

## REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

In March of 2016 long-time Town Clerk Margaret "Peggy" Muskrat stepped down from her position. During her 33 year tenure Peggy issued countless birth certificates, marriage licenses, dog licenses, keep the record of hundreds of Town Meetings, swore in hundreds if not thousands of town officials, certified countless town budgets and officiated more elections than you can imagine. Her knowledge, professionalism and grace through it all generated a sense of trust our community that will live on for many years to come. Thank you Peggy!

Juliette Haas was temporarily appointed by the Board of Selectman in March and elected to the position in May. She quickly realized those were big shoes to fill and there was much to learn. Vital records, including birth and death, are managed through a state software program. Dog licenses have their own software program. And most importantly, elections and voter registration, which is under the Secretary of State's guidance, has another software program to follow.

Egremont vital records including births, deaths, marriage go back to 1847. The renewed interest in genealogy has brought many people into the Town Clerk's office investigating family records. There is a great feeling of satisfaction when a record search successfully finds a great, great, great grandfather.

The calendar year of 2016 could be summed up with the following...elections, Elections, ELECTIONS. There were four in all - two primaries, one local election and of course the Presidential Election in November. In an effort to make voting more assessable, for the first time Early Voting was enacted statewide for the November election. Early Voting is prescribed by the state so there were many trainings to attend to ensure both adherence to state guidelines and smooth elections. Now in addition to Absentee Voting voters have the option of also voting early in prescribed hours at Town Hall.

For the first time in our history, the total number of registered voters went above 1000. We still vote on paper ballots which are fed into a wooden ballot box. Our election officers work long after the polls are closed hand counting those paper ballots, sometimes making for a very, very long day. When you come to vote in Egremont there is a sense of community. Technology may change in the future as we continue to grow, but our friendliness at the polling centers will always remain.

Respectfully submitted,

Juliette Haas



## REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK

The Town thanks Margaret "Peggy" Muskrat for her 33 years of service as Town Clerk. She was there at every town meeting, signed off on every Special Permit, submitted new by-laws to the Attorney General, registered every birth, death and marriage, certified every election and did it with knowledge, skill and grace.

### **Births July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016**

July 2, 2015	Olivia Ann Carpenter, daughter of Jasmine Boucher Carpenter and Kenneth Michael Ortiz
October 21, 2015	Owen Patrick Kelly, son of Danile Jordan Kelly and Jared Kelly
February 12, 2016	James Thomas Sierau, son of Amanda Leigh Dunham and Paul Ferdinand Benjamin Sierau
May 27, 2016	Annabelle Mae Race, daughter of Angela Mae Race and Tyler Alan Race

### **Marriages July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016**

September 19, 2015	Elyse Alexa Vautrin and Trent Robert Rivers both of Egremont
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### **Deaths July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016**

July 1, 2016	Harriet Rothstein
August 11, 2015	Jean Choquette
August 23, 2015	Norman H. Herber
August 25, 2015	Elizabeth Williams Fenn
November 4, 2015	Roland Brewer Wheeler
November 5, 2015	Barbara Greene
November 12, 2015	Richard Irwin Goodkind
November 17, 2015	Hannah W. Agar
February 7, 2016	Thomas C. Haas
March 1, 2016	Stanley L. Lane
April 2, 2016	Raymond J. Choquette
April 5, 2016	Vivian A. Farnum
May 26, 2016	Florence M. Jones

EGREMONT TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
for FY 2016

The Egremont Technology Committee was formed by vote of the Select Board in August 2015 for the purpose of determining options, evaluating proposals, and recommending solutions to meet the high speed broadband networking needs of the Town. Original volunteer members of the committee are Egremont residents Charles Flynn (chair), Jeffrey Lazarus, Eric Swanson, Jonathan Taylor, John Wells, and Marj Wexler. Mark Roggen was appointed to the committee in spring 2016.

For several years before formation of the committee, the Town had engaged in significant broadband planning work, primarily through its participation in WiredWest, a consortium of western Massachusetts towns investigating a regional approach. Notable accomplishments in those earlier years were the 2011 establishment of the Egremont Municipal Light plant (organizational structure required by Massachusetts law for a town to operate a municipal broadband network), and the vote at the 2015 annual Town Meeting to authorize \$2,940,000 borrowing for design and construction of a broadband network.

In summer 2015 the Town received two unsolicited proposals from private companies to build and operate private broadband networks in the Town. These proposals were the catalyst for formation of the Technology Committee.

The committee reviewed these proposals and met with the vendors during fall 2015. In the end, the committee recommended that the Town dismiss these proposals. The primary concerns at that time were that private ownership of the physical network infrastructure would bar the Town from borrowing funds to contribute to the cost of the network and would also dilute the Town's ability to control pricing and service levels. There was also a question as to the Town's eligibility for state grants for broadband under Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) rules in effect at the time.

Instead, the committee recommended that the Town pursue an independent approach for broadband network, similar to several other towns such as Alford, Otis, Mt. Washington, and others. Accordingly, the Town decided to issue a Request for Proposals for network design, engineering, consulting, and project management. This was to be followed by an RFP for construction, and then a final RFP for network operation and maintenance.

Through the remainder of winter and early spring 2016 the committee worked to develop the RFP, which was issued in May 2016. During this time, the committee also recommended that the Town end its participation in WiredWest. Also during this period MBI went through a major reorganization in which it got new leadership and revamped its policies and programs to support unserved towns in a more flexible, town-friendly way.

The Town received four proposals in response to the RFP. In July 2016 on recommendation of the Technology Committee, the Select Board (SB) voted to dismiss all RFP bidders and instead engage with MBI for management of the broadband project; MBI will vet and supervise contractors for pole survey, design/engineering, and construction. The Town completed the MBI

“readiness assessment” and “sustainability analysis” showing that Egremont has ample financial and organizational capacity to move forward with the project, and the Town executed pole attachment agreements with National Grid and Verizon.

In August the Town learned that a private company called FiberConnect (FC) has been quietly working to build its own fiber optic broadband network in Egremont although the company had not yet made a final decision to proceed. Their network would cover only the more densely populated areas of Town. At this writing the Town still has no final word on the status of this private network.

In September the Select Board voted to proceed with the MBI pole survey work as previously planned, rather than wait for a decision from FiberConnect, so as not to lose momentum. On recommendation of Town Counsel, the Board also decided to hire a legal adviser with specific telecom/broadband expertise. Pole survey work is underway at this writing.

Charles Flynn  
Jeff Lazarus  
Eric Swanson  
Marj Wexler  
John Wells  
Jonathan Taylor  
Mark Roggen



**REPORT OF THE TOWN TREASURER  
JULY 1, 2015 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016**

**Trust Funds**

**Expendable**

Conservation	11,182.71	
F. Boice Memorial Interest	248.08	
French Park Trust	3,609.00	
GASB 45 Retirement Fund	55,507.65	
Hillside Cemetery - PC	25,334.61	
Hillside - Sale Lots	6,840.99	
Stabilization fund	<u>453,122.10</u>	
		555,845.14

**Unexpendable**

F. Boice Memorial Principal	10,000.00	
Perpetual Care Principal	<u>61,924.02</u>	
		71,924.02

**General Funds**

1,080,529.59

**Total all Funds**

1,708,298.75

**Tax Lien Balance      \$0.00**

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Sue Funk*

**Treasurer-Tax Collector**

## REPORT OF THE EGREMONT WATER DEPARTMENT

The Egremont Water Department had an increase in actual revenue of \$16,000.00 from FY 2015. Advances in our software and billing system has resulted in more accurate reporting and billing. Town Meeting in May saw a reduction in the amount of tax levy subsidy for FY 2017 from \$64,642 to \$23,688. Operating costs have been reduced due to less pumping hours and the solar panels that were installed at the plant.

The Department has been able to reduce finished water outflows approximately 40% due to leak detection, repairs and more precise metering. Leak detection efforts continue across the entire system with the assistance of Massachusetts Rural Water Association.

Preventative maintenance is performed on meters on a regular basis; new transmitters are installed throughout the system as necessary.

Annual copper and lead testing was accomplished; no large deviations were noted. Monthly testing results are also forwarded to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Monthly water bills are generated, printed and mailed directly from the Town Hall. The Water Clerk is available weekdays during normal Town Hall hours to answer questions and provide information about the water system and billing.

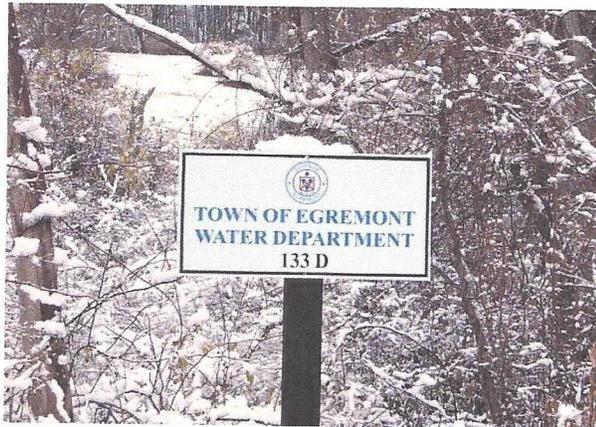
Meetings of the Commissioners are held monthly at Town Hall.

Respectively submitted:

Steve Agar  
Poly Lanoue  
Ray Palmucci

Egremont Water Commissioners

<i>Year</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Rec'd</i>
14	\$186,000	\$186,000
15	180,000	191,000
16	190,000	207,000
17	200,000	214,000 ( <i>projected</i> )





Community Driven... Community Strong

www.bcacinc.org

January 14, 2016

Town of Egremont  
Select Board  
P.O. Box 368  
Egremont, MA 01258

Dear Town of Egremont Select Board,

Please accept the following request for funding to assist BCAC in serving low income residents in the town of Egremont. The funds were used to assist residents in Egremont with emergency assistance once all other resources have been exhausted. Emergency assistance typically consists of rental payment to avoid eviction, utility payments to avoid utility shut-off, transportation to medical appointments and community food pantry services.

BCAC would like to request \$1,000 in funds from the town of Egremont to serve only residents in Egremont who request emergency assistance. Although we can not predict the demand for emergency assistance, we must prepare for the event should it arise. BCAC provided fuel assistance to 6 households in Egremont and Weatherization services to 3 households in 2015.

Berkshire Community Action Council, Inc. was established in 1966 as a private, non-profit corporation, for the purpose of promoting the well-being of low-income people in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. BCAC provides a number of services that assist low income residents of Berkshire County. These services and programs include but are not limited to fuel assistance, weatherization and utility resources, transportation, emergency assistance, housing and shelter and food pantries. BCAC continues to operate a program targeting at risk youth and an Asset Development Initiative that encourages low income participants to build capital. All these programs are designed to provide emergency assistance, prevention, support and advocacy for low income residents. BCAC is dedicated to the principle of maximum feasibility participation among low-income residents by encouraging their participation in the planning and development of initiatives that focus on reducing poverty and community development. In 2015, BCAC received and responded to over 7610 fuel assistance applicants county-wide.

Thank you,

Maggie Sheehan  
CFO/Berkshire Community Action Council, Inc.



Community Health Programs  
444 Stockbridge Road  
Gt. Barrington, MA 01230

Funds for FY 16 were used to promote the long-term health and development of over 800 youngsters through the maternal-child health services of CHP's Women, Infants, Children (WIC) program. Activities included promotion of healthy pregnancies, infant/toddler nutrition, childhood immunization, access to healthy foods, crisis intervention for families experiencing the loss of income, and assisting families in crisis to access all the community resources they need. CHP's WIC and family programs provide a safety net for families and ensure that the families of Egremont and all the surrounding towns in the South Berkshire area have the support they need to ensure that the youngest of the town's citizens can develop to their fullest potential.

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip B Morrison  
CFO

# Your Donations to *The Eagle Fund* Make A Difference

Our long-established, strong education enrichment fund allows SBRSD educators and community the opportunity to expand beyond the district's curriculum to offer engaging, exciting and instructive experiences on campus and beyond.

Janet's Fund supports both programs that serve a broad section of the school community and programs that benefit individual students of exceptional promise.

Each year, the Eagle and Janet's funds either partially or fully fund an impressive array of multidisciplinary programs for students from PK-12. In 2015-16, funded programs in science, technology, engineering, math, agriculture, environment, music, art, language, wellness, history and service elevate the dynamic learning environment fostered throughout the district.

Appreciation and respect for the environment are critical in our digital-centric world. Several teachers from kindergarten through high school are ensuring our students are exposed to real-world, outdoor experiences that encourage a life-long interest in the environment.

A year-long bird study and bird garden

at South Egremont School will teach students the significance and importance of birds in our environment through crafts, observation and journaling.

With the help of Janet's and Eagle Fund grants, Mt. Everett high school students will travel to the Galapagos Islands in April 2016. Students will experience one of the most significant ecological and scientifically historic sights in the world. They will follow the footsteps of Charles Darwin and get a first-hand view of where he formed his theory of evolution. Also during April break in 2016, middle school students will travel to Florida to experience the WorldStrides Habitat H2O program. Students will swim with manatees, dissect sharks, collect and identify saltwater species and snorkel in a crystal clear, spring-fed river, among other amazing aquatic explorations.

Students don't have to travel far to experience the great outdoors at the newly constructed Paul O'Brien Outdoor Classroom. A Janet's and Eagle Fund grant helped finance this multi-purpose gathering space for classes that wish to venture outdoors for science experiments, balloon launches, poetry readings, and other

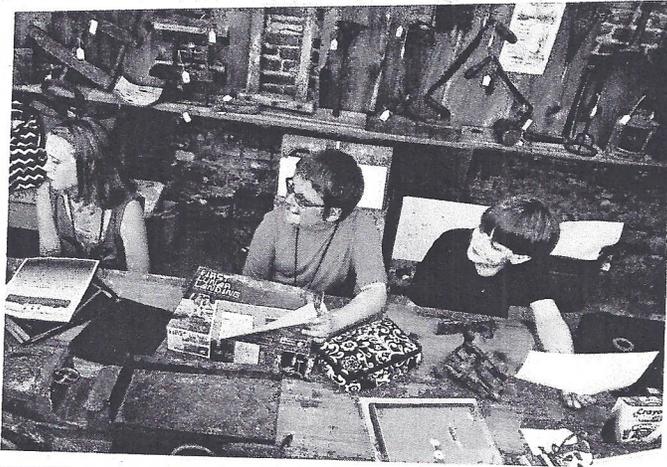
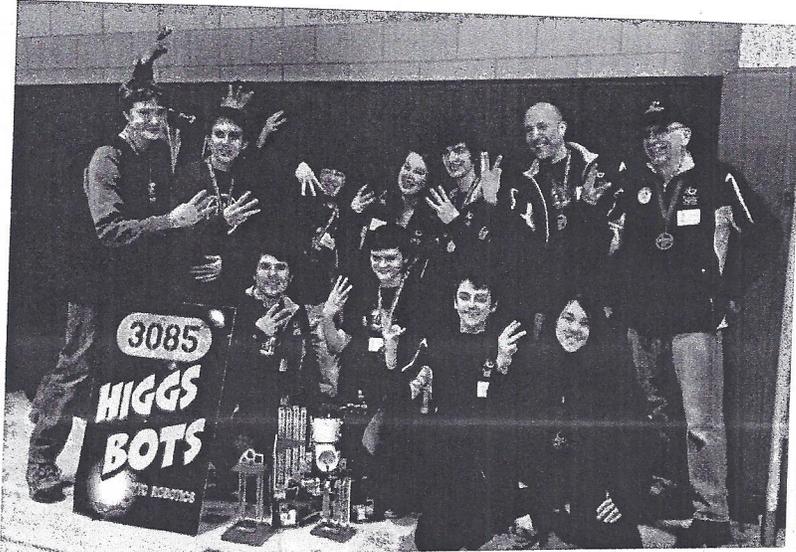
activities.

Greenagers, a local organization that engages teens and young adults in meaningful work in environmental conservation, sustainable farming and natural resource management, received a grant for high school students to apprentice for the Housatonic River Walk where they worked on trail maintenance and led group tours from April through November.

Dale Abrams, environmental scientist and educator with the Flying Cloud Institute (FCI), provided lessons in topography watersheds, trees and soils to UME students and New Marlborough Central students in grades three through six.

Our school district is fortunate to have nationally recognized teachers in music and the arts. Janet's and Eagle Fund grants have supported these areas for many years and have helped a growing number of students travel to and participate in competitions far from home. In April 2015, the music department traveled to Los Angeles, CA where they toured the city, participated in clinics with music professors, recorded music at Disney Studios and performed in an adjudicated music competition.





## 2015-2016 funded projects

Grantee/Project Name	Recommended
Mt. Everett...Man & His Environment Class	\$1,200
Mt. Everett...Galapagos & Equador Trip	\$1,000
Flying Cloud Institute...STEAM Promotes Deep Learning	\$1,500
South Egremont School...Year long bird study and bird garden	\$ 785
Paul O'Brien Outdoor Classroom Project	\$2,500
SBRSD...Crafting the Landscape	\$ 750
Performing Arts and Recreation Camp	\$1,500
Science and Math Beyond the Classroom	\$ 500
NCA Home Camp for Mount Everett Cheerleaders	\$ 500
UME...Clothing Exchange Store	\$ 500
Undermountain & South Egremont Garden Club Tool Purchase	\$ 500
UME...Garden Club	\$ 500
Mount Everett Math Team	\$ 260
NMC School Garden	\$ 750
Mt. Everett...Galapagos Islands Trip	\$3,000
National FFA Convention Trip	\$2,500
Sheffield Historical Society...History Alive!	\$1,150
Senior Citizen Lunch	\$ 900
Mt. Everett...Technology in the Classroom	\$1,000
Mount Everett Life Skills 2015	\$1,200
SBRSD...FIRST Robotics	\$2,000
Mount Everett Fitness Center	\$1,200
Mt. Everett...Habitat H2O Florida Science Trip	\$2,000
Mt. Everett...Washington DC Leadership Conference	\$ 500
<b>Total Granted</b>	<b>\$28, 195</b>

## financial summary

Beginning Balance 10/1/2014	467,445.31
<b>REVENUES</b>	
Contributions:	22,968.34
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>22,968.34</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Grants dispersed to date	(14,097.50)
Miscellaneous Expenses	(26.12)
BTCF Fee	(6,874.35)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>(20,997.97)</b>
<b>Earnings/Loss of Investment</b>	<b>2,904.48</b>
<b>Cash Balance 9/30/15</b>	<b>472,320.16</b>

\*Note: grant money is awarded once program expense occurs.  
A number of grants will be dispersed in December 2015 through May, 2016.



February 12, 2016

Town of Egremont  
Office Administrator  
171 Egremont Plain Road  
P.O. Box 368  
Egremont, MA 01258-0368

Dear Town of Egremont,

Fairview Hospital is grateful to the people of Egremont for your continuing support for our mission to provide high quality healthcare to our community. In 2015, Fairview Hospital recorded over 1800 patients registered from the town of Egremont, representing a broad range needs including emergency care, diagnostic and preventive testing, plus programs such as cardiac and pulmonary rehab, physical therapy and dialysis. The actual utilization of Fairview by the Egremont community is much greater when we incorporate our second home neighbors, tourists and guests.

In 2015, Fairview had the opportunity to work with the Egremont Fire Department and First Responders to raise the level of care beyond our walls and in your community. Egremont firefighters and first responders will now be able to administer naloxone (also known as "narcan") as well as epi-pens, expanding emergency care outside of a hospital setting in life threatening emergencies. The agreement between the Hospital and a first responder agency (not an ambulance organization) is the first of its kind in the southern Berkshires.

Although ambulance response times are remarkably quick, in life and death situations Egremont fire and hospital officials agreed there was opportunity to shorten the potential time from a 911 call to treatment. The two organizations have signed a formal agreement following an extensive process of preparation including training, obtaining MCSR licensure from the state, installing security lock boxes and developing policies and procedures with Fairview Hospital's Pharmacy Department. Dr. Alec Belman, Chief of Emergency Medicine at Fairview Hospital, will oversee the program.

Dr. Belman says "The agreement and oversight into this program is similar to our oversight with Southern Berkshire Ambulance Service. The first responders with Egremont Fire are all trained in proper use of these medications. We will evaluate the appropriate use each time the medications are administered and provide feedback to the agency to help them develop. The Egremont Fire Department is to be applauded by their community for the efforts of their membership to make this additional service possible. They have been working on this for

months and it has not been easy to jump through all the state regulatory hoops that an endeavor like this requires.”

We applaud the people in Egremont who support the advancement of healthcare in our community.

Our focus on the wellness of our community continues to expand in our outreach programming. We encourage residents of Egremont to learn about the Canyon Ranch Life Enhancement Institute and the Berkshire Partnership for Health which offers programs addressing key health priorities including fall prevention, hypertension, tobacco treatment services and pre-diabetes education. Our Nutrition team has expanded programs in helping our neighbors improve their health through better eating habits, including our Mindful Eating and Operation Better Start for children and families. We hope Egremont residents will take advantage of these opportunities to live a healthier life.

Fairview Hospital continues to receive strong quality and patient satisfaction scores when ranked with hospitals nationwide. In 2015, the awards and recognition received included: “Top Rural Hospital” Distinction from Leapfrog Group; Health Grades Outstanding Patient Experience Award; Health Grades Patient Safety Excellence Award; the American Heart Association “Get With The Guidelines” - Heart Failure Gold Achievement Award; and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid 5-star rating.

In 2016, the Fairview Fund, for which the Town Egremont has a long tradition of supporting, will continue to be a significant resource to help Fairview Hospital meet its goal to provide state-of-the-art care to our patients through investment in medical technology. Our priority list for the year ahead includes advances and upgrades in emergency, cardiac and diagnostic services. We hope the Town of Egremont will vote to support a gift of \$1,500 to The Fairview Fund again this year.

On behalf of our Medical Staff and all the patients we serve, thank you for helping us provide higher standards of care each year.

Sincerely,

Anthony Rinaldi, Executive Vice President  
Fairview Hospital

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

Board of Selectmen  
c/o Ms. Mary Brazie, Office Administrator  
Town of Egremont  
P.O. Box 368  
Egremont, MA, 01258-0368

Dear Ms Brazie and Board of Selectmen,

The Town of Egremont has been a consistent and ongoing supporter of the mission of HospiceCare in The Berkshires. On behalf of the agency, I would like to thank you for your very generous donations which enable us to expand our services and provide quality end-of-life care to all residents of Berkshire County. At this time, we would like to reinstate our request of support from the Town of Egremont in the amount of \$750.00.

HospiceCare in The Berkshires has admitted 478 patients as of October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016, including three patients on Hospice services and fifteen families receiving hospice bereavement services. Our daily census averaged at 113 people on our services. Through HospiceCare we provide family and patients with emotional support, medical care, bereavement services, and education. It is important to us that all of our patients are cared for and treated with the utmost respect and compassion.

Our agency relies on community support, such as your previous budget contributions, to allow us to fulfill our mission and sustain the level of care our patients, families, and the community expects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact me if there are any questions or a need for additional information.

Sincerely,



Jeanne M. Ryan  
Vice President of Hospice Services



## Housatonic Valley Association

150 Kent Road  
P.O. Box 28  
Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754  
860-672-6678

1383 Pleasant Street  
P.O. Box 251  
South Lee, MA 01260  
413-394-9796

19 Furnace Bank Road  
P.O. Box 315  
Wassaic, NY 12592  
845-789-1381

[www.hvatoday.org](http://www.hvatoday.org)



February 11, 2016

Mary Brazie  
Office Administrator  
Town of Egremont  
171 Egremont Plain Road  
Egremont, MA 01258-0368

Dear Ms. Brazie,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a report to the Town of Egremont highlighting the activities of the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) in your region and the benefits associated with them.

Per your suggestion, we are enclosing a report describing these programs in some detail and submitting a contract between the Town of Egremont and HVA.

HVA deeply appreciates your past support. We hope that we can continue our partnership for years to come. To that end, we ask that the town agree to support HVA's endeavors in this region with an annual gift of \$250.

Should you need anything else, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dennis Regan  
Berkshire Director

Enc. Report to Egremont  
Contract for Egremont contribution



## Housatonic Valley Association

150 Kent Road  
P.O. Box 28  
Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754  
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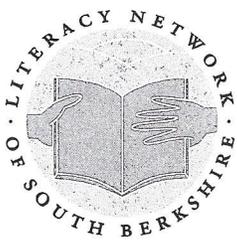
## Housatonic Valley Association Report on Activities to the Town of Egremont

February 10, 2016

The Housatonic Valley Association (HVA)'s mission is to protect the natural character and environmental health of the entire 2,000-square-mile Housatonic River Watershed, for ourselves and for our children. We partner with municipalities, sister organizations, business and community leaders, along with our members and volunteers, to conserve important conservation lands, and restore and protect waters throughout the watershed including tributaries such as the Green River and Hubbard Brook. Our work includes land and water assessments that prioritize our environmental restoration and protection projects; protecting and developing river access sites and walking and boating trails; creating classroom and field trip education programs for our region's schools; conducting adult education through public talks, publications and outdoor excursions; and community engagement in river cleanups, studies, and issue resolution.

Programs benefitting Egremont residents include:

- **Improving Stream Flow and Fish Habitat** – We have assessed nearly all of the culverts at public road/stream crossings in the watershed in Berkshire County for fish and wildlife migration capacity and stream flow. *This includes all 31 public culverts in Egremont.* This comprehensive inventory is being used to rank those culverts that need to be replaced, and provided to watershed communities to use as additional guideline when making culvert improvement and/or replacement plans.
- **Adult education: Free Public Paddling Trips** – We offer guided paddle trips on the Housatonic River in the spring, summer and fall for new and seasoned paddlers and families. These outings are promoted on our website, in the local press and through email – and we often have a waiting list. *Residents from Egremont have benefitted by joining us on paddle trips.*
- **Watershed Education for Schools:**
  - Fourth grade: We've designed programs including *What is a Watershed*, *Incredible Journey*, and *Storm Drain Awareness* to engage young students in their natural world, using classroom strategies such as hands-on watershed model demonstrations, as well as outdoor experiences to introduce children to river and watershed dynamics, and the role we all play in maintaining river health.
  - Fifth grade: We've created "teaching bins" for schools that address the fifth grade science curriculum. The bins contain teaching tools including manipulatives, literature and games that illustrate and support watershed lessons. *Our bins have already been used successfully at Under Mountain School.*
- **Stream Team River Assessment on the Green River** – *This project (pending grant funding of \$5,000) will produce an up-to-date assessment of local water quality and provide a hands-on educational opportunity for Egremont residents.* Stream Team volunteers collect and record water quality/shoreline data on the health and use of the river. Their findings guide future river conservation, cleanup and community engagement projects. Their hands-on work also fosters improved community understanding of, and stewardship for, our local waterways.



## Literacy Network of South Berkshire

100 Main Street, Lee, MA 01238

Tel: 413.243.0471 • Fax: 413.243.6754

[www.litnetsb.org](http://www.litnetsb.org) • [info@litnetsb.org](mailto:info@litnetsb.org)

February 18, 2016

Ms. Mary Brazie  
Office Administrator  
Town of Egremont  
P.O. Box 368  
Egremont, MA 01258-0368

Dear Ms. Brazie:

I would like to introduce myself as the new executive director of the Literacy Network of South Berkshire (LitNet). When I began my tenure on February 1, 2016, I was delighted to see your letter inviting LitNet to submit a request for payment of \$400, which the Town of Egremont allocated to our organization in FY2016. You may send the FY2016 contribution to the LitNet office at the above address.

As you may recall, LitNet provides fundamental educational support services to any adults who live or work in southern Berkshire County. In 2015, we served more than 100 students with free, confidential, weekly tutoring sessions hosted at local libraries, community centers, and in other public venues. We also launched a new digital initiative to complement our one-on-one tutoring efforts and give students access to online educational tools and practice exercises anytime, anywhere.

In addition to promoting the academic development of our students, we also encourage them to advance personally and professionally within the local community. For example, in 2015, one student earned her credentials as a certificated nursing assistant (CNA), another passed her driving test, a third became qualified to serve as a home health aide, and a fourth passed her U.S. citizenship exam. We recently were thrilled to learn that a student who had spent 2015 diligently studying for his TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) exam passed the test in January 2016. He intends to continue his study by enrolling in masters-level courses at the University of Massachusetts. These successes reveal how students capitalize on the language skills they practice during regular LitNet tutoring sessions in order to improve their daily lives, advance their careers, and support their families.

The need for literacy support services in the Berkshires continues to grow, and we at LitNet would be unable to continue our work without the contributions of generous organizations like the Town of Egremont. We are grateful for the town's consistent support and respectfully request that you consider including a payment of \$400 to the Literacy Network of South Berkshire in the town's 2017 budget. I have attached a short payment contract, detailing the benefits that would be available to the town in conjunction with this support.

Thank you for helping us to advance adult education in southern Berkshire County. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 413-243-0471 or [jhermanski@litnetsb.org](mailto:jhermanski@litnetsb.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer S. Hermanski  
Executive Director



July 7, 2016

Town of Egremont  
Attn: Mary Brazie  
P.O. Box 368  
South Egremont, MA 01258

*Thank You!*

**BARBARA MANRING  
PRESIDENT**

**BRIAN TOBIN  
VICE PRESIDENT**

**BEN SILBERSTEIN  
TREASURER**

**ERIK BRUUN  
CLERK**

**BRIAN ALBERG**

**DAVID BARRETT**

**SUE COHEN**

**SEAN FLYNN**

**BENNO FRIEDMAN**

**CHARLENE HOUGHTON**

**ELLEN HOUSE**

**MELISSA LYDON**

**CAREN MERCER**

**BILL RYAN**

**BARBARA SCHULMAN**

**BARBARA WATKINS**

**ANANDA TIMPANE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear Mary,

Thank you so much for the Town of Egremont's contribution of \$1,500.00 in support of Railroad Street Youth Project. Your gift makes it possible for us to continue to provide a safe and supportive environment for young people ages 14-25 to thrive and grow. Through RSYP, our constituents explore and develop ideas and projects which enrich their lives, the lives of their peers and our community as a whole.

In this past year alone, RSYP served 600-700 youth in South County with programs including the Youth Operational Board, staffed Drop-in Center, Apprenticeships, Mentoring, Jobs & Career services, Counseling, and Sexual-Health Education. Our programs provide opportunities that reach beyond the classroom, allowing participants to gain the experience and skills to think differently about their future and life choices.

Without your support for our mission of youth development and empowerment, none of this would be possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Ananda Timpane*  
Ananda Timpane  
Executive Director

*Your gift to Railroad Street Youth Project, a 501(c)3 organization, is fully deductible for income tax purposes. No goods or services were provided in return for your gift.*



PO Box 698, Great Barrington, MA 01230  
Phone (413) 528-2475 www.rsyp.org

February 19, 2016

Mary Brazie, Office Administrator  
Town of Egremont  
P.O. Box 368  
Egremont, MA 01258-0368

Dear Ms. Brazie,

Railroad Street Youth Project (RSYP) requests \$1,500 in FY2017 funding from the Town of Egremont to support youth development programming that serve the young people of South County, including residents of the Town of Egremont. These critical, interlocked programs include the Drop-in Center, the Youth Operational Board and the Youth Wellness Initiative.

The Drop-in Center is a safe, substance-free space located at 60 Bridge Street in Great Barrington where young people come together, seek support, develop ideas and connect with peers and RSYP staff. As a result of their participation at the Drop-in Center, young people often choose to seek additional support for self-identified needs.

The Youth Operational Board (YOB) nurtures innovative, youth-generated ideas. Made up of a group of 15-20 young people who meet weekly at our Drop-in Center to review youth-inspired projects and proposals submitted by community members and/or youth constituents, YOB has sponsored over 300 activities over the last few years. Under the guidance of RSYP staff, YOB has proven to be an outstanding forum for developing youth leadership skills, and informs RSYP's programmatic decision making.

Through the Youth Wellness Initiative, RSYP provides evidence-based sexual health education to local middle- and high-school students, including those enrolled at Mount Everett Regional School.

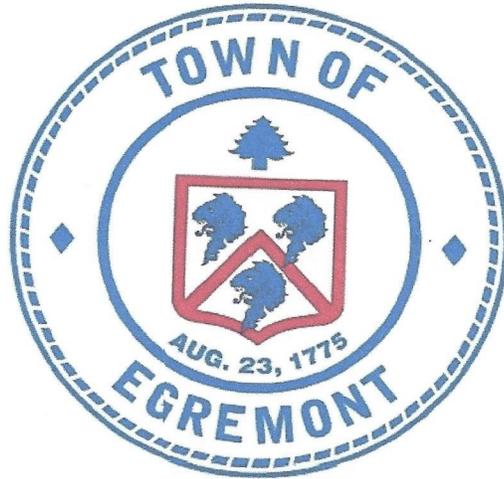
Combined, these programs help youth find their voice and realize the benefits of their commitment to themselves and their community.

Last year, the Drop-in Center saw more than 260 visits from youth, with an average of 31 per week. YOB saw a total of 92 unduplicated youth participating in a youth venture/event, a YOB meeting, or fulfilling court mandated community service hours at RSYP. Of the total youth served, we estimate that almost 3% were residents of the Town of Egremont.

Thank you for your continued support of RSYP.

Sincerely,

Ananda Timpane  
Executive Director



SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES  
SHOP EGREMONT

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