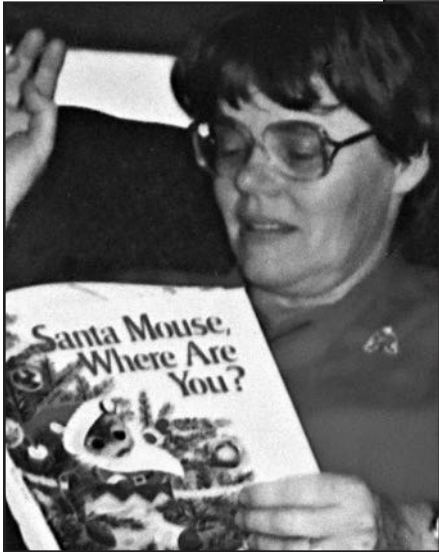


ANNUAL REPORTS  
FOR THE  
TOWN OF PLAINFIELD  
MASSACHUSETTS  
2015

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## JAMES AND JUDY FEELEY

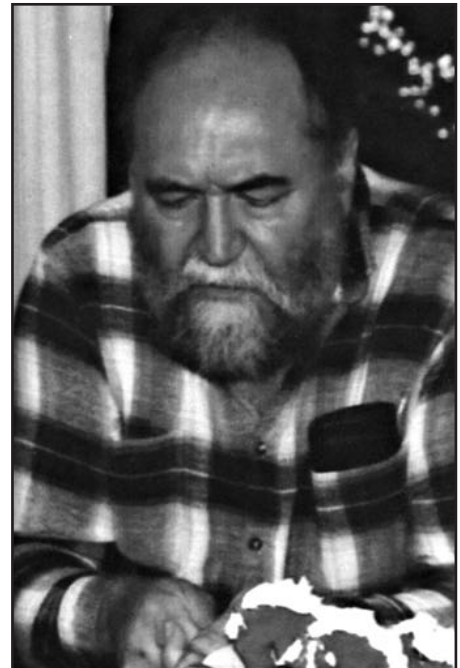
**I**t has been almost eighteen years since Jim and Judy moved to Plainfield as part owners of Back Acres Farm and subsequently built another house on Broom Street. After selling their interest in those properties they moved to their current West Main Street residence.

Jim, an artist of multiple mediums, designed and painted the “Town Offices” sign and the “Right-to-Farm” signs for Plainfield as well as the sign at Plainfield Pond. Plainfield’s official flag, designed by Jim, hangs in the Hall of Flags in the State House in Boston. The talents of both Judy and Jim are often displayed during the annual Artsfeast exhibit. Judy’s gorgeous quilts and Jim’s fabulous sculpture, wood-working, and other crafts round out the exhibit.

The couple’s sense of community service was revealed soon after their move to Plainfield. Jim has served as a member of the Buildings Committee and as alternate member of the Council on Aging. Being “retired” Jim has been called upon for frozen pipes, other plumbing, and electrical problems to which he responds with a smile. As a minister, Jim has presided over numerous weddings and other life celebrations.

In 2006 Judy was elected to the Select Board, a position she has held for ten years. Her demeanor and fairness has been an asset to the Board resulting in the resolution of many issues throughout her tenure. Judy served as Select Board clerk and manager of the Plainfield Light & Communications Plant. She is also always on hand for visits to friends and acquaintances providing care giving assistance. Judy’s gardens attest to her avid interest in flowers and vegetables.

Many thanks, Judy and Jim, for all you have done and continue to do for Plainfield.



## ELECTED OFFICIALS

	Term Expires
<b>Board of Assessors – 3 years</b>	
Claude E. Dupont III	2018
Dudley Williams	2016
Helene Tamarin	2017
<b>Board of Health – 3 years</b>	
Ellen Dupont, Chairman	2016
David Crowell	2018
Gale Bulissa	2017
<b>Board of Selectman- 3 years</b>	
Phillip S. Lococo, Chairman	2016
Judith Feeley	2017
Dennis Mimitz	2018
<b>Constables – 3 years</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Merton Taylor, Sr.	2016
2 <sup>nd</sup> Edward E. Morann	2016
<b>Councilor, Hampshire Council of Govs. – 2 year</b>	
Peg Keller	
<b>Library Trustees – 3 years</b>	
Sandra Morann	2018
Ann Kohn	2016
Patricia Corley	2017
<b>Moderator – 1 year</b>	
Laurie Israel	2016
<b>School Committee – 3 years</b>	
Heather Davis	2016
Lynne Robbins ( <i>Appointed to fill out remainder of term</i> )	2017
<b>Town Clerk – 3 years</b>	
Ruth E. Osgood	2016
<b>Tree Warden – 1 year</b>	
Ron Weeks	2016
<b>Whiting Street Fund Disbursement Comm. – 3 years</b>	
David W. Alvord, Chairman	2017
Ellen Baer	2018
Robert Persing	2016

## APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Position	Appointee	Term Expires
<b>Accountant</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
	Paula J. King	2013 2016
<b>Ad Hoc Road Status Committee</b>		<b>One Year</b>
	William Sheppard	2015 2016
	Merton Taylor Jr.	2015 2016
	Edward Morann	2015 2016
<b>Americans with Disabilities Act Committee</b>		<b>One Year</b>
	William Adams	2015 2016
	Vacant	2014 2015
<b>Agricultural Commission</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
	Anna Manning-Hanchett	2015 2018
	Paul Dileo	2014 2017
	Anne Williams	2015 2018
	Ed Stockman	2013 2016
	John Taliaferro	2013 2016
	David Crowell, Alternate	2015 2016
<b>AMCO Officer</b>		<b>One Year</b>
	Philip Lococo	2015 2016
<b>Animal Aid Committee</b>		<b>One Year</b>
	Ronald A. Scott, Chairman	2015 2016
<b>Animal Control Officer</b>		<b>One Year</b>
	Casey Dwyer	2015 2016
<b>Animal Control Officer</b>		
	Warren Kirkpatrick, Certified	2015 2016
<b>Board of Registrars</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
	John F. Westwood, Chairman	2014 2017
	Linda J. Melle	2015 2018
	Ruth Osgood	2014 2016
	Robert Fusco	2013 2016
<b>Building Committee</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
	+Appointed by Moderator	
	James Feeley, Chairman (Resigned)	2015 2018
	Appointed by Finance Committee	
	Claude Dupont	2015 2018
	Appointed by Moderator	
	Jeff Prost	2014 2017
	Appointed by Select board	
	Phillip Sargenski	2013 2016
	Appointed by Moderator	
	Gordon Massman	2014 2017
	Vacant	2013 2015
<b>Burial Agent</b>		<b>One Year</b>
	Ruth Osgood	2015 2016
<b>Carl Nilman Scholarship Committee Representative</b>		
	Allen Irvine	2015 2016
<b>Cemetery Committee</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
	Merton D. Taylor, Sr.	2014 2017
	Theresa A. Thatcher	2015 2018
	Ruth Osgood	2014 2016
<b>Conservation Commission</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
	Judith B. Williams, Chairman	2014 2017
	Nina Inchari	2015 2018
	Eric Burcroff	2015 2018
	Vacant	2013 2016
	John Nelson	2014 2017
	Alice Schertle	2013 2016
<b>CORI Officer</b>		<b>One Year</b>
	Edward Morann	2015 2016



Elaine Holder

Conrad Libenow making cider the old-fashioned way.



Trillium

Michal Lumsden

<b>Council on Aging</b>			<b>Three Year</b>
Shirley Todd Wood	2015	30.Jun.16-2016	
Phil Alessio	2015		2018
Ruby Goodnoff	2013		2016
Ann Kohn	2015		2018
Anne Irvine	2015		2017
James Feeley -Alternate	2015		2016
<b>Emergency Management</b>			<b>One Year</b>
Merton D. Taylor, Jr.,Chairman	2015		2016
Dennis Thatcher, Co-Chairman	2015		2016
Stacey Hudson	2015		2016
<b>Emergency Response Coordinator</b>			
Merton Taylor, Jr.	2015		2016
<b>Field Driver</b>			<b>One Year</b>
David Crowell	2015		2016
<b>Fire Department</b> <i>Fire chief appoints Fire Officers</i>			<b>One Year</b>
Dennis A. Thatcher, Chief	2015		2016
David W.Alvord, Assistant Chief	2014		2015
Edward E. Morann, Captain	2014		2015
Merton D. Taylor, Jr., Captain	2014		2015
Matthew Hardwick, Lieutenant	2014		2015
Ellen Dupont, Lieutenant-Medical Officer	2014		2015
<b>Flags &amp; Flowers Committee</b>			<b>One Year</b>
Ruth D. Fuhrmann, Chairman	2015		2016
Susan M. Lococo	2015		2016
Sandra J. Morann	2015		2016
Bonnie Phillips	2015		2016
Vacant	2015		2016
<b>Franklin Regional Transit Authority</b>			<b>One Year</b>
Judy Feeley	2015		2016
<b>Geneologist</b>			<b>One Year</b>
Betsey Howes	2015		2016
<b>Grant Writing Committee</b>			<b>Three Year</b>
Kimberly Longley	2014		2017
Vacant	2012		2015
Vacant	2013		2016

<b>Hazardous Materials Officer</b>			<b>One Year</b>
Dennis A. Thatcher	2015		2016
<b>Highland Ambulance-Town Representative</b>			<b>One Year</b>
Michael Packard	2015		2016
<b>Highland Valley Elder Services</b>			<b>One Year</b>
Ann Kohn	2015		2016
<b>Hilltown Comm. Dev. Corp. Rep.</b>			<b>One Year</b>
Vacant	2014		2015
<b>Hilltown Resource Management Coop.</b>			<b>One Year</b>
Vacant	2014		2015
John Nelson, (Recycling Coordinator)	2015		2016
<b>Historical Commission</b>			<b>Three Year</b>
Judy A. Williams, Chairman	2015		2018
Lori Austin	2015		2018
Dario Coletta	2014		2017
Dudley Williams	2013		2016
Bettie Briggs	2015		2018
<b>Inspector of Gas Fittings</b>			<b>One Year</b>
Donald Lawton	2015		2016
<b>Inspector of Plumbing</b>			<b>One Year</b>
Donald Lawton	2015		2016
<b>Inspector of Wiring</b>			<b>One Year</b>
David Rhinemiller	2015		2016
<b>IT Director</b>			<b>One Year</b>
Josh Shearer	2015		2016
<b>Master Street Address Guide Committee</b>			<b>One Year</b>
Edward E. Morann, Chairman	2015		2016
Robert L. Persing	2014		2015
Dennis A. Thatcher	2014		2015
Theresa A. Thatcher	2014		2015
Laurence D. Wood, Jr.	2014		2015
<b>MBI Comm. Rep. (Point of Contact)</b>			<b>One Year</b>
Brian Hawthorne	2015		2016
<b>Mohawk Municipal Advisory Committee</b>			<b>One Year</b>
Robert Persing	2015		2016
<b>Moth Superintendent</b>			<b>One Year</b>
Judy A. Williams	2015		2016
<b>Municipal Hearing Off.-M.G.L. Chap. 148A</b>			<b>One Year</b>
Penn Moulton	2015		2016
<b>Plainfield's Delegation - Wired West</b>			<b>One Year</b>
Brian Hawthorne	resigned 12/22/2015		2016
Leslie Rule (replaces Brian)	2016	through 6/30/16	
Leslie Rule, Alternate	resigned 1/11/2016		2016
Kimberly Longey, Alternate	(replaces LR through 6/30/16)		2016
<b>Plainfield Energy Committee</b>			<b>One Year</b>
Stephen Bushway	2015		2016
Conrad Liebnow	2015		2016
Lynne Robbins (resigned 8/12/15)	2014		2015
Edward Stockman (resigned 12/29/15)	2015		2016
James Markham	2015		2016
Tim Walter	2015		2016
Susan Pearson	2015		2016
<b>Planning Board</b>			<b>Three Year</b>
Ann Irvine	Resigned	2013	
Peter LaPoint			2016
Edward Morran, Chairman	2015		2018
Claude Dupont	2015		2018
Penn Moulton	2014		2017
Brian Hawthorne	2015		2018



<b>Police Department</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Stacey Hudson, Chief	2015	2016
<i>Police Chief appoints Police Officers</i>		
Joshua Shearer, Regular Officer	2015	2016
Trish Carlo, Regular Officer	2015	2016
Edward Morann, Regular Officer	2015	2016
Bernard Forgea, Special Officer	2015	2016
Sandra Morann, Special Officer	2015	2016
Merton D. Taylor, Sr., Special Officer	2015	2016
<b>Recreation Committee</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
Sandra Morann, Chairman	2015	2018
Heather Davis	2015	2018
Justina Harrison	2015	2018
Kenneth Magdycz	2015	2018
Roxanne Shearer	2014	2017
Alternates		<b>One Year</b>
Kara Kitchen		2013
Robert Jensen		
Gino Orlandi		
<b>Right to Know Officer</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Gregor B. Prentice	2015	2016
<b>Safety Coordinator</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Gregor B. Prentice	2015	2016
<b>Surveyors of Wood &amp; Lumber</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Vacant	2014	2015
Claude DuPont III	2015	2016
<b>Tax Collector</b>		<b>Two Year</b>
Heather Davis	2014	2016
<b>Tax Collector Assistant</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Vacant	2014	2015
<b>Town Clerk Assistant</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Theresa Thatcher	2015	2016
<b>Town Treasurer and Tax Title Custodian</b>		<b>Two Year</b>
Allan Kidston	7/28/2015	6/30/2016
<b>Treasurer Assistant</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Linda Alvord	2015	2016
<b>Town Perambulator</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Vacant	No appt made for 2016	2016
<b>Town Administrative Assistant/Secretary</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
Paula King	2015	2018
<b>Uniform Procurement Officer</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Dennis Mimitz	2015	2016
<b>Veteran's Agent</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Brian Brooks	2015	2016
<b>Veterans' Graves Officer</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Dudley Williams	2015	2016
<b>Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Service District</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Phillip S. Lococo	2015	2016
<b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
Peg Keller	2014	2017
Joan Wattman	2014	2017
Dudley Williams	2013	2016
Ann Irwin, Alternate through		June 30, 2016
Sandra J. Morann, Alternate	2015	2016
<b>Appointments done in April - Done by State Calendar</b>		
<b>Inspector of Animals</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Casey Dwyer	5/1/2015	4/30/2016
<b>Appointments done in September</b>		
<b>Cultural Council</b>		<b>Three Year</b>
Sarah Stull	2014	9/30/2017
Michal Lumsden	2015	2018
Rebecca Coletta	2013	2016
Dario Coletta	2013	2016
Lina Berstein	2015	2018
Lynda Christie	2015	2018
Allen Irvine	2015	2018

June Persing	2014	2016
Suzie Westwood	2015	2018
<b>Appointments/Hires not done by Selectmen</b>		
<b>Assessors' Assistant -Hired by Assessor</b>	<b>One Year</b>	
Catherine Hall	2015	2016
appointment done 6/17/14		
<b>Finance Committee - appointed by Town Moderator</b>		
		<b>Three Year</b>
Robert L. Persing, Acting Chairman	2013	2016
Winton Pitcoff	2014	2017
Bettie Briggs	2013	2016
Lew Robbins	2015	2018
Paul (Tim) Walter	2012	2015
Roberta Wooldridge	2012	2015
<b>Library Director- Hired by Library Trustees</b>	<b>One Year</b>	
Denise M. Sessions	2015	2016
<b>School Council Community Representative -</b>		
Town Moderator appoints this position		<b>One Year</b>
Vacant - since 2008	2014	2015
<b>Appointments/Hires done by Selectmen</b>		
<b>Building Commissioner</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Gerald Garner	2015	2016
<b>Building Inspector - Local</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Vacant	2014-2015	2016
<b>Electrical Inspector</b>		<b>One Year</b>
David Rhinemiller	2015	2016
<b>Highway Superintendent</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Merton Taylor Jr.	2015	2016
<b>Plumbing Inspector</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Donald Lawton	2015	2016
<b>Tax Collector Deputy</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Point Software	2015	2016
<b>Town Counsel</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Atty Ronald Berenson	2015	2016
Kopelman & Paige	2015	2016
<b>Town Custodian</b>		<b>One Year</b>
Bonnie Phillips	2015	2016

## MISCELLANEOUS INCOME-2014

### DOG LICENSE ISSUED

166 dogs were licensed.  
 12 Males @ \$6.00 each for a total of \$72.00  
 77 Neutered Males @ 3.00 each for a total of \$231  
 8 Females @ 6.00 each for a total of \$48  
 69 Spayed Females @ \$6.00 each for a total of \$207

### Grand Total of \$558

In addition to the registration fees collected, there was a total of \$640 in late fees collected for dog licenses issued after the June 1 deadline for registration. There has been an effort to have all Plainfield dog owners comply with dog registration requirements. As of Fiscal 2016 the dog fund is no longer shared with the County. The entire amount for fees collected goes now into the general fund.

A Rabies clinic was held in March of 2015 at Hathaway Hall organized by Casey Dwyer and Dr. Joanne Morrison of Worthington.

## SELECT BOARD

2015 will long be remembered for all that snow, snow, snow resulting in over budgets for removal, and what a great job our highway crew did. Another memory of 2015 will be the Northeast Direct Project by Kinder Morgan. Many people in town assisted by reading e-mails, attending meetings and learning what a pipeline through town would entail, and how to protect and prepare Plainfield citizens. This was an all-consuming task involving hours of time and energy.

In June the Select Board held an All Boards meeting to discuss this issue specifically. Katie Eiseman, from Cummington, informed us about the "scoping" process and how to write to FERC (Federal Energy Regulating Commission) to state our concerns about public safety, water, air, noise and possible damage to property and/or property values. It was decided that each board or committee would send a letter separately. The Select Board also sent a letter to Governor Baker inviting him to visit Plainfield to better understand our issues. In December the Board sent a detailed letter to FERC applying for a Motion to Intervene.

A second large issue for our town this year is the commitment to Wired West/MBI. Brian Hawthorne, Leslie Rule, and Kimberley Longey have kept the Board up to date on all matters. Everything appeared to be on track until early December when MBI announced their concerns about the contract between Wired West and participating towns. MBI held a well-attended meeting to hear that all participating Wired West towns were not happy with MBI's actions. A sub-committee has been formed and will continue to work with MBI to help solve the problems and move the last mile forward.

In January Linda Alvord resigned as Town Treasurer when she was given full time hours at her job. Lewis Robbins and then Susan Westwood filled the position temporarily until Allen Kidston was appointed in July. Linda was appointed as Assistant Treasurer in April to assist the town in dealing with three properties in tax title being vested with the town. On August 15 an auction was held to sell property located at 345/347 Main Road as well as land on North Central Ave and land on West Street. The North Central property was the only one that sold.

In June Eversource supervisor Carl Tyburski met with the Select Board regarding damages to West Street caused by Eversource sub-contractors using the road to access power lines. After much discussion the Board accepted a thirty thousand dollar settlement from Eversource to repair damages. When Eversource is finished working in the area the Highway Superintendent would like a more permanent fix for West Street.

This summer the Board met with Dave Christopolis, of HCDC, to work on the Community Development Block Grant. Things no longer needed or already completed were removed and newer issues added. This process is done every year at an open meeting.

Many appointments were made this year to replace resignations from committees.

Several Special Event Permits were issued as approvals. The Board again approved of a single tax paying rate for 2016 at the Tax Classification Hearing.

The Board met twice to discuss issues with the Northampton Cycle Club road race held here in July. During last year's race several citizens complained of dissatisfaction with race procedures. After looking at all options the cycle club changed their racecourse and made other changes to improve the dynamics of the race. The Board appreciates everyone's input as this race attracts national attention for racers.

The Select Board wishes to thank all Board members and committees that give so much of your time and energy to our town. A special thank you goes to all of you volunteers that help us understand the pipeline and Wired West issues. Also thank you to all who have accepted appointments this year. You are all valued!!!

Respectfully submitted,

**Judy Feeley**

PLAINFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS · 2015 · TOWN REPORT

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

### MAY 2, 2015 TOWN MEETING AND ELECTION

Town Meeting was opened at 1 p.m. by Moderator, Penn Moulton where the meeting was promptly adjourned to the Plainfield Congregational Church due to overcapacity in the Town Hall. This was a historic change of venue for the Annual Town Meeting. Of a total of 448 Plainfield registered voters, 171 turned out to vote in the town election. This is 38 percent of the eligible voters. The results of the vote was as follows:

OFFICE	VOTES	TOTAL	BLANKS	WRITE INS
<b>Board of Assessors (3 year)</b>				
Claude Dupont	127	43	1	(Peter LaPointe)
<b>Board of Health (3year)</b>				
David Crowell	151	18	2	(Amanda Steele)
<b>Board of Selectmen (3 year)</b>				
Dennis Mimitz	128	2	1	(Brian Hawthorn)
Robert Aeschback	40			
<b>Library Trustee (3 year)</b>				
Sandra Morann	102	10		
Elaine Sidney	59			
<b>Moderator (1 year)</b>				
Laurie Israel	144	24	2	(Penn Moulton) 1 (Bill Adams)
<b>Hampshire Council of Governments</b>				
David Danielson (1 year)	146	25		
<b>Tree Warden</b>				
Ronald Weeks (1 year)	160	11		
<b>Whiting St. Fund Disbursement (3 Year)</b>				
Ellen Baer	156	15		

### BALLOT QUESTION:

106 YES    46 NO    18 BLANK    1 UNDECIDED

### TOWN MEETING was called to order at 1:00 pm by

**Moderator Penn Moulton.** The meeting was promptly adjourned to the Plainfield Congregational Church due to overcapacity in the Town Hall. The Town Meeting reconvened at 1:15 in the Church. There were 168 Plainfield residents present.

**Article 1.** To vote by official ballot for all Town Officers, Committees, Trustees, etc., and to fix compensation for the same.

**Article 1 was passed unanimously.**

**Article 2.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide such amounts of money as are reasonable and necessary to defray the expenses of the town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 2 was passed unanimously.**

**Article 3.** To see if the Town will vote to allow the District to borrow, a sum of money, not to exceed \$250,700 to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee for repair work to the Mohawk Trail Regional Middle & High School located at 26 Ashfield Road in Buckland, Massachusetts, to include (project listing attached): boiler, doors, locker room, security, ventilation, and window upgrades totaling \$250,700. The proposed repair project would materially

extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required education program.  
*Inserted by the Mohawk Trail Regional School District    Approved by the School Committee*

**Article 3 was passed unanimously.**

**Article 4.** To see if the Town will vote to allow the District to borrow, a sum of money not to exceed \$90,000, to be expended under the direction of the School Committee to purchase a school bus to be used district wide totaling \$90,000. The bus would replace a bus owned by the district in excess of ten years. *Inserted by the Mohawk Trail Regional School District    Approved by the School Committee*

**Article 4 was passed unanimously**

**Article 5.** To see if the Town will vote to allow the District to borrow, a sum of money not to exceed \$100,000, to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee, for repair work to the Sanderson Academy located at 808 Cape Street in Ashfield, Massachusetts, to include (detailed listing attached) boiler replacement and heat valve replacement totaling \$100,000. The proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required education program.  
*Inserted by the Mohawk Trail Regional School District    Approved by the School Committee*

**Article 5 was passed unanimously**

**Article 6.** To see if the Town will vote to amend the MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – REGIONAL DISTRICT AGREEMENT by striking the following language contained in Section III(B):

Subject to the provisions of this section, it is intended that all residents of the member towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Heath, Plainfield, and Shelburne (the “K-12 Member Towns”) in grades kindergarten to six, inclusive, will receive their education in facilities located in the District: Ashfield and Plainfield residents at Sanderson Academy; Colrain residents at the Colrain Central School; Buckland and Shelburne residents at the Buckland-Shelburne Regional School and Heath residents at the Heath Elementary School.

and replacing said language with the following:

Subject to the provisions of this section, it is intended that elementary students residing in the members towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Heath, Plainfield and Shelburne (the “K-12 Member Towns”) will receive their education in facilities located in the District and will be assigned as follows: Ashfield and Plainfield residents to Sanderson Academy; Colrain residents to Colrain Central School; Buckland and Shelburne residents to Buckland Shelburne Elementary School; and Heath residents to Heath Elementary School. Notwithstanding the above, students may be educated in a District school other than as assigned above upon (i) a majority vote of the School Committee, and (ii) an affirmative vote by both (a) the member town or towns whose students are so assigned, and (b) the member town or towns served by the District school to which such students will be assigned, acceptance by each town to be a majority vote at an annual or special town meeting.

However, it is also the intent of this Agreement that the closure of a District elementary school building and the reassignment of all students being educated in that building may not be accomplished under this section. Rather such action requires an amendment to this Agreement, the process for which is contained in Section XIV.  
*Inserted by the Mohawk Trail Regional School District    Approved by the School Committee*

**Article 6 was passed unanimously**

**Article 7.** To see if the Town will vote to accept the amended Mohawk Trail Regional Agreement, as enclosed, which provides for the addition of the Town of Rowe as a 7-12 member of the District effective

July 1, 2016.

*Inserted by the Mohawk Trail Regional School District    Approved by the School Committee*

**Article 7 was withdrawn for reconsideration**

**Article 8.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$54,500.00 from Free Cash to the FY’15 Winter Roads Account, or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Town Accountant*

*Recommended by the Finance*

*Committee*

**Article 8 was passed unanimously**

**Article 9.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$15,000.00 from Free Cash to the FY’15 Machinery Upkeep Account, or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Town Accountant*

*Recommended by the Finance*

*Committee*

**Article 9 was passed unanimously**

**Article 10.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$7,500.00 from Free Cash to the FY’15 Building Operations Account, or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Town Accountant*

*Recommended by the Finance*

*Committee*

**Article 10 was passed unanimously**

**Article 11.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$713.00 from Library Sales and Fines to the Shaw Memorial Library, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Town Accountant*

**Article 11 was passed unanimously**

**Article 12.** To see if the Town will authorize the Assessors to apply \$80,000.00 from Free Cash to reduce the Fiscal 2016 tax rate, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Town Accountant*

*Recommended by the Finance*

*Committee*

**Article 12 was passed unanimously**

**Article 13.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$8,000.00 from Free Cash for a generator and related expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Buildings Committee and the Fire Department*

*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**Article 13 was passed unanimously**

**Article 14.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$74,683.92 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto. *Inserted by the Town Accountant*

*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**Requires a 2/3 vote**

**Article 14 was amended to the amount of \$74,683.12 rather than \$.92. Article 14 passed unanimously**

**Article 15.** To see if the Town will vote appropriate the sum of \$1,130,000 for the Town’s share of the costs of construction and installation of a regional broadband network, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, such project to be carried out by the Town’s Municipal Light Plant, acting as a member of a cooperative of such Plants formed under Chapter 164, Section 47C of the General Laws; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow an amount not to exceed \$1,130,000 under Chapter 44, Section 8(8) of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; that the Select Board and any other Town Official is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project; provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect unless and until the voters agree by ballot to



exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by G.L. c. 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2 ? ) amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote; or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by WiredWest  
Committee*

*Supported by the Finance*

**Requires a 2/3 vote**

**After a considerable discussion on Article 15 a motion was called and seconded to vote on the Article. 164 were in favor, 3 opposed and 1 abstention**

**Article 16.** To see if the Town will vote to accept as available funds any and all monies from the Executive Office of Transportation for Fiscal 2016.

*Inserted by the Select Board*

**Article 16 was passed unanimously**

**Article 17.** To see if the Town will choose or create, as appropriate, any other Town Committees, Boards, Commissions, Trustees, Offices, etc., and to fix compensation for the same, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 17 was passed unanimously**

**Article 18.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to retain legal counsel for the town, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Select Board*

**Article 18 passed unanimously**

**Article 19.** To see if the Town will vote to leave the care, maintenance and repair of the Town Hall, Shaw Memorial Library, Hallock Memorial School Building, Hathaway Hall, Firehouse, Town Garage, Police Station, Public Safety Building, and surrounding areas, in the charge of the Buildings Committee, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Buildings Committee*

**Article 19 passed unanimously**

**Article 20.** To see if the Town will vote to leave the care, maintenance and repair of the cemeteries in the charge of the Cemetery Committee, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Cemetery Committee*

**Article 20 was passed unanimously**

**Article 21.** To see if the Town will vote to leave the care, maintenance and repair of the highways, public ways, including the alteration and widening thereof, railings and bridges in the charge of the Select Board, or take any other action relative thereto. *Inserted by the Select Board*

**Article 21 was passed unanimously**

**Article 22.** To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Town Officers, Boards, Committees, Trustees, etc. as printed in the Town Report.

**Article 22 was passed unanimously**

**Article 23.** To see if the Town will vote to transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

**Article 23 was passed unanimously**

May 2, 2015 Plainfield Annual Town Meeting was adjourned by Moderator, Penn Moulton, at 3:15 p.m.

## SPECIAL ELECTION

May 9, 2015

To cast their vote in the Special Town Election on the following debt exclusion questions: **TOTAL VOTES CAST = 144 Votes**

1. Shall the Town of Plainfield be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued to pay for repair work to the Mohawk Trail Middle & High School located at 26 Ashfield Road in Buckland, Massachusetts, to include boiler, doors, locker room, security, ventilation, and window upgrades?  
**Yes – 133 No – 10 Undecided – 1 = 144 Votes**
2. Shall the Town of Plainfield be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued to pay for the purchase of a school bus?  
**Yes – 129 No – 13 Undecided – 1 = 144 Votes**
3. Shall the Town of Plainfield be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds to be issued in order to fund the Sanderson Academy located at 808 Cape Street, Ashfield, Massachusetts, to include boiler replacement and heat valve replacement?  
**Yes – 134 No – 9 Undecided – 1 = 144 Votes**
4. Shall the Town of Plainfield be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds to be issued in order to fund the Town's share of the costs of construction, installation and start-up of a regional broadband network, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, such project to be carried out by the Town's Municipal Light Plant acting as a member of a cooperative of such Plants formed under Chapter 164, Section 47C of the General Laws?  
**Yes – 134 No – 10 Undecided – 0 = 144 Votes**

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## BOARD OF REGISTRARS

The year began with 466 registered voters consisting of 130 Democrats, 29 republicans, 1 Green, 1 Green Rainbow, 1 Interdependent 3rd Party, 1 Libertarian and 303 unenrolled

The year ended with 465 registered voters consisting of 128 Democrats, 36 republicans, 1 Green, 1 Green Rainbow, 1 Interdependent 3rd Party and 303 unenrolled

Respectfully submitted

John Westwood — Chair

Linda Melle

Robert Fusco

Ruth Osgood

# TREASURY RECEIPTS SUMMARY

From 07/01/2014 to 06/30/2015

Description	Amount
Personal Prop Taxes F2014	75.21
Personal Prop Taxes F2015	106,927.71
Real Estate Taxes F2002	6.84
Real Estate Taxes F2003	795.20
Real Estate Taxes F2004	818.12
Real Estate Taxes F2005	1,435.05
Real Estate Taxes F2006	802.72
Real Estate Taxes F2007	939.17
Real Estate Taxes F2009	285.58
Real Estate Taxes F2010	279.08
Real Estate Taxes F2011	6,542.64
Real Estate Taxes F2012	3,513.42
Real Estate Taxes F2013	8,837.64
Real Estate Taxes F2014	27,868.42
Real Estate Taxes F2015	1,320,840.98
Real Estate Taxes F1999	647.39
Motor Vehicle Ex F2003	17.91
Motor Vehicle Ex F2008	543.75
Motor Vehicle Ex F2009	48.33
Motor Vehicle Ex F2010	535.94
Motor Vehicle Ex F2011	769.91
Motor Vehicle Ex F2012	836.87
Motor Vehicle Ex F2013	1,022.08
Motor Vehicle Ex F2014	13,030.54
Motor Vehicle F2015	55,919.17
Farm Animal Excise	1,040.50
Tax Titles	20,804.70
Estimated Receipts	7,795.40
Interest on Property Taxes	17,300.75
Interest on Excise Taxes	1,968.48
Interest on Tax Titles	2,397.03
n Lieu of Taxes	500.00
Garbage/Trash Charges	1,105.00
Board of Health Permits	1,546.28
Building Inspection Permi	2,944.00
Collector Fees	2,929.00
Compactor Cards	7,327.50
Board of Health Inspector	30.00

Electrical Permits	805.00
Plumbing Permits	555.00
Police Department Permits	312.50
Other Licenses and Permit	1,045.00
State Owned Land	26,739.00
Comm of Mass Vet Blind	1,475.00
Comm of Mass Elderly Reim	502.00
School Aid Chapter 70	50,770.00
Lottery	44,642.00
Court Fines	900.00
Dog License Fees	1,118.00
Interest on Savings	1,453.48
Contributions & Donations	625.00
Misc. Revenues N.O.C.	1,899.12
Room Tax	3,049.86
Mark Fees	1,020.00
Federal Withholding	36,387.24
ING	6,462.96
Medicare Withholding	4,251.02
State withholding	15,900.41
OBRA Voluntary	1,200.00
County Retirement	20,165.89
Dental Insurance With.	2,252.47
License to Carry/State	912.50
BC/BS - Officials	11,718.00
Health Insurance	16,963.08
Dog Licenses	509.00
Elections - State	672.00
Library Grant	2,065.06
Cultural Council	4,300.00
Council on Aging - State	3,318.86
Chapter 291B	316,107.36
Chapter 235	27,657.04
Town Hall Project Gifts	20.00
Septic System Rpr. Grant	1,291.71
BVP Grant	1,050.00
BoH Small Scale Grant	500.00
EMPG 2015 Blackboard Connect	1,602.71
Solarize Mass grant	27.00
Police Dept. Donations	6,988.66
Internet Donations Pub. Safety Bldg.	214.95
Council on Aging Gifts	710.00
Cemetery Gifts	100.00
Flag Gifts	100.00
Deputy Tax Collector Fees	1,376.00
Off-Duty Police Detail	17,210.00
Admin Fees Police Detail	594.00
Cemetery PC Fund	0.30
Arts Lottery Fund	0.12
M.Arvilla Dyer Lib. Fund	0.24
Martha Smith Library Fund	0.36
Whiting Street Fund	0.42
Stabilization	585.48
Dog Fund	469.50
Cemetery Lot Int./Perpet.	79.39
Library Sales & Fines	621.00
Burial Plots	1,000.00

**Report Total 2,263,324.00**



Gail Fusco

## HIGHLAND AMBULANCE EMS

**Operations.** Highland Ambulance is the primary ambulance service provider for the towns of Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Plainfield and Williamsburg. Highland also provides primary back-up in the town of Worthington in support of Hilltown Ambulance of Huntingdon. Paramedics are on duty at Highland's station in Goshen from 6 AM until midnight seven days a week. During the midnight to 6 AM time period, Highland EMT's are assisted by Paramedics from other ambulance companies when the service of a Paramedic is required. Highland's active roster as of June 30, 2015 consisted of 37 members including 19 Paramedics and 18 EMT's.

**Mission.** The mission of Highland Ambulance EMS, Inc. is to provide the full range of emergency medical services to the member communities. These services include:

- Providing training and certification testing for all first responders
- Providing mandatory inoculations for all first responders
- Running blood pressure clinics for residents of the six towns
- Developing and practicing emergency response plans with the schools and camps in the member towns
- Conducting health and safety classes for the schools
- Working with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Homeland Security to develop emergency response plans for the member towns
- Providing mutual aid and paramedic intercept services to the neighboring communities
- Providing transport services
- Providing standby service for major emergency situations, e.g. house fire
- Providing standby service for major community events such as the Chesterfield Parade, the Ashfield Fall Festival and the Cummington Fair
- Responding to all 911 calls that may require emergency medical services

### Emergency Responses.

During FY 2015 Highland responded to 537 emergency calls of which 101 were no service. These are broken down by Town as follows:

Ashfield-81 (13 No Service)	Chesterfield-58 (12 No Service)
Goshen-70 (21 No Service)	Cummington-63 (12 No Service)
Plainfield-42 (7 No Service)	Williamsburg-188 (21 No Service)
Worthington-14 (4 No Service)	Other- 15 (5 No service)

Out of these responses, 351 required advanced life support (ALS) services.

**Training.** The following special training events were held:

- CPR training for Emergency Service Personnel.
- Quick clot training for EMT personnel and first responders.
- Ebola response review plan with Cooley Dickinson Hospital.
- New National (NCCR) EMT recertification classes for area EMTs.
- Medical Management Classes.
- ALS/BLS interface class for area EMTs.
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support training.
- Paramedic transition class to conform to National Core Curriculum.
- Dog and cat resuscitation class for all first responders.
- Application to become a certified AHA training site.

**Community Involvement.** Highland provided support to our communities including:

- Ambulance Coverage for Community events including the Chesterfield 4th of July Parade, the Cummington Fair, and the Ashfield Fall Festival.
- Safety Committee meeting at Sanderson Academy.
- Flu shot clinic for area first responders and EMT's.
- Ebola Response plan for the Ashfield Fire Department.
- Lock down drill and tour of the newly refurbished Anne T. Dunphy School in Williamsburg.

### Operating Expenses in FY 2015 \$468,288.16

Cash On Hand June 30, 2015

Operating Funds	\$ 8,478.19
Building Fund	40,069.72
Ambulance Fund	150,029.59
Memorial Fund	3,086.30
Dresser Fund	3,697.37

**Total Cash On Hand \$205,361.17**

**Grants.** \$25,400 from the Assistance to Fire Fighters Grants for the purchase of two automated CPR devices called LUCAS IIs. They can help improve the chance of survival for cardiac arrest patients.

**Building Project.** During this fiscal year, Highland Ambulance committed to building a permanent facility for its operations. From its very beginning, it was clear that Highland Ambulance was "borrowing" the Goshen Fire House and would need to eventually establish itself elsewhere. Highland Ambulance chose a lot at 12 Williams Drive in Goshen for its facility. Site development has commenced. Anticipated costs of the entire project will be in the range of \$750,000.

**In Memoriam.** We are saddened by the deaths of Francis Dresser of Goshen, at-large member of the Board and one of our founding members and Kit (Christopher) Smith, our valued Williamsburg representative, also a founding member and our Board President for over a decade. Both are greatly missed by all of us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Highland Ambulance Board of Directors

Plainfield **Michael Packard**

Chesterfield **Spencer Timm**

Williamsburg **Leslie Smith**

Goshen **Donald Boisvert**

At-Large **Cassandra Morrey**

Ashfield **Patricia Thayer**

Cummington **Vacant**

At-Large **Bernard Forgea**

At-Large **Douglas Mollison**



Elaine Holder

Foamflower

# All Departments Expenditure Report

From 07/01/2014 to 06/30/2015

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	CARRY FWD	ORIG BUD	AMENDED	ENCUMB	EXPEND	UNENCUM BAL	% EXP
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>							
Board of Selectmen		5,000.00			5,000.00		100.00 %
Town Office Expense		10,000.00			8,491.68	1,508.32	84.91 %
Treasurer		11,345.00	373.04		11,345.04	373.00	96.81 %
Administrative Secretary		17,000.00	0.04		17,000.04		100.00 %
Moderator		30.00			30.00		100.00 %
Accountant		11,530.00	-0.04		11,529.96		100.00 %
Tax Title Expense		10,000.00			5,238.49	4,761.51	52.38 %
Training/Seminar Expense		500.00	-373.00			127.00	0.00 %
Town Counsel		6,000.00			1,408.39	4,591.61	23.47 %
Assistant Town Clerk Salary		500.00			500.00		100.00 %
Assessors	1.50	5,305.00	162.00		5,467.92	0.58	99.98 %
Assessors Salaries		40,335.41	-162.00		40,086.92	86.49	99.78 %
Tax Collector		11,500.00			7,756.12	3,743.88	67.44 %
Collectors Salaries		11,015.00	0.04		11,015.04		100.00 %
Town Clerk		6,730.00			3,386.59	3,343.41	50.32 %
Town Clerk Salary		6,425.00	0.04		6,425.04		100.00 %
Conservation Commission		500.00			409.00	91.00	81.80 %
Finance Committee		150.00			129.00	21.00	86.00 %
Planning Board		400.00	300.00		694.38	5.62	99.19 %
Zoning Board		200.00				200.00	0.00 %
Hamp. Council of Govt.		804.56			402.28	402.28	50.00 %
Highway Salaries		189,000.00			180,424.00	8,576.00	95.46 %
Highway General		50,000.00			47,944.37	2,055.63	95.88 %
Machinery Upkeep		60,000.00	15,000.00		71,207.95	3,792.05	94.94 %
Dump Body		20,000.00			19,376.58	623.42	96.88 %
Winter Roads		50,000.00	54,500.00		103,936.19	563.81	99.46 %
Street Lights		675.00			554.13	120.87	82.09 %
Mohawk Reg. School Operat		590,950.00			590,950.00		100.00 %
Mohawk Regional School		27,73.00			27,473.00		100.00 %
Vocational Tuition		196,029.00			87,443.05	108,585.95	44.60 %
School Committee Expense		775.00			627.70	147.30	80.99 %
Shaw Memorial Library		15,477.00			15,477.00		100.00 %
C. Frank.Vet. Dist.		1,309.00			1,309.00		100.00 %
Cemetery Commission		4,350.00			3,647.19	702.81	83.84 %
Veterans' Graves/Mem. Day		100.00			100.00		0.00 %
Police Department		11,986.00			4,425.08	7,560.92	36.91 %
Radio Repair & Maint.		2,000.00			2,000.00		0.00 %
Police Salaries		9,000.00			5,649.96	3,350.04	62.77 %
Fire Department		20,500.00			20,369.14	130.86	99.36 %
Highland Ambulance EMS		13,197.00			13,197.00		100.00 %
Highland Ambulance Capital		1,159.00			1,159.00		100.00 %
Blackboard Connect		2,000.00			1,602.71	397.29	80.13 %
Fire Chief Salary		4,500.00			4,500.00		100.00 %
Lifepak 1000 Defibrillator		4,000.00			3,239.65	760.35	80.99 %
Highland Ambulance/EMS Bldg. Cap.		1,140.00			1,140.00		0.00 %
Building Alarms		1,240.00			1,078.00	162.00	86.93 %
Building Inspector	120.00	9,000.00			7,907.27	1,212.73	86.70 %
Plumbing Inspector		1,800.00			1,800.00		100.00 %
Electrical Inspector		2,070.00			1,800.00	270.00	86.95 %
Emergency Management/CD		1,000.00			1,000.00		0.00 %
Animal Control Officer		1,000.00			1,000.00		100.00 %
Animal Control Off. Exp.		600.00			364.16	235.84	60.69 %
Barn & Cattle Inspector		200.00			200.00		100.00 %
Immunizations		500.00			500.00		0.00 %
EMT Training		2,000.00			435.00	1,565.00	21.75 %
Tree Warden		3,000.00			2,200.00	800.00	73.33 %
Compactor		24,409.00			16,604.37	7,804.63	68.02 %
Compactor Salary		5,547.00			5,137.45	409.55	92.61 %
Hilltown Res. Mgmtnt Coop		1,630.60			1,630.60		100.00 %
Compactor Shed/Installation		3,000.00	886.88		3,886.88	2	0.00 %
Loader Loan		27,150.00	360.00		27,510.00		100.00 %



ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	CARRY FWD	ORIG BUD	AMENDED	ENCUMB	EXPEND	UNENCUM BAL	% EXP
Public Safety Bldg. Bond Prin.		9,537.00			9,537.00		100.00 %
Hwy Dump Truck w/ Wing Loan		20,060.00			20,060.00		100.00 %
Int. Long-term Debt		18,568.17			18,568.17		100.00 %
Int. Short-term Debt		1,000.00				1,000.00	0.00 %
Stabilization		22,444.00			22,444.00		100.00 %
Insurance		62,005.00			47,295.73	14,709.27	76.27 %
Town Building Repair		12,000.00	-470.00		1,235.05	10,294.95	10.71 %
ADA		100.00				100.00	0.00 %
Twn. Bldg. Operations	131.53	45,000.00	7,870.00		52,942.72	58.81	99.88 %
Twn. Bldg. Sup/Maint/Cust		12,000.00	100.00		12,086.40	13.60	99.88 %
Hallock Building Repairs	35,000.00				16,633.33	18,366.67	47.52 %
Town Reports		1,000.00			781.00	219.00	78.10 %
Council on Aging		737.00			737.00		0.00 %
Recreation Committee		2,760.00			1,046.51	1,713.49	37.91 %
Flags/Flowers		300.00			256.61	43.39	85.53 %
Town Flags		500.00			175.00	325.00	35.00 %
Historical Commission		50.00			50.00		0.00 %
Agricultural Commission		200.00			200.00		0.00 %
WiredWest Dues		1,000.00			1,000.00		100.00 %
County Retirement		39,455.00	2,478.00		41,933.00		100.00 %
Medicare		4,500.00			4,316.67	183.33	95.92 %
Unemployment		750.00	60.70		810.70		100.00 %
Chapter 32B Medical Ins.	1,018.38	56,305.41			51,641.64	5,682.15	90.08 %
Reserve Fund		3,000.00	-60.82			2,939.18	0.00 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,271.41</b>	<b>1,828,308.15</b>	<b>81,024.88</b>		<b>1,715,145.85</b>	<b>230,458.59</b>	
<b>Total GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>36,271.41</b>	<b>1,828,308.15</b>	<b>81,024.88</b>		<b>1,715,145.85</b>	<b>230,458.59</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>36,271.41</b>	<b>1,828,308.15</b>	<b>81,024.88</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,715,145.85</b>	<b>230,458.59</b>	



Memorial Day parade



**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**  
**GENERAL ACCOUNT ASSETS**

Balance Sheet from 07/01/2014 to 06/30/2015

<b>CASH</b>	<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>LIABILITIES</b>
General Cash	585,300.81	
<b>TOTAL FOR CASH</b>		<b>585,300.81</b>

<b>PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Personal Prop Taxes F2000	178.78	
Personal Prop Taxes F2002	341.98	
Personal Prop Taxes F2003	208.97	
Personal Prop Taxes F2004	139.92	
Personal Prop Taxes F2005	255.11	
Personal Prop Taxes F2006	2.26	
Personal Prop Taxes F2009	474.88	
Personal Prop Taxes F2012	377.22	
Personal Prop Taxes F2014	83.19	
Personal Prop Taxes F1987	20.50	
Personal Prop Taxes F1988	18.50	
Personal Prop Taxes F1989	53.82	
Personal Prop Taxes F1990	412.57	
Personal Prop Taxes F1991	876.21	
Personal Prop Taxes F1992	986.96	
Personal Prop Taxes F1993	1,224.82	
Personal Prop Taxes F1994	149.49	
Personal Prop Taxes F1995	448.75	
Personal Prop Taxes F1996	502.75	
Personal Prop Taxes F1997	549.66	
Personal Prop Taxes F1998	415.20	
Personal Prop Taxes F1999	422.18	

**TOTAL FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES 8,143.72**

<b>REAL ESTATE TAXES</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Real Estate Taxes F2004	143.50	
Real Estate Taxes F2008	1,588.27	
Real Estate Taxes F2009	652.60	
Real Estate Taxes F2010	986.86	
Real Estate Taxes F2011	2,579.41	
Real Estate Taxes F2012	12,205.61	
Real Estate Taxes F2013	18,064.29	
Real Estate Taxes F2014	13,427.07	
Real Estate Taxes F2015	45,549.31	
Real Estate Taxes F1999	175.75	
<b>TOTAL FOR REAL ESTATE TAXES</b>		<b>95,372.67</b>

<b>MOTOR VEHICLE EX TAXES</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Motor Vehicle Ex F2005	368.07	
Motor Vehicle Ex F2006	1,365.48	
Motor Vehicle Ex F2007	2,019.96	
Motor Vehicle Ex F2008	2,477.52	
Motor Vehicle Ex F2009	377.24	
Motor Vehicle Ex F2010	649.97	
Motor Vehicle Ex F2011	1,625.86	
Motor Vehicle Ex F2012	997.03	
Motor Vehicle Ex F2013	1,683.99	
Motor Vehicle Ex F2014	1,581.68	
Motor Vehicle Ex F2015	7,202.90	
Motor Vehicle Ex F1990	646.47	
Motor Vehicle Ex F1991	960.00	
Motor Vehicle Ex F1992	573.86	
Motor Vehicle Ex F1993	800.84	
Motor Vehicle Ex F1994	1,389.79	
Motor Vehicle Ex 1995	884.17	
Motor Vehicle Ex F1996	685.62	
Motor Vehicle Ex F1997	814.49	
Motor Vehicle Ex F1998	1,815.94	
Motor Vehicle Ex F1999	2,777.60	
<b>TOTAL FOR MOTOR VEHICLE EX TAXES</b>		<b>36,975.28</b>

<b>FARM EXCISE TAXES</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Farm Animal Excise	3,616.80	
Forest Products Cut	5.00	
<b>TOTAL FOR FARM EXCISE TAXES</b>		<b>3,621.80</b>

<b>TAX TITLES &amp; POSSESSIONS</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Tax Titles	72,954.52	
Tax Possessions	53,033.59	
<b>TOTAL FOR TAX TITLES &amp; POSSESSIONS</b>		<b>125,988.11</b>

<b>ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Highway Chapter 291B	305,969.30	
<b>TOTAL FOR ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE</b>		<b>305,969.30</b>

<b>LOANS AUTHORIZED</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Due frm Whiting Strt Fund 391.09		
<b>TOTAL FOR LOANS AUTHORIZED</b>		<b>391.09</b>

<b>GRANTS</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
WRAP	26,714.99	
<b>TOTAL FOR GRANTS</b>		<b>26,714.99</b>

**TOTAL ASSETS 1,188,477.77**

**GENERAL ACCOUNT LIABILITIES**

<b>PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Personal Prop Taxes F2001		39.43
Personal Prop Taxes F2015		409.27
<b>TOTAL FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES</b>		<b>448.70</b>

<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Revenue 2016		109,593.72
<b>TOTAL FOR REVENUE</b>		<b>109,593.72</b>

<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Federal Withholding		453.54
ING		4.50
Medicare Withholding		65.38
State Withholding		246.85
County Retirement		474.90
Dental Insurance With.		23.76
License to Carry/State		6.25
BC/BS - Officials		1,389.04
Health Insurance Withholdings		511.66
Dog Licenses		186.75
Unclaimed checks		149.09
<b>TOTAL FOR AGENCY</b>		<b>3,511.72</b>

<b>GRANTS</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Elections - State		964.50
Library Grant		22,205.50
Cultural Council		4,042.80
Cult Council Enrich Fund		660.00
Council on Aging - State		559.28
Town Hall Project Gifts		660.00
Town Hall Association		4,256.40
Dog Kennel Gift		50.00
Emergency Management/FEMA		2,297.00
Homeland Security Grant		167.74
Septic System Rpr. Grant		61,454.69

Community Policing Grant		2,402.10
<b>GRANTS</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Health Bd Emer Prep Grant		1,469.30
BoH Small Scale Grant		356.65
Solarize Mass Grant		2,280.82
Police Dept. Donations		6,988.66
Council on Aging Gifts		2,091.13
Library Gifts		3,671.44
Cemetery Gifts		300.00
Cemetery (Funds Approp. for Use)		17.87
Recreation/General		4,315.64
BAseball Activities Donations		1,000.00
Playstructure @ Ballfield		2,478.85
Flag Gifts		100.00
WiredWest Donations		4.76
Library Addition		1,497.63
Historical Comm Donation		11.74
<b>TOTAL FOR GRANTS</b>		<b>126,304.50</b>

<b>REVOLVING</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Deputy Tax Collector Fees		471.00
Off-Duty Police Detail		68.00
Insurance Claim		206.33
Insurance Claim - Fire House		9,160.58
Ch 148A Municipal Enforcement Fines		100.00
<b>TOTAL FOR REVOLVING</b>		<b>10,005.91</b>

<b>RCPTS RESVRD FOR APPROP</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Dog Fund		469.50
Cemetery Lot Int./Perpet. Care		1,386.23
Conservation Comm/Wetland		1,155.30
Library Sales & Fines		68.00
<b>TOTAL FOR RCPTS RESVRD FOR APPROP</b>		<b>3,079.03</b>

<b>OVERLAYS RES FOR ABATE</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Overlay F1987		20.50
Overlay F1988		18.50
Overlay F1989		53.82
Overlay F1990		412.57
Overlay F1991		876.21
Overlay F1992		986.96
Overlay F1993		1,224.82
Overlay F1994		149.49
Overlay F1995		323.46
Overlay F1996		998.97
Overlay F1997		1,247.44
Overlay F1999		1,573.29
Overlay F2000		1,029.29
Overlay F2001		271.37
Overlay F2002		369.79
Overlay F2003		800.82
Overlay F2004		1,178.00
Overlay F2005		3,923.17
Overlay F2006		3,962.52
Overlay F2007		5,074.40
Overlay F2008		5,215.43
Overlay F 2010		7,761.18
Overlay F 2011		9,863.66
Overlay F2012		3,078.29
Overlay F2013		8,386.18
Overlay F2014		8,619.75
Overlay F2015		5,442.34
<b>TOTAL FOR OVERLAYS RES FOR ABATE</b>		<b>72,862.22</b>

<b>REVENUE RESERVED UNTIL COL</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Tax Title & Poss. Rev.		125,988.11
Motor Vehicle Excise Rev		36,975.28
Special Tax Revenue		3,621.80
Hwy Chapter 291B Revenue		305,969.30
Cemetery Lot Revenue		14,410.00
CDBG Housing Rehab Repayment		17,339.32
<b>TOTAL FOR REVENUE RESERVED UNTIL COL</b>		<b>504,303.81</b>
<b>SURPLUS REVENUE</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Surplus Revenue		358,368.16
<b>TOTAL FOR SURPLUS REVENUE</b>		<b>358,368.16</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,188,477.77</b>

## TRUST FUNDS ACCOUNTS

<b>TRUST FUNDS</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Trust Cash	396,715.35	
Due To General Fund		391.09
Cemetery PC Fund		2,708.60
Arts Lottery Fund		951.02
M.Arvilla Dyer Lib. Fnd		2,792.42
Martha Smith Library Fund		3,884.91
Whiting Street Fund		3,574.38
Stabilization		382,412.93
<b>TOTAL FOR TRUST FUNDS</b>	<b>396,715.35</b>	<b>396,715.35</b>
<b>LONG TERM DEBT</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>
Inside Debt Limit	424,740.00	
Public Safety Building Loan		314,700.00
Loader Loan		110,040.00
<b>TOTAL FOR LONG TERM DEBT</b>	<b>424,740.00</b>	<b>424,740.00</b>

Michal Lumsden



Buttercup

## TAX COLLECTOR

	Real estate Balances As of June 30, 2015	Personal Property Balances As of June 30, 2015	Motor Vehicle Balances As of June 30, 2015	Other Excise Balances As of June 30, 2015
2015	45,535.05	0	7,202.90	
2014	13,427.07	3.19	1,519.28	
2013	18,052.66	0	1,844.56	
2012	12,205.61	377.22	1,136.73	
Prior Years	6,126.39	7,683.31	25,692.18	3,621.80
Totals	95,346.78	8,143.73	37,395.65	3,621.80
<b>Grand Totals:</b>	144,507.96			

All payments are due on the quarterly system, with dues dates as follows:

First Quarter: August 1, Second Quarter: November 1, Third Quarter: February 1, Fourth Quarter: May 1.

To keep postage to a minimum, I send out First Quarter and Second Quarters together and the Third and Fourth are mailed out separately.

Respectfully submitted

**Heather Davis**  
**Tax Collector**

## BOARD OF ASSESSORS

### Tax Rate Recapitulation for Fiscal Year 2015

#### July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2015

Total amount to be raised:	\$1,940,870.53
Total estimated receipts and revenues from other sources:	460,961.79
Net amount to be raised by taxation (Tax Levy):	1,479,908.74

#### Valuation by Class

Residential	\$68,155,540.00
Commercial	7,980,548.00
Industrial	891,100.00
Personal Property	5,973,863.00

#### Total Property Valuation

**\$83,001,051.00**

#### Levy by Class

Residential	\$1,215,213.28
Commercial	142,293.17
Industrial	15,888.31
Personal Property	106,513.98

#### Total Tax Levy

**\$1,479,908.74**

#### Tax Rate

**\$17.83**

Number of real estate transfers  
received in calendar year 2014 26

Number of motor vehicle excise bills sent:

For registration year 2014.	129	\$ 7,529.89
For registration year 2015	763	\$64,823.67

Number of motor vehicle abatements granted:

For registration year 2014	25	\$ 2,853.33
For registration year 2015	15	1,906.71

Exemptions for real estate granted: 10 \$ 4,125.00  
Abatements for real estate granted: 4 .3,220.31

Tax Exempt Property: Value: Town, State,  
Charities, Audubon: \$10,978,400.00  
72 parcels exempted tax dollars \$197,173.49

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Claude DuPont III, Chairman**  
**Dudley Williams**  
**Helene Tamarin**

Head banging



Michal Lumsden

## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

### Mohawk Trail Regional School District

With the introduction of a half-day, district-wide preschool program, Mohawk experienced an enrollment increase of 50 students in 2015. Continuing a 3-year positive trend, the quality of education within the Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) rose considerably. According to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the MTRSD is classified as a Level 2 district with all of its schools classified as Level 1 or Level 2. There are five classification levels within the Commonwealth's system with Level 1 being the highest rating. The MTRSD is striving to become one of the higher performing school districts in Massachusetts by achieving a Level 1 classification, which requires all of our schools to be Level 1. With all Mohawk schools improving significantly in 2015, the year marked another significant step toward the MTRSD realizing this ambitious goal.

#### Mohawk District Highlights: Level 2

The percentage of Mohawk students achieving a rating of proficient or higher in English Language Arts (ELA) improved to 76%, reflecting a 9% improvement over the past four years. Mohawk students made gains in all three major content areas. Our ELA composite performance index (CPI) improved to 91.6; our mathematics CPI improved to 82.6; and our science CPI improved to 81.1. In both ELA and math, Mohawk's student growth percentile exceeded the state median of 50.

#### Mohawk Middle School-High School Highlights: Level 2 (School Percentile 46)

Mohawk's graduation rate rose to 86.5%, marking an 11% increase over the past five years. Of the graduates, approximately 80% plan to attend a 4-year or a 2-year college. On the SAT college entrance exams, Mohawk students outperformed the state average in reading, writing and math.

Mohawk MS-HS achieved a school percentile ranking of 46, which is a 19-point improvement over the past three years. 90% of Mohawk 10th graders scored at the proficient or advanced level in ELA. 62% of Mohawk 10th graders scored at the advanced level in math compared to a 53% state-wide average. Mohawk 10th graders also outperformed the state-wide average in science and technology/ engineering. Mohawk's 7th graders achieved student growth percentiles of 63 in ELA and 67 in math, far higher than the state median of 50.

The Mohawk MS-HS athletic program continued to flourish during 2015 with 38 teams and 20 sports, including the introduction of wrestling. Approximately 50% of the students participated in at least one sport, and 44% participated in multiple sports. The Mohawk MS-HS music and theater programs were also vibrant with impressive levels of student participation.

#### Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School: Level 1 (School Percentile 56)

BSE continued to perform at a very high level in 2015, achieving a second consecutive classification as a Level 1 school. Additionally, BSE's school percentile improved a whopping fourteen points to the 56th percentile. Over the past five years, BSE has improved from a Level 3 classification to Level 1 and tripled its school percentile ranking! In tandem with this educational success, BSE's enrollment has increased 32% from 197 to 259.

#### Sanderson Academy. Level 2 (School Percentile 58)

Sanderson remained a very high performing school with a percentile ranking of 58. For the first time in the school's history, Sanderson offered preschool. The community response was compelling with approximately forty 3-year old and 4-year old students enrolling, which more than doubled the District's forecast. As a result, we needed to

add a second preschool class to accommodate the demand, and Sanderson's enrollment increased 17% to 149 students!

In 2015 the introduction of a half-day, district-wide preschool program reversed a long term trend of declining enrollment in the MTRSD. Additionally, all of our district schools improved significantly, resulting in classifications of Level 1 or Level 2 and several percentile rankings approaching 60, which is unprecedented. Our students, staff, families, administrators and school committee deserve a great deal of credit for this continued high level of educational success. Our townspeople and town officials also deserve a great deal of credit for their ongoing support of our schools, which is essential to the MTRSD's continued success.

On behalf of our students, I thank our entire school community for your dedicated support of our children's education. THANK YOU!

Respectfully submitted,  
**Michael A. Buoniconti**  
Superintendent of Schools

## PRINCIPAL

### Mohawk Trail Regional High School

Of the 83 members of the Class of 2015, 60% went on to a four-year college and 25% went on to a two-year college. Collaboration, creative problem-solving, and community-building are important to the classroom and extracurricular learning experiences students have at Mohawk.

Reflecting our commitment to enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) learning opportunities, our middle school Project-Based Learning (PBL) courses are now STEM courses, with a continued emphasis on project-based, cooperative, and interdisciplinary learning but with increased focus on problem-solving and collaboration with science, technology, engineering, and math applications. These middle school courses provide students with hands-on learning experiences with local and global connections, as 7<sup>th</sup> grade students produced maple syrup from over 30 gallons of sap harvested from trees on campus, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students created 3-dimensional playhouses designed to fold to fit into a 9" x 12" mailing envelope that was delivered to children in Haiti, for instance. In the high school we introduced a Robotics course this year, where students develop computer programming skills through robotics applications. Many of our math teachers are using Inquiry-Based Learning approaches to math instruction, where students are engaged in problem-solving inquiry facilitated by their teachers.

Our school has embraced the use of community-building circles and restorative practices. Restorative Justice, often referred to as Restorative Practices, allows students to resolve conflicts and repair harm that has occurred within a community, through communication, reflection, and making changes in practice. Schools in this area and across the country have been transitioning to this evidence-based approach over the past few years. This year we established the Restorative Justice Classroom (RJC) to support students with this process and our faculty have begun using community-building circles in various settings.

Alumni connections continue to enrich the Mohawk experience. This year's commencement speaker was Northampton Mayor David Narkewicz, Mohawk Class of 1984. Recent graduates returned to school to share their experience with the transition to college and alumni have participated in an occasional speaker series to discuss their career paths.

Mohawk's Student Council has taken on an increasing role in promoting an inclusive and supportive learning environment for all students. This year's Booster Week activities and Bullying Prevention Week events reflected student initiative and commitment to creating a caring and compassionate school culture.



The role of our faculty and staff in school-wide leadership initiatives has grown as we have expanded the use of Professional Learning Communities and established an Instructional Leadership Team composed of staff, both teachers and paraprofessionals, who work with the Principal, Assistant Principal, and Curriculum Director to plan professional development and facilitate school-wide planning. Mohawk Arts Education Council, comprised of educators dedicated to enhancing the role of the arts at Mohawk, has taken on an increasing role, with vibrant programming evident in the visual arts displays within our school, diverse music programs with many public performances, and a wide variety of theatrical productions, including a student-directed adaptation of "The Breakfast Club" in addition to the annual musical and fall and late spring dramatic performances.

At the midpoint of the 2015-2016 school year, enrollment in grades 7-12 is 450. The seventh grade has 95 students and the eighth grade has 68. There are 75 students in the ninth grade, 71 in the tenth grade, 60 students in the junior class, and 81 students in the senior class. Four students are enrolled in our post-graduate program.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Lynn R. Dole**  
**Principal**

## **PRINCIPAL**

### **Sanderson Academy**

It is my pleasure to continue to serve as the Sanderson Academy principal. 2015 saw generally strong academic performances from students, some staffing additions, and work continuing on a number of mandates from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Our enrollment as of the end of the 2015 was 152 students in grades preschool through sixth grade, an increase of 27 students from the previous year. The number of students at each grade level was as follows: 40 children in the preschool, 12 children in kindergarten, 17 children in first grade, 15 children in grade two, grade three had 19 students, fourth grade had 12 students, fifth grade had 13 students and 24 students were in our sixth grade class. All classes were grouped heterogeneously.

The faculty for the 2015-2016 school year consisted of nine full-time classroom teachers, one special education teacher, one full-time reading teacher, and one full-time math interventionist. Specialists providing services in our school include a psychologist three days per week, a speech/language pathologist that services students three days per week, a full time nurse, and occupational and physical therapists, each for less than one half day per week. We have part time art, music, and physical education teachers who provide students with one hour of class time weekly in each subject area. Additional time is offered for band and chorus students in the upper grades. We also have a part-time library manager and eight paraprofessionals. We welcomed Melanie Manley and Amy Freeman as the first preschool teachers in Sanderson Academy history. We welcomed the return of Liz Tyler as the physical education teacher. We welcomed Shawn Thayer, Amanda Shero, Darrel Beymer, Veronica Smead and Julia Meservy as paraprofessionals. We also welcomed Richard Page for one day a week to teach classroom music and chorus. In addition, we have four part-time before and after-school staff. This new program allowed for students in grades preschool through second grade to receive care from 7:30 to 8:30 and 3:00 to 5:30 each day for a daily rate.

The spring of 2015 saw Sanderson Academy students again performing well on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Achievement System (MCAS) tests. In the three areas assessed, English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Technology, our students performed at levels, which were similar to or better than the performances of other students in our District or State. About 77% of our students performed in the advanced and proficient category in English Language Arts and about 65% of students performed in the advanced and proficient category in mathematics.

The Sanderson Academy Safety Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis to address school safety. We continually revise our safety binders. We have monthly fire drills, at least three lockdown drills a year, and school evacuation drills. Many of these drills include local and state emergency service personnel. Much progress has been made on the trail to connect the school to the town garage, our evacuation site.

Thank you citizens of Ashfield and Plainfield for all you do to support your community school!

Respectfully submitted,  
**Emma Liebowitz M.Ed.**  
**Principal**

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

### **and PUPIL SERVICES**

The districts continue to support and provide students with an identified disability an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan. An IEP provides direct service with accommodations and modifications. A 504 Plan provides accommodations that allow a student access to the general curriculum. The district continues to increase the use of Response to Intervention (RTI). This model enables schools to provide support to students based on regular assessment and data aimed at targeting more specific areas of concern or need. A student does not require an IEP or a 504 to benefit from RTI. The most recent MCAS data indicated that our students in the high needs population showed growth in their progress this year. This is a direct result of the support and direct instruction via an IEP, 504 and tiered instruction.

For many years the district has supported several substantially separate programs for students requiring a higher level of instruction and support. Historically, a student requiring this level of education may be placed in an out of district school at a high cost to the district. Research suggests that each time a student is placed outside of their home district, it decreases their investment in their education. Out of district placements are made only when all other options have been explored and assessed. The district currently has the following programs:

**MSC** (Mohawk Supported Classrooms): Classrooms are located in the Middle School and in the High School. Each class has a special education teacher providing direct instruction for core academic courses. The program provides academic and emotional support to students with a social emotional disability and has one Clinician providing group and individual therapy as well as on going case management. Both programs are staffed with additional paraprofessionals as needed.

**MVP** (Mohawk Vocational Program): Program supports students with severe special needs. The program has a special education teacher a vocational coordinator and additional para professionals as required. The program runs a self-sustaining daily coffee shop for school staff.



The Middle School has a similar program for students with severe special needs, supported by a special educator and paraprofessionals.

Starting with the 2015 School Year, we added a program at BSE for students ages Pre-School -2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The program is run by a behaviorist with support from special education teachers and paraprofessionals. This program has enabled students on the autism spectrum and with behavioral challenges to access their general education classroom with varying levels of support.

Each of these programs is designed to maximize the amount of time in the general education classroom while at the same time provide a direct well designed individual program for each student. There is not a set amount of time in or out of the program. It is dictated by the student's level of need.

Please do not hesitate to call with questions regarding special education or civil rights.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Leann Loomis, Director of Pupil Personnel Services**

## CARL H. NILMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The fund was established under the provisions of the will of Carl H. Nilman for the purpose of providing scholarships. Recipients shall reside in the School District and be graduates of the Mohawk Trail Regional High School who desire and are deemed worthy of post high school education or training and who are in need of financial assistance.

This year the Awards subcommittee read 76 applications, 38 were from seniors and 38 from previous graduates of Mohawk. \$33,200.00 is to be awarded using 30% for seniors and 70% for graduates. The Committee feels that seniors have multiple scholarship opportunities from other sources while graduates have far fewer resources. 30 scholarships totaling \$10,400.00 were awarded to seniors (79% of applicants). 32 scholarships totaling \$22,800.00 were given to graduates (84% of applicants).

From 1991 – 2015 a total of \$876,625.00 has been awarded in scholarships, Mohawk seniors have received \$270,775.00 and \$605,850.00 has been awarded to Mohawk graduates.

The application is once again available on line to the graduates. Seniors can pick their applications up at Mohawk High School.

There are 15 members on the Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Committee. One from each of the nine member towns in the district, three at large members appointed by the School Committee, plus a past School Committee member, current School Committee member and the chairman of the School Committee. Members from the nine towns are: Sheila Graves (Ashfield), Marion Scott (Buckland), Marge Porrovecchio (Charlemont), Michelle Hillman (Colrain), Jonathan Diamond (Heath), Alice Parker (Hawley), Allen Irvine (Plainfield), Marion Taylor (Shelburne), and Rowe (open).

Officers are: Marge Porrovecchio and Robin Hartnett, Co-Chair, and Marion Scott, Secretary. Subcommittees: Finance, Marion Taylor, Robin Hartnett, David Engle/Eric Sumner. Scholarship: Marge Porrovecchio, Sheila Graves, Michelle Hillman, Marion Scott and Allen Irvine.

The Mohawk community owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Nilman for his foresight in supporting higher education for the students of the Mohawk Trail Regional High School. The committee members are honored to bring the wishes of his will to fruition.

Students of any age who are graduates of Mohawk (and were living in the nine town area at the time of graduation) are encouraged to apply for scholarships to help meet their continuing education needs. Call the Guidance Office at Mohawk for information regarding requirements and deadlines.

Respectfully submitted,

**Marion E. Scott, Secretary**

## MARY LYONS FOUNDATION

*Innovative Support for Local Education*

This year the Mary Lyon Foundation is celebrating its 25th anniversary of providing innovative support for local education. Established in 1990 and incorporated in 1991, 2016 will be a year to reflect on past accomplishments and future challenges. Stay tuned for news of an upcoming celebration!

We are grateful for the many generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure by individuals, businesses, and organizations which make our work possible. We were pleased to be awarded \$15,000 for the Mini-Grant Program and Student Assistance Fund by the United Way of Franklin County, greatly expanding our capacity to support the needs of students, families, and teachers throughout West County. We especially appreciate the continuing financial support of the Myrtle Atkinson Foundation, the Cleveland Dodge Foundation, Bristol Myers Squibb, and the Harper Gerry family. We are also indebted to the Staples Foundation and the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts for grants to purchase new equipment.

The Annual Lymnaise in May showcased excellence in education with a presentation by Massachusetts Teacher of the Year Dr. Jeffrey Shea, student performances, a display of Mini-Grant projects, and presentations of the following awards: the George Needham Business Award to Baker Pharmacy, Jim Boulger Spirit of Adventure Award to Gabe Coler, Outstanding Mohawk Alumni Award to Brendan Lattrell, and Pat Kerrins Career Award to Melinda Gougeon, Ed.D.

In August, the Annual Children's Literature Festival once again explored local history with literature, crafts, and visits to nearby sites. In September, with support from the Pioneer Valley History Network, MassHumanities, the Buckland, Colrain, Heath and Shelburne councils of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and a number of sponsors, the lively Hilltowns History Fair and Conference held at Mohawk Trail Regional School brought history to life for all generations.

Through the generosity of sponsors and raffle donors, an enthusiastic audience, many volunteers, and our 25 teams of intrepid spellers, the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Mary Lyon Foundation Community Spelling Bee raised more money than ever before—approximately \$8,000—for educational projects. This spirited annual event is a testament to the community's strong commitment to excellence in education! Grand champions were once again the Spelling Beans sponsored by Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters

In May, Founder and Executive Director, Sue Samoriski, welcomed Sheila Damkoehler to serve as Co-Executive Director. Our part-time staff includes Business Manager Gina Sieber, volunteer Office Manager Sandy Gilbert, and Student Intern Sequoia LeBreux. Members of our Board of Directors are Sylvia Orcutt, President; Marion Taylor, Past President; Hugh Knox, Vice President; Karen Fairbrother, Treasurer; Sharon Hudson, Corresponding Secretary; Suzanne Conway Legreze, Recording Secretary; Susan Schuman, Larry Wells, Robin Huntley and Mohawk students Emma Guyette, Lilly Wells and Eli Shearer. We are very grateful for their time and commitment!

**Susan Samoriski and Sheila Damkoehler,  
Co-Executive Directors**

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

The following are Toned calls to which the Plainfield Police Department:

209A violation	1	Dog Complaint	2
911 Hang up	13	Domestic	2
Accident -damage	4	Elderly Assist	2
Accident-Injury	1	Fire	6
Accident-unknown	2	Harassment	1
Alarm	38	Investigation	1
Animal Complaint	10	Lift Assist	5
Asst other Agency	4	MV Complaint	4
B and E Auto	2	MV Violation	1
B and E - Building	2	Medical	44
Building Check	1	Miscellaneous	4
Check Welfare	11	MV Stops	20
Disabled MV	3	Officer wanted	21
Disturbance	2	Paper work service	3
Phsy Emergency	1	Safety Hazard	3
Suspicious Person	4	Summons	1
Suspicious Vehicle	4	Traffic Hazard	7
Trespass	2	Warrant Arrest	1
Wires Down	3		

**TOTAL CALLS 236**

This past year the police department has been upgrading Radio Communications in an effort to increase coverage in all areas of Town by slowly changing over to the 800 system. This helps with officer safety and support.

We hope to have a signed mutual aid agreement with all towns to insure coverage and back up on all calls. There has been an increase in State Police aid as our officer numbers are down for daytime coverage. This can cause delays in response times in some cases.

Our office has also been able to upgrade and work out bugs in the issuing of License to Carry and FID cards.

Thanks, to Paula King who is a big asset to our Department in helping me keep finances straight.

Once again our department is dependent upon all of the Plainfield services and those of neighboring Towns helping each other and working together to keep us all safe and well. I also want to thank our Sworn Special officers for all their help and support throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted

**Stacey S. Hudson, Chief**

**Josh Shearer, Officer**

**Trish Carlo, Officer**

**Edward Marann , Special Officer**

**Sandra Morann, Special Officer**

**Merton Taylor Sr, Special Officer**

**Bernard Forgea, Special Officer**

**Casey Dwyer, Animal Control Officer**

*Joan Timberlake and  
Liz Ryan join the  
Memorial Day parade.*

## PLAINFIELD FIRE EMS DEPARTMENT

As volunteer firefighter numbers decline nationwide, Plainfield has also seen a decline in firefighters/EMTs. With an increase in state mandated training and family commitments, it is difficult for people to volunteer for any office not just Public Safety positions, Police, Fire and EMS. We currently have 15 members on our roster. It was not many years ago this number was 25 or more.

This year, we responded to 125 calls and were able to staff an ambulance and/or engine(s) for every call.

One of the reasons this is possible is the support public safety receives from the residents of Plainfield. This support enables us to provide our members safe, dependable equipment to use, in some cases, in very dangerous situations.

The BIGGEST reason is the dedication and commitment of all the Volunteer Firefighters, Volunteer EMTs, and Police Officers. They provide Plainfield residents and guests with excellent services by keeping up to date on training and protocols, which are constantly changing.

We are always looking for new members. If you are interested, stop by the Safety Complex on 38 North Central Street, any Thursday night at 7:00 P.M. All are welcome.

I want to thank all the Firefighters, EMT's and their families for their dedication and commitment to the town for the many different and at times difficult calls we experienced this past year. You have represented Plainfield very professionally.

### Total Calls for 2016:

Medical	52	Power Line Down	8
Medical Alarm	13	Brush Fire	4
Carbon Dioxide Alarm	2	Good Intent Call	11
Chimney Fire	1	Structure Fire	2
False Alarm	10	Motor Vehicle Crash	2
Propane Leak	2	Station Coverage	5

### Total Mutual Calls:

Ashfield	4	Savoy	1
Buckland	1	Windsor	1
Cummington	6	Buckland	1

Respectfully submitted,

**Dennis Thatcher**  
**Fire Department**



Elaine Holder

## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

2015 started out in the midst of a long winter with relentless cold, snow, ice, and wind (over 110" snow from mid-November to mid-April) We even had enough ice on the morning of April 10 to bend the birch trees! Once again, there were a couple occasions of ice plugging ditches and culverts, but battling the nearly constant drifting snow and keeping the roads as ice/snow free as possible during brutal cold were the major issues of the season.

Spring and Summer started with mud issues on a couple sections of gravel roads which continued longer than normal due to the very deep frost from the brutal winter — then, as in every other year, work consisted of filling potholes/washouts, cleaning ditches, replacing culverts, grading and raking gravel roads, roadside mowing, brush cutting, line painting, paving, and sand clean up. The big road project for 2015 was completing the reclaim and paving of South Central St. Autumn work included a continuation of Spring and Summer work, along with leaf blowing, plow sticks, and winter preparations of the equipment.

November and December were much warmer and quieter weather wise compared to the last 3 winters, enabling us to complete much needed road and equipment preparations for the winter season.

I would like to note that considerable time and expense is being spent on keeping our aging fleet of equipment operational and able to pass State Inspection — (2) 1996 (model year) dump trucks, a 1964 (model year) grader, a 1986 (model year) pickup, a 1992 (model year) pickup, and a 1987 (model year) backhoe are all in need of replacement. We also assist in the maintenance of fire apparatus.

I thank my crew Frank "Sparky" Skaling, Karl Dewkett, and Keith Bohonowicz for their work throughout the year. I also thank Ed Morann, Dennis Thatcher, Stacy Hudson, The Selectboard, and Town Office staff for their assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Merton Taylor, Jr**  
**Highway Superintendant**

## SHAW MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Shaw Memorial Library is a member of the Massachusetts Library System. This entitles us to purchase books at a discount, and be able to order materials from cwmars.

The library is continuing to purchase new books, CDS, and DVDS for your reading, listening & viewing pleasure. If there is a title that you would like to read, we can try to inter-library loan it for you through CWMARS. These materials need to be returned in a timely fashion, otherwise we could lose our borrowing privileges.

We purchased some new additions over this past year for the library. Three freestanding displays to put the new titles on that the library purchases. These seem to be working well for the patrons to see the titles better. A letterboard sign, and we also purchased an electric fireplace, to give the library more of a homey atmosphere when you come in to read the newspapers.

We added an hour, extending Thursday hours opening at 5:00.

We had Laura Wetzler come and do a mini concert singing some of her favorite songs. We also had back former town residents Vince O'Connell and Kathy Swanson to show two short movies that they directed and produced. We had a poetry night reading, as well as our annual Valentine Tea.

We had one artist show her work Barbara Konieczny of Cummington.

We did a nature craft for the birds making peanut butter pinecones, to hang on a tree in front of the library.

Big Hearted Books came to take some of our discarded books in the basement to make room for the new ones for our annual book sale Labor Day Weekend.

This coming year we plan to purchase some new titles to update the children's non-fiction section.

We would like to thank the Friends of the Shaw Memorial Library for once again purchasing the museum passes for the public to use.

### LIBRARY HOURS:

Tuesday 2:00 - 8:00; Thursday 5:00 - 8:00; Saturday 9:00 - 12:00

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Denise Sessions - Library Director**  
**Sandy Morann - Trustee Chair, Ann Kohn - Secretary**  
**Patricia Corley**

*At the Firemen's Barbeque with fishing buddies of Mike Melle.*



Elaine Holder



## VETERANS' GRAVES OFFICER

Two Plainfield veteran passed away in 2015:

**Edward J. Kaplita** who served his country during World War II in the U.S. Navy and **Alfred G. Boryta, Sr.** who served in the National Guard.

211 flags were placed on the veterans' graves in the Hilltop Cemetery, in the West Hill Cemetery, and on the Veterans' Memorial in front of the Plainfield Congregational Church. As required by State Law, the flags are set before Memorial Day, and are removed after Veterans' Day to prevent them from becoming frayed and faded during the winter.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Dudley D. Williams**  
**Veterans' Graves Officer**

## VETERANS SERVICES

Fiscal year 2016 saw the creation of the UPVSD. By member count and by square miles this is the largest veterans' district in Massachusetts. We have strived to provide expanded services through increased satellite office hours, and a mobile office for home visits. Below are just some of the programs and services we help veterans' and their dependents with:

- M.G.L. Ch 115 benefit - Needs based program of financial and medical assistance to eligible veterans and their dependents
- Assistance to veterans and dependents to help file for health care, pensions, and service-connected disabilities
- Homeless prevention assistance to veterans and their families
- Employment help with job searches, resumes, and job interview skills
- Burial assistance to include government markers, flag holders, internment, and VA burial reimbursement
- Massachusetts annuities and tax abatement assistance
- Veterans records retrieval and storage
- Referral to other public and private agencies to include housing, fuel assistance, employment, training, education
- Attend area outreach events(fairs, festivals, health care expos)
- District passed certification for VSOs as required by MA state law

District filed for and helped veterans and eligible dependents be awarded over \$440,000 in VA payments in the district for this year alone. Overall the district has over \$3,040,000 in VA awards flowing into our towns on a monthly basis.

Our office has conducted a thorough review of all MGL CH 115 cases in our district. The net result is a large reduction in monies being paid out by the member towns. This was accomplished by helping clients file for alternative sources of income, and revalidating clients' current situations to ensure eligibility.

For the coming year we will continue to assist veterans, attend more outreach events, and educate both the public and the member towns officials.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Timothy Niejadlik, Director**  
**Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District**

## CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Spring clean up at The Hilltop Cemetery and The West Hill Cemetery was performed and the two cemeteries were mowed and trimmed three times during the season.

There were two burials in the Hilltop Cemetery and none in the West Hill Cemetery

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Ruth Osgood**  
**Theresa Thatcher**  
**Merton Taylor Sr.**

## PLANNING BOARD

The 2015 year was a busy one for the planning board. The board reviewed "approval-not-required" parcel divisions for properties on Lincoln/River Rd. and North Union St/Parsons Ave. The Plainfield Congregational Church proposed to improve parking availability on part of Church Lane/Union Street, which the board supported and referred to the select board. The board also received notifications from abutting towns, including a proposed cell tower and rules for building demolition in Ashfield, and reviewed the submission of a National Register District for Plainfield's historic town center.

The planning board received many packages of information on the proposed Northeast Direct pipeline from Mass Audubon, Kinder Morgan, and others, and heard from many residents opposed to the proposal. The board referred several citizens to the select board, as their requests and proposals were outside the jurisdiction of the planning board. The board attended a town all-boards meeting on this topic, and provided comments and a list of questions to be forwarded to Kinder Morgan during their hearing process.

The planning board held a hearing in January on proposed zoning bylaw amendments that had been developed at public meetings in 2014 regarding the definition of agriculture, municipal uses, travel trailer use, for-profit educational uses, accessory apartments, and business uses. The board recommended passage of several of these, and the 2015 annual town meeting adopted the recommended amendments to add forest products to the definition of agriculture, to add municipal uses by right, to allow temporary use of travel trailers, and to allow a single accessory apartment by right. Changes in the zoning bylaw regarding business uses were tabled as needing additional study.

The board worked with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to finalize a proposal for a village center overlay district, based on an earlier survey of town residents. After holding a public hearing in March that was continued to June, the planning board recommended the town not move forward with the amendments as proposed and suggested that the planning board work with the zoning board of appeals to review all aspects of the zoning bylaw that relate to business uses.

Throughout the year, the planning board worked with the energy committee to draft zoning bylaw amendments intended to regulate large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations, with the goal of qualifying Plainfield as a Green Community, eligible for substantial state financial assistance in the form of grants for energy efficiency improvements. Those efforts continued into 2016.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Edward Morann, Chair**  
**Robert Persing**  
**Brian Hawthorne**  
**Claude Dupont III**  
**Penn Moulton**

## BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health has been very busy this last year. We are continuing to make improvements at the Town Recycling Center and Compactor. We accept garbage during our open hours only, which are Saturday 9-noon, Sunday 4-6 p.m. and Wednesday 6-7 p.m.

We inspected all food establishments, issued permits for wells, septic system repairs and new septic systems. We also issued permits for septic installers and pumping companies. We also responded to complaints as required.

The Board of Health is responsible for having the Plainfield Pond beach water tested weekly during the swimming season, monitoring the results and forwarding those reports to the state. We also order and pay for the porta john there.

We have been especially busy attending informational meetings regarding the proposed gas pipeline with regard to the path through Plainfield and what health concerns the construction may cause. We submitted a letter of our concerns to FERC and continue to monitor the pipeline updates and plans.

Jack Nelson attends most of our meetings and helps to keep us informed and working smoothly with HRMC. He has been a great asset to us again this year.

The Board of Health meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Ellen Dupont, chair**  
**Gale Bulissa**  
**David Crowell**

## RECREATION COMMITTEE

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO COACH A BEGINNING BASEBALL TEAM OR SOCCER TEAM. We have boys and girls who want to play these sports playing with Ashfield and/or other nearby teams.

It was a beautiful night for the annual Halloween Party. The weather was perfect and the bonfire was amazing. We had a wide assortment of ghouls, witches, pirates, princes, princesses, and many more. Thank you to the Firefighters Association for their generous donation and leading the parade, the police department for their help, and to Claude DuPont for donating the slabs. A fun time was had by all.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Sandra Morann**  
**Plainfield Recreation Committee**

## HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2015 has been an exciting year for the P.H.C. as our application for the center of Plainfield to be included in the National Register of Historic Places has been accepted.

This designation will provide future state grant opportunities for non-profit properties in our district and protect the historic character of Plainfield into the future.

This is the culmination of decades long process dating back to the 1980's and countless hours of research work on Plainfield's historic house inventory by the P.H.C. and the Plainfield Historical Society. Cudos to all, past and present for their hard work.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Dario Coletta, Chair**

## THE BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

The Buildings Committee continues to provide maintenance, repairs and/or renovations to the Town's public access facilities.

### **Town Hall Community Center:**

- No plumbing or water issues this year thanks to D. J. Clary re-routing water lines
- Service was needed for furnace and alarm system due to cold.

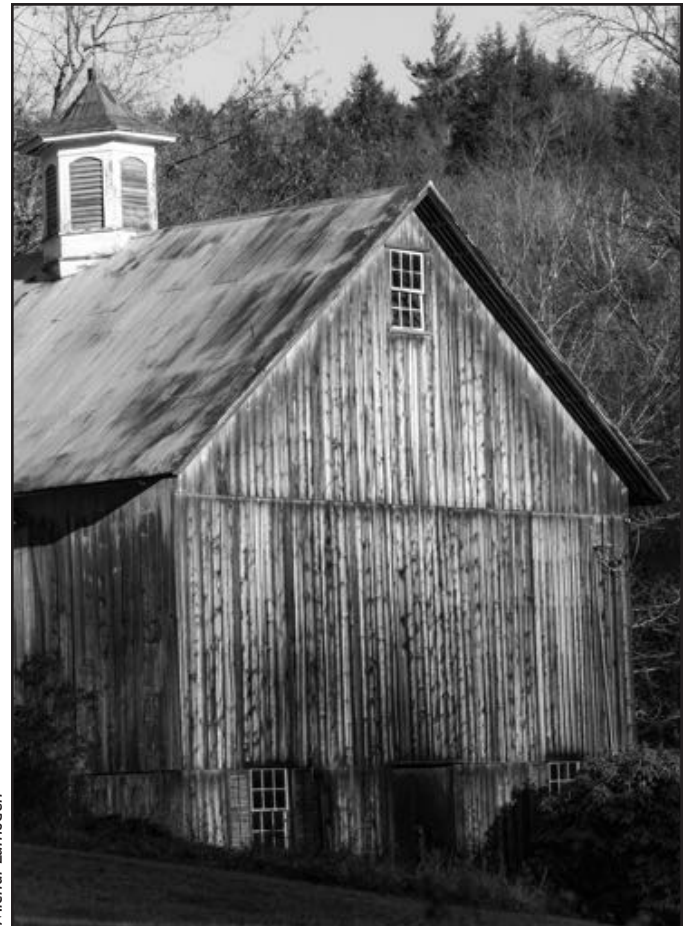
### **Library and Town Offices:**

- *Roof and ceiling work still needs attention in the children's room in the Library.*
- *Residing and painting of the Town Offices/Library. Money in the amount of \$35,000 had been voted upon and allocated for the repair and new construction of the entire siding on all four sides of facility (excluding the new addition to Library.) The major siding project was awarded to Andrew Stevens/Rick Smith.*
- *Job was completed during the summer months.*

### **Hathaway Hall:**

- Usage of the area still being determined (weights and measures scales are now located in the hall via. Historical Society)
- Other cost of repairs were shared with the Police Department (i.e. garage door)

Respectfully submitted,  
**Jim Feeley, Chair**  
**Claude Dupont, member**  
**Phil Sargenski, Secretary**  
**Gordon Massman, member**



One on Plainfield's beautiful old barns.



## CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Plainfield Cultural Council met during 2015 to discuss and implement two tasks: The annual Mass Cultural Council grant cycle funding for 2016 and the 2015 annual ArtsFest Exhibit. The council received \$4400.00 from the Commonwealth, a \$100.00 increase from last year's funding.

The council received 36 grant applications for the 2016 funding cycle. The council met in November and voted to award \$4650 to 24 individuals and organizations. The \$4650.00 included the \$4400.00 from the Commonwealth for this 2016 grant cycle and \$250.00 from a 2014 grant recipient who waived a grant. There were many worthwhile grant applications to consider and we supported projects that provided the most benefit for our community. Funding was awarded to several area theatre groups including Ashfield Community Theatre and Hilltown Youth Theatre, The Plainfield Congregational Church for its Concerts at 7 series, music for the Volunteer Firefighter's Association's barbecue, Hilltown Choral Society, Maureen Shea's Grasshoppers in the Park, several school field trips and "Abenaki Stories" with Jennifer Lee and Our Tribal Neighbors to name a few.

The ArtsFest exhibit was held during the Volunteer Firefighter's barbecue and was a great success. Thanks to Denise Sessions and the Plainfield Library the Meeting and Greeting room at the Library was full of folks enjoying the work of many local artists. There were 19 artists displaying and selling their work. Plainfield residents are encouraged to contact any member of the Council if interested in participating in next year's ArtsFest.

New officers were elected within the Council in Sept 2015. Sarah Stull as Chair, June Persing as Treasurer and Rebecca Coletta as Secretary. The Council thanks Erik Burcoff, Peri Kelly (Secretary 2012 - 2015) and Elaine Holder (Chair from 2011 - 2015) for serving on the Cultural Council for the past 6 years. We welcomed several new members: Lina Bernstein, Allen Irvine, Michal Lumsden and Susi Westwood.

The Plainfield Cultural Council looks forward to supporting arts and cultural programs for the town of Plainfield in the coming year. For more information about Local Cultural Councils and the Mass Cultural Council contact a Council member or visit [www.massculturalcouncil.org](http://www.massculturalcouncil.org).

Respectfully submitted,

**Sarah Stull, Chairperson**

**Rebecca Coletta, Secretary**

**June Persing, Treasurer**

**Dario Coletta, Lynda Christie, Lina Bernstein,**

**Allen Irvine, Michal Lumsden, Susi Westwood**

## COUNCIL ON AGING

The COA board has had some changes this year. Sadly in August 2015, Jane Neri, COA Coordinator, had a stroke. Jay McMann has also left the board. Current board members are Phil Alessio as chairperson, Ruby Goodoff, Anne Kohn. New to the board are Ann Irvine, Shirley Todd, and Deborah Thibault as Interim Coordinator.

The main event for the past year continued to be the pot luck luncheons and are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays, March through October. November through February they are held just the second Wednesday of the month.

A one dollar donation is suggested for those who attend the potluck luncheons, but, certainly is not required. All are welcome to share in the good food, company, smiles, and laughter. Thank you to all who cook, bring food from home and help to set up and clean up.

By working with the Worthington Health Center, the annual flu clinic was again held this past fall. As usual it was well attended.

Respectfully submitted:

Deborah Thibault

COA Coordinator



Author Larry Spotted Crow Mann presented by The Cultural Council.

Elaine Holder



Blanche Cyzik hosting the Yuletide Tea.

Sandra Powers

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Each town and city in Massachusetts has a Conservation Commission, which is charged with protecting the town's wetlands resources under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (1972) (General Law Chapter 131, Section 40). This law ([www.state.ma.us/dep](http://www.state.ma.us/dep)) prohibits the removal, dredging, filling or altering of wetlands without a permit. Residents planning construction or alteration on their property should contact a member of the Plainfield Conservation Commission for a Request for Determination (RDA) to determine if their property falls under our jurisdiction. We will inspect your property and issue a positive or negative determination. A negative determination which implies there is no negative impact, states that the area/work does not fall under our jurisdiction, approves resource area boundaries, or approves alternative analysis. Under some negative determinations the project may go forward but certain conditions might apply. A positive determination indicates that the area/work does fall under the jurisdiction of the Act and therefore a Notice of Intent must be completed and submitted to the Conservation Commission and Department of Environmental Protection. The four members of the Plainfield Conservation Commission work with property owners to insure that all interests are addressed.

The Plainfield Conservation Commission's public meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. The Commission's usual business includes reviewing applications for building permits and forest cutting plans in order to ensure compliance with the Wetlands Protection Act (1972) and the more recent Rivers Protection Act (1996). Members of the Commission also make site visits to help property owners identify possible resource areas and buffer zones. The Commission also serves an educational role for the community. Members attend workshops on conservation issues and can in turn serve to raise community awareness of Plainfield's rich natural history and needs.

During 2015 the Plainfield Conservation Commission:

Made Site Visits to:

- Lot off of North Street near Hawley border. Construction possible only on original footprint of the camp.
- Pipeline right of way walks were made on: May 13, May 27, June 3 & June 10
- South Central Street meeting with Mert Taylor, Jr., Supt. of Highway Dept., regarding paving of the street.
- Parsons Ave. & North Union St. new home for Linda Carver.
- 138 Pleasant St. addition to garage for Jack Nelson.

Building permit sign offs:

- Replace porch for Norman Gordon, 71 Gloyd Road, submitted by Tee O'Sullivan.
- New home at 66 N. Union St. submitted for Robert Pitco.

Review of forest cutting plans:

- Allison Wright, regional forester, will supervise a cordwood cutting by Ty Stockman on Rich Potter's property, 727 West Main Street.

**Other Business:**

- We welcomed Erik Burcroff as a new member of the Con Com.
- The members of the Plainfield Select Board requested that the Commission keep them informed of developments and information regarding the Kinder Morgan proposed pipeline through Plainfield. It is important that Kinder Morgan be required to submit an Environmental Impact Statement.
- Three members of the Plainfield Con Com, Jack, Judy, and Alice attended the Kinder Morgan Open House at Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield on Feb. 10, 2015.
- WMECO sent us their annual operational plan to manage vegetation along power lines. It is available on line at [www.wmeco.com](http://www.wmeco.com), including what herbicides will be used.
- We received notice from the Division of Fish and Wildlife of a newly certified vernal pool in Plainfield on the border of Hawley.



Michal Lumsden

*Just minding my own business...*

- Jack & Judy attended the MA Association of Conservation Commissioners Annual Conference at Holy Cross College in Worcester, MA on Feb. 28.
- Judy attended Franklin Regional Council of Govts. Meeting in Greenfield on March 18.
- Jack attended the Franklin and Hampshire Municipal Conference in Northampton on March 21.
- Erik & Jack attended and reported on the Kinder Morgan Open House held in Windsor on Oct. 27.
- Jack attended a climate march in Northampton on Nov. 29.
- Eversource sent notification of the herbicides that they will be using in spraying utility rights-of-way. For information go to [Eversource.com/municipal](http://Eversource.com/municipal) state officials/transmission vegetation management.

Respectfully submitted:

**Eric Burcroff**

**Jack Nelson**

**Alice Schertle**

**Judith Williams** (Chair)

## WHITING STREET FUND

Last year only one request for assistance was received for a Plainfield resident. The request was actually from a third party telling of someone in Town who needed financial assistance. Since people who need help are often reluctant to ask for it themselves, it was quite touching and appropriate to have a third party look after their neighbor's needs. After review, the committee approved payment of propane and electricity bills.

Unfortunately there is only a small amount of money left in the Whiting Street Fund from the original grant of approximately \$1500 (plus interest) in 1875, however the committee will continue to review all requests for financial assistance for Plainfield residents as long as the funds allow.

Respectfully submitted,

**Robert Persing, Chair**

**David Alvord, Ellen Baer**



## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2015 was another quiet year — no State of Emergency was declared for Plainfield.

I attended meetings that MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) holds for Emergency managers, and stayed in communication with them on any current situations or potential threats.

I am currently in the midst of acquiring audio-visual and radio equipment which will be reimbursed by EMPG (Emergency Management Planning Grant) funding. This equipment will be used for training, improved mutual-aid communication, and briefings/updates during emergency situations.

As I always have done, I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the emergency response personnel that Plainfield is truly fortunate to have — most get paid nothing for what they do (respond to emergencies, training, inspections, meetings and assisting in the maintenance/repair/acquisition of equipment, etc.)

Respectfully Submitted,

**Merton Taylor Jr**  
**Emergency Management Director**

## AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL

The Commission filed scoping questions related to the effects of pipeline construction on various aspects of agriculture. We also filed scoping questions related specifically to the use of the Waryjasz property for a pipeyard.

Since this property is under an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) limiting its use to agriculture, and the land is classified as prime farmland purchased in part by tax money from Massachusetts residents, its removal from APR protection is not in the public good. Several of us attended the day-long hearing in Boston regarding the use for private gain of land protected by the state for agriculture or conservation. Since Attorney General Maura Healy has just determined that Massachusetts will not need the additional gas brought by the pipeline, the public good is not served by taking these lands for purposes other than protecting them for their designated agricultural use.

The Ag. Comm. filed for intervention status using these arguments and the unavoidable desecration of the delicate soils of Plainfield from compaction, contamination, and disruption of the soil layers. Most of us appear at the weekly protests on the Waryjasz property where we hoist a cardboard "pipe" of the same 30" diameter as the pipes to be stored there.

In October a new member was appointed to the Commission, Anne Williamson. She is a master gardener and bee-keeper with excellent research skills and an active interest in several of the environmental issues which have recently come before the Commission.

## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals is your Town Board responsible for hearing and acting upon requests for variances and special permits in accordance with the Town of Plainfield Zoning Bylaw, and acting upon filed appeals of the building inspector as it pertains to the Zoning Bylaw. During the calendar year 2015, the Board conducted the following business:

- In August, the Board submitted a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding the Northeast Energy Direct Pipeline Project. We offered comments during the scoping period for Environmental Impact Studies regarding the Town of Plainfield Zoning Bylaws and how they pertain to new construction.
- At our November meeting, we heard a request from Michael Holden, representing Constance Leto regarding renovations to the existing house at 41 Lincoln Street. The Board found that the addition of a 16' X 25' 4" porch to the rear of the existing structure, beyond the limits of the existing footprint, shall not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood than the existing nonconforming use.

The Board met regularly on the second Wednesday of each month and at the request of property owners or their representatives, had informal discussions regarding Zoning Bylaw matters. We encourage residents and property owners to come before the Board for such discussions prior to a request for public hearing.

During 2015, the Board consisted of Bob Mellstrom as Chairman, Dudley Williams and Joan Wattman as members and Sandy Moran and



Tim Walter and Conrad Libernow man the solar table.

Elaine Holder



Wind and Solar energy at work.

Peg Keller as alternates. We will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at the Plainfield Town Hall, but only as posted 48 hours in advance.

In closing, the Board reminds all residents to carefully review the Plainfield Zoning Bylaw prior to any proposed change in residential, commercial or business use and any proposed building construction for proper compliance with the Bylaw. Your Building Inspector and Board members are available to assist you.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Robert Mellstrom, Chairman**  
**Dudley Williams**  
**Joan Wattman**

## ENERGY COMMITTEE

The bad news is that, according to the World Meteorological Organization, 2015 was the hottest year on record globally. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported that the average global temperature has risen 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit (2 degrees Celsius) from the preindustrial average of 56.7 degrees F. to the present 60.3 degrees F.

In 2009 there were 29 billion metric tons of emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), the main greenhouse gas that causes global warming, into Earth's atmosphere. There were an estimated 32 billion tons in 2015, an increase of over 10 percent above 2009 levels.

The good news is that Plainfield led the way in partnering with Ashfield and Buckland to win a \$7,500 Solarize Mass grant. After interviewing 5 solar photovoltaic (PV) installers from a pool of 8 applicants, the 3 towns picked Direct Energy Solar as the official installer. There were 31 Solarize PV contracts signed in Plainfield, 30 of them new systems, one an addition to an existing system. There were also perhaps 2 other non-Solarize contracts. This more than sextupled the number of PV systems in Plainfield from 6 to 38.

The total added Solarize PV capacity will be 220 kilowatts (kW). When fully operational this will result in a reduction of 168 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions every year or the equivalent of taking 35.5 cars off the road or saving 18,948 gallons of gasoline.

For all 3 towns, known as Solarize PAB, there were 116 contracts signed with a capacity of 858.4 kW. This equals saving 651 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> yearly or taking 137 cars off the road or saving 73,265 gallons of gas.

Solarize PAB had 6.6% of households sign contracts, second in the Solarize Mass program only to Wellfleet on Cape Cod. The Mass Clean Energy Center and the Department of Energy Resources run Solarize Mass.

Other international news is that in 2014 Germany generated 27% of its electricity from renewables, such as solar, wind, and hydro, while China was at 21% and the U.S. was at 12%.

The Plainfield Energy Committee (PEC) plans to place on the town warrant articles that will enable Plainfield to become a Green Community, which could result in state grant of about \$136,500 for town energy efficiency and conservation projects and make Plainfield eligible for future grants.

Windsor has recently joined Adams and Stockbridge as well as our neighbors of Ashfield, Buckland, Chesterfield, Conway, Goshen, Huntington, and Williamsburg to become a Green Community. As of 12-22-2015 there were 155 Green Communities in Massachusetts.

The PEC meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at town hall. We have a vacancy and would welcome a volunteer to help us with this important work.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Tim Walter, Chair**  
**Steve Bushway, Conrad Liebenow, Jim Markham, Mike Packard, Susan Pearson**

## BUILDING INSPECTOR

The Building Inspection Department ensures that all new construction, alterations, renovations, repairs and demolitions are in conformance with 780 CMR, the Massachusetts State Building Code, Massachusetts General Laws, Town of Plainfield Zoning By-Laws and all other applicable Codes and Statutes enforced by the Building Inspector.

A total of 25 permits were issued:

Job Code			
1	New Residential Homes	0	7 Additions and Alterations
1A	Foundation only	0	Commercial 0
2	Additions/Alterations- Residential	8	Garage Residential 0
		17	9 Signs 0
3	Accessory Buildings	1	10 Stoves 11
4	Pools	0	11 Fences 0
5	Demolition	2	12 Commercial / New 0
6	Othe	4	13 Solar 1

Total Job Values.....\$524,130.00

Permit Fees Collected.....\$ 1610.00

The new, Eighth Edition Massachusetts State Base Code (Commercial Code) which is based on the 2009 International Building Code (IBC) became effective August 6, 2010 and the Massachusetts Residential One and Two Family Building Code which is based on the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC) went into effect on February 4, 2011. Both editions of the code had a six month concurrency period with the Seventh Edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code from the adoption dates.

I would like to thank the Board of Selectman for there appointment to this position and all of the departments for their cooperation and dedication of service. I look forward to working with the citizens of Plainfield and assisting them in their endeavors to make this an enjoyable community.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Gerald W Garner,**  
 Building Commissioner / Inspector of Buildings

## ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

Commercial Rough-in	0
Final Inspections	33
Additions	2
Furnaces	1
Pools	0
Solar	25
Residential Rough-in	8
Services 100 Amp.	1
Services 150 Amp.	0
Services 200 Amp.	3
Services 400 Amp.	0
Services 600 Amp.	0
Services 800 Amp.	0
Services 1200 Amp.	0
Services Reconnection on Old	1
Services Temporary	1

### Miscellaneous Inspections

Board of Health	0
Building Inspector	0
Complaints	2
Fires	0
Insurance Companies	0
Loan Agencies	1
Power Company	2
State Inspectors Office	0
State Police	0
State Police Fire Marshal	0

**Inspections Made** 80

**Permits Granted** 37

Respectfully submitted,  
**DB Rhinemiller**  
**Chief Electrical Inspector**

*Anne and Allen Irvine accompanied by "Dr.T and the Versatiles"  
at the Plainfield Historical Society Benefit Dance.*

## HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE

The Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative (HRMC) was created in 1989 by a group of dedicated volunteers who had the vision to seek a regional solution to help small towns with volunteer local boards attain sustainability and environmental objectives.

The member Towns that comprise the HRMC include: Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, and Worthington. Each Town appoints two representatives to serve on the HRMC Board. Board Officers for FY15 included: Joe Kearns, Chair (Middlefield); Adam Leach, Vice Chair (Worthington); and, Tom Martin, Treasurer (Westhampton). In October, Kathleen Casey assumed the contracted half-time position of HRMC Administration filling the position that had been vacated in July.

The HRMC has been helping hilltown member communities manage all aspects of their solid waste including: municipal waste hauling and disposal, recycling, hazardous waste, DEP compliance assistance, and sustainability services. In FY15 those services comprised:

- Bid Administration, Contract Administration, and contractor transition to both a 3-year Municipal Recycling Facility (MRF) hauling contract and a 3-year Municipal Solid Waste Hauling and Disposal Contract for each of the member towns.
- Administration and Execution of a new 5-year MRF contract with DEP and Waste Management.
- Execution of an annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event
- Program management of Transfer Station Recyclables including collection, hauling and recycling of tires, electronic waste, universal waste, and Freon removal from appliances. Implementing a new Call2Recycle battery collection service. Additionally, the Town of Williamsburg became a regional mattress-recycling center for HRMC community residents.
- Transfer Station operations and compliance monitoring including the implementation of DEP transfer station regulations that were announced in February 2014.
- Preparation and submittal of DEP annual surveys and reports.
- DEP Grant Administration including reporting and grant writing.



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In addition to the managing the day to day business and program operations of the HRMC, the HRMC Administrator also serves as a representative on behalf of its member Towns to the MRF Municipal Advisory Board, the State Solid Waste Advisory Committee and, the Western Mass Regional Recycling Coordinators; advocates with local, regional, and State officials; and, is available to provide technical assistance on DEP and compliance related issues.

In FY15, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced their Small-Scale Initiative Grants under the annual Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). Nine of HRMC town received a grant award of \$500. Collectively, the grant awards totaled \$ 4,500, which the towns used to acquire transfer station signs to meet new regulatory requirements, and to do public outreach. In addition, two HRMC Towns were the recipients of additional grants under the Recycling Dividends Program (Goshen and Williamsburg). In total, the HRMC Towns received \$ 7,300.00 in grant funding - an increase of \$2,300.00 over the previous year. Grant applications for FY16 were submitted in June for a total of more than \$18,000 in funding requests.

The HRMC has an annual assessment that is approved by each Town at their annual Town meeting. The annual Assessment Budget is based on tonnage and population. In FY15 the combined assessment for all ten towns was \$39,487.56. After two years of budget reductions, the Assessment Budget has remained level funded for the past 5 years. The Assessments are intended to offset base operating expenses. Recycling program/collection costs (other than MRF) are pass-thru expenses from the HRMC to the Towns to best maximize the economy of scale and to enable the HRMC administrator to have review and oversight of vendor contracts/relations, and program operations.

A review of recycling tonnage for FY 2015 shows an increase of nearly 43 tons compared to FY14. In FY15, the HRMC member Towns collectively diverted 1,085.57 tons of recyclable materials (paper, and bottles/cans) to the MRF and earned \$19,018.14 in recycling revenue despite low market prices throughout the year.

The HRMC looks forward to continuing to assist the member Towns during the upcoming year. If you have questions about HRMC programs, call us at 413-685-5498 or by email at [hrcm@hrcm-ma.org](mailto:hrcm@hrcm-ma.org).

Respectfully submitted,

**Kathleen A. Casey**, HRMC Administrator

## HILLTOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Hilltown Community Development Corporation (Hilltown CDC) was created in 1981 with a mission to "improve the quality of life for hilltown residents by addressing economic, housing, educational, social and community needs while preserving the rural character of the area." Its core service area includes the ten towns of Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg and Worthington. In recent years its small business assistance program has expanded to serve 20 Hilltowns. Hilltown CDC's four major program areas are affordable housing, small business assistance, social services and community development/planning. Hilltown CDC also administers a regional grant program that secures federal grant funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to ensure housing and services are provided to the homeless through a Continuum of Care (CoC) model which serves Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties.

Hilltown CDC works with the community to identify and secure financial resources to serve the community development needs of the region. In 2015, Hilltown CDC helped the hilltown region care for the elderly, provided safe affordable housing to seniors and low income families, improved many hilltown homes and began initiatives that support local agriculture such as the Keep Framing initiative and the for-



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Foamflower

mation of a Transportation committee looking at the transportation needs of the hilltown region.

**Social Services:** Hilltown CDC's **Hilltown Elder Network (HEN)** Program delivered in-home caregiving assistance (primarily chore and transportation assistance) to low-income Hilltown elders at no cost to the participants. HEN staff provided transportation for medical visits and other purposes, including snow removal. CDBG funding was awarded allowing Hilltown CDC to provide CDBG funded HEN services. This grant allowed these services to be delivered through calendar year 2015.

### The following social service programs provided assistance to residents in the hilltowns with CDBG funds:

- **The Health Outreach Program for Elders (HOPE)**, administered by Hilltown Community Health Centers (HCHC), provided free in-home nursing care and podiatric services to homebound elders.
- **The Hilltown Food Pantry** distributed food to hilltown individuals. The Pantry is administered by the Northampton Survival Center at the Goshen Town Hall.
- **Child Care Subsidies**, hilltown families were provided subsidies through this program to assist them with child care expenses.

### Economic Development/Small Business Assistance:

- Provided individualized business consulting and/or training to hilltown businesses, ranging from one hour to 30 hours per business.
- Published the 2015 Hilltown Business Directory, distributed to 13,000 hilltown households in 22 towns, with contact information and descriptions of 337 hilltown businesses in 94 categories. The Directory is also on-line at [www.hilltowncdc.org](http://www.hilltowncdc.org).

**Affordable Housing:** We actively pursue opportunities to preserve and create affordable housing to meet the needs of low and moderate income Hilltown residents.

- **Westhampton Woods Senior Housing:** Hilltown CDC owns and operates Westhampton Woods Senior Housing which provides 15 apartments for low-to-moderate income seniors over 60 years old.
- **Rental Housing:** Hilltown CDC began renovating 24 units of scattered affordable rental housing in Williamsburg, Westhampton and Chesterfield in December of 2014 and is made significant improvements to all existing properties in 2015. This includes the acquisition of a new property in Haydenville. Hilltown CDC has hired a local contractor to complete this project. All of the properties will be completed and fully occupied by April 2016.



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Flag waving at the parade.

- **New Project Development:** Hilltown CDC is working with the Town of Goshen and its Senior Housing Committee to develop 10 rental units of affordable senior housing. Hilltown CDC is pursuing a permit and securing the financing to develop this project. Hilltown CDC has secured a piece of land in Goshen to develop these units. We hope to build this project in 2017.

**Housing Rehabilitation Program:** This program provides zero percent interest, deferred-payment loans to income eligible homeowners for use in making a wide variety of repairs to their homes, including roofs, septic systems, electrical, plumbing, and heating. In addition, the program provides a source of steady year round employment for area contractors.

In 2015 HCDC:

- Hilltown CDC rehabilitated 22 homes in the Towns of Williamsburg, Cummington, Chesterfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Peru and Plainfield.

**Community Planning:** We also work closely with municipalities and community groups in our service area to plan for, raise funds for and/or manage a range of projects. During 2015 HCDC:

- Completed phase I of our Keep Farming in the Hilltowns initiative where we worked with a number of local farmers, buyers and local residents to develop a community action plan based on agricultural. Our action plan will be released in February 2016 once our final public comment period is over.
- We also secured funding to engage the local community and conduct a study on rural transportation needs. We are working across 15 hilltowns inclusive of the Northern and Southern Hilltowns. Phase I includes administering a community survey to be followed up by focus groups and interviews. Our goal at the end

of year one (July 2016) is to develop a rural transportation business plan with a pilot period where we will experiment with a few different transportation models.

Please visit [www.hilltowncdc.org](http://www.hilltowncdc.org) for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dave Christopolis**  
Executive Director

## HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

*"In Fiscal Year 2015, The Council saved over \$4.6 Million for our member towns. That's an average of \$72 per resident. We're proud to support local town governments, and we look forward to offering even greater value and expanded services in 2016."*

—Todd Ford  
Executive Director

### COUNCIL OVERVIEW

The Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) is a collective body made up of representatives from 15 Hampshire County towns. HCOG has two key focuses: to improve residential life in Hampshire County, and to provide our small towns with the advantage of economies of scale typically available only to larger cities. We accomplish these goals by promoting the local economy, investing in sustainable infrastructure, and aggregating the buying power of our residents. HCOG is not funded primarily by grants or taxes, but rather by fee-for-service programs that generate revenue sufficient to support its operating costs. Modest membership fees are also collected from member communities.

**2015—OUR BEST YEAR YET!**



HCOG has consistently demonstrated a high return on investment for our member communities: this year has been no exception. There was a simultaneous upswing in value provided and a large drop in dues collected. **In fiscal year 2015 (FY15), the total estimated savings secured for member towns was \$4,626,195.** During the same period, member towns paid a collective \$25,509 in dues to HCOG—approximately half of what they paid in the previous year. That means our member towns saw an increase in return on investment of over 200%!

#### **ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS:**

##### **Hampshire Power**

Hampshire Power is HCOG's competitive electricity supply subsidiary and the only non-profit in the industry, statewide. Our pricing is highly competitive when compared to both utility rates and other competitive suppliers. We have been successful in procuring rates as low as \$.108 per KWh for entire cities (like Lowell), as well as businesses, non-profits, and municipal clients.

##### **Sustainability**

Our sustainability department has grown over the past three years. In the last years, revenue has gone from \$3,437 (FY13), to \$13,100 (FY14), to \$25,883. We are now brokering Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs) for 600 people—almost three times as many as last year (214 clients). These clients represent over 4.5 million annual kilowatt hours, 266,443 square feet of solar arrays, and 4,478 SRECs—valued at \$1,369,540. Generating this amount of power through solar technology avoided the release of 3,136 tons of carbon dioxide byproduct.

##### **Hampshire County Group Insurance**

The Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust (HCGIT) provides health and life insurance to over 10,000 individuals. The HCGIT's revenue increased from \$49,097,910 to \$53,770,883 over the past fiscal year: a 9.5% increase. 11 out of 15 member towns use the HCGIT in place of the state plan. Member towns secured \$2.9 million in savings through the HCGIT.

##### **Purchasing Cooperative**

The Purchasing Cooperative (The Co-Op)—now in its 34<sup>th</sup> year serving the communities of western Massachusetts—leverages its relationship with vendors to secure better deals for municipalities. By aggregating the buying power of many small communities, the Co-Op helps

smaller towns and cities attain the benefits of economies of scale that would normally not be possible for them. In the last fiscal year, all 15 member towns made use of the Co-Op, saving an estimated \$412,000 collectively. State-wide savings a total of \$802,786 over the same period.

##### **Hampshire IT**

The Hampshire I.T. program is a partnership with the region's largest I.T. company, Paragus IT. By hiring Paragus through HCOG, customers are able to receive a discounted rate on I.T. services. 8 municipalities saved \$34,549 through Hampshire I.T.

##### **RSVP of Hampshire & Franklin Counties**

RSVP (the Retired Senior Volunteer Program) of Hampshire & Franklin Counties provides opportunities for people 55 and older to use their expertise for the benefit of their communities. These volunteers focus on helping seniors remain independent and in their own homes, increasing food security in the region, and building nonprofits' capacity to do great work through fundraising and program support.

##### **Tobacco Free Community Partnership**

The mission of the Tobacco Free Community Partnership is to encourage and support smokers in Franklin and Hampshire County to quit. It also aims to create awareness of harmful, smokeless tobacco products that are often marketed towards young people.

##### **Regional Accounting**

As part of HCOG's mission to serve our smaller communities, we provide a regional accounting service to towns without municipal accountants. In FY15, HCOG supplied accounting services to 4 area non-profits as well as 3 towns. These financial services include town accountant services, bookkeeping, and payables.

##### **Plainfield**

- Plainfield saved \$34,280 through HCOG services in FY15.
- The Town used the following services: Hampshire Purchasing Coop and the Hampshire County Group Insurance.
- Unused services included Hampshire Solar, Hampshire IT, Regional Accounting, Tobacco Free Community Partnership, and Hampshire Power.

Respectfully submitted,



Elaine Holder



*Special thanks to  
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