



Egremont News

Issue 87

May, 2016

Rules & Regulations of this Newsletter:

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep residents informed of what is going on in our community. It is printed on a bi-monthly basis by the Selectmen's Office Staff. Articles submitted by Town Boards are not edited by the Select Board or Office Administrator. Outside organizations are allowed to submit articles of no longer than one column length. These articles are to be factual and will not be printed if they contain any political format, forum, or communication. We welcome reader input and hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter. If you wish to receive this newsletter via email please contact town hall.

Selectmen:

The Selectmen have been working hard on the Fiscal Year 2017 budget.

The Board has also spent considerable time in negotiations with the new Highway Union and the renewal of the contract with the Police Union.

Congratulations to our Water Department for achieving excellence in the Energy Conservation category of the 2016 Public Water System Awards Program. And a huge thank you to Sustainability Coordinator Juliette Haas for leading the way in making sure that our Water Plant is energy efficient. This award is given to systems that work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing annual electric consumption, completing assessments for renewable and clean energy possibilities, and showing leadership in implementing energy-related projects in 2015. Our solar array went on line in October of 2015. Prior to that a new float control switch was installed to reduce the draw on the water pumps thus lower our electric usage

ECO-TIPS

Have a pool? Use a pool cover to reduce energy used to heat the water, and to cut the amount of replacement water needed by 30% to 50%.

TOWN MEETING & ELECTION SCHEDULE:

Town Meeting is May 3 at 7pm. The Warrant is available on the town's web page www.egremont-ma.gov or printed copies may be obtained at the Town Hall, or either of the Post Offices.

The total proposed budget is \$4,561,846.00. Down from last years

\$7,830,599.00. Last year's budget included some big ticket items that were not actually passed on in taxes, and won't be until the borrowing takes place and the town needs to make a payment, such as the School roof and furnace projects, and the Broadband bond issue, and the Mount Washington road bridge which is being funded with state highway funds, thus making last year's budget figure look very large. The amount actually raised last year was \$4,111,751. This year the proposed amount to be raised is \$4,237,930.

Town Election is May 10 from 10am to 7pm. On the ballot running for election are:

- Moderator - Thomas Gage
- Town Clerk - Juliette Haas
- Tree Warden - James Olmsted
- Selectman - Bruce Turner
Kevin Zurrin
- Library Trustee - Francine Groener
- Cemetery Commissioner - Herman
Trudeau Jr.
- Assessor - Susan Turner
- Planning Board - Lucinda Vermeulen
- Planning Board - Helen Krancer
- Associate Planning Board - Marjorie
Wexler
- Constable - James Olmsted
William Wood

There is also a question on the ballot:

"Shall the town of Egremont vote to accept the provisions of section six C of chapter forty of the General Laws, which authorizes cities and towns to appropriate money for the removal of snow and ice from private ways therein open to the public?"

ECO-TIP

Save water. Collect roof runoff in a rain barrel to use for your garden. Here's a fun site:

www.houzz.com/ideabooks/15016724/list/just-add-water-rain-barrel-magic

Transfer Station & Recycling Center:

You may have noticed the new recycling bins at the Transfer Station. The bins are for the collection of returnables which will be collected by the local 4-H club, Money Bunnies, as a fund raiser for their club projects. Please remember to rinse your bottles and cans first.

Upcoming Mini Hazardous Materials Recycling Collections will take place on Saturday, April 30 in Great Barrington, Wednesday, May 25 in Lenox, Saturday, June 25 in Great Barrington. For more information the flyer is attached or you can see it on the Town's web page at www.egremont-ma.gov or at Town Hall or the recycling center.

Do you have a question about whether an item is recyclable? Please take a minute to read the signage at the Transfer Station. The signs state very clearly what can be accepted for recycling and what cannot.

Town Clerk:

Below is a picture of our former Town Clerk Margaret Muskrat accepting a small token of the Selectboard's appreciation for her 33 years of service from Selectmen Chairman Bruce Turner. Peggy retired on March 31, 2016.



Interim Town Clerk Juliette Haas will be in the Town Clerk's Office Monday through Thursday 1pm to 3pm.

ECO-TIP

It takes 3 to 4 liters of water to create 1 liter of plastic-bottled water. Two thirds of plastic water bottles end up in landfills. Egremont has excellent tap water!

Update from the Egremont Ad Hoc Technology Committee:

We hope this community update will help to clarify where things stand on the Egremont

broadband network. Since our last update in December, we have hit a couple of bumps, explained below. But at least we're on the right road!

Bump #1: State Support for Broadband Is on Hold

Recall that back in December, a dispute erupted between WiredWest (WW) and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI). This is still up in the air, but now there is a new wrinkle: The Governor's Office has hit the "pause" button on MBI, putting a halt to all of their activities (including releasing any state funds to support broadband in western Massachusetts) while they step back to re-evaluate their strategy and policies.

Like several other towns, we feel we cannot wait. Accordingly, we are proceeding with the project on our own. See below for more specifics on what we are doing.

Bump #2: A Formal RFP Process Is Required

Our Town Counsel (Egremont's legal advisor) ruled that in order for the Town to be in compliance with Massachusetts procurement laws (MGL chapter 30B), we must follow an official, legal process (called Request for Proposals/Invitation for Bids, or "RFP"/"IFB") as prescribed by state law.

Back a year ago when most of us thought WiredWest would be the solution for our broadband networking needs, the Town did not need to be concerned with the formalities of the procurement process and all its legal requirements because the design, engineering, and construction services would have been handled by WW and MBI. Now that we are moving ahead without WW and MBI, we are required to follow the law in selecting and hiring qualified firms for these services. Accordingly, we are now developing our RFP as required.

The Egremont RFP for Broadband Design and Engineering Services

State law requires a two-step process. Step One, as voted by the Egremont Select Board, is that we must issue an RFP for design, engineering, and consulting services. One key output of the design/engineering phase is a detailed construction specification, which we would then put out to bid (IFB) as Step Two for a company to build the network and supply the electronic equipment. State law prohibits the Step One design firm from bidding on the Step Two construction project. Instead, the design firm would continue to serve as our advisor during the construction process, much as an architect helps to oversee the construction of a building.

Required design/engineering services that are being specified in our RFP include: Specifying network architecture and technology, updating Town maps and premise locations (including private roads), identifying

permitting requirements, designing optimum fiber routes, surveying utility poles, overseeing the pole and conduit licensing process, overseeing utility pole “make ready” work (performed by National Grid or Verizon, depending on pole ownership), preparing the construction bid package, specifying testing procedures, performing construction quality assurance/quality control, developing detailed project budgets, etc.

We have in hand broadband design RFPs from other Massachusetts towns and from MBI. We are using these as models for our own RFP, which greatly facilitates the process. We expect to issue the RFP in May and begin receiving responses from qualified vendors during the month that follows.

There is no denying that the formal RFP process adds time to the project and pushes the timeframe for broadband out by at least a few months. On the other hand, it is a sound process designed to get the optimum end result at a reasonable price, all the while being open and fair to all concerned. This is why it is mandated by state law. Following this procedure also helps to ensure that eventually the Town will obtain its fair share of state funding for broadband networking as passed by the Legislature in 2014.

Meanwhile, there are still some important open questions that will be answered later in the process, for example: Who will operate and maintain the network? What specific services will be offered and at what cost to subscribers? Etc.

The Technology Committee generally meets at 4:00pm on Thursday afternoons at Town Hall. All meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2016.

ECO-TIP

Our common Japanese barberry is an exotic invasive, but did you know that it also increases your yard’s tick population? www.newtown-ct.gov/Public_Documents/NewtownCT_BBoard/News%20Archive/S03747A27.0/Barberry%20Tick%20Conn%20Pwrpt.pdf

Tax Collector:

Real Estate Tax
Personal Property Tax
Motor Vehicle Excise Tax

Real Estate & Personal Property Tax – Any questions on the values that appear on your bills need to be referred to the Board of Assessor’s Office. 413-528-0182 ext 14 or assessors@egremont-ma.gov

Payments - When submitting payments please include the bottom portion of your bill(s)
 If you’re paying your bills online with your bank, please be sure to reference the bill numbers(s) and mail to: Town of Egremont, PO Box 368, South Egremont, MA 01258

Online Payments – You can make payments for real estate, personal property, excise tax, and water bills directly on our website which is www.egremont-ma.gov You will need to have your bill information at the time of making your payment.

Out of the Area – If you are not in the area to receive your bills you may email me and I will forward you a copy so it can be paid before late charges are added. Again, these can be paid on our website, www.egremont-ma.gov

My office hours are 7am-3pm Monday thru Friday. 413-528-0182 ext. 12 or email collector@egremont-ma.gov.

Egremont Free Library:

The Egremont Free Library has been a member of the Central Western Massachusetts Automated Sharing System (C/W MARS) for a year and a half (time flies) as of May, 2016. After a bumpy start, I’m happy to say that many patrons from Egremont loan items from libraries across the state. This includes hard-to-find nonfiction titles, favorite television shows or movies and fiction titles we may not have in Egremont. EFL regularly purchases the latest fiction and nonfiction, but our reach is definitely expanded considerably through C/W MARS membership. It’s a two-way benefit though! Believe it or not, our little library loans MORE books than we receive. On more than a few occasions, Egremont Free Library has had THE only book in the system that a patron across the state is looking for! It’s a win/win. As a reminder, you may drop off books/DVDs from neighboring libraries in EFL’s drop box. It’s a convenient way to return books and other library items (DVDs, etc), which are then delivered to their home libraries once I check them into the system.

Our nonfiction book club is appreciated among Egremont patrons. We’ve met and discussed the following books: *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson, *Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown, *When Books Went to War: The Stories That Helped Us Win World War II* by Molly Guptill Manning and *One Summer: America, 1927* by Bill Bryson. Our next book club meeting

will take place in late May or early June at the latest. Stay tuned!

Our next game night is Thursday, April 28 at 6:30 p.m. Game nights are a lot of fun at Egremont Free Library. Many laughs and great connections! We'll also host another Color Me Calm Night on Thursday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. We have several adult coloring books and an array of beautiful, high quality coloring pencils.

A local high school student has volunteered to offer story time for young children at the library. We're trying to determine how many children would attend story time at Egremont Free Library. Please contact me if you have children, grandchildren or know of any children that would be interested. You may call 528-1474 and leave a message or email me at EGRLibrary@egremont-ma.gov.

Our library is an integral part of the Egremont community. It's lovely to see the ongoing support from the residents, second home owners and visitors.

As always, feel free to contact me at EGRLibrary@egremont-ma.gov or 528-1474 with comments, questions, suggestions or just to connect. Library hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ECO-TIP

Don't fertilize your lawn with a product that's high in phosphorus, which most lawns don't need anyway. When phosphorus washes into lakes and rivers, it results in algae blooms. As algae die, eutrophication occurs, robbing the water of oxygen and killing fish. Look for the middle number in the 3-number code on the label. A bag of 12-0-15 contains no phosphorus.

Planning Board:

The Planning Board continues to refine and format the proposed Village and Rural Districts Bylaw and will conduct a Public Informational Meeting regarding the proposed changes to the current bylaw. The meeting is open to all and will be held May 21, 2016 at the North Egremont Fire Station at 10:00 am.

The current Bylaw includes the Large Scale, Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation (LGSPI) Overlay District and the

Medical Marijuana Overlay District and is available on the Town website.

Lucinda Vermeulen attended the Citizen Planner Training Collaborative (CPTC) Workshop and Seminar for Planning Board and ZBA members in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts held March 19th at Holy Cross College in Worcester.

Helen Krancer, Don Pulfer and Lucinda Vermeulen attended the BPRC "5th Thursday Dinner" with a presentation on "Designing for Complete Streets" by senior landscape architect Thomas Tavella. The Complete Streets program has recently been launched by MassDOT. The Planning Board is represented on the Complete Streets committee.

Board of Health:

Health agencies across the globe have been paying close attention to the worldwide public health impacts of the Zika virus (Zika). Much has been reported in the news on the topic with special attention given on how the disease could affect a pregnant woman and her unborn baby. Following is an excerpt from a Center for Disease Control (CDC) public statement and is being printed in this newsletter for informational purposes only. Please don't take this as medical advice as only a healthcare provider can do that safely.

What is Zika virus?

Zika is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito. The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week. There is no vaccine to prevent or medicine to treat Zika. Severe disease requiring hospitalization is uncommon and deaths are rare.

Mosquitoes that spread Zika are aggressive daytime biters, and live indoors and outdoors near people. They can also bite at night. The mosquitoes that spread Zika also spread dengue and chikungunya viruses.

While outbreaks of Zika have been reported in tropical Africa, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, and in the Americas in all likelihood public health officials are stating that there is a high likelihood of Zika cases occurring in the Gulf Coast region of the United States this summer.

What should I do if I have Zika?

Treat the symptoms: get plenty of rest, drink fluids to prevent dehydration, take medicines such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) to reduce fever and pain, do not take aspirin, if you are taking medicine for another medical condition, talk to your healthcare provider before taking additional medication.

Protect others:

During the first week of infection, Zika can be found in the blood and can pass from an infected person to another mosquito through mosquito bites. An infected mosquito can then spread the virus to other people. To help prevent others from getting sick, avoid mosquito bites during the first week of illness by strictly following steps to prevent mosquito bites.

See your healthcare provider if you are pregnant and develop a fever, rash, joint pain or conjunctivitis (red eyes) during a trip or within 2 weeks after traveling to a place where Zika has been reported. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider where you traveled.

Prevent mosquito bites:

Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks, stay in places with air conditioning or that use window and door screens to keep mosquitoes outside, use EPA-registered insect repellents. When used as directed, these insect repellents are proven safe and effective for pregnant and breastfeeding women (always follow the label instructions, reapply insect repellent as directed, do not spray repellent on the skin under clothing, if you are also using sunscreen, apply sunscreen before applying insect repellent). Treat clothing and gear with permethrin or buy permethrin-treated items (treated clothing remains protective after multiple washings, if treating items yourself, follow the product instructions carefully). Do **NOT** use permethrin products directly on skin. They are intended to treat clothing.

ECO-TIP

Avoid sunscreens that contain oxybenzone. The chemical is destroying coral reefs. Support efforts to remove it from sunscreens. (Google it.)

Sustainability Coordinator:

Green Communities Update:

Last February the Board of Selectmen and members of the Green Committee attended a ceremony given by officials from the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to accept the cash award of \$137,870 for Egremont's efforts in becoming a designated Green Committee. Projects are now underway to start spending those funds. Egremont's municipal buildings will undergo a full round of sealing and weatherization upgrades and attic insulation will be added to further maximize energy conservation. Two of Egremont's

buildings will have new furnaces installed. In each case the new furnaces will have higher efficiency ratings which will in turn deliver improved energy performance and savings.

Water Department Receives State Energy Conservation Award:

The Egremont Water Department was recently awarded a state Energy Conservation Award for their efforts in lowering their energy use. Electricity consumption at the Water Department has decreased close to 40% thanks to the installation of a float control switch on the main pump and a 10kWh pv solar array on the roof of the building. Congratulations Water Department!

Bulky Rigid Plastics Collection Update:

Due to the great success of two month-long collections last year of a material known as bulky rigid plastics (plastic lawn furniture, flower pots, children's toys, milk crates, etc.) a new dumpster will soon be placed at the Transfer Station for permanent full-time collection. If you have some of these items hold on to them until the new dumpster arrives. For the past three years the town's trash tonnage has steadily declined thanks to more recycling measures like these and more folks composting. Will our trash tonnage continue to decline? With your help and participation we hope so!

Water Department:

In light of recent events that have been reported in the news, the Water Commissioners feel the Town should know that the Egremont Water Department is monitored daily, along with monthly, quarterly and annual lab testing for contaminants. Most of the reported contamination in Vermont, New York and in eastern Massachusetts has been the result of industrial pollution and not naturally occurring substances. The Egremont Water Department source is the Karner Brook watershed which is located off Mount Washington Road.

Annual spring flushing will take place over the next two weeks. During the flushing you may experience a discoloration of the water in your home or business. We recommend users run the tap for five or ten minutes, preferably from the tub spout, and it will clear up. The water is safe to drink.

If you have any questions about the flushing program, or the water department in general, please contact the Egremont Water Department at 413-528-0182 extension 17.

Board of Assessors:

Please request a Change of Address Form when you want to officially change your address. These forms can be found at the Assessors' Office and on the Town's website. Thank you for your attention to this.

The charge for **Abutters Lists** that are prepared by the Assessors' Office is \$1.00 per parcel reported.

Property Inspections: The Board of Assessors, with our professional assessor consultant, will be doing an external inspection of many properties in Egremont in the coming months. A representative from our office will be visiting your property, taking pictures, and if necessary taking measurements.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Assessors' office at 528-0182, Ext. 14. Our Town Hall office hours are Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 AM to 12:00 or email us at assessors@egremont-ma.gov.

Council on Aging:

Our Council on Aging, again joined by the Mt. Washington COA, hosted two very successful events in April.

At a luncheon at the Egremont Village Inn, as part of our "Focus on the Arts", Beverly Almond's daughter, Anne Hamlin, read passages from her book: "Beverly Almond: an ageless adventurer." It was followed by a Q & A that included Beverly.



We learned how Bev went from a comfortable life in the United States to England in the midst of WWII. She was stationed in what is now known as Bletchley Park, but was a highly secret location at the time. This was a code cracking operation that intercepted many significant communications from the Nazis, and was depicted in last year's film, "The Imitation Game". The importance of this being a confidential operation was so drilled into Bev that she did not talk about it until many years later.

Bev and Anne discussed Bev's philosophy of life, which included "Five F's". For most of her life she lived by three: Faith, Family, and Friends. In more recent years she has added two others: Food and Fun. The love that our community has for Beverly was expressed by the number

of people in attendance, and the warmth that filled the room. This was a very special event.

On Sunday, April 17 we met again at the EVI, this time for "An Hour of Music". Robert Kopelson, an international piano soloist and conductor, entertained us with excerpts from Schubert, Debussy, and contemporary composers. This was followed by a meet and greet over wine and cheese donated by Domaney's Wine and Liquor.



Our exercise programs continue to be successful. We wish we could get those of you to attend who really "need" to move more. We have water wellness at Simon's Rock from 11am to 12noon, Monday, Wed., and Fri. "Strut N' Stretch" is on Tuesdays, also from 11 to 12, at Simon's Rock. This involves guided walking and stretching on the running track in the gym. Senior Fitness continues on Wednesdays at the South Egremont Congregational Church from 9:30am to 10:30am. The cost for each of these is \$3 per session.

Rachel Shaw has been busy making phone calls to seniors, wanting to identify ways in which the COA can be most helpful. She and I will be meeting with Jennifer Brown of the Egremont Police Department to review a list of people who might need special help in the event of an emergency, or otherwise. If you think you might need special help, or know someone who does, please let us know. Our police and fire departments are both called upon to act as first responders for seniors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday June 1, at noon, is our next big event. Please mark your calendars. We'll be having lunch at French Park, accompanied by a garden talk and distribution of free plants. Once again, we are grateful to the Great Barrington Bagel Shop for its catering skills. After lunch we'll be asking for program suggestions for the coming year. Special this year just before the luncheon, at 11:30am, will be the Massachusetts "Go the Distance" Challenge. We will set up a one mile course in French Park. All who walk the mile will be entered in a special lottery for prizes contributed by the state. Be on the lookout for further details.

Introduction to the iPad: Vicki Windman will again be offering her popular course, an opportunity to learn the basics of the iPad, from understanding Settings to downloading Apps. Wednesdays, July 6, 13, 20, 27 from 10 to 11 am at the Egremont Town Hall. For further information, and to register, please contact Vicki at vwindman@gmail.com. The fee is \$35 payable to the Town of Egremont.

Agricultural Commission:

Recently there was a letter to the editor in our local newspaper which stated that farmer's were getting rich off of not having to pay taxes on their property. First of all the agricultural community would like address this misconception. Farmer's do in fact pay land tax however it is valued as farm land rather than building property as that is what the property is. Personal property of our local farmer's is taxed at exactly the same rate which everyone else pays but the lands which are in a program listed as 61A or APR are again, farmland. This would include forested lands. Should lands of 61A be put up for sale there is a specific amount of prior tax which will be put back on to the property. This tax will be valued at the same rate everyone else pays. Lands which are in an APR program can never be sold to anyone except for the purpose of farming. And must stay in the original block that they were set aside for. In Actuality someone could come in and purchase all the development rights back from the state, and turn the property back to building lots but the state must agree to this and to my knowledge never has done so. Also, the contract with the state on APR property is for a total of 99 years. So someday, the lands can revert. But that is more for contractual purpose.

Is this fair? Absolutely! Imagine if you will our towns iconic Baldwin Hill. Notice... I said our town. Not the Turner Farms property, or the Proctor's or Burdsal's for they are merely stewards of the land. Yes they make a profit off the land, however, if it were taxed at the same rate as building lots, the land would have to be sold as building lots because no farm would be able to make a profit off that property.

We all benefit by open space. Holistically we are healthier from it. Monetarily our property value is higher from open space, and travel and

tourism industries benefits draw business to the area through our area being picturesque.

In closing, no farmer ever dove into agriculture to get rich. As a member of the agricultural community I found the statement in the paper to be very offensive. And my hope in this article is to clear up any misconceptions as to tax implications of our local farms and forested areas. As always we all thank you for supporting our farms.

Fire Department:

Date	Time	Call #	
/Location	/Type		
2/26/2016	2:43 PM	19	
East St. Mt. Washington			Alarm/False
3/3/2016	5:47 PM		20
Millard Rd.			Medical
3/4/2016	8:49 AM		21
Pine Crest Hill			Medical
3/4/2016	6:44 PM		22
Sheffield Rd.			Medical
3/7/2016	8:42 PM		23
Egremont Hts.			Medical
3/9/2016	12:20 PM		24
Avenue			Medical
3/13/2016	9:17 AM	25	
Sheffield Rd.			Medical
3/19/2016	10:31 AM	26	
Under Mountain Rd.			Medical
3/19/2016	9:21 PM	27	
Prospect Lake Rd.			Medical
3/22/2016	9:17 AM	28	
Hillsdale Rd			Medical
3/24/2016	10:46 AM	29	
Sheffield Rd.			Medical
3/27/2016	12:40 PM	30	
East St. Mount Washington			Brush Fire
3/29/2016	2:03 PM	31	
Egremont Hts.			Medical
3/29/2016	7:44 PM	32	
Greenwood Circle			Medical
4/1/2016	8:32 AM	33	
Creamery Rd.			Medical
4/3/2016	7:38AM	34	
Blunt Rd. & Ridge			MVA with injuries
4/3/2016	3:20 PM	35	
RT.344 Mt. Washington			Mutual aid
4/6/2016	2:42 PM	36	
Creamery Rd.			Medical
4/7/2016	10:11 AM	37	
Millard Rd.			Medical

4/8/2016 3:27 PM	38	
Ox Bow Rd.		MVA with injuries
4/12/2016 7:55 PM	39	
Hillsdale Rd.		MVA with Injuries
4/13/2016 4:16 PM	40	
Greenwood Circle		Medical
4/15/2016 6:25 PM	41	
Greenwood Circle		Medical
4/16/2016 2:12 PM	42	
Boice Rd.		Medical
4/18/2016 8:55 AM	43	
Jug End Rd.		Medical
4/19/2016 11:08 AM	44	
Blunt Rd.		Medical
4/19/2016 9:57 PM	45	
Town House Hill Rd.		MVA

Last month Deputy Chief Schneider, Lt's Keefner and Sierau and FF Colantoni spent a weekend in Stow MA attending a Flammable Gas Class.



REMINDER Burning season ends on May 1ST!!!!!!

Bev Almond:

We are delighted to inform you that the book, *Beverly Almond: An Ageless Adventurer*, the story Anne has written of her amazing mother's life, is now available to one and all. We hope that many people will enjoy it and be inspired by Beverly's experiences.

The book was published through Create Space, and is available at their e-store with the following link:

<https://www.createspace.com/5783499>.

If you are in North America and not Amazon Prime members (with free shipping benefits) we would encourage you to purchase directly from CreateSpace as we get a bit more royalty benefit without going via a "middle man".

However it is also available via Amazon.com and Amazon in Europe (saving European friends some postage costs as it's printed on demand in various countries.) The cost is \$10 or £7, or 9 Euros for the print version. Amazon will also shortly have an e-book version available on Kindle. The book is available at the Bookloft in Great Barrington and the North Egremont Country Store in North Egremont.

Friends of Prospect Lake:

Like so many areas and towns in the Northeast this year, Egremont had a highly unusual winter, much warmer than ordinary, with only one rather minor snowfall. For Prospect Lake there was only one short period when there was any ice to speak of. We had ice fishing out there only a couple of days. The ice wasn't very thick, and it didn't last long at all. (You wouldn't have caught me out there on a bet!)

Over the winter, a hugely important event occurred for the Friends of Prospect Lake (FoPL): our lake management consulting firm went through yet another business transition. When FoPL got started back in 2006, our lake management firm was Lycott. A couple of years ago, Lycott was purchased by Aquatic Control Technology or ACT. This winter ACT was in turn purchased by a lake management firm called SOLitude, a name usually shortened to just SOL. This merger, like the earlier one, has gone very smoothly, and the personnel and expertise furnished by SOL are every bit as impressive as their predecessors. FoPL has already signed a contract for the 2016 season, implementation details awaiting the first survey of the lake's condition in early spring. Happily, consolidation in the lake management field has left FoPL focused on its primary goals – keeping Prospect Lake healthy, relatively free of weeds and algae, fully available as a recreational resource, and environmentally in good shape for all to enjoy.

There are a couple of issues FoPL is concerned about that are not readily dealt with. One is the dam at the southern end of the lake. We are slowly attempting to build the funds to examine the dam's current state. Another long-term general concern is public access to the lake. Having swimmers and kayakers park on Prospect Lake Road to get into the water is not a very satisfactory solution. FoPL has assisted the town in considering better options, but none have worked out so far. Suggestions welcome.* We are definitely interested in working on this issue.

FoPL mounts its membership drive in April of each year. The 2016 drive ended with just over 70 members, a good outcome, but we would certainly welcome more. This winter's holiday cake sale did well too, selling 80+ cakes (Raging Rum was the favorite.) We have begun

work on another annual fund raiser, our August Tag Sale. Sale date is Saturday, August 20 – ideas, saleable items, and muscle all needed and welcome! *Call 528-6957.

Another date to save – July 18, the date for our General Meeting – **ALL WELCOME!**

Egremont Garden Club Plant Sale:

The Egremont Garden Club will hold their yearly Plant Sale on Saturday, May 28, from 9 AM to 2 PM at the beautiful white church in the center of South Egremont.

The sale features annuals, perennials, vegetables, and houseplants, along with delicious home-baked treats of all kinds and an intriguing boutique.

Further info at 528-4424.

South Egremont Congregational Church:

The First Congregational Church of South Egremont will hold its annual Roast Pork and Strawberry Shortcake Dinner June 18 from 5-7pm. Menu includes roast pork, mashed potatoes, carrots, applesauce, beverage and strawberry shortcake. Adults \$12 and children ages 5-10 \$5. Take-out will be available.

Coming July 23. A Wet Paint Art Auction and Artist Consignment Gallery is planned at the First Congregational Church of South Egremont on Saturday, July 23, 2016. Rain date is August 20. While the church is hoping to raise funds to paint the exterior of the church, this is also an opportunity to highlight the village as well as our local artists. Artists will gather on the church grounds and surrounding areas of the village to paint during the day. The church sanctuary and parlors will be converted to a consignment gallery. Visitors are invited to meander through the village to view the artists at work or visit the consignment gallery and add to their personal collection. The “wet” art will be available for viewing from 4:00 to 5:30pm. Auction will start at 5:30pm. Artists interested in participating in the event should contact Marcia Alves at boat37@verizon.net or 508-542-4328.

Meeting schedule:

Meeting regularly. Subject to change. Please see postings of meetings at Town Hall and the Post Offices for more detail.

This is not official.

Archives Room - First Saturday 9-noon
or by appointment

Assessors - Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am to 12noon & by
appointment

Council on Aging - Last Wednesday of each month
at 1pm. Other times as needed.

Board of Health - Monday-Thursday 7am to 12noon. Meet-
ings Thursdays as posted 10am.

Board of Selectmen - Meetings every other Monday eve-
nings 7pm. Office weekdays 7am to 3pm.

Building Inspector - Tuesday 12:30pm to 3:30pm.

Other times and inspections by appointment

Conservation Commission - Second and Fourth Thursdays
7:00pm

Finance Committee - Wednesdays 5:30pm January through
April. Other times as needed.

Library - Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 2-6pm & Saturday
9-12noon 413-528-1474

Planning Board - Second & Fourth Monday 7:30pm

School Committee: Second & Fourth Thursdays 6pm Mt.
Everett High School Library

Tax Collector: Monday - Friday 7:00am to 3:00pm

Town Clerk - Monday - Thursday 1pm to 3pm

Transfer Station - Tuesday & Thursday 8am to 1pm, Satur-
day 8am to 3pm, Sunday 12noon to 4pm

Water Department - Clerk weekdays 7am to 3pm. Meetings
second Thursday 3:00pm at Town Hall

Zoning Board of Appeals - as needed

To reach a board member or to leave a
message please call the Town Hall 528-0182.

Business listings:

In an effort to promote local small businesses, the following businesses/services located in, or near, Egremont have agreed to be listed here. If we missed asking you and you wish to be included, please send your information to the Town Hall.

Support local businesses!

Prospect Lake Park and Campground -
camping, swimming

413-528-4158 prospectlk@aol.com

www.prospectlakepark.com

Egremont residents receive a discount to access the beach.

The Inn at Sweet Water Farm - B&B
1 Prospect Lake Road
413-528-2882
www.innsweetwater.com

John Andrews' Restaurant - Restaurant
413-528-3469

Swiss Hutte Country Inn and Restaurant-
Restaurant & Lodging
413-528-6200
www.swisshutte.com

Robin's Chair Caning - Chair caning and repairs.
Robin Walther
116 Egremont Plain Road
413-528-2537
robinschaircaning@gmail.com

Howard's Antiques - Antique Lighting & Restora-
tion
413-528-1232
www.howardsantiquelighting.com

Red Barn Antiques - Antique lighting & fine metal
polishing
413-528-3230

Home - Asian Antiques & Interior Objects
195 Hillsdale Road (Route 23)
413-528-5383
www.homeasianantiques.com

41 Main Antiques Gallery - Vintage and modern
furniture, antiques, collectibles, architectural and
decorative objects.
413-528-0112
www.41mainantiques.com

Blue Rider Stables - Therapeutic Horseback
Riding
Lessons, summer programs
www.bluerider.org
413-528-5299

Green River Arabians & Pintos -
Horse Boarding, lessons, judging.
413-528-2367 arabpinto13@yahoo.com

Indian Line Farm - Community Supported Agriculture
(CSA) & Farmers Markets
413-528-8301
www.indianlinefarm.com

Ivory Pond Farm - Llamas, Yarn and Woolens. Dancing
Crane Rug Hooking Studio. Hooked rugs, lessons and
supplies.
Tom & Liz Marino
413-528-9465
www.lizmarinorughooking.com
Llamama@wildblue.net

Turner Farms Maple Syrup - Phillips Road,
open 7am to 7pm 7 days a week.
413-528-5710

B&S Gventer "Books & Ephemera" - Buy & Sell Books
<http://blaize.com/>
413-429-7467

Elfi Six Shiatsu/Acutonics®, Bodywork
413-644-9979
www.CosmicResonance.com

Peter Goldberg, Diplomat of Acupuncture
Natural alternatives For Pain Management
www.berkshirepainmanagement.com
413-281-6384

Zorn Family Chiropractic-Chiropractor
44 Main Street, South Egremont
413-528-9654
healingspiritdc@yahoo.com

Zorn Core Fitness -
Personal, Couples & Group Training
Cardio Room - \$25 per month Free 1 month cardio for
Egremont residents
46 Main Street, South Egremont
413-528-1594
www.zorncorefitness.com zornari@gmail.com

Yoga at Zorn Core Fitness, with Karin Beebe
Ashtanga Yoga & Gentle/Hatha Yoga
46 Main Street, South Egremont
413-528-0828
kbyoga@gmail.com

Old Egremont Country Store - groceries, beer,
wine, liquor, newspapers, lottery, & much more
413-528-4796

Blueberry Lane Home Design - Interior decorating
413-528-9633

Closet Collection - clothing & household
consignment shop
413-528-6236

Berkshire Veneer Company - wholesale/retail
wood veneer sales
413-644-9696

Toull Construction - Jobs large and small.
Lord St. Pierre
413-528-5548

“Jack of All Trades”-Handyman Services
Jack Buckley
413-528-1982
413-446-1982

James Olmsted - Outdoor Services & Caretaking
Field Mowing
413-528-0102
pager 413-261-2150

Ron Brazie Jr - property management/care of all
kinds
413-717-2889

Jenna Brazie - gardening/weeding
413-854-3277

L&M Lawn Services: Michael Harrigan
Mowing and lawn care. Discounts for elderly.
413-528-3866

Glen: Home repairs, property maintenance, car-
pentry.
475-434-0686

Bonnie Wells: general housekeeping, maintenance
to construction clean-up, ironing, polishing, orga-
nizing, window washing with free screen cleaning.
413-854-7417 bonbonz75@yahoo.com

Catamount Ski Area - Skiing & ropes course
413-528-1262
www.catamountski.com

Anita Schilling - Real Estate Listing & Sales
William Pitt Sotheby's
413-528-4192 or 413-626-1920
anitaschilling@gmail.com

Florence F. Browner Real Estate - Full Service
90 Creamery Road
413-528-3266 flobro@wildblue.net

Kenver Ltd - Winter Sports Equipment, Apparel & Accesso-
ries
39 Main Street
413-528-2330
www.kenverltd.com

Maple Leaf Art Gallery - Joan Mentzinger
154 Hillsdale Road, Route 23

The Agency Without Walls - Helen Krancer
Marketing Consulting and Copywriting That Get Results.
413-644-9700
helen@agencywithoutwalls.com

RJR Enterprises - Roger Meyer
Audio/Video, “Home Entertainment”
Sales-Service-Installation
413-931-1027

Cyber Knight - Matthew Wall
PC repairs - Networking - Internet
413-528-5415
Matthew.wall@yahoo.com

Dellea.biz Computer Services - Arthur Dellea
http://www.dellea.biz
413-528-1141

Berkshire Wildlife Solutions - Resolving conflicts with
nature. Eric F. Ives
Mass Problem Animal Control Agent
Consultation/Inspection, Capture, removal and exclusionary
work.
413-528-9813 413-250-5094

Brookside Quiltworks - Catherine Kane - fabric shop and
quilt gallery. 2 Sheffield Road, Egremont 413-528-0445
www.brooksidequiltworks.com

Maple Shade Enterprises: Quilts and Sewing,
much more
Sue Delmolino Ives
413-644-0229 susandelmolino@yahoo.com

Stitched by JessaLu - Jessica Meyer
Handmade bags for your "Stuff"!
www.stitchedbyjessalu.com

Berkshire Sewn - Mary Gifford
berkshiresewn@gmail.com
413-528-3040

Gregory Cherin Photography
South Egremont 1-917-991-0553
info@gregorycherin.com
www.gregorycherin.com

Berkshire South Regional Community Center
15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington MA
413-528-2810 www.berkshiresouth.org
Non-profit community organization serving 17
towns throughout the Southern Berkshires. Pro-
viding a variety of educational, recreational and
cultural programs for all ages - from early child-
hood to senior citizens - and partners with several
local organizations.

Gogel & Gogel - Law Firm
Business law & litigation
40 Main Street
413-528-2698
www.gogel-gogel.com

House To House Hauling & Recycling
Trash hauling services and roll-off containers
services. 413-528-0943

Jana Laiz: Local Author
www.crowfliespress.com
413-528-0943 www.janalaiz.com

*On the Passing of My Son Steve
By Stanley Farnum*

*When you were just a little boy
You put on grown up airs
and asked me questions all day long
about the world affairs.*

*I never called you a little boy
You were always my little man
For I knew that some how in the mystery of life
Each of us receives a plan.*

*You held true to the plan for you
and some where the planner smiles,
He even smiles when he looks at me
For he gave me an excess of years you see,
To help me through my trials.*

*And my boy, you made me proud,
So handsome tall and strong,
a decorated hero in a hard fought war
but home now where you belong.*

*And so the years sped quickly by
While you followed the paths of your plan
That took you on many exciting ways
But you were always the good strong man.*

*Now "Time" the wind that blows both hot and cold
and hurries us from youth to old,
Has called upon his minion "Fate"
To tell me it yet is not too late.*

*To let you know that I still hold
within my heart the little boy,
"Excuse me Fate" - the little man,
Who for many years yet to come
Could carry on with his excellent plan.*

*How wrong was I to think that I
Knew that plan in place,
was not to run the long long road
But would quickly end the race.*

*For oh my boy my wounded heart
Will forever make me cry
When I came to find the plan for you
Had brought your time to die.*

*How better it would seem to me,
Oh Director of the road for man,
That my life be made exchange
So you could slightly change your plan.*

*I wonder if you can always smile
At how you run your plot
when at times you cause such pain
Are you "God" - or not???*



*Town of Egremont
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South Egremont MA 01258
413-528-0182
www.egremont-ma.gov
tegrement@egremont-ma.gov*

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*"The Town of Egremont is an equal opportunity provider
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