

Newbury Update is published by the Town of Newbury to offer residents a view of the town government operations and activities. Copies are available at the town office, library and transfer station, but we strongly encourage you to 'get your copy' at the town website: www.newburynh.org. If you would like to receive a copy via e-mail, please send your request (and any comments or suggestions) to: newburyupdate@gmail.com.

Selectmen issue a challenge

The Newbury selectmen have issued a Green Up Day challenge to town residents. On Saturday, April 26, they will be clearing the winter debris from the roadsides of Rte. 103 from Village Rd. to Rte. 103A. They challenge you to do as good a job on your road. We've all seen the litter being uncovered by the snowmelt. Let's show the world, and the litterers, that we take pride in our town.

ANTIQUe MAP PRESENTATION – On Monday, April 21, the Perkins family will present the selectmen with an 1818 map of Newbury, then known as Fishersfield, which the family is giving to the town, along with some old diaries from the early 1800s. Richard Perkins and his sister Janice Perkins Pauling and his son Russ Perkins will make the formal presentation of the restored and framed map at the board of selectmen's meeting.

OLD HOME DAY – Everyone interested in helping out with this summer's Old Home Day is invited to the first organizational meeting on Thursday, April 17, at 7 p.m. in the town office meeting room. The agenda includes discussing and brainstorming events for the day (set for July 12) and setting up subcommittees. Any and all are welcome to the meetings.

BOATING SAFETY CLASSES

Before you go boating, you must go to class

Beginning in 2008, everyone must have a Safe Boating Education Certificate to operate a boat with a motor greater than 25 horsepower. The certificate is good for your lifetime.

The certificates are given for successful completion of a proctored examination with a minimum score of 80 percent. There are three ways to prepare for the exam – taking a course either online, as home study or in a classroom. Both the online and home-study courses will allow you to study, take pre-tests and receive a course completion slip. Upon completion, call 1-888-254-2125 to schedule a time for a proctored examination at any of the Dept. of Safety's numerous locations. For those attending a classroom session, the exam is given at its conclusion. More information is available at: www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/ss/boatinged/index.html.

The Dept. of Safety, Boating Education, still has openings in the following sessions at the Newbury town office but advises they are filling quickly:

Tues & Thur	May 13 & 15	6 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Saturday	May 24	9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday	June 7	9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Call the NH Marine Patrol at 603-267-7256 or 888-254-2125 with any questions or to sign up for one of the sessions. There is a \$10 nonrefundable registration fee. Because of limited seating, preregistration is required.

BRIDGE WORK – During February the selectmen read and discussed the qualification packages they received for the bridge engineering on the projects for which funding was approved at town meeting. Their top three candidates were called in for interviews in March. After those presentations, the board selected DuBois and King, who will now put together an engineering cost proposal. (Robert Durfee, who made the presentation for DuBois and King, was recently named NH's engineer of the year.) Once the selectmen agree with the proposal it will be forwarded to NHDOT for approval since the state is covering 80 percent of the cost. Then the engineering process will start, which DOT will also approve, after which it's on to bid out the construction, perhaps by this fall.

FIBER-OPTIC NETWORK – WCNH, the coalition of towns looking to set up a high-speed network in the region, has been reviewing financial models worked up by PacketFront for its proposals. The vendor said the models, done for each town, show varying results but all eventually turn to positive cash flow within a nine-year horizon. WCNH representatives, including Dennis Pavlicek for Newbury, asked questions about the assumptions behind the models. A key issue was that the network design took away part of the fiber backbone in each town to make it look more financially attractive to towns and investors. The towns pointed out that it doesn't meet their needs to have wifi, not fiber backbone, to interconnect the towns. The vendor is refiguring with fiber backbone and making changes to the financial models.

SOUTH NEWBURY BUILDINGS – Bill Weiler discussed with selectmen the report submitted by architects Sheerr McCrystal Palson on their renovation study of the three town-owned buildings in South Newbury. The report looked at all three buildings and what would be required to make them all fully functional, including bringing them up to code, structural repair and enhancements, bathrooms and the like. The price tag for all the report's recommendations is more than \$1 million.

Selectmen decided to establish a committee to review and assess the report in detail and the town needs for the buildings' potential functions, and then to put together financially feasible suggestions for how best to use and renovate the buildings.

Several people interested in helping with the restoration project were identified -- Bill Weiler, Rich Cole, Dick Matte, Gerry Gold, Dick Surette and Joy Nowell. Some of these members have experience in renovating old houses, some are also involved in the historical society.

OLD HIGHWAY GARAGE – This winter's snowload damaged some cross beams at the old highway garage. Of three proposals received to replace the cross beams, selectmen selected the lowest bid, from Henry Thomas Jr. Building & Excavation. Following the damage, the town received approval from the insurance company to cover an inspection to determine any damage to support beams. Thomas checked for damage under the paneling and assessed the condition of the other beams and reported that everything looked fine and all other beams under the paneling looked good. He will continue to do the repair work to the damaged beams at the garage.

TOWN CENTER PROJECT – On March 24 Mike Vignale of KVPartners presented an updated version of the Harbor Pedestrian Improvement Plan. He showed the proposed details of the concrete sidewalks, grass, pavement overlay, new curb line, catch basin, wheelchair ramps at the crosswalk, tree placement and footbridge.

The board expressed concern with red maple trees being planted along Route 103 due to the fact that they do not tolerate salt well. It was suggested shrubs can be managed better than big trees.

Vignale reviewed the plans for the bridge and said that it will look like a railroad bridge. The bridge will have steel railings and will be sloped up rather than be level with the parking lot. The projected life expectancy of the bridge is at least 50 years.

Vignale said there will be parking by the caboose and town office to take the place of spaces being eliminated in the harbor lot, and possibly in the future by the Vets Hall.

On the project timeline, Vignale said it can be put out to bid in June or July with selection of the contractor by fall. He predicted the work would take approximately 4 months. The entire project must be complete by the beginning of next summer.

Pavlicek recapped the meeting by saying that Vignale will look into additional types of plantings and adding a brick extension on the sidewalk by the caboose area. He will also look into additional lighting options. The board asked Pavlicek to come up with some numbers on what he thinks it will cost to maintain the area. The state DOT is now reviewing the plans.

FURNACE FUTURES – The selectmen have discussed the possibility of accepting bids for several old furnaces located at various town properties or perhaps reusing some at other sites, particularly the waste-oil burner. Dennis Pavlicek is putting together an inventory of all furnaces

VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE – This newly formed group will be holding its first meeting relatively soon. There are four members at the moment, and they are looking for additional members. Contact Dennis Pavlicek for more information, 763-4940 x204 or townadmin@newburynh.org.

BOARD CHAIR – At the March 24 meeting of the board of selectmen Jim Powell was named chairman of the board.

STORAGE BUILDING – The board discussed the two-stall storage building to be installed at Fishersfield Park. Following a discussion of their storage needs with police, fire and highway department heads, Pavlicek reported that there was a need to store the antique fire truck and the fire boat in the building. There will also be room for the Kubota. Selectmen want to be sure there is the possibility of expansion of the building later if needed. Pavlicek has received a quote, within the approved amount, for a 30' x 40' building with attic and stairs, and two 10' x 10' doors. Lean-tos can be added on the side, and the price includes a cement pad.

BALD SUNAPEE STRUCTURES – The selectmen have decided to keep the garage up at the Bald Sunapee property. It's in decent shape and worth hanging on to for the time being. The other buildings will be demolished in the fall.

TOWN CLERK

DOGS NEED TO BE REGISTERED BY APRIL 30

Linda Plunkett, town clerk, reminds dog owners that their dogs must be licensed by April 30, and dogs' rabies vaccines must be up to date.

You can fill out the form at the town clerk's office or download the form off the town website and mail it in with the fee (amounts are indicated on the form). As proof of your dog's current rabies inoculation, be sure to include the rabies tag number and expiration date (on the tag from your vet). If you choose the mail-in route, the license tag will be mailed back to you (please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope).

As noted on the forms, the fee schedule for licensing dogs is: puppies (3-7mo.) \$6.50, male or female \$9.00, neutered male or spayed female \$6.50, owner over 65 - \$2.00.

Failure to license your dogs is a violation of RSA 466:1 and subjects you to a \$1.00 monthly penalty and civil forfeiture of \$25 after May 31, 2008.

Rabies Clinic for Dogs and Cats – April 12

Plunkett will be on hand to register and license your dog in South Newbury on April 12. There is a rabies clinic scheduled that Saturday from 9-11 a.m. (rain or shine) in the parking lot of the Friendship House at the corner of Village and Sutton roads in South Newbury.

Dr. Claire Timbas will be administering rabies shots to dogs and cats. The fee will be \$12 per shot. Please bring a previous rabies certificate or dog license, if available.

Then step over to the town clerk's station and license your dogs. The event is sponsored by the South Newbury Union Church.

ASSESSING OFFICE THE ASSESSMENT RATIO IS IN

Every year the NH Dept. of Revenue Administration determines our assessment ratio here in Newbury and in every community across the state. The ratio is used for purposes of equalization. The equalization process is used to determine how big a piece we are of the entire state pie.

It is the state's way of trying to normalize assessments to help fairly and equitably collect and distribute funds for both state education and county taxes and, partially, Kearsarge Regional School District.

So what I'm trying to say is, "Equalization does matter."

What is a sales ratio study? It is a statistical exercise in which sales prices from actual bona-fide arm's length sales are compared to those properties' assessments. The sales price of a property is considered its market value. The comparison establishes whether a town's assessments are, on average, identical to market value (a 100% ratio), higher or lower. This overall assessment ratio is expressed as a percentage.

The results of this study are then used for two main purposes.

First, the overall assessment ratio is used to *equalize* all assessments in town to express 100% market value of the town. For instance, if overall the assessment ratio is 50% of market value and the total town is assessed at \$100 million then the 100% market value would be \$200 million, or \$100 million divided by .50 (that is, 50%).

For the state's purpose, as well as the county and school district, this adjusted number – the equalized valuation – will determine the town's share of taxes. This process prevents a town with undervalued assessments being under-billed for its share of state, county or school taxes. It levels the playing (or paying) field. Each town's equalized value (its total assessed value divided by the ratio percentage) reflects its market value and is used to determine its tax share.

The second purpose is to measure the performance of the assessment program in town. The worse the numbers get (the farther from 100%), the more inequity exists which would create the need for updating assessments. It does not, however, necessarily indicate inequality within the town, if all the town properties are consistently assessed, albeit above or below the market value.

And the numbers: For tax year 2007 Newbury's overall assessment ratio was determined to be 91.3%. In other words, on average, if a house sold for \$100,000, it would be assessed by us on average at \$91,300. Please remember this is an average ratio and may not apply to your specific property.

If you have questions, please feel free to call me, 763-4940 x 209.

--Norm Bernaiche

PARKS & RECREATION

The recreation department's focus in 2008 is on health, wellness and community. Watch for our 2008 program flyer listing ways to turn that focus into action and fun. Also, look for the recreation section of the town website to be revamped and updated beginning in April.

Things to look for in 2008

Some of the activities, educational programs and events the recreation dept. is sponsoring or participating in are:

For everyone...

o *Fly-Fishing Programs* – Back by popular demand, the curriculum will expand to include intro to casting, stream fishing 101 and beginner fly tying. Watch for program dates in the spring and early summer; timing will depend on runoff and water flow.

o *Newbury Harbor Summer Concert Series* - Every Thursday evening at 7 p.m. from June 19 through Aug. 28. Fun for all ages, a variety of old favorites and new talents will grace the lakeside gazebo this summer. See details below.

o *Old Home Day* – This day of activities and events around town on Saturday, July 12, will include some old and new contributions from the recreation dept.: live music, Fishersfield Park dedication, Tin Man Triathlon, dunk tank and lunch grill.

o *Newbury Fall Foliage Festival and Fall Fling 5K* – The second annual community celebration of harvest and health, set for Saturday, Sept. 27, again offers local food, produce and artisans, live music and a run/walk along the lake. The run serves as an annual fundraiser for Fishersfield Park and the recreation department.

For kids...

o *Fishersfield Summer Camp* – This camp for ages 5-12 will take place every Tuesday from 1 - 3:30 p.m., June 24 – Aug. 12. Camp location will rotate by week between the park and the Newbury harbor. Campers can be signed up for the summer or for individual days. There will be a limit of 20-25 campers. Cost TBD. Watch for registration information on the website in early May.

o *Swimming lessons* – Lessons will be taught at both town docks this summer. The first session is July 7-11 at Newbury harbor and the second runs July 14-18 at Blodgett's Landing. Levels I-VII will be available for ages 5 and up (must be five by 6/30/08). Cost TBD. Watch the website for registration information.

o *Ecology Camp at The Fells* – Newbury Recreation is once again offering this outdoors-based camp that features a combination of wetland ecology, hiking, watershed ecology, fisheries biology and a day of fishing on the lake. The camp, for ages 6-13, will run July 28-Aug. 1 from 9 a.m.-12 noon, and is expected to cost \$35-40.

For adults...

o *Pick-up Leagues* – Contact Travis Dezotell, recreation coordinator, at 763-4940 x210 or travis@newburynh.org if you're interested in playing beach volleyball, basketball, tennis, horseshoes or bocce.

For women...

o *Women's Wellness Series* – This series will kickoff on Saturday, May 3 with Women's Wellness Day in Newbury and the recreation department will be hosting an all-day event at the town office. There will be speakers on a range of women's topics from musculoskeletal pain (everyday aches and pains and what to do about them) to small business start-up advice to improving recycling around the home. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and there will be a lunch served. Event is free but please pre-register with Travis Dezotell at 763-4940 x210. The series will continue with monthly lectures in the summer and fall. Watch the website for monthly lecture programs on women's topics.

Fishersfield Park

The park will be open for business this summer pending the weather permitting some finishing touches. Once the playing surfaces are ready, the beach volleyball (i.e. playing on sand), tennis and basketball courts will be open for play as well as horseshoes and bocce. The tennis and basketball courts will be getting paved as soon as conditions permit. We hope to have grass growing on the lower athletic field as quickly as possible, too.

The trail system is open, and will remain so even as the trails undergo further improvement. Help would be appreciated for both trail maintenance and some bridging work. If you'd be willing to combine your outdoor exercise with this constructive work, please contact Travis Dezotell or Chuck Crickman.

In the works

o *Kayak Tour Program* – Beginner's guided tours of Newbury harbor and Lake Todd and potentially some other programs in conjunction with Sunapee Outfitters.

o *Mountain Biking* – Bike checks, rodeos and a mountain biking event at Fishersfield Park in conjunction with Outspokin' Bicycle and Sport.

o *Youth Groups and School Programs* – Hosting of these groups, guided tours and special-event scheduling at Fishersfield Park and the surrounding conservation area.

o *Golf Tournament* – The recreation dept. will be hosting a fundraiser for Fishersfield Park in late summer/early fall. Details to be announced. Volunteers are needed; contact Newbury Parks and Rec.

For more information on any of these programs, call Travis Dezotell, recreation coordinator, at 763-4940 x210, or email him at travis@newburynh.org.

Summer Concerts in the Harbor

The schedule is set for this summer's harbor concert series. For those who want to plan around a favorite band's appearance:

June 19 Roxanne & the Voodoo Rockers

June 26 Tammy Jackson

July 3 Chris Kleeman Band

July 10 Saylyn

July 17 Pirozzoli & Putnam Guitar Duo

July 24 Bruce Marshall Group

July 31 Amoskeag Strummers

Aug. 7 Chill Set

Aug. 14 Mink Hills Band

Aug. 21 Dr. Harp's Blues Revue Band

Aug. 28 East Bay Jazz Ensemble

Concerts begin at 7 p.m. The rain date for the Thursday night concerts is the following Wednesday.

Music is also planned for Old Home Day on July 12 with Lunch at the Dump and The Fountain Square Ramblers. During the Antique Boat Parade on Aug. 17 Roxanne & the Voodoo Rockers will play.

LIBRARY

Librarian Rosie Johnson reports that the email address for the library has been changed to: npldesk@yahoo.com.

Just in time for spring hiking, the library has brand-new trail guides for the Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge (SRK) Greenway ready for checkout.

Poetry Jam

Poetry Month got a headstart with a special Sunday afternoon Poetry Jam on March 30 with New Hampshire Poet Laureate Patricia Fargnoli and Newbury poet Dianalee Velie. There was a good turnout and librarian Rosie Johnson said the readings were varied, some funny, even some in foreign languages (with translation). Check at the library for the date of the next Jam.

Children's Poetry Day – May 1

Hey, kids: On your April school vacation, try some poetry creation! Join local poet Dianalee Velie for a fun and lively poetry event just for you. Grades 1-5 are invited to create their own poetry and enjoy some May Day activities too. Come to the library on Thursday, May 1 from 1-3 p.m. Call the library at 763-5803 for more information or to preregister. Refreshments will be served!

Book Discussion

The next adult book discussion is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Monday, May 5; there will be no April session. The book for May is "Crashing Through: A True Story of Risk, Adventure, and the Man who Dared to See" by Robert Kurson. It's about a man who was blinded as a toddler, grew up to break skiing records, become a CIA agent, inventor and family man, and then stem-cell research and a transplant returned his sight. Newbury resident Tom Forry will lead the discussion. Refreshments will be served.

Paws to Read

Calypso, a certified pet therapy dog, and her handler, Sheila Sabo, again met with children at the library on March 31. They take part in the Paws-to-Read program which helps improve the literacy skills of children with the assistance of certified canine companions in a fun and relaxed environment.

Those who have seen her in action know that Calypso's quiet listening encourages young readers. Sabo and her three-year-old golden retriever meet at the library with interested parents and their children roughly every month, always on a Monday from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., but on whatever date works for the parents.

Sabo, a Newbury resident since October, said they also visit Sutton elementary school each week, and were at Bradford elementary during Read Across America Week in early March.

The next date for Paws to Read at the library isn't set yet, but anyone interested in this program should talk to Rosie Johnson at the library.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The cataloging project is off to a good start. Town meeting approved money to help pay for a consultant to organize the historical materials of the society and the town and place them in acid-free boxes. At the same time, the society discovered a source of interns to help with the data entry. This means that some of next year's work can be started this year. The society's heartfelt thanks go out to all who have donated to this effort.

A historical society newsletter was published several weeks ago. Look for it at the town office, library, and local businesses. The feature article tells about the history of the Fishersfield Park land.

The society has decided to build its own website. In the interim, there is a society 'button' on the town website where basic information such as meeting minutes will be available.

For the historic house marker project, a letter with an application form is ready to mail to home owners. It will also be available on the society's website for people to download.

A proposal for printing a pictorial town history has been sent to Arcadia Publishing. If the project is accepted by Arcadia the material for the book would need to be ready in 3 to 6 months, then another 6 months to be printed, so it might be ready next year for Old Home Day or even town meeting.

The board's next meetings are on May 1 and June 5 at 7 p.m. at the town office. The public is invited.

Riding the Rails to the Lake

Six area groups, under the acronym PALS for Partners Around Lake Sunapee, are collaborating on a yearlong series called Hosting Our Summer Guests: the 1880s through the 1930s. There will be events, lectures and exhibits highlighting how summer guests arrived, where they stayed and what activities they enjoyed while they were here.

For its part, Newbury Historical Society is hosting an exhibit, Riding the Rails to the Lake, at the caboose and train station on two summer weekends. Stop by between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on July 12 & 13 (Old Home Day weekend) or Aug. 9 & 10 to see photos and memorabilia of the era in which our town played a key role. Through the railroad, Newbury was the entryway for visitors who took the train here, then boarded steamboats that carried them to the grand hotels around the lake. Also on July 12 the SRKG Coalition will lead guided family hikes to Eagles Nest for an overview

PALS is a joint effort between the historical societies of Newbury, New London and Sunapee, The Fells, the New London Barn Playhouse and the LSPA. To help get out information about the activities planned around the lake, brochures have been mailed to members of the participating organizations. In Newbury copies are also available at the library.

Looking for oldest resident

The society is asking for assistance in identifying the next recipient of the Newbury Bicentennial Cane which is presented to the town's oldest citizen. Please contact Deane Geddes if you can help.

TRANSFER STATION

Rising fuel costs played a role in another cost increase at the transfer station. The cost of the hauling of the recyclables went up by \$25 a load.

New signs – available for free from NH the Beautiful – have been ordered to help clarify recycling procedures, especially 'what goes where' which seems to stymie some people.

Plans are gearing up for three hazardous waste days this summer, one each in Newbury, Sunapee and New London. Town property owners and residents will be able to participate in any of the three.

Vehicle ID tags for transfer station

Reminder to property owners: Make sure your transfer station tag is current or you could be turned away. The new tags expire December 31, 2008. They can be picked up at the town office from the selectmen's office or the town clerk. It's easiest if you bring your old tag.

HIGHWAY DEPT.

On March 10 selectmen asked highway administrator Cal Prussman where his department stood in terms of budget allotments for overtime, salt and sand. Prussman reported that of the \$10,000 budgeted for salt, \$9,729 has been spent since the beginning of the year, leaving only \$271. The supplier cannot provide any more salt at this time, but may be able to in a couple of weeks. [Note: still no salt but should be ok to get through remainder of season.]. Of the \$20,000 budget for sand, \$19,404 has been spent. \$6,100 is left in the overtime budget to last the remainder of the year.

As was explained at town meeting, the selectmen discussed these budget issues and decided, rather than increase the budget request at town meeting, to try to manage it. If it becomes necessary, funds can be moved from other sources to cover additional salt and sand purchases.

Prussman discussed the five bids he received for a one-ton dump truck with selectmen at the end of March. It was decided to purchase the truck from Dartmouth Motors due to the already established relationship; it was \$300 over the lowest bid. Prussman also discussed the dump body and plow. It was unanimous to go with Sleeper as it was the lowest bid. The cab and chassis were received April 2; it was to be outfitted with the dump body and plow sometime the next week.

Prussman is in the process of going out to bid for supplies – salt, sand, culverts and gravel – and bidding on paving, grinding and crack sealing. There's a lot of road sweeping to do and the plan is to try to have it done just prior to Memorial Day.

Highway work plans also include some repair work, particularly shoulders that got dug up over the winter. One of the year's bigger jobs is paving Baker Hill Road from Route 103 to Stony Brook Rd. and grinding the rest out to the town line.

ROADS POSTED

Effective immediately, and until further notice, all Newbury town roads are restricted to vehicles under 6 tons, per order of the selectmen. For temporary exceptions, contact the highway department at 938-5494 between 7-8 a.m.

FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

The first three months of 2008 for the Newbury Fire & Rescue Dept. have maintained the same high rate of emergency calls as seen in 2007, which was a record year for the department. If this pace continues the total emergency calls for the department could reach 250, which is an average of 5 responses per week for the department that has no full-time employees. So far this year, the department has responded to house fires in Newbury and to Sutton and New London through mutual aid.

Because of the severe winter weather, the department has also responded to numerous motor vehicle accidents. The hydraulic rescue tools that were purchased through a federal grant received in 2007 played a critical role in the motor vehicle rescues. Department members continue to train on the equipment to improve their expertise.

New members needed as call volume goes up

As the call volume increases, the Fire & Rescue Department continues to look for additional members. Previous firefighting or emergency medical technician training is preferred but not required

as training is provided by the department. Complete information on the department can be found on the Newbury Fire & Rescue Department website: www.newburyfd.org, or stop by the safety services building on Tuesday evenings for an application and to talk to a department officer.

Firefighters and emergency medical personnel are paid by the Town of Newbury on an hourly basis for each call that they respond to as well as for training and other department duties. Recognizing the time, training and commitment of the on-call firefighters, the selectboard increased the compensation rate at the beginning of the year to more adequately compensate the department personnel, based on responsibility, training, duties and certifications.

Articles pass at town meeting

The warrant article for the purchase of a new fire tanker was approved at this year's town meeting. The current thirty-one-year-old truck is considered obsolete by National Fire Protection Assoc. (NFPA) standards and is no longer a dependable truck for the department. As Newbury has no public water supply system, firefighters must use tankers to transport water to the fire scene in order to extinguish a building fire. The need for an adequate water supply makes a dependable tanker critical to firefighting operations. The new truck will have the capacity to carry 2,000 gallons of water, while the current truck's tank only holds 1,200, thus substantially increasing the amount of water being delivered to a fire scene. It is expected that the new truck will be delivered by the end of 2008.

Also passing at town meeting was the article formalizing the Newbury Fire & Rescue Department as a town department and bringing the personnel appointment procedures in compliance with certain provisions of the New Hampshire RSAs. Over the past year the department has worked closely with the selectboard in developing employee position descriptions and qualifications. These personnel procedures provide a framework for the department operations under the provisions of the article.

Kubota ready for rescues

Earlier this year the department received a specialized rescue body for the Kubota RTV that was purchased by the town to be used by the recreation and fire & rescue departments. The vehicle has tracks for over-snow operation on snowmobile trails and other off-road emergency rescue scenes and rubber tires for use by the recreation department at Fishersfield in the summer. The new rescue body has mountings to safely carry a stretcher and a rescuer on the back of the vehicle. In February a wilderness rescue drill was conducted with the Newport and Sunapee fire departments using the new vehicle in conjunction with equipment from Newport and Sunapee.

Improving radio reception

Work continues on improvements to the radio communications system for the department, which was funded through the 2007 Assistance to Firefighters Grant. A radio repeater will be installed in South Newbury, where there has always been difficulty in radio communications with the New London Dispatch Center. Mobile repeaters are being installed in three department vehicles to improve the capabilities of the portable radios. These improvements are being done in conjunction with New London Dispatch and the Kearsarge Mutual Aid District that has upgraded the system to improve radio communication between the fire departments in the area that assist each other during large fires and other emergencies.

Storage space issues

This winter's heavy snow resulted in damage to the roof of the former highway garage, where the Newbury Fire and Rescue Department stores the fireboat and small rescue boat in the off season and the antique fire engine that is used in parades and community events. Some of the equipment had to be temporarily moved to the highway department garage until repairs could be made to the building. The very limited space at the safety services building requires that the boats and equipment that is not used year round be stored offsite. It is expected that when the new and larger tanker is

delivered there will be even more of a critical storage space problem for the department.

Fire & security alarms require permits

All residents and businesses are reminded that the Fire Alarm Ordinance enacted last year requires any property that has a central station fire or security alarm must have a permit from the Newbury Fire and Police departments. Even if you have registered in the past, a new permit is required under the 2007 ordinance.

There is no charge for the permit and applications can be downloaded from the Town of Newbury (www.newburynh.org) or Newbury Fire & Rescue (www.newburyfd.org) websites or at the Newbury Police Dept. between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The ordinance specifies fines for non-permitted alarm systems and multiple false alarms from a central station alarm system. Complete details on the alarm ordinance can be found on the websites.

Is your house number still visible?

This year's rough winter has been rough on roadside signs including those which identify the address of a residence or business. Newbury Town Ordinance requires that each property have a sign showing the street address that is visible from the road. This information is critical to police and fire responders in quickly locating your property in the event of a fire, medical or other emergency situation. If you have waterfront property, the address information should also be posted on the dock or boathouse. As you do your spring cleanup, please replace old, damaged or worn street address signs or install an address sign if you do not already have one.

Spring increases fire risk – get a permit first

The spring is the time of year when the risk from brush and wildfires is the greatest. After the snow melts and before the leaves are on the trees, the conditions are right for fires that not only destroy woodland but can also threaten homes that are built in or near wooded areas. New Hampshire law requires a fire permit from the local forest fire warden for any outside burning once there is no snow on the ground. There are certain days and weather conditions when permits cannot be issued. Details on the requirements for fire permits can be found on the Newbury Fire website, www.newburyfd.org. Fire permits are available from Newbury Forest Fire Warden Dave Smith at 938-5925 or from one of the deputy wardens.

--Wayne Whitford

HEALTH OFFICER

The heavy snowfall during the winter and expected runoff and normal rainfall this spring should again result in wet conditions that favor mosquito development in the late spring and summer. Since mosquitoes carry EEE, West Nile Virus and other diseases, it is important to eliminate mosquito breeding places from your property. Any place where there is standing water presents a potential home for these pests. As you do your spring yardwork, be sure to eliminate standing water from around your home.

The wet winter weather may also have resulted in roof leaks from ice dams and other winter roof damage that causes dampness in the home and the potential for mold. Water in basements from runoff and flooding can cause similar problems. Mold can cause a number of health problems if it is allowed to grow and not removed. It is important to repair leaks and replace wet or damp wood and drywall. If the damage is serious a contractor may be needed to make necessary repairs.

This winter influenza has been particularly severe in the area and even with the spring conditions, many people continue to suffer from the symptoms. A little common sense goes a long way to protecting your family and the community when you have the flu. The following tips are from the NH Department of Health & Human Services:
-- Wash hands frequently with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds;

- Rinse and dry hands with a disposable towel and use towel to turn faucet off;
- Use an antibacterial hand gel for the times you cannot wash your hands with soap and water;
- Use a tissue to cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, then dispose of tissue and wash your hands;
- Stay home from work or school if you have flu-like symptoms until 48 hours after symptoms stop;
- Refrain from visiting a nursing home if you have flu-like symptoms;
- Eat right, exercise, and get plenty of sleep; and
- Do not share utensils, such as silverware.

Additional health information is available on the Health Officer page of the Town of Newbury website at www.newburynh.org.

The Newbury Health Officer continues to be heavily involved in the Greater Sullivan County All Health Hazards Region Committee and its planning for health emergencies such as an influenza pandemic. The region has now hired a full-time public health coordinator, funded by the state, to work with the communities in the region on public health issues. The committee will also be launching a website in the near future.

--Wayne Whitford

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Newbury Conservation Plan Completed

The Newbury Conservation Commission has released its first Conservation Plan. The plan will guide the conservation and land use planning in the Town of Newbury for years to come. The conservation plan is an exciting document, guiding the town planners to help preserve and enhance the ecological integrity of the town's natural environmental and wildlife habitats. Included in the plan are up-to-date maps that are educational and will serve as a useful planning tool for the townspeople of Newbury. The Newbury Conservation Commission is proud to add the conservation plan to the town roster of important documents that will promote efforts to sustain Newbury's rural character and scenic qualities.

"The plan is important because of the information it presents about ecological conditions in town and potentially important natural areas in town," said outgoing conservation commission chairman Bill Weiler. "I wish to thank E. Ann Poole, ecologist and environmental planner, who produced the plan working closely with the Newbury Conservation Commission, the Newbury Planning Board and all the people who helped pull this plan together. It was truly a community project."

Planning and development of the plan began in 2001. The effort incorporated a variety of stakeholders including residents, conservation groups, and local and state government agencies. Residents provided input into the plan through scoping meetings and community forums that fielded a variety of issues throughout the process. The final plan was developed from public comment on a draft plan and from additional input from the town planning board. The final conservation plan is included in the updated Newbury Master Plan recently adopted.

Copies of the conservation plan are posted on the town's website - www.newburynh.org - and are on display at the Newbury Public Library. Additional copies can be obtained by contacting the conservation commission at Newbury Town Offices, PO Box 296, 937 US Rte 103, Newbury, NH 03255.

TOWN MEETING 2008

The Feb. 11 public hearing on the proposed 2008 budget and warrant drew three residents, in addition to town officials. On Tuesday, March 11, ballots were cast by 226 residents while 115 voters attended town meeting the next evening. As of March 13, the voter checklist numbered 1,549.

Ballot Voting

There were no contests for any of the open positions in town government. Elected were: Selectman for 3 years – James M. Powell, Moderator for 2 years – Nancy Marashio, Treasurer for 3 years – Jennifer Goin, Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years – Daniel H. Wolf, Library Trustee for 3 years – Regina Almond-Albro, Cemetery Trustee for 3 years – Michael E. Moss, Planning Board for 3 years – Barbara M. Freeman and William Weiler, Zoning Board of Adjustment for 2 years – Steve Russell, Zoning Board of Adjustment for 3 years – Barbara J. Richmond. A second 3-year seat on the ZBA had no declared candidates and received a number of write-in votes. The town clerk will contact the individual who received the highest number of write-in votes. If that person declines the post, it then falls to the ZBA to fill the position.

The amendment to the building regulations passed. It deleted reference to the International Residential Code. Now that the state has adopted the latest version of the IRC, there is no need to continue its adoption on a local level. The town will be able to enforce the requirements of the code.

Both amendments to the zoning ordinance passed, one established a new article dealing with storm-water management controls, the other made changes to the flood-plain sections to remain in compliance for the National Flood Insurance Program.

Town meeting

Proclamations were presented at town meeting to Mike Croteau, Del Harris (in memoriam), Helga Thomas, Beverly Wolf, Chuck Crickman and Dave Fanning in recognition of their service and commitment to the town of Newbury.

Town meeting then addressed the rest of the warrant. All but two articles passed. For two articles the moderator called for a hand count (results noted below). Most of the others passed with few if any nays.

Appropriation articles passed:

- \$3,226,673 for general operations
- \$181,000 for capital reserve funds
- \$36,000 for maintenance expendable trust funds
- \$65,000 to tear down and dispose of the buildings located on the Bald Sunapee and adjoining parcels, place gravel and fill, and for an architectural plan for a safety services dept. building and parking layout.
- \$1,040,000 for engineering and construction costs for the bridge on Sutton Road over Ring Brook and the bridge on Village Road over Andrew Brook. The funds come from a state grant (80%), capital reserve fund and 2007 undesignated fund balance.
- \$180,000 to purchase a new fire tanker, with funds from the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.
- \$62,000 to purchase a one-ton truck with dump body equipped with a plow, with funds from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.
- \$40,000 for a 2-bay cold-storage building to be located at Fishersfield. Passed 61-44
- \$5,000 towards Phase 1 of the rehousing and cataloging of the Sherman Hall Collection of historic documents
- \$11,000 to complete the fencing of Lakeside Cemetery.

Other articles that passed:

The board of selectmen was authorized to dispose of the old highway garage on the corner of Route 103 & Sutton Road, zoned a commercial property. Passed 62-53

The town voted to authorize the appointment of the Newbury Fire Chief by the board of selectmen, which makes the fire department a formal town department.

Town meeting also approved an article that straightens out a boundary line issue at Lakeside Cemetery and three housekeeping articles.

There were two petitioned articles, both of which failed. One asked the town to accept two roads in the Whitethorn subdivision located

off Bay Point Road and the other asked that a resolution be sent to the state legislature on the subject of the tax pledge and property taxes.

Projected Tax Rate

The total appropriations less estimated revenues predict a reduction of \$197,056 in the amount of taxes Newbury needs to raise this year compared to last year – a decrease of 7.94 percent. The projected decrease of up to \$0.29 would put the municipal tax rate at \$3.42.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The ZBA did not meet in February or March. The following public hearings will be held on Monday, April 14:

-- Jane Murphy & Marc Jasmin, for property located on Shore Road, will seek a variance to allow for construction of a wooden storage shed within the 15' and 75' setbacks.

-- Geraldine S. Bateman, for property located at 9 Frazier Lane, will seek a variance to allow for reconstruction of an existing structure within the 15' and 75' setbacks.

Copies of the applications are available for review during regular business hours at the town office.

PLANNING BOARD

During its meetings in February and March the planning board addressed general business items which included the following.

Old Town Highway Garage – On March 18, Tom Vannatta asked if any of the board members knew what the old town highway garage site was used for prior to the town use. He stated that when the sale of that property happens, the new owners may be subject to site plan review because a municipal use is not a commercial use, therefore the site cannot be grandfathered as a commercial use.

Projects for 2008 – On March 18 board advisor Ken McWilliams asked for a sense of the board as to what he should work on next. He proposed three projects that were previously discussed: conservation subdivision design ordinance, alternative energy ordinance (regulate use of wind and solar energy) or viewshed overlay district for the lake. The sense of the board was that he should begin working on a conservation subdivision design ordinance.

Board Election of Officers – On April 1 the planning board unanimously voted Tom Vannatta as chairman and Barbara Freeman as vice chair.

Master Plan Update

During February and March the planning board continued its review of the revised chapters of the master plan.

Historic Preservation Chapter

Jan. 30 This chapter will include information on railroads, oral histories from Alice Lynn and Virginia Newell, an article written by Judy LaPorte on the Weetamoo Steamship and an article published in the Soo-Nipi Magazine featuring Cilley's Tavern written by Shelly Candidus. Relevant historic photographs are also being pursued for inclusion.

Vision Chapter

Jan. 30 Freeman pointed out that the board had discussed and agreed that the town is not trying to *attract* development, but rather to provide for it. Where the text on page 7 indicates that the town is trying to attract development, it should be changed to 'provide for.'

Conservation Plan

Jan. 30 Weiler informed the board that the conservation plan is not quite ready. McWilliams commented that the recommendations for the conservation plan are important to include in the master plan because they will add weight and significance to the issues raised within the conservation plan.

Recommendations of the Conservation Plan

Feb. 19 The conservation plan will be appended to the master plan. The board reviewed the issues and recommendations and made changes. There was discussion of the recommendation to increase the current-use return from 50% to 100%. Ron Williams said even 50% is an objectionable burden placed on the taxpayers for which they do

not have a say. The funds are then expended without a vote at town meeting. Weiler explained that the conservation commission holds a public hearing to expend the funds, which Williams believes is inadequate notification. Therefore Williams feels it is improper for the planning board to place a recommendation in the master plan to increase that return.

Implementation Chapter – grant opportunity

Feb. 19 Board advisor Ken McWilliams provided the board members with a memo to review regarding a grant opportunity to municipalities from the NH Office of Energy & Planning for a Housing & Conservation Planning Program. The grant program has four planning stages, the fourth being an implementation program, which Freeman thought would be a helpful tool in getting the master plan in action. The key point is that in order to apply for each stage, you have to show the state that you have completed all other requirements of the previous stage.

McWilliams said he does not think this program is a good fit for Newbury because we will spend more time and money filling in the pieces required to satisfy the implementation stage than if we just fund an implementation program on our own. This grant program is geared toward communities that are at the beginning stages of the master plan process. There will be a lot of competition for this grant money. He suggested the board members review the memo and let him know soon if an application to the grant program is something on which the board would like him to spend time.

Master Plan hearing

Mar. 18 Notices appeared today on the public hearing scheduled for April 1. One copy of the master plan is available at the town office in the lobby for public review, one copy is at the library, one is made for planning board records and a fourth and final copy is with McWilliams. It is also available on the town website.

Master plan public hearing to accept.

On April 1 the planning board held the final public hearing on the master plan update. There were two residents in the audience.

Freeman explained that the purpose of the hearing was to obtain public comment and input on the master plan before the board decided whether or not to adopt it in its final draft. The purpose of the master plan is to come up with a proposed land-use plan upon which are based any future zoning regulations.

Board advisor Ken McWilliams pointed out that one of the focuses of the master plan is the rural areas of the town. The regulations are moving more toward natural resource preservation and creating a network of linked open space. There has not been a recent buildout analysis done, but there is one from 1995 for reference.

Freeman further pointed out that a large portion of Newbury is conserved land that cannot be developed, steep slopes cannot be developed, wetlands cannot be developed, and other natural resources are protected.

Weiler explained that through public input and surveys, the master plan is the goal of what the townspeople would like to see the town become. Every survey and master plan results in unanimous public opinion to maintain a small-town atmosphere. In order to legislate the regulations, we need to have a master plan in place.

Freeman explained that the master plan is only a vision, not the regulation. Writing the regulations is based on the vision of the master plan.

Freeman said that the master plan is a culmination of several years of hard work and a grand effort by individuals to put a vision of the past, present and future of Newbury into one document. Many people have followed the creation of the master plan and do not feel it necessary to attend all of the meetings. She noted that Newbury has a lot of sensitive areas that it is trying to protect including wetlands, steep slopes and wildlife habitat. Those sensitive areas have to be

deducted from the developable before calculating the number of dwelling units allowed.

The following were mentioned when the board was asked the differences in this master plan from the last one. The theme and direction are the same. Based on new research for development, conservation of natural resources has become a priority and regulations focus on protecting those resources. Also, there are new chapters in this master plan: Vision, Implementation, Historic Preservation, Regional Context and a conservation plan. Each chapter also has a list of Issues and Recommendations which are equivalent to a "to-do" list pertinent to each chapter. Freeman explained that the town has accomplished many of the recommendations that were listed in the 1997 master plan. The conservation commission updated the Natural Resources Inventory and developed a Conservation Plan.

The board voted unanimously to adopt the master plan as composed and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The planning board had hearings on the following cases in February and March.

CASE 2007-018: Conceptual – Site Plan Review – Jim Dudley/Sunapee Outfitters – 104 Route 103

3-18-08 Dudley reminded the board that several months ago he came before the board to discuss the concept of opening a business in the old Sweet Patch Bakery building on Route 103. His retail business would be called Sunapee Outfitters and would be selling kayaks, canoes and related equipment. They are hoping to open for business next month. The board took issue with the part of the site plan concept of using a vacant lot across Route 103 on Lake Todd for potential customers to gain access to the water in order to try out the equipment before purchase.

Dudley wanted to talk about the water access issues. He addressed various parts of Article 7 of the zoning ordinance. He was reminded that it was the sense of the board that this use could be considered 'funneling' which is prohibited per the zoning ordinances approved by the town. After discussion it was decided to ask counsel for a legal interpretation as to whether or not this proposed use is a legal use based on the Newbury Zoning Ordinance. It was noted that there is a state law that requires access to the water, but it was felt this was satisfied by the access near the bridge on Route 103.

CASE 2008-001: Conditional Use Permit – Joseph Goodnough Revocable Trust/agent: Pierre Bedard – Bay Point Road – two lots to be merged – dwelling unit above garage.

3-18-08 Goodnough explained that the plan presented this evening took into consideration comments from the planning board and abutters given at a previous hearing on Dec. 18, 2007 at which the application for conditional-use permit was denied. His new plan proposed to remove an existing garage and construct a new garage with a dwelling unit above. The original proposal consisted of four bedrooms, 2,045 sq. ft. of building, and 4,800 sq. ft. of encroachment in the wetland buffer for development. The new proposal includes removing the existing garage which encroaches 435 sq. ft. in the wetland buffer, building a dwelling unit over a garage which will have only two bedrooms, 1200 sq. ft. of building with an additional 300 sq. ft. of deck, resulting in a net encroachment of 255 sq. ft. in the wetland buffer for development. The lots have been merged and are now one 1.29-acre lot.

Applicants were advised that the new storm-water management ordinance that recently passed at town meeting may affect their methods of development and they should make themselves fully aware of the changes. It was also clarified that this application is for the one and only dwelling unit that will be allowed on this lot.

The board voted unanimously to approve the application for a conditional use permit as submitted based on the testimony given this evening.

CASE 2008-002: Conceptual – Major Subdivision – Noel Collins, Agent/Pellerin Property – Old Post Road

3-18-08 Noel Collins and Jeff Reed discussed a conceptual subdivision plan of 30 acres off Old Post Road. The land is currently owned by Julie Pellerin, but will be sold in the near future. The lot has approximately 1700-1800 ft. of road frontage, some on Old Post Road and some on Colburn Farm Road. There is enough road frontage for approximately 7 to 8 lots. The agent was advised that the subdivision rules are detailed in the regulations, including how to figure the density calculation in consideration of steep slopes, wet areas, deer yards, etc. He was also told that a preliminary application hearing is required prior to a final plan, to give both sides plenty of time to figure out the best plan for the site.

Upcoming Hearings – On Tuesday, April 15, the planning board will receive submission of the following applications:

- for a final hearing for a lot-line adjustment from the Town of Newbury, for property located on Route 103A.
- for a conditional use permit for new construction from Courtney Galluzzo, for property located on Chalk Pond Road.

At the hearing, if an application is accepted as complete, a public hearing on the application will commence at the same meeting.

Copies of the plans are available for public review at the town office building.

Newbury Update via e-mail

If you would like to receive Newbury Update via e-mail as a Microsoft Word document, send an email request to:
newburyupdate@gmail.com.

Published by Town of Newbury
PO Box 296, Newbury, NH 03255
Website: www.newburynh.org