



# New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

## IF ONLY STONES COULD TALK

*Delving Into the Mystery of the Cairns*

By Judith Friedlander

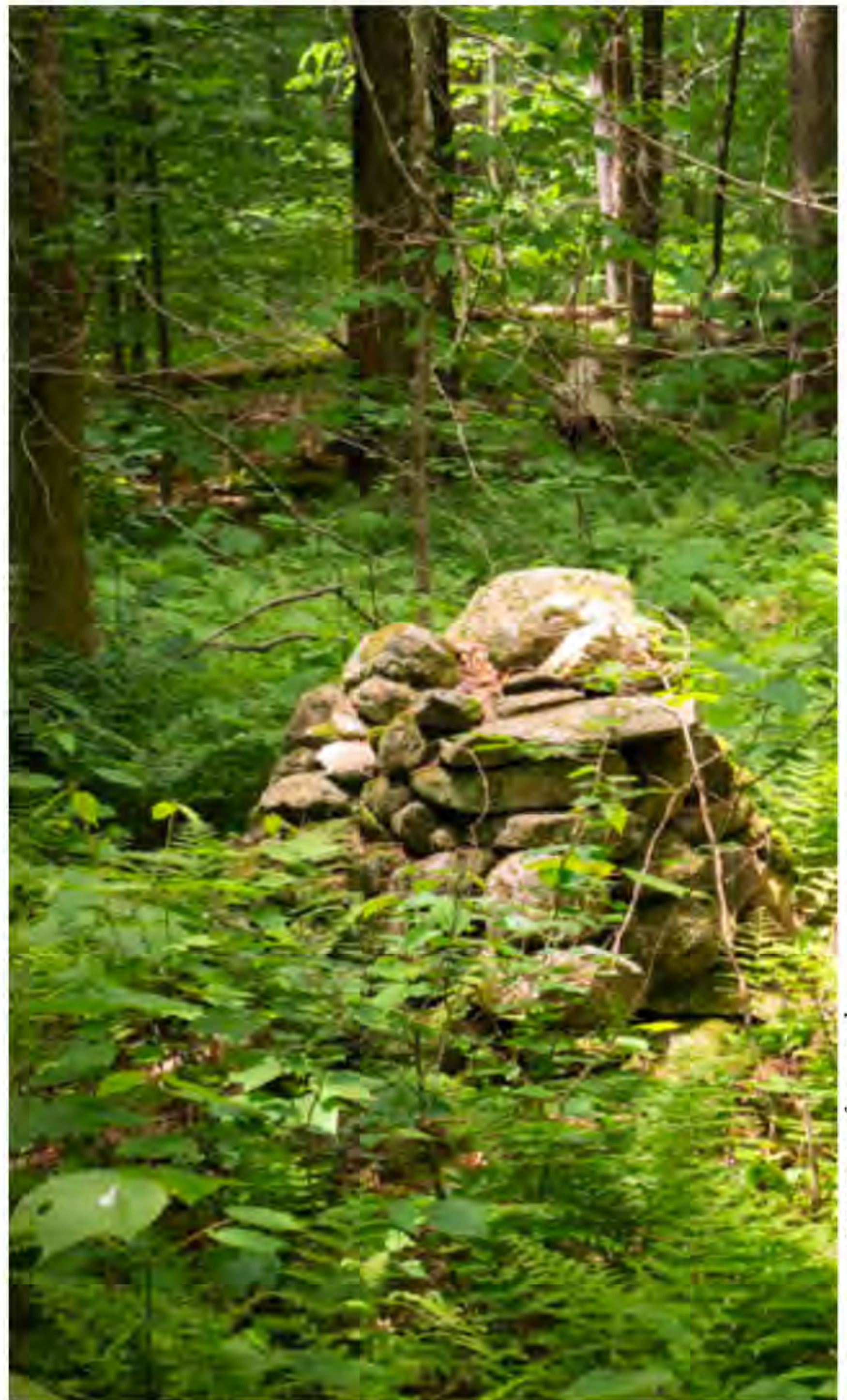
“Something there is that doesn’t love a wall,” I kept mumbling to myself, as Joan Elmer, Lee Backer, and I followed David Hosford along densely wooded trails in a state forest in New Marlborough. Hidden among the trees, we saw crumbling stone walls, like the one Robert Frost so memorably described, marking the boundaries of farmlands abandoned long ago. And as we walked deeper into the woods, I imagined New Marlborough’s 19th century residents, pulling up stakes and heading west to the other side of the Appalachians, where the federal government was selling tracts of land for next to nothing. The rich prairie soil, in these recently opened territories, promised bountiful harvests and liberation, finally, from that persistent something “that sends the frozen-ground-swell under [a wall] and spills the upper boulders in the sun.”

Those who stayed behind were not so lucky. Every spring, while preparing the soil for planting, they harvested boulders and stones of all shapes and sizes, just as their ancestors had done in the early 18th century, when settlers from Europe first arrived in the Berkshires. They used the stones to build foundations for houses and barns, and to repair the walls separating their pastures from

those of “good neighbors.” Farmers sold the stones they could not usefully redeploy to townspeople, and stockpiled the rest for a later time, leaving mounds for posterity in fallow corners of their fields, since reclaimed by the forest. That, at least, is one version of the story. There is another.

Euro-American farmers were not the only people accumulating piles of stones before moving west in the 1800s. And those other residents of the Berkshires did not leave voluntarily. In the years following the War of Independence, Americans native to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts were expelled from their homes and “resettled” in the new territories. Exiled to Wisconsin, the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohicans left behind their sacred *wawanaquasick*, or stone offering places, the most famous of which was in Great Barrington on Monument Mountain, as we call it today (1). And now, in New Marlborough, we may have found yet another Mohican sacred place, at the site David took Joan, Lee, and me to visit in early June.

David first learned about New Marlborough’s stone structures about fifteen years



Photos by Lee Backer

The cairns here and on the following pages are basically irregular pyramids. They measure roughly 24” long, 12” wide, and the largest are 36” high. Their remains vary widely.

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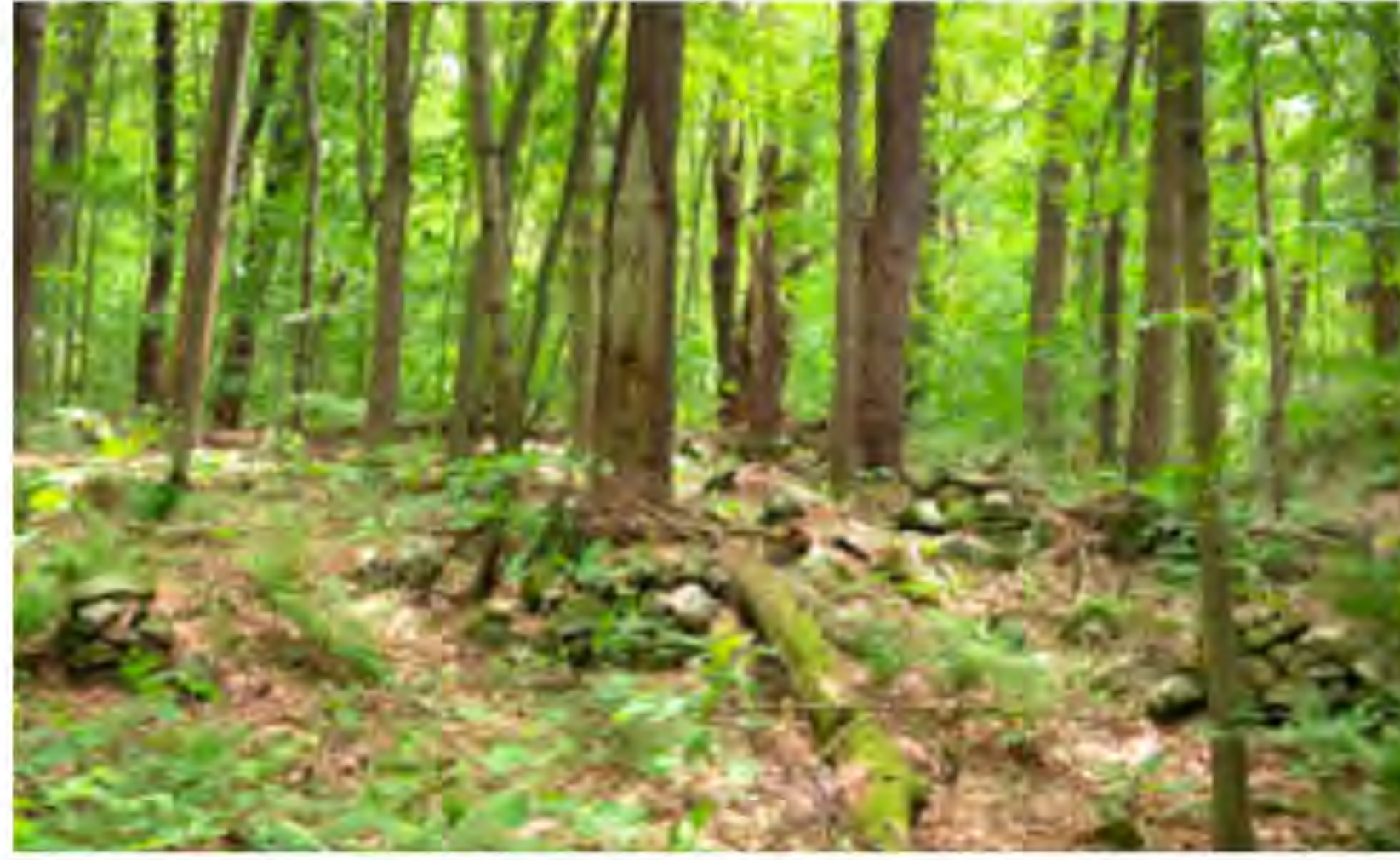
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ago, soon after he retired from Rutgers University and moved to the Berkshires. He says this about his discovery:

After settling in New Marlborough full-time in 2007, [this forested] area became a favorite place to go exploring. It was largely terra incognita then: a thin crisscross of abandoned dirt roads and some adjacent hunting and fishing trails. Most streams had no way over except by jumping rocks in low-water season or scrambling across the top of a beaver dam. In fact, it was pretty clear that the Commonwealth was not encouraging public access at the time. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, however, there had been a scattering of water-powered mills and a number of remote farms, the remains of which led a few of us to see what we could discover while also tapping into our own walking botanical encyclopedia, Jon Swan. It was on one of these treks that we stumbled onto the site of what we guessed could have been funeral cairns. We thought it best to leave the site untouched and unmarked, although now — well over a decade later — it seems appropriate to leave some record of the find in the hands of the Historical Society or like repository.

With that goal in mind, David took Lucy Bardo and me out to the site in October 2021, where he quickly persuaded us that local historians and archaeologists should know about the place. A few weeks later David and I went to Williams College to meet with Bonney Hartley,




photos by Lee Backer

the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal historic preservation manager. Shown a map that identified the precise location of the cairns, Bonney confirmed that her office knew about the place, but had never seen it. She thanked us for the map and for our descriptions of the stones but would not, understandably, identify what we had found before visiting the site herself, something she could not do in the near future.

In the meantime, David and I agreed to send Bonney photos of the stones, a few of which, if she concurred, we would publish in the *5 Village News*, without revealing the site's location. She had no problem with us doing so. We then asked photographer Lee Backer to take pictures of the cairns.

But what precisely had we found? As the only “card-carrying” anthropologist in the group, I agreed to look for an answer. I had seriously underestimated, however, the challenge of the task. The scholarly literature was both thin and contentious, a snap judgment, perhaps, but one I felt even more confident in making after contacting specialists, both local and national. Those who spoke on the record did so tentatively. Others would not let me quote them at all. Putting all of this together, I concluded that for the time being at least, we could not responsibly say whether or not the stone cairns we have found in New Marlborough are of indigenous origin. What we can say is the following:

New Marlborough's stone structures are probably not



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funeral cairns. If they are in fact indigenous, they may represent a stone offering place. According to David H. Thomas, curator of North American Archaeology at the American Museum of Natural History, “the practice of placing stones (and potsherds) in sacred places and/or along trails is pretty common — we see that in the Great Basin, Chaco, and also on the Inka Road, so [they] must be all over the place, but the ones I’ve seen are all pretty small ... no boulders used for that.”

Even though he emphasized the small size of the stones he has seen — his area of expertise is the American West — Dr. Thomas did not rule out the possibility that the mounds found in the Berkshires, with stones of varying sizes, may indeed be, to quote the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Historic Preservation Office, “special places on the landscape, where stones were placed by passing tribal member... to commemorate people or significant events.” Monument Mountain is widely recognized as one such prayer offering place, even by those who remain skeptical about other sites. As for the stone piles we found in New Marlborough — we counted as many as forty in an area about an acre in size — until we know more about them, we will follow the recommendation of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office and treat the site, “as likely to be an ancestral Native offering place,” which should not be disturbed.

On the other side of the argument, the Massachusetts Historical Commission has questioned the assumption that stone piles like the ones we have found in New Marlborough are Native American at all. In 2007, the Commission forcefully proclaimed: “When historians and archaeologists have searched stone walls, piles and chambers, they have invariably demonstrated that their features are associated with the activities of European settlers and have no Native American (or other) origin. Native American advisors have been involved in a number of excavations and they have confirmed these findings.” (2) Does the Commission stand by this statement today? I have contacted their office and am awaiting a reply.

So where does this leave us? Bonney Hartley, together with independent stone structure researchers Mary and James Gage, and archaeologist Curtiss Hoffman, have claimed in writing to have demonstrated that some of



photos by Lee Backer

the stone piles found in Massachusetts are of Native American origin (3). A few others may have claimed the same. But given the persistent questions, we will have to wait for historians and archaeologists to resolve their differences through more research. And may this research be conducted in respectful collaboration with tribal historic preservation offices like the one Bonney Hartley directs. In the meantime, I, for one, am not giving up on the possibility that the cairns in New Marlborough are of indigenous origin. □

#### Notes

1. Stockbridge-Munsee Community Tribal Historic Preservation Office: “Wawanaquasick: Stone Offering Places, Examples of a Mohican Cultural Practice in the Northeast,” Panel Display for *Revisiting Indian-town* seminar, Stockbridge, Massachusetts May 2018. A brief description of New Marlborough’s history

with the Mohicans appears on page 10 of the November 2021 issue of the *5 Village News*, available at [nm5vn.org](http://nm5vn.org)

2 *Terra Firma 5: Putting Historic Landscape Preservation on Solid Ground*, State of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Historical Landscape Preservation Initiative, 2007, p.14 (Statement by Massachusetts Historical Commission).



3. Mary E. Gage, with James Gage, “Testing the Stockpiling and Field Stone Clearing Piles Theories,” *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society* 76(1) Spring 2015, p. 2-26. Curtiss Hoffman, *Stone Prayers: Native American Stone Constructions of the Eastern Sea Board*, Arcadia Publishing, 2018.

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## Town Business Is Your Business SELECT BOARD



**June 26:** The 6:00 p.m. meeting opened with Mark Carson and Tara White at the Board member table — and Dan Alden, now two weeks into his retirement, seated with the citizenry. Without debate, Mr. Carson and Ms. White welcomed the agreement from Fire and Rescue for a **reduction from \$6,000 to \$3,000 annually in the rental of police cruiser garage space** in the old Firehouse.

Moving on to Highway Department expenses, Superintendent Chuck Loring reported that sand and gravel suppliers Century and Segalla refused to be locked into fix-price contracts, which meant that the **Highway Department would, for the foreseeable future, be buying at market price.** Mr. Loring has, however, secured a bid of \$79,519 for a new Ford 150 truck — the sander for which would be purchased separately. The Board accepted the bid.

Police Chief Graham Frank came forward to renew his request to be paid for certain overtime duty that has increasingly burdened his workweek. Following a lengthy discussion of what overtime might be included in an out-of-salary payment, the selectmen agreed that Chief Frank could share in the grant money devoted to traffic control but that payment for overtime in general would present an unwelcome precedent for other salaried employees. They suggested he consider renegotiating the latter two years of his three-year contract, which now calls for raises of 4.5 percent in each of those years.

In a discussion of **special permit fees for building on non-conforming lots** — now at \$200 — Town Administrator Mari Enoch noted that the loss of the *Berkshire Record* had increased the cost of obligatory advertising, which now had to be placed with the *Eagle*. The Board concurred with Ms. Enoch's suggestion that starting

July 1 the fee be increased to \$350, with additional costs to be billed separately. A review of Board of Health fees raised the question as to what came under its purview. What, for example, constitutes a farm stand? The matter was postponed to a future meeting to provide time for a clarification.

A lengthy list of appointments to Town committees, commissions, councils, boards, and offices hit a snag: Tara White asked to be recused from appointing herself as Town accountant. Since this reduced the vote to just one Board member, Mr. Carson invoked a so-called "Rule of Necessity" to allow Ms. White's recusal to be, in this instance, rescinded. The two of them then endorsed Ms. White's employment as Town accountant. A special permit request to build on a non-conforming lot on Deerwood Park Drive encountered a similar hurdle. The permit needs no fewer than three affirmative votes and therefore could not be approved by a two-person Board. The lot owner will be asked to grant a sixty-five-day extension of his permit request, at which time a special election will have restored the Board to full strength.

Ms. White announced that Sophia Bletsos had been hired by a five-town consortium, including New Marlborough, as a human-resources consultant. Ms. Enoch, citing her difficulty in attracting applicants to the administrative secretary opening at Town Hall, said she would ask Ms. Bletsos to lend her expertise to filling the position. Finally, with the meeting open to public comment, Mr. Alden referred to the parlous state of Umpachene Falls Park and asked if the removal of the grill might reduce non-New Marlborough resident usage of the park. Mr. Carson advised him to speak to Park Commission Chairman Robert Twing.

Joe Poindexter

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**July 11:** Select Board Chairman Mark Carson convened the meeting shortly after 6:00 p.m., just he and Tara White comprising the full board until a replacement for Dan Alden can be elected in September. The first order of business was to **welcome the newly hired Human Resources officer**, Sophia Bletsos. Town Administrator Mari Enoch made the introductory remarks, saying the expectation is that Ms. Bletsos will be working six hours a week for the Town, partly in-person and partly remotely via computer. **Immediate priorities will be filling current vacancies on Town boards and commissions, processing the applications for the paid firefighter/EMT positions and the 32-hour police officer position, and finding a new administrative secretary for the Town Hall.** Other goals for Ms. Bletsos will be to ensure good workplace safety practices and to conduct human resource training sessions with Town employees. Ms. Enoch reminded everyone that the position is shared by a number of south county towns, with Great Barrington getting the lion's share of Ms. Bletsos' time, and that the position is largely funded by a yearly, renewable grant through the Collins Center for Public Policy. Ms. Bletsos expressed her eagerness to familiarize herself with the town and with its employees.

Mark Carson then moved on to the next item – **transfer station fees.** He announced that Valley Roll-Off, the company that supplies the dumpsters for the Town, has doubled its fee for bulky waste – couches, mattresses, chairs, tables, etc. – from \$25 to \$50 per item. He is worried that this substantial hike will lead to more people discarding furniture along the roadsides in town. Mari Enoch noted that, as an alternative to bringing bulky waste items to the New Marlborough transfer station, residents may take them directly to the

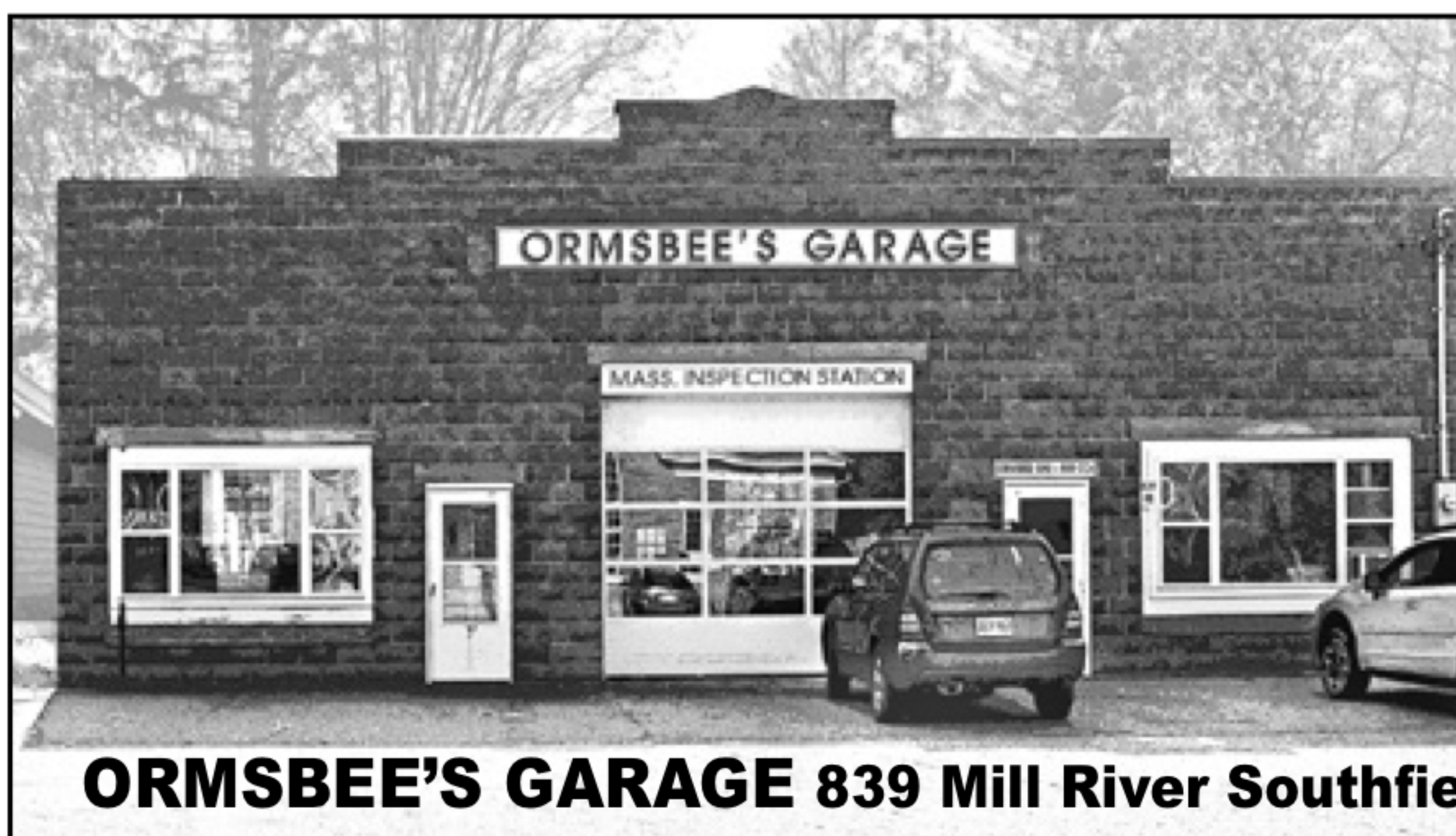
Lee facility for free. It was just a little unclear on the “free” part, so Ms. Enoch will investigate that.

Other work-arounds to the rate hike were offered: Dan Alden, attending as an audience member, suggested putting alternate sources for disposal on the Town website; Mari Enoch thought there might be a “bulky waste day” once or twice a year. Both ideas were thought to be worth pursuing by the two members of the Board. In the meantime, Mr. Carson stated that Freddy Friedman, in his position overseeing the transfer station, said that the full cost of the increased fees should be passed on to the citizens who use the service. Reviewing the current fees for all items, Mr. Carson said that a truckload of construction debris will remain at \$100; “white goods” – stoves, refrigerators, etc. – also the same at \$25: car tires - \$5; car tires with rim - \$8; truck tires - \$10; truck tires with rim - \$12; tractor tires - \$150. Mr. Carson made the motion that **these fees, along with the new \$50 charge for bulky waste, be adopted.** Ms. White seconded and she and Mr. Carson approved the motion.

The next topic of the evening was nothing less than **the future of Town Hall.** Ms. White reviewed the many years' effort in researching and estimating costs of renovation, most recently the 2021 plan to make the building ADA-compliant for the sum of \$2.1 million, which has not gained traction. The next step, according to Ms. White, should be to put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) that would include any viable approach – full renovation of the existing building, building a new structure on the same site, obtaining a suitable building elsewhere in town, or finding a lot on which to build from scratch.

The discussion was interrupted at 6:30 p.m. with the arrival of Douglas Newman, who asked for a “point of

*The current vacancy of one Select Board member causes some problems in making official decisions. There are work-arounds, but the position should be filled by the September 6 Special Election.*



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order,” saying that, while the agenda for this meeting had 6:00 p.m. as the starting time, the Town website calendar said 7:00 p.m. This put into question whether the meeting up to this point was legal, whether it should be suspended and then resumed in another half-hour, or rescheduled entirely. After some discussion and suggestions from the attending citizens, it was decided to continue on, with the agreement that other late-arriving people would be brought up to date on what had transpired.

Having settled Mr. Newman’s concerns, the discussion of the Town Hall’s future resumed. Jan Johnson posed a question to Ms. White: “What is the ADA compliance date?” To which Ms. White replied, “We’re on borrowed time,” by which she meant that the Town is vulnerable to suit by anyone who wished to challenge the non-compliance of the building. Dan Alden then asked if any properties are already under consideration. Mark Carson allowed that the owners of the winery on the Great Barrington Mill River Road had approached the Board with an offer to sell the building, and that a brief inspection of the structure revealed that a renovation to make the interior suitable for the needs of the Town would be at least \$500,000. He continued to say that an accurate estimate of any kind of construction is virtually impossible now, as “contractors are not giving labor prices.” It is too early, therefore, to consider the winery offer.

Over the next thirty minutes, **ideas continued to be voiced and voiced again on the way forward.** Dan Alden asked if the current building could be jacked up and moved into the parking area, where it could then be given a good foundation and thorough renovation. Doug Newman thought that a “request for information” should precede the RFPs. Jan Johnson returned to her thoughts on the urgency of coming into line with ADA requirements. Tara White held to the idea of getting

***Fees for the removal of bulky waste from the Transfer Station have doubled, and the increase will be borne by those by those citizens disposing of bulky waste.***

RFPs started, and Mark Carson cautioned that, unlike the 2021 plan, the Town has no grant money to pour into the process. Eventually it was decided that Town counsel needed to be consulted on the legalities and procedures that need to be adhered to in setting up to issue RFPs.

Next on the agenda, Mr. Carson gave an update on the Umpachene Erosion Project, which has been on hold for over a year. The project involves **stabilizing the bank at Umpachene Falls**, where the Konkapot and Umpachene rivers join. A low water level is needed in order to accomplish the work of removing old cement blocks and replacing them with boulders. During the period of time when the repairs are being made, the park will remain closed. The state Department of Environmental Protection and the local Conservation Commission have

already signed off on the project. Interestingly, **there is a “Wood Turtle Protection Plan”** in place, and this requires a visit each morning by Susan Fowle of Snake Roots Ecological Services. She will scan the area for the presence of the endangered wood turtle, and, finding none, will then give the Wilkinson crew the go-ahead to start work for the day.

Turning to **appointments to various Town posts**, Mari Enoch reported that Laurie J. Hils will serve again as Veterans Agent; Claudette Callahan and Fiona Kerr are reappointed to the Historical Commission; and Broc Kerr has been reappointed to the Cable Advisory Committee. Richard Long has been appointed to the Highway Planning Working Group, and Paul Green has been made Alternate Building Inspector. All appointments are effective through June 30, 2023. Ms. Enoch added that the Board of Appeals needs members, as does the Transfer Station Working Group, and an ADA coordinator needs to be selected from amongst current Town employees.



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Chair Mark Carson then turned to the issue of a **complaint of an open meeting violation having been lodged with the state by Dan Alden against Tara White.** Mr. Alden stated that, on June 13, during his brief tenure as a member of the Select Board, he and Ms. White engaged in a conversation in the parking lot at Town Hall after the conclusion of the regular Board meeting. In his complaint, Mr. Alden charged that Ms. White conveyed to him information about the parking issue outside the Mill River Store that he felt should have been stated in an open, scheduled meeting.

Ms. White handed Mr. Carson a copy of the letter she had written in rebuttal to Mr. Alden's charge, which Mr. Carson then read silently to himself. There was some uncertainty in the room as to whether he should have read it out loud to the public, but that question was resolved once he handed the document to Town Administrator Enoch, who announced, "It is public right now." Mr. Alden asked for a copy, read it, returned it to Ms. Enoch, and left the building.

Ms. White's response, which will be mailed to the Attorney General and to Mr. Alden, essentially states that it was Mr. Alden who initiated the conversation, and that she only offered him some historical information on past issues with parking opposite the store.

Having cleared that hurdle, Mr. Carson moved onto Select Board updates. Ms. Enoch let it be known that, regarding all governmental meetings, including Town boards and commissions, the state is mandating that, **as of July 15, quorums must once again be in person,** ending the allowance for Zoom-based quorums. She said that the state legislature is working toward a hybrid meeting rule that would be easier for small towns to comply.

Ms. Enoch then reported that Representative Smitty

Pignatelli has been supportive on the planning to deal with riverbank erosion on both sides of the bridge over the Konkapot River on the Hartsville Mill River Road. He is also in the conversation around the difficulty of small-town truck operators to keep up to date with their commercial drivers licenses, having to go through extensive and expensive testing as far away as Springfield. Finally, Ms. Enoch asked that the Board grant Town Clerk Kathy Chretien a carryover of ten days of vacation time to next year.

At 7:55 p.m., with the assembled crowd having dwindled down to just the two select persons, Ms. Enoch, Doug Newman, and this reporter, Mr. Carson adjourned the meeting.

Larry Burke

*After a delay of over a year, the project to stabilize the river banks at Umpachene Falls is going forward, necessitating the closing of the park while repairs are being made.*

**July 18:** The Board, still numbering just two members, met briefly to put its stamp of approval on a solicitation of members to a yet-to-

be-formed Town Hall Building Committee. Richard Long, present as a citizen, expressed a willingness to serve on the Committee. Board members Mark Carson and Tara White welcomed his interest, since during his final year as a selectman, he had studied the need for an ADA-compliant Town Hall. They also agreed that Town Administrator Mari Enoch should be named a Committee member.

The selectmen concurred with Mr. Long that as to size, less was more, and settled on a Committee of five or fewer members. **Its principal responsibility will be to locate a site for a Town Hall and then create a request for proposals from prospective builders.** Looking forward to the next phase of the project, the selectmen anticipated the Building Committee could morph into a Designer Selection Committee. This placed a premium on appointing a person with architectural savvy, a quality that was specified in a "Call for Volunteers" that went out the following day.



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Dan Alden, present at the meeting, asked whether the cost of abandoning the present Town Hall and its role as a focal point of Mill River village had been reckoned with. Tara White said that an ADA-compliant renovation of the building — at \$2.1 million — seemed to price the current building out of contention. Mark Carson added that the need for a new roof and an upgrade to energy efficiency would put its renovation cost even further out of range. The selectmen concluded their deliberations with the request that, upon its formation, the Town Hall Building Committee would create a mission statement calling for **consideration of all three alternatives: renovation of the current Town Hall, finding an existing building to transform to Town Hall use, or locating a suitable**

**site for a new building.**

Following the appointment of John James as an alternate delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and Sharon Fleck and John Hotaling to the Commission on Disabilities, the meeting was adjourned.

Shortly afterwards, Dan Alden informed a reporter for the 5 Village News that he had, that morning, submitted papers to the Town clerk to be placed in nomination for the September 6 election of a third selectman. As readers will recall, the opening on the Board was created by Mr. Alden's resignation as selectman in mid-June. □

Joe Poindexter

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**June 16:** Commission members John Schreiber, Doug Hyde, and Nanci Worthington convened the month's meeting.

First up was a Request for Determination (RDA) from Jean Gagnon of 251 Hartsville Mill River Road. Nellie Wilson of Butternut Tree and Land Care spoke on behalf of her client and described the work to remove four trees in declining health along the driveway. Ms. Wilson confirmed that the stumps will remain. The Commission requested that there be a 1:1 replication and that the four replacement trees be native and greater than ten feet in height. The permit was given a negative determination, meaning no further permitting was necessary.

Next Ms. Wilson addressed the Commission on behalf of Dan Alden of 260 Hartsville Mill River Road. The RDA involves the removal of a large sugar maple which is threatening the house and is at an active road intersection. The Commission gave the permit

a negative determination with no further permitting necessary and requested that the replacement tree be greater than ten feet in height and that the stump of the maple be left in place.

Next the Commission moved to old business. The ongoing request to remove the berm at the gravel pit on Canaan Southfield Road was reviewed. The Commission asked for written permission to inspect the site before the next month's meeting. The Commission also agreed to ask Todd Wilkinson of Wilkinson Excavating to come to next month's meeting to explain the work done to date and to review his intentions to comply with the Department of Environmental Protection's request to remove the berm and to pull back all mining to the original grandfathered mining area.

After the minutes were approved, the meeting concluded. □

Martha Bryan

## SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION, SEPTEMBER 6

The Select Board has scheduled a special election to fill three elective positions that are currently vacant. The positions are on the Select Board, the Finance Committee, and the Planning Board. Candidates who had filed nomination papers by the deadline of July 19 are:

**Select Board (term expires May 2025): Daniel Alden, Bill West**

**Finance Committee (term expires May 2023): Jane Fuccillo**

**Planning Board (term expires May 2026): Christian Stovall**

Because the Special Town Election coincides with the State Primary Election, the polls will be open at Town Hall from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



## PLANNING BOARD

A last minute decision prompted by two Planning Board members having recently contracted Covid led to convening the **July 13** meeting via Zoom. As a result, all members – Chair Bob Hartt, Jon James, Paul Marcel, Jordan Archey, and Christian Stovall – were at home on their computers while Secretary Sharon Fleck and applicant Jim Caron and his lawyer Elizabeth Goodman were in person at Town Hall.

To accommodate Mr. Caron and Ms. Goodman, the Board launched right into discussion of a July 11 letter that outlined certain restrictions to the proposed subdivision on Deerwood Park Road (see the July, 2022 issue of the *NM5VN* for further details). Ms. Goodman said her client would agree to several conditions, namely that two of the four proposed lots be sold together as a package, and that there be no cutting of vegetation within fifty feet of Lake Buel, with the exception of a thirty-foot-wide access pathway from each lot. Ms. Goodman said she still seeks a waiver for the existing road, saying, “it is suitable for four lots.” She also added that two of Mr. Caron’s abutters have sent letters in support of the plan, and a third abutter is “in accord.”

Regarding septic systems, Paul Marcel had concerns that they not be close to the lake, and there was agreement on that point, though Mr. Hartt pointed out that this would be a decision for the Board of Health. He agreed with Ms. Goodman that the engineer on the project could now move forward with the submission of a preliminary plan, but that it was important to have the concurrence of both the Fire Department and the Highway Department that the road was up to the standards required by the Town. Mr. Hartt ended this part of the meeting by saying that he felt the process to this point between the Planning Board and the applicants had been “very transparent,” and that the project, in his opinion, benefits the town.

Turning to other matters, Mr. Hartt said that a demolition project at 1191 Canaan Southfield Road was being allowed to go ahead. The demolition pause bylaw that was passed in May is not in effect until it is reviewed by the Attorney General’s office, and, in any case, the main house, dating from the 1700s, will be preserved while an addition made in the early 20th century will be torn down.

Following a meeting with the Conservation Commission’s Nanci Worthington, Mr. Hartt said he considers that the business of dealing with ridgeline development has been handed off to the Planning Board. Paul Marcel suggested that the first step would be to see what kind of bylaws or restrictions other towns have come up with. Bob Hartt agreed and said they would come back to this topic at a later date.

Mr. Hartt mentioned an email he had received from Abigail Crine in Hartsville, giving kudos to Mount Everett Sanitation for having voluntarily reduced the glare from the exterior lighting on its grounds. He thought it would be a good idea for the Board to touch base with Berkshire Spring Water folks after the light trespass bylaw is approved by the state, to engage that company in the goal of reducing glare from that property.

Jon James accepted the position of alternate representative to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. The primary delegate is one of the members of the Select Board.

As a final exercise for the evening, Mr. Hartt asked members to engage in a visioning discussion on what the town of New Marlborough might look like, or should aim to look like, in the next five or ten years. All members were in agreement that the rural character is essential, but Bob Hartt asked, “How do we balance that with economic growth?” Christian Stovall said that he had come to New Marlborough with the desire to start a farm, which he has with the important support of his parents, but he has since had long conversations with other young people in town on simply how to be here. “It is a struggle to settle here for young people,” he said. The discussion then went in the direction of affordable housing and self-sustainability. Jordan Archey said she thought those two were important aims, and wondered how much the Planning Board could do to accomplish those ends. Bob Hartt answered that if affordable housing is deemed a key goal, then the Planning Board would have a role in setting conditions. While not reaching any clear conclusions in this brief discussion on the ways in which the Planning Board might help the town in finding the pathway to sustainable growth, the members did well to set themselves to the task. □

Larry Burke

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# INTRODUCING NEW TOWN EMPLOYEES

## Rebecca Wagner appointed clerk to the assessor

New Marlborough's new clerk to the assessor, Rebecca Wagner, was born on the New England coast in Milford, Connecticut, and moved to the Berkshires when she was twelve. Although she admits that she misses the beach, she has a great love for the area and considers the Berkshires "home." With a paralegal degree from the University of Connecticut and an associate's degree in liberal arts from Berkshire Community College, she has worn many employment hats over the years. "I probably cleaned your house or worked on your garden over the past twenty years," she jests. "In fact, the New Marlborough Town Hall and Library were my first cleaning jobs!"

Rebecca earned a bookkeeping certificate from New York Institute for Career Development and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in human resources/business administration from Western Governors University. Education, fair housing, and environmental preservation are all current passions. "New Marlborough holds a special place in my heart as I raised my three [now adult] children here," she explains, adding that they spent most of their time at Umpachene Falls and the New Marlborough Library. "Long-time resident Greg Goewey is my favorite ex-father-in-law and is a wonderful grandfather to my children," she notes. "I winter in his home in New Marlborough and live in Canaan, Connecticut, the rest of the year." In her spare time Rebecca paints, makes glass and pottery, and gardens. She also loves to travel. When asked how she likes working for the town so far, she responds, "I am enjoying my new position and have met many great townspeople in the past few weeks."



Rebecca Wagner

## Jessica Horan, Treasurer and Tax Collector

Jessica Horan started her position as New Marlborough's treasurer last August, adding the tax collector's duties to her scope in December. Although she is a full-time employee, the positions are technically two separate part-time positions. "I've always had a strong accounting background," she states, adding, "When I read the treasurer's job posting, I applied on a whim, and they really like me!" Jessica grew up in Granby, Connecticut, and has lived in Colebrook for the past twelve years. She earned her associate's degree in business administration from Northwest Community College, and recently added a B.A. (also in business administration) from Charter Oak State College. "It was a lot of work, and I'm glad it's over, but I did have a lot of fun," she notes. Jessica and her fiancée enjoy hiking, camping, and other outdoor activities; they went to Umpachene Falls for the first time a month ago and were amazed by the natural beauty. How does she feel about working for the Town of New Marlborough? "I love working here!" she beams. "Everyone in the office is really helpful. The residents have been very kind and welcoming, too. I've never worked in a place like this!"



Jessica Horan

Robbi Hartt



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## Upcoming: *Events Calendar for August and September*

**Through August 28: Simply, the Berkshires,** art on view at the Meeting House Gallery, Fridays to Sundays, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**August 6: Kristin and Mark Kimball of Essex Farm,** pioneers of Community Service Agriculture, talk about sustainable farming – and their use, wherever possible, of solar- and horse-powered equipment; 4:30 p.m. at the New Marlborough Meeting House; \$25, \$20 to Meeting House members

**August 13: Rhythm Future Quartet,** violin, bass, and two guitars, merging contemporary music with Gypsy jazz; 4:30 p.m. at the New Marlborough Meeting House; \$25, \$20 to Meeting House members

**August 20: Elihu Burritt Day,** 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the New Marlborough Village Green, followed by the Fire Department Annual Pig Roast, at the Firehouse in Southfield village, 5:00 p.m. until the band goes home

**August 20: Wild Edible and Medicinal Plants,** 10:00 to noon, join Tes Reed at Steepletop to learn about the many edible and medicinal plants that grow all around us

**August 23: Last day to register to vote before Special Election,** 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Town Hall

**August 26: Last day to apply for absentee ballots by mail**

**August 27: John Douglas Thompson,** reknowned actor, discusses his journey from traveling computer salesman to acclaimed actor; 4:30 p.m. at the New Marlborough Meeting House; \$25, \$20 to Meeting House members

**September 2: Last day to apply for absentee ballots in person, by noon**

**September 2: New Marlborough Artists,** a Meeting House Gallery show of neighborhood talent, opening at 5:00 p.m., on view Fridays to Sundays, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., closing October 2

**September 6: Special Town Election and State Primary Election:** Polls open at Town Hall, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**September 10: Neave Trio,** violin, cello, piano, performing works by Chaminade, Tailleferre, and Ravel; 4:30 p.m. at the New Marlborough Meeting House; \$25, \$20 to Meeting House members

**September 17: Pianist Wael Farouk,** in an all-Russian program of works by Scriabin, Rachmaninoff, and Mussorgsky; 4:30 p.m. at the New Marlborough Meeting House; \$25, \$20 to Meeting House members

**September 30: New Marlborough Land Trust Partners with Berkshire Camino,** 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. A special walk at the Goodnow Preserve



## THE CONSOLIDATION QUESTION

### Coming to Grips with a Declining Student Body

by Joe Poindexter

Were it a Greek myth, Southern Berkshire County school consolidation would have ranked, for sheer difficulty, alongside the Labors of Hercules. Two years after it was formed, the Regional School District Planning Board (RSDPB) finally has a plan. But that was the easy part. Now the “it” needs to be explained to the eight towns that are members of the Southern Berkshire and Berkshire Hills Regional School Districts why consolidation is a good idea.

The basic arithmetic is daunting. Over the past two decades, the student bodies of the Southern Berkshire and the Berkshire Hill Regional School Districts have steadily shrunk in size. According to research conducted on behalf of the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board, enrollment in the two districts has shrunk by 33 percent since 2000 — from 2,684 to 1,787 in 2020. Southern Berkshire Regional School District’s decline was especially steep — from 1,072 students in 2000 to 624 in 2020. And the news gets worse. By the researchers’ estimate, the drop will continue unabated for the rest of this decade. They project that in 2030 the student body in both districts will total 1,280, slightly less than half of what it was at the beginning of the 21st century.

On the plus side, however, the trend, evident for years, is finally getting serious attention. Over the past year or so, the RSDPB winnowed seven reorganization models down to three:

- Full K-12 regionalization, combining elementary and high school into a single region;
- Creation of a combined high school while maintaining K through 8 classes in separate regional groupings;
- No regionalization but the institution of formal collaborations between the two districts.

On April 26, the Board voted sixteen to six for a plan that would merge the two districts, create a single high school, and maintain Kindergarten through eighth-grade classes in their present locations.

Since then, representatives of the Board have been holding meetings with select boards in the eight towns of the two Districts — Great Barrington, Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge of Berkshire Hills; Alford, Egremont, Monterey, New Marlborough, and Sheffield of Southern Berkshire — to explain its plan and encourage town officials to educate their residents on the proposal. On July 11, it was New Marlborough’s turn. RSDPB Chair Lucy Prashker took over the meeting, conducted via Zoom, to describe the problem, the process, and the progress so far. Despite declining enrollment, said Ms. Prashker, operational costs have risen and will continue to rise. State funding, based in part on the number of students, will be flat or decline. In March 2020, she explained, the districts’ eight towns created SBRPB to address the growing fiscal crisis.

The Board, in turn, formed sub-committees to delve into project management, community outreach, educational quality, finance, and operations. It garnered \$305,000 of state grant money to hire researchers. It persuaded the eight towns to pony up \$8,000 each — total \$64,000 — to augment its funding needs. Since it started, the Board has hired consultants and turned out a raft of reports. By its count, the Board and its sub-committees have held more than 100 open meetings.

Ms. Prashker noted that certain issues have arisen in meetings with other select boards. One of them: the cost of a new high school to replace Monument Mountain. The price, now put at around \$100 million, would be borne mostly by Berkshire Hills, she said, with a 10 percent contribution from Southern Berkshire towns in

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recognition of the need to build a school large enough to service both districts. Further, the new school would contain facilities for career and vocational training education (CVTE). Not presently available in either district, vocational training is seen as an important component for those students not planning to continue into higher education. She emphasized that CVTE classes would be voluntary and that classes would not be segregated into academic and vocational sections.

To those with ties to Mount Everett High School who lamented the loss of identity — name, school colors, mascot — Ms. Prashker responded that the same will befall Monument Mountain and that a new school presents an opportunity to forge a new identity. As to what would become of the Mount Everett High School building, Ms. Prashker suggested it might be repurposed for adult learning or as a community center.

Transportation, its cost and the length of ride, has also received attention from the Planning Board. Jake Eberwein, the Board's lead researcher, also present at the meeting, said that bus time would not exceed one hour and that transportation costs would remain at present

levels, or possibly even decrease. Class size, he said, would top out at twenty to twenty-two students. In answer to a question about the fate of New Marlborough Central, Mr. Eberwein said that no change was contemplated and that the Board was keen on keeping primary students as close as possible to the schools they now attend.

Jane Burke, chair of the SBRSD School Committee and one of the few present at the meeting to voice skepticism about the proposed consolidation plan, wondered about the future of the exclusive agreement Mount Everett had reached with Bard College at Simon's Rock to provide supportive programs and college-level courses at the high school. She also expressed a fear that governance of a combined district might leave a smaller town such as New Marlborough with too little power to protect its interests. Mr. Eberwein said that checks and balances could be built into a regional agreement.

As the meeting drew to a close, Ms. Prashker urged those in attendance to reach out to the community to help create a unified vision of the future of education in South Berkshire County. □

**IT'S THE EVENT OF THE YEAR!!! THE NEW MARLBOROUGH CULTURAL COUNCIL'S ELIHU BURRITT DAY WHITE ELEPHANT SALE!!!**

Members of the Cultural Council will be accepting your treasures for our August 20 sale as follows:  
Saturday, August 13, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 653 Hartsville-New Marlborough Road, a mile west of the New Marlborough Village Green, Friday, August 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the New Marlborough Village Green.

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# TOM BRAZIE'S DREAM STORY

By Isabella Kemp

When I visited The Farm New Marlborough recently, I talked to Tom Brazie for three hours about his work and his passionate commitment to the community.

For as long as he can remember, Tom's dream has been to be a dairy farmer. He is incredibly enthusiastic and passionate about what he does and believes feeding the community is important. He values building relationships based on trust and loves having direct relationships with his customers: "You trust me to raise your family's food and take care of the land it is grown on," Tom says.

A few years before his childhood dream came true, Tom's journey to becoming a farmer started after high school when he began his landscaping business which he led successfully for about ten years. During that time, he started watching Joel Salatin's lectures – Mr. Salatin is a self-described environmentalist, capitalist, lunatic farmer, lecturer, and author – where Tom learned about creating revenue on a farm. He was inspired by Mr. Salatin, and in 2014, he started raising chickens and started a small business providing for family and friends, a venture he jokingly refers to as "black market meats."

In spring of 2017, the building where he operated his landscaping business burned down, which prompted him



A team member tends a field

photos courtesy of the Farm New Marlborough



Friday night dinners are a social as well as a culinary event.

to move on to new things. At the time, the Kolburne School land was up for sale and Tom – with the guidance and advice of Martha Bryan (director of the New Marlborough Land Trust at the time) – was able to purchase this land to begin operating at a larger scale. Raising animals and selling beef, pork, chicken, and eggs, the farm is a perfect storm of passion and commitment, and sustained family and community support. Tom loves every bit of it, saying that "it is real honest work, and you can't cut corners."

At The Farm New Marlborough, animals are cycled through the land they are grazing in a way that naturally replenishes and fertilizes the soil. Self-described on the farm's website, Tom's passion shines: Through an intensive rotational grazing model, the cows, chickens, and pigs manage their "gardens" by aerating, cultivating, pruning, fertilizing, and sanitizing all summer long. Each animal knows exactly what role to play in this orchestrated symbiotic dance that the farmers help to choreograph. The result is healthy, abundant growth, both above ground

and below, the healthiest and best quality meats that can be grown, and most importantly, a regenerative model that heals the earth, air, and environment, and keeps the candle burning for a cleaner world for our children.

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It's surely a family effort. Tom's wife, Laurel, and mother-in-law, Joanie, help run the farm store; they cater, bake, and run the Friday night community dinners on the farm. His brother Andy helps care for the chickens, and his sister Beth helps with deliveries. In addition to his immediate family, Tom also has a great farm crew that helps out on the farm. As Tom says, "you are always working with your brain and your hands." Emelia Fedell, who started full-time in spring 2021, says that to work on a farm "you have to learn how to learn." She really enjoys working with Tom and the rest of the crew, saying she "wanted to be more of a part of the community" and "loves being outside and working with the animals." Honora Fedell learned how to drive, helping with deliveries. Quinn, another of the farm crew, says "it's always a lot of fun working with Tom."

Tom talks passionately about the farm crew, saying, "you can't get more intelligent people in this generation that are so interested and motivated to learn. They are the future, the next generation of farmers. We need to take advantage of this and invest time in local food and local agriculture."

The Farm New Marlborough sells products on the farm and delivers locally. When the pandemic hit, the farm was busy with individual customers. People were stuck at home and turned to local food, realizing the importance of helping small business owners and supporting their community, while trying to avoid going into supermarkets because of the risks involved. At the same



Mom and piglets doing what comes naturally.



time, restaurants closed, wholesalers stopped purchasing products from the farm, and The Farm New Marlborough took a huge hit. On the upside, as farm sales began to pick up with local customers, The Farm started local deliveries. This positive turn lasted for a few months until sales dropped again, including local orders.

Currently, as the pandemic seems to have become less of a perceived public health issue, the farm is not selling much to individual households, and the team is now working on recreating relationships with restaurants. They are working on creating a self-serve store on the farm that will be open from dawn until dusk so food can be made more accessible to the community. The farm crew is very excited about this plan and hopes that it will create more traffic on the farm. "Ideally, we want to be feeding the community," Tom says.

The Farm New Marlborough is located at 343 New Marlborough Southfield Road in New Marlborough. You can reach the farm crew at 413-229-2350 or via email at the [farmnewmarlborough@gmail.com](mailto:farmnewmarlborough@gmail.com). □

**FARM STORE, DINNERS + BBQ**

If you are interested in having a true farm-to-table experience from Tom, visit The Farm New Marlborough for Farm Dinners on Friday nights from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. Every Saturday, the farm store is open from 9:30 - noon for Saturday pick-up: they also host an "open barbecue" with hot dogs, hamburgers, and a bonfire from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Don't forget! They do home deliveries on Thursdays, so give them a holler if you want farm-fresh food delivered right to your doorstep.

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## THE ELIHU BURRITT AWARD

### Not One but Two 2022 Recipients

by Joe Poindexter

This year, in over-due recognition of the contribution of a public servant and timely acknowledgement of the transformative work of two committees, the Cultural Council will present two Elihu Burritt Awards. One will go to Nat Yohalem; the other, a joint award, to the Broadband Committee and the Cable Advisory Committee.

Mr. Yohalem, who was a member of the New Marlborough Historical Society Board and the Finance Committee, both for two years, and who continues as a member of the Transfer Station Working Group and the Capital Planning Committee, served nine years as a selectman from 2011 to 2020, three of them as chairman of the Board. One citizen refers to Mr. Yohalem's time of service as the "golden age of the Board of Selectmen." In Mr. Yohalem's view, one of his more far-ranging achievements was his effort to find ways to share services and equipment with nearby towns. The most immediate result was the joint purchase of a road-side mower with Sheffield. Mr. Yohalem spearheaded a successful grant application to the State, which resulted in \$1,000,000 for Clayton Mill River Road repair.

This, and other more mundane duties, such as creating annual budgets, hiring Town employees, and listening to citizen complaints, required a significant investment. Mr. Yohalem calculated he had spent 2,300 hours attending to the duties of selectman, along with the concomitant time attending meetings and discussions for all of his nine years as the Board's representative on the Southern Berkshire Regional School District's School Committee.

There were, as he wrote in his final "View from the Board," a column in the *5 Village News* devoted to musings from the chairman, "more than 2,500 reasons why [his work as a selectman] was worth it. That is the approximate number of people, full- and part- time, living here. When I meet neighbors who express their heartfelt appreciation, I believe that my efforts have contributed to making our town a wonderful place to live."



Nat Yohalem



Steve Klein



Richard Long

In recognition of their vital role in helping bring New Marlborough into the 21st Century, the other Burritt award is going to the two committees responsible for bringing high-speed internet to New Marlborough: the Broadband Committee and its successor, the Cable Advisory Committee (CAC). The Broadband Committee (members: Chairman Richard Long, Steve Klein, Michele McAuley, Tom Stalker, and the late Owen Wright) played a key role in sorting through the decision as to whether to create a Town-owned internet company or sign on with an existing provider. It then helped negotiate an agreement with Charter Communications to have its subsidiary, Spectrum, wire the town with fiber-optic cable.

Its mission completed, the Broadband Committee disbanded in 2020 and handed the baton to a newly created Cable Advisory Committee, which was charged with overseeing the installation and serving as a liaison between Spectrum and the residents of New Marlborough. Today, Spectrum's high-speed internet is accessible to nearly 100 percent of the homes in town; over 70 percent have signed on with the provider.

"The installation has had a significant impact on real estate values and the overall quality of life in New Marlborough," says Steve Klein, who served as chairman of CAC. Mandated by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) as a condition of licensing a private entity to wire the town, the CAC helped resolve individual problems — a line blocking a driveway, a disagreement over the utility-pole-to-home connection — and explained the value of high-speed internet to those who didn't see the urgency. In addition to Mr. Klein, the members of the CAC included Broc Kerr, Doug Newman, Michael Shocket, Marc Trachtenberg, and John Valente, who, upon the retirement of Mr. Klein from the group last month, became its chairman.

CAC helped arrange a necessary component of state funding to support the cost of the project. MBI kicked in over 75 percent of the \$1.93 million paid to Spectrum to wire the town (without this support, the project would not have occurred). The Town's share, \$720,000,



was advanced by MBI and is now being repaid to the Commonwealth through an annual reduction in state aid to the Town of approximately \$62,500 for fifteen years.

“The two committees worked hard and were responsive to the community throughout the entire process” says a member of the Cultural Council. “Reliable high-speed

internet service is essential for business and valuable for schoolchildren, job seekers, and those who work remotely, and an important step into the 21st century for our entire community.” The awards will be presented by State Representative Smitty Pignatelli on August 20, Burritt Day, on the New Marlborough Village Green. □



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NEW MARLBOROUGH  
**MEETING HOUSE**

Route 57 on the New Marlborough Village Green

August  
**6**  
4:30 pm



**Kristin Kimball and Mark Kimball of Essex Farm**

A discussion about the benefits of organic food and sustainable farming, new systems of distribution, and what the Kimballs and Essex Farm have in store for the future.

August  
**13**  
4:30 pm



**Rhythm Future Quartet**

Gypsy Jazz with joyful abandon, rocketed into the future by incorporating multiple influences...it's downright infectious!

August  
**27**  
4:30 pm



**Actor John Douglas Thompson**

Award-winning actor John Douglas Thompson discusses his incredible journey to become one of the most compelling classical stage actors of his generation.

Sept  
**10**  
4:30 pm



**Neave Trio - Violin, Cello, Piano**

The group's 2019 album *Her Voice*, was named one of the best recordings of the year by both *The New York Times* and BBC. Performing works by Chaminade, Tailleferre, and Ravel.

Sept  
**17**  
4:30 pm



**Wael Farouk, Pianist**

A program including preludes by Alexander Scriabin, Rachmaninoff's Sonata #2, opus 36, and the famous Mussorgsky *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

Oct  
**1**  
4:30 pm



**Simon Winchester and Alice Sedgwick Wohl**

Discussing Alice's new book, *As it Turns Out: Thinking About Edie and Andy*, which deals with the relationship of her sister Edie and the artist Andy Warhol.

*Meeting House* **GALLERY**

July **29**  
thru  
Aug **28**



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July  
**30**  
1-4 pm



**Young Artists Celebrate New Marlborough**

New Marlborough artists ages 5 through 14 present a one-day outdoor show.

Sept **2**  
thru  
Oct **2**



**Annual New Marlborough Artist's Show | Opening Reception September 2, 5-7 p.m.**

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# JOHN DOUGLAS THOMPSON, RENOWNED ACTOR

*Coming to the Meeting House, Stagecraft and Stardom*

By Barry R. Shapiro

He is one of the most decorated actors of our time, including a recently-awarded Elliot Norton Prize for Sustained Excellence.

Mr. Thompson has starred on Broadway, in film and television, and appeared with such notables as Oprah Winfrey, Denzel Washington, and Kate Winslet. He has played kings (Richard III), a police chief (Mare of Easttown), a somewhat overbearing father (The Gilded Age), Shylock (The Merchant of Venice), a world-famous trumpeter (Satchmo at the Waldorf), a noble Moor (Othello) and other roles too numerous to mention.

And he will be appearing at the New Marlborough Meeting House at 4:30 p.m., on August 27, to discuss his fascinating life and career, including his transition from traveling computer salesman to an actor who has been called by the *New York Times*, “one of the



John Douglas Thompson

most compelling classical stage actors of his generation.”

Many Berkshire residents will know John (or JDT as he is affectionately known) from his extensive work at Shakespeare & Co., where he starred in *Othello*, *Richard III*, *Red Velvet*, *Satchmo at the Waldorf* and *Mother Courage* (with Olympia Dukakis), but his breadth of work extends well beyond our local stage.

John will start the afternoon by reciting short segments from his many shows at Shakespeare & Co., and then will settle down to be interviewed by this reporter in a wide-ranging discussion of his life and career. A question and answer session will conclude what promises to be a fun and enlightening afternoon.

Tickets may be purchased at [nmmeetinghouse.org](http://nmmeetinghouse.org). □

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FOR AVAILABILITY, CONTACT:  
 413-229-3576





## LAND TRUST NEWS


It is hard to believe that August is here – what a glorious summer we have had! I hope you have taken advantage of our Land Trust properties and enjoyed walking and exploring all the greatness that being outdoors on a summer day has to offer. I grew up on a small dairy farm in Mill River and remember being outside from sunrise to sunset. My favorite thing in the world was haying the fields with my parents and siblings. Back then we made square bales, not the big round ones seen dotting our landscapes today. Each of us had a specific role: Mom baled the hay and I, as the youngest, had to put the hay bales into piles so my dad could

easily load them onto a wagon, where my sisters stacked them. They were long hot days but the smell of the freshly dried hay has forever lasted in my memory.

We have a fall season packed with events, and quite honestly, it is a magical time of year to be outside. □

*Executive Director Silvia Eggenberger*


### Upcoming Events

 **Saturday, August 20, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Wild Edible and Medicinal Plants at Steepletop with Tes Reed**


Wander the land and learn about the many wild edible and medicinal plants that grow all around us. It's a veritable smorgasbord out there just waiting to nourish and heal us.

 **Saturday, September 24: Celebration at the Goodnow Preserve (stay tuned for details)**

 **Friday, September 30, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**New Marlborough Land Trust Partners with Berkshire Camino**

The New Marlborough Land Trust is partnering with Berkshire Camino LLC [berkshirecamino.com] to offer a special walk at the Goodnow Preserve.

 **Saturday, October 22, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Mindful Outdoor Experience at the New Marlboro Preserve**



photos by Larry Burke

**Preserving a Farm with a View:** On June 30, the New Marlborough Land Trust held a celebratory gathering for the benefactors who contributed to the effort to conserve the MacKenzie farm on the Adsit Crosby Road. The land will go into an agricultural preservation restriction (APR). Its fifty-six acres spans both sides of the road, and includes a beautiful vista of Dry Hill. The restriction prohibits future development and ensures that future use of the land is for agriculture only. At the event, Land Trust Executive Director Silvia Eggenberger introduced Scott MacKenzie, who then gave his thanks to the New Marlborough Land Trust for its pivotal role in the process of achieving the APR status with the state.



## MUSIC AT THE SOUTHFIELD CHURCH

### *A Joyful Return of Live Performance*

By Robert Olsen

“What a pleasant surprise to learn about our talented neighbors and their willingness to come and share with us the beautiful music they create, and what a pleasure to gather together again and listen to such wonderful sounds.” – Lisa Beers

In June of 2020, I should have presented the 6th Season of Music at the Southfield Church, but with Covid 19 bringing our world to a standstill, the big question was, “How could we?” Two years later, after so much sickness, death, anxiety, aggravation, deeper division, the big question became, “How could we not?” It was not an easy decision to move forward, but the deep need for a return to things that bring meaning to our days, healing to our lives, provoked me to replace “how could we” with “here’s how we’ll do it!” And so, I returned to my original intention for the 2020 version of the sixth season, “neighbors making music for neighbors,” and reached out to a handful of extremely accomplished musician neighbors who make their homes in New Marlborough. Thankfully, everyone was unequivocally onboard. Their dates of availability created serendipitously the best progression a music series could hope for.

As the opening night drew closer, I vacillated between every possible Covid protocol to draw as many concertgoers as possible and still do all that was possible to keep everyone safe. I polled the artists and some potential attendees and finally decided that it was necessary to keep to the protocol of “masks and proof of vaccination required.”

“My husband and I certainly enjoyed the variety of the musical offerings and the first-rate quality of the music. That the music was performed by our New Marlborough neighbors enhanced the experience. As an aside, but no small matter, we very much appreciated the Covid protocols in place for these concerts.” – Irene Dvorchik

As guests arrived for each performance, David Hastings and I greeted our concertgoers, requesting to see their proof of vaccination. More times than I can count, we were thanked for the protocols we had in place. I think the protocols, along with having the financial ability to mail promotional postcards to 700 New Marlborough residents, helped to increase our attendance quite measurably compared to previous seasons. Many thanks to the Massachusetts Cultural Council and to the New Marlborough Cultural Council for the grant awarded us, which made the promotional mailing, as well as the



financial support of our artists, possible.

“Thanks for all of this, I am really excited about playing this concert (and so are a couple of my neighbors)!”

– Jon Suters

Opening Night with Jon Suters was a blockbuster opening. I had long wanted to hear a concert of guitar in our church and Jon Suters’ masterful guitar performance was delicious. The 110 patrons who gathered for opening night was proof that more than a couple neighbors were ready for both Jon and the return of Music at the Southfield Church.

The fear in show business is that the second night will never be as good as the first, and more times than not, that is the case. However, that was not the case with our second night which featured Paper Anniversary Band. The second night they brought us was truly magical, and with their addition of each family member, the night grew ever more magical.

“I had a lot of fun, the audience was really nice, and I was glad they had ice cream after the show.”

– Mo Stuckey, 10 years old

The magic that would permeate each of our concert evenings continued with our third evening which featured three members of Calliope: A Renaissance Band, in spite of the rainy weather, a dastardly drop in temperature, and my own bout with Covid. Though I was unable to attend the performance in person, I was able to Zoom into the concert from the warmth of my kitchen and yes, the magic was still palpable.

“This concert was special because, after two years of pandemic-induced silence for professional musicians, with this concert we were breaking out of it. It revived the pleasure of playing medieval and renaissance music together which we enjoyed as a touring ensemble for forty years. Kudos to Robert and his substitute, David Hastings, for engineering these concerts for local musicians, who perhaps were experiencing similar feelings.” – Lucy Bardo

For our fourth evening, with the return of warm temps and a warm summer sunset, the stage was set for a hot night of blues with New York Blues Hall of Fame singer, Billie Williams, whose impressive vocal pipes and masterful band truly raised the roof.

“I was overwhelmed by the warmth and enthusiasm of the audience during my concert at The Southfield Church. What a wonderful introduction to



sharing my music with friends and neighbors in the Berkshires!" – Billie Williams

Our celebratory sixth season came to a spectacular close with an exploration of four-hand piano by Houry Schmeizl and her sixteen-year-old daughter, Jacqueline.

"When Jackie and I got home, I realized how much of a blessing you are to this community. The care you take to make this concert series a success is truly remarkable. Thank you, Robert. We had a BLAST last night; the audience was incredible."  
– Houry Schmeizl

It is not an easy feat to assemble a performance, and when the challenge of Covid is added, you have a situation

that could make the toughest of toughs run screaming into the night. I commend everyone who participated – the musicians, the audience, and my colleagues at the Southfield Church – for their courage to see how together we can reinvent things, so that we may once again gather as community and share in the artistry and beauty created by our neighbors.

"Great job putting together the five concerts. Diverse, entertaining and unique performances. Each one gave us a totally different look into different types of music and the way they are performed. Who knew we had such talented members in our community!" – Tara White



I'm Back  
...and Better Than Ever.  
**Elihu Burritt Day**  
Saturday, August 20  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
On the New Marlborough Green  
"BE THERE OR BE SQUARE"

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*Simply,  
The Berkshires*  
July 29 - August 28

What is it about the Berkshires that feeds the creative spirit?  
How do artists express their connection to this place?

Joe Baker	Ellen Grenadier	Peggy Reeves
Diane Barth	Jill Gustavis	Julie Shapiro
Eugene Cleary	Shelley Haven	Linda Skipper
Sam Corbin	Pat Hogan	Tim Sleeper
Robert Forte	John MacGruer	Terry Wise
Ann Getsinger	Jane McWhorter	Andrew Zdziarski
Serena Granbery	Elizabeth Orenstein	

**The Meeting House Gallery**  
Rte 57 on the Green, New Marlborough  
Gallery Hours: Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11 am - 4 pm

**NMMEETINGHOUSE.ORG**



## NEIGHBORS



Travelers along the Mill River Southfield Road recently were surprised to see the emergence of the home of **Bob and Irene Dvorchik**, which for many years had been hidden by a dense row of pine trees. What happened? Bob and Irene explain: A large tree along the road line of our property blew down in a wind storm, hitting our home and causing extensive damage. Professional arborists examined the remaining trees and advised that

all were weakened by disease and old age, which risked each of them also falling onto our home or onto a passing car. As Bruce Springsteen sang “everything dies, and that’s a fact” (second verse of Atlantic City), so it was time to say goodbye to our majestic white pines. Butternut Tree did an exceptional job of safely dropping and removing each tree. We have re-seeded this area; possible future plans include a perennial garden.

**A Roe v. Wade Outcry:** When the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, a landmark decision based on its finding that nowhere in the U.S. Constitution is there an explicitly stated right to abortion, some residents of New Marlborough, mobilizing through the town’s list-serve Maggie’s List, joined a nationwide protest. On June 26, a demonstration organized by Southfield’s **Ann Sweeney** assembled on the front lawn of the Great Barrington Town Hall to decry governmental intrusion on a key element of women’s healthcare.

The gathering was joined by fellow New Marlborough residents **Joyce Hackett** and **Billie Williams** in a program asserting women’s right to care for their own health. Also in attendance was Kari Weil, a professor of English literature and Women’s Studies at Wesleyan University, who said, “Pro-choice is not pro-abortion... It is pro-care. A woman knows best how to protect herself and her family.” Ms. Hackett read from the poem, “Right to Life” by Marge Piercy: “This is my body. If I give it to you / I want it back. / My life is a non-negotiable demand.” Billie Williams sang, in a haunting a cappella solo, her song, *Ten Million Sisters*. □

compiled by Barbara Lowman: [deeuell@yahoo.com](mailto:deeuell@yahoo.com)



Left, The old trees were safely removed. Right, Awaiting the next step.

photo by Bob and Irene Dvorchik



photo by Joe Pindexter

Roe protest in Great Barrington, spearheaded by New Marlborough residents.

## Fire and Rescue Seeks Part-time Help

The Town of New Marlborough, acting through its Board of Selectmen, is seeking several qualified part-time Firefighter/EMTs to fill daytime shifts (weekdays and weekends) for the New Marlborough Fire and Rescue Department. Firefighter/EMTs will be stationed at the firehouse/ambulance bay and provide emergency response to medical and fire calls. Position also includes related administrative tasks as well as cleaning and maintenance of firehouse, apparatus, and related equipment.

Must have valid driver’s license and hold current certification for Massachusetts EMT-Basic and CPR. Preference will be given to applicants holding

Massachusetts Firefighter I/II certification or willing to obtain Firefighter status.

Must be able to take initiative and work independently. Wage range is \$19-\$20 per hour.

Complete job description can be found at [www.newmarlboroughma.gov](http://www.newmarlboroughma.gov).

Please submit cover letter and resume to Town Administrator at [nmbos@newmarlboroughma.gov](mailto:nmbos@newmarlboroughma.gov). The position will remain open until filled. EEO/AA



## WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

John Schreiber has a great eye for the smaller fauna that populate his part of the world, next door to the Questing Preserve. He has sent a couple of closeup views of two very different stages in the lives of **monarch butterflies**, taken on July 5 at Questing.

**Diane Barth**, who grew up in New Marlborough and now lives just barely over the town line in Sandisfield, sent in this exciting report: “Driving home to Sandisfield on Route 183 on the last day of June, I slowed down to

say hello to **Larry Burke**, who had stopped his car at the side of the road just a half mile south of the New Marlborough line, and was standing on the roadside with his camera. He gestured across the road to the open waters of the swamp at Sage Road, and I turned to see a **moose** shoulder-deep in the water only about sixty feet away, languidly munching on pond lilies, completely unbothered by our presence. I grabbed my new zoom lens and Larry and I stood

taking pictures and watching him for a good half hour before he slowly moved farther into the swamp.

“Moose lose their antlers every year, and as the moose ages, his antler grow larger and fuller each year until he reaches his prime at about age five. I am guessing this is a male with newly sprouted spring set — and that he’s fairly young, as he wasn’t as huge as some of the moose I’ve seen here.”

Larry adds, “I’ve passed by this wetland probably close to a thousand times in the last forty-two years, and each time I’ve had the thought that this would be the perfect spot for a moose to hang out... and finally it happened! My first moose sighting!”

For those of us interested in our feathered friends, the **Cornell School of Ornithology’s** app called Merlin has become practically an essential tool for identification of the many species of birds that visit us in the summer. In particular, the feature that allows one to record a bird’s song on the cell phone and to come up with an instantaneous ID is remarkable. In the midst of the **spongy moth** invasion, as an example, one could discover that both the **yellow-billed and black-billed cuckoos** – known for their appetite for caterpillars and also for their ability to avoid being seen – have been frequent visitors to our area. □

Compiled by Larry Burke;  
send your sightings to him at [larryjburke@gmail.com](mailto:larryjburke@gmail.com)



photos by John Schreiber

A Monarch butterfly, savoring a milkweed blossom and a Monarch caterpillar, munching on Questing milkweed



photo by Diane Barth



photo by Larry Burke

Moose! Wading and lunching

### Thank You to Our Contributors:

Karen Stiles Brusie, in memory of Bud & Martha Stiles and Cindy Allyn Lockwood;  
Leonard & Hannah Golub; and Ron & Mary Saunders.



# THE LOG

## Police Department (selected entries)

- June 4 9:38 p.m. Following up on an alert from a Hartsville resident, an officer determines that what were feared to be gunshots were, in fact, fireworks at a graduation party.
- June 5 8:39 a.m. A caller, advising that he will soon be departing his Foley Hill Road residence, asks the Department to check on a fawn that has been lingering in his backyard.
- 11:00 a.m. A bicycle rider reports having been struck by a hit-and-run driver on County Road.
- June 8 8:22 p.m. A caller reports a tree down and blocking Cagney Hill Road.
- June 10 4:18 p.m. A tow is ordered for a vehicle stopped at the intersection of Adsit Crosby and Hartsville New Marlborough Roads, whose driver was under the influence of alcohol.
- June 11 2:23 p.m. An officer reports discovering newly painted graffiti on the cement platform of a picnic table in Umpachene Falls Park.
- June 12 1:00 p.m. Following a collision off Clayton Mill River Road, a tow is ordered for the vehicle, and the operator, who has sustained a head injury, is issued a citation for speeding and driving with a suspended license.
- June 13 8:13 a.m. The animal control officer is called after the Department is alerted to a dog on the loose for the past few days in Clayton.
- 8:00 p.m. An officer assists the animal control officer in issuing citations at a New Marlborough village address for the possible unlicensed operation of a kennel.
- June 14 8:36 a.m. A caller reports hearing four gunshots fired behind his Mill River residence the previous evening.
- 4:55 p.m. A Hartsville resident reports that her daughter and son, walking home from their school bus drop-off in Hartsville village, were nearly hit by a vehicle driven by the mother of a schoolmate of her children; before the bus left its Sheffield campus, the schoolmate was removed from the bus because of an incident involving the daughter.
- June 15 1:38 a.m. A Mill River resident reports his suspicions of a vehicle that had been passing by his residence for the past hour and a half and was now parked near it.
- June 16 11:25 a.m. A caller reports a deer injured on New Marlborough Hill Road.
- June 18 1:06 p.m. A tow is ordered for a vehicle, stopped for speeding, when an officer determines that its registration has been suspended.
- 4:29 p.m. A Hartsville resident, seeking assistance in rescuing a puppy that was stuck in a storm drain, called back to say she had succeeded in removing the storm drain cover and freeing the puppy.
- 5:58 p.m. Cows are reported loose on Norfolk Road.
- 7:10 p.m. An officer assists a motorist locked out of his vehicle in New Marlborough village.
- 9:19 p.m. The animal control officer is alerted after a caller notifies the Department that two cows are loose on Campbell Falls Road.



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 Limited private event rentals also available-  
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**413-229-9110**  
 408 Foley Hill Road Southfield, MA



- 10:52 p.m. The highway superintendent is alerted to a tree hanging above Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road.
  - June 19 10:00 a.m. An officer returns a wallet to a Mill River resident who had absent-mindedly left it at a service station in Sheffield.
  - June 21 9:37 a.m. An officer checks out reported vandalism at York Lake.
  - 6:15 p.m. A tow is ordered for an uninsured, unregistered vehicle stopped on Adsit Crosby Road, operated by a driver with a suspended license.
  - 7:33 p.m. A tow is ordered for an unregistered vehicle stopped on South Sandisfield Road.
  - June 22 8:56 p.m. A Southfield resident reports loud noise coming from nearby fireworks.
  - June 23 3:26 p.m. A motorist complains that he narrowly escaped colliding with a highway sweeper, operating without warning signage in the middle of Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
  - June 24 8:46 a.m. A Mill River village resident requests assistance in the removal of a car parked in front of her garage.
  - June 25 9:11 p.m. A Clayton resident complains of fireworks at a neighboring property.
  - 11:36 p.m. An officer checking on New Marlborough Central School encounters a bear emptying the contents of a trash can.
  - June 27 7:22 a.m. A caller complains of tree-work noise outside his New Marlborough village residence.
  - June 30 8:44 a.m. Tree on wires on Mill River Great Barrington Road.
  - 1:51 p.m. After keys to a car parked at York Lake were found hanging on a picnic table next to the beach, an officer notifies the owner.
- In June, the Department logged 190 calls, fifty citations, nine arrests, and one accident.

*Graham Frank, Chief of Police*

## FIRE AND RESCUE

- June 1 2:38 p.m. Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call
- June 2 5:05 a.m. Underwood Road CO Alarm
- June 5 8:28 p.m. Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call
- June 10 6:10 p.m. Idle Hour Road Medical Call
- June 12 1:03 p.m. Clayton Mill River Road MVA
- June 12 9:51 a.m. Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
- June 15 2:15 p.m. Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call
- June 16 6:04 p.m. Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
- June 17 9:37 a.m. Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
- June 17 3:38 p.m. Mutual Aid to Sheffield Medical Call
- June 18 2:45 p.m. Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call
- June 20 4:31 p.m. Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
- June 22 11:54 a.m. East Hill Road Medical Call
- June 23 11:00 p.m. Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
- June 25 4:14 a.m. Downs Road Medical Call
- June 27 3:45 a.m. Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
- June 30 7:12 p.m. East Hill Road Medical Call

*Fire Company President David Smith*



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The New Marlborough Fire Company's Annual Pig Roast and Block Dance returns this year on Saturday, August 20, at the Firehouse in Southfield. Dinner is served from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., followed by dancing and the drawing for the Company's annual Grand Raffle. First prize will be an eBike package from Berkshire Bike & Board — a \$2,500 package that includes an eBike and riding gear, a helmet, jersey, water bottle, water-bottle cage, and a pump. Or, the winner may choose \$2,000 cash instead. Tickets, \$20 each, are available at the Mill River General Store and from any Fire Company member. Call (413) 229-0291 for more information.

*Fire Company President David Smith*



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

"I loved her more than tomatoes in August." That's a quote that I read once on a menu.

And what is there, really, that shouts "It's the height of summer!" more than fresh vine-ripened tomatoes?

This recipe makes ample use of delicious August tomatoes and, when paired with some fresh local sweet corn, is the perfect late summer dish. It comes together quickly and is a stunning weeknight or special dinner for guests, especially when served with a crisp chardonnay or rosé.

Enjoy!

Marjorie Shapiro



### Grilled Swordfish with Tomatoes, Arugula, Olives, and Capers

Serves 4. Time: 2.5 hours, including 2 hours marinating

#### Ingredients

Olive oil, divided into 1/3 and 1/4 cup	2 tbsp balsamic vinegar
2 tbsp fresh rosemary, chopped	16-20 green olives with or without pimentos, cut in half
2 tbsp fresh basil, chopped	1 bunch fresh arugula
8 garlic cloves, peeled and minced	1 medium yellow onion, chopped
1.5 to 2 lbs. fresh swordfish, depending on your appetite (you can also use any other firm-fleshed fish such as hake, halibut or mahi mahi)	2 tbsp capers, drained
	2 large, ripe red tomatoes, chopped

#### Marinate

- Whisk together 1/3 cup of oil, basil, rosemary, and 6 of the minced garlic cloves in a small bowl.
- Pour over swordfish which you've placed in a single layer in a shallow baking dish.
- Turn the fish to evenly coat it.
- Cover and refrigerate for at least two hours.

#### Prepare the topping

- In a large bowl, whisk together 1/4 cup of oil, the remaining two minced garlic cloves and balsamic vinegar.
- Add the olives, tomatoes, arugula, onion, and capers to the bowl.
- Toss to coat.
- Add salt and pepper to taste.

#### Grill the Fish

- Prepare the barbeque to medium high.
- Oil the grill generously.
- Grill the fish about three minutes per side or until done (be careful with swordfish, which tends to go from underdone to overdone very quickly).

#### Assemble

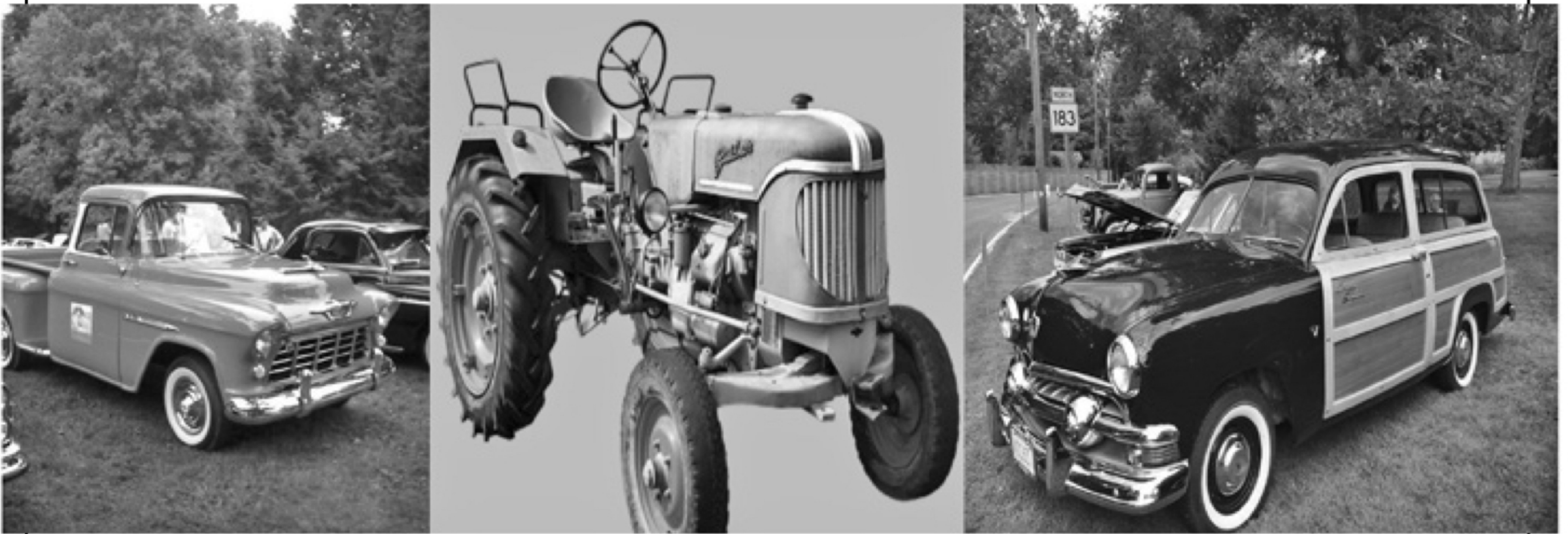
- Transfer the fish to serving plates.
- Using a slotted spoon to avoid transferring too much liquid, spoon the tomato mixture over the fish.
- Serve with sliced lemon, a green vegetable, if desired, and sweet local corn.



# **WE ARE BACK FOR 2022!**

## ***Twelfth* ANNUAL**

### **NEW MARLBOROUGH CLASSIC CAR SHOW**



**Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup> 2022**  
**10am-4pm**

**New Marlborough Village Meeting House**  
**154 Hartsville-New Marlborough Rd (Route 57)**  
**New Marlborough MA 01230**

**Shaded PARKING AND SHOW AREA**  
**Food, Barbecue, Crafts, Flea Market**  
**TROPHIES FOR BEST CARS/RODS, TRUCKS**  
**\$10 registration fee on site**

**Cars/trucks/rods/tractors must be at least 30 Years old**  
**Contact: [john.schreiber8@gmail.com](mailto:john.schreiber8@gmail.com)**

**12th ANNUAL NEW MARLBOROUGH CLASSIC CAR**  
**SHOW NOW INCLUDES ANTIQUE TRACTORS/MOTORCYCLES**



## SUMMER SCHOOL AT SBRSD

### Getting Something Extra

By Jane Burke

As the buses departed for the last time this school year on June 23, the teachers cheered and waved from the sidewalks to show their students how much they cared about them. It had been a tough year for both teachers and students as the pandemic continued to challenge the school community. Some children suffered from significant learning losses and increased anxiety. Director of Student Services Sandra Hubbard led efforts to make sure that these students received needed support during the summer to help them gain the skills for success.

On June 27, thirty-five students from Pre-school through grade five began the SBRSD Summer Program held Monday through Thursday for the month of July. The students were invited into the program either because they have Individual Educational Plans that included summer learning or were recommended by a classroom teacher as being in need of extra summer support. It was funded by Summer Step Up Grant from United Way of Mass Bay for \$77,500 written by Ms. Hubbard. This paid for the pre-kindergarten through grade two students, bus-ing to the school, and one week scholarships for up to fifteen children to attend the Boys and Girls Club of the Berkshires' Camp Russell in Pittsfield.

Special Education teacher Nancy Doherty, director of this summer program described the structure of the day. "Every morning from 8:30 a.m. until noon students are engaged in a variety of learning activities. A dedicated staff stepped up to return to school to make the program possible. There were seven

*From top, Teachers wave goodbye to students; Amelia tells her mother how she built her ceramic house; a student discusses her volcano to a paraprofessional and right, Nancy Doherty, coordinator of the summer program.*

*top photo: Kari Giordino; other three photos by Jane Burke*



teachers, a speech therapist, an occupational therapist, a physical therapist, a school adjustment counselor, five paraprofessionals and a coordinator/director. Each child has individual needs academically and emotionally that can be met in this kind of setting." The main academic focus during the morning was improving skills in reading, writing, and mathematics with science experiments and gardening, which added active learning. Other activities helped children improve their ability to cope in social situations and understand their emotions.

Ms. Doherty went on to report that students who did not rely on the bus provided at noon stayed until three. Flying Cloud Institute helped write the grants to fund the afternoon activities, recruited other nonprofits to provide specialists to staff the workshops, and provided a coordinator to manage the daily implementation. After lunch the children were divided into two groups according to age. Each group attended two workshops each day that were led by scientists and artists from Berkshire Pulse, Greenagers, Story Sanctuary, Empress Green, and Flying Cloud Institute. Some workshops ran multiple days, others only once. The artists and scientists encouraged the children to use their creativity and express their ideas whether it was in illustration, dance, storytelling, nature study, or ceramics. The school district provided one or two paraprofessionals to assist each visiting leader with management issues. Many of the students had no previous access to these specialties and were accustomed to struggling in the classroom. Their delight in discovering their creative abilities was palpable. When ceramics students were asked how they felt about their display of fired pottery they were of one voice, "I am proud of what I made." □



# OCEANS OF POSSIBILITIES

## The New Marlborough Library's Summer Reading Club

After a two-year hiatus, the library was able to resume children's programming. Eight participants came to the library Monday through Thursday, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We started with Science Tellers and the tale of Pirates Lost at Sea. Science experiments abounded as we made fog, wind, and sea spray navigating our runaway pirate ship to safety. Each day featured a new adventure. We made pottery with Jane Burke, took a hike to the Crosby Robbins Mill with former New Marlborough Land Trust executive director Martha Bryan and had lunch by the river. The real highlight of our program was ImagArena®. This is a building workshop designed to awaken the imaginative abilities of every individual. More than a typical building workshop, ImagArena® combines the spirit of an art program, the materials of a building workshop, and the framework of a video

game to provide an experience that engages everyone. Participants engage in energetic building challenges featuring over a dozen building materials. Last but not least, on our final day, we ended on a sweet note — ice cream sundaes, complete with chocolate sauce, whipped cream, and of course sprinkles.

Thanks to everyone who helped make our program a success. We all had great fun. □

Deb O'Brien



Photos by Deb O'Brien



# THE NEW MARLBOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY



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

## New Aquisitions

### Adult Fiction

- The 6:20 Man*, by David Baldacci
- The It Girl*, by Ruth Ware
- The Cherry Robbers*, by Sarai Walker
- The German Wife*, by Kelly Rimmer
- Unlikely Animals*, by Annie Hartnett
- The Pages*, by Hugo Hamilton

### Adult Nonfiction

- Killing the Killers: The Secret War Against Terrorists*, by Bill O'Reilly
- The Flag, the Cross, and the Station Wagon*, by Bill McKibben

### Children's Fiction

- Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*, by Benjamin Alire Saenz
- The Puffin Keeper*, by Michael Morpurgo
- Armadillo Antics*, by Bill Martin Jr.
- The Aquanaut*, by Dan Santat
- Shinji Takahashi and the Mark of the Coatl*, by Julie Kagawa

### Children's Nonfiction

- Origami: Japanese Paper Folding Made Easy*, by Florence Sakade

### Audio CDs

- Chrysalis*, by Lincoln Child
- Sea of Tranquility*, by Emily St. John Mandel
- The It Girl*, by Ruth Ware

Don't forget to catch  
the LIBRARY  
BOOK SALE  
at Burritt Day  
August 20



LOVE  
the LIBRARY

**THE  
SUMMER  
SOLUTION:  
READING!**



## Author Reading and Book Signing



Book Talk and Signing by Leslie Wheeler  
Saturday, August 13 at 1:00 p.m.  
New Marlborough Town Library  
Local Mystery Author, Local Setting

You're invited to a program featuring a book talk by local mystery author, Leslie Wheeler. *Wolf Bog* is set in a fictionalized New Marlborough Land Trust property, Thousand Acre Swamp. After the talk, enjoy a beautiful hike over the Richard Stebbins

Suspension Bridge and see if you can locate the settings where Wheeler's characters make their discovery!

Copies Available for sale & signing by the author  
For more information contact the library  
413-229-6668/newmarlborough@gmail.com

(413) 229-2544  
Free Estimates

Roofing  
Tiling  
Decks  
Porches  
Sheet Rocking  
Flooring  
Additions  
Odd Jobs

Herbert W. Eichstedt III  
Jason W. Eichstedt



**Please fill in the form and send with your contribution to:  
New Marlborough 5 Village News, P.O. Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259**

YES, I WANT THE *New Marlborough 5 Village News* TO CONTINUE!  
HERE IS A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF \$\_\_\_\_\_ (payable to NM5VN)

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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:** By appointment only; call 413-229-0277  
**First Responders:** Meeting/training: First and third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the fire station  
**Cultural Council:** Second Thursday at 4:15 p.m. at the library  
**Post Office: Mill River** (413) 229-8582 — if and when it re-opens:  
 Window hours: Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
 Saturday 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
**Southfield** (413) 229-8476  
 Window hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
 Saturday 9:00 - 12:00 p.m.  
**Town Treasurer:** Monday & Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
**Tax Collector:** Monday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tues. and Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
**Selectmen's Administrative Secretary:** Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
**Dog and Animal Control Officer:** Cassie Keeley, (413) 429-7603  
**Town Clerk:** 229-8278; 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. weekdays; Saturday by appointment  
**Town Hall:** 229-8116  
**Police:** Business office: 229-8161  
**Library:** 229-6668

## Transfer Station Hours:

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.  
 Saturday: 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.  
 Sunday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

### PERMITS ARE DUE JULY 1

and can be purchased for \$185  
 by mail or online at  
[www.newmarlborough.gov](http://www.newmarlborough.gov).

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

### Emergency calls:

**Police, Fire, Medical  
 911**

## New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.

Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
 PO Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244  
 (413) 229-8165

*We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.*

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

## NM5VN Editorial Team

Barbara Lowman, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer; Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Larry Burke, Robbi Hartt, Isabell Kemp, Steven Nester, Joe Poindexter, Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro, Marjorie Shapiro, Rachel Perera Weingeist. Contributing artist: Ann Getsinger

## NM5VN Board of Directors

Roy Blount, Jr., Larry Burke, Barbara Lowman, Joe Poindexter, Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro, Nan O'Shaughnessy Smith, and Tara White

## New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

also online at

**[www.nm5vn.org](http://www.nm5vn.org)**

The next issue will be dated September 2022.

All copy must be submitted no later than August 17.  
 For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369  
 PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

**[5villagenews@gmail.com](mailto:5villagenews@gmail.com)**



New Marlborough 5 Village News  
P.O.Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259  
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U.S. POSTAGE  
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CHANGE SERVICE  
REQUESTED

## SERVICE SECTOR 8/22

- ♦ **Dellea.biz Computer Services:** has provided local residents with on-site Windows computer repairs and technical support since 1996. Book appointments online at <https://dellea.biz> or call (413) 528-1141.
- ♦ **Design+Planning:** Christopher Blair; Since 1986, creative, budget-aware design. Achieve your goals for additions, alterations to an existing home or new construction. (413)528-4960. [chris@design-planning.com](mailto:chris@design-planning.com).
- ♦ **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield (413)229-0050
- ♦ **One call does it all!:** Vinyl siding cleaning; pressure washing; deck refinishing; floors refinished; window washing; odd landscape jobs; all odd jobs. David Goewey, (413)229-2787
- ♦ **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. [ssmithlaw@barringtonlawoffice.com](mailto:ssmithlaw@barringtonlawoffice.com) or (413)528-4300
- ♦ **Reiner White & Sons, Inc:** A family-run general contractor business serving the MA and CT area since 1988 - new construction, additions, remodeling, and more. Licensed and insured. Call (413) 229-8450 for free consultation.

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