

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BUILDINGS
FY 2016

During the fiscal year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 a total of 108 Permits were issued. The permit fees collected and turned over to the Treasurer were \$52,375.10.

A breakdown by category follows below.

New Dwellings	9
Additions & Alterations	48
Accessory Structures & Garages	5
Porch & Decks	4
Repairs	6
Demolition	1
Roofs	16
Sheet Metal	0
Temporary Structure	4
Wood Stove	9
Solar Installation	6

Respectfully Submitted,

Ned Baldwin
Building Commissioner

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

We have maintained, with mowing, trimming, and some monument resets, the three town cemeteries this year. They are Hillside Cemetery, on Hillside Drive, a left off of Route 71, past the North Fire Station; Riverside Cemetery on the right side of Route 71, past North Egremont Center; and Town House Hill Cemetery at the intersection of Phillips Road and Town House Hill Road.

There are still lots available for purchase in the Hillside Cemetery.

We work closely with Richard Atwood, Jr. of A&A Memorials for internments and monument work at our cemeteries. Any questions about our town cemeteries should be directed towards our Chairmen Henry D. Granger, or our clerk, David D. Campbell.

Respectfully submitted,
Henry Granger, Chairman
David D. Campbell, Clerk
Herman Trudeau



EGREMONT CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT
July 2015 through June 2016

This past year has been typical: A few NOI's (Notice of Intent), a few RDAs (Request for determination of applicability), numerous site visits and some major "brain drains". Notices of Intent apply when a project is squarely in Wetlands, as defined by the State's Wetlands Protect Act. One of our NOIs was in the Mt. Washington Rd./Karner Brook area. The other dealt with an ongoing project near Catamount.

RDAs (Request for Determination of Applicability) deal with lesser issues where the proposed activity is within certain restricted areas, but usually can be resolved.

We require site visits before any project can begin, during the project and at the project's completion. During the past fiscal year, the ConCom has conducted 30+ such visits.

"Brain Drains" were projects and items that required significant research, review and project followup. We had nine on our list.

All of the above depends on having a high level of expertise. As the Commission's member are all volunteers and most have full-time jobs, we sought an increased budget for this past current fiscal year. We knew we'd need outside professional assistance, as well as the ability to attend educational sessions offered through the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions. We lucked out in the 15/16 fiscal year by having the major projects deferred into the current fiscal year.

And, from October 2015 through to-date (10/16) we have been functioning with only 4 of our 5 state-approved members. A current member has indicated they may retire from the Commission during the coming year. It takes three members to vote on anything. Frankly, the Commission needs new members. Interested? Attend any meeting the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. December hours may vary. Please understand that, although this is an annual report, our need for members is ongoing.

Bill Tynan, Chair
Ben Barrett
Ted Rubsamen
Alina Hsu

REPORT FOR THE EGREMONT COUNCIL ON AGING

We seem to get more active with each passing year. This is possible because our Council has grown to almost its full size, with the addition of Eve Goldberg, our new Secretary, and Peg Muskrat, who brings a lifetime of experience and reports for Egremont News. Georgette Kinney serves as Treasurer and much more, and we benefit from the active participation of Helen Krancer and Chet Delaney. Many of our activities are now co-sponsored with Mt. Washington, with Dianne Salaman as liaison.

Georgette put together a senior exercise program that allows any senior from Egremont, Great Barrington, Sheffield and Mt. Washington to attend programs sponsored by those towns. Programs are Monday to Friday, and continue to include Egremont's programs at the South Egremont Congregational Church and Simon's Rock. Most classes are \$3. We are again offering "A Matter of Balance" through Berkshire Health Systems. We continue to promote senior walking. This past winter we had a "strut and stretch" program on the walking track at Simon's Rock, and a "Walk a Mile" program at our French Park luncheon. In addition we had Third Friday guided walks on the Appalachian Trail, with support from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Walking is a necessary activity for seniors, but it has to be done safely. We initiated a pilot program with Police Chief Tyler Race, in which police in cruisers will talk to those wearing dark clothing and not facing the traffic, especially at dusk at dawn. They will gently offer safety suggestions, and offer them available, reflective "Be Seen, Be Safe" vests. These have been funded by Fairview Hospital, and if successful, we'll be looking for more funding elsewhere.

We continued our monthly movie lunches at the Egremont Village Inn. Highlights were "Waking Ned Devine" and "The King's Speech". Other lunch presentations included one on scams by John-Arthur Miller of Elder Services and Chief of Police Brian Shaw, our annual celebration of those turning 90, and a special book reading honoring Beverly Almond. Our Holiday Celebration at the Egremont Village Inn included readings by Henry Strozier and Nick Keene and was a huge success. The annual French Park luncheon included a talk on wild and cultivated edible plants, and is further described below.

Classes were conducted very successfully this summer on the iPhone by Liz Jaffee, and the iPad by Vicki Windman.

We continue to consult with United Way on possible intergenerational programming.

Publications included a guide to walking the Appalachian Trail in Egremont, and a walking guide to French Park. In addition, we created a postcard size yellow card, indicating important "Senior Support/Emergency" numbers, that was mailed to all seniors in Egremont and Mt. Washington and is available in Town Hall.

This card was the result of concerns by our Fire Department about inappropriate overuse of 911 by some members of our community that created stress for the department. We were able to establish a person at Elder Services who would especially be available to Egremont seniors who were experiencing difficulty. To celebrate this new connection, John Lutz, the Director of Elder Services, and John-Arthur Miller, the Options Counselor who will take our calls, both attended our French Park luncheon, walked the Mile course, and talked with us.

Bruce Bernstein
Chair, Egremont COA



ALFORD-EGREMONT CULTURAL COUNCIL

This year, the Alford-Egremont Cultural Council was allotted \$8,800 by the State run and State funded Massachusetts Cultural Council and had a unencumbered balance of \$345 to make a total of \$9,145 to award in local grants. In making grant decisions, the committee followed the carefully structured guidelines of the state program while keeping in mind local needs. Essentially, the committee awarded grants to programs and events that directly benefit the local community, have a strong cultural component, and have a determined venue and date. As always, more requests for funding were received than the budget allowed, and so the committee members had to make difficult decisions as to who received a grant and which programs were funded.

The mix of programming the Alford-Egremont Cultural Council supported was evenly split between events for children and adults. Two local 4-H Clubs, Boots and Bridles and the 4H Money Bunnies, received aid to assist in membership fees and start-up activities. The Cultural Council grants brought hands-on arts and science programs and a sculpture workshop to our local schools. Trips by students to Plimoth Plantation and the Berkshire Botanical Gardens were sponsored. Monument High School received help to put on a Spring Fling featuring Egremont musicians. The Susan Smith Anderson Library launched a Summer Reading program with the Council's help. Local children received scholarships to attend choral and performance groups. Local cultural groups – Berkshire Playwright Lab, the Berkshire Lyrical Theatre, Music in Common and the Bach Society – received grants to introduce the magic of live theater and music to children and for the enjoyment of adults. Adult programming also included support for a variety of activities such as an Edith Wharton Writing Competition, a ukulele band and the Egremont Garden Club Scholarship Tea's speaker. In addition, the Cultural Council helped fund the Berkshire Human Rights Speaker Series, the Massachusetts Audubon Berkshire Sanctuaries' lectures on Lime Kiln Farm and the Kellogg Conservation Center's series on "Astronomy on the Appalachian Trail".

Respectfully,
Hilary Penglase, Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
JULY 1, 2015 through JUNE 30, 2016
Fiscal Year 2015-2016

The primary responsibility of the Finance Committee is to make recommendations to town residents on all financial matters that come before the town, including the budget presented at town meeting.

At the May, 2015 annual town meeting, Egremont voters approved an operating budget of \$2,388,169 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year ("FY16"), an increase of 1.4% over Fiscal Year 15 ("FY15"), and a school operating and capital budget of \$1,670,140, an increase of 20% over the FY15 school budget, for a **total line item budget of \$4,058,309** for FY16, an increase of 7.9% over FY15. However, the Southern Regional School District amended its numbers for FY16 for each of the member towns, resulting in a school operating and capital budget of \$1,454,499 for Egremont, an increase of 4.5% over FY15. Taxes actually raised and appropriated were for the school budget were \$1,483,347, leaving a balance of \$28,848 in the school operating expenses account which will go into the town's free cash. **FY16's total increase over FY15's total budget was 3.4%.**

The voters also approved special articles totaling \$3,986,565.50 with funds coming from the town's Free Cash* except as noted below:

1. \$260,580 for the Water Department budget (comprised of \$190,000 from user fees, \$64,642 from a town taxpayer subsidy (raise and appropriate) and \$5,938 from Water Department retained earnings)
2. \$2,137.50 for prior year bill (raise and appropriate)
3. \$15,000 for deposit into the GASB 45 Special Stabilization fund for retired employees' health costs
4. \$5,000 for Friends of Prospect Lake (raise and appropriate)
5. \$6,350 for Building Permit Software
6. \$14,750 for real estate/personal property software
7. \$36,000 for police cruiser
8. \$58,000 for South Egremont School (overlay surplus)
9. \$118,700 for library (\$100,000 free cash, \$18,700 overlay surplus)
10. \$500,000 Mt. Washington bridge (Chapter 90 funds)
11. \$8,048 (Historical Commission, Proprietors' book)
12. \$4,000 (Historical Commission, MACRS historic list update)
13. \$18,000 Highway Department blacktop spreader
14. \$2,940,000 Borrowing approval for broadband initiative

The total budget including raise and appropriate, borrowing authorization and transfers was \$8,044,874.50.

State mandated adjustments, no borrowings to date, transfers, etc. reduced the total budget to be raised via tax levy to \$3,536,739. This resulted in a tax rate of \$9.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value, an increase in the tax rate of 3.5% over FY15.

Salaries/wages for FY16 totaled \$723,262, a 4.0% overall increase from FY15. This does not include the salaries of police department officers, but does include the salary of the chief and police department administrative assistant. It does not include firefighters' stipends. Health insurance premiums rose approximately 7.2% from FY15, and dental premiums increased slightly. Life Insurance costs remained the same. It should be noted that the town pays 75% of total premiums for our employees; retirees' premiums are split 50-50. Total salaries/wages and benefits for our employees for FY16 were \$952,262 (4.4% over FY15). Pension benefit payments were \$144,945.00 for FY16. Social security, unemployment and longevity payments totaled \$26,750.00.

The Police Department budget, excluding the payment of debt on the police facility, totaled \$344,570, an increase of 2.6% over FY15. Additionally, \$36,000 was voted for a new cruiser. This was the final year of a 3 year Collective Bargaining Agreement and town meeting will be asked to vote on the new 3 year contract in May, 2017.

The Highway Department budget saw an increase of less than 1% over FY15. However, we underspent our snow and ice budget due to the nature of last winter. The town also approved purchasing a new blacktop spreader.

The Water Department's budget of \$260,580 saw an increase of 5.5% over FY15, primarily due to a line item for software to further enable the department to more efficiently and timely monitor water consumption and billing. Town taxpayer subsidy of \$64,642 was over \$2,000 lower than the FY15 subsidy and over \$13,000 lower than FY14 subsidy.

In municipal accounting jargon, *"Free Cash" is the total of funds not expended and revenues in excess of projections as of the end of a fiscal year. A "Stabilization Fund" accumulates amounts for capital and other future spending purposes but it may be appropriated for any lawful purpose by a two-thirds vote at town meeting. Free Cash and Stabilization Funds are types of "available funds" and are frequently appropriated to meet unforeseen expenses or capital expenditures, or for other one-time costs. "Reserve Fund" is a required fund designed to cover smaller unexpected and/or unforeseen costs and is a budgeted line item in the town's annual budget. For FY16, after appropriations and transfers at town meeting the balance in the town's Stabilization Fund was \$449,885, available Free Cash was \$139,826 and the Reserve Fund was \$25,000, totaling \$614,711. That total amounts to 13.3% of the total budget of \$4,604,875 (which does not include borrowing 2,940,000 or \$500,000 for bridge repair.) It is good financial practice to have in total reserves at least 5-7% of a town's annual budget. Some municipalities and bond rating agencies believe a 10% reserve is more prudent.

On the liability side, the town's debt as of June 30, 2016 totaled \$1,167,200. That number is comprised of outstanding debt for (1) Water Department loans of approximately \$565,000, (2) the police facility of \$180,000 (3) the backhoe of \$57,200 and (4) the fire truck of \$180,000. The highway truck loan was paid off in FY15.

While the town's total debt load is manageable, careful planning and consideration should be given to any proposals to take on further debt. To that end, the Board of Selectmen has established a Long Range Financial Planning Committee consisting of members of the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen to consider various scenarios, costs and the best way to plan ahead for the town's financial future.

As always, the Finance Committee strives to recommend a budget the community can support and that is fair to the people who work for us and to the taxpayers.

Respectfully submitted,

The Committee for July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2016

Laura Allen, Chairman	Michael Bandzierz, Vice Chairman
Thomas Berkel, Secretary	Ralph Noveck
Edward (Rocky) Scarbro	Eric Swanson

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Report of the Egremont Fire Department

Fiscal 2016

Roster

Chief William Turner

Deputy Chiefs James Olmsted and Joseph Schneider

Captain Jim Golden	Robert Brown
Captain Dave Guidi	David Katzenstein
Lt. Paul Sierau	Tom Sierau
Lt. Jay Keefner	Jeremy Van Deusen
Lt. Roger Meyer	John Wells
Eng. Gregory Peck	Zachary Wright
Eng. Kevin Wheeler	Roger Bailey
Eng. Herman Trudeau Sr.	Ed Rossi
Eng. Lane Farnum	Vincent Murphy
Eng. Emma Hobson	Robert McGraw
Eng. Bruce Turner	

The members of the Egremont Fire Department met weekly for training, maintenance of equipment and organizational meetings. We participated in training made available to us regionally by the Massachusetts Fire Academy. Courses included Flammable Gas Firefighter Training, Rural Water Supply, Small Aircraft Hazards & Procedures, Safety Officer Training, Arson Awareness, Suicide Awareness, and Large Animal Rescue, and in house training in Rope Rescue. Deputy Chief Schneider has also taken classes in Code Enforcement.

As well as the courses listed above, we have been trained in administering of Naloxone and Eppy Pens during our regular Medical training.

The fire department has, with the Great Barrington Fire Department, jointly purchased training aids allowing us to train in forcible entry and fire extinguishment in repeatable simulated situations. We are expecting delivery of the new SCBA units within weeks of the writing of this report. The updated units will better equip us to work safely in a variety of dangerous conditions. We are very grateful to the voters for their support.

Clearly we have been very busy at EFD. We are always looking for new recruits. We are looking for motivated, disciplined men and women. Firefighting is a challenging opportunity to serve the community. We are proud of the fact that several of our members have gone on to pursue careers in the Fire/EMS field. If you think that you have what it takes to be a firefighter, come on down to the station on any Tuesday evening.

We are still having difficulty responding to houses without adequate 911 signage. If it is not adequately posted, we waste potentially precious time searching for your house and it makes our job much harder. We also recommend that all home owners, particularly those with reporting alarms, purchase a Knox Box. Knox Boxes eliminate the need for forcible entry. Information regarding 911 signage and Knox Boxes can be obtained at the Town Hall.

We thank you again for your continued support and hope that we all have a safe year.

Make safe happen!



FIRE CALLS FISCAL 2016

TYPE OF CALL	JULY - DEC	DEC - JUNE	TOTAL #
MEDICAL	62	44	106
MVC W/ INJURIES	6	6	12
CAR FIRE	2	1	3
CHIMNEY FIRE	0	3	3
STRUCTURE FIRE	1	0	1
OUTDOOR FIRE	1	1	2
WIRE OR POLE	0	0	0
FIRE CALL	0	0	0
WATER CALL	0	0	0
APPLIANCE FIRE	1	0	1
ALARM	12	4	16
FALSE	21	12	33
SEARCH	1	0	1
RESCUE	1	0	1
MISC.	5	3	8
MUTUAL AID	2	4	6
CANCELED	0	1	1
TOTAL	115	79	194

EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE

Richard Allen, Susan Bachelder, Emily Eyre, Robin Goldberg, Juliette Haas, Tom Haas, Pat Konecky, and Marj Wexler (rotating chair)

In April, we held our 8th annual Egremont Recycles Day. More than 95 volunteers scoured Egremont's 41 miles of roads to pick up roadside trash. More than 81 bags, totaling more than 744 pounds, were brought to Green Committee members for sorting and recycling. Fun finds: a 1953 twin mattress and a washing machine top! Once again, Heidi Zorn and her 4-H Bunnies redeemed the returnable bottles and cans. That evening, our thank-you pizza party at the North Firehouse was enjoyed by all volunteers who attended. Join us in April 2017 for the 9th annual event!

New this year is a permanent dumpster at the Transfer Station, thanks to a DEP grant procured by Juliette Haas, our Sustainability Coordinator, for the collection and recycling of bulky rigid plastic. A couple of 40-yard loads of BRP have already been diverted from the trash stream!

Ongoing projects include continuing to foster Egremont's relationship with Goodwill Industries. Their truck comes to the Town Hall parking lot once a month to make it easier for residents to recycle household goods, including small appliances and all computer supplies.

Household composting at the Transfer Station continues to be popular as residents who do not compost in their own backyards discover how easy it is to take their kitchen scraps when they take their trash. The result has been that much of this relatively heavy component of trash is diverted from landfills, and residents can take home the final product to enrich their gardens. We are grateful to the Highway Department for their invaluable work in turning the compost piles.

The Green Committee continues to have compostable tableware (plates, cups, utensils) available for residents to purchase for parties. We buy in bulk and sell at our cost. Call or email any of us for more information.

And finally, we enjoy providing the Eco-Tips for Egremont's Town Newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,
Marj Wexler

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Nancy DuVall, Chairman
Charles Ogden
Dr. William Rose

During FY2016, longtime members of the Board of Health Tom Carpenite and Tom Haas resigned. Their many years of service and dedication to the board and town is much appreciated and will not be forgotten.

Charles Ogden and Dr. William Rose stepped in and immediately attended various training and certification programs to understand the many statutory responsibilities local Boards of Health in the Commonwealth have.

The following is a short list of those responsibilities:

- Housing
- Hazardous waste/Solid Waste (aka: trash)
- Septage/Title 5
- Health Care and Disease Control
- Nuisance Complaints
- Food Inspections
- Drinking Water
- Tobacco Regulations

Director Juliette Haas attends to day-to-day business of the office and reports back to the full board at their twice a month meetings. Discussions at those meetings could be anything from updating local regulations, recent title 5 related field work, overview of restaurant inspections, septic upgrade plan review, or future policy direction.

Egremont is a small town and our public health work load often reflects our size. While small, the following is a list and count of permits, inspections and health related topics addressed:

- Issued 26 food permits
- Issued 24 Disposal Works Construction Permits for new or upgraded septic systems
- Witnessed 24 Title5 inspections
- Witnessed 17 perc tests
- Held annual flu clinic
- Monitored state disease surveillance data including West Nile Virus, EEE and Zika reports
- Received over \$19,000 in permit fees

In fy2016 the board discussed at great length updating Egremont's outdated tobacco regulations to address the new concerns of e-cigarettes and vaping. As a statewide effort to raise the minimum age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21 did not pass in the legislature, the Egremont Board of Health joined 130 other Boards of Health around the Commonwealth adopting a local regulation to do so.

Egremont continues to employ the services of the Berkshire Public Health Alliance. The Alliance provides our town with highly trained, experienced field inspection and public health nursing services.

Respectfully submitted,
Juliette Haas
Director

REPORT OF THE EGREMONT HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Highway Superintendent for FY 16 resigned just after the closing of the fiscal year and did not leave any substantial information to report on.

As the new, returning Highway Superintendent coming on during the beginning of FY 17, on behalf of the Highway Department, I would like to thank all those who assisted the department and continue to support us including but not limited to, the Select Board, Fire and Police Departments, Town Hall office personnel, and various contractors. Thank you all for your hard work.

Respectfully submitted,
James Noe,
Highway Superintendent



EGREMONT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Historical Commissions are an important part of every municipal government in Mass. With seven members appointed by the Board of Selectmen to whom they offer advice and counsel regarding the historic nature and value of the Town's resources and proper handling of same, the following citizens served on this commission during the year.

Susan Bachelder, Chair; Bill Wood, Vice-Chair; Margaret Cherin, Nicoll Cooper, Gregg Siter, Elliott Snyder, and Rebecca Turner

Section 106 and Chapter 254 require the MHC to review state or federally funded projects. This year under these regulations, the EHC did a preliminary review at the request of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy for plans to expand parking at the property known as Kellogg Farm. We were also engaged in review of the work proposed for the Mt. Everett Academy and the South Village School, both under Historic Preservation Restrictions, and MPPF grants. While under the direction of the MHC, the MHC encourages the participation of its local historical commissions and to that end the Commission was in close contact with Boston and a report on the status of these 3 Historic Preservation Restrictions was made to the Board of Selectmen in June of 2016.

The Commission attended all hearings and several planning board meetings to better assess proposed rezoning involving the Town's two National Register Historic Districts. Our response to the PB is on file, but we could not offer support for the proposal. This Commission has presented for review a demolition delay bylaw that is now with counsel, to be brought forward as soon as practical.

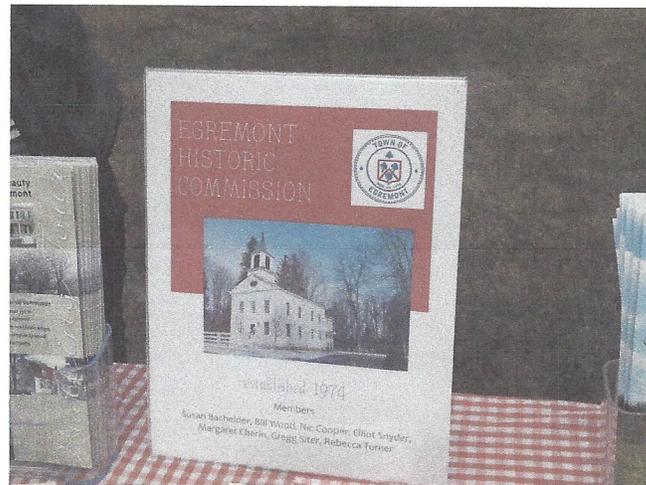
The Commission, in consultation with the Board of Selectmen, is establishing the third week end in August as a time frame for all things Egremont as we move towards the 250th anniversary on August 23rd, 1775 in eight years. We held our second annual birthday bash at the Archives with a full display of our refurbished historic materials and our town historian present to answer questions. Organized walking tours and brochures for both North and South Village are available at Town Hall, the library, and other venues throughout town. We hope that this week end will be further promoted and expanded upon next year.

The commission is also engaged in the BRPC's Healthy streets initiative since a good number of the proposals will engage both our Historic Villages, and on a broader note, healthy aging initiatives to help those who age in place, help their houses age gracefully as well. We have acquired a number of books on historic building upgrades and are encouraging our building trade to see this as an opportunity to develop a growing market, and not as an additional burden.

We wear many hats as we seek to protect this community's historic resources. While not an official part of the HC's Mission, many smaller towns such as ours find themselves also holding genealogical archives. This year we have been gifted with two substantial family files from the Crippins and the

Porters. We have also assisted in placing the working files of one of our residents, Nancy Kuntz, with Historic New England, who now hold over 1 million items reflecting the historic and cultural history of our region. Nancy was one of this country's first woman architects, having graduated in the 1950's, she designed housing for homecoming GI's, and worked on over 70 projects a year until her retirement at age 80. Her inclusion is a tribute to her work and an honor for the town.

And finally the massive project of updating our MACRIS files continues, and we have also begun the cataloguing of the North Egremont Baptist Church materials that were gifted to the Town. Once entered into the database, they will be a rich resource for students of geneology and local history.



EGREMONT FREE LIBRARY

2016

Egremont Free Library continues to offer Egremont residents and visitors a warm, welcoming community-minded place to visit. Patrons and visitors also have access to 24/7 high speed internet. EFL purchased new chairs for those who wish to sit inside and work on their laptops/devices. There are also two library computers available. A cozy “nook” area with a rocking chair and comfortable reading chair are available to those who would like to enjoy some quiet time while visiting.

Lesliann hosted several successful game nights throughout the year. EFL also hosted a few “color me calm” nights. Coloring for adults offered some stress relief! In 2016, EFL added several new puzzles, toys and games for children to enjoy with their family. Comfortable “back jack” chairs are available in the children’s area to sit and read books or play. EFL’s Lego collection is a popular draw for Egremont children and visitors.

Egremont Free Library also has an iPad, which can be used for a variety of purposes. The iPad is available for patrons during library hours. Lesliann regularly helps several patrons download audio and ebooks via C/W MARS digital library and Boston Public Library onto their personal devices. She has helped patrons on several devices including Kindles, Nooks, iPads, iPhones and Kobos.

EFL offers museum passes to several area cultural attractions, which have been widely used by patrons. Passes to Norman Rockwell Museum, Chesterwood, The Clark Museum, Berkshire Museum, Hancock Shaker Village, and Mass MoCA are available seasonally and throughout the year.

Membership to the Central Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing C/W MARS network has brought new patrons to Egremont Free Library. Egremont home owners who frequent other area libraries discovered EFL offers many “in demand” books and DVDs. As a reminder, with membership to C/W MARS, patrons may order items online and have them sent to EFL’s location rather than sending them to Sheffield or Great Barrington. As always, Lesliann is happy to order books for patrons if they would rather order interlibrary loan books at the library rather than online. Also, patrons may now order audio books and e-books on their devices via C/W MARS. Another huge benefit is the ability to return books from other libraries to EFL’s drop box outside the library. For example, if you have items from Mason Library and you would rather not fight the traffic in Great Barrington, you may drop your items in the “drop box” at EFL located at 1 Buttonball Lane in South Egremont. The items are checked in at EFL and delivered to Mason Library.

All are welcome to visit Egremont Free Library during library hours on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Francine Groener
Library Trustee Chair
Margaret Muskrat
Keila Sheldon
Lesliann Furcht
Director, Egremont Free Library



(This painting of the Jug End Valley hangs in the Library)

PLANNING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

Personnel: Helen Krancer, Chair; Don Pulfer, Vice Chair; Mark Holmes, Clerk; Lucinda Vermeulen, Treasurer; Gregory Cherin, Representative to Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

Bylaw Work on Proposed Village and Rural Districts: The Board continued to work diligently to create separate zoning districts out of our town's one General District as the basis for new zoning which will reflect the uniqueness and needs of each area of our town. They are the North Village District, South Village District and the Rural District. In addition to reviewing and resetting boundaries for each district, the board developed new Intensity Regulations for the two proposed village districts, but decided not change anything in the Rural District for the time being. The Board discussed and set proposed driveway and common driveway setbacks, and proposed building footprint size limits for commercial buildings in the village and rural districts. In addition, the Board decided to reformat and reorganize the paragraphs of language of the Bylaw's Uses into chart form. All these proposed bylaw changes, along with maps, were presented to Egremont citizens as warrant articles in an information meeting on Saturday, June 11.

Divisions of Land: The Board reviewed and approved nine applications for Form A land divisions.

Special Permits: On September 19, 2015, the Board held a final continued hearing on the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Special Permit Amendment to build a large parking lot with two bus turn-arounds. The ATC withdrew its application without prejudice saying it would work with citizens to create a new parking plan.

Common Driveway Permit: The Board received two applications for common driveways.

Selectmen's Ad Hoc Committee: The Board participated in the Committee's work to create an Outdoor Recreation bylaw.

Miscellaneous:

The Board applied for, but did not receive, a BRPC DLTA grant for assistance to research and write Corridor Protection Zoning.

The Board consulted with citizens seeking information about the town's zoning bylaw, about land divisions, and about special permits.

The Board sought advice of town counsel when needed.

The Board submitted articles for the town newsletter.

The Board attended Berkshire Regional Planning Commission meetings and educational sessions.

Annual Report of the Egremont Police Department

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Egremont:

The following is the annual report of activities for the Egremont Police Department for fiscal year 2016.

Nationally it has been a very difficult year for police and we continue to strive for excellent interaction with the community to build public trust in law enforcement. Our mission is "to protect and serve"; my door will always be open to meet with anyone who has concerns, or ideas to improve the connection with our community.

It is my pleasure to report that we have had a safe and rewarding year at the Egremont Police Department. In March, we were fortunate enough to send one of our own, Kyle Kemp, to the full-time police academy. Officer Kemp graduated winning the award of "top shot". In June, Chief Brian Shaw prepared for retirement; we thank him for his years of service and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

To start the fiscal year in July, we once again had the opportunity to help the Sheffield Police Department with their annual Kops and Kids camp. Approximately sixty 5th and 6th graders attended the week long camp, which included: high and low ropes courses, team building exercises, and multiple special guests, such as the Massachusetts State Police Air Wing with their helicopter. This is a wonderful annual event and the Egremont Police have been fortunate to be able to contribute for several years.

In September we took delivery of a new police cruiser; we would like to thank everyone who came out in support of the Egremont Police and continue to provide us with the proper equipment to provide the best service possible. The cruiser we replaced has been retired and now is used as a backup cruiser and by multiple town departments in an emergency management capacity. In November we put our new Tasers into service. I'm pleased to report we have not had to use them. We will continue to use the 'ghost patrol' and this again will be a fair warning as this cruiser is still used for active traffic and speed control.



New cruiser on Baldwin Hill

All officers attended 40 hours of in-service training, which included: fair and impartial policing, defensive tactics, CPR/first responder, eyewitness identification and legal updates. Some officers attended specialized training, such as: Smith & Wesson M&P15 Armor, Taser instructor, Glock Armor and firearms legal updates.

I would like to thank Officers Hans Carlson, Kyle Kemp, Joseph Pravia, Theodore Crosby, Matthew Sutton, Jennifer Brown, William Minacci, Lucas Perry, Robert Hungate and Michael Rossi for their unwavering dedication to this department and our town. We can all sleep a little better at night knowing we have such a fantastic group of men and women who will be there in a moment's notice if needed.

Please see the attached for the fiscal year 2016 activities for the Egremont Police Department.

Respectfully,

Chief Tyler A. Race



EGREMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT JULY 2015 - JUNE 2016

CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS/ INVESTIGATIONS

017- 209A MATTERS	164 - INFORMATION
000- ABUSE	002- LANDLORD/TENANT DISPUTE
024 - ADMINISTRATIVE	002- LARCENY IN A BUILDING
170- ALARMS & FIRE ALARMS	000- LARCENY BY CHECK
003 - ALCOHOL OFFENSE	000- LARCENY OVER \$250
090- ANIMAL	000- LARCENY UNDER \$250
010- ANNOY. & HARASSING PHONE CALLS	010- LOCKOUT
041- ARREST: SUMMONS & CUSTODIAL	010 - MASS CHIEF OF POLICE
000- ARSON	082- MEDICAL EMERGENCY/911
003- ASSAULT	007- MENTAL HEALTH
001- ASSAULT & BATTERY	004- MISSING PERSON
080- ASSIST CITIZEN	081- MVC/REPORTS
180- ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	642- MV STOPS
094- ASSIST OTHER POLICE DEPARTMENT	010- NO TRESPASS ORDER
000- BAD CHECKS	015- NOISE COMPLAINT
001 - BOMB SCACE	063 - OFFENSE REPORTS
063- BOLO (BE ON THE LOOKOUT)	002- OPEN DOOR
008- BREAKING & ENTERING	001- PARKING COMPLAINT
070 - BUILDING CHECKS	1058 - PATROL
037- BUILDING PERMIT	006 - POWER OUTAGE
003- BURGLARY	019- PROPERTY RETURN
042- CALLS RECEIVED/COMPLAINTS	620 - RADAR
092- CONTINUED INVESTIGATION	012- ROAD/TRAFFIC COMPLAINT
028- CJIS/LEAPS	011 - RETURNED CALL
075 - COURT	005 - REFER TO OTHER DEPT.
057 - COMPLAINTS	045 - REPORTS POLICE
055- CRUISER	002 - RX DROP OFF
001- DEATH NOTIFICATION	006- SCAM
004- DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY	000- SCHOOL CROSSING
122- DETAILS	023- SERVE SUMMONS
025- DISABLED MV	001- SEXUAL OFFENSE
011- DISTURBANCE	006 - SEXUAL ANNUAL REGISTRATION
009- DOMESTIC	001- SYSTEM TROUBLE
000- DRUG INVESTIGATION	042- SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
003- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	017- SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE
008 - EVENT INFORMATION	053- TRAFFIC CONTROL
033- EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	008- TRAINING
004- FINGERPRINTS	003 - TRANSPORT PRISONER
023- FIRE	021- TREE DOWN
023- FIREARMS	085- UNATTENDED MV
049- FOLLOW UP/INVESTS	000- UNATTENDED DEATH
019- FOUND PROPERTY	003- UNWANTED PERSON
002 - FRAUD	003 - VANDALISM
006- GUNSHOTS	002- WARRANT
000- HAZMAT	036- WELFARE CHECK
045- HOUSE CHECK/VACANT	006- WIRES DOWN
016- HUNTING COMPLAINT	
001- ILLEGAL DUMPING	
015 - 911 HANG UPS	4852- TOTAL CALLS

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen wish to extend our deepest thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers who serve on town boards and committees. Some are elected and some are appointed, but all serve as volunteers providing services to our town and make it a great place to live in Berkshire County. Thank you also to our Fire and Police who also give their all to Egremont and contribute the safety and well-being of our great community.

Police Chief Brian Shaw announced he was retiring on July 15, 2016 after serving as our Chief for three years. Chief Shaw did a great job in transitioning and leading Egremont's Police Department through a difficult period. We all thank him for his professionalism, dedication, and hard work. A search committee was currently screening applicants for this vital position as the year closed.

Buildings and Grounds Superintendent Nick Ball announced he would be retiring after 27 years of service to Egremont. His last day of work was July 22, 2016. His dedication to the job has been greatly appreciated by all. Nick is the one who has kept our town buildings and grounds, and French Park in such good shape over the years.

Egremont is one of 6 towns chosen by MBI as a first round group to begin the process to bring broadband to our community. Make ready work should begin this summer and service should be available in 24 to 30 months. Please read the Technology Committee article for more details.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission awarded the Town \$50,000 for work needing to be done at the South Egremont School. The town's application was for \$100,000. We are quite thankful for the \$50,000, but this will require us to rethink our plans for the work to be done.

Margaret "Peg" Muskrat retired on March 31, 2016 after 33 years of service as Egremont's Town Clerk. Juliette Haas replaced Peg as our Town Clerk. A huge thank you to Peg for you many years of dedicated service.

Clearly, the town saw a changing of the guard. Some sadly and some riding off into the sunset to enjoy retirement. We encourage all Egremont residents to volunteer to participate in our community and town government. If you are interested, please contact the Town Hall to express your interest and ask questions about volunteering within the town in an appointed office or as an elected board member.

At its February 8 meeting, the Board of Selectmen authorized remote participation as per the Open Meeting Law (OML). Please ensure that you have read the Attorney General's Open Meeting Law Guide

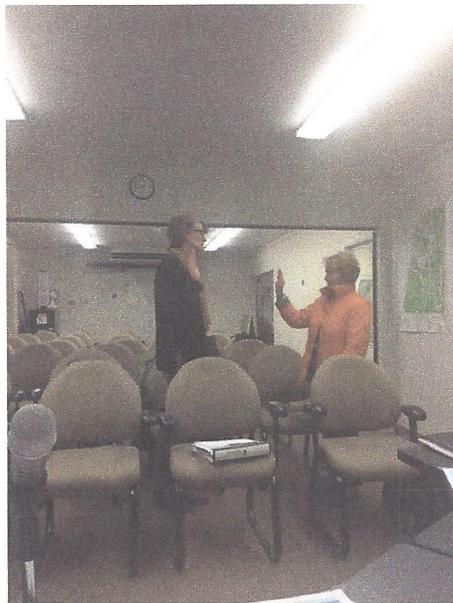
There continues to be issues regarding the School Budget. The Board of Selectmen as well as the Finance Committee closely monitored the process. It is clear the SBRSD School

Committee exercised very poor civic leadership and collaboration throughout this process to the detriment of our School itself, the children whom they were elected to govern as a committee, and the communities whom they serve.

The Engineering plans and approval process through the Commonwealth for the rebuild of the Mt. Washington bridge is finally completed. Bids were solicited during the summer with an anticipated fall construction start date.

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 3rd at 7:00 PM at the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Campus.

Board of Selectmen
Charles B. Flynn, Chairman
Bruce C. Turner, Vice-Chairman
Mary A. Brazie



(Former Town Clerk Margaret Muskrat
Swearing in new Town Clerk Juliette Haas)

SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

In January 2016 the town officially became a Green Community. This achievement was years in the making and involved creating an energy use baseline for all town buildings, creating a by-law for a potential solar installation on town property and submitting numerous reports and applications to the state. What the town got out of all this work was a clear plan for energy saving measures as well as a very nice grant award of \$138,570 to implement these energy savings measures in the near future. Hooray for the Town of Egremont for demonstrating their continued resolve to use less energy through conservation and efficiency.

In June of 2016 a new waste diversion program was initiated at the Egremont Transfer Station. Thanks to a \$5500 grant from MassDEP to purchase a 40 yard dumpster, the town now collects materials known as Bulky Rigid Plastics (BRPs). So instead of things like plastic lawn furniture, plant pots, kiddie pools, plastic crates and buckets going into the trash, they are separated and recycled. Egremont continues to be a town which takes its trash reduction and recycling very, very seriously.

The 11 kwh photovoltaic solar array at the Water Department has been up and running since October of 2015. This coupled with a float control switch that turns off the pumps on the water holding tanks when no water is needed has been responsible for the Water Department receiving considerably lower electric bills. This means costs savings to all as well as the comfort in knowing Egremont is doing what we can to lower the town's carbon footprint and work towards reducing the impacts of climate change.

Respectfully submitted,

Juliette Haas

