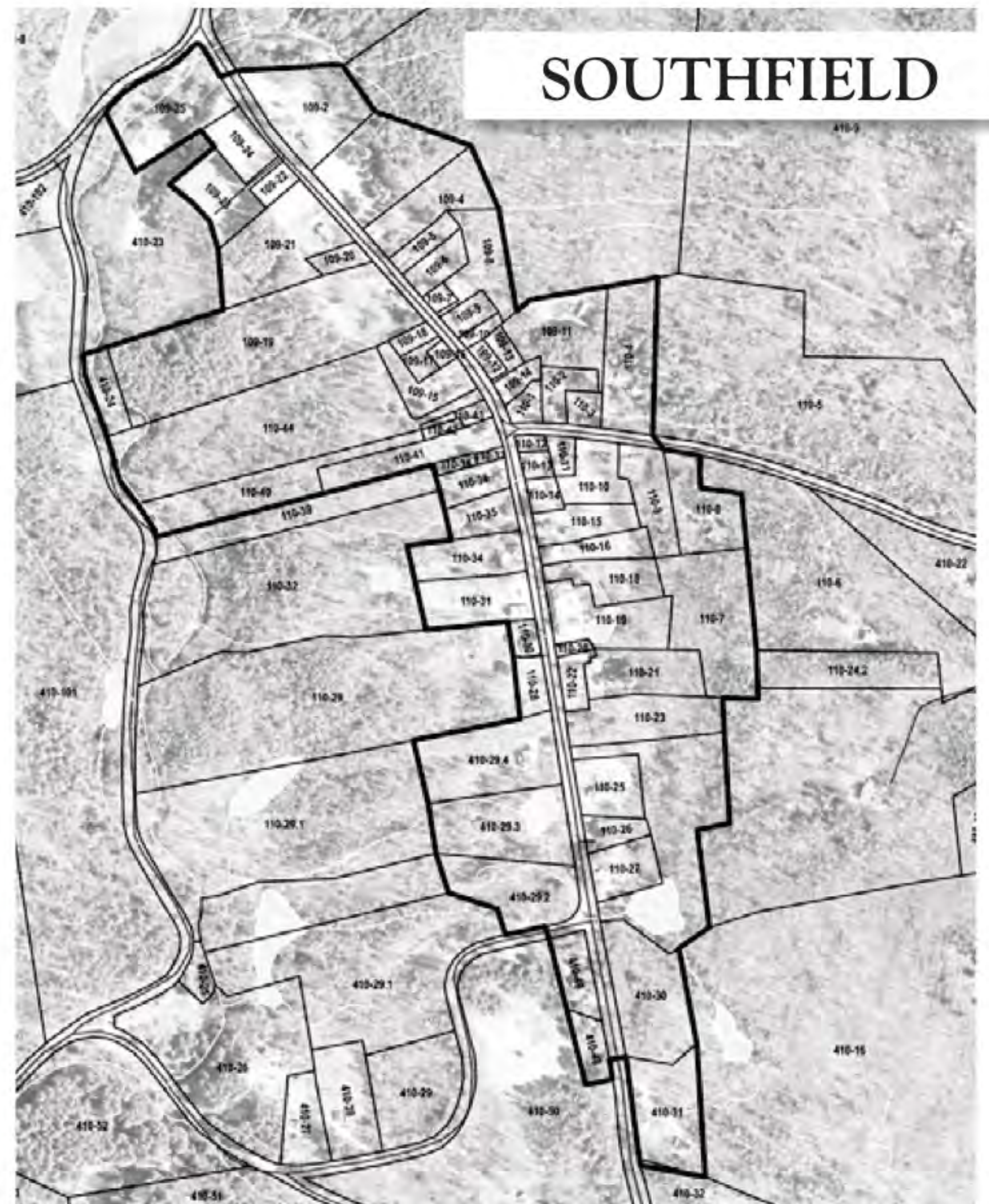
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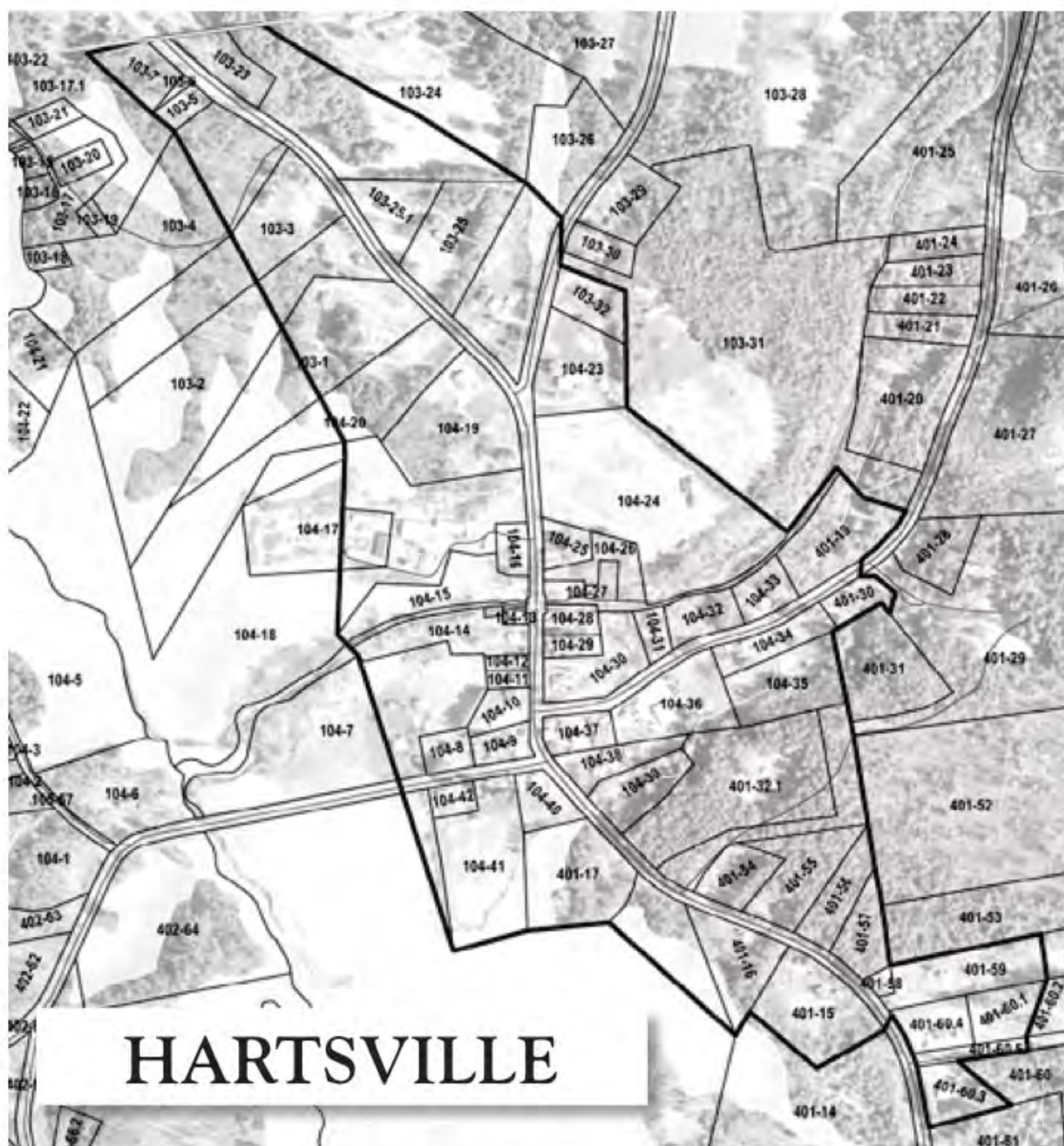
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UPCOMING: *Events Calendar for March and April*

April 2: Fourth Annual Photography Exhibit and Potluck Dinner, Southfield Church; the dinner begins at 6:00 p.m.; the photos will be on view until 1:00 p.m. Sunday, April 3

April 5: Last day for the top two caucus finishers to sign their intention to run for office; see Kathy Chretien at the Town Hall for the form to sign

April 9: Red Hot Blues Bash, Gedney Farm, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

April 10: Rabies Clinic and Bake Sale, at the Firehouse in Southfield, 10:00 a.m. to noon

April 16: Planning Board Pubic Meeting, Town Hall, starting at 10:00 a.m.

April 25: Last day to register to vote at the Annual Town Meeting and the Town Election; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or at 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall

April 30: Budget Presentation and Town Update, Town Hall, starting at 10:00 a.m.

May 2: Annual Town Meeting; make your voice heard and your vote count, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

May 7: New Marlborough Fire & Rescue Spring Dance, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., Gedney Farm.

May 9: Town Election, noon to 7:00 p.m., Town Hall



NEWS FROM THE LAND TRUST

On a balmy day in early March, the Land Trust co-hosted a walk with Berkshire Natural Resources Council at Steepletop, the 1,230-acre preserve off New Marlborough Monterey Road. More than twenty five people gathered, many with their dogs, to enjoy a leisurely two-plus-mile loop through a cranberry bog, mature mixed deciduous forest, and past beaver dams and old house foundations. It was a spectacular late-winter day at a spectacular Land Trust site!

The Land Trust is gearing up to host the Red Hot Blues Bash to be held April 9 at Gedney Farm. We expect a full house of 250 guests as we celebrate both the natural and human resources that make New Marlborough such a great place to live. We will be rewarding three Unsung Heroes from the community and offering a unique silent auction of thirty donations from generous community members. A special part of the auction is an array of seventeen different "experiences" donated by community residents as offerings to share what they love to do. In addition, we have thirteen incredible donated adventures which will be subject to bidding: a garden party for twelve, a week on Martha's Vineyard, and more. The Land Trust is hosting a party to dance into spring and enjoy our community!



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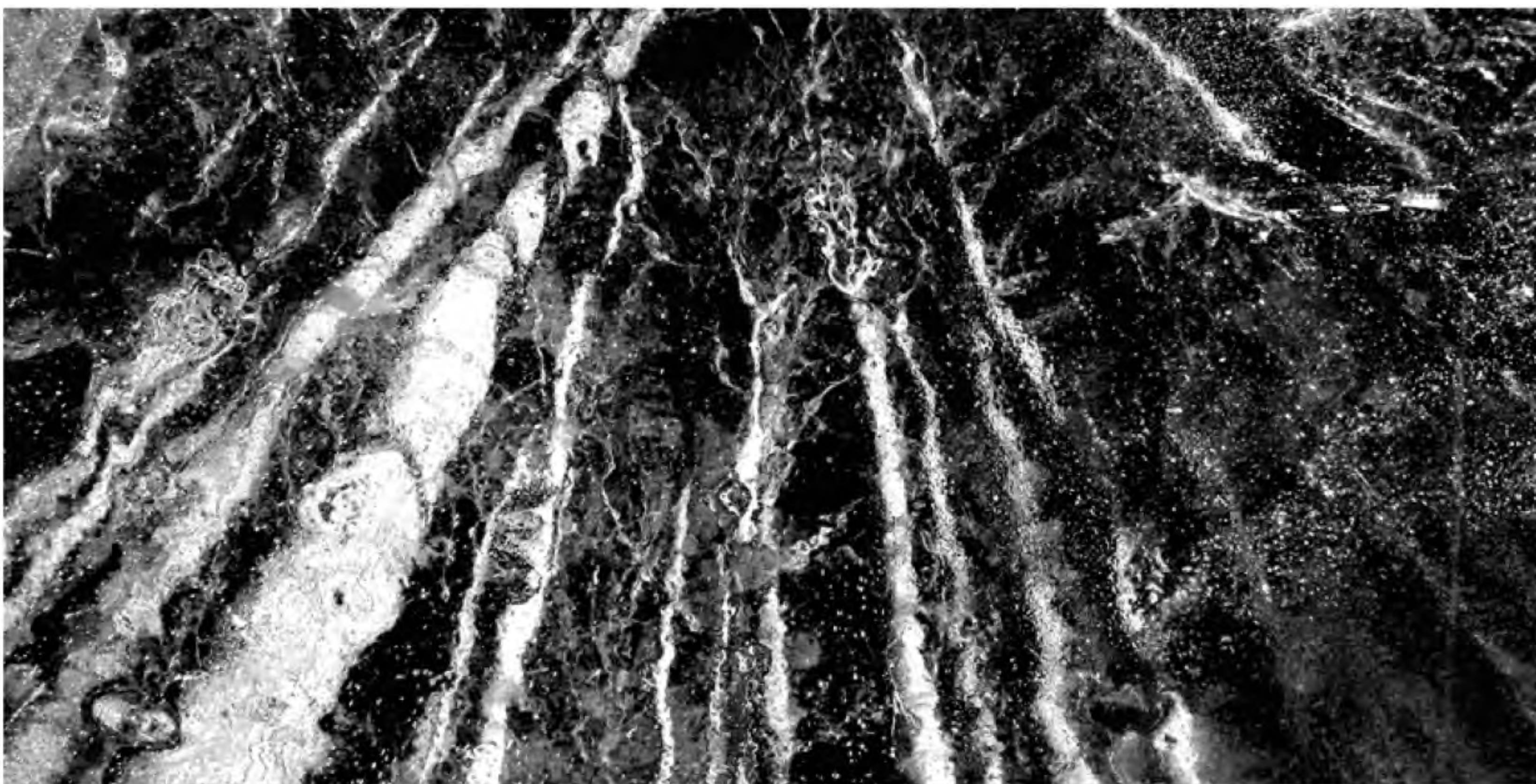
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Receding Grace

Rainwater filled a bowl in a wooded area near New Marlborough village, froze, and then receded, leaving a thick layer of ice magically suspended above the woodland floor by the trunks of maple trees. As I was shooting, the ice all around buckled under bright rays of sun. □

Erik Callahan



NEWS FROM THE CULTURAL COUNCIL

Local Photographers on Display

The New Marlborough Cultural Council invites you to the fourth annual Photo Exhibit/Potluck Supper. This event is for all who enjoy good food and who also like to view pictures of New Marlborough taken by our friends and neighbors. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 2, and Sunday, April 3, at the Southfield Church Hall for a relaxed, delicious and enjoyable evening. The potluck supper begins Saturday night at 6:00 p.m., and the photos will remain on display through Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

This exhibit, titled "Doorways In and Around New Marlborough," includes shots of front doors, back doors, side doors, garage doors, barn doors, or any other kind of door, including those built by our furry or feathered friends. The door can be the main subject or serve as background for a specific interest (pets, family, flora or fauna). Local residents of all ages have submitted new and old photos for this event. They will not be judged, just enjoyed.

The potluck supper kicks off the event on Saturday, and no one is ever disappointed with the offerings created by our local chefs. Check the alphabetical designation below to see if you get to prepare a main dish, salad or vegetable, appetizers/snacks, or a dessert. For more information on the food, contact Maureen Hosford (229-0076). For questions on the photo exhibit, contact Ned MacDowell (229-2637).

Potluck contributions by last name:

A through G: Main Dish

H through N: Salad or Vegetable

O through S: Appetizers/Snacks

T through Z: Dessert

Ned MacDowell

Council Seeks Gardens

The New Marlborough Cultural Council is putting together a Garden Tour for 2016, probably in July, and is looking for additional sites. The garden need not



Cultural Council Grant recipients, some half of whom attended a Town Library ceremony, got their certificates March 16.

be elaborate or professionally maintained; in fact, the Council wants to present a variety of sites including colorful flowers, shrubs, interesting landscape features, or vegetable gardens. Most of those who have attended previous garden tours are gardeners themselves and want to appreciate, not criticize, the gardens. In other words, they know that gardens are a work in progress, that they will never be weed-free, and that new ideas can be found in many places. If you have a garden to nominate – either yours or a friend's – please contact Maureen Hosford at 229-0076 or Brian Mikesell at 229-0102.

Awards Grants

Recipients of the New Marlborough Cultural Council grants for 2016 received their awards at a meeting of the Board of Selectmen on March 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the New Marlborough Town Library. Cultural Council grants support activities in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences, that focus on New Marlborough. Priority is given to proposals from New Marlborough residents, activities taking place in New Marlborough, or activities elsewhere which serve New Marlborough residents.

A total of \$13,000 (\$4,400 from the Massachusetts

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Cultural Council, the remaining \$8,600 from contributions by community residents) was granted to twenty-six worthy projects. Thirty-seven applications were received.

This year the grants range from \$100 to \$3,000, representing a wide range of activities: for example, the re-installation of nine historical markers originally placed during the nation's 1976 bicentennial; resumption of the Murder Mystery Writers Contest; a nine-week Shakespeare residency at Mount Everett and nine other schools in Berkshire County conducted by Shakespeare and Company; the installation of five new interpretive signs at the Robert Joffe Nature Sanctuary.

Wanted: White Elephants

Once again the New Marlborough Cultural Council is collecting items for the annual white elephant sale on Elihu Burritt Day, August 20. It's time to gather strength to plumb the depths of your cellar, attic, garage, or scary closet in search of treasures – things that you no longer need or want, but might be just perfect for someone else.

Please, no clothing, obsolete electronics, skis, or large pieces of furniture!

This year the collection will still be at the Levine/Olenbush barn across from Town Hall in Mill River, on Saturday, May 14, from 10:00 until noon. Subsequent collection dates will be on June 11, July 9, August 6, and August 13, all from 10:00 until noon. It is imperative that the collection times be respected; it is simply unfair to the barn's owners to have boxes of stuff left outside the barn. If these dates or times are inconvenient, Council members will be happy to pick up donations. Please call Ned MacDowell at 229-2637 or Maureen Hosford at 229-0076.

In addition, the Council will conduct a silent auction at Burritt Day. If you have an item that is unique or of greater value than usual for a white elephant sale, please consider donating it to the silent auction. This is a good way to insure that the item draws the greatest value. All proceeds from the white elephant sale and silent auction will support grants for programs in the arts and sciences for New Marlborough children and adults. □

Barbara Lowman



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BROADBAND: NEW DELAYS

But While MBI Fiddles, New Marlborough Moves Ahead

by Barry R. Shapiro

The delays in bringing broadband service to the residents of the New Marlborough seem to keep mounting. The governor's office is reviewing the finances of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), a process the governor's spokesperson has said is likely to take months. Meanwhile, MBI continues to refuse to provide funds to any town that signs on with WiredWest, reflecting MBI's concern over the WiredWest business structure and financial model.

These delays, however, are not stopping the New Marlborough Board of Selectmen from moving aggressively to bring broadband services to town as soon as possible.

Recognizing that the broader cooperative with many other towns envisioned by WiredWest may not happen, or, if it does, may be substantially delayed, Selectman Michele Shalaby advises that the Board has commenced discussions with Sandisfield and Monterey to explore a semi-regional broadband model, with Otis, Tyringham, and Tolland possibly joining the discussions.

The objective is for the neighboring towns to collaborate on the construction of a broadband network (each town would own its own network), and then to contract jointly with an independent operator to run the entire network. This model would allow New Marlborough to own its network and to share the cost of construction and operation with neighboring towns. The model would also be structured so that if one town's network went down, the neighboring towns could temporarily provide service.

A number of potential operators have responded to the request for information that New Marlborough published, and meetings with such operators are expected to occur shortly. Ms. Shalaby noted that companies such as Frontier Communications are of particular interest given their industry experience, their financial strength, and their ability to fulfill all aspects of design, construction, and operation.

Regardless of who the operator is and whether the town goes it alone, joins with its neighbors, or joins a larger consortium, MBI is expected to supervise the actual build-out of the network and provide a grant of state money which should cover about one third to 40 percent of the ultimate cost (the balance of the cost would be provided by the town, likely from a bond issuance). Moving forward promptly is of great concern to the Board of Selectmen. Even before the latest delays, MBI estimated that the earliest a network could be up and running would be 2020 or '21.

MBI spokesman Brian Noyes has advised that there

is no pause in the work of MBI, as MBI is still active in day-to-day planning efforts, recently wrapping up working meetings with broadband leaders in nine of the "partial cable" towns (those that already have some Internet-dedicated wiring) to review data and coverage maps and continuing to "meet and collaborate with the administration on identifying a long-term pathway forward" on the so-called last mile, i.e., broadband connection to individual households. He also advised that meetings with WiredWest are on-going, with nine meetings between the two organizations between mid-December and mid-March.

At the same time, MBI appears to be looking anew at basic issues of state investment. A letter issued jointly on March 14 by MBI and the state Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development reiterates the efforts being taken to assure that the state's money is well spent. "We are working together to ensure that public investments will be sound and will provide their intended outcome: sustainable, affordable broadband solutions, which will provide reliable high-speed Internet access for many years to come."

To this end, MBI has been retasked with:

- analyzing and developing criteria for approved sustainable operating and governance models;
- reviewing available technologies and best practices for broadband access solutions; and
- reviewing plans and options for municipal borrowing and project financing, including potential federal loan programs.

"The MBI will continue to proceed with projects where cost-effective and sustainable solutions are identified and access to financing is assured..." So, the beat goes on, with some fundamental assumptions about the nature and structure of the program being examined anew.

Once again, and, once again, stay tuned. □



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EYE IN THE SKY

by David Lowman

As New Marlborough and most Massachusetts towns and cities approach Town Meeting time (in New Marlborough's case, May 2), local officials have begun to look to solutions for the challenges that lie ahead. In New Marlborough, the hot issue for the coming season and, yes, perhaps for years to come, is the use of drone aircraft.

Many residents are aware of our nation's military and intelligence use of drones, as well as more localized efforts promoting drone aircraft for such prosaic usage as in the delivery of retail purchases or for hobbyist-based photography. But Harland Dorrinson, a semi-retired waste engineer, newly settled in the village of Hartsville, envisions the use of drone aircraft in New Marlborough as an effective and relatively inexpensive way to monitor and control all domestic animals in town. In a recent interview, Mr. Dorrinson, who makes no secret of his ambition to be appointed as the Town's Animal Control Officer (ACO), said that the use of drone aircraft would enable him to keep tabs on New Marlborough's dogs, cows, pigs, sheep, and horses on a daily basis. Asked about cats and chickens, Mr. Dorrinson seemed to have been caught off balance. "Well, perhaps some day, but not yet," he equivocated.

How would this work? For starters, Mr. Dorrinson said, he would work closely with Town Clerk Kathy Chretien to acquire newly available dog license tags that have

an embedded digital chip, so that New Marlborough dog owners for a "slight increase" in licensing fee would benefit from this technological advance. The tag, once attached to a dog's collar and activated at Town Hall, would be capable of instantly relaying not only the location of the pet but also its name, breed, and date of birth, affording the ACO a vastly more complete register of dogs than is currently available. Owners attempting to hide from the monitor by refusing to attach the digital chip would not escape the drone's photographic capability, which would record unlicensed New Marlborough dogs and provide that information to the appropriate authorities for fines and other penalties.

When asked about the other animals – cows, pigs, sheep, and horses – Mr. Dorrinson said his plan would be to gradually integrate those animals into the system, one group in each subsequent year. He is already investigating subcutaneous implantation of chips for those animals.

As our interview was ending, I asked Mr. Dorrinson if there were state or federal requirements or standards for the sort of enterprise he envisioned. He said that much depended on the rules and regulations currently being drawn up by the Federal Aviation Administration. He assured me, however, that there is nothing in the Town's bylaws that restricts the use of drones. "Drones," he said, "are the future of animal control."



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NEIGHBORS



Fans of the bright and word-infused paintings of barns and other scenes by **Andrew Zdziarski** of Southfield will enjoy a show of his work at the Knox Gallery of the Monterey Library. Entitled Reworded, the exhibit runs through April 23. Library hours vary; the library phone number is 528-3795.

Former Southfield resident **Bruno Quinson** will be exhibiting his watercolors at the Norfolk Library in Norfolk, Connecticut. The opening reception will be Sunday, April 3, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The paintings will be on display through the month of April.



Bruno Quinson's watercolor, "Maine Fishermen"



Janice and Chris Boults

Last August, after three years of trying to identify a worsening skin condition, **Chris Boults** of Foley Hill Road was diagnosed with Sezary lymphoma, a very rare form of blood cancer for which there is yet no standard treatment, let alone a cure. Chris and his wife, **Janice**, are working with a team of doctors at Hillcrest Hospital in Pittsfield and Dana Farber Institute in Boston to develop a treatment plan. Because of the rarity of the cancer, virtually all the treatment options are experimental.

Chris has been a long-time member of the New Marlborough Volunteer First Responders (NMVFR) and has been serving as its president. Because of his worsening illness, he had to take a leave of absence from both his position and his membership in NMVFR, much to the distress of the other First Responders. His colleague **Michelle Dawson** realized, urgently, that "We gotta do something!" She came up with the idea of a "Team Boults" T-shirt as a fundraiser, and designed the shirt. **Chris Johnston** of Blue Point Design in Sheffield contributed the set-up for printing the shirts; the New Marlborough Fire Department and NMVFR split the printing cost. About the same time, another NMVFR member, **Alexis Prisendorf**, set up a GoFundMe site on the internet to collect contributions. Medical expenses are largely covered by insurance, but transportation costs to Pittsfield and Boston mount up in a hurry.

The response has been overwhelming – more than 100 people have bought shirts or made contributions. Southfield Church members banded together for a contribution. As Janice noted, "...and we don't even know many of these people. This little community we live in is amazing, and we are humbled and grateful for the support and rallying together of our neighbors."

For those wishing to contribute, shirts can still be purchased at the Mill River Store for \$20. The GoFundMe site is at <https://www.gofundme.com/4rm5yqsg>.



photo by Larry Burke

In a historic departure from tradition, Pope Francis declined to conduct Good Friday services and Easter mass at Saint Peter's Cathedral in Rome, in favor of a visit to the Immaculate Conception Church in Mill River and the "real people" of New Marlborough. This provided the Town with the unprecedented opportunity to play a part in international diplomacy and understanding. Chair of the Board of Selectmen **Michele Shalaby** welcomed the chance to display the resources and the natural beauty of rural, small-town America. The visit, of course, presented security challenges. The Pope also had a one-way tour of the Transfer Station, and was impressed by the Town's attention to safety and orderliness. He was treated to a special luncheon with Town officials: Argentinian tacos at Cantina 229. Then Pope Francis took advantage of clement weather to join in several conversations on the porch of the Mill River General Store, during which owner **Dave Herrick** presented him with his own personalized coffee mug. As the Pope prepared to depart, Mr. Herrick urged him to return on his next birthday, when the coffee would be complimentary. □



photo courtesy of Andrew Zdziarski

Andrew Zdziarski

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

Promises of an early spring: **Don Beauchamp** of Clayton wrote on February 28: “Well, it’s been a great week for returning birds. Starting on last Sunday, February 21, I’ve had **red-winged blackbirds, starlings, grackles**, a dozen or more of **cedar waxwings, bluebirds** fighting among themselves for housing rights, and house sparrows fighting with everyone. On top of all those, I spotted a **pileated woodpecker** possibly making a nesting cavity not far away and a **black vulture**.”

Larry Burke, up on Route 183 near York Lake, also observed a number of early arriving avians: “Along with that tough crowd of wintering-over types that come to our feeders – **chickadees, nuthatches, titmouses, goldfinches, blue jays, mourning doves, and hairy and downy woodpeckers** – we saw the earliest arriving **red-winged blackbirds** (February 23) in our thirty-six years of living here. Also before the end of February, as Don Beauchamp had seen in Clayton, **starlings and grackles** started showing up, along with **juncos, red cap sparrows, robins, and house finches**, and there was a **woodcock** flying spirals over our barn one warm March evening. (And yes, Don, we even saw three **bluebirds** in the first week of March way up here on Woodruff Mountain – very unusual indeed.)” Larry also had the good fortune to glance out the window on March 7, just at the right moment to spot an **otter** trotting slinky-fashion across the driveway.

Followers of Maggie’s List will have seen a rash of reports on another early sign of spring – **bears**. **Robert Twing** started things off on March 5 with the following post: “The **bears** are awake, had one eating my bird seed two nights ago, at least 300 pounds.” We’re not sure if that was the weight of the bear or the amount of bird seed she ate, but in any case that warning was quickly followed by a number of posts adding sightings of other sleepless-in-New Marlborough critters – “**raccoons in abundance**” (**Megan Moore**), and from **Paul Clark**, “**Skunks and porcupines** too, watch your step, all around the house...everyone loves spring.”

For more on the topic of an early end to the hibernation season we turn to our correspondent **Angus Kerr**, who lives in Mill River and whose day job is being a member of the 8th grade at Mt. Everett: “Throughout the month of March, there have been many encounters with animals who would normally be sleeping or hibernating at this time of year. While March is usually cold, with the left-over snow from February still lying by the roadside and with frigid temperatures prompting hot chocolate, this March has lacked all of that. Instead there have been many sunny days, enticing us to relax in the warmth.

“We are not the only animals to frolic in the warmth, however. The recent sightings of **bears, porcupines**, and other, usually-inactive animals during winter testify to that. While porcupines do not actually hibernate during winter, they do tend toward inactivity, only venturing out of their tree dwellings to search for food, if even then. Bears are commonly thought to go into hibernation in winter, but, in fact, they merely go into a deep sleep, called a ‘torpor.’ Lately, several New Marlborough residents have noticed bears wandering about the neighborhood, searching for food. This can be tough on our black bears, as waking up too early may mean that these animals are unable to find the grasses, berries, and insects that they would normally eat. Consequently, bird feeders and garbage cans become handy and irresistible food sources for our neighbors the bears.

“Even more surprising than bears coming out at this time are reports of **tree frogs** and **spring peepers** chirping in the forest. This is very strange behavior for amphibians, as they usually go into a deep, true hibernation during winter, never leaving their burrows, sometimes until mid-April. The fact that frogs are out at this time of year suggests that there could be an early mating season for them as well. This is dangerous for frogs and other amphibians, as a late freeze could wipe out an entire generation.”

Readers, your sightings and observations (and photographs of same) are always of interest to us. Please feel welcome to contact us through the email listed below. □

Compiled by Larry Burke, lburke2@me.com



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POLICE DEPARTMENT (SELECTED ENTRIES)

- Feb. 1 2:30 p.m. Responding to a Knight Road resident's fears that her husband's brush-pile fire was getting out of control, a police officer assists in getting the fire under control.
- Feb. 4 4:11 p.m. Following a call from a Lake Buel area resident reporting an altercation with his son, the department issues a BOLO (be on the lookout) for the son.
- Feb. 5 8:15 a.m. Canaan driver's Toyota Highlander, disabled at the intersection of Mill River Great Barrington and Sisson Hill Roads, is towed.
4:05 p.m. Hatchery Road resident is advised that the billing problems about which he is calling is a civil matter.
- Feb. 6 3:32 p.m. New Marlborough Hill Road resident reports being harassed and threatened by the mother of a girl who had spent the previous night visiting the caller's daughter.
3:46 p.m. Advise a Campbell Falls Road resident, who had complained about gun shots at all times of day during the previous week, to report any recurrence.
- Feb. 8 2:55 p.m. Ford pick-up truck slides off Rhoades and Bailey Road into a culvert drainage area.
- Feb. 20 12:59 p.m. Horses loose near the intersection of Hartsville Mill River and Hartsville New Marlborough Roads are rounded up by their owner.
- Feb. 21 1:27 p.m. Following a renewed complaint of gunshots near Campbell Falls Road, investigation reveals that the source is a party of skeet shooters, who claim they meet on the property of one of them at most once a month.
- Feb. 26 10:29 p.m. Highway Department asked to salt or sand a dangerously iced-over section of Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- Feb. 29 11:29 a.m. Wires down on the Canaan Southfield Road.
- Mar. 1 3:57 p.m. Clayton Mill River Road resident reports receiving three voice messages from a purported IRS agent alerting him to a law suit for payment of back taxes. (See note left below.)

IT'S TAX-SCAM SEASON

IRS scammers are back with a new menu of deceptions. Some will call asking for your Social Security number to facilitate a tax refund; some will demand payment of taxes owed; robo-callers will threaten law suits and leave a number for a return call. "IRS" may show up on your caller ID. Your response: Hang up. The IRS always initiates contact with taxpayers through the U. S. mail. It will never call (or email you, for that matter) to verify your identity, ask for financial information, or request a credit or debit card number. If you are in doubt as to whether you owe taxes or are due a refund, call 800 829-1040.

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FIRE AND RESCUE

Feb. 1	2:33 p.m.	Knight Road Brush Fire	Feb. 23	6:45 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Monterey
Feb. 9	12:21 a.m.	Leffingwell Road CO Alarm			Structure Fire
Feb. 10	2:17 p.m.	Aberdeen Lane Medical Call	Feb. 24	4:10 p.m.	Canaan Southfield Road
Feb. 16	6:26 a.m.	Hayes Hill Road Medical Call			Medical Call
Feb. 17	11:42 p.m.	Norfolk Road Fire Alarm			

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

New Marlborough Fire Company Rabies Clinic & Bake Sale: The annual Rabies Clinic & Bake Sale will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon on Sunday, April 10, at the New Marlborough Fire Station on Norfolk Road in Southfield. New Marlborough Town Clerk Kathy Chretien will be on hand to issue dog licenses, and the clinic will include coffee and a bake sale for pet owners. Massachusetts law requires all dogs, cats and ferrets be vaccinated against rabies. The cost at the clinic is \$10 per vaccination.

Spring Dance: The New Marlborough Fire Company's Annual Spring Dance will be held on Saturday, May 7, at Gedney Farm in New Marlborough village. Tickets will soon be available at the Mill River General Store or from any New Marlborough firefighter. Call David Smith, (413) 229-0291 for more information.

Safe Burning Season Reminders: With burning season underway until the end of April, New Marlborough Fire & Rescue would like to remind residents of rules for open burning. Burning permits may be acquired, at no charge, at the Mill River General Store. Prior to burning on any given day, call 229-0246 to determine if burning is permitted that day. Simply listen to the pre-recorded advisory; you do not need to leave a message. Burning is allowed between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., by which time all fires must be fully extinguished. Call 911 to report any emergencies. □

David Smith



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SHARED SERVICES

Can Cooperation Save Money?

By Peter Schuyten

Rugged individualism is baked into the DNA of New England towns, and New Marlborough is no exception. We have our own fire department, our own ambulance, our own police department. We bristle when talk turns to closing our grade school. But with greater and greater demand on available resources, the cost of independence has shouldered its way into the discussion, and the prospect of cooperation with other towns in our area is getting a new look.

The concept, generally referred to as “shared services,” is, after some false starts, beginning to gain ground. In New Marlborough, its most vocal proponent is Selectman Nat Yohalem, who says that so far talks with neighboring towns are making good progress. In the beginning, he notes, the towns talked about sharing all sorts of things, including politically sensitive operations such as emergency services and police coverage. Mr. Yohalem’s strategy, however, has been to concentrate on something everybody could understand and that did not carry political baggage. The first success was the joint purchase with Sheffield of a \$120,000 roadside mower. Next up is a \$50,000 hot box for transporting warm asphalt, which Monterey and New Marlborough are talking about buying together.

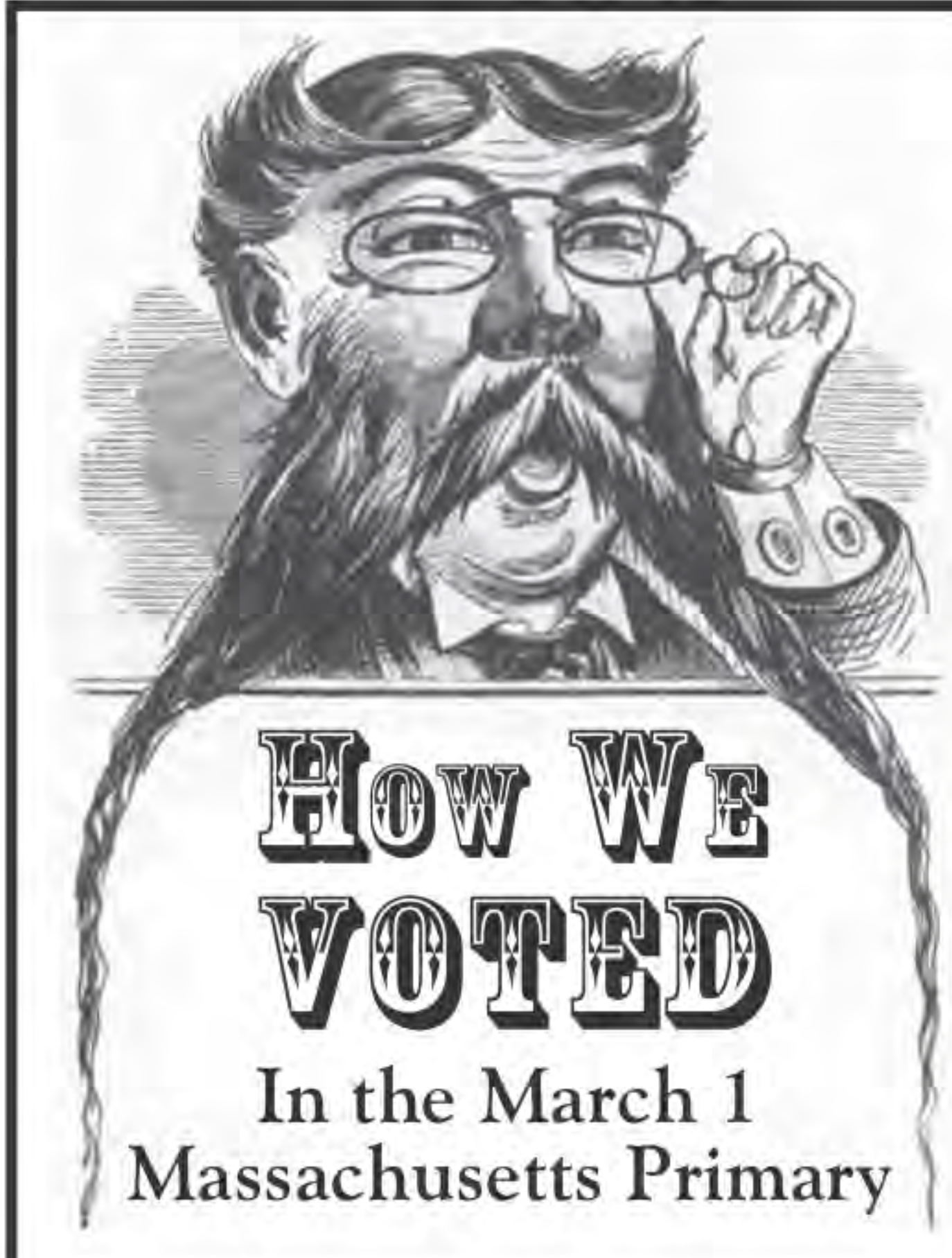
The process has had an unexpected benefit: “It has opened up an era of good feelings among the towns, which previously were usually at each other’s throats,” says Mr. Yohalem. So when there was a budget problem caused by incorrect school assessments last fall, all it took was one meeting of the five school district towns, and “it

was smooth sailing,” he says. In that single meeting, the towns came up with a proposed solution that the School District ultimately bought into. That, he says, would never have happened in the past.

Now the concept of sharing is reaching into other sectors of town responsibilities. “We’re beginning to talk about people-sharing,” says Mr. Yohalem, a board of health or conservation commission agent, for example.

One of the biggest payoffs, however, could result from a joint appeal to state legislators from representatives of the five towns — New Marlborough, Monterey, Sandisfield, Tolland, and Granville — through which Route 57 passes, to shift the cost of reconstruction and maintenance from the towns to the state. The needed repair is estimated to be about \$7 million in just that section of the route that goes through New Marlborough. Other examples include broadband, where New Marlborough has lately been discussing the possibility of creating a semi-regional network with nearby towns, including Monterey, Sandisfield, and Tolland. Yet another possibility involves New Marlborough’s ambulance service, where difficulty in obtaining volunteers to go out on calls, especially during the day, has led to “very preliminary discussions” with several other towns, including Monterey, about regionalizing the ambulance service.

As Mr. Yohalem notes, “The days of a town having a proprietary interest in all of its services may be numbered, because of the increasing cost of maintaining those services, which is why looking for places where cooperation through sharing services makes sense.” □



<i>Democratic Vote</i>	<i>Republican Vote</i>
Hillary Clinton	160
Bernie Sanders	159
Martin O'Malley*	1
Total Democratic vote: 320	
	39
	39
	24
	22
	21
	4
	1
	1
	1
	Total Republican vote: 152

*These candidates suspended their campaigns after the primary ballots were printed

SCHOOL NEWS

Red Hot Tamales: The Mount Everett Girls Robotics team, which has been together since the 4th grade, competed at the Berkshire Robotics Challenge held at Lenox Memorial Middle and High School March 19. They faced equipment malfunction but performed with style. Members, with their coach Shayna Sawyer, included Madeline Soudant, Madison Tinker, Maggie Robitaille, Lizzie Sarnacki, Madeline Von Ruden, Megan Smith, and Shelby Tinker. Also participating were Ashley and Bethany Kerzner and Mary Shalaby, who helped build and program the robots but could not attend the competition.

The Techno Dolphin Take-Down: This Flying Cloud robotics team, including New Marlborough's Evie Kerr, upheld tradition by showing great spirit and enthusiasm throughout the five plus hours of competition at the March 19 Berkshire Robotics Challenge. This team took home the award for best research project on the theme of this year's competition, Trash Trek. Girls presented their findings on the topic of dealing with the garbage we produce through recycling and other methods.

Flying Cloud Institute Scholarships: A \$1,000 New Marlborough Cultural Council Scholarship grant to Flying Cloud Institute will help support New Marlborough children's attendance at either the SMARt Summer Program or the STEM Summer Programs in 2016. The SMARt Program is held at Flying Cloud in New Marlborough starting June 20 with the new Creator's Studio for children finishing grades 5 through 8. Session One for ages five through fourteen runs from June 27 to July 15. Session Two will be held from July 18 to July 29. STEM Summer, with two programs, will be



Samantha Twing (front, center) and the other Mount Everett singers, at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin

held at Bard College at Simon's Rock August 1 to 5. STEM Explorations is for girls in grades 7 and 8, STEM Investigations, for high-school girls. Please visit www.flyingcloudinstitute.org to register. Deadline for scholarship applications is May 1.

Jane Burke

Mount Everett Goes to Germany: On February 26, I was one of a group of eight Mount Everett choral students including Eli Gold, Simon

Salzmann, Charles Kerzner, Jesse Smerechniak, Lily Duval, Eliza Maggio, and Ava Garrett who flew to Germany for a World Educators Association conference (WEA) focused on music. We were chaperoned by Choral Director Chris Clark and Global Education leader Stephanie Graham.

The trip began with two days in Berlin for visiting museums and sightseeing, and then we joined a school group from Hong Kong for the train trip to Ahrensburg and the start of the conference. On March 3, the visiting students performed what they had prepared in their home countries; our group sang pop songs a cappella. Then the singers mixed together for a performance with an orchestra.

The next day, everyone said heartfelt goodbyes as the students from the four visiting schools departed for flights home. The Mount Everett students however, missed our flight to Boston, which meant that we got a bonus, a night exploring Dublin, Ireland.

On Monday April 11, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., we will perform our songs at a potluck supper and student presentation of the WEA Germany Music Trip at the Eagles Loft at Mount Everett High School. Please join us. □

Samantha Twing

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Broker Owner

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c: 413-854-1453

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www.paradiseenergysolutions.com

NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

Adult Fiction

- Arcadia*, by Ian Pears
- The Passenger*, by Lisa Lutz
- The Gangster*, by Clive Cussler
- Oil and Marble: A Novel of Leonardo and Michelangelo*, by Stephanie Storey
- Off the Grid*, by C.J. Box
- Spill Simmer Falter Wither*, by Sara Baume
- The Swans of Fifth Avenue*, by Melanie Benjamin
- Two If By Sea*, by Jacquelyn Mitchard

Adult Nonfiction

- The Food Lab: Better Home Cooking Through Science*, by J. Kenji Lopez-Alt

Children's Fiction

- Demon Dentist*, by David Williams
- Babymouse: Bad Babysitter*, by Jennifer Holm
- Yaks Yak: Animal Word Pairs*, by Linda Sue Park
- What To Do with a Box*, by Jane Yolen
- Listen to Our World*, by Bill Martin Jr.

Children's Nonfiction

- National Geographic Book of Nature Poetry: More Than 200 Poems with Photographs That Float, Zoom, and Bloom*, by J. Patrick Lewis
- Elizabeth Started All the Trouble*, by Doreen Rappaport
- Katydid: Leaf Look-Alikes*, by Natalie Lunis

DVD

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------|
| <i>The Peanuts Movie</i> | <i>Trumbo</i> | <i>Creed</i> |
| <i>Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip</i> | <i>The Big Short</i> | <i>Truth</i> |
| <i>In the Heart of the Sea</i> | | |

Library Summer Hours

- Mon. Wed. Sat.*
10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Tues. Fri.*
1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Thurs.*
1:30 – 5:30 p.m.



The library would like to thank
 New Marlborough Fire and Rescue
 for helping to make our
 Spring Egg Hunt a big success.



As dozens of young Easter egg hunters waited at New Marlborough Central School, the Easter Bunny emerged from the library and hopped a ride to the school aboard the Town's gleaming new Engine 1.

(413) 229-2544
 Free Estimates

- Roofing
- Tiling
- Decks
- Porches
- Sheet Rocking
- Flooring
- Additions
- Odd Jobs

Herbert W. Eichstedt III
Jason W. Eichstedt

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!

HERE IS A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF \$_____ (payable to NM5VN)

NAME _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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 p.m.
- ✧ **Board of Health:** First Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.
- ✧ **Conservation Commission:** Last Saturday of the month at 9 a.m.
- ✧ **Board of Assessors:** Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- ✧ **Fire Department training:** Every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the fire station
- ✧ **Building Inspector:** Monday 5 - 7 p.m., Wednesday 8 - 10 a.m.
- ✧ **First Responders:** meeting/training: First and third Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the fire station
- ✧ **Cultural Council:** Second Thursday at 4:15 p.m at the library
- ✧ **Post Office:** Mill River Window: Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Southfield Window: 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 PO 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 Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- ✧ **Selectmen's Administrative Secretary:** Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- ✧ **Dog and Animal Control Officer:** John Springstube 413-232-7038
- ✧ **Town Clerk:** 229-8278; 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. weekdays; Saturday by appointment
- ✧ **Town Hall:** 229-8116
- ✧ **Police:** Business office: 229-8161

Transfer Station Hours:

Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Sunday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

PERMITS ARE DUE ON JULY 1

They are available at the Town Hall in Mill River for July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

FEE IS \$105,
AFTER AUGUST 15, \$130
can be paid by mail. please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope

Emergency calls:

**Police, Fire, Medical
911**

New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.
Hours: Monday - Friday 7 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

NM5VN Editorial Team

Joe Poindexter, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer;
Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Larry Burke,
Kenzie Fields, Barbara Lowman, David Lowman,
Jodi Rothe, Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro,
Pam Stebbins, Jon Swan, Marianne Swan
Contributing writers: Ann Getsinger,
Mary Richie Smith, Tara White. Index: Donna Weaver

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

also online at our new website! www.NM5VN.org

The next issue will be dated May 2015.

All copy must be submitted no later than April 15.
For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369
PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259
5villagenews@gmail.com

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SERVICE SECTOR 4/16

- ♦ **Benchmark Real Estate:** Nancy Kalodner, Broker/Owner. Offering New Marlborough the finest professional real estate services since 1979. Call 528-9595
- ♦ **Berkshire Environmental Research Center (BERC):** Thomas Coote. Lake & pond management, wetland delineation, ecological research, rare/invasive species assessment. 413-644-4509. tcoote@simons-rock.edu
- ♦ **Campbell Falls Carpentry:** Licensed and insured contracting at campbellfallscarpentry@gmail.com (413)229-6097 and (413)429-7677. Mass Contractors # 7614140, HIC# 170377
- ♦ **Corashire Realty:** Serving New Marlborough for 40 years. Let experience, knowledge, and personal attention work for you. 528-0014
- ♦ **Dellea:** Dellea.biz provides on-site Windows computer services to local residents, small businesses, town governments, and nonprofits throughout southern Berkshire County. (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.
- ♦ **DesignFirstBerkshires:** Architectural design, space planning and renovation management. 413-528-6169 or info@designfirstberkshires.com.
- ♦ **DimisWorks.com:** Fine art, hand-painted paper, original designs, individually created; creative gardening, too! Dana Ehninger 413-258-4837.
- ♦ **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield 229-0050
- ♦ **Enjoy a Mountain WEDDING -** Reception or Party at SKI BUTTERNUT in their A/C Upper Lodge Spring, Summer, or Fall. Seating for 350+. Learn More: www.SkiButternut.com/Weddings or Call Dave Ryel (413)528-2000 x154
- ♦ **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
- ♦ **Project Bee** meets on the last Saturday of every month from 10:30 until noon at the New Marlborough Library in Mill River. See www.projectbeeline.org or Project Bee on Facebook.
- ♦ **James Edelman:** General Contractor, Real Estate Sales. Best Results. Construction License #090773. Home Improvement Registration #152035. Real Estate Sales License #9086247. 413-528-0006 or cljvedelman@aol.com
- ♦ **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. ssmithlaw@hughes.net or 229-7080
- ♦ **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 229-2369.