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CHARLIE PARTON: A SAILOR'S REFLECTION

by Robbi Hartt

"I've just had the luckiest life!" Charlie Parton beams. He means this with all of his being. To ensure that family and friends can share and remember his "lucky" life stories, Charlie has written them down in a document titled "A sailor's reflections on his experiences before, during, and after WWII: 1936-1976". As he notes, it is not a story of battles and heroes but rather of the everyday experiences of a sailor, one involved not in direct combat (though on occasion direct results of fighting), but representing the "challenges, humor, excitement, adventure, learning lessons, and endless 'hurrying up and waiting' of 80-90 percent of the enlisted men and women of WWII."

This document was made possible by the chance discovery of a scrapbook containing all the letters he wrote home during his time in service and by a copy of his Naval Personnel Record. This is not Charlie's first attempt at writing a book, but it is likely his most important; its completion coincides with the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII. Although there are many recurring themes in his book, the overarching theme is of gratitude – for his good fortune in growing up in Bronxville; for the exposure, experiences, and insights he gained in the Navy during WWII; and for his lifelong love for learning and practicing medicine.

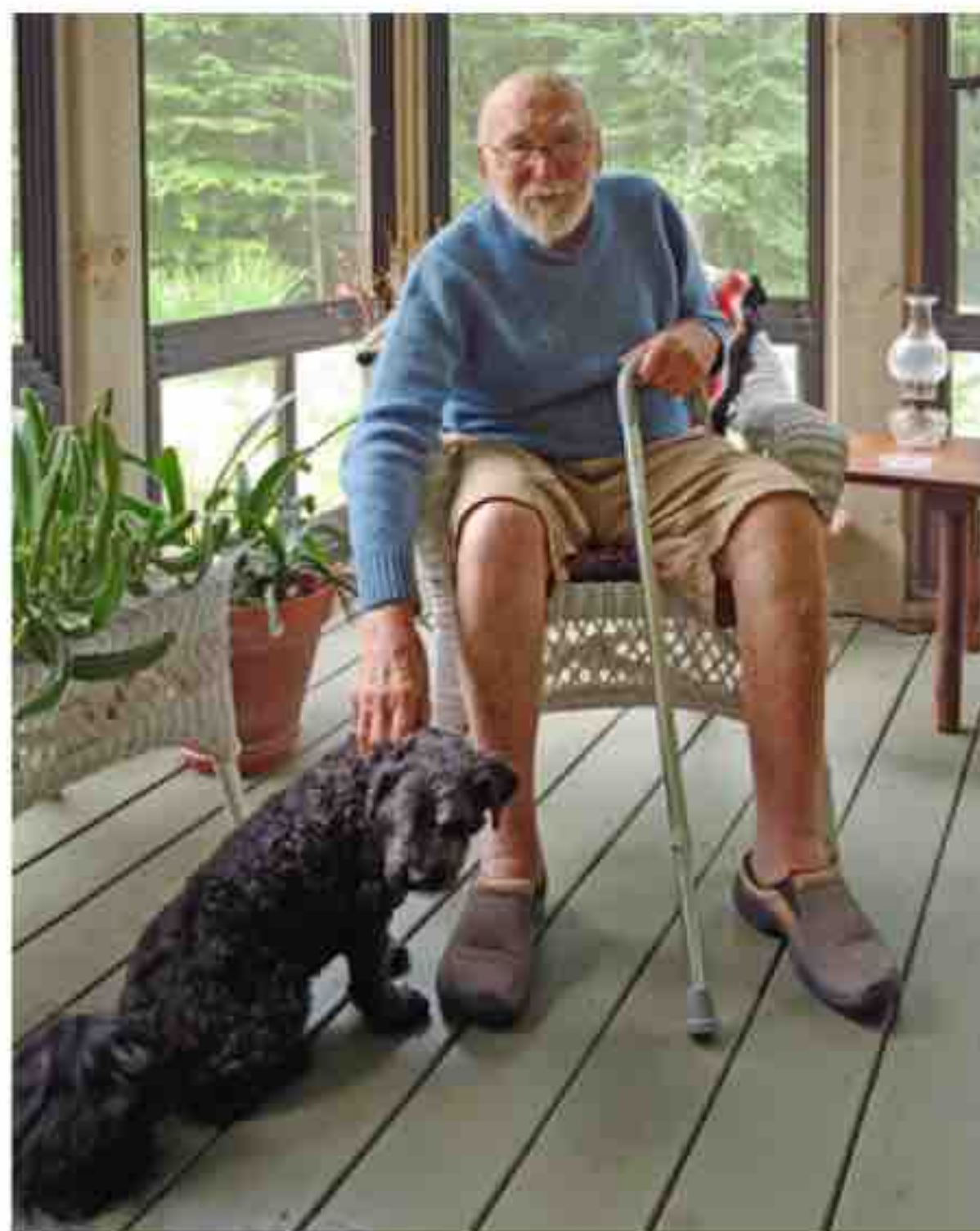


Photo by Robbi Hartt

Charlie at home with Guido, a black poodle mix

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Early Years in Bronxville

Although he focused on science and medicine during his military service and career, Charlie has a rich appreciation for history and philosophy that infuses his stories as well. This intrigue began when Charlie was a young boy, growing up in Bronxville, NY, and is a combination of his innate curiosity and his exposure to fascinating people. Charlie describes his hometown as a "very posh" town with many influential neighbors; he credits his teachers at the Bronxville High School he attended as being the leaders in education at the time.

Charlie remembers listening to lively family discussions late into the night during his teens; his uncles, in particular, were dead set against Franklin Roosevelt and the war. From these conversations he gained awareness of the impending global crisis. Uncle Milt, his godfather, warned, "You guys don't understand what's going on in Europe. There's going to be another war and you are going to be in it." Soon after, Charlie was walking along a reservoir off the Hutchinson River Parkway on a Sunday afternoon (December 7) when his Uncle Puck drove up to tell them the news. "All our lives changed in an instant," Charlie recalls.

continued

Charlie Parton, continued

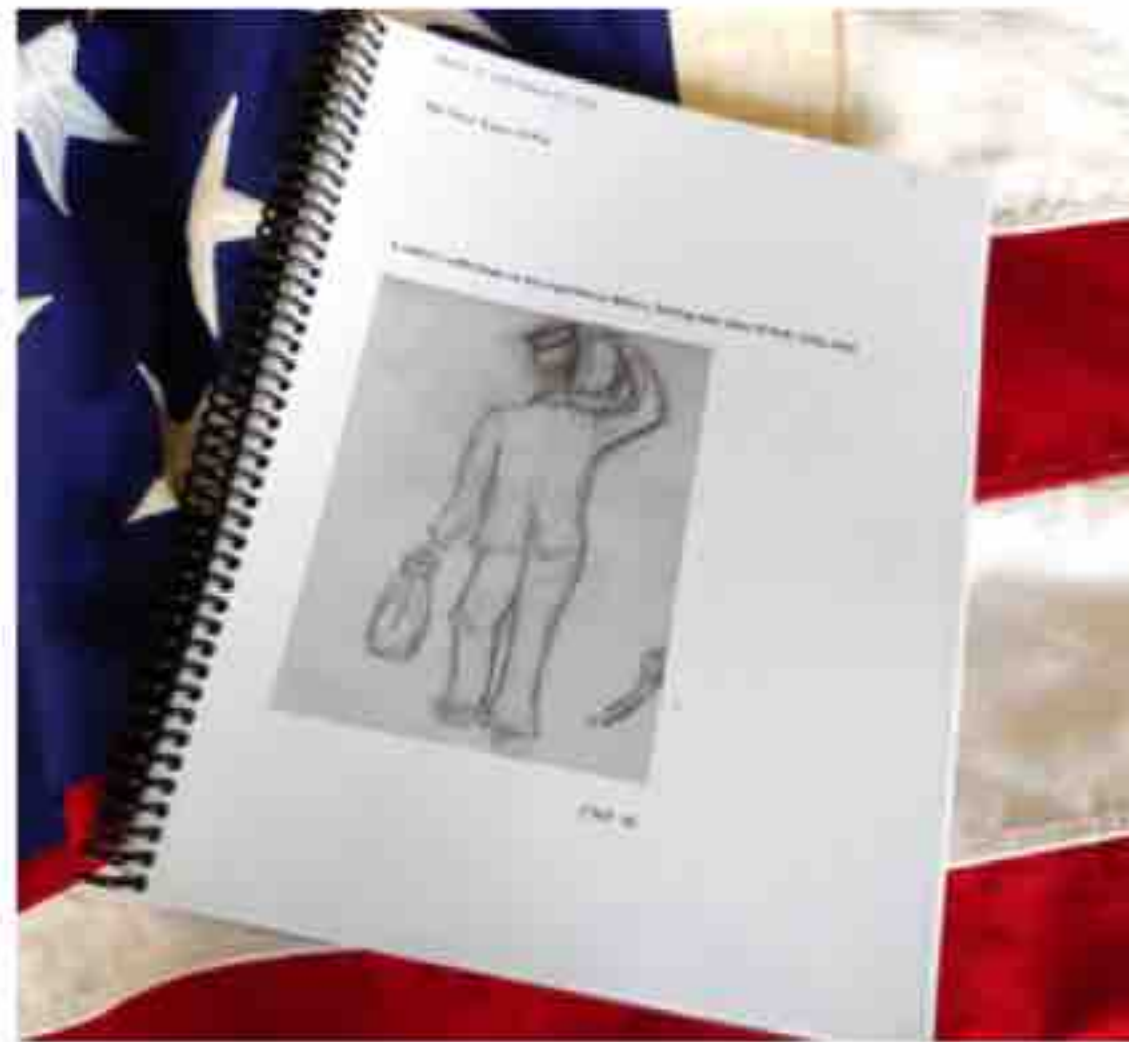
WWII Experiences and Insights

Charlie signed up for Civil Defense training as an air-raid warden in high school, but upon completion of the course, was disappointed to find that he was too young to be assigned. Enlisting in the Navy as an apprentice seaman at seventeen, Charlie was assigned an inactive student status on his eighteenth birthday. After graduating from high school, he began active duty in July 1943 in the V12 Navy Training Program at Williams College. Three years, three months, and five days later, he was discharged from the Navy. Looking back on that period, Charlie writes, "It was a wonderful, terrible experience and I learned things in those days I could never have learned in any other way."

Charlie's memoir includes letters home, poems he crafted for special occasions, and impressions of the people, events, and places he encountered during his years in the service. Many describe everyday routines of his medical military life: "We have operated twice on a rat since I last wrote... I am also making a microtome, which is an instrument to cut very fine slices of tissue to be studied under a microscope... (Letter dated 12/17/45). Others tell of harrowing challenges, including being assigned a



Charlie, 1946; Technician rated, Pharmacist Mate



The cover of Charlie's memoir, "A sailor's reflections..."

solo midnight shift in a military psychiatric ward with no training.

The "Dear Gang" letters that make up much of his memoir were a series of exchanges among his group of thirteen friends who were serving in the war at the same time. The letters all began "Dear Gang" and were sent to Adolph Syska (father of one of the friends), who made mimeographed copies and sent them out to the rest, wherever they were. The letters shared what they were learning and the experiences they were going through, with little hometown news updates from Syska inserted at the beginning and, "slipped in somewhere, advice or hope."

His last wartime duty assignment was to the Lion 9 Unit at the Naval Air Station on the Big Island (Hawaii), bound for the invasion of Japan. Just two weeks before he was scheduled to leave, the United States dropped the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, bringing the war to an end. That was not the end of Charlie's service, however. When a tsunami struck the island soon after, the commander of the base hospital called Charlie and instructed him to make and distribute 400 bottles of infant formula to the abandoned babies. He also told him to move the tuberculosis patients from



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a distant storm-struck hospital into an empty wing of the base hospital. "I set up a fully-equipped wing with help from our crew and filled it with 300 TB patients that afternoon," Charlie states.

When he returned home shortly after, there were no parades or banners. He got on the bus from the airport and recognized Bill, his school bus driver for years. Bill recognized him, too, stopping at the light and announcing to the rest of the passengers, "This kid just came back from war and we're gonna drive him home."

Lifelong Love of Learning

During his medical training, Charlie learned from the teachings and practices of many remarkable doctors and nurses, including Dr. Harvey Cushing at Harvard, whose seven-year training program provided the foundation for Charlie's education. Charlie remembers Cushing telling of receiving books and articles under his door when he studied under Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes. "That greatly influenced my reading and ethics," he notes. "I tried to always carry that kind of life forward." Charlie was fortunate throughout his medical career to

have good training sites and opportunities to care for a lot of people. After seven years of residency following medical school, Charlie fell into pediatric surgery when he was asked to fill in for a pediatric surgical resident who had to go home. Starting a storefront community health center for the north end of Hartford in 1965, however, is the achievement he holds as "the best piece of public health activity in my lifetime."

Charlie's memoir offers a personal glimpse into a critical period in our nation's history and an intriguing account of a quietly remarkable citizen of New Marlborough. His stories remind us that we have faced tremendous health, political, and racial challenges before (Charlie recovered from polio, the pandemic of his day, and witnessed many racial inequities in the military) and that we must constantly strive toward greater humanity. Most importantly, Charlie's memoir reminds us to be grateful, to recognize the many ways we are lucky. That medicine may be just what the doctor ordered for readers today. □



LAND TRUST NEWS

The new spur at the Goodnow Preserve is under construction and we are making great progress. Thanks to weekly "Trail Fridays," four work parties

with twenty-four intrepid volunteers and two dogs, the new 2.5-mile loop is almost completed. We have perfected the "hop-scotch" trail-building technique and, depending on the terrain, we climb, wander, and are in awe at a monolithic boulder and then with rakes to the ground stitch a route through the forest. Thanks to our amazing volunteers, we are adding a new hiking opportunity for all to enjoy including some challenging walking, a longer stroll along the Konkapot, and another chance to explore the woods. Stay tuned for new trail signage and maps.

Especially now, when our human interactions are greatly reduced, we want to hear your ideas for the Land Trust. Visit our "virtual suggestion box" on our website at nmlandtrust.org/contact/your-feedback. Share your thoughts and help us continue to be an active part of our community.

And lastly... before the summer slips by, our new orange or green baseball caps might be just the right match for your new social distancing mask. Go to our website to purchase yours... scroll down to "Purchase" at nmlandtrust.org/support-our-mission.

Please all take good care and find for yourself the solace of the outdoors as an antidote to these very uncertain times. As you do, please do your part and observe social distancing recommendations. Let's keep the trails safe and open for everyone. □



photo by Martha Bryan

Volunteer Crew #2 blazing the new trail at the Goodnow Preserve.

Martha Bryan

Town Business Is Your Business BOARD OF SELECTMEN



June 22: The selectmen opened the meeting by asking Town Moderator Barry Shapiro, also present at the teleconference, for his recommendations on the logistics of the Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Shapiro, strongly in favor of an outdoor meeting, opted for holding it in the field in back of New Marlborough Central School. Mr. Shapiro then ran down a few of the accommodations that would have to be put in place: porta-potties, tents, sound system, chairs, protective clothing for greeters. Town Administrator Mari Enoch said she was confident that the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CARES) would reimburse the expense of these items. In response to Chairman Nat Yohalem's observation that the proper equipping of an outdoor meeting would need a "point person," Mr. Shapiro stepped forward, with the caveat that he would need the help of Town Hall employees.

Discussion moved on to time and date. Based on the need to hold the meeting during the day, Saturday was chosen, with a 9:00 a.m. start suggested to prevent the meeting from having to contend with a summertime midday sun. Mr. Yohalem proposed August 15 (rain dates: August 22 and 29), in the hope that the school budget would be firmed up by then. Richard Long and Tara White countered that a meeting in July would allow the Town to move to the FY21 budget by August and obviate the need for another month of 1/12th budgeting. When Mr. Yohalem's motion to hold the meeting August 15 received no second, the Board elected to hold the meeting July 25. They subsequently changed it to August 15. (See June 29 report.)

The Board then moved on to a request from Kathy Chretien that her pay be increased to \$19.91 an hour for the time she spends, as assistant treasurer, in training

the newly-appointed treasurer. Although this was just 11 cents more than Ms. Chretien's current pay rate and would have had a negligible impact on the budget, Mr. Long objected "on principal." Helping bring a new treasurer up to speed is built into the job of assistant treasurer, he said. With Ms. White abstaining, the increase was rejected.

Asked about progress toward dual-stream recycling (separating plastic and glass from paper) at the Transfer Station, Solid Waste Coordinator Freddy Friedman said he was aiming to get it started by the beginning of October. The extra containers will be in place before then, Mr. Friedman explained, "but we need to feel confident that everyone is separating paper from the other recyclables. The recycling facility we are using in Springfield tells us not to send to them until we are doing what we are supposed to be doing." As a related issue, Mr. Friedman noted a "huge uptick" in the amount of corrugated cardboard being disposed — presumably as a result of the prohibition on shopping bags being carried into grocery stores. As a result, the Transfer Station sends out a dumpster every five days, instead of seven to ten days as in the past.

In its review of the town's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Board agreed that activities in Town Hall be deemed "critical and essential" to the business of the Town, so that the building could be occupied up to 50 percent of its capacity. At the same time, Health Inspector Scott McFarland has recommended against regular antibody testing, saying that could give employees a false sense of security; Ms. Enoch was instructed to inform Town Hall employees that the tests were not required.

The Board passed a motion to hire Southern

Volunteers Needed for Three Town Boards

The effectiveness of Town government is being hindered by the incomplete staffing of three Town boards: the **Agricultural Commission**, the **Umpachene Park Commission**, and the **Planning Board**. If you would like to contribute to the smooth running of New Marlborough, please contact the Board of Selectmen to let them know of your willingness to fill a vacancy.

Members selected for the Agricultural and Umpachene Park Commissions are appointed annually and will serve until June 30, 2021. Members of the Planning Board are elected,

but the Board of Selectmen can fill vacancies when they occur, as is now the case, between elections. An appointed Planning Board member would serve until town elections in May 2021 and could then run for election if he or she wished to continue.

Berkshire Janitorial Service to do a weekly cleaning of Town Hall work area, kitchen, and bathrooms and the upstairs once a month. The ten hours a week that Alvin Stalker presently devotes to these duties will be directed to other needs.

Since the FY21 budget awaits passage at the Annual Town Meeting, the Board approved a budget for July 2020, a so-called 1/12th budget, based on the expenditures of July 2019.

Updates: Mr. Yohalem noted that he and Ms. Enoch needed to interview the applicant for animal control officer and that applicants for emergency management director also awaited interviews. Ms. White said the deadline for relinquishing the liquor license held by Jessica Holcomb, former owner of the Mill River General Store, was June 26, after which the license could be revoked for non-use. Finally, the Board accepted the request of Owen Wright for a medical leave of absence from his duties as building inspector for a period of at least four months.

**Solid Waste Coordinator
Freddy Friedman expects to
start dual-stream recycling
(separating plastic and glass
from paper) by the
beginning of October.**

Joe Poindexter

June 29: With all three members participating by phone, retiring Selectman Nat Yohalem, who was chairing his final meeting, convened the proceedings at 3:05 p.m. But before he could get started on the agenda, he was interrupted by Selectman Richard Long who said he had an important matter he'd like to raise that's not on the agenda and then proceeded to call for a vote on a **resolution of appreciation for Mr. Yohalem's nine-plus-years on the Board**, which Mr. Long then read. (For the text of the resolution see page 11.)

The Board then took up its first item of official business, which was to discuss **arrangements for the Annual Town Meeting** with Moderator Barry Shapiro, who was also on the call. Mr. Shapiro is recommending

the meeting be held outdoors in the field at New Marlborough Central School and said he's getting estimates on the cost of renting chairs, tents, and audio equipment. He said he's been assured by Town Administrator Mari Enoch that expenditures related to holding the meeting there should be reimbursable under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or CARES, act.

The Board then went ahead and voted to reschedule the meeting from July 25 to Saturday, August 15, at 9:00 a.m. at New Marlborough Central, with a rain date of the following Saturday, August 22. (For details on the logistics of holding the meeting outdoors, see Town Moderator Guidelines on page 14.)

With that out of the way, most of the rest of the afternoon's agenda involved personnel matters of one kind or another including the appointment of Town officers and department heads and approving employment contracts for the Fire Chief, Highway Superintendent, and Town Administrator.

Regarding the employment contracts, the Board voted to renew Fire Chief Chuck Loring's contract for another year on the same terms and compensation as his existing contract. It also renewed his contract as Highway Superintendent to include a 1.6 percent cost of living, or COLA, adjustment. And finally, it voted to renew Town Administrator Enoch's contract for another year, also with a 1.6 percent COLA increase.

The Board voted to appoint Don Torrico as interim building commissioner, stepping in for Commissioner Owen Wright. Mr. Torrico had been serving as the Town's local building inspector, assisting Mr. Wright. He will hold office hours on Mondays from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. and will also be available by appointment. Matt Kollmer, the alternate building inspector, will be

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available to help out with inspections, if needed. Mr. Torrico will receive the budgeted weekly salary for the position, \$410.

The Board appointed Cassie Keeley of Foley Hill Road as animal control officer at a salary of \$6,000 per year. She'll be replacing Police Chief Graham Frank, who'd been serving in the position on a temporary basis since last July, but had asked the Board to find someone else to take it over. Ms. Keeley also serves as Sheffield's animal control officer and animal inspector, and, as someone pointed out, "has all kinds of animals of her own."

Moving on, the Board rejected Barbara Marchione's bid to again serve as the Town's emergency management director; she last held the position in 2013. Instead, the Board appointed newcomer Monica Zinke to the position. Ms. Zinke is a nurse at Fairview Hospital where, among other responsibilities, she handles trauma cases. She's also the school nurse at New Marlborough Central. She will be replacing Ed Harvey, who's resigned after seven years in the position.

During the discussion, Selectman Tara White raised a concern about Ms. Zinke's availability to the Town in the event of a natural disaster, say a hurricane, that occurs "during a pandemic, such as we have now, when her first obligation, and quite rightly so, would be to work at the hospital." However, Mr. Yohalem assured her that there would be no conflict. He said during the interview, Ms. Zinke in fact addressed that question, saying she works on a per diem basis at Fairview and is currently looking to cut back. "She indicated she would have no problem in devoting as much time as necessary to the Town during an emergency," he said. "She just wouldn't be working at the hospital during that time." In the end, the vote was unanimous to appoint her to the position, which currently pays an annual stipend of \$4,130, with Ms. White still expressing doubts.

Don Torrico was appointed as interim building commissioner, stepping in for Owen Wright, who has been granted a medical leave of absence without pay, which will last at least four months.


Under town administrator updates, Ms. Enoch said there's been no decision yet by the attorney general's office on the open meeting law complaint filed by Tom Stalker against Cable Advisory Commission Chair Steve Klein. Instead, she said the alleged violation is "under further review [by the AG's office] at the complainant's request." As previously reported, Mr. Stalker charged that Mr. Klein changed the dial-in number for a March 27 meeting of the Commission twenty-four hours before the meeting was to be held, when the requirement under the open meeting law is a minimum of forty-eight hours.

Also, Ms. Enoch said the state Department of Revenue (DOR), has accepted and approved the Town's monthly budget for July, the so-called 1/12th budget. "That's in place," she explained, "so beginning on Wednesday [July 1] we will be able to fund our payroll and vendor requests." As previously reported, because the Town does not yet have an approved FY21 budget, the Board at an earlier meeting voted to go on a month-to-month budget, based on FY20 expenditures.

And finally, she said DOR has extended the Town's Free Cash beyond the end of the current fiscal year. Normally, the Free Cash account expires on June 30.

The Board reviewed and approved minutes from the June 15 and June 22 meetings and acted on a series of Town appointments. Many of these, it was noted, had to be approved on a provisional basis since Administrative Assistant Sharon Fleck had been unable to confirm by the time of the meeting whether the appointees were willing to serve another one-year term. They included:

Part-time Police Officer: Dominick Crupi
Designer Selection Committee: members Richard Long and Mari Enoch



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Town Administrator: Mari Enoch
 Conservation Commission members: Freddy
 Friedman and Dave Herrick
 Board of Health Agent: Scott McFarland
 Accounting Officer: Tara White
 Tax Collector: Gina Campbell
 Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Tax Collector:
 Kathy Chretien
 Burial/Soldier Grave Agent: Courtney Turner
 Assistant Gas and Assistant
 Plumbing Inspector: Donald
 Hopkins
 Veterans Agent: Laurie Hils
 Alternate Building Inspector:
 Matthew Kollmer
 Wiring Inspector: Michael
 Leining
 Solid Waste Coordinator: Freddy
 Friedman
 Building Commissioner: Owen
 Wright
 And with that the meeting was adjourned.

June 30: The Board convened a brief meeting at 6:15 p.m., with all three selectmen on the call, the purpose of which was to reorganize the Board following yesterday's Town Election. As noted previously, Selectman Yohalem has retired and is being replaced on the Board by newly-elected Selectman Mark Carson of Hartsville New Marlborough Road. **The Board voted to appoint Tara White chairman, with Richard Long to serve as vice chairman.**

The Board then voted to enter executive session to discuss strategy for the upcoming collective bargaining negotiations with five employees of the Highway Department who filed a petition to be represented by a union.

Peter Schuyten

July 13: The meeting opened with an offer from Erin Rodgers to have her organization, Trout Unlimited, help assess the needs of under-performing culverts in town. (As Ms. Rodgers pointed out, not only roadways but also trout, which abound in New Marlborough streams, need culverts.) If the Town agreed, Trout Unlimited would send out engineers to assess two culverts and prepare "conceptual designs" showing what was needed to repair or replace them and estimate the costs. The study, she said, would mesh well with the Town's efforts to address municipal vulnerability. The selectmen agreed and passed a motion welcoming the Trout Unlimited initiative.

With Fire Company President David Smith tuned into the teleconference, the Board prepared to approve the lease agreement that allows the Police Department to

park its cruisers in the older of the two Fire Department buildings in Southfield at a rental of \$500 a month. Selectman Richard Long noted that the agreement does not specify whether the landlord or the tenant has responsibility for the equipment or the building itself. Additionally, he deemed, with Mr. Smith's concurrence, a provision stating that the landlord could reclaim the space if the tenant left it vacant for two months or more to be unnecessary. The Board agreed to postpone approval of an amended lease to its next meeting.

Prue Spaulding, in a brief report on the Senior Tax Work-off Program, noted that, despite a decline in hours due to the coronavirus pandemic, the program has been of mutual benefit to both the town and the seniors participating in it since its inception in August 2007. Chairman Tara White thanked Mrs. Spaulding for her administration of

the program over the years.

Discussion then moved to a problem that has arisen lately with the overflow parking at Umpachene Falls Park potentially blocking emergency vehicles on Umpachene Falls Road. After rejecting the idea of issuing parking tickets — the Police Department

The Board approved signage prohibiting parking on Umpachene Falls Road; overflow parking from Umpachene Falls Park can block access for emergency vehicles.



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would need a bylaw authorizing it to do so — the Board expressed approval of signage prohibiting parking on the road, and Ms. White said she would confer with members of the Umpachene Falls Park Commission, the police chief, and the highway superintendent about the wording and placement of such a sign.

Regarding a separate issue as to whether use of the park was restricted to residents of New Marlborough, resident Tom Stalker, present at the teleconference, said that such a restriction would negate attempts to solicit federal funding for the park. Town Administrator Mari Enoch concurred and said that she could find no such use restriction in the park bylaws.

The following appointments, for terms expiring June 30, 2021, were approved pending formal acceptance by the named appointees:

Umpachene Falls Commission:
Robert Twing and Warren Weldon

New Marlborough Historical Commission: Deanna Mummert

Part-time Police Department Officers: Ed Deming and Hunter Lucey

Highway Superintendent and Fire Chief: Charles Loring.

For vacancies in other Town departments, committees, and commissions, see page 4.

The Board deferred a discussion of final recommendations for the FY21 budget to a special meeting, July 17, the day after the Finance Committee was to finalize its recommended budget.

Ms. Enoch informed the Board that the Cable Advisory Committee had learned in a meeting two weeks ago that Charter/Spectrum intends to wire 96 percent of the town's premises for high-speed

internet connection. The 4 percent that will not be served either have no pole access or have long driveways that make a connection impractical. Ms. Enoch said that for some of these a connection agreement may be open to negotiation. In a related issue Ms. Enoch said that, **in view of the potential needs of remote classroom education this fall and winter, the town would continue to operate its three internet hotspots.** Ms. White observed that grants may be available to the Southern Berkshire Regional School District to help pay for remote learning.

Mark Carson, the Board's newest member, expressed his concern that some Transfer Station users were allowing others to use the second sticker that came with the permit — thus letting them avoid buying a permit of their own. Ms. White hoped that a sense of honesty would minimize this practice. Starting August 1, she said, a member of the crew would be at the foot of the Transfer

Station driveway checking for up-to-date stickers.

After reminding her fellow selectmen that the Board would meet every other week during July and August, Ms. White asked for a motion to adjourn. It was swiftly offered, seconded, and accepted.

Joe Poindexter

July 17: The meeting of the Board of Selectman convened at 9:34 a.m. After being informed by Town Administrator Mari Enoch that one of the appointees listed on the agenda for the Designer Selection Committee, Joyce Hackett, had declined the appointment, the selectmen appointed Leslie Armstrong, who notified the Board of her willingness to serve on the Committee. Ms. Armstrong will serve on the Committee until June 30, 2021 along with fellow committee members Scott Walker, Selectman Richard Long and Ms. Enoch.

The Town will continue to operate the three internet hot spots in view of the potential needs of remote learning during this fall and winter.

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The Board then moved onto the FY21 budget, reviewing the Finance Committee's approved budget from their meeting the previous evening, July 16.

Mr. Long began the discussion stating the purpose behind the Board's thinking, and what they also believe the **Finance Committee is thinking is to mitigate costs during this pandemic. He stated the Board is seeking to minimize tax increases for residents while looking to preserve funds, as nobody knows what or when any changes in the school budget might occur.** The current school budget was presented in March, prior to Covid-19. Mr. Long stated there is also concern about potentially lower revenue in the future, as state aid and new growth might be lower due to the effects of the pandemic.

Town Administrator Enoch added that the **Finance Committee wants to ensure any increases in this year's operating budget will be manageable in the following years' budgets.** Mr. Long stated that the two budgets are somewhat similar, though there are a couple of significant internal differences that the Board needs to discuss conceptually.

Regarding employee expense budgets, the Finance Committee had requested that Ms. Enoch give them a breakdown of actual travel costs associated with conferences and training; online training is more likely over the next year because of Covid-19. Mr. Long agreed with those cuts, and Mr. Carson also agreed.

Ms. White questioned some of the cuts, beginning by stating that we have a new treasurer who has to take online training. Ms. Enoch explained she knows the cost of the training itself is \$95. Ms. Enoch agreed to go over each account with Ms. White to assure her that training was not being eliminated in these budget cuts.

The Board then addressed the \$15,000 budgeted for

legal counsel stating it was accurate and the Finance Committee's total of \$14,000 was not. It was marked for discussion at a joint meeting. In addition, they felt that cutting the preservation of Town records to \$2,500 was more in line with keeping up the effort. Records are provided on a disc to the town clerk, so she would know how much remains to be done.

The Board then moved onto the propane and diesel fuel accounts which the Finance Committee had approved at \$9,500 and \$36,400 respectively, \$6,600 less than the amount considered by the Board of Selectmen. They agreed to fund propane at \$10,000 and diesel fuel at \$40,000, and added these accounts to their list with the Finance Committee.

The Board agreed with the Finance Committee's cut of \$2000 in the Highway Department's machinery expense account for a total of \$78,000.

The Board then moved on to the budget for Police Department salaries, which included an increase in hours, a rate increase, and a new clerical position. The Finance Committee approved the amount of \$167,446, less than what the Board was considering. Ms. Enoch explained the police chief contract is already included in the total but the Board still needed to decide whether to approve the 1.6 percent pay increase, the increase in hours and a request to hire a clerical person for the police department.

Ms. White said the Town has basically two full-time officers, the chief and one officer. She added the department does have some part-time officers available who work minimal hours when requested but that the town has lost two part-time officers. She didn't feel the requested increase was a lot of money, and she wants to make decisions that are good for the employees in town.

Mr. Long raised his concern that the town has

The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee are wrestling with all the uncertainties as they work together to develop a realistic budget for FY21.



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spent the last year creating a uniform structure for the treatment of all employees; the Board should continue the integrity of these new policies. He stated the Town has taken an important first step and all employees are now at least at the minimum of pay ranges recommended by the recent HR study of surrounding towns. Mr. Long agreed the Town may not be where it should be competitively, but that is a policy question that should apply to all employees. Mr. Long then stated he would be inclined to approve overtime hours as that might flow to the full-time officer and help with his total compensation. Mr. Long proposed the Board leave the budget request as is, at an increase of \$10,699 for a total of \$171,752, \$4,305 more than the amount approved by the Finance Committee.

The Board approved \$64,500 for Fire Protection budget, \$500 more than approved by the Finance committee.

The next item on the budget was the increase in the building inspector's salary. Since the town had to restructure this department due to a medical leave, it was determined there is a need for \$3,000 more to cover projected salaries. The Board approved the \$24,877 as requested in agreement with the Finance Committee.

Ms. Enoch informed the Board that Medicare has chosen New Marlborough to participate in a study over the next year, and will require up to two additional hours of data input by the person doing clerical work for Fire and Rescue. It agreed with the Finance Committee not to approve a rate increase but to raise the rescue clerical annual payment to \$6,656.

The Board then moved quickly to approve the amount of \$25,000 for tree work as opposed to the Finance Committee's approval of \$20,000. Board members agreed the tree work was never-ending and even though Charter would be cutting trees over the

next year to clear their lines, there were still many trees that the Town needed to address on its own.

The discussion then moved to another request for adding a position, this one by the Board of Health. A request to hire another person for 100 hours at an increase of \$3,000 was made by the Board of Health Inspector to cover restaurant inspections. Ms. White felt the hours could be cut in half for the new position rather than eliminate it totally, which would lower the increase to \$1,500. The Board recommended \$1,500 making the total budget for Board of Health Clerical \$6,500 as opposed to the Finance Committee's approved amount of \$5,000.

Transfer Station salaries, with a request of two additional hours weekly, was dealt with quickly. The Finance Committee had approved \$27,969. Mr. Carson stated the transfer station needed both additional hours because of Covid-19, and the Board recommended the full amount submitted of \$28,776.

Having reviewed all budget items, the Board then moved onto the Roads and Bridges budget, which the Finance Committee had approved at \$303,000, \$30,000 less than the Board's recommendation, and the Stabilization Fund which the Finance Committee approved at \$112,500 while the Board was recommending \$75,000. Mr. Long asked the Board to stick with their recommendation of \$333,000 for the Roads and Bridges account and \$75,000 for the Stabilization Fund. Mr. Carson asked if doing this would keep the tax rate down and Mr. Long answered yes. The Board agreed to stay with their original recommendations.

After reviewing the Finance Committee's recommendations for all the capital items, the Board agreed with all except for removing the \$7,500 for repairs to Umpachene Falls. Adding that

The Board appointed Monica Zinke to the position of the Town's Emergency Management Director, replacing Ed Harvey, who has resigned after seven years in the position.



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recommendation back to Free Cash expenditures, the Board recommended approving a total appropriation of Free Cash in the amount of \$149,940 to be approved at Town Meeting. This would leave a remaining balance of \$200,146 in Free Cash and a balance of \$857,187 in the Stabilization Fund.

With the Board in agreement, they decided to

schedule a Board of Selectmen meeting on Friday, July 24 to vote on the FY2021 budget once they completed a joint meeting with the Finance Committee. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m. □

Sandra Fusco Walker

Resolution Of Appreciation

Whereas, today, June 29, 2020, is the last Board of Selectmen meeting for member Nat Yohalem, who has served as a selectmen for just over nine years; and Whereas, this Board desires to recognize and acknowledge this occasion, therefore It is hereby resolved and voted:

The co-serving members of the Town of New Marlborough Board of Selectmen, for themselves and on behalf of the Town and its residents, do hereby proclaim and declare on this the last Select Board meeting of member and current Chair, Nat Yohalem, our lasting appreciation and great admiration for his exemplary and extraordinary dedication, commitment, and efforts in service to the best interests of the Town of New Marlborough and all its residents, both during his over nine years on the Board and in his many previous years of service to the Town in various roles.

Declared and promulgated this 29th day of June, 2020,
by the New Marlborough Board of Selectmen.

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VIEW FROM THE BOARD

As you read this, August is upon us along with our delayed Annual Town Meeting. It will be held on Saturday, August 15 at 9:00 a.m. at the New Marlborough Central School field. We want everyone who comes to feel safe and to be able to participate in the meeting, as they have in the past. The meeting will be conducted under a large, open-sided tent, so rain or shine, it will go on. There will be socially distanced seating for everyone. If you need special accommodations, it will be arranged when you arrive. When you check in with the town clerk, you will receive all the materials needed for the meeting.

There will be an enhanced speaker system so everyone will be able to hear the proceedings. Hearing-assistive devices will also be available. Instructions on how you will be able to ask questions, make comments and vote will be given at the beginning of the meeting. Please come early so that you can be checked in and the meeting can begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. **PLEASE BE SURE TO BRING YOUR OWN MASK TO THE MEETING.**

When Town Hall was closed to the public, our Town employees, Boards, and Committees continued to work on the numerous projects before them when Covid-19 shut us down. There may have been a slow-down on

some projects, but grant deadlines still needed to be met and follow-ups on projects needed to be done. Town Hall is still closed to the public, but all employees are back. If you need to come in to talk with someone, please call ahead to make an appointment. The drop box outside of Town Hall can be used to drop off payments for transfer station permits, dog licenses, taxes, or to leave something for one of the employees. A safety plan is being developed so that Town Hall can again be opened to the public.

As this column is written, we are in the hazy, hot, humid days of July. Everyone is getting out and enjoying the beauty that New Marlborough has to offer. Umpachene Falls is one of those attractions. We would like to remind everyone that there should be no parking on the roadway to the falls. If there is no room in the parking lot, please come back another time. The road is narrow, and if someone were to need an ambulance, the response time could be hampered if the First Responders cannot get down the roadway.

Stay safe, and we will see you at the Annual Town Meeting on August 15. □

Tara White

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

July 18: Commission members Freddy Friedman, Nanci Worthington, and John Schreiber convened a conference call to take care of the month's business. Emily Renshaw of Morgan, Lewis and Bocklus LLP on behalf of her clients, Margaret and Joseph Koerner, also joined the call.

First on the agenda was the continued hearing and an update on the Request for Determination (RDA) for the Koerners of 2128 Canaan Southfield Road. Dr. Schreiber explained that the Enforcement Order issued on June 30, would be revised and reissued. The Commission noted that the Department of Environmental Protection had requested a correction to the order. The revision to the order adds the river bank of the Umpachene River to the jurisdictional area as well as the buffer zone noted in the original order. The original order was withdrawn, and the new order was submitted with a new deadline extended to August 30.

Next, the Commission noted that Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering requested to continue the hearing for the Notice of Intent for the Umpachene Falls Park Commission. The continuation was granted.

In new business, Dr. Schreiber reported that two members joined Martha Bryan and Ian Devine of the New Marlborough Land Trust to walk the new trail at the Goodnow Preserve. The members made some suggestions

for minimizing any impact to sensitive wetland habitat.

Finally, for the record, Ms. Worthington reported that the Commission made a site visit to the solar project on Knight Road at the completion of the RDA from CS Energy. It was also noted that an emergency permit was issued to the Town to clear several trees along New Marlborough Southfield Road due to safety issues.

The minutes from last month's meeting were approved with minor edits and the next meeting was scheduled for Saturday, August 29. □

Martha Bryan



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THE PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board achieved a quorum for its meeting-by-phone at 7:00 p.m. on July 15 with all three members attending – Mark Carson, Bob Hartt, and new member Paul Marcel, who was elected via a last-minute write-in campaign at the June 29 Town election. The first order of business was the required yearly reorganization of the board. This was quickly dispatched through a unanimous vote naming Mark Carson as chairman and Bob Hartt as assistant chair.

Chairman Carson then said that, based on a number of recent inquiries, he thought the Board should bring itself up to speed on the subject of accessory dwellings – to see what is on the books in the Town’s protective bylaws, and what might need to be improved upon. He said he expected more and more interest on the part of landowners and potential buyers in the possibility of having a second, accessory dwelling on their properties, mainly “because of the Covid thing.” Further, he referred a number of times during the discussion to the instance of a prospective buyer who was holding off from purchasing a large parcel of land until she was certain that she could build a second structure for habitation by her extended family.

Mr. Carson said that he had the impression that Don Torrico, who is serving as building inspector during Owen Wright’s absence, did not like the bylaws. Paul Marcel added that Mr. Wright is the one who really

knows the bylaws forwards and backwards. Mr. Carson had found only one mention of accessory dwellings in the protective bylaws, and that was in Section 7.3.1.4, which has to do with parking requirements. (Section 3.3.1.2 does allow an accessory dwelling as a Use by Right under certain conditions, including that the lot size be at least two acres, that the owner of the lot shall occupy the primary residence, that there shall be only one accessory dwelling per lot, and that the living area of the dwelling not exceed 1,200 square feet.) Paul Marcel suggested that he and his fellow members “need to do some homework.” All agreed with him, and the discussion will be renewed at the July 22 meeting.

There was then a brief description by Mr. Carson of the way he thought the marijuana bylaw would be presented at the Annual Town Meeting on August 15. Mr. Marcel said that former chairman Daniel Doern would be willing to deliver a brief presentation of the bylaw’s contents. Following that, the Board members agreed that they would much prefer future meetings to be held in person, socially distanced, possibly just outside the Town Hall. Chairman Carson said he would look into what would need to be done to make that happen. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m., but not without a plea to the public to consider joining the Planning Board, as it is still two members short of a full complement. □

Larry Burke

The New Marlborough Planning Board is a five-member board that currently has only three members, and the distinct possibility of losing one of those, at which point it will not be able to establish a quorum for its two meetings each month. So, responsible citizens, it’s time to become an active participant in the governance of our town by expressing your willingness to join the Planning Board. You can contact the Board of Selectmen or Mark Carson, who is currently Chairman of the Planning Board. Email addresses are available on the Town of New Marlborough website.



TOWN MODERATOR GUIDELINES FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2020, 9:00 A.M.

This year's Annual Town Meeting has been set by the Board of Selectmen for 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 15, 2020, under a tent in the field behind New Marlborough Central School.

As your Town Moderator, I look forward to seeing many of you there.

I know that some people are concerned about their safety during the pandemic but would still like to participate in governing our Town. To that end, I have worked closely with Town officials to devise guidelines intended to protect all of us as we exercise our right to gather, deliberate, and vote. All plans and operating procedures have been approved by the New Marlborough Board of Health and reviewed by Town staff and public safety officials.

Responding to Covid-19

- Although some towns are holding their town meetings indoors, most towns have moved their meetings outdoors and the Board of Selectmen has determined that our meeting should be held outdoors as well; in this case, under an open sided tent with plenty of air circulation.
- We will continue to review and revise these guidelines as necessary right up until the meeting starts to assure everyone's safety. Data related to Covid-19 in our town strongly suggest that community spread of Covid-19 has significantly slowed and the number of active cases in Berkshire County is diminishing. We are therefore comfortable that, by adhering to these guidelines, attendees at our meeting will be reasonably protected while attending.
- If anything should change prior to the meeting and we are not comfortable proceeding, the moderator has the statutory right to postpone the meeting, and I will not hesitate to do so if necessary.
- You should consider not attending Town Meeting if the answer to any of these questions is yes:
 - Are you feeling sick?
 - Are you having possible symptoms of Covid-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell)?
 - Have you been exposed to someone with confirmed or suspected Covid-19?
 - If the answer to any of these questions is yes, you are encouraged to remain at home.
- If you do attend the meeting and feel unwell afterwards with any symptoms of Covid-19, we ask that you please immediately contact the Board of Health in New Marlborough, Scott McFarland, at 413-229-8469.
- The Town will have a record of attendees who checked in for the meeting and this record can be accessed should there be a need for contact tracing.
- If possible, please consider bringing a food donation of canned or boxed staples for those of our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. Donation drop off boxes will be located at each check-in entrance point. All donations will be delivered to the People's Pantry.

Venue

- The meeting will be held outdoors under a very large tent in the field behind New Marlborough Central School in Mill River.
- The tent will have socially distanced seating.
- The tent will be open on all sides with excellent air flow. It does tend to be cooler under a tent so please dress accordingly.
- Parking will be on the field behind the tent. Drive past the school and then follow the signs and the police officer to be directed to the parking area. Someone will also be present in the field to show you where to park.
- Handicapped parking will be available on asphalt, adjacent to the tent. Enter the parking lot immediately before New Marlborough Central and you will be directed to the reserved parking area.

Pre-meeting and Check-in

- It will help our planning if you can let us know the number of people in your household who expect to attend the Town Meeting. You can do this by sending an RSVP to our Town Clerk, at kchretien@newmarlboroughma.gov. This is by no means required but will be helpful.
- Check-in will begin at 8:15 a.m. Please arrive early.
- Voters and attendees should proceed from their cars to the clearly marked check-in tent. Please remember to remain six feet apart at all times and to wear a mask when leaving your car (more on masks below).
- Family members and others sharing the same household may stand and sit together. The line to check-in will be

managed by Town Emergency Management personnel in order to ensure sufficient physical distancing (markings will be placed on the ground).

- Signage detailing safety guidelines will be posted at the entrances.
- To minimize lines and bottlenecks, there will be two check-in tables, widely spaced. Hand sanitizer will be available at each table.
- By Governor Baker's Covid-19 Order No. 31, all persons (including children five years of age or older) are required to wear a mask, unless exempted by medical or other reasons set forth in the Order. In addition, both the CDC and DPH have advised people to wear face coverings when they are out of the home and may be in close proximity to others. While these guidelines are intended to maintain a six-foot distance between attendees, there will likely be instances when this may not occur for brief moments (for example, when walking past someone). Face coverings provide an important additional level of protection.
- Accordingly, masks or face coverings will be required upon exiting your automobile and must remain in place throughout check-in and during the meeting. If a resident cannot wear a mask for medical reasons, please advise one of our on-site volunteers and a separate seating area will be provided. The Town will provide a limited number of masks for those who do not have them or who forget them, so please try to bring your own. Voters may remove their mask when recognized by the moderator to speak and should replace them afterwards. Masks should cover both the nose and mouth.
- Check-in personnel will be masked and gloved.
- All voters will be provided a warrant, ballots, voter card, pencil, and paper at check-in. All of these materials will be placed into envelopes a minimum of seventy-two hours beforehand.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at various places outside and inside the tent.
- Assisted listening devices will be available at a table provided for that purpose. All will have been sanitized in advance of the meeting.

Seating

- All seats will be sanitized before the meeting.
- Seats will be set up in rows for single attendees, for two attendees in the same household, and, if more than two in a single household group attend, specially arranged. This allows for aisles 6 feet wide and 6 feet between each row of chairs.
- Please do not move the chairs without the consent of one of our on-site monitors and please follow their instructions to assure a safe seating process.
- Seating near the check-in area will be reserved for those unable to walk long distances on grass; some chairs with arms will be provided for those requiring them.
- Please remain in your seats at all times except to speak, utilize a restroom, or exit the venue.
- Thanks to the New Marlborough Emergency Rescue Department, bottled water will be provided to all attendees.
- As nice as it will be to see our friends and neighbors, please do not congregate at any time.
- Childcare will not be provided, and attendance of children is politely discouraged.
- If it is necessary to bring children and you wish to sit outside the tent, a separate family blanket area will be made available with each blanket to be located within a 10' x 10' area. Parents and guardians need to assure that physical distancing is observed. Families must bring their own blankets. Please try to remain where the moderator can see you so that your vote can be counted.
- To the extent possible, all foot traffic will be one way. Traffic flow patterns will be indicated.
- Social distancing monitors will be on hand to politely remind attendees of their shared obligation for the safety of each of our neighbors in attendance.
- Only registered voters, second homeowners and family members will be allowed in the tent. Any other person with business at the meeting must be pre-cleared for attendance by the moderator at least seventy-two hours before commencement of the meeting.

The Meeting

- The meeting will be conducted as close to our normal deliberative process as possible.
- Comments and questions will be limited to our traditional two-minute limit unless otherwise approved by the moderator in advance. Please try to limit comments and questions to that which is necessary and non-repetitive so we can move the meeting along expeditiously.
- To expedite our business, we will use a consent agenda for routine and non-controversial articles, as we did last year, so that such articles can be taken up together.
- As in the past, all votes will be by use of hand-held voter cards, first visually observed with a declaration of the moderator, then with a standing self-count, if necessary.

- Considered debate and discussion is a hallmark of our Town Meeting and is encouraged. Microphones will be set up at the front of the seating area. Should you wish to speak, after you are recognized by the moderator, please go to the closest microphone and stand in the spot marked on the floor. Do not approach any closer to the microphone. Please do not touch the microphone. We have retained a professional audio company to manage the sound system and they are using professional quality, condenser microphones which are quite sensitive and will pick up your voice even if the microphone is below or above your mouth. Only one person at a time is allowed in the speaker's area.
- Since the tent is large and the microphones must be located at the front of the seating area for safety reasons, please try to sit close to the front if you plan to speak often at the meeting. This will make it easier and faster for you to access the microphones. Of course, if you cannot sit close to the microphones, you are still more than welcome to speak when recognized.
- Face coverings may be removed when speaking at the microphone, but only while speaking. The face covering should be worn when walking both to and from the microphone. This is a universal standard for all, including officials and the moderator.
- If you have a comment or question and do not wish to speak from the microphone, please write your name, address, comment or question down on the paper provided when you checked in and wave it. One of our monitors will take it from you and deliver it to the moderator who will then read it and confirm with you its accuracy.
- Of course, no smoking is permitted in the tent or anywhere on school grounds.
- Please do not bring food with you into the tent.

Ending the Meeting and Other Matters

- When the meeting is dissolved, please stay in place. The moderator will dismiss voters by section to ensure a safe and orderly exit.
- New Marlborough Emergency and Fire Department staff and an ambulance will be on scene.
- New Marlborough Police Department will assist with traffic and encourage gatherings to disperse.
- Since the meeting will take place under a tent, we expect that the meeting will convene even if it rains. However, in the event of a significant weather event that endangers voters' safety, the moderator has the authority to postpone the meeting. In such event, an email to everyone on the Town's email list, a reverse 911 call, and notice on the town web site will all be used.
- Bathrooms in New Marlborough Central School will not be open, but two accessible portable toilets will be on site.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the venue.

Working with our Board of Selectmen, our dedicated Town employees, Police, Emergency, and Fire Departments, Board of Health, and Commission on Disabilities, I have endeavored to make the conduct of the meeting as safe as reasonably possible, all guided by state and local public health authorities. I am very grateful to all of our Town personnel for their assistance with this meeting.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Town Meeting as we gather to make the important decisions which will guide the great Town of New Marlborough in the future.

Respectfully,

Barry R. Shapiro, Town Moderator
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TOWN ELECTION RESULTS

The Town elections this year were, predictably, not the usual robust turnout. Slightly less than 19 percent of eligible voters took part. According to Town Clerk Kathy Chretien, 125 absentee ballots were cast and 71 citizens voted in person – a total of 197 voters. Ms. Chretien reported, “The election went smoothly, and everyone who came in person had a mask on and followed the procedures of the election, with only three voters allowed in at one time, and with the booths and

pens being cleaned after each use.”

There were no contested positions, allowing for a very low-key election. As for write-ins, Ms. Chretien said they were “mostly for Planning Board and for Paul Marcel, who received write-ins for both of the open seats (3-year and 4-year). Paul has accepted the 3-year term and declined the other.”

The official results of the 2020 election are as follows:

Results of Annual Town Election Held June 29, 2020 Total Number of Registered Voters: 1,054

OFFICE	CANDIDATE	TERM	VOTES RECEIVED
MODERATOR	BARRY SHAPIRO	1 YEAR	178
SELECTMEN	MARK S CARSON	3 YEARS	170
ASSESSOR	FREDERICK FRIEDMAN	3 YEARS	172
TOWN CLERK	KATHERINE M CHRETIEN	3 YEARS	187
PLANNING BOARD	MARK S CARSON	2 YEARS	157
PLANNING BOARD	ROBERT W HARTT	5 YEARS	168
PLANNING BOARD	PAUL MARCEL	4 YEARS	8
PLANNING BOARD	PAUL MARCEL	3 YEARS	9
BOARD OF HEALTH	LAWRENCE H. DAVIS III	3 YEARS	180
TREE WARDEN	MATTHEW A WRIGHT	1 YEAR	177
CEMETERY COMMISSIONER	TARA B. WHITE	3 YEARS	180
LIBRARY TRUSTEE	SALLY A. TURNER	3 YEARS	187
FINANCE COMMITTEE(VOTE FOR 2)	STEVEN KLEIN	3 YEARS	143
	ROBERT MILLER	3 YEARS	162

Jon and Marianne Swan were key founders of the NM5VN in 2000. Jon contributed this article in October, 2002. The current staff, realizing how much time has passed since it was published, thought that more recent residents of New Marlborough might be interested in learning about our town's original Native American settlers. Mr. Swan has enthusiastically endorsed this reprint; a second reprint will appear in the September issue.

KONKAPOT

By Jon Swan

You might call it our town's sixth village, except that it's not quite a village. A dot marks the spot on some maps but not on others. Some mapmakers find room to include this spot, but omit Mill River. This village that isn't a village is called Konkapot, and those mapmakers who recognize its existence place it at the southern end of Brewer Hill Road, where it branches off from Clayton-Mill River Road. An Internet source – Expedia.com – describes Konkapot as “a community in Berkshire County,” and that's pretty close to the mark. Today, this community is mainly to be found on the eastern side of the Konkapot River. Some seven or eight families live in the area, and a few second-home owners have joined the community in the past few years.

Most of the homes are on one of two roads — Konkapot Road, which dead-ends on Canaan Southfield Road; and Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road, which crosses the Canaan Southfield Road and keeps on going. According to Charles Chretien, who lives on Konkapot Road, residents don't call themselves Konkapotters or Konkaputions or anything like that, but just say that they live on one or the other of the two roads.

In the history of our town published by the New Marlborough Bicentennial Commission in 1975, Louise Hart noted that, in the 1880s, “This section...was a very active little community,” with a sawmill and gristmill. “About the time the mills were operating,” she wrote, “there was also a creamery or cheese factory at Konkapot. It was owned and operated by Calvin E. Barnes Company. Mr. Barnes was also a merchant and postmaster at Clayton Store.”

Mrs. Hart's description of the area includes a reference to the mound around which the Clayton Mill River road curves sharply just before the juncture with Brewer Hill Road. According to local legend, she writes, the

mound “was an old Indian burial ground,” adding that, “when the road was widened around 1924, some bones and skulls were accidentally dug up.”

The community of Konkapot, like the river that runs through it, took its name, of course, from the man from whom, on April 23, 1724, English settlers bought land along the Housatonic, extending from the Connecticut line northward to Stockbridge. The price: 460 “English pounds, three barrel of cider, and thirty quarts of rum.” Twenty other Mahican Indians accompanied Chief Konkapot on his journey to Westfield, where he negotiated with the commissioners appointed by the General Court in Boston: Captains John Ashley, Henry Dwight, and Luke Hubbard. Presumably, sub-chief Umpachene formed part of the chief's retinue.

By the early 1700s, the once-sizeable tribe's numbers had been reduced to fewer than two hundred. In Chief Konkapot's time, they lived in two groups. Konkapot and his people lived in Stockbridge, in the meadow where today the Berkshire Theater Festival buildings stand. Umpachene and his people lived in the northern part of Sheffield, at a place called Skatecook or Schaghticoke. According to Chandler Whipple, author of *The Indian and the White Man in Massachusetts and Rhode Island*, the word means “where the small stream

empties into the large one and corn lands adjoin.” The small stream, Mr. Chandler adds, was the Green River.

The commissioners found Chief Konkapot “strictly temperate, a very just and upright man in his dealings, a man of prudence, and industrious in business, and disposed to embrace the Christian Religion.”

As an inducement to converting to Christianity, in 1734 Governor Belcher commissioned Konkapot a captain of militia and Umpachene a lieutenant. Shortly thereafter, the Mahicans agreed to accept a religious



teacher: John Sergeant, a recent Yale graduate. Within two weeks of Sergeant's meeting with the Indians that October, they had built a church and a school in Great Barrington, and on November 2, 1735, Konkapot and Umpachene and their families had all been baptized. Four years later, following the incorporation of the town of Stockbridge, the two Mahican leaders were appointed to its first Board of Selectmen.

Then came the fateful year 1774. In April, the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts sent word to the Mahicans at Stockbridge, alerting them to the probable outbreak of hostilities with the British and expressing a desire for continued friendly relations with the Mahicans – a coy way of saying, We hope and pray that you won't side with the British.

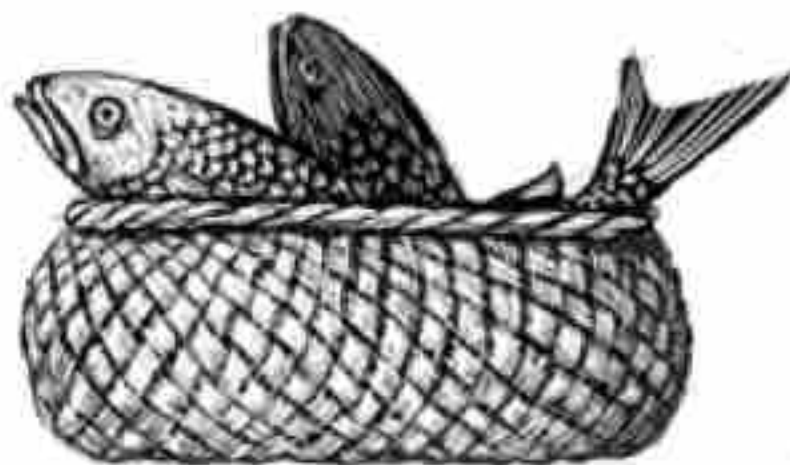
The Mahicans' reply was eloquent: "Wherever you go, we will be by your sides; our bones shall lie with yours. We are determined never to be at peace with the red-coats while they are at variance with you. If we are conquered our lands go with yours; but if you are victorious, we hope you will help us to recover our just rights."

When the call came following the battle of Lexington and Concord, Konkapot's men took the field and

fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill and many other battles. In his foreword to *Men of Color at the Battle of Monmouth June 28, 1778*, Richard S. Walling sums up: "The Stockbridge Indians fought throughout the War, from Bunker Hill to Yorktown; a company of them were massacred by Simcoe's Rangers in the Bronx at the end of August in 1778. Yet when they returned home to Massachusetts, they were unwelcome in their own community, which had been taken over by their white neighbors."

Altogether, eighty-eight Stockbridge Indians fought alongside the Americans, and they suffered heavy casualties. Three of those who served bore the name Konkapot: Abraham, Jacob, and John. Presumably, they were sons of "good Cpt. John Konkapot" – the words carved on the stone in the Congregational Cemetery in Stockbridge that marks the gravesite of John, his wife, Mary, and other members of his tribe.

The writer thanks local historian John Sisson; Jim Miller and Betty Chapin of the Sheffield Historical Society; Barbara Allen, curator of the Historical Room of the Stockbridge Library; and Linda Hunt, Stockbridge town clerk, for their assistance.



Illustrations by Diane Barth



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Robin Tost; Michael & Meta Levi; Paul & Deanna MacEachern; Debra Balken

NEIGHBORS



Manon Hutton-DeWys and Donald McClelland, of Hotchkiss Road, have welcomed their newborn son to Southfield. He was born on Saturday, June 27 at 7:20 p.m. at Fairview Hospital; his name is Robert Hutton Veery McClelland. Manon explained Robert's second middle name: "We chose his second middle name because we love veeries (a type of thrush) that come to our woods at this time of year. We were listening to them the night before we went to the hospital."



Robert Hutton Veery McClelland



David Herrick has been gradually bringing the Mill River Store back to life, and this seems like a good time to update his offerings. He's not able to sell items that are prepared on the premises, but is increasing the variety of packaged and pre-wrapped foods. Those include coffee, doughnuts and other snack items, an array of dairy products, and several varieties of sealed sandwiches and subs. In addition to sundries and toiletry articles, he also carries newspapers every day. He will continue to sell all hunting and fishing licenses, and the state check-in station will function as usual for deer, bear, and fowl. Dave is slowly adding general grocery items such as tea, coffee, flour, sugar, and canned goods. He even has an official greeter, **Crow**, his Siberian husky pal. □

compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com

Dave Herrick and Crow

PIG ROAST RAFFLE 2020

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the New Marlborough Fire Company will not hold its annual Pig Roast in August. This was not an easy decision, as the Pig Roast is our largest fundraiser of the year, but the Company felt the decision was in the best interest of the health and safety of all in the community.

Instead, the Fire Company this year is holding a fundraising raffle. The prize is a kayak or paddleboard package, valued at \$3,000 from Clarke Outfitters of West Cornwall, Connecticut. Or, if the winner prefers, a check for \$2,000. The package contains:

- Two Old Town Loon 106 Kayaks, an AquaBound Sting Ray hybrid kayak paddle, two Extrasport life vests (one men's and one women's), and a \$500 gift certificate to Clarke Outdoors;
- Or two Tahe Oxbow Search 10.6 Stand Up Paddleboards, two BIC Paddleboard paddles, two inflatable waist-worn life vests, and a \$500 gift certificate to Clarke Outdoors.

Tickets will soon be available for \$10 each at www.nmfirecompany.org or from any Fire Company member. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold. You may also email Fire Company President David Smith (branchroadcom@yahoo.com) or call 413-429-6680 for more information and to order your tickets. The drawing will be held at noon on Labor Day, Monday, September 7, at the fire station in Southfield.

Funds raised by the New Marlborough Fire Company support items typically not covered in the annual New Marlborough Fire and Rescue Town budget. These include upkeep and maintenance of the fire station, equipment purchases, an annual scholarship, and Fire Company activities such as Fire Prevention Day at New Marlborough Central School. □

Fire Company President David Smith

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS



A bank swallow perched by the Konkapot

A mid-summer piece of prose poetry from Don Beauchamp:

lots of birds have moved on,
fall birds are coming back.
seed pods on milkweed are forming,
a close visit... bear.
lots of snakes this summer.



Compiled by Larry Burke.

Send your wildlife sightings and stories to lburke2@me.com



A juvenile pileated woodpecker



A rat snake in the grass (literally, a snake in the grass)



A northern flicker

photos by Don Beauchamp

ANIMAL INSPECTOR'S NOTICE OF RABIES WITHIN THE TOWN

The citizens of New Marlborough need to know that last week a rabid raccoon was picked up on one of our roads. It has been some years since we have had a rabid animal identified within our town. At that time there were a number of such animals. So if there is a wild animal acting strangely on your property here are some ways to deal with it.

- DO NOT TOUCH IT EVEN IF IT IS DEAD.
- Make sure that your dogs or cats do not go near it!
- Call Animal Control Officer Cassie Keeley 429-7603. She will deal with it.

Folks need to remember that all mammals can get rabies. While we know that most dogs are protected since a current rabies vaccination certificate is required before obtaining a dog license, cats, ferrets rabbits, other "pets" and farm animals need protection too. And just a gentle reminder there is a leash law in New Marlborough so dogs under control of their owners should not get

involved with any wild animals.

Should you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to call Prudence Spaulding, the animal inspector (413-229-8407), or Cassie Keeley, the animal control officer (413-229-6030).





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The Way We Were

JILL LIPSKY

By Joe Poindexter

In many ways, Jill Lipsky's upbringing had the familiar markings of a youth wrapped in the bucolic idyll of rural New Marlborough. She and her brothers, Seth and Jed, would spend entire summer days cooling in the Konkapot River where it passed near their Hartsville home. She would fly kites in the clearing in Questing, which she remembers as "the top of the world." She explored Bartholomew's Cobble, and she rode her pony, Colonel.

But Jill had broader influences as well. She had a front-row seat on the world of retail through Jenifer House, the Great Barrington emporium of housewares and gift items founded by her father, Karl. And she was exposed to his European heritage (Karl's family was from Austria) through, among other things, ski trips to the Alps. This led to certain expectations. As Jill put it: "I was a Lipsky; you have to go to college."

Even though her brothers did go to college, Jill had different ideas, an independent streak that expressed itself in so-so grades and a tendency to iconoclasm. One example: a high-school English paper on the Hells Angels that received an F, says Jill, because it found some merit in the behavior of the motorcycle gang. Upon graduation in 1972, she was considering a career in nursing or perhaps going to a technical college — "My father was ready to kill me," she told a reporter for the *Berkshire Eagle* — but decided instead to prove her worth in the field of retailing and joined the family business. She worked at Jenifer House, then at Jenifer's Closet, and then as a buyer for a mail-order catalog.



In 1998, she began a thirteen-year tour in charge of the gift shop at the Berkshire Botanical Garden in Stockbridge.

A chance meeting with John Moritz of Sheffield added a dramatic new dimension to Jill's life. A few years earlier, John and Libby Moritz had founded Hearts of the Father Outreach, a Christian humanitarian organization that provided shelter for orphaned and abandoned children in the African nation of Ghana. In March 2011, Jill joined the Moritzes on a trip to Ghana, "an adventure," says Jill, "that changed my life forever." With the help of a bequest from her father, who died in 2009, Jill made a second trip to Ghana that year, accompanied by students from Millbrook School, to help build educational facilities.

Jill's life had taken on new purpose. In 2012, she made three trips to Ghana, one of them with John's brother Peter Moritz, a forester, to plant 100 trees on land donated by a tribal chieftain. Other trips followed, some with Millbrook students, some with students from Suffield Academy, frequently with her children,



Top, Jill at home in Hartsville

Middle, Jill with brothers Seth and Jed...

Right, And as a teen in Hartsville, and skiing in Saint Anton, Austria

Henry and Jenifer (she was separated from their father). In 2014, Hearts of the Father decided it would be represented only by those of the Christian faith — Jill grew up in a Jewish family — but that didn't dim her enthusiasm for helping Ghanaians. By mid-decade she had made more than two dozen trips to the African nation, delivering school and medical supplies, books, and some 3,000 pounds of clothing. She built a chapel from bamboo that she had salvaged from the construction of a nearby concrete building. She helped restore a fort repurposed to teach dance and basket weaving.



Jill receives a bit of good luck (according to a Ghanaian superstition) during a trip in 2013.

Then, in 2016, overwhelmed by the violence in Africa, Jill suffered what she calls “a meltdown” and elected to discontinue travel to the African continent. She stuck with this decision for three years — until Peter Moritz persuaded her to accompany him on a trip to Ghana to attend the wedding of a chieftain Jill had befriended on earlier trips. That broke through the wall of resistance. She made another trip in November of last year, delivering 1,000 backpacks, containing school supplies donated by Lee Bank, to the children of Ghana.



Jill with her Ghanaian friends

a cashier at Big Y in Great Barrington — she was named Employee of the Year for 2019 — but that has not curtailed plans for future humanitarian work. Although the coronavirus pandemic has prevented travel so far this year, she is planning to return, again with backpacks filled with supplies, as soon as restrictions lift.

A childhood spent on the banks of the Konkapot continues to reach out across the globe. “I work in order to travel to Ghana,” says Jill. □

Four years ago, Jill signed on as

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THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- June 2 11:47 a.m. An officer accompanies the animal control officer to Mill River to quarantine a dog that had attacked a passerby.
- June 3 12:31 p.m. A Corser Hill Road resident alerts the Department to a pickup truck, unattended for an hour, parked at the base of her road; a half hour later, a neighbor reports that the truck has driven off.
- June 4 2:10 p.m. National Grid is notified after a caller reports a tree on wires near his Lake Road residence.
- June 5 8:02 a.m. A caller reports cows on Brewer Hill Road.
9:48 p.m. An Alum Hill Road resident complains that fireworks set off by her neighbor are scaring her animals.
- June 6 8:10 a.m. A caller reports the possible theft of a cell phone from her Hartsville New Marlborough Road residence.
9:10 a.m. A caller requests assistance in contacting her estranged daughter, a Clayton resident, whose grandfather is dying.
1:23 p.m. The Department assists with police protection during a Black Lives Matter demonstration in Great Barrington.
10:25 p.m. A caller complains of fireworks near her Corser Hill Road residence.
- June 8 2:30 p.m. A driver collides with a utility pole on Canaan Southfield Road.
- June 9 2:23 p.m. Tree on wires on Sisson Hill Road.
- June 11 12:38 p.m. Tree on wires on Hayes Hill Road.
- June 12 1:56 p.m. A Clayton resident reports an apparent phone scam regarding unemployment insurance.
2:00 p.m. A resident complains of a motorcyclist speeding past her residence on Cagney Hill Road.
- June 13 11:34 a.m. A passerby reports that a motorcyclist tipped over on his bike while riding on Route 57.
7:46 p.m. A caller reports that a vehicle backed into his while parked at the Old Inn on the Green.
- June 14 2:31 p.m. A caller reports a pickup truck abandoned at 1,000 Acre Swamp for the past three days.
- June 15 7:58 a.m. A Shea Lane resident reports a raccoon under her window that she assesses is both rabid and dead.
- June 16 1:10 p.m. Verizon is notified of telephone wires taken down by a dump truck on Aberdeen Road.
- June 17 10:49 a.m. A Canaan Southfield Road resident reports that a neighbor's vehicle is blocking entry to visitors at the foot of his driveway (he repeats the complaint two days later).
- June 19 3:14 p.m. The driver of a pickup truck reports that he has struck and killed a bobcat.
- June 22 10:34 a.m. A Canaan Southfield Road resident reports that her neighbor's vehicle is blocking her driveway.
- June 23 12:22 p.m. A New Marlborough village resident reports that the driver of a pickup truck appears to be casing his property.
- June 25 7:55 p.m. An officer assists a driver who has locked himself out of his pickup truck on Hatchery Road.
10:22 p.m. An officer scares off a bear tearing through a dumpster at Old Inn on the Green with a bean-bag round.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

FIRE AND RESCUE

- June 2 6:25 p.m. Arroyo Way Fire Alarm
- June 3 2:44 p.m. Hayes Hill Road Medical Call
- June 8 12:30 p.m. Canaan Southfield Road MVA
- June 8 3:01 p.m. Hatchery Road Medical Call
- June 16 12:39 p.m. Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call
- June 17 3:07 p.m. Aberdeen Lane Fire Alarm
- June 17 6:43 p.m. Church Road Medical Call
- June 18 12:08 a.m. Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
- June 19 7:06 a.m. Church Road Medical Call
- June 24 2:37 p.m. River Road Medical Call
- June 25 2:31 p.m. Norfolk Road Fire Alarm
- June 28 3:21 p.m. Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call

Fire Company President David Smith

HIGH DEMAND FOR OUR COOLING WATERS

Sunday, July 26 was yet another in a long string of hot, sunny days in the Berkshires, and here in New Marlborough the place to be was near a body of water. A little after noon, the beach front at York Lake was pretty full, but not as packed as the day before or the previous weekend. Plenty of room for social distancing, which is what most people seemed to be doing.



the tight groupings of visitors to our park were family "pods."

The questions that have arisen in the last weeks of July over access to New Marlborough's lovely sites will be much on the minds of the selectmen as summer progresses. We expect to be covering this story in detail in the September issue of the NM5VN. □

Larry Burke

Meanwhile, down at Umpachene Falls, the crowds were much more significant. With the massive overcrowding of the park on the previous weekend in mind, Police Chief Frank rolled out a plan to minimize the bottleneck on the currently dead end road into the falls. He and his deputies stayed on duty throughout much of the day, limiting the flow of traffic into the parking lot, and rerouting the excess cars around to Clayton-Mill River road, where the new bridge is being built over the Konkapot River. By 2:30 p.m., thirty or so cars were parked along that roadside, and the parking lot was packed to the maximum. Along the falls, 150 people, perhaps more, picnicked, sunbathed, and splashed in the cooling waters of the Umpachene. Social distancing and wearing of masks did not seem to be the order of the day, so we can only hope that



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photos by Larry Burke

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

While I love sharing my favorite recipes, the impetus for starting this column was to learn new recipes and get to know my neighbors a bit better; this month's recipe by Cassie Keeley is going to become a staple in my kitchen. There are no photos, as after I removed the cake from the oven I went out to water my veggies, and that fresh-baked cake smell wafted through the house. It drew the attention of three teenagers, so when I came back in, only the crumbs remained.

Cassie Keeley has lived in New Marlborough with husband Jim, three children, and an ever-increasing number of pets, for thirteen years. Currently, the extended family includes three dogs, two cats, two cockatiels, two guinea pigs, fish, five donkeys, two horses, a draft mule, two geese, five ducks, five chickens, and five guinea hens; their only requirement is to be a good family member. Forest Therapy is how Cassie describes living surrounded by nature and the beauty of the area, which perfectly describes how many of us feel waking up to the peaceful sounds of birds singing each day.

Cassie has recently taken on the role of the New Marlborough animal control officer, having performed the same role in Sheffield since March. Cassie writes, "I look forward to helping our wildlife when it gets itself into trouble, usually because of humans. (Like a hawk that was recently poisoned when she ate a baited mouse. She passed away and now one of our natural mice control defenses is gone.) I really look forward to sharing information that I am learning every day about wildlife, knowledge that will help us live together peacefully with our fellow feather, furry, and clawed friends! Because it's their home too. And of course, I look forward to helping our pets find their way home when they find themselves out on an unintended 'adventure.'"

The recipe Cassie shared was one she learned in Home Economics in school, and it has been a staple in her life ever since. It's simple, everyone loves it, and it's adaptable. Cassie has made it with blueberries, blackberries, and once forgot the egg... and it was still perfect. I made a gluten- and dairy-free version, which (unfortunately for me, who was hoping to have it all to myself) was just as good as the regular one, according to my family. □

Fiona Kerr

Cassie's Coffee Cake

Preheat oven to 350° F

Cake Batter

1-1/2 cups plain flour

3/4 cup sugar

2-1/2 teaspoons baking powder

3/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 cup vegetable oil

3/4 cup milk

1 egg

1 cup of berries of choice – optional

- Mix all ingredients together
- Pour into greased and lined, 9" cake tin

Topping

1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar

1/2 cup plain flour

1 tsp cinnamon

6 tablespoons butter, melted

- Mix all ingredients together; it will resemble cookie dough
- Spread in dollops on top of the cake batter
- Bake for 25-30 minutes
- Enjoy with your favorite cuppa



THE GREAT GOAT ESCAPE

by Ellen Sweet

I was peacefully tending my vegetable garden in Southfield when my husband, Ari, shouted that three goats were rounding the corner of our barn. Did I hear him correctly? We don't know any goats. Who were these strangers? They were sweet, lovely visitors. We enjoyed watching them picnic on just about everything, even the rags we had just used to clean the grill. But when they started nibbling on my flowers, we had to shoo them away with a broom. That worked until one tried to eat the broom.



photo by Ellen Sweet

What to do? Call the police. Graham Frank arrived quickly. He has long experience with lost dogs, injured animals, and hoofloose cows (check any Police Log of the 5 Village News), but this was his first encounter with wandering goats. Graham went to check the neighbors. Sure enough, our nearest neighbor was missing three goats (one had stayed

home). Sally would come to get them. Now, how to move them up the road? Graham tethered one, but it balked at the rope and knuckled down on its forelegs. Got carrots? Graham asked. We did. The carrots and especially the chicken scratch Sally brought with her worked. Slowly, we lured the goats back home, tolerating their side trips to sample some delicacy or perhaps to enjoy their last free moments. Cars waited patiently, no doubt amused by a familiar country sight. Finally, the goats were safely inside their pen. Just another day in the life of New Marlborough. □



photo by Lisa Sweet-Korpiwara



photo by Ellen Sweet



photo by Ellen Sweet

AUGUST SCHOOL REPORT

How can we open schools in the fall? Can we make it safe for students, faculty, and staff to be in our buildings? Can we make buses safe for drivers and students? How can we afford masks, disinfection, and repurposing of spaces? Will parents send their kids to school? Even before four out of five district towns passed the Southern Berkshire Regional School District budget, Superintendent Regulbuto received the June 25 Guidance for Fall Opening of Schools from Education Commissioner Riley and these questions needed to be answered. Already exhausted from the marathon of the past three months involving the precipitous switch from in-school instruction to remote only, efforts to provide reasonable end-of-school events for students, and the complex process of passing the budget, the district now is full throttle to fulfill the state mandate to create three plans for the reopening of school due by July 31. One plan is for full opening with all students in school, another is a hybrid model with part time in school and part time remote, and one for all remote.

Gone is the summer opportunity for teachers to pursue professional development opportunities, the School Committee to take a breather after passing the budgets at town meeting, and administration to set goals for the coming year. It's all-hands-on-deck for the required Reopening Task Force that started in early July. It now has seventy members including volunteers from the community, parents, teachers, staff, school committee members, and the administrative team. There are five subcommittees grappling with issues of transportation, finances, scheduling and curriculum, personnel, and safety. The findings of each group will be fed into the creation of the three required plans. All of this work is being done in Zoom meetings with many committees meeting multiple times per week. It is remarkable how productive these groups have been, how many good ideas are being shared, and how committed everyone is to developing the best solutions possible for the students and families. There is frustration about the short timeline to develop the plans and the limited time teachers will have to prepare to open once these plans have been approved, but there is a lot of good will. The state is reserving final decisions to mid-August depending on the transmission rates at that time.

The state safety guidelines for students attending school in person include: All students and teachers wear masks except students under grade two, six-foot distance between desks, and students are divided into groups referred to as cohorts. Cohorts would stay together for the full day, including lunch, and not mix with other cohorts. Handwashing before eating and after bathroom breaks and frequent use of alcohol based hand sanitizer

will be required. Temperature taking before the start of each day as well as a health screening is recommended.

The School Committee has made time to continue its work with many members doing additional work on the Reopening Task Force and the Regional School District Planning Board. There was a special School Committee meeting on July 9 to adopt an Antiracist and Antibias Resolution. "As a district we commit to continuing to celebrate diversity and to cultivate equitable and inclusive practices and mindsets for our students, families, faculty, and staff. We will strive to eradicate biased and racist values, structures, and practices." The document goes on to outline specific practices it will institute to change practices in the district. At its July 16 meeting the Committee unanimously approved the superintendent's evaluation, which is one of the Committee's most important responsibilities. The evaluation was based on how well Ms. Regulbuto achieved the six goals that she had crafted with the School Committee in late fall. During this incredibly challenging year Ms. Regulbuto was able to show her leadership strengths as she guided her administrative council through not only meeting these goals, but also dealing with the multiple issues raised by the closing of the school buildings in March. Key accomplishments were increasing the role of teachers and staff in building the budget, more input from teachers in making curricular changes required in developing the remote learning plan, and her formation of a team

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that worked with a website developer to design a much-improved website. She received the top rating of exemplary, up from last year's rating of proficient.

Work continues for the Regional School District Planning Board. Representatives from all towns in the Berkshire Hills Regional School District and the Southern Berkshire Regional School District have formed a study

group to investigate the pros and cons of a merger between the two districts. A July 1 meeting was led by a facilitator to prepare for subcommittee work which will begin in August. More details on this in the September issue. □

Jane Burke

SBRSD School Committee Chair

ART IN THE TIME OF QUARANTINE

Young Artists Celebrate New Marlborough

Every August, the Town of New Marlborough sponsors a day-long crafts fair on the Village Green, followed by a pig roast at the Southfield Fire House. This annual event, with public tributes to dedicated members of the community, hay rides, excellent food, lively music and dancing, will sadly not take place this year. Like so many other cultural and social gatherings scheduled for this summer throughout the Berkshires, the pandemic has forced the Town of New Marlborough to cancel almost everything.

But in the spirit of Elihu Burritt, whom we proudly remember every August, the New Marlborough Village Association and Library refuse to give up in the face of adversity. Through the work of NMVA members Judy Friedlander and Abbe Steinglass, and Librarian Deb O'Brien, a new celebration is planned. On the day we expected to celebrate our Town's "Learned Blacksmith," we invite you to attend the opening of an outdoor sculpture show, featuring the work of our youngest artists:

Date: August 15 to 21, 2020

Opens 1:00 p.m. on August 15

Place: New Marlborough Village Green

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Devoted, by Dean Koontz

Adult Nonfiction

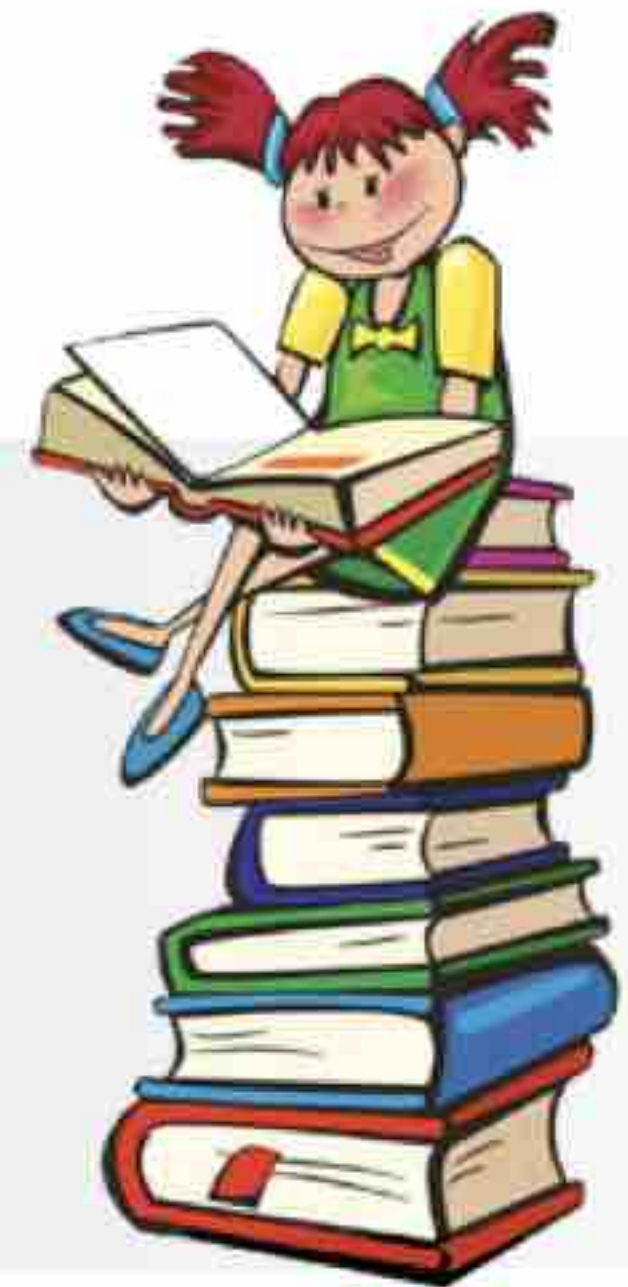
Berkshires Farm Table Cookbook: 125 Homegrown Recipes from the Hills of New England, by Elisa Spungen Bildner
Countdown 1945: The Extraordinary Story of the Atomic Bomb and the 116 Days That Changed the World, by Chris Wallace

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Echo Mountain, by Lauren Wolk
When Stars Are Scattered, by Victoria Jamieson
Bug Soup: What's In Your Lunchbox?, by Vince Cleghorne

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YAY!

The library will begin
 in-person browsing August 3.
 Watch Maggie's List
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 for more details!



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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.

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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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