

New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

Back in an earlier, more innocent time (namely the year 2000), The New Marlborough 5 Village News had just come into being. In the third through seventh issues of that first year of publication, we ran a succession of articles on each of the five villages that comprise our township, written by our estimable town historian, John D. Sisson. Now, eighteen years later, with much water having flowed under the bridges of the Konkapot and many new residents having arrived here, we thought it might be fun – and informative – to revisit John’s cameos of these villages. We begin, as we did back then, with the village of Clayton.

THE TAKING OF EAST SHEFFIELD Or How New Marlborough Took a Slice Out of Sheffield

By John D. Sisson

For 138 years, a tiny hamlet straddling the state border between Massachusetts and Connecticut, was part of Sheffield, as its name made clear. It was called East Sheffield. Today it is called Clayton, and it’s part of New Marlborough – and what follows is a brief account of how, why, and when a four-village town snatched a fifth from its neighbor.

Back in the mid-nineteenth century, manufacturing activity in the Mill River section of the town of New Marlborough was at a peak. Sawmills and paper mills were running at full blast, and the mill owners were looking for a quicker and cheaper way of getting their products to market than by the slow ox teams then employed. They wanted a branch railroad line that would link



A photograph of the Clayton General Store and the road leading north toward Mill River, dating back to early days of the automobile, judging by the two model T’s parked outside the garage.

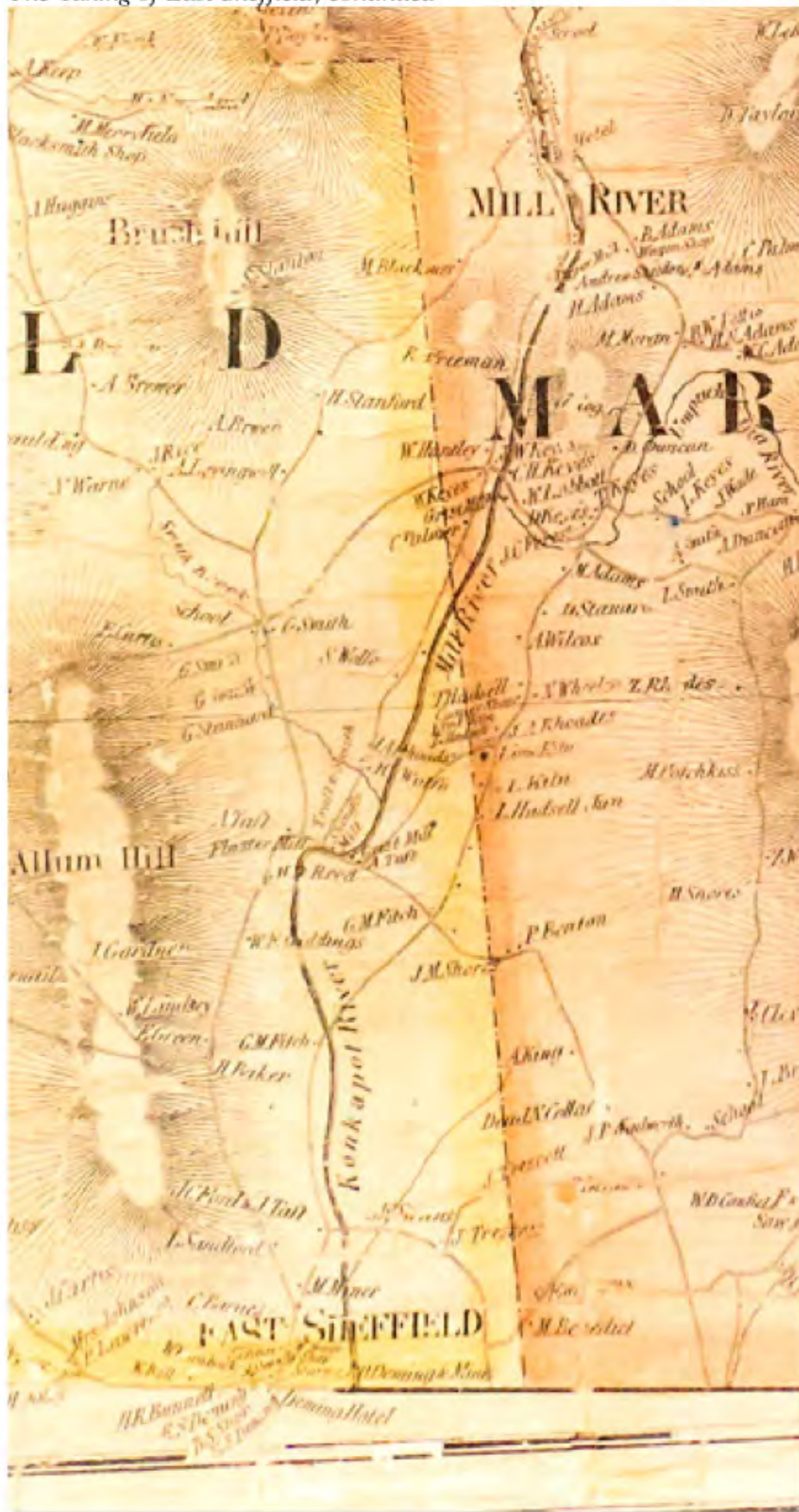
Mill River with Canaan, Con-

necticut – a line that would follow the course of the Konkapot River south to the state border, then veer west.

My great-grandfather Henry Sisson, who owned a sawmill, was one of the Mill River businessmen who played an active part in pushing for the rail link. In 1894, looking back on those years, he wrote: “Three quarters of the projected route was in the Town of Sheffield. Sheffield would never ask for, or vote for a railroad to Mill River. Consequently, a piece of land must be had from Sheffield, and a charter for a railroad must be had from the legislature.”

A piece of land *must be had*. For the citizens of Sheffield, those were fighting words, and charges and countercharges flew thick and fast between the two towns. Meanwhile, the citizens of New Marlborough were by no means of one mind on the issue: one faction, led by Archibald Taft, pushed for the annexation; another, led by Benjamin Wheeler, opposed it, as evidenced by a “remonstrance” sent to the House of Representatives of the General Court of Massachusetts in 1871.

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The New Marlborough Historical Society's 1853 map of Berkshire County shows the area of what is now the village of Clayton as being "East Sheffield."



This map of the current border between New Marlborough and Sheffield reveals the taking of 1871 that delivered Clayton into our fold.

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Wheeler's remonstrance, which maintained that the annexation "would be a source of increased expenditure to the Town of New Marlborough with no corresponding benefit," was signed by Wheeler and "132 other citizens and voters of New Marlborough." A countering petition drawn up by John Carroll, owner of the Carrol Paper Mill, "in aid of the petition of Archibald Taft and others," bore 204 signatures.

By the time these petitions reached Boston in early 1871, Henry Sisson had been elected to the House. Thus, he was in the right place at the right time to hasten the issuance of a charter for the railroad, which he strongly felt would benefit the business interests of his constituents. And so it happened that, on April 19, 1871, East Sheffield was annexed to New Marlborough, and the boundary between the two towns was redrawn.

As for the railroad – the cause of this ruckus – plans were drawn up, complete with bridges and a cost estimate (a modest \$75,000), and charters for the Konkapot Valley Railroad were issued not just once but four times between 1871 and 1892. But the failure of the Carroll Paper Mill and the closing of other, smaller paper mills kept the project from being realized. Which may be just as well.

Meanwhile, it was time for New Marlborough to give East Sheffield a new name. Just when that happened is hard to determine, but it was at some point between 1871 and 1886, when the name Clayton appears on an engineer's map, that name deriving from the fine white clay deposits along the eastern bank of the Konkapot. In an article in its June 7, 1886 issue, *The Berkshire Courier* called the clay banks "the largest deposit of any similar



An old postcard that claims to show Clayton, Massachusetts, in fact shows the Connecticut side of the street, a mix-up typical of the confusion surrounding the village.

substance in America."

In 1866, five years before East Sheffield became Clayton, Orchable Taft had founded the Sheffield China Clay Works, which later became Berkshire White Portland Cement Company and employed about seventy-five men. Clayton's terra cotta products adorned many buildings in New York City and were used to cap the marble columns of the old Pennsylvania Station. The business closed in 1908, another victim of the difficulty in getting products to market from New Marlborough. □



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BOARD OF SELECTMEN



August 27: After approving the minutes of the August 13 meeting, the Board with only two members present, Selectmen Nat Yohalem and Tara White, voted to adopt the road closure policy discussed at the August 13 meeting. In addition to covering road closures for roadwork and emergency situations, the policy now stipulates that **closure of a public road for community or private events requires fifteen-day advanced approval by the Board.** (See Board of Selectman report in the September NM5VN for details).

Separately, the Board voted to authorize Town Administrator Mari Enoch to sign the annual memorandum of understanding between New Marlborough and Great Barrington for the use of the Great Barrington lock-up. The cost to the Town, as in past years, is \$100 per day per prisoner.

As stated in the agreement, the lock-up's use is "for the arrest/detoxification of individuals who are likely to be held less than twelve hours." It goes on to say that if an individual is unable to make bail within that time, it's the responsibility of the New Marlborough Police Department to transport the prisoner to the House of Correction in Pittsfield.

Under town administrator updates Ms. Enoch said she scheduled a meeting between Charter Communications and the Board to discuss the cable franchise agreement, timelines, and upcoming deadlines for the broadband project. As noted previously, the cable franchise agreement covers the television portion of the proposed broadband service. That meeting has been set for Thursday, August 30, at 4:00 p.m.

Under selectmen updates, Mr. Yohalem said Assessors' Clerk Marsha Pshenishny has notified the Board the **assessor's office is reverting to regular hours and will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.** The new schedule takes effect Wednesday, August 29.

Finally, Mr. Yohalem mentioned an email received by the Board from Danielle Smith regarding the "terrible condition" of Hatchery Road. In it she says she's been calling and asking about the repair of the road for the entire three years she's been living on it and is wondering whether it's included the FY19 budget – or whether it's even being discussed. When it was noted that Chairman Shalaby had already responded to Ms. Smith's email, saying the Town has limited funds and other roads that need repairing, Mr. Yohalem said nevertheless, he'd like Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring to take another look at it and consider whether it should be moved up the priority list.

August 30: The Board, with all three members present, held two meetings this afternoon. The first was a five-minute affair to accept the state's layout plan for a portion of Umpachene Falls Road. As explained by Town Administrator Enoch, the bridge over the Konkapot River on Umpachene Falls Road is scheduled to be replaced by the state next summer, and because the project involves the use of federal money there are a number of steps the Town needs to complete before the project can go forward. One of these is to lay out and certify the portion of Umpachene Falls Road that begins at the intersection of Clayton Mill River Road and continues to the entrance to Umpachene Falls Park. She said the Planning Board reviewed the layout last spring, and the voters approved it at the Annual Town Meeting, and now it's the Board's turn. So, by unanimous vote the Board approved the layout, and then they adjourned the meeting.

The Board then convened a second meeting to discuss the cable franchise agreement and other broadband-related matters with representatives from Charter Communications. (See Broadband Update on page 9 for details).

September 11: Before turning to tonight's agenda, the Board, with all three members present, observed a moment of silence to mark the seventeenth anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks.

For its first order of business, the Board **appointed Nate Redman to the position of Tree Warden.** As Chairman Shalaby explained, tree warden is an elected position, but because it's been vacated – former Tree Warden Myles Pierce had to resign because he's no longer living in New Marlborough – the Board can appoint someone to fill the position until Town elections next spring. Mr. Redman is currently working for Race Mountain Tree Services in Sheffield. But as he noted, he's not yet an ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) certified tree worker.

The Board met with several members of the Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee for a brief rundown on its recent activities. According to Chairman Daniel Doern, **much of last two months has been spent doing research on the variety of marijuana establishments permitted under the new law,** and "we've come up with some good findings," he said. The Committee has now scheduled what it hopes will be a large public informational meeting for September 24, where it will present its findings on "what kind of businesses the state will allow

here, and what the Town's options are in regulating or prohibiting them." He said that between now and then, the Committee will be engaged in an outreach effort to promote attendance at the meeting.

Committee member Barbara Marchione then made a request to the Board for funding to pay for a lawyer who specializes in cannabis law to address and answer questions at the meeting. The fee for his participation would likely be around five hundred dollars, she said.

Ms. Marchione also noted it would be very helpful going forward to get legal representation in the crafting of any host agreements the Town might make with marijuana businesses and in the writing of a bylaw, if a bylaw solution is the direction the Planning Board chooses to take. She noted that the law is "incredibly complex and is still a work in progress." So, having access to legal expertise would be a major benefit to the Town.

Chairman Shalaby agreed with Ms. Marchione that hiring a cannabis attorney would likely qualify for funding under the Reserve Fund since it is an unanticipated expense, and she noted the Board expects to be meeting in joint session with the Finance Committee, which controls the Reserve Fund, later in the month. She recommended submitting a funding proposal to the Committee in time for it to be discussed at that meeting.

The Board met with KellyAnne McGuire, chairman of the Town's recently formed Commission on Disabilities to discuss the initial draft of the ADA Assessment and Transition Plan and to talk about next steps. As previously reported, the plan, which was put together by Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), is a necessary step before the Town can begin applying for state and federal funding to bring

Town Hall into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Ms. McGuire started off by saying "The first thing I want on the record is that the Commission doesn't endorse this plan." She said there are a lot of flaws and inaccuracies in it, and "we're not really sure how to move forward with it." But as Town Administrator Enoch explained **the plan is just a first draft and that it was a way for the Town to get started.** She said the idea was to get something out there for Town department heads and various Town boards to review and comment on. "So the draft is on the table and now it's our turn."

Ms Enoch further explained that doing a plan like this is a significant undertaking, which is one of the reasons the Town turned to BRPC to do the initial draft. "They know what legally needs to be in there, and they know what the requirements are. We know it needs a lot of work, but we'll get it on track."

After further discussion Ms. Shalaby suggested to Ms. McGuire that she work with Ms. Enoch to get the Commission's input into the plan, and that they then schedule a joint meeting between the Board and the Commission to go over the plan once it's been completed, which Ms. McGuire agreed to do.

On the recommendation of Police Chief Graham Frank, **the Board appointed two part-time police officers to the department.** They are Sandisfield resident Gary Lemon and Housatonic's Dominic Crupi. As Chief Frank noted in his letter recommending them to the Board, the department currently has sixteen hours of coverage per week that it needs to fill. Officer Crupi is currently working part-time for the Hinsdale Police Department, while Officer Lemon recently completed his training at the part-time police academy. Both will

The Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee has been researching the variety of permitted marijuana establishments and will present its findings on the Town's options in regulating or prohibiting them.

Music and More At the Historic Meeting House Rte 57 New Marlborough

October 6 at 4:30 p.m.
Award-Winning Authors
Simon Winchester interviews Ian Buruma, editor of the New York Review of Books

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be making the starting part-time salary of \$16.50 per hour. Their appointments are effective immediately and will run through June 30, 2019.

In other matters, the Board awarded a roadside mowing contract to F.B. Budge Land Services LLC, as recommended by Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring. At \$80 per hour, theirs was the lowest of three bids. The others came in at \$250 an hour for GTC Landscaping and \$135 an hour for Cain's Mechanical LLC.

The Board also appointed Jim Kerns of Sheffield to the position of temporary wiring inspector on the recommendation of Owen Wright of the Building Department. Mr. Kerns, who also serves as alternate wiring inspector in Monterey, will temporarily take over the duties of Wiring Inspector Richard Aloisi, who recently passed away. Ordinarily, the work would be handled by Mike Leining, the Town's alternate wiring inspector, but since he has wiring jobs in town that need inspecting, the Board moved to appoint a temporary inspector. Mr. Kern's appointment will run through October 15.

Under Town Administrator updates, Ms. Enoch said there will be no meeting on Monday, September 24, as two of the three selectmen will be out of town and no meeting on November 12 in observance of Veterans Day, when Town Hall will also be closed.

Under Selectmen's updates, Ms. White said she had met with Land Trust Executive Director Martha Bryan, who briefed her on the recently-announced donation by Edward "Ned" Goodnow of three hundred acres of land to the Land Trust. She said the land already had a building restriction on it, but now the Land Trust will own it.

She also noted that the taxes paid to the Town, which she believes come to around \$9,000 per year,

will be paid in full the first year but will be reduced over the next two years until finally in the fourth year the land will be totally off the tax rolls.

Mr. Yohalem proposed an agenda item for a future meeting to discuss with the Land Trust the idea of paying at least a portion of the taxes on the property that it owns, similar to what he believes is done in Sheffield.

On the other hand, as Ms. Shalaby noted, there may be things the Land Trust could do for the Town "to keep expenses down so we don't necessarily need as much revenue." She cited as a recent example the Land Trust's contribution of a parcel it owned that's adjacent to the Lee Memorial Cemetery in Southfield, which should greatly alleviate the shortage of cemetery plots in town.

"Maybe there are ways we can build on that," Ms. Shalaby said, adding, "I congratulate them. I think it's wonderful to have open spaces in the town. But we need a balance of interests here, and I think it's our responsibility to look at the other side of it."

And finally, the Board received two letters of resignation from members of Town committees. One was from Louise Yohalem resigning from the Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee, while the other was from Sharon Fleck who is stepping down from the Commission on Disabilities. The letters cited personal obligations and a lack of time to serve.

The Board then spent the last twenty minutes of the meeting approving meeting minutes from August 27 and August 30 and then adjourned. □

Peter Schuyten

The Town's Commission on Disabilities is working on the Assessment and Transition Plan to bring Town Hall into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This is needed before the Town can apply for state or federal funding to implement the plan.

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

August 25: Commission members Freddy Friedman, Dave Herrick, and David Hosford convened this month's meeting.

Last month's meeting minutes were approved with minor edits.

First up was Ben Naylor of Berkshire Engineering presenting a Request for Determination for his client, Harold Chayefsky of 370 Cross to Canaan Valley Road. Abutters to the property, Lee Backer and Joan Elmer, were also present to review the project. Mr. Naylor explained that the location for new construction of a single-family house was within the buffer zone of the wetland resource. He noted that the project had been approved by the Conservation Commission in 2005 and that the current re-submission only involved a change in the parcel property lines. The abutters asked for clarification of the proposed tree removals and Mr. Naylor assured them that the work would be restricted to only removing what is completely necessary. The Commission issued a negative determination meaning that no further permitting was necessary.

Next, the Commission reopened the public hearing continued from last meeting for a Notice of Intent (NOI) submitted by Ravine Falls Trust. Tom Coote of Otter Environmental explained the scope of work which

involved drawing down the pond to repair the dam on North Road. Tom Scheffey, a representative of the Trust and Michael Plehn, a trustee of the Trust both attended the meeting. Mr. Coote explained that he would amend the permit per the request of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's Mark Stinson and include the proposed tree removal around the dam abutment to the permit. The Commission discussed the possibility of holding a joint meeting with the Monterey Conservation Commission to review the NOI as the pond is located in both towns. The hearing was continued until next meeting.

Next the Commission addressed new business and the enforcement order issued to Deanna Mummert of 105 Hartsville Mill River Road on August 7 for work done along the Konkapot River. The order requested that all work along the river be suspended and that a revegetation plan be submitted to the Commission by September 26. Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering was on hand for Ms. Mummert to explain that the work to date was an effort to rid the area of poison ivy. After a neighbor alerted the DEP, complaining, in a bit of hyperbole, that the work denuded the river bank and that "bodies from the cemetery were dropping into the river" as a result of the poison ivy work, the DEP and the Commission visited the site and issued the enforcement order. Ms. Boomsma explained that the revegetation plan including planting native species would be submitted as requested and the replanting would be forthcoming.

Ms. Boomsma then presented an NOI for another client Mitchell Koch and Michele Noe of 226 Lake Road on Lake Buel, who were also present. Ms. Boomsma explained that the scope of work involved the renovation of a three-season summer cottage including excavation for a 4' frost wall for the 180 square foot living space. The project falls within the buffer zone and the necessary silt fence will be installed at the edge of the work zone. The Commission approved the permit and issued an order of conditions which requested that all excavation materials be temporarily stockpiled on site and then removed from the site entirely.

The Commission then noted that Peter Hagen, Chair of the Lake Buel District, submitted formal notification that maintenance of the dam on Lake Buel, allowed by a previously approved NOI, was planned for later this fall.

As the final agenda item, the mail was reviewed and the Commission members congratulated each other on being deemed official members of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions. Lastly, the Commission noted receipt of a Forest Cutting Plan Final Report from Prue Spaulding for twenty acres on Sisson Hill. The report noted that no harvesting had occurred. □

Martha Bryan



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Out of the Past**THE LEONARD POTTER HOUSE**

Photographer and artist, Mrs. C. E. Ellis of Southfield, took this photo around 1889.

This Greek Revival home, built in 1832 by Leonard Potter, a blacksmith and a deacon, stands next door to the New Marlborough Meeting House and anchors the village on the west. According to New Marlborough Historical Society records, “[Potter] and his wife, Emeline, had three sons and three daughters. Dances for the amusement of the young people were popular and were often held in the kitchen. Because of its proximity to the Meeting House, his fellow deacons called him to account: ‘Brother Potter, if you persist in this unseemly practice we will unchurch you.’ After a moment of thought, he answered, ‘Brethren, if it is any worse for me to allow my children and their friends under my own roof and my own eyes to enjoy themselves than it is for certain old fellows I know to catch pretty girls in the corner and kiss them at the strawberry festival, I’ll resign my deaconship.’”

In 1889, the house was bought by H. K. Bloodgood and fitted out as a summer retreat while he built Mepal Manor (now a treatment facility for the Center for Motivation and Change). It was around then that this photo was taken. A stamp on the back identifies the photographer as “Mrs. C. E. Ellis, Southfield, Mass.,” which adds that

she is a “Landscape Artist, Berkshire Views a specialty, good work, low rates.” It is one of a suite of images by the photographer donated to the Historical Society by David and Barbara Lowman.

The current owner of the well-preserved property is Dr. Hildreth McCarthy. □

Joe Poindexter

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BROADBAND UPDATE

The Wheels Continue To Grind

The Board of Selectmen had a surprise in store for the representatives from Charter Communications who met with the Board on August 30, 2018.

Michael Chowaniec and Melinda Kinney (present by telephone) of Charter explained to the Board that it was critical to negotiate the cable franchise agreement quickly because the presence of any other provider could “be bad” and “change the math for Charter.” The cable franchise agreement deals with television service.

They also explained that the first company attaching its cable to the existing pole infrastructure typically has “an easier time” than subsequent providers and that it is important to have “first mover status on the poles.” They urged the selectmen to act quickly on their review of a draft cable franchise agreement, which Mr. Chowaniec offered to provide.

At this point, Selectman Nathaniel Yohalem gave the Charter representatives a nice surprise.

“We recognize that you want to get this agreement done fast. So do we. In fact, we have already prepared a draft for your review and here it is. It is essentially the agreement that you’ve already agreed to with Egremont with some minor changes. We’re prepared to sign this

document right now.”

Mr. Chowaniec was delighted. “You are ahead of the curve! We need a week or so to go over this draft with our operations people and we’ll get you a reaction by the end of next week [i.e., September 7].”

Mr. Yohalem expressed his satisfaction with this schedule and noted that the grant agreement between Charter and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), the state agency providing a substantial portion of the financing for the project, should move ahead quickly as well. Mr. Chowaniec indicated that he did not expect any delays on the grant agreement and that MBI should be able to “move that along quickly.” The grant agreement deals with the funding for the project and internet service.

While all of the foregoing sounds promising, as of the time this issue of the NM5VN went to press, the selectmen were still awaiting comments on the draft provided to Charter on August 31.

More next month. Stay tuned. □

Barry R. Shapiro

Upcoming: Events Calendar for October and November

October 6: Award Winning Authors: Host Simon Winchester talks with former *New York Review of Books* Editor Ian Buruma; 4:30 p.m. at the New Marlborough Meeting House, with a reception in the gallery following the performance; \$15, \$10 for members of the Village Association

October 11: Flu Clinic at Town Hall, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. See ad on page 10

October 15: Deadline for New Marlborough Cultural Council grants. Application forms available online at Massachusetts Cultural Council website, www.mass-culture.org

October 22 - November 2: Early voting; Won't be here Election Day? No problem — go to the Town Hall during office hours and cast your vote on any of these ten early voting days

October 27: The New Marlborough Library Halloween Celebration, a little bit of spooky history, a lot of fun, starting at 4:30 p.m. at the Old Mill River Cemetery opposite New Marlborough Central School

October 31: Trick or treating, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall

November 5: Election Day, Town Hall, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; make your voice heard — democracy doesn't work unless its citizens vote

WHAT'S A RED PHONE?

In 1949, the New Marlborough Fire Department introduced a system that brought its communications up to the early 20th century: "the red phone system." Six phones were housed with six firefighters throughout the town to spread notification of an emergency to the entire department.

Prior to that time, notification was more primitive, and more physical. The person with the fire emergency would directly call the fire chief at home. For much of the time from the founding of the New Marlborough Fire Department around 1930 until the red phones were installed, Chief Robert Stevens lived in Southfield, the first house on the right on East Hill Road. He would then dispatch one or more of his sons (Al, Myles, and Bill) to race to the Whip Shop, where there was a switch that controlled the fire siren. Each village had its own code to locate the fire emergency for the firefighters: one blast indicated Southfield; two for New Marlborough; three for Hartsville, four for Mill River, and five for Clayton. The shortcoming, of course, was that this didn't give the actual location of the fire within the village, causing further delay in attacking the fire.

The advent of the red phone system (because the phones were, literally, red) addressed that problem. To report an emergency, a central number was called, which rang in the six homes with a red phone. There was also a red phone in the Southfield Store, which was open six days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and half a day on Sunday. The caller would give details of the nature and location of the emergency. Each of the six people with red phones would then call four additional firefighters; within minutes, up to thirty firefighters knew the exact location of the emergency.



The dial-less red phone is a remnant of a former communication system.

photo of his red phone by Ed Harvey

The system was checked at 6:00 p.m. every night, initiated by one of the red phone holders in an established rotation. They would use a regular telephone to call the emergency number, which would then ring on the red phones. Each responder would identify in order: "Litchfield - one", "Harvey - two", "Brazie - three", etc. The red phones were essentially for listening. They had no dials for outgoing calls, and to speak, one had to lift the plunger.

This system was augmented in the late 1970s by several radios. Initially there were five "black boxes" (plectrons) that charged the radio. The first radios were donated by the Hartsville Grange. They could be located anywhere, so instead of individual homes, they were placed where several firefighters might hear the call, such as at the Whip Shop. The red phone system was still in place.

The next step, individual pagers ("minitors") for each member, was implemented gradually as funds became available. By the mid-1980s the process was complete, and the red phone system was disbanded. The quality of the pagers and two-way radios has increased over time, and that system is still in use today. □

Barbara Lowman

NEW MARLBOROUGH FLU CLINIC

Thursday October 11 - 12:30 p.m. -1:30 p.m.

Mill River Town Hall

Clinic is open to adults over age 18

No appointment necessary

Bring Medicare and Mass Health Cards

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LAND TRUST NEWS

The Land Trust is thrilled to announce the completion of our newest land conservation project (see article on page 18). The 300-acre donation from Ned Goodnow to the Land Trust is Ned's gift to the entire community. We are proud to inherit the stewardship of this land.

Help us celebrate on Columbus Day, Monday, October 8, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., with a family picnic lunch at the new property. We will host a walk and a homemade apple pie contest. Come learn about the property, gain your bearings, and start your exploration of this incredible new community resource. Stay tuned for further details of the October 8 event.

We also encourage you to venture outdoors and enjoy the many opportunities to enjoy the fall season on the trails in New Marlborough. □

Martha Bryan

Historical Society News

COLONIAL MEDICINE IN NEW MARLBOROUGH

Healthcare has improved. No secret there. But what medical people in colonial New Marlborough did not know about the human body could fill volumes. Or in the case of the year's final First Friday program of the New Marlborough Historical Society, an hour-plus brimming with facts and figures demonstrating that the field of medical science was pretty much devoid of science.

According to Dr. John Schreiber, who presented the September 7 program to a packed Meeting House Gallery, there were no medical schools, no rules of sanitation, no systematic testing of efficacy, no licensing of doctors. Anyone who wanted to practice medicine had only to hang out a shingle. Since the concept of germs had yet to be developed, there were no antibiotics. Instead, there were herbs, poultices, and laxatives laced with heavy metals, referred to as "thunderclappers" in their day and thought, according to Dr. Schreiber to "rid the body of morbid elements." (Benjamin Rush, one of the most prominent physicians of the early 1800s, supplied the Lewis and Clark expedition with "Dr. Rush's Thunderbolts," whose heavy concentration of mercury assisted archeologists in tracing the expedition's westward route.)

Two other medical techniques — thankfully long abandoned — were blood-letting and amputation. Bloodletting, said Dr. Schreiber, was thought to relieve pressure caused by bad humours. When George Washington returned home on a December morning in 1799 with a sore throat, as much as five pints of blood were withdrawn from his body, a procedure that is thought to have hastened his death a few days later. Amputation was the remedy of last resort when infection could not be quelled through less extreme measures. There was, of course, no anesthesia (ether would not be discovered until 1846). In its place: alcohol and four or five assistants to immobilize the patient during the



photo by Larry Burke

Dr. John Schreiber takes a First Friday audience back to 18th century medicine.

procedure. Amputations, Dr. Schreiber noted, carried their own risks. Since germs were unknown, the saw that did the deed went unsanitized and frequently carried infection from patient to patient.

The major diseases of two centuries ago were measles, whooping cough, meningitis, tuberculosis, pneumonia, and, until a vaccine came into common use, smallpox. (Dr. Schreiber noted that milkmaids were significantly immunized through their exposure to cow pox.) But life itself was a major threat to the living. Two major causes of death were farm accidents — being run over by a cart, kicked by an animal, thrown by a horse — and childbirth — both to the newborn and the mother.

Life expectancy in 1750, said Dr. Schreiber, was 37; today it is 78. An improvement indeed. But one can only speculate on what shibboleths of today's medical practice will be described as quaintly wrong-headed in a First Friday program of 100 years from now. Looking into the less-distant future, mark your calendars for June 7, July 5, August 2, and September 6, the dates of next year's First Friday presentations. □

Joe Poindexter

YOUR TURN

NM5VN has established a place for our readers' stories. We encourage you to share your experiences, incidents, or thoughts through this space. Reviewing the rules:

Up to 1,000 words, but short and succinct is best; no politics; points of view are welcome but civility is mandatory; editors reserve the right to accept, reject, and edit.

Send your story to Joe Poindexter at joepoindexter@earthlink.net

Providing Shelter

What Construct Has Meant to Me

By Elizabeth Rosenberg



photo by Joe Poindexter

When we moved to Southfield in October 2011, having just retired after twenty-three years as a librarian, I was adrift. We didn't know anyone in the Berkshires and it was a very long winter. Then came the beautiful spring — and into our life a dear new friend, fellow New Marlborough resident, Paul Moritz.

Paul talked about his involvement with Construct, a non-profit organization whose mission was to provide affordable housing and support services for residents of South County. Impressed with everything he described, I gladly accepted his invitation to meet Construct's board of directors. Little did I realize the impact that meeting would have on my life here.

I have had a wealth of experience with non-profits, and have served on a number of boards. But Construct's board, I discovered after joining it in 2014, was harder-working and more dedicated than any of them. From organizing two major fundraisers each year, Mayfest and our Fall Walk, to serving on a variety of committees, such as the real estate committee, which evaluates properties, we are a hands-on board.

So what does Construct do? Have you seen the three white buildings on Route 23 in Great Barrington near Koi restaurant? This is Forest Springs, our newest affordable housing, with eleven units for families. Have you passed the house at 41 Mahaiwe Street in Great Barrington with the Construct sign? This building, once the South Berkshire home of Hevreh, now contains Construct's office space, as well as transitional housing for the homeless.

Compared to New York City, the homeless are invisible in South County. Some live in their cars, others camp out in the woods. But they are here. We have five transitional rooms for men and five for women, and that isn't enough. The waiting list has over eighty names. (Similarly, Forest Springs residents were drawn in a lottery from a waiting list of ninety families.)

Construct is responsible for the Pinewoods complex in Stockbridge, a combination of twenty-five affordable housing units and five at market rate. We own several other properties throughout South County, but far too few for the number of people who want to stay in the Berkshires. Many grew up here and want to stay, but can't afford the prices. Some are public servants or seasonal workers who would like to live here year-round, but can't afford the rents.

By state law, every town is required to designate ten percent of its housing as being affordable. Unfortunately, very few meet that requirement. New Marlborough does not,

despite the fact that eight-and-a-half percent of its residents live below the poverty level and twenty percent are classified as low income.

When I say Construct changed my life, I really mean it. Board members have become close friends. And, just as importantly, Construct gives me hope that in these troubled times we can contribute to helping people change their lives. I've seen the change first hand. On Thursday mornings, I staff the front desk at the office, and women who lived in the transitional housing often share their stories with me. Some women's lives were not that different from mine, except they fell on difficult times and found themselves in situations they could never have imagined.

One, for instance, was an only child who grew up in a comfortable home; her father owned his own business. She attended college and graduate school and was hoping to pursue a career. When her father died suddenly, she was surprised to learn the family's finances were not as solid as she had thought. Her life spiraled downward. Her mother became ill, and then she herself fell ill. When her mother passed away, she became homeless.

This example is not unique. A significant percentage of the homeless population encounter circumstances that are beyond their control. The counseling that Construct's staff provides helps them get back on their feet to lead productive lives contributing to our community. One staff member counsels our tenants about budgeting, debt reduction, credit repair, and savings. Another provides GED training. We work with outside agencies to help those who live in our housing cope with mental health issues. Surprisingly, we do all this — plus manage our properties and produce events — with a small full-time staff and a few part-timers.

People have asked me why I am involved with Construct when there are so many charitable organizations in the Berkshires. I say that I have been very fortunate in my life. And it is one thing to write a check to an organization. But it's entirely different when you get to know people who need the basics — food and shelter — and you can do a small part to help them achieve what every individual should have.

Please contact me if you are interested in getting involved in this wonderful organization. Check out our website www.constructinc.org. You will be helping our community.

*Elizabeth Rosenberg, a resident of Rhoades and Bailey Road,
has been president of Construct since 2015*

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NEIGHBORS



After fifteen years together, **Laura Endacott and Jack McLean**, of Mill River were married on September 15 in their backyard on the banks of the Konkapot. Eighteen family members and friends gathered for the ceremony, with a champagne reception on their back deck – also overlooking the river. The festivities were capped off with dinner at the Old Inn on the Green.



photo by Marilee Walligford

Laura Endacott and Jack McLean

Edith MacGuire, who had been coming to New Marlborough since the mid-to-late 1920s, passed away on August 23 at home in New York City at age ninety-seven. Her father, Rodney Williams, purchased the Steepletop property in New Marlborough at that time, and the family continues to enjoy it to this day.

From her childhood, Edie remembered that most main roads were dirt, farming was done with horse-drawn equipment, and a doctor made house calls in his buggy. She used to ride her horse across the upper pastures just to impress her father and his friends.

Edie married Jerry MacGuire in the New Marlborough Meeting House in 1946. They then began coming to New Marlborough with their three children, Cordie, Havie, and Deirdre, initially staying at Steepletop with Edie's sister, Louise Devine. By 1957 they had their own house on the Steepletop property, and Edie taught her children to appreciate the woods, hills, and quiet pleasures of the Berkshires.

For decades, Edie was a strong supporter of New Marlborough's cultural and community activities. She volunteered in the early years of Elihu Burritt Day, cutting flowers in her garden and selling the bouquets to support the Village Association. She also worked the white elephant sale.



photo by Deborah McTigue

Edith MacGuire

Land preservation was one of her important concerns. Edie was one of the founders of the New Marlborough Land Trust in 1983. She, along with her sister, Louise, Betty Taylor, Nancy Craigmyle, and Rita Mathews, purchased a tract on Hotchkiss Road, and made the first donation to the Land Trust. This was a lasting contribution to the preservation of New Marlborough's character. □

compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com

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OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS



photo by Don Beauchamp

Red-tailed hawk, poised for take-off

Down along the Konkapot in Clayton, **Don Beauchamp** checked in to say, “I wasn’t seeing much, but then things happened. I saw three **northern flickers** on September 16, and **hummingbirds** are still around. I have also seen a **bear**, a **bobcat**, and **Canada geese** flying over the corn lot. A few days earlier, I picked up a **hornworm** eating my potato plants, and noticed **monarch larvae** eating my milkweed. On September 15, I was able to get this photo of a **red-tailed hawk** just before he took off.”

A little self-reporting here, as I was walking through our front hall one day in early September I glanced out the front door to see a fine, healthy **doe** enjoying our meager apple crop. I have since come to realize that this is one of her regular eateries. I have been seeing a fairly large number of **porcupines**, also helping themselves to whatever apples and pears they are

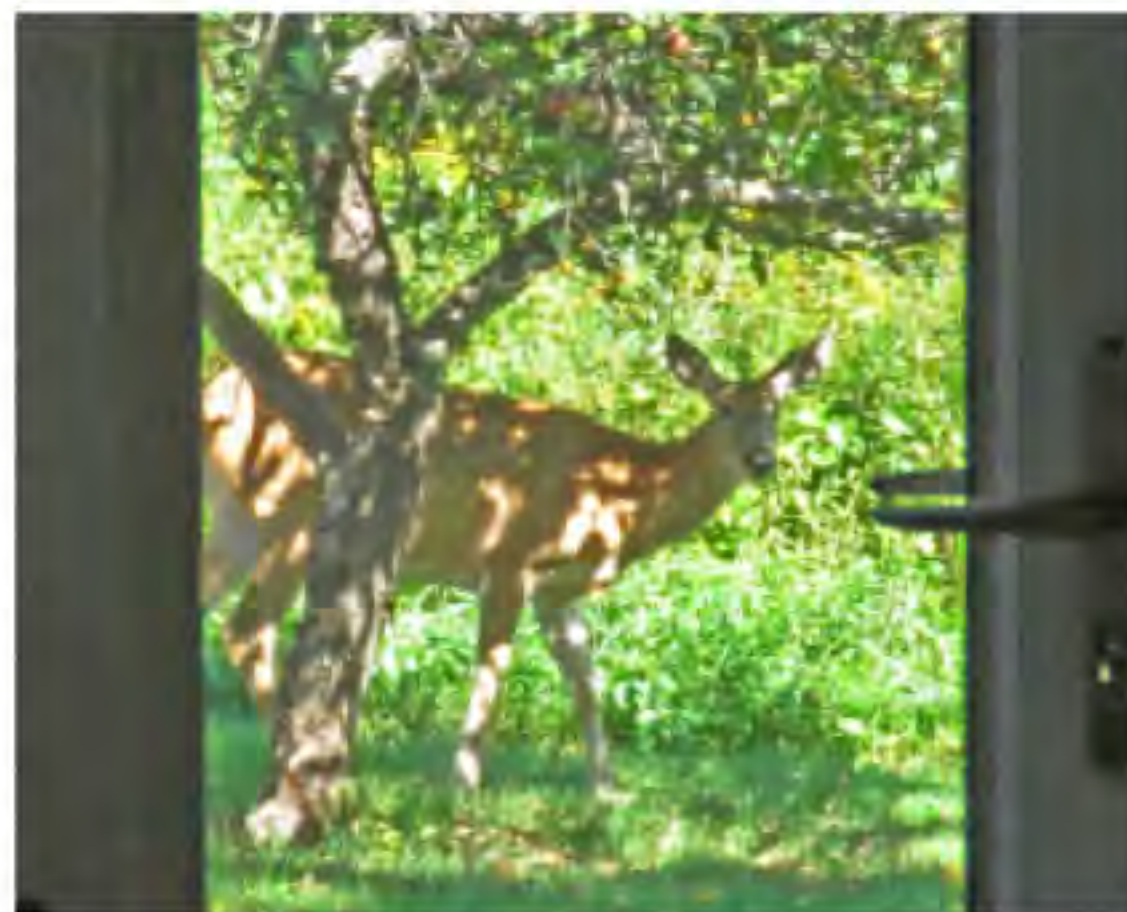


photo by Larry Burke

A female white-tailed deer, seen through a doorway



photo by Larry Burke

A hung-up porcupine

as finding, as well as grazing on grasses in the field above our house. The old fellow up in the field appears to enjoy purple clover flowers a good deal. On two separate occasions, I have gone out in the morning to open the chicken coop, only to discover porcupines – one very large, elderly one and one youngster – all tangled up in the fencing. Both were patient and forgiving



photo by Larry Burke

Peeper on a raspberry leaf

with me as I cut the strands of the fence to free them. So far, our dogs are keeping their distance.... Lastly, while picking berries on September 2, I spotted a very tiny frog on a raspberry leaf. Although it does not have the normal x-marking on its back, I believe it to be a **peeper**, in position to catch insects.

At the conclusion of the piano concert at the Meeting House on September 15, **Ben Harms** asked me if I noticed

the building’s new occupants – **little brown bats**. While not exactly in the belfry, the small creatures have chosen a nice spot with subdued lighting – the louvered shutters of the large windows on either side of the building. After the near-total decimation of the bat population caused by white-nose syndrome, it is encouraging to see these wonderful insectivores returning to our area. I counted ten, and, who knows, maybe there are even more bats in the belfry! □

Compiled by Larry Burke: lburke2@me.com



photo by Larry Burke

Little brown bats at the Meeting House



A closer view of the little brown bats

A HISTORIC TEAMMATE:

Dr. Tom Waddell and New Marlborough's Gay Games Connection

By John B. Weinstein

This past June, I found myself in a once-every-four-years summer routine, driving through New Marlborough along Route 57, on my way to the Amelia Park Ice Arena in Westfield. I was training for the figure skating competition at the upcoming Gay Games in Paris, France. I had competed twice before in the quadrennial event, in Chicago (2006) and Cologne, Germany (2010). Founded originally in 1982 as the "Gay Olympics" by actual 1968 Olympian Tom Waddell (Dr. Waddell, a physician, was sued by the United States Olympic Committee for using the word "Olympics," a lawsuit that dogged him for the remainder of his life), the Gay Games gives LGBT athletes the opportunity to compete openly, while experiencing the camaraderie of a multi-sports event. I know that it isn't the Olympics, but when I marched in for my first opening ceremony in 2006, it felt like what I've always imagined the Olympics to be.

At the Gay Games, athletes are not supposed to represent a country, as Dr. Waddell wanted his new Gay Olympics to transcend national boundaries in a way that the actual Olympics had failed to do. Instead, athletes represent their cities, with the larger cities like San Francisco, New York, and Boston fielding large teams.



The author with New Marlborough "teammate" Tom Waddell in 2018.

photo by Brian Mikesell

For me, with my Mill River mailing address, I recall being announced in Cologne as "from the United States, from Mill River," as if Mill River were as large as San Francisco. While I was certainly proud, and a little amused, to be introduced in that way, I must admit that it always felt a bit lonely to have no actual teammates at the Gay Games. As Teams San Francisco, Cologne, Paris, New York, and the like walked around in their snazzy team uniforms, I wondered where team New Marlborough might be.

When I picked up the June 2018 issue of *NV5VN* and began reading Daniel Menaker's retrospective on Camp To-Ho-Ne, I was not expecting my current training to intersect with New Marlborough's past. But there it was, a reference to the founder of the Gay Games, in a parenthetical about the athletic counselors recruited from Springfield College to work at the camp. Mr. Menaker wrote: "One of them was Tom Waddell, who finished sixth in the decathlon in the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, and had by then, with Glen [Memmen]'s death, become my Uncle Enge's partner." Could it be, that the founder of the Gay Games, and perhaps the most important athlete in the history of the gay sports movement, had been a resident of New Marlborough?

Indeed, he was, for a time. The New Marlborough chapter of Tom Waddell's varied life began in 1959,



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when, as his biography on the Federation of Gay Games' website notes, "he worked at a children's camp in western Massachusetts, where he met his first lover, socialist Enge Menaker." Tom Waddell later moved on to other cities and other relationships, but the website reports that he and Enge Menaker "remained close for the rest of Menaker's life." When I spoke with Daniel Menaker, who kindly shared his memories of Tom Waddell, he confirmed that Waddell continued his connections with the Menaker family, attending family events including the 1978 memorial service for To-Ho-Ne Boys Camp founder Peter Menaker. Waddell himself died in 1985, at age forty-nine.

When the time comes for the next Gay Games, set for Hong Kong in 2022, I myself will be fifty-one years old. Will I still be up to the challenge? And will I still want to drive an hour each way along Route 57 to Westfield? I've had a good run at the Gay



Games over the years, winning three gold medals and a bronze, so perhaps that's enough. Or perhaps I will go for one more. What I do know for certain is that, if I march into the opening ceremonies as Team New Marlborough, I won't be a team of one. I'll have Tom Waddell on my team. □



Enge Menaker on Tom Waddell's shoulders in 1967, and the author's Gay Games 2018 athlete's credential.

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LAND TRUST RECEIVES OUTSTANDING GIFT



photo by Martha Bryan

Edward Goodnow

The New Marlborough Land Trust has received 300 acres of land along the Konkapot River from Edward (Ned) Goodnow, of Southfield. The acreage is located just south of Mill River, and contains more than 4,000 feet of river frontage. Ned had protected this land with a conservation restriction in 2007. The ruins of the Lower Carroll paper mill are on the land; Ned granted an easement to the Land Trust to develop the mill site and create a trail to access it. The acreage also includes woodland trails and open pasture.

“This is Ned Goodnow’s gift to the entire community,” said Ian Devine, president of the Land Trust. “The land will be an important resource for recreation, educational opportunities, sustainable agricultural projects, and an

historical site. The protected property will continue under the stewardship of the Land Trust.”

Martha Bryan, the Land Trust’s executive director, pointed out the convergence of past, present, and future represented by the land. “The Carroll paper mill is part of Mill River’s manufacturing legacy. The interior woodland areas offer year-round recreational opportunities for hikers and cross-country skiers. The beautiful pastures continue to be hayed, and will support local agriculture long into the future.”

The gift of the Konkapot acreage is the largest single acquisition for the New Marlborough Land Trust, which now owns and maintains approximately 890 acres in town, all with public access. □

OUR TOWN'S FUTURE

This month's essay is from Claudette Callahan, a longtime member of the Historical Society and a library trustee.

Preserving Essential Values

By Claudette Callahan

It is hard to envision the future, but we all try to do that. I would hope that the Town of New Marlborough would use its strengths to its fullest. Some of the jewels of the town include its clear water, starry skies, open fields, wild animals, lush forests, fresh air, and its residents.

People buy homes in New Marlborough for these reasons. I hope the future will allow young people and their families to be able to afford to live and work in this area. We need workers of the land and providers of services needed by all. Our local high schools have provided vocational classes in the past to help meet this need. I hope this will be expanded and continue to meet the needs of the community.

Pure water is a much-valued commodity in most of the world. We are fortunate to have wells and water systems to provide this basic need. I hope New Marlborough will be vigilant in protecting this valuable resource.

Being able to see the constellations, planets, and, more recently, Mars in the evening sky is a privilege not enjoyed by most of the world. Overdevelopment creates so much light that most people never see a starry sky. We need to plan carefully for our future.

Another positive factor that exists in New Marlborough is the Land Trust, which protects many acres of field



*Claudette Callahan
photo by Joe Poindexter*

and forest, and provides habitat for wild animals. Perhaps the town will continue to find ways to increase the protection of our natural resources.

The people of New Marlborough are diverse in background and age. The influx of second home owners began in the late 1880s. Wealthy people moved here due to the bucolic atmosphere. They have assisted the town financially through the years. We are grateful for their caring devotion and financial support to the town.

We have been blessed with a community school and public library. People feel comfortable sending their children to New Marlborough Central School and trust the able staff to care for them. The library serves the public in many ways and is a unique community center. These special places should continue to serve the town in the future.

Volunteers are plentiful in New Marlborough. Our town officers, fire department, first responders, and members of the various organizations contribute to make the town a safe and cultured place to live.

I have faith in the people of New Marlborough. They are caring and generous. Each has a special gift to contribute to the well-being of the town. I ask that we be aware of our neighbors' needs and value their opinions as we move into the planning of the future. ❖



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HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

It has been a very busy summer for the Highway Department. Our latest project is widening East Hill Road. We will preserve the travel lane, but our goal is to create a water drainage ditch to eliminate wash-out of the road. This project should be completed by the end of September.

Mill River Great Barrington Road received a top coat, a hard cover that will seal and protect the asphalt pavement, this summer. Route 183 received an overlay, and a little over a mile of Norfolk Road was reclaimed and a base course of binder applied. Norfolk Road and the rest of Route 183 is scheduled for a top coat next year. The highway workers did a lot of the prep work for these huge road projects. The crew worked with an outside contractor to change fourteen culverts on Norfolk Road. The Department also provided trucking, traffic control, additional labor, and support throughout the process. These are typical duties of the Highway Department, but unfortunately, they tie up the entire crew for an extended amount of time.

Roadside mowing is a task that the Highway Department had to tackle this year as well. The outside contractor, who had been keeping our roadsides beautiful and safe for years, has had to take a leave of absence due to illness. Roadside mowing had been put out to bid, and we are currently hiring a new contractor for the remainder of this year and next.

We are working with the state to update our street signs. In addition to replacing stolen and damaged signs, the state requires updating to the new Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices standards, federal standards for road signs, stop lights, and other traffic control devices. Unlike many towns, New Marlborough does not have a fulltime mechanic, so our knowledgeable and talented crew is responsible for maintaining fifteen pieces of machinery, including trucks and equipment.

The highway crew is expected to complete all of the duties required to maintain the forty miles of unpaved roads in our town, including grading, raking, rolling, and dust control. The heavy rain this past summer was very hard on the gravel roads. Throughout the summer we worked many hours and laid truckloads of road material, making the unpaved roads look great. The next storm would come along and wash them out, leaving us to start all over again. We are still finding time for patching potholes, cleaning drains and culverts, replacing culverts as needed, and cleaning up downed, overgrown, and rotten trees and branches. Calls for downed trees and branches in roads have been coming more frequently. One weekend we were called out three different times for downed trees. Regardless of the day or time, the crew always shows up to make the roads safe and passable for residents.



photo by Joe Ponderer

Highwaymen Chuck Loring (in cab) and Bill Ruane confer over the widening of East Hill Road.

The highway crew consists of a superintendent, one working foreman, three staff, one part-time equipment operator, and a part-time plow-truck driver in the winter months. Our crew is very experienced, with some having ten, fifteen, or even thirty years dedicated to working for our town. Along with this longevity, comes well-earned vacation time. The crew is encouraged to be on call 24/7 all year, but Highway Department employees are required to stay in the area throughout the winter months to plow and sand the roads as needed, so they are asked to use their vacation days between May and November. This means that the crew is down by one man throughout the summer making it a three-man crew.

With ninety miles of roads in New Marlborough, we are drastically below the suggested standard of one highway worker for every ten miles. The Highway Department had an additional full-time crew member in 2004. With other Town departments growing, it would be nice to allow the Highway Department to return to the personnel levels of 2004. More houses are being built in our town for families with young children and multiple income family members. Residents' expectations for the Highway Department have increased. In the winter months we are expected to have the roads clear earlier in the morning, late into the evening, and throughout the day. This is a lot to ask of such a small crew, but they continue to work hard.

We appreciate the phone calls that we receive reporting trees down and other dangerous road conditions. Please know that we take your requests seriously and address them according to priority. We have a list and will not forget your call.

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

Charles Loring, Highway Superintendent

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

In my book, there is never a wrong time of the year – or day – for a good dessert. So while Scottie Mills' cheesecake may be one usually reserved for special occasions, it works just as well for a weeknight after-dinner treat or, if you are a very lucky Kerr child, dinner.

When we arrived in New Marlborough in 2013, Scottie's kindness, guidance, and warm welcome really helped us settle in to our new town. So I wasn't surprised when she provided a recipe usually served at gatherings and celebrations, while also being an old collaborative effort between Scottie and her neighbor Leslie Miller of Gedney Farm.

When asked about her experience of living in New Marlborough and how food and family fit in, Scottie says "My grandmother, Jeanette Sellew, was born in the house next door, and the house where I live was a wedding present to my parents. Nana was a long-time member of the Ladies Aid Society and the choir director. She orchestrated many bake sales, community dinners, square dances, and, of course, family dinners at her welcoming house.

"Living in New Marlborough feels very much like home to me. I have lived full-time in New Marlborough for thirty-five years, but all my life I have been coming here in summers and holidays. I have many fond childhood memories of fields and forests, cousins and friends. I have known many of the residents most of my life, and it's always great to welcome newcomers.

"Although technically I have an "empty nest" now, it sure doesn't feel like it! Saskia lives just down the road and I love staying involved with my grandchildren, their school, and their sports.

"Having celebratory meals with friends and family has been a big tradition for my family – Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years – sometimes it is "potluck" or sometimes I cook for a lot of people, but cheesecake usually appears on the menu, and there's never any left!"

Fiona Kerr



Vanilla Cheesecake

Crust:

- 1-¼ cups of gingersnap crumbs (about 8 oz of biscuits crushed in a food processor/blender)
- ¼ cup of sugar
- 6 Tbsp melted butter

Filling:

- 3 x 8 oz pkg cream cheese, at room temperature
- 4 eggs, at room temperature
- ¾ cups sugar
- 3 tsp vanilla extract

Topping:

- 16 oz sour cream
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

Method:

- For crust: mix crumbs, sugar and butter together, press into bottom and slightly up the sides of a 9" springform tin. Put into freezer while making the filling.
- Filling: using a mixer, beat cream cheese until fluffy, add eggs one at a time, beating well between each egg; continue beating and gradually add sugar; add vanilla.
- Take pan out of freezer and pour in filling.
- Bake at 200 degrees until edges are light brown and the center does not jiggle (about an hour, depending on your oven)
- Cool at room temperature for half an hour
- While cake is cooling, turn oven up to 425 degrees and make topping
- Topping: beat sour cream, sugar and vanilla together until sugar dissolves. Pour over cooled cake and bake at 425 for 10 minutes.
- Refrigerate immediately for 8 hours or overnight. Serve and enjoy!

Note: Cheesecake freezes well. Freeze uncovered, then wrap in cling film (not foil) and thaw in the fridge a few hours before it is needed.

THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- Aug. 2 10:16 a.m. Sick raccoon sighted on Mill River Southfield Road.
- 1:06 p.m. Hit-and-run accident reported on Mill River Great Barrington Road.
- 4:48 p.m. A resident calls for a well-being check on a woman running erratically on Hatchery Road toward Monterey.
- 5:08 p.m. National Grid called to remove tree on wires on Brewer Hill Road.
- 5:14 p.m. South Sandisfield Road resident reports a brush fire caused by a downed wire on Idle Hour Road.
- 10:16 p.m. Officer dispatches a bear struck by an automobile on Mill River Great Barrington Road.
- Aug. 4 10:14 a.m. Tree down on Route 57 a mile from the Sandisfield border.
- 10:15 a.m. Tree down on Canaan Southfield Road.
- 11:25 p.m. Canaan Southfield Road resident complains of loud music coming from a neighboring property.
- Aug. 5 12:04 a.m. East Hill Road resident complains of loud music emanating from nearby.
- 4:13 p.m. National Grid alerted to tree on wires on Hadsell Street.
- 7:53 p.m. Verizon notified of tree on phone wires on Lumbert Cross Road.
- Aug. 6 8:58 a.m. Confronted with her license plate found near the scene of a collision of a vehicle with a water-well meter on Brewer Hill Road, the driver, a resident of North Egremont, admits to causing the damage.
- 8:02 p.m. Two males and a female at an Umpachene Falls Road residence reported to be intoxicated to the point of endangering themselves.
- 8:31 p.m. Caller reports gunshots near his New Marlborough Branch Road residence.
- Aug. 7 1:02 p.m. Two motorcycles collide at the intersection of Mill River Great Barrington and County Roads.
- Aug. 9 4:05 a.m. Tree down on Canaan Southfield road.
- 6:42 p.m. A Southfield employer reports perceived threats to other of her workers from a fired employee.
- 10:22 p.m. A car parked in New Marlborough village is damaged when an SUV backs into it.
- 10:33 p.m. A passenger incurs head injuries in a one-car accident on South Sandisfield Road.
- Aug. 11 6:08 p.m. The Department is called to help resolve a family dispute in New Marlborough village.
- Aug. 14 3:19 p.m. A Hartsville resident alerts the Department to the presence of her ex-husband in her home in an "uncontrollable" state.
- Aug. 15 8:15 a.m. A Rhoades and Bailey Road resident reports finding dirt-bike or ATV tracks on her property.
- Aug. 16 1:40 a.m. Knight Road resident reports yelling and screaming from a neighboring property.
- Aug. 17 4:02 p.m. A Hartsville New Marlborough Road resident extinguishes an illegal outdoor burn.
- Aug. 18 5:42 a.m. A Knight Road resident reports a horse loose in her yard.
- 3:37 p.m. A resident reports a washout in front of his house on Canaan Valley Road.
- 6:16 p.m. The animal control officer is notified of an injured Canada goose in the yard of an Adsit Crosby Road resident.
- 10:28 p.m. Road to York Lake closed after being washed out in a rain storm.
- Aug. 20 5:52 p.m. Tree down on Rhoades and Bailey Road.
- Aug. 22 9:54 a.m. Officer assists a driver who has locked herself out of her car at the transfer station.
- Aug. 23 12:56 p.m. Alerted to the capsize of a canoe on Thousand Acre Swamp, an officer assists in the rescue of one of the canoers.
- 6:11 p.m. A stolen child's dirtbike is located in the bed of a pickup truck parked at a residence on Hill Heights Road.
- Aug. 27 2:14 a.m. Department included in an APB to be on the lookout for a gray 1989 Saab 900 stolen from North Adams.
- Aug. 29 8:18 p.m. A caller complains of a disturbance and possible underage drinking from a

group at an Umpachene Falls Road residence.

ball joint and losing a tire on Mill River Southfield Road.

Aug. 30 12:38 p.m. Highway Department alerted to a tree down on South Sandisfield Road.

Aug. 31 11:55 p.m. Officer transports a male, walking naked on Route 57, to his home in Otis.

2:06 p.m. A vehicle is disabled after snapping a

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

THANK YOU

Thanks from the New Marlborough Fire Company to all who turned out — despite some iffy afternoon weather — to support the New Marlborough Fire Company's 25th Annual Pig Roast. This year's event was another success and would not have been possible without the support of the New Marlborough community and our many sponsors, including:

The Mill River General Store and Jess and Todd Holcomb
 The Farm New Marlborough and Tom Brazie
 J.E. Kimball and Sons

And our Raffle Prize Contributors:

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SCHOOL NEWS

By Jane Burke

Mount Everett students began the year with a special day devoted to exploring an issue of importance to their health and wellness, the quality of resilience. After viewing the film *Soul Surfer* about how a young woman overcame the loss of her arm in a shark attack, students heard from Alexa Score. She spoke about being a teen battling a rare cancer and her determination to live a normal life despite her continued experiences with the disease into young adulthood. After the presentation, students had discussions about the need for resilience in their own lives, and were able to meet informally with Ms. Score afterward during the lunch barbecue and games time.

Through the Global Education Program at Mount Everett, five Mount Everett High School students traveled to Madurai, India on September 18 for twelve days, to participate in the World Education Alliance's annual student symposium. Students from around the globe gathered to explore the role of dance in culture. They spent a week attending classes at the host school and danced in a final performance celebrating what they learned. Participating students included Mary Shalaby, Isabella and Amelia Kemp, and Odegaard Fields, from New Marlborough, and Madeline Von Ruden from Sheffield. They worked with Tom Masters of Southfield, who choreographed a dance in praise of the values of freedom of self-expression and tolerance, to the music of *The Greatest Showman*. Later this year, the Global Education Program will welcome students from Hong Kong for a week at Mount Everett. Students of Spanish teacher Angela Spina will travel to Machu

Picchu in the spring.

At New Marlborough Central, the New Marlborough Monterey Parent Teacher Association, led by Marie Kamens, Stephanie Bergman, Krista Brazie, and Francoise Lartigue, sponsored a fundraiser Biking for Books on September 29. Activities included a bike safety lesson for students and an obstacle course. This event was to support building classroom libraries. Joyce Schneider helped to organize this popular event.

The elementary school play this year is *The Wizard of Oz*. Students from grades four through six have been rehearsing after school since early September. The performances will be October 19 at 7:00 p.m., and October 20 and 21 at 3:00 p.m. in the TacPac at Mount Everett High School. □

Jane Burke

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Thank You to Our Contributors

Joe Baker & Bonner McAllester; Lee Backer & Joan Elmer;
Katherine T. & Richard L. Silverblatt; Jon & Rosemary Masters

The Attorney General's office requires publishing this notice to correct an error in a public hearing of the Planning Board.

Attorney General's Notice

Pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 32, as amended by Chapter 299 of the Acts of 2000

Town of New Marlborough — Case No. 8968 Annual Town Meeting of May 7, 2018 Article # 38

Attorney General's Limited Authority to Waive Procedural Defects in the Notice of the Planning Board Hearing

Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32, as amended by Chapter 299 of the Acts of 2000, if the Attorney General finds there to be any defect in the procedure of adoption or amendment of any zoning by-law relating to the form or content of the notice of the Planning Board hearing prescribed by G.L. c. 40A, § 5, or to the manner or dates on which said notice is mailed, posted or published as required by that section, then instead of disapproving the by-law or amendment by reason of any such defect, the Attorney General may elect to proceed under the defect waiver provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32. Under those provisions, the Attorney General is conditionally authorized to waive any such defect.

Defect Determined in Notice of Planning Board Hearing

The Attorney General has determined that the planning board hearing notice relating to the above Article failed to comply with the notice requirements for such hearing established by G.L. c. 40A, § 5. Section 5 provides in part (with emphasis added):

No zoning...by-law or amendment thereto shall be adopted until after the planning board in a...town has...held a public hearing thereon...at which interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard.... Notice of the time and place of such hearing, of the subject matter, sufficient for identification, and of the place where texts and maps thereof may be inspected shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the...town once in each of two successive weeks, the first publication to be not less than fourteen days before the day of said hearing, and by posting such notice in a conspicuous place in the...town hall for a period of not less than fourteen days before the day of said hearing. Notice of said hearing shall also be sent by mail, postage prepaid to the department of housing and community development, the regional planning agency, if any, and to the planning board of each abutting city and town...

Based on the materials submitted to this Office, we have identified the following defects: (1) the planning board hearing notices that were published did not contain a statement where the text and map, if any, of the zoning amendment may be inspected and (2) the planning board notice that was posted did not state the subject matter sufficient for identification. Apart from these defects, the Town appears to have complied with the requirements of the statute.

Attorney General's Election to Proceed Under the Waiver Provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32

The Attorney General has elected to proceed under the limited defect waiver authority conferred by G.L. c. 40, § 32, as amended by Chapter 299 of the Acts of 2000.

Suspension of Review of Zoning By-Law Amendments

The 90-day period prescribed by law for the Attorney General's review of local by-laws is therefore suspended in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32, as amended by Chapter 299 of the Acts of 2000.

Posting and Publication of This Notice

The Town Clerk shall post a true copy of this Notice in a conspicuous place in the New Marlborough Town Hall for a period of not less than 14 days and shall publish a copy once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of New Marlborough.

Filing of Claim That Defect in Notice Was Misleading or Otherwise Prejudicial

Within 21 days of the date on which this Notice is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of New Marlborough, any resident of the Town of New Marlborough, or the owner of any real property in the Town of New Marlborough, or any other party entitled to notice of the planning board hearing may file with the Town Clerk a written statement that the notice defect was misleading or otherwise prejudicial. The statement must include the reasons supporting the claim that the defect in the Planning Board Notice was misleading or otherwise prejudicial. This statement must be actually on file with the Town Clerk not later than 21 days from the date on which this Notice is published in the newspaper.

Town Clerk's Certification of Compliance with This Notice

After the expiration of the 21-day period, the Town Clerk shall submit to the Attorney General a true copy of this Notice with a certification of compliance with the publishing and posting requirements of the preceding paragraph, and a certification that either (a) no claim was filed within the 21-day period, or (b) one or more claims were filed within the 21-day period. The Town Clerk shall submit to the Attorney General true copies of any such claim(s).

Resumption of Attorney General's Review

Upon receipt of one original copy of this Notice with the Clerk's certification, the 90-day period provided for the Attorney General's review under G.L. c. 40, § 32, shall resume. If no claim is made, the Attorney General has the discretion to waive any such defect; if any claim is made, however, the Attorney General may not waive any such defect.

Note: By not filing a claim under this provision, a person shall not be deprived of the right to assert a claim of invalidity arising out of any possible defect in the procedure of adoption or amendment, as provided in G.L. c. 40, § 32, and in G.L. c. 40A, § 5.

NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

Adult Fiction

Sunburn, by Laura Lippman
Mary B., by Katherine J. Chen
Wild Fire, by Ann Cleeves
The Unwanted Guest, by Shari Lapena
Beautiful Exiles, by Meg Waite Clayton
The Line that Held Us, by David Joy
Little Comfort, by Edwin Hill
John Woman, by Walter Mosley
How to Behave in a Crowd, by Camille Bordas

Adult Nonfiction

Small Animals: Parenthood in the Age of Fear, by Kim Brooks
Romantic Outlaws: The Extraordinary Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley, by Charlotte Gordon
The Island at the Center of the World, by Russell Shorto
The Bettencourt Affair: The World's Richest Woman and the Scandal That Rocked Paris, by Tom Sancton
The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers, by Maxwell King

Children's Fiction

The Third Mushroom, by Jennifer L. Holm
Explorer Academy: The Nebula Secret, by Trudi Trueit
The Fourteenth Goldfish, by Jennifer L. Holm
Super Fly: Rise of the Evil Army!, by Todd H. Doodler
Rookie of the Year, by Phil Bildner
Dog Man, by Dav Pilkey
13-Story Tree House, by Andy Griffiths
Clara Humble: Quiz Wiz, by Anna Humphrey

Children's Nonfiction

The Secret Life of Little Brown Bat, by Laurence Pringle

Library Hours

Mon. Wed. Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Tues. & Fri. 1:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Thurs. 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Books on DVDs

Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story
The Book Club
Mary Shelley: The Life That Inspired Frankenstein
 RBG
The Rider

Books on CDs

The Middleman, Olen Steinhaver
The Lost for Words Bookshop, Stephanie Butland

You're Invited to A Halloween Scare
Come and Join Us If You Dare!

Visit the Old Mill River Cemetery and meet some mystery guests
 Bonfire - Hayrides - Refreshments

We will meet at the New Marlborough Central School

October 27 at 4:30 p.m.

In case of rain we will move to the Meeting House in New Marlborough Village



This program is sponsored by The Friends of the New Marlborough Library, New Marlborough Historical Society and The New Marlborough Land Trust, with special thanks to the New Marlborough Fire Department

Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

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

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

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

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Town Times

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Post Office: Mill River (413) 229-8582

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

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

Southfield (413) 229-8476

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Town Hall: 229-8116

Police: Business office: 229-8161

Transfer Station Hours:

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

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

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

PERMITS ARE DUE JULY 1

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

Emergency calls:

**Police, Fire, Medical
911**

New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.

Hours:

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

PO Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244

(413) 229-8165

We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.

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

NM5VN Editorial Team

Barbara Lowman, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer;

Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Larry Burke,

David Lowman, Joe Poindexter, Jodi Rothe, Peter Schuyten,

Barry Shapiro, Pam Stebbins, Sandra Fusco-Walker

Contributing writers and artists: Ann Getsinger,

Angus Kerr, Mary Richie Smith, Catherine Twing,

Tara White, and Michele Shalaby. Index: Donna Weaver

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

also online at www.nm5vn.org

The next issue will be dated November 2018.

All copy must be submitted no later than October 17.

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

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

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