

New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield



THE IMMACULATE RECONCEPTION *Finding a New Use for a Venerable Building*

By Steven Nester

Anthony “Rocky” Gallo was looking to buy a house, but he bought a church instead. A music producer from Brooklyn, Mr. Gallo was searching for a location in the Berkshires and was about to buy in Lanesboro when he took a drive through Mill River. A tour of the deconsecrated Immaculate Conception Church here in the village convinced him he had found what he was looking for.

Mr. Gallo and other adventurous renovators see the possibilities in the raw space churches provide, and in the soundness of their construction. Taking an old sixty-by-forty-foot church and transforming it to fill one’s needs or whims is nothing to rush into. Even if one can find a property in this tight housing market, it takes plenty of due diligence on the part of would-be renovators before moving forward. But the effort to repurpose former churches is well worth it, Mr. Gallo says. “It’s amazing to see these places kept intact and given life,” he says. “I want to leave my mark by restoring this church as much as I can. You can modernize it to make it liveable, but necessary changes like that aren’t always meaningful.”



Anthony Gallo during a mid-March visit to his recently acquired property; Mr. Gallo plans to retain the church’s eight stained glass windows.

photo by Joe Pondexter



The changes Mr. Gallo has made to the 156-year-old building include removing the dropped ceiling, which added fifteen to twenty feet of space, where he discovered hand-hewn beams. “Stunning and a wow factor,” he says. He hopes to extend the choir loft fifteen to twenty feet to add three bedrooms. The pews and the railing around the altar have been removed, and he’s recycled all the wood he could. There’s an enormous electric organ which Mr. Gallo wishes was a pipe organ but is a bit glad it isn’t. The organ, which sits in the choir loft, is free for the taking. Aside from removing what doesn’t work for his plan, the big tasks are what he plans to add to the space to make it a home. He is undeterred by the undertaking, even though he knew from the start there were major issues with the basics — electric wiring, plumbing, septic system, not to mention the large stained glass windows that he plans to preserve and weatherize. He and contractor Jim Weber continue to deconstruct the church and for the time being, are still in “the exploratory phase of the renovation and, will attend to structural issues first.” However, “the sky’s the limit,” for costs he says, adding, “It could cost upwards of \$300,000 to \$500,000” to get the structure to where he wants it.

Converting disused churches into living or business spaces is nothing new, even in tiny New Marlborough. The former Congregational Church, overlooking Town Hall

continued

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Immaculate Conception, continued

on Church Road in Mill River, the old Methodist Church (and former Grange Hall) in Hartsville, and the former Baptist Church on Norfolk Road in Southfield have all undergone conversions.

Part-time resident Ben Soto purchased the Church Road property in Mill River three years ago while looking for a weekend place. He found the already-remodeled space didn't need much, but it still required some changes to make it work for him. The 3,600 square foot church, built in 1871 and renovated by the Holman family in 1971, became a residence without a great deal of change to the interior and overall structure, says Mr. Soto. He continues to work on the former church, but due to cost restraints, he must weigh each project in terms of its importance in adding to the soundness and comfort level of the building. He has repaired masonry and some rot, added insulation, but, with limited funds, things like replacing the windows, which could cost upwards of \$150,000, and the reworking the sanctuary, which is unheated, will make turning the church into a year-round domicile a lengthy process. Mr. Soto says, "All this makes it necessary to take things slowly."

The old Methodist Church in Hartsville has had many lives, including as a grange hall and a woodworking shop, and the structure is now in the process of being repurposed into an art/dance studio by current owners Brittany Bailey and Walton Ford. (See the January, 2022 issue of the NM5VN for more on this renovation.)

Perhaps the first conversion in New Marlborough was the Baptist Church on Norfolk Road in Southfield. The property once belonged to Richard and Lois Bové, who



Archival photograph of the Immaculate Conception Church in Mill River

Photo courtesy of the New Marlborough Historical Society

bought it in 1964. The couple had searched for a suitable studio and living space from Camden, Maine down to the Connecticut coastline before finding what they wanted in Southfield, says Bové's niece, Ellen Carson, who is familiar with the property. The current owners are unavailable for comment, but the church the Bovés found, says Ms. Carson, was ideal for their purposes. Richard was an artist who taught at Pratt and the Art Students League, and Lois was a vocalist who specialized in Baroque music. The church possessed great acoustics, perfect for her music, says Ms. Carson, and the untouched nave was a spacious studio for Richard. Richard made all necessary repairs and renovations, including adding a bathroom and kitchen in the rear

of the structure. The Bovés became weekenders who summered in Southfield and eventually retired there. They owned the church until their passing. It was sold in 2019.

In Berkshire County, there are currently no churches for sale; the last one on the market was the Immaculate Conception in Mill River, which sold last year. When one comes on the market, buyers might have to pounce. It seems a commentary of sorts that houses of worship are now becoming homes for those with vision. Some might decry these transformations, but, according to Claudette Callahan, a member of the New Marlborough Historical Society and former parishioner of the Immaculate Conception, these transformations are a wonderful thing. "People have done a beautiful job" preserving history and making good use of wonderful structures. □

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AN IMPORTANT NOTICE TO OUR READERS

As a monthly publication, the *5 Village News* has had, over the twenty-two years of existence, one persistent problem in reporting the news of New Marlborough in pictures and words: Namely, the fact that the last week or more of each month cannot be covered in proper fashion since that is the period of time when the issue is being edited and printed. Thus, anything of interest that happens in town from around the 20th to the end of each month is either not reported upon or relegated to the next month's edition, stale as week-old bread. For example, our coverage of the Memorial Day Parade in Mill River – easily one of the most beloved days on our calendar – ends up year after year as a bit of an afterthought in the July issue, not in the June issue where it belongs. Ditto Halloween, ditto Christmas.

But at long last a remedy has been found. Through a series of executive sessions, the Board of Selectmen, meeting with the editors of the *New Marlborough 5 Village News*, has settled upon an elegant solution, effective as of April 1: Henceforth all holidays and important town functions that heretofore landed in that editorial no-man's-land will be repositioned on the calendar so that the reporters, photographers, and editor of the *New Marlborough 5 Village News* may give their readers consistently on-time reportage.

Affected holidays with their newly assigned dates are as follows:

- Presidents' Day – February 14
(conveniently combined with Valentine's Day)
- Earth Day – April 15
(to take the edge off tax-filing day)
- Memorial Day – 3rd Monday of May
(and yes, that will still be a three-day weekend)
- Halloween – 3rd Saturday of October
(when the weather is still nice)
- Thanksgiving Day – 2nd Thursday of November
(in solidarity with our neighbors north of the border)
- Hanukkah/Kwanza/Christmas/New Year's Eve –
Dates in mid-December to be determined each year (based on the Accuweather forecast)

Also affected will be any Town board meetings that normally take place during the last ten days of the month. These meetings will no longer occur.

Given that these changes will only apply to the Town of New Marlborough, the Board of Selectmen wants it known that celebration of holidays as they appear on most people's calendars will be perfectly acceptable – and in fact encouraged. Why not have twice the fun? It's just that the partying on these dates will not be covered by the NM5VN.



Thank you for your attention.



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BOARD OF SELECTMEN



February 28: Meeting via Zoom, the Board gave an unenthusiastic passing grade to the final report from the Collins Center for Public Management, a department of the University of Massachusetts that has completed its study of town governance in New Marlborough. Brought in to evaluate and update human resource policies, Collins presented the Board with documents and a policy checklist that were not customized to New Marlborough's needs. Selectman Mark Carson, noting a reference to other documents, said he wanted to see the whole package. Chairman Richard Long expressed "mixed feelings" about performance evaluation and said that even the private sector was undecided as to whether evaluations should be undertaken annually or more frequently. The Board decided to postpone its evaluation until it had received additional documents.

Discussion returned once again to a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for Town employees. **Two questions came under consideration: whether to scale back COLA increases to higher-paid employees and what should be the size of the increase.** The Board quickly dispensed with the first, saying that the adjustment percentage should be the same for all employees, regardless of pay level.

On the second question, Mr. Long said he was "fully prepared to recommend a 4.5 percent increase – not so much 5 percent." He cited as an inhibiting factor to the 5 percent increase a modestly higher contribution to the Southern Berkshire Regional School District budget, due to a 30 percent rise in the cost of transportation. (Some of this increase will be offset by a reduction in the New Marlborough student enrollment at SBRSD – from 123 students last year to 111 this.)

Taking into account the swift rise of inflation, Mr.

Carson said he was tempted to recommend a COLA adjustment of 5 percent. Mr. Long and Selectman Tara White, citing cost pressures on other elements of the Town budget, opted for an across-the-board salary increase of 4.5 percent and, with Mr. Carson's acquiescence, voted to send this recommendation to the Finance Committee. The Board also voted to maintain the current selectman stipend of \$3,000 a year – or a total of \$9,000 for all three members.

Moving along to Covid protocols, Town Administrator Mari Enoch noted that the Board of Health, while recommending their continued use, "was fine with lifting mask requirements" inside Town Hall. Starting March 1, Town Hall would be open to visitors, with or without mask, and vaccination status would not be questioned.

The Board set a deadline of March 31 for evaluations of contract employees – Town Administrator Mari Enoch, Police Chief Graham Frank, and Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring – in time for salary reviews at the Board meeting on April 4. It agreed to consider a special permit application from Don Torrico for the new construction he is planning on his property on South Sandisfield Road. Mr. Carson agreed to meet with a project manager to monitor noise remediation at the solar field off Knight Road.

Mark Carson then said that he had yielded his position as Planning Board chairman to Bob Hartt, with Jon James as vice chairman. **Richard Long informed his fellow selectmen that the Capital Planning Committee determined that a multi-million-dollar renovation of Town Hall to make it ADA compliant was not a wise use of Town funds, and has declined an endorsement of this expenditure.** Discussion of an alternative,

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making use of what is now private property, was set for an executive session to be held March 4.

March 8: A hearing to once again consider the special permit application of Ingo Schweers for a residence he plans to build between the former Baptist Church and the Southfield Store was adjourned when Chairman Long said that Mr. Schweers was withdrawing his special permit request and would be filing a conventional building permit.

The Board then opened its regular meeting with a request by School Committee Chair Jane Burke, who was in attendance, to introduce Nanci Worthington as a nominee to the School Committee. Ms. Worthington would fill the remainder of the term of Carrieanne Petrik, who resigned from the Committee in February. Ms. Burke said she has known Ms. Worthington for more than three decades and was confident she had the interest and commitment to carry out the considerable workload required of Committee members. The selectmen voiced their approval and unanimously voted to appoint her to the School Committee.

Following a request from Town Administrator Mari Enoch that the selectmen sign the \$1 million MassWorks contract for the repair of Route 57 and Ms. Enoch's notification that Tax Collector Jessica Horan had completed her three-month probationary period, the meeting was adjourned.

March 9: With Police Chief Graham Frank joining the meeting, the selectmen launched into the sole item on the agenda, the Police Department's FY23 budget. The requested budget, including both salary increases and capital expenses, totals \$292,334. In arguing for higher salaries – some 10 percent above the current fiscal year, Chief Frank said that Sheffield, for example, had lost its entire force because its members “were not being paid

appropriately.” The chief himself was asking for a raise from \$72,000 to \$80,000. New equipment costs included the purchase of body cameras for full-time officers, now required by state law, and a request that cruisers also be equipped with cameras.

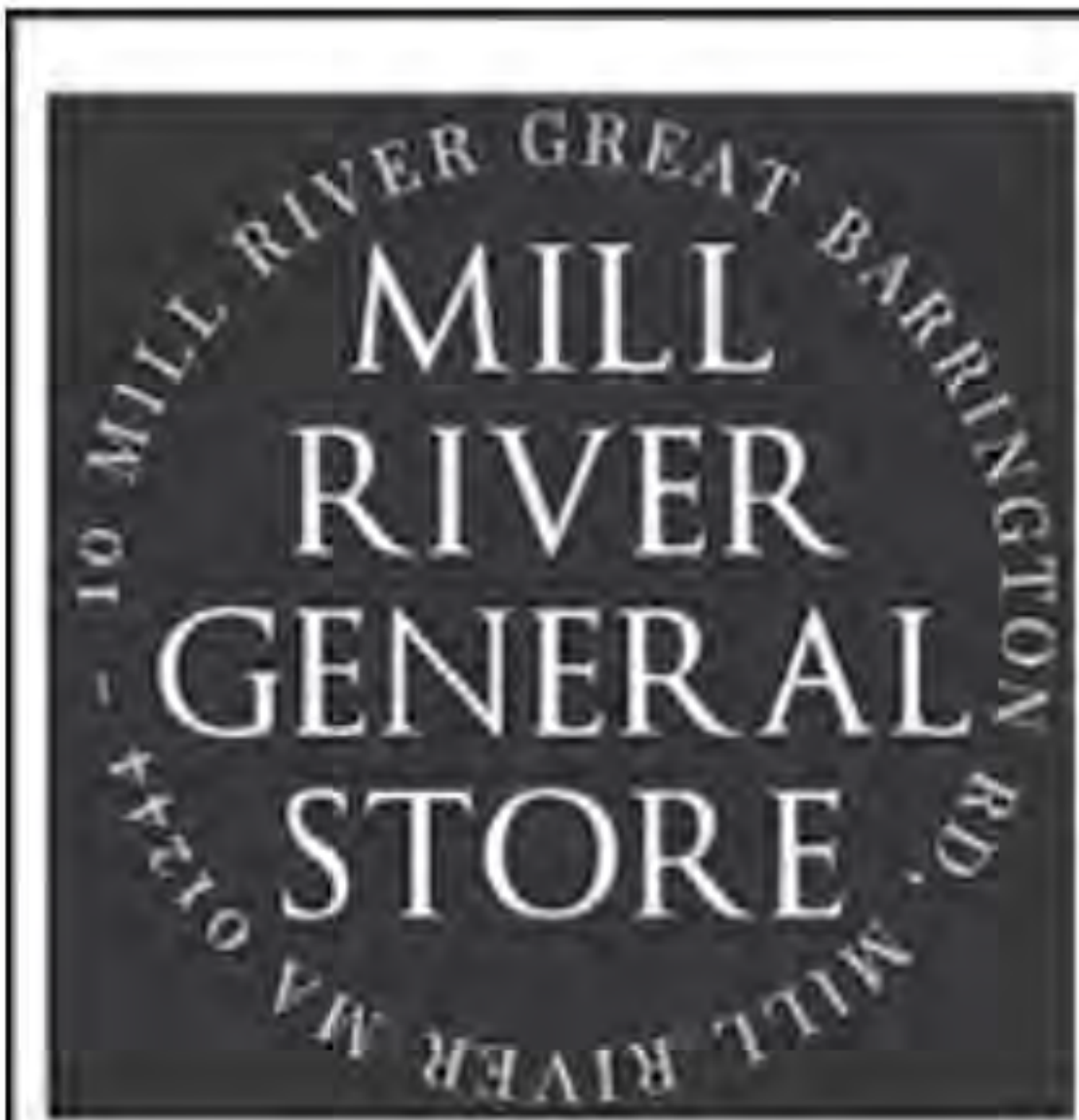
Chairman Long, saying that it was difficult to evaluate the budget request without a comparison to FY22 salaries and expenses, asked for a report showing both current and requested future expenses. “I do realize that there is a lot changing in policing,” said Chief Frank, in agreeing to provide a more detailed budget, “and I appreciate your considering our new demands.”

March 14: The 6:00 p.m. Zoom meeting opened with the question of whether to continue as a member of the Southern Berkshire Regional Public Health Collaborative, a health delivery organization started a year ago to replace the service previously provided by the Visiting Nurse Association. The Collaborative is a multi-town organization serving, in addition to New Marlborough, the needs of Alford, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Mount Washington, Monterey, Otis, Sheffield, and Stockbridge. New Marlborough's Board of Health, saying it has had a good working relationship with the Collaborative this year, has endorsed remaining a member. Richard Long, however, noted that the documentation provided to the Board lacked an exhibit containing key details, and the Board voted to postpone a decision on continuing with the Collaborative to a future meeting.

Next, the Board agreed to adopt an appeal to the state, written by Sheffield Board of Selectmen Chair Rene Wood, for increased school funding. As Chairman Long pointed out, a change in the state's funding formula resulted in inadequate financial support. A letter echoing the one from Sheffield will be sent out over the signatures of New Marlborough's three selectmen.

The Board approved a request from the New

Taking into account the swift rise of inflation, Mr. Carson said he was tempted to recommend a COLA adjustment of 5 percent.



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Marlborough Farmer's Market for permission to use the Village Green Sundays, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., starting May 15 and concluding October 9. Next, the selectmen straightened out a glitch in the stipend they had voted themselves at a previous meeting. They reiterated that their request was for \$3,000 per selectman, not \$2,970, which would have resulted from maintaining the current stipend.

Town Administrator Mari Enoch, noting that spring historically is the time of year in which fuel prices are lowest, urged the Board to consider soon locking in Town fuel contracts. Selectman Carson suggested that the calculation of fuel needs take into account the fuel pump, recently installed at Town Hall, which could reduce consumption by 20 percent or more. Finally, the Board approved Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring's request for a ten-day vacation — and not a moment too soon. Mr. Loring had a reservation for a flight scheduled to depart the following day.

March 17: A joint meeting with the Capital Planning and Finance Committees — creating a crowded Zoom screen of sixteen members — got under way with the appointment of Sheila Baird as temporary chair of Capital Planning Committee. Ms. Baird displayed two tables: The first summarized the Town's capital purchases and the Committee's recommendations as to how they should be financed. For example, purchase of eight pieces of Highway Department equipment would be paid for out of Free Cash /Stabilization or with ten-year loans. Road repair and upgrades, at a cost of \$830,000 a year, would be paid through fifteen-year loans of \$500,000 a year, plus an annual disbursement of \$330,000 from state Chapter 90 funds. A \$2 million renovation of Town Hall would be financed by a thirty-year bond.

The other document spelled out the effect of additions and withdrawals from Free Cash and Stabilization over the next five fiscal years. According to the report, the

Town will enter FY23 (which begins July 1) with a Free Cash/Stabilization balance of \$1.6 million. At the end of the following five years, with annual additions of \$100,000 and withdrawals of amounts ranging from \$601,000 to \$100,000, the balance in FY27 would be \$614,000.

Finance Committee Chairman Steve Klein emphasized the need to calculate how debt service on the borrowings specified by Capital Planning would impact the annual budgets three to five years out. Capital Planning then concluded its business by approving the minutes from its March 10 meeting.

As the session shifted gears to become a joint Board of Selectmen-Finance Committee meeting, Mr. Klein, citing a prior commitment, appointed Finance Committee member Robert Miller as vice chairman to carry on in his absence.

In a brief review of the FY23 budget, Town Administrator Mari Enoch said she did not anticipate a need for an override. The end of the state subsidy of the Town's broadband and an addition of \$32,000 in COLA payments to employees will be offset, said Ms. Enoch, by a reduction in the Town's payment to the Southern Berkshire Regional School District budget of \$77,000. **In a discussion of future school budget costs, Barbara Marchione of the Finance Committee raised the specter of consolidation with Berkshire Hill School District and the looming possible need for a new high school. Its potential cost of \$70 to \$100 million "terrifies me," said Ms. Marchione.**

Redirecting the focus to expenses within the jurisdiction of the town, Chairman Richard Long asked Chief Graham Frank to review the scope of the Police Department's FY23 budget. In consultation with Finance Committee Chairman Klein, Chief Frank said he had reduced the hours of a second full-time officer from forty to thirty-two hours a week. This would not result in fewer hours of coverage, he said, but would relieve the


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“incredible challenge” of managing a cast of part-timers.

Discussion of the financing of body cameras, which Massachusetts law enforcement personnel are now required to wear, left unresolved the question of whether to rent or purchase. Additionally, Chief Frank argued for the installation of cameras in patrol cars, saying that they would usefully augment the information gathered by an officer during a stop.

Returning to officer salaries, Chief Frank argued that an increase to \$26.87 an hour was needed to gain parity with payment in nearby towns. His request was defended by two members of the Finance Committee. “Police officers are putting their lives on the line,” said Barbara Marchione. Added Doug Newman, “It’s all about retention, retention, retention.”

The selectmen and Finance Committee members thanked Chief Frank for his detailed presentation, then called on Solid Waste Coordinator Freddy Friedman to present the FY23 Transfer Station budget needs. The FY23 spreadsheet showing costs of \$103,000, plus salaries of \$32,000, does not include apparently inevitable fuel surcharges, said Mr. Friedman. One hauler of containers has already requested a \$3,000 surcharge to cover higher fuels price this year.

In a brief review of the FY23 budget, Town Administrator Mari Enoch said she did not anticipate a need for an override.

The discussion segued into how to pay for Transfer Station operations. Currently, stickers, at \$180 per household, pay a bit less than half of the operating cost. Selectman White pointed out that shifting the entire burden to the Town budget, as is done in other Berkshire County towns, would have to be approved at a town meeting. On the other hand, raising sticker prices too precipitously could result, said Mark Carson, in residents simply throwing their garbage onto the side of the road. There was general agreement that annual sticker price increases were preferable to larger periodic hikes.

Mari Enoch informed the Board that while it had budgeted for right-of-way expenses in the repair of bridges on Canaan Southfield, Lumbert Cross, and Norfolk Roads, it had failed to do so for a fourth bridge repair on Keyes Hill Road. The selectmen remedied this by approving a further transfer into the right-of-way account of \$2,200. Finally, the Board and the Committee considered a Highway Department request for \$40,880 to balance its FY22 fuel budget (8,000 gallons at \$5.11 per gallon of diesel). They agreed instead to fortify the Highway budget by \$25,000 and then keep an eye on actual fuel consumption over the next three months. □

Joe Poindexter

VIEW FROM THE BOARD

Our upcoming Annual Town Meeting in early May will be particularly significant this year, as voters will be making decisions on materially increased budget items for regular operating costs and long-term capital requirements. Further, voters will decide to approve or reject a proposed new Town-wide ordinance and a new bylaw. It is important that residents take time to understand these items and their potential impact.

Last month we talked about certain new needs creating budgetary challenges for the next fiscal year. But these items are only part of the budget challenge. Regular, ongoing budget lines are facing significant cost increases this year over which the Town has no real control. Included are items such as pension contributions, medical and other benefit costs, and property and liability insurance. Damage from last summer’s intense rainstorms forced emergency spending that may have to be covered in our new budget. Repayment of debt for the Town’s contribution to the new, high-speed internet network begins this fiscal year.

Long-term capital expenditures are needed for roadway infrastructure, including paving, drainage and culvert work. Other Town facilities require lesser expenditures for things such as accessibility improvements. A major

decision must be made on whether to invest millions in the existing Town Hall or seek a lower-cost alternative. Funding capital expenditures will need to come from existing stabilization funds, free cash, and new debt. Fortunately, our Town has relatively low debt levels at present.

While careful budgeting allowed the Town to reduce the tax rate over the past three years, with so many new needs, voters must decide how to pay for these needs; for example, voting to exempt new debt from Proposition 2½ or seeking to cover debt costs within the constraints of the regular budget, which could require an override vote on Proposition 2½ limits.

Separately, the Historical Commission is proposing a new Town ordinance that would delay demolition permit requests for structures in town considered of historic or heritage cultural value. Additionally, the Planning Board is proposing a Dark Sky bylaw with certain restrictions on nighttime lighting and the types of night lighting fixtures that may be installed.

Please take the time now to understand all these issues. □

Board of Selectmen Chairman Richard Long

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

All Commission members – John Schreiber, Freddy Friedman, Nanci Worthington, and Doug Hyde – were present to address the month's busy agenda on February 17.

The Commission started by re-opening the hearing for a Request For Determination (RDA) from David Madow of 558 Hartsville New Marlborough Road. Mr. Madow reviewed the scope of the project involving improvements to his existing driveway. He explained that he resolved to move the route of the driveway away from the wetlands and that, prior to the start of work, a silt fence and wattles would be installed to protect the wetland area. The Commission agreed that no further permitting was necessary and approved the RDA with a negative determination.

Next, Elizabeth Goodman and her consultant, Scott MacKenzie, addressed the Commission regarding the continued hearing for the RDA involving work to move the existing driveway at 902 Clayton Mill River Road to a new location which will allow access to a new parcel subdivided out of Ms. Goodman's existing larger parcel. After a recent site visit, the Commission confirmed that the work proposed was greater than 200 feet from the wetland and would not alter or impact any regulated area. The permit was given a negative determination.

Jackson Alberti of Foresight Land Services then addressed the Commission for the continued hearing for his client, Margaret Koerner, regarding the access driveway and the covered bridge at 2118 Canaan Southfield Road. Mr. Alberti reviewed the report from the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP), explaining how concerns and compliance to the conditions outlined by NHESP would be addressed. The Commission approved the permit, adding the NHESP report as an addendum to the permit and with the condition that the Commission maintains the right to inspect the project and its development.

Because the file number had not been processed from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the Notice of Intent (NOI) submitted by Chris Tryon of Berkshire Geo-Technologies for his client Jack Tolin of 114 Downs Road, the Commission continued the hearing until next month's meeting.

Next, Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering explained the work proposed for her client, Marc Gourevitch of 98 Lumbert Cross Road. At issue is an eroding riverbank proximal to a residence where there is danger of trees falling on the house. Ms. Boomsma described that several trees would be removed and roughly 120 feet of bank would be stabilized, in addition to the creation of a jetty designed to deflect the flow of the Umpachene River away from the bank. Tom Ingersoll of Ingersoll Land Care explained how the work would be accomplished using a crane and mitigation plantings in a 1:1 replacement ratio within twenty-five feet of the river. The Commission was satisfied with the project details that address maintaining the cold water habitat of the river and to minimizing disturbance to the site. The NOI was approved. Ms. Boomsma also noted that, in addition, three trees on the bank opposite the area described need to be removed because they are endangering the house as well. The Commission explained that the owner of that property would need to obtain a permit for that work.

The Commission then interrupted the agenda to include CarrieAnne Petrik, regional coordinator for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program. Petrik explained that a Request For Proposals to the program opens mid-March and that New Marlborough is eligible for funding.

Finally, Will Hosier, property manager for Margaret Koerner of 2118 Canaan Southfield Road, submitted a complaint against work at the adjacent property owned by Grass Market LLC. Mr. Hosier explained that a berm had been constructed at the edge of a gravel pit and some distance from the Umpachene River across the road. Mr. Hosier noted that he discussed his concern with the DEP. Mr. Hosier proposed that the berm be removed. It was noted that the berm would possibly impede floodwaters and that it was built in a 100-year flood plain. The Commission agreed to visit the site with his concern in mind and determine appropriate steps at next month's meeting.

Lastly, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved and the meeting was adjourned. □

Martha Bryan



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PLANNING BOARD

February 23: Chairman Mark Carson convened this regular meeting via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. with members Bob Hartt, Paul Marcel, and Jon James. The first order of business was the annual reorganization of the Board. Mr. Carson proposed that Bob Hartt become chairman, and this quickly became a motion from Paul Marcel, and was passed unanimously. Jon James was elected Vice Chairman. Mr. Carson then announced that he plans to leave the Planning Board in May, after Town elections. Mr. Marcel said that he was uncertain about his own role on the Board, since he is spending a good part of his time now in southern California. Bob Hartt then said, "It looks like we're going to need a couple of new members," but asked Mr. Marcel to stay on, at least until it looks like the vacancies can be filled.

With the public hearing for the Dark Sky bylaw coming up on March 10, the board members had a final strategy session. Mark Carson took the position that the Board should opt to place this bylaw in the Town's General Bylaw, rather than in the Protective Bylaws, since passage of a bylaw at a town meeting requires a two-thirds favorable vote for a Protective Bylaw, but only a simple majority for a General Bylaw. After some back and forth as to where the Dark Sky bylaw ought to reside, the members decided to go along with Mr. Carson's suggestion.

Mr. Carson said that the public meeting would actually cover three proposed additions to the Town's bylaws: 1) the Dark Sky bylaw; 2) a "light trespass" prohibition, to be added to the General Bylaw; and 3) an addition to the existing Solar Bylaw, which is part of the Protective Bylaws, to the effect that small-scale ground-mounted solar arrays within the village district would henceforth be subject to special permitting, and not be by right.

After a brief discussion on the Demolition Pause bylaw – to clarify that the Historical Committee that would convene on matters relating to demolition of historical structures would be composed of two members of the Historical Commission, two members of the Planning

Board, and one community member, to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen – the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

March 10: With all members on board, minus Tom Sebestyen, the regular bi-monthly meeting got underway via Zoom at 5:32 p.m. Mark Carson proposed that the Board agree on the same budget as FY22 for the coming fiscal year, \$2,400, and apologized for bringing this to the Board's attention at this late date. Chairman Bob Hartt said he was aiming to have the Planning Board files digitized and expected that to be costly, and therefore a higher budget request might be in order. Mr. Carson suggested that the digitizing could be done by senior citizens who perform jobs in Town Hall in return for a reduction in their property taxes. Mr. Hartt thought that the matter should be revisited later in the meeting.

Next on the agenda was a situation that had come up regarding some new construction at 234 New Marlborough South Sandisfield Road, the property of Don Torrico. Two buildings had recently been erected there, and the Board of Selectmen was weighing whether or not to issue a special permit for one of the structures, which the owner intends to use primarily as a shop, but would like the second floor to be an accessory apartment. Mr. Carson said he thought Mr. Torrico was in compliance with the accessory apartment bylaw. Chairman Hartt was unfamiliar with the property, as were the other members, and felt that a site visit might be in order. It was agreed that a date for that visit would be scheduled as soon as possible.

Bob Hartt then let the Board know that he had checked town counsel to make sure that the Dark Sky measure could be considered a General, rather than Protective, Bylaw. He was told that it could, indeed be classified as such and therefore require a simple majority, rather than a two-thirds vote, at Annual Town Meeting. Ditto the light trespass bylaw/ordinance.

Mr. Hartt then went on to say that John Schreiber,



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chairman of the Historical Commission, had inquired as to whether the Planning Board would care to co-sponsor the Demolition Pause bylaw. Discussion ensued, with all of the members in agreement that the Historical Commission should go it alone. Mr. Hartt suggested that, while the Planning Board would not be jointly presenting the bylaw with the Historical Commission, individual members were free to state their support for it.

Looking ahead, Mr. Hartt said he hoped progress could be made on digitizing Planning Board records, and also hoped that the issue of population density around the Lake Buel shoreline might be revisited by the Board in the coming months. He then adjourned the meeting in order to begin the public hearing on the Dark Sky bylaw.

The public hearing for the Dark Sky bylaw opened at 6:30 p.m. The members of the Planning Board were joined by New Marlborough residents Susan Engel, Wendy Miller, and Ruben Kier, as well as Bill Taylor of Sandisfield's Planning Board, who had been participating

in previous meetings' discussions on Dark Sky. The three New Marlborough citizens were enthusiastic about the Planning Board's proposed bylaw. Susan Engel said she was, "desperate for this to be passed," and pointed out that the beneficiaries of the bylaw would be our wildlife, and not just humans. Ruben Kier said that the bylaw was essential, particularly in light of the considerable new construction (and consequent added light pollution) that was occurring in town. The one down note came from Mr. Taylor, who reported that the Sandisfield Planning Board's effort to pass a Dark Sky bylaw had, for the time being at least, been thwarted by a number of citizens who felt it was an infringement on their freedoms.

Having fielded the participants' views on the bylaw, Mr. Hartt adjourned the public hearing at 7:00 p.m. Next stop, the Annual Town Meeting on May 2. (The Dark Sky bylaw, as it will be presented, appears on the following pages.)

Larry Burke



CALL FOR ARTISTS!

The New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery would like to invite you to apply for our juried show **AS THE CROW FLIES**. This show seeks visual artists of any medium living within thirty miles of New Marlborough, Massachusetts. Up to five works created within the past three years and that bear witness to the artist's practice should be submitted by May 20. This year's jurors are Em Rooney and Chris Domenick: artists, residents of the Berkshires and Professors of Photography and Sculpture at Bard College at Simon's Rock. Submission guidelines and instructions can be found on the New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery website.

For further details, visit
nmmeetinghouse.org/crow-flies-show

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HISTORIC STRUCTURE DEMOLITION PAUSE BYLAW

By Barry R. Shapiro

The Historic Structure Demolition Pause Bylaw, proposed months ago by the Historical Commission, has now reached its final form and is expected to appear on the Town Warrant at the Annual Meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, May 2.

“We received some very constructive suggestions for changes from the public, the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board,” said Commission Chair, Dr. John Schreiber, “and this revision reflects these changes.”

Here’s how the proposed bylaw works:

The bylaw seeks to encourage owners to “...preserve, rehabilitate, reuse and/or restore,” significant structures rather than demolish them.

Demolition means “destroying, pulling down, removing or razing more than 40 percent of a significant structure.” The prior draft did not contain any percentage figure.

A “significant structure” is one that was built prior to 1901 and is either (i) on the National Register of Historic Places, or (ii) has historical, architectural, or geographic significance, all as defined in the bylaw.

A Historic committee, composed of two members of the Planning Board, two members of the Historical Commission, and one member appointed by the Board of Selectmen, determines if the structure is “significant” and therefore subject to the proposed bylaw.

Anyone wishing to demolish a building needs to apply for a permit. This is not a new requirement. However, under the proposed bylaw, no permit can be issued until the Committee determines if the building is “significant.” The committee has thirty days from receipt of the permit application to make this determination.

If the Committee determines that the building is not significant, the demolition permit may be issued in the ordinary course.

If it determines that the building is significant, a public hearing will be held within 30 days of such determination.

If, following the hearing, the Committee determines

that the building is not significant, the demolition permit may be issued in the ordinary course.

If the Committee determines that the building is significant, then no permit for demolition, new construction, or alteration may be issued for nine months from the date the application for the demolition permit was originally filed, although the Committee may reduce the nine-month period under certain circumstances.


At the end of the nine-month period if no alternative to demolition has been agreed upon, a demolition permit may be issued.

Failure to abide by the terms of the bylaw may lead to financial and other penalties.

“I want to stress,” said Dr. Schreiber, “that the nine-month waiting period simply allows the Committee to work with the property owner to see if there are alternatives to demolition. If there is no acceptable alternative, then, at the end of the waiting period, or possibly sooner, the demolition permit can be issued by the building inspector. I think that this revised bylaw is a stronger proposed bylaw in terms of community orientation and balance, yet still fulfills the goal of creating a pause that can encourage reuse or repurpose of an historic structure instead of demolition. These demolition pause bylaws have been very effective in saving historic structures across Berkshire County and the commonwealth.”

A meeting of the Historical Commission will be held at 5:00 p.m., by Zoom on April 5 to discuss with the public the importance of the proposed bylaw and to answer questions. A link to the meeting will be posted on the Town website.

“I am grateful to my fellow members of the Historical Commission, Claudette Callahan, Fiona Kerr and Deanna Mummert, for all of their hard work,” said Dr. Schreiber, “and we all look forward to answering questions on April 5.” □



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The following is the Planning Board's proposed addition to the General Bylaws regarding Dark Sky protection:

§ 8.11 DARK SKY PROTECTION

8.11.1 PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Section 8.11 is to: (i) protect the rural character of the Town; (ii) protect the natural beauty of a dark sky, in which stars, planets and constellations can be viewed unimpeded from the encroachment of glare, excessive lighting, and light pollution (iii) promote the use of advanced lighting technology; and (iv) balance the needs of economic development, human and animal safety and the Town's natural character through the regulation of Outdoor Lighting in new construction and changes of use.

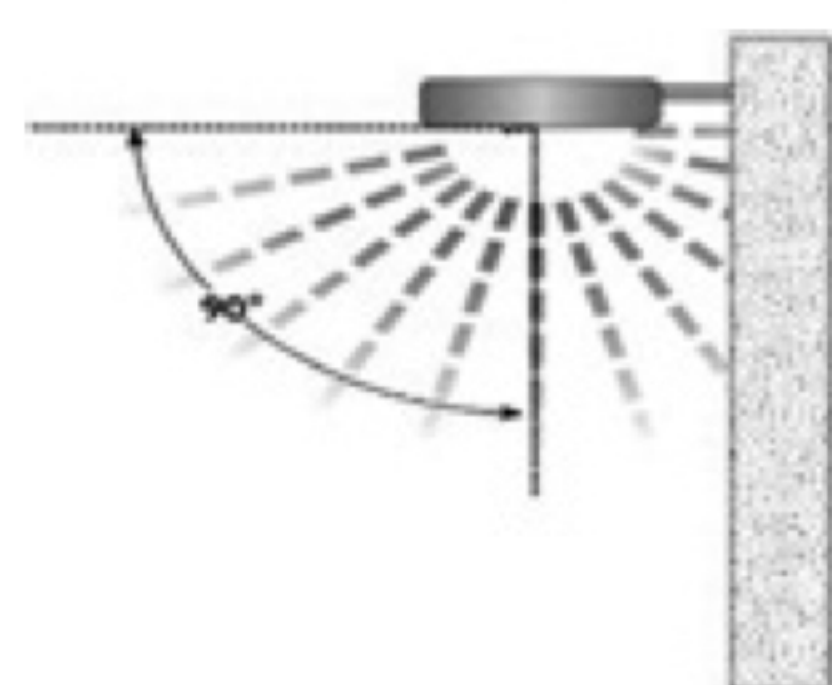
8.11.2 DEFINITIONS (for the purposes of this Section 13 only):

"Adaptive Controls" means mechanical or electronic devices, when used in the context of Outdoor Lighting systems, intended to actively regulate the switching, duration, and/or intensity of light emitted by such systems. Examples of adaptive controls include timers, dimmers, and motion-sensing switches.

"Applicant" means the person or entity that applies for the issuance of any permit.

"Application" means a written application for the issuance of any permit.

"Electronic display" means any illuminated sign of an informative or advertising nature, whether on or off-premises, and operable at night, whose content is made visible to the viewer by means of luminous elements under active electronic control and therefore subject to alteration in order to vary the content of the message. Electronic displays may be either static or dynamic in terms of light color and intensity.



"Fully Shielded" means an outdoor Luminaire constructed so that in its installed position all the light emitted by the Luminaire is projected below the horizontal plane passing through the lowest light-emitting part of the Luminaire. Figure 1 shows the correct configuration of a Fully Shielded Luminaire, indicating the ninety (90) degree angle between the horizontal plane passing through the lowest light emitting part of the Luminaire and the nadir, defined as the local vertical pointing toward the center of the earth.

Figure 1

"International Dark-Sky Association" means the non-profit organization headquartered at 3223 North First Avenue, Tucson, Arizona, whose mission is to reduce light pollution through the promotion of recognized best practices in Outdoor Lighting design, installation, and operation.

"Lamp" means the bulb or other light-emitting portion of a Luminaire, not inclusive of any reflective or refractive optics used to direct light.

"Light pollution" means any unintended, adverse and/or obtrusive effect of the use of outdoor light at night.

"Luminaire" means a complete lighting assembly, consisting of a Lamp, housing, optic(s), and other structural elements, but not including any mounting pole or surface.

"Outdoor Lighting" means temporary or permanent lighting that is installed, located, or used in such a manner as to cause light rays to shine outdoors.

"Outdoor Sports Lighting" means lighting equipment designed and installed specifically to illuminate outdoor fields used for the practice and play of any outdoor sport or similar recreation activity. This term refers only to lighting directed toward, and intended to facilitate, play or recreation on outdoor surfaces, or to illuminate spectator viewing stands, but not for illumination of any other part of a connected or adjacent property.

"Public Lighting" means Outdoor Lighting equipment owned, operated, and/or maintained or leased by the Town and that is situated either on Town-owned property or in a public right of way. This term is inclusive of street lighting when owned or leased by the Town.

"Searchlight" means any high-intensity light source whose emission pattern is confined to a narrow beam and whose intended purpose is to draw attention to the locations at which products or services are sold. Sometimes referred to as a "sky beam."

"Special Permit Granting Authority" means the Select Board of the Town.

"Town" means the town of New Marlborough, MA.

8.11.3 APPLICABILITY

8.11.3.1 General applicability. All Outdoor Lighting Luminaires installed after the effective date of this bylaw, in all zoning districts in the Town, shall be in conformance with the requirements established by this bylaw and any other applicable bylaws, codes or regulations of the Town.

8.11.3.2 New Construction. The provisions of this bylaw shall apply to all new construction of real property for which a building permit is required.

8.11.3.3 Renovation. The provisions of this bylaw shall apply to the renovation of an existing building or structure for which a building permit is required; provided however, that compliance with this bylaw is required only with respect to the renovated portion of the existing building or structure. To the extent, however, that the renovation of an existing building or structure equals or exceeds twenty-five (25) percent of the property's assessed value, then all the Outside Lighting Luminaires on the property must be brought into conformance with this bylaw.

8.11.3.4 Legal non-conforming Luminaires. All commercial and residential Outdoor Lighting Luminaires that were lawfully installed prior to the effective date of this bylaw, but that do not comply with the requirements of this bylaw are declared to be legal non-conforming

Luminaires. All legal non-conforming Luminaires may continue to be used and maintained after the adoption of this bylaw and any related codes or regulations, but shall be brought into compliance with its requirements upon the first to occur of any of the following:

- 8.11.3.4.1 A change of use of a property, or any other modification requiring a special permit.
- 8.11.3.4.2 A determination by the Select Board that the legal non-conforming Luminaire constitutes a public hazard or a nuisance.
- 8.11.3.4.3 The replacement of any legal non-conforming Luminaire with new lighting equipment, not inclusive of Lamps or similar consumable parts; or
- 8.11.3.4.4 Conformity shall occur prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy, final inspection, or final plat recordation, when applicable. For other permits, the applicant shall have a maximum of sixty (60) days from the date of permit issuance to bring the lighting into conformance.

8.11.3.5 Intention. The intention of this bylaw is to encourage, but not require, that legal non-conforming Luminaires not otherwise affected by this bylaw be made compliant with this bylaw within five (5) years after the effective date of this bylaw.

8.11.4 MAIN PROVISIONS

8.11.4.1 Shielding. All Outdoor Lighting Luminaires installed after the effective date of this bylaw shall be Fully Shielded:

See Figure 2 for examples of shielded and unshielded Luminaires.

8.11.4.2 Spectrum management. The color temperature of Lamps in all Outdoor Lighting Luminaires shall not exceed 2,700 Kelvins.

8.11.4.3 Top-down lighting. Externally illuminated signs shall be lit only from the top of the sign with Fully Shielded Luminaires designed and installed to prevent light from spilling beyond the physical edges of the sign.

8.11.4.4 General curfew for commercial uses. All Outdoor Lighting shall be extinguished by 11:00 pm or within one (1) hour of the close of normal business hours, or at the conclusion of usual operations, whichever occurs later.

8.11.4.5 Outdoor Sports Lighting. Outdoor Sports Lighting shall be permitted and exempted from this bylaw and related codes and regulations if its design and installation adheres to the version of the International Dark-Sky Association's Criteria for Community Friendly Outdoor Sports Lighting operative at the time when the construction permit is submitted to the Town for review.

8.11.4.6 Displays of the United States flag. Flagpoles displaying the United States flag are exempt from this bylaw, provided that the sole objective of the illumination is the United States flag. Wherever possible, illumination shall be from above the flag pointing downward.

8.11.4.7 Other restrictions. The use of the following types of Outdoor Lighting are prohibited unless specifically approved by special permit by the Special Permit Granting Authority:

- 8.11.4.7.1 Searchlights, sky beams, and similar lighting, except as required by response personnel during emergency conditions.
- 8.11.4.7.2 Lasers.
- 8.11.4.7.3 Electronic displays.
- 8.11.4.7.4 Any light that dynamically varies its output by intermittently fading, flashing, blinking, or rotating. This type of lighting includes strobe lighting.
- 8.11.4.7.5 Any Luminaire that uses mercury vapor Lamps. Further, any Luminaire that uses mercury vapor Lamps is not grandfathered by this bylaw and must be Fully Shielded within five (5) years of the effective date of this bylaw.



Figure 2

8.11.5 PUBLIC LIGHTING

8.11.5.1 New installations. New installations of Outdoor Lighting on public properties and rights of way may be installed only upon determination by the Select Board that a public safety hazard exists in the area to be lit, and that the hazard can only be effectively mitigated through the use of Outdoor Lighting and not through some other passive means, such as reflectorized roadway paint or markers.

8.11.5.2 Adaptive Controls. All new installations of Outdoor Lighting on public properties and rights of way must be regulated with Adaptive Controls such that the lighting of areas is restricted to times, places and amounts required for safe occupancy.

8.11.5.3 Curfew. All Outdoor Lighting on public properties and rights of way not adaptively controlled must be fully extinguished by 11:00 pm, or within one hour of the end of occupancy of the structure or area to be lit, whichever is later.

8.11.5.4 Compliance. All new installations of Outdoor Lighting on public properties and rights of way must comply with this bylaw.

8.11.5.5 Adoption. Existing Outdoor Lighting on public properties and rights of way must be modified to comply with this bylaw within one (1) year of the effective date of this bylaw.

8.11.6 ENFORCEMENT

8.11.6.1 Administrative guidance. The Select Board is authorized to promulgate one or more interpretive documents to aid in the administration of, and compliance with, this bylaw.


8.11.6.2 VIOLATIONS. It shall be unlawful to install or operate any Outdoor Lighting Luminaire in violation of any provision of this bylaw. Any person violating any provision of this bylaw shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Each day during which the illegal erection, maintenance and use of such non-conforming Outdoor Lighting continues shall constitute a separate offense.

8.11.6.3 PRIMARY RELIEF. The Town shall also have the right to bring a civil action to enforce the provisions of this bylaw and to seek remedies as allowed by law, including, but not limited to injunctive relief, monetary damages; or other relief as directed by a court with jurisdiction over the matter.

8.11.6.4 ALTERNATIVE RELIEF.

8.11.6.4.1 Civil penalties. In lieu of criminal prosecution, a civil penalty up to \$100 per day may be assessed by the Town when it is demonstrated that a property owner was actually notified of the provisions of this bylaw and committed acts in violation of this bylaw or failed to take action necessary for compliance with this bylaw; and other available relief.

8.11.6.4.2. Stop work orders. In the event work is not being performed in accordance with this bylaw, the Town may issue a stop work order and all work shall immediately cease on the entire project for which a permit is issued. No further work shall be undertaken on the project if a stop work order is in effect.



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The following is the Planning Board’s proposed addition to the General Bylaws regarding “Light Trespass:”

§ 8.12 PROTECTION AGAINST LIGHT TRESPASS

8.12.1 DEFINITIONS:

“**Lamp**” means the bulb or other light-emitting portion of a Luminaire, not inclusive of any reflective or refractive optics used to direct light.

“**Light Trespass**” means a condition in which artificial light emitted from a Luminaire on one property is directed in such a manner that the light source or glare is visible from any other property and constitutes public hazard or a nuisance.

“**Luminaire**” means a complete lighting assembly, consisting of a Lamp, housing, optic(s), and other structural elements, but not including any mounting pole or surface.

“**Person**” means an individual, a member of a limited liability company, a partnership, or a corporation.

“**Town**” means the town of New Marlborough, MA.

8.12.2 PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Section 8.12 is to protect a Person from the intentional and unintentional Light Trespass caused by another Person.

8.12.2 ENFORCEMENT:

The Select Board, in its sole discretion, shall determine if a Light Trespass constituting a public hazard or nuisance exists

8.12.3 VIOLATIONS:

A condition determined by the Select Board to constitute a public hazard or nuisance shall be in violation of this bylaw. Any Person violating any provision of this bylaw shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Each day during which the violation exists shall constitute a separate offense.

8.12.4 RELIEF:

The Town shall have the right to bring a civil action to enforce the provisions of this bylaw and to seek remedies as allowed by law, including, but not limited to injunctive relief, monetary damages; or other relief as directed by a court with jurisdiction over the matter.

8.12.5 CIVIL PENALTY:

A civil penalty up to \$100 per day may be assessed by the Town when it is determined a Person is in violation of this bylaw and has failed to take action necessary for compliance with this bylaw, after notice.

The following is the Planning Board’s proposed amendment to the existing Solar Panel Bylaw:

SOLAR PANEL PROTECTIVE BYLAW FOR RURAL AND RESIDENTIAL VILLAGE DISTRICTS

8.9.5.1 A small-scale, ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation is allowed by right only in rural residential district after issuance of a Building Permit by the Building Inspector.

8.9.5.2 Small ground-mounted solar photovoltaic solar panels in the Village Residential district require a Special Permit.



Solidarity: People approaching New Marlborough village on Route 57 have been greeted with the bracing sight of a large Ukrainian flag, hanging side by side with the stars and stripes, on John and Wendy Miller’s barn at their Broadmeade Farm. One of Wendy’s relatives was an immigrant from Ukraine to western Canada. The flag is in honor of him, says Wendy, and of the people of Ukraine who are enduring the Russian assault upon them. □

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EARNING THEIR KEEP

Sure, Piglets Are Cute, but They're also Hard Workers

By Tom Brazie

When you think about a farm, what vision comes into your mind? A barn? A green, rolling pastoral landscape, maybe some fences? Trees? Is there a farmer in your vision? What kinds of animals do you see? Take a moment to focus on this vision to extract every detail you can from it. Is there a dragonfly buzzing around, possibly the gentle hum of a honey bee hard at work? Are there big white puffy clouds in a bright blue sky?

A bucolic scene indeed, but most living creatures are focused on food and survival. Dragonflies aren't just out on a leisurely flight around the barn; they are killing and eating other critters in flight, keeping insect populations in check. Bees don't fly around specifically to pollinate the plants; this is an additional service provided while gathering their own food. The trees, although quite glorious, are also thinking of their future by capturing the sun's energy and storing it in their roots as a food security measure. The oxygen they emit is to them a by-product, but to the animal world, of course, it is essential. All of these things are participating in nature and are "value-adding" to the bigger picture.

Appreciating the interdependency of the natural world will influence how we participate in the life of our food system, and in turn our ecosystem. When you think about harvesting the ingredients for your weekly meal plan, what does that landscape look like? Do you see a cow out in the field swishing her tail, or a package of ground beef at the supermarket? Does your mind wander to a large abundant vegetable garden, or a row of neatly organized coolers with fancy irrigation spritzers at the grocer? How did your food get to your table?

Two months ago, the title of my story was "Participating in the Life of a Plant." I would like to build on that this month by focusing on pigs. In January, two of our big beauty-queen sows farrowed, introducing seventeen very cute piglets into the great big world. I took a picture of them, at nine days old, refusing to stay in their nice warm accommodations. It was three degrees outside, and they thought nothing of it. They had things to sniff, frozen wood chips to play with, and a desire to run around chasing each other as you might expect from any youthful spirit. They are intoxicating to watch!

We have seven sows employed on the farm: Gemma, Pamela, Debbie, Oreo, Nancy, Sarah, and Maleficent.



Piglets get out for a breath of frigid air.

photo by Tom Brazie

Each of these pigs has a life of leisure. (I say this not knowing what it is like to birth twelve piglets at once, and then have to raise them. I have only two offspring, and I didn't birth either of them!) The sows eat and sleep and roam – with plenty of acreage to explore. While they are pregnant, they typically stick around the barn, concentrating on growing beautiful babies.

After farrowing, the moms tend to be more adventurous, taking the piglets out farther from the barn into the brush and woods to play. We ween our piglets at eight weeks, and by this time the moms no longer venture out with them,

acting very much like parents in August, anxious for school to start again. At this separation point, the moms head off to visit "Uncle Rusty," our incredibly handsome boar. The piglets, instead of heading off to school, get to work in our pasture program, either working the woods or renovating overgrown meadows.

This farm, not having had agricultural value added to it in nearly a century, has years and years of renovation work for pigs. We raise 150 to 200 pigs from farrow to finish each year, but even with this number, we are barely scratching the surface of the workload available to our pigs. Whether it is annihilation of an area full of invasive plants, or the gentle pruning and disturbance of the forest floor, or aerating the leaf litter providing more available nutrient uptake for the trees, our pigs work extremely hard.

Properly managed pigs can play a huge role in healing the land. When given the opportunity, pigs love hard work. I am particularly proud of these pigs' beneficial contribution to the historically normal bigger picture. For a contrast, ask your web browser to show you "pictures of modern pig farming." Then think back to your original vision of a farm. Which vision would you want hanging on your living room wall? Which one do you want in your neighborhood? And most importantly, which one do you want nourishing your family?

I am not advocating that you patronize my farm. I am imploring you to support any local farm. Your food choices directly affect your ecosystem...and mine and the pigs, too! □

Tom Brazie is owner of The Farm New Marlborough

SOME BAD ACTORS IN TOWN

As if there were not already enough bad news, New Marlborough was greeted in the new year by something of a crime wave. In early 2022, the town experienced two incidents of breaking and entering and two acts of vandalism.

In the early hours of January 4, Ormsbee Gas Company in Mill River was broken into, the office was ransacked, and company documents and a safe-keeping box were stolen. Sometime between closing on February 26 and opening the following morning, a Sunday, the Mill River General Store was victimized. The robber broke through the front door, took cigarettes, bottles of Bourbon, and some \$1,000 in cash.

On February 24, a police officer reported that rocks and signs had been vandalized with graffiti at Umpachene Falls Park. And on March 3, a hiker in Goodnow Preserve discovered graffiti on one of the granite walls of the partially preserved Lower Carroll Mill.

At this writing, the only crime with an apparent suspect is the break-in at Ormsbee's. Although the investigation at Ormsbee's did not produce any suspects, several other businesses in Lee & Lenox were also broken into in the next few days in a similar fashion. Then, nine days later, in the alleged perpetrator's crime spree – the Gateways Inn in Lenox was robbed and the suspects were recorded on their security cameras. Armed with the license plate number of a pick-up truck captured by a Gateways camera, police located the truck, searched it, and found some items belonging to Ormsbee Gas, as well as items from the other businesses that had been robbed.

The driver, who had borrowed the truck on the dates of the break-ins, was arrested and released on personal recognizance – despite an arrest record that stretched back years. So far, so good. But the suspect failed to show up in court March 14, the date of a pretrial status conference for the Gateway Inn charges, and is now off the radar.

The break-in at the Mill River General Store, says Police Chief Graham Frank, was unrelated. A state crime investigator discovered footprints in the snow but nothing else of use. Finding a suspect “doesn't look good,” says Chief Frank. Ditto for the perpetrator(s) of the graffiti at Umpachene Falls Park and the Lower Carroll Mill. Though the vandals may never be brought to justice, a bit of solvent and elbow grease should be sufficient to undo their crime. □

Joe Poindexter



photo by Joe Poindexter

A temporary repair to the Mill River General Store front door, damaged most likely with a crowbar during the break-in on February 26



photo by Graham Frank

The stonework of the Lower Carroll Mill, on the Konkapot River below Mill River, defaced with graffiti in late February

Parking signs and boulders at Umpachene Park were tagged in late February.

photo by Joe Poindexter

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LAND TRUST NEWS

It's finally happening after two years of being virtual: The roadside clean-up will be an in-person event on April 23. We are planning a day full of activities for all to enjoy while doing our part to help out the environment and celebrate Earth Day, 2022.

Roadside Cleanup, Saturday, April 23, 2022

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Roadside clean up (meet at the Town Hall)

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Hotdogs at Goodnow Preserve for roadside participants

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Activities at Goodnow Preserve

Native Pollinators Talk

Ephemeral Art Project

Tree Identification Talk

Walk and Talk with a Board Member

S'mores by the fire

We ask that you please email nmlandtrust@gmail.com if you are interested in helping with the clean-up and the events that follow so we can be prepared with enough materials and food.

An Upcoming Event:

Bird Watching with Chip Blake at Thousand Acre Swamp

Saturday, May 7 and Saturday, May 21 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Birds are delightful to look at in any season, but never more so than in mid-May, when many species from the subtropics are moving through the Berkshires, on their way to their breeding grounds farther north. Please join local birder Chip Blake for a two-hour bird walk through the Thousand Acre Swamp. Space is limited so please email nmlandtrust@gmail.com for a reservation.

THE NEW MARLBOROUGH LAND TRUST IS LOOKING FOR A TRAIL STEWARD

Duties include but not limited to:

- Periodically walking trails and identifying maintenance needs
- Clearing blown-down and broken trees/limbs
- Cutting back branches and vegetation that are encroaching into trails
- Coordinating efforts to put down wood chips and bogging along the trails and maintaining existing trails
- Maintaining signage to deter use of unofficial trails
- Report to the executive director

Requirements:

- Ability to work outdoors and in varying weather conditions
- Own and be able to operate a chainsaw and other equipment
- Ability to work independently with little supervision
- Experience with trail maintenance work.
- When working alone, willingness to inform another individual of your work schedule and to let that person know when you return home.

Time commitment:

- Work on trail maintenance for an average of 5 to 10 hours per month seasonally.
- If you are interested in this position please send or email a cover letter and resume to:

New Marlborough Land Trust
 P.O. Box 275
 Southfield, MA 01259
nmlandtrust@gmail.com
www.nmlandtrust.org

WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS



A mature emerald ash borer

Some of our wildlife neighbors fall into the category of less-than-desirable, or even downright awful. One such creature is the infamous **emerald ash borer**. **John Schreiber**, who lives adjacent to the Questing preserve gives us an update on the insect's progress:

"Many of the ash trees in Questing are dying, due to the emerald ash borer. The sawn log pictured here was a living tree last year, but then got infested and died. You can see the damage done under the bark by the larvae of the borer bore which tunnels under the bark, disrupting flow of nutrients to the tree and thus killing it.

"The emerald ash borer is native to northeast Asia and arrived here probably in wooden packing crates. It was first seen in Michigan in 2002, and has now spread all over the Midwest and eastern USA, devastating ash trees with a very high kill rate. Now that it's here in New Marlborough, most of our ash trees will be dying, unfortunately. To slow the ash borer's progress, even a little bit, it is critical that we not transport ash cordwood to where it might infect healthy trees."

There does not appear to be much that can be done to prevent the scourge of the emerald ash borer. It is said that treating the base of young ash trees with an insecticide may deter the insects, but the only thing to do with full-grown dying trees is to cut them down and harvest them for firewood. If there is a silver lining to this cloud, it is that ash is fun to split and makes great firewood for your own fireplaces or wood stoves. □

Compiled by Larry Burke. Send your sightings to him at larryjburke@gmail.com



Emerald ash borer larva at work



The end result of the ash borer's damage

photo by John Schreiber

Thank You to Our Contributors:

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Golub; Carlos Ball & Richard Storrow; Janet Brown; Pat Merrill Maloney; Anonymous

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THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- Feb. 1 8:37 p.m. A Mill River resident alerted the Department to a package of food he hadn't ordered that was left on his doorstep, then called back fifteen minutes later to report that the rightful owner had picked it up.
- Feb. 2 1:38 p.m. A driver reports a collision with a fence on South Sandisfield Road.
- Feb. 4 9:05 a.m. The Highway Department is notified of a downed tree blocking Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road.
- 3:56 p.m. National Grid is notified of a tree on wires on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- 4:53 p.m. Tree on wires on Norfolk Road, near the Connecticut border.
- Feb. 5 10:00 a.m. An internet utility truck that has skidded off Underwood Road calls for a tow.
- 11:28 a.m. A cemetery commission member reports that a headstone has been damaged by someone who has taken it upon himself to plow an entry road at Mill River Cemetery — Town cemeteries are closed in the winter.
- Feb. 7 12:50 p.m. Responding to a BOLO request from the Great Barrington Police Department, an officer apprehends a driver operating an unregistered, uninsured vehicle on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- 5:22 p.m. An officer reports icy conditions on Mill River Southfield Road.
- Feb. 8 9:18 a.m. A Highway Department truck rolls over after hitting an icy patch on Campbell Falls Road.
- Feb. 10 9:08 a.m. A reported trespasser at a Lake Buel area cottage turns out to be a renter who had erroneously arrived a day earlier than he was expected.
- Feb. 11 1:00 p.m. A Southfield resident reports past-midnight surveillance of his home by his former wife.
- 11:34 p.m. An officer restores the peace following a domestic disturbance at a residence in Mill River.
- Feb. 13 5:18 a.m. An officer assists in obtaining a tow for a vehicle that has rolled over on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- Feb. 14 8:41 p.m. An officer helps resolve a dispute between a Southfield resident and his guest.
- Feb. 15 9:15 a.m. An officer frees the vehicle of a mother with two small children stuck in a snowbank at York Lake.
- Feb. 17 1:47 p.m. Following the report of a vehicle stuck in the York Lake parking lot, an officer contacts officials at Beartown State Forest to erect "road-closed" signage there.
- 3:10 p.m. A Southfield resident alerts the Department to a fraudulent bank account opened in her name.
- 9:42 p.m. An officer assists in the rescue of an eighty-pound black Labrador retriever that had fallen into the partially iced-over Konkapot River in Hartsville.
- Feb. 18 7:50 a.m. The Department requests that the Highway Department put up "road-closed" signs at the head of County Road to alert drivers to a downed tree and wires blocking the road.
- 10:01 a.m. National Grid is notified of a tree on wires on Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road.
- 11:02 a.m. National Grid is alerted to a tree on wires near New Marlborough Central School.
- 11:34 a.m. National Grid is notified of a tree on wires on New Marlborough Hill Road.
- Feb. 19 12:58 a.m. A Southfield resident, reporting a knock on her door shortly before 1:00 a.m. and then seeing a person with a flashlight running toward the house and a car passing at high speed, asks that an officer check the area.
- 11:49 a.m. A passerby reports a minor two-car accident on South Sandisfield Road.
- Feb. 21 8:20 a.m. Following a call from a Hartsville resident to report suspicious animal and human tracks in the snow around his house, an officer determines that the tracks were made by a neighbor searching for his lost dog.
- Feb. 24 2:21 p.m. An officer reports spray painting of rocks, signs, an information board, and a grill at Umpachene Falls Park.
- Feb. 27 8:10 a.m. A manager of the Mill River General Store reports the theft of cigarettes, liquor, and cash during a break-in the previous night.
- Feb. 28 9:55 a.m. A Hartsville resident reports her concern about a neighbor after she spots the neighbor's dog, which, she says, is ordinarily never on his own, loose outside the neighbor's property.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

FIRE AND RESCUE

Feb. 1	3:11 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Tolland Medical Call	Feb. 17	4:48 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
Feb. 2	6:21 p.m.	Arroyo Way Fire Alarm	Feb. 17	9:46 p.m.	Hatchery Road Dog in Water
Feb. 6	8:04 a.m.	Woodleigh Avenue CO Alarm	Feb. 17	10:50 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Flooded Basement
Feb. 7	11:24 a.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm	Feb. 19	8:55 p.m.	East Hill Road Fire Alarm
Feb. 8	9:10 a.m.	Campbell Falls Road MVA	Feb. 20	10:02 p.m.	Woodleigh Avenue CO Alarm
Feb. 9	8:03 a.m.	Lumbert Cross Road Medical Call	Feb. 22	1:10 a.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
Feb. 11	12:37 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Fire Alarm	Feb. 24	4:31 p.m.	Adsit Crosby Road Car Fire
Feb. 11	5:17 p.m.	East Hill Road Fire Alarm	Feb. 26	1:03 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Monterey Medical Call
Feb. 12	6:56 p.m.	Norfolk Road Medical Call	Feb. 26	5:53 p.m.	East Hill Road Fire Alarm
Feb. 13	5:24 a.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road MVA	Feb. 28	8:54 a.m.	Foley Hill Road Medical Call

Fire Company President David Smith

HIGHWAY NEWS

The bridge on Canaan Southfield Road is currently under construction. Detour signs were placed with sign locations decided by a state traffic engineer. The project is scheduled for completion by June 1. Upon completion, construction will commence on the Lumbert Cross Road bridge, which is scheduled to be completed in September. Detour signs for this project will also be placed. Construction of the steel bridge on Norfolk Road is scheduled to start on March 15, 2023, with a completion date scheduled for July, 2023. The detour for this project will be over the two new bridges on Canaan Southfield Road and Lumbert Cross Road.

The Town of New Marlborough owns and maintains approximately eighty-nine miles of roads and bridges. I have wanted to give an update on state funding used to assist with upkeep, which we are lucky to get. I became the highway superintendent in 2013. Since that time, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has funded and completed three bridges in our town on Hadsell Street, Umpachene Falls Road and Campbell Falls Road. The three bridges now under reconstruction were put out to bid and are under contract. The bridge on Keyes Hill Road is scheduled to go out to bid in the spring of 2023. That's seven bridges in ten years, averaging around a million dollars each. These projects are funded through MassDOT and federal bridge programs administered by MassDOT. The town receives about \$330,000 annually from the Chapter 90 program to fund road projects throughout town. This amount has not increased in ten years. Although it sounds like a lot of money, it never goes very far.

Another funding source afforded to us is the MassWorks Grant Program. Currently the Town has applied for and has received funding for three projects: Clayton Mill River Road, upper Route 57 near the Sandisfield town line and the section of Route 57 from Route 183 to New Marlborough Hill Road, which will begin this summer. Each project has been awarded one million dollars. The Town was recently notified of a new MassDOT funding program for town-owned, state-numbered routes such as Routes 57 and 183. Through this program, MassDOT will mill and repave, along with other associated work, three miles of Route 57 from the Monterey line to New Marlborough Hill Road. At over \$1.5 million, Route 57 will be completely repaved by the summer of 2023.

Within the last eight years, the Town has received over ten million dollars in state funding for our roads and bridges. Managing these projects has been overwhelming. I would like to thank the various members of the Board of Selectmen throughout the years: Tara White, throughout the years: Michele McAuley, Nat Yohalem, Mark Carson, Richard Long, and Mark Carson. Many thanks to Town Administrator Mari Enoch, who spent a tremendous amount of time working on bridge right-of-way and easements concerns. Both Administrative Secretary Sharon Fleck, who applied for and administered the grants as well as Highway Office Manager Laura Worth have earned my gratitude. And none of this could have happened without our state and federal representatives along with the Baker-Polito administration. Thanks most of all to the residents of New Marlborough who have been, and continue to be, patient with the many road construction projects. □

Chuck Loring, New Marlborough Highway Superintendent

BRIDGEWORKS

Rebuilding Three Town Bridges

While they no longer power paper and grist mills, New Marlborough's three rivers — the Konkapot, the Umpachene, and the Whiting — make a unique contribution to the beauty of the town's landscape. Given their frequent twists and turns, however, they also present a challenge to road engineers. The answer, of course, is bridges: New Marlborough's eighty-nine miles of roadway has some twenty of them.

Like roads, bridges wear out. Taking advantage of funding from the federal government and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the Town is undertaking repair of three crossings of the serpentine Umpachene River — at a total price, based on a three-year old estimate, of \$4.9 million. The principal cost to the Town will be for the purchase of rights-of-ways to accommodate road widenings at either end of a bridge or new placement of utility poles. But there is one other cost: inconvenience. Unlike with roads, it is inefficient to keep bridges half open when they are being rebuilt. This means road closures and detours.

The three bridges, originally built in 1939 to replace those destroyed in the hurricane of 1938, will be rebuilt to present-day standards. Load-bearing capacities will be increased with steel girders supporting all three bridges. Guard rails, both approaching and on the bridges themselves, will be upgraded. The bridge on Lumbert Cross Road, now one-lane, will be widened to accommodate traffic in both directions. And with a paving of the Norfolk Road bridge, its neighbors will no longer be subjected to the rasp of tires on steel grating. Detour signage will help drivers navigate road closures.

To help anticipate road closings over the next sixteen months, herewith the projected schedules of bridge repairs.

- **Canaan Southfield Road Bridge**, just east of the intersection with River Road: Repair began March 1



Photos by Chuck Loring

A precast abutment, here being lowered into place in the reconstruction of the bridge on Canaan Southfield Road, was followed a few days later by the placement of a precast deck. The accelerated construction method cut demolition-to-deck time to less than three weeks — rather than the two months it would have taken had the deck been poured on site.

and is scheduled to be completed by May 28.

- **Lumbert Cross Road Bridge:** Repair begins May 31 (or as soon as the Canaan Southfield Road bridge repair is completed); road re-opens November 2.
- **Norfolk Road Bridge**, at the north-end intersection with Mill River Southfield and New Marlborough Southfield Roads: Repair scheduled to begin March 15, 2023, and be completed July 17, 2023. □

Joe Poindexter

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Unlike the kung pao chicken commonly found in Chinese restaurants, which typically doesn't have lots of vegetables, this dish is loaded with a delicious assortment of vegetables which allows you to cut back on the chicken or, in theory, to eliminate it. The list of ingredients may seem long but don't be put off. Once you're done with the chopping and preparation, the dish comes together quickly. Enjoy.

Marjorie Shapiro



Kung Pao Chicken with Vegetables

Serves 4 Time: preparation and cooking: 45 minutes

Ingredients

1.5 lb boneless chicken thighs cut into 1" pieces	½ lb shitake mushrooms, cleaned and cut into 1" pieces
½ tsp salt	1 cup peapods, cut into 1" pieces
1 tbsp cornstarch	1 red pepper, stemmed, seeded, and cut into 1" pieces
1 egg white	2 scallions, cut into ½" pieces
4 tbsp safflower or grapeseed oil	1 small can of water chestnuts, drained
¾ cup roasted peanuts or cashews	2 garlic cloves, minced
2 celery stalks, cut into 1" pieces	2" of ginger, minced or grated
2 medium carrots, cut into 1" pieces	Pinch of red pepper flakes
	1 cup of frozen baby corn

Sauce

½ to 1 tsp chile paste with garlic or sambal oelek (depending on your spice tolerance; both are available in local grocery stores)	2 tsp unseasoned rice wine vinegar
4 tbsp soy sauce	2 tsp sugar
1 tbsp hoisin sauce	½ cup chicken broth
2 tbsp Mirin or sherry cooking wine	1 tbsp cornstarch
	1 tsp sesame oil

Directions:

- Place the chicken, salt, egg white, and cornstarch in a medium bowl and mix together by hand so that the chicken pieces are coated.
- Mix all the sauce ingredients together in a separate bowl.
- Add the oil to a wok or saucier pot over medium-high heat and stir fry the chicken until golden brown all over. Add more oil or reduce heat as needed. It is natural that some of the cornstarch will stick to the bottom of the wok. Don't worry about this. Remove the chicken to a clean bowl.
- Add more oil if necessary, put the peanuts or cashews into the wok, add the red pepper flakes and stir until lightly brown, about one minute. Remove to the bowl with the chicken.
- Add more oil to the wok as needed.
- Stir fry the celery, carrots, and red pepper until just beginning to soften. Then clear a small opening in the middle of the vegetables and add the garlic and ginger. Stir to mix well into the vegetables and then add the mushrooms, peapods, water chestnuts, scallions, and corn, continuing to stir fry until all the vegetables have softened but are still a bit crispy.
- Return the chicken and nuts to the wok and stir fry to combine.
- Add the sauce and stir until heated through and the sauce has thickened slightly, about a minute.
- Serve over rice with additional nuts on top to taste.

SCHOOL NEWS

BACK TO A NEW NORMAL

The number of Covid cases within the Southern Berkshire Regional School District spiked with eighty-nine students and fifteen staff cases reported. In February, it was down to sixteen students and eight staff, and by mid-March only nine students and two staff tested positive. With these encouraging numbers, the School Committee had the enjoyable task of rolling back a number of restrictions that they instituted to protect the school community over the past two years. The process began at a well-publicized policy subcommittee meeting on February 28. During the public comment period, a dozen parents voiced their support for the lifting of the mask mandate, after which the policy subcommittee unanimously voted to recommend to the full Committee to lift the mandate. At the March 3 School Committee meeting, by unanimous vote, the mask mandate was suspended, starting on March 7. There was extended discussion about how to show support for those staff and students who choose to continue wearing masks. At the March 10 meeting, the Committee voted to lift the suspension on field trips and invited teachers to submit applications for approval, opening the door to consideration of the traditional senior field trip. Finally, the Committee approved the return of graduation to Tanglewood on June 4, pending contract negotiations. Certain measures are still in place to prevent the spread of the virus. Optional weekly pooled testing is continuing for those families who opted into that program. At last count there were fifty-two pools of ten students and staff whose Covid swabs are combined into one test batch. In the first two weeks in March, only one pool has shown a positive test. Participation in after-school programs will continue to require students to either be vaccinated or participate in the pooled testing. The state is providing testing free through April. For those interested, case counts are reported weekly on the SBRSD website. www.sbrsd.org/article/616022.

New School Committee Member Appointed

On January 18 Carrienne Petrik resigned from the School Committee as one of the two New Marlborough representatives. After a two-week posting to fill the empty slot, one applicant came forward. On March 8, the Board of Selectmen and remaining School Committee member Jane Burke voted to appoint Nanci Worthington of East Hill Road. At the interview, Ms. Worthington spoke of her years connected to the District while her two children attended New Marlborough Central and Mount Everett. She said she is retiring from fourteen years as Adjunct Professor at Post University in Waterbury, Connecticut, where she has worked in the Equine Program. She created the Equine Sports Massage concentration and a taught freshman seminar as well. In addition, she has a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Arts and Ecology, and is a member of the New England Chapter of the Guild of Natural Scientific Illustrators. She specializes in using art as a tool for citizen science and teaches workshops on exploring nature through creating journals. She serves on the New Marlborough Conservation Commission, and more recently joined the Community Advisory Board for the Community Development Building Grant that funds repairs to homes of lower income residents. Ms. Worthington's appointment is interim, and a permanent new member will be elected in November, 2022.

Budget Passed by School Committee

At the Public Hearing on the FY23 Budget, the superintendent, administrative team, and the finance subcommittee presented a budget which the School Committee enthusiastically approved on March 10 by unanimous vote. Superintendent Beth Regulbuto described this year's significant budgetary challenges in trying to keep assessments to the towns as low as possible. The District is facing steep inflation of costs in supplies, materials, and services. Of particular note are: transportation,

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where the bid is an increase of over 30 percent, while state transportation reimbursement is down 5.5 percent (a 42.75 percent increase in total transportation costs); a health insurance increase of 8 percent; and energy cost increases of 30 percent. Added to this are the increases being requested by the Southern Berkshire Regional Education Association (SBREA) during ongoing contract negotiations for teachers and staff.

FY23 Budget

Operating Expenditure Budget	\$15,713,650
Transportation Expenditure Budget	\$2,072,240
Capital Expenditure Budget	\$343,500
Capital Budget Bond Repayment	\$344,750
Total Expenditure Budget	\$18,474,140

This budget is a 3.82 percent increase over last year.

To reduce the tax burden, \$700,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund is being applied, so the increase in

total assessments is down to 3.7 percent. Each town's assessment is calculated by a complex formula and is partially based on the number of students enrolled from each town, as of October 1 of the current school year. New Marlborough was down twelve students compared to last year, which brought our percent share down by 1.27 percent and our assessment down by 1.21 percent. On the warrant at Annual Town Meeting on May 2 there will be a motion to raise and appropriate \$2,708,400 for Southern Berkshire Regional School District, which is a decrease of \$77,467 from last year. The District will be reviewing the second round of bids for transportation on March 21 and the final cost of the new contract with the SBREA is yet to be negotiated. This means that there is a potential that another number may be offered at the town meeting.

More information at www.sbrsd.org/browse/259064 □

Jane Burke

EAGLE FUND AND JANET'S FUND 2022 GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Eagle Fund, Southern Berkshire Regional School District's only dedicated educational enrichment fund, was created in 1998 to award grants to students, faculty, and community members for programs that take students beyond the standard course curriculum. Over the past twenty-four years, it has funded multiple programs related to the arts, technology, farming, conservation, empathy awareness, international travel, and more. The Review Committee met on Monday, March 21, to review thirteen grant applications. All grant proposals were funded either in part or full. The Eagle Fund awarded \$21,200, and Janet's Fund awarded \$15,750, for a total of \$36,950.

Grant recipients were: Berkshire Pulse, Flying Cloud Institute, Mass Audubon Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries, Greenagers, Christine Martin (Spanish teacher at Mt. Everett), Stephanie Graham (art teacher at Mt. Everett), Andrew Rappaport (middle school

teacher at Mt. Everett), Courtney English (music teacher at Mt. Everett), Travis McLoughlin (student at Mt. Everett), Justin Wald (student at Mt. Everett), and Chris Thompson (technology coordinator and robotics group leader at Mt. Everett). □

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THE NEW MARLBOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

New Aquisitions

Adult Fiction

The Match, by Harlan Coben
Give Unto Others, by Donna Leon
The Berlin Exchange, by Joseph Karon
The Coffin Trail, by Martin Edwards
The Precious Days: Essays, by Ann Patchett
Girl in Ice, by Erica Ferencik
Paradise, by Abdulrazak Gurnah
The Salt Path, by Raynor Winn

Adult Nonfiction

An Odyssey, a Father, a Son, and an Epic, by Daniel Mendelsohn
Vegan Asian: a Cookbook, by Jeeca Uy
Mooncakes and Milk Bread, by Kristina Cho
Dumplings All Day Wong, by Lee Anne Wong
The Lost: a Search for Six Million, by Daniel Mendelsohn
The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century, by Kirk Wallace Johnson
The Savory Baker: 150 Creative Recipes from Classic to Modern, by America's Test Kitchen

Children's Fiction

Sherlock Bones and the Sea-Creature Feature, by Renee Trembl
Slug in Love, by Rachel Bright
Eggs From Red Hen Farm: Farm to Table with Mazes and Maps, by Monica Wellington
Little Blue Truck, by Alice Schertle

LIBRARY HOURS

Mon. Wed. Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 Tues. / Fri.. 1:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
 Thurs. 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.
 229-6668

HAPPENINGS AT THE NEW MARLBOROUGH LIBRARY:



UKULELES HAVE ARRIVED!

Thanks to a grant from the New Marlborough Cultural Council, we were able to purchase three ukuleles from The Magic Fluke in Sheffield. We now own two fleas and a fluke!! Stop in and check one out.

BERKSHIRE CHILDRENS CHORUS



Due to the pandemic, the chorus decided to cancel their winter concert. Instead, they have made a short film of their musical retelling of children's author, Eileen Spinelli's book, *Three Pebbles and a Song*. To tie the film together with the book, they have partnered with libraries where families can borrow the book and read along with the film. Stop in at our library, or fill out their interest form and enter the raffle to receive a copy of the book.

COOKBOOK CLUB: April 20 at 6:00 p.m.

Do you love sharing conversation over a meal? Do you love trying new recipes and experimenting with new flavors? This book club is for you! Each month we will all cook from the same cookbook and bring our dishes to a potluck-style dinner at the library. It's a great way to enjoy the full range of a cookbook while only making one dish. For April we will be cooking all things dumplings!

The library will have dumpling cookbooks available to check out. Please bring your own dishes, silverware, cups, etc. (although we will have some on hand just in case).

Please RSVP to newmarlborough@gmail.com

AUTHOR'S VISIT

Please join us on **April 23 at 1:00 p.m.** to meet Pittsfield author, long-time *Berkshire Eagle* columnist and winner of the 2012 John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Award, Kevin O'Hara. Mr. O'Hara will talk about his book, *Last of the Donkey Pilgrims*. Come and listen to the adventures of him and his donkey, Missie Mickdermot, as they traveled around the coast of Ireland. Admission is free. For more information contact the library.

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 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. or by appointment.
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 — if and when it re-opens:
 Window hours: Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 Saturday 9:00 - 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 - 12:00 p.m.
Town Treasurer: Monday & Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Tax Collector: Monday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tues and Thurs 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Selectmen's Administrative Secretary: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Dog and Animal Control Officer: Cassie Keeley, (413) 429-7603
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 6

and can be purchased for \$180
 by mail or online at
www.newmarlborough.gov.

Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. No admittance without a permit after August 15

Emergency calls:

**Police, Fire, Medical
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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

NM5VN Editorial Team

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