



Egremont News

Issue 91

January, 2017

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:

For your calendar: This year's annual town meeting will be on Tuesday, May 2 at 7pm and the annual election is Tuesday, May 9 from 10am to 7pm at the North Egremont Fire Station. The deadline for articles for the annual town meeting warrant is March 15, 2017.

The Mount Washington road bridge unfortunately remains closed. There have been issues with high water levels after the heavy rains we have had. As work was able to begin again at the bridge on December 27 we are hopeful that we are only a few weeks away from reopening the Bridge. Final blacktopping of the Bridge will not take place until spring. However, a suitable cold weather substitute will be used to allow traffic to use the bridge until the weather warms.

There are a number of exceptional reports by the town's committees and boards that provide valuable information to the community.

At town meeting last year, the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommended the town disapprove the School Budget as there clearly were irregularities and expenses that were not fully explained. This year, already, there have been discussions in public meetings that suggest the School Budget could see significant increases. Most importantly, the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee will be closely monitoring the School's budget process.

The Board of Selectmen, again, want to thank all of the town's volunteers and employees for their continued exceptional service to our community.

ECO-TIP

In winter, close curtains at night to save energy. During the day, close them in rooms that don't

receive direct sunlight. Remove screens from east- and south-facing windows to let the warming sunlight in.

Technology Committee:

This update summarizes broadband network activities which have been ongoing during November and December.

Utility pole survey completed. As previously reported, MBI's contractor, Osmose Utility Services, Inc., has been surveying utility poles throughout the Town. They completed the survey in mid-December, covering more than 1,900 poles, and delivered the data to MBI. MBI is analyzing the data, and will provide a report to the Town in early January, along with an estimate of "make-ready" costs. Recall that "make-ready" refers to the process of fixing or replacing poles that lack the capacity to accommodate additional fiber optic cables in compliance with applicable codes and regulations.

Town regulations adopted. On recommendation of our outside telecommunications legal counsel, the Town is adopting regulations to help ensure that cables are installed safely and in compliance with appropriate codes and standards. These regulations are enabled by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 166, and provide that any company intending to install aerial or underground cables on or across Town rights-of-way needs to:

- Make application to the Town for a Grant of Location Permit to do so
- Comply with basic standards governing such installation
- Reimburse the Town for consultant fees if necessary to evaluate the proposed installation plan

The Consultant Fee Regulation was adopted by the Egremont Select Board on December 12, and the Grant of Location Regulation will be addressed by the Select Board at its next meeting on January 9.

New options being considered. Even as work with MBI continues for the time being, the Town is also considering alternative private sector proposals that have come to light since the decision to work with MBI last summer. The Town is looking at these alternatives because it is possible that they may provide timing and/or cost advantages.

- Matrix Design Group, Inc. made a verbal presentation to the Technology Committee in December and will submit a written proposal and plan in early January.
- Crocker Communications will make a presentation to the Technology Committee in early January.
- Fiber Connect has announced that they plan to go forward with a broadband project in Egremont, but they have not yet shared their plans with the Town.

The Town welcomes these competing private sector proposals as possible alternatives to the MBI plan. Our goal from the beginning has been to find the broadband network solution that is best for the Town in terms of:

- The shortest timeline for achieving network implementation and service
- A Town-wide network, with access for all residents who want it regardless of property location
- A reliable network with good connection speeds
- Reasonable subscriber installation fees and monthly charges
- Good value for Egremont taxpayers

Barring unforeseen developments, the Technology Committee expects to make a recommendation to the Select Board by the end of January as to whether to accept one of the new private sector proposals or to continue on our present course with MBI.

Tax Collector:

Real Estate & Personal Property Tax FY 2017 - 3rd Quarter

Real Estate & Personal Property actual tax bills have been mailed with a payment due date of February 1st, 2017. The new tax rate is \$9.34. When submitted your payment(s) please be sure to include the bottom half of your bill.

Please note: Question concerning your tax assessment MUST be directed to the Board of Assessors, 413-528-0182 ext 14 or

assessors@egremont-ma.gov

On-Line Banking: UNIPAY on line banking is a great tool for payments. Go to the Town of Egremont web site www.egremont-ma.gov and click on pay your bills on line. Follow the instructions from that point. You can use ACH or a credit card.

Office hours of the Tax Collector 7am - 3pm Monday thru Friday. 413-528-0182 ext 12 or email collector@egremont-ma.gov.

ECO-TIP

Christmas trees: Take them to the Blue Rider Stables. **BE CAREFUL: No tinsel, spray, ornaments, or hooks!!** The horses get vitamin C from the needles. From South Egremont, take Mt. Washington Rd westward, left onto Farm Lane, and then left through the gate at the top. Look for the tree-drop area.

Police Department:

Since our last report, your Police Department has been very busy! We have seen a substantial increase in arrests/criminal applications. The Department has made 20 arrests/Criminal applications in that time frame, which brings that department total to 66 so far this year. That is almost a 50 percent increase over last year. We attribute this to the trend that Police Departments all over the state and nation are also experiencing, with criminal activity and Officer Contacts on the rise. We also have seen an increase in Officer-initiated activity, which has a profound impact on the amount of arrests and criminal applications Officers are involved in.

In November, Officers executed a search warrant for an illegal firearm. The information that led to the search warrant being issued was obtained in a joint investigation between the Sheffield and Egremont Police Departments. As a result of some excellent teamwork and hard work, an illegal firearm was seized and criminal charges have been filed at Southern Berkshire District Court.

A new Portable breath test device was obtained with a grant written by Officer Carlson. The device was placed into service after Officers received operational training. The new PBT was already proved useful and is helping Officers keep the roadways safe during the busy Holiday season.

Officer Kemp volunteered to attend Field Training Officer training, and after a week long course hosted by the MPTC (Massachusetts Police Training Committee), he has returned with valuable skills and

information that will help to train future Officers and ensure that they are ready to provide the top-notch Police services that the Egremont citizens enjoy and expect. Officer Kemp joins Officer Carlson who is also an FTO, and the two will share responsibilities getting future Officers into tip-top shape! All Officers have begun their annual in-service training that is mandated by the MPTC to keep them up to date in the ever-changing world of criminal justice.

Lastly, we would like to express our sincerest thanks for all of the holiday cards, baked goods, meat and cheese baskets, fruit baskets and all of the other items that the wonderful Egremont citizens have taken the time to leave for us! Your generosity and well wishes make working the sometimes difficult holiday shifts all that much easier. We truly do appreciate all that the Town residents do for us. Thank you, we hope you have a happy and healthy new year!

ECO-TIP

Old house owners: Stop cold air leaks from entering the house via the cellar walls. Low-tech method: Tack heavy plastic sheeting to the bottom of your lowest clapboards, and weight it down with rocks or hay bales.

Fire Department:

| Date /Location | Time /Type | Call # |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------|
| 11/6/2016 Prospect Lake Rd. | 3:35 PM Medical | 161 |
| 11/6/2016 Mt. Washington Rd. | 5:59 PM Medical | 162 |
| 11/9/2016 Greenwood Cir. | 3:11 PM Medical | 163 |
| 11/12/2016 Green River Rd. Alford | 2:16 PM Structure Fire | 164 |
| 11/12/2016 Jug End Rd. | 3:54 PM Medical | 165 |
| 11/15/2016 Jug End Rd. | 10:04 AM Medical | 166 |
| 11/17/2016 Prospect Lake Rd. | 5:00 PM Medical | 167 |
| 11/20/2016 Baldwin Hill E/W | 2:53 PM Medical | 168 |
| 11/20/2016 Jug End Rd. | 6:16 PM Medical | 169 |
| 11/22/2016 | 11:11 AM | 170 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| Shun Toll Rd. 11/27/2016 | Alarm/False 11:35 AM | 171 |
| Farm Ln. 11/28/2016 | Medical 7:39 PM | 172 |
| Town House Hill Rd. 11/29/2016 | Medical 3:52 PM | 173 |
| Hillsdale Rd. 12/2/2016 | Medical 1:46 PM | 174 |
| Hillside Cemetery 12/3/2016 | Medical 4:23 PM | 175 |
| Creamery Rd. 12/5/2016 | MVC/WPI 11:40 PM | 176 |
| Blunt Rd. 12/6/2016 | Alarm/False 12:36 PM | 177 |
| Town House Hill Rd. 12/9/2016 | Alarm/CO 5:16 AM | 178 |
| Town House Hill Rd. 12/10/2016 | Alarm/CO 3:29 PM | 179 |
| Dresser Ave. Gt Barr 12/11/2016 | Structure/Fire 10:19 AM | 180 |
| Dresser Ave. Gt Barr 12/11/2016 | Structure/Fire 12:54 PM | 181 |
| Main St. 12/12/2016 | Chimney/Fire 9:32 AM | 182 |
| Fisher Ln. 12/14/2016 | Medical 9:25 AM | 183 |
| West St. Mt. Washington 12/18/2016 | Medical 11:26 AM | 184 |
| 66 Sheffield Rd. 12/19/2016 | Medical 1:22 PM | 185 |
| Boice Rd 12/24/2016 | Stove Fire 5:34 PM | 186 |
| Town House Hill Rd. 12/24/2016 | Alarm/False 10:57 PM | 187 |
| Hillsdale Rd. | Medical | |

The Department has placed the new AirPacks into service. Thank you to the taxpayers for supporting the Department on this large purchase.

Anyone interested in joining the Department may contact Town Hall for Fire Department contact info. The Department meets and trains on Tuesday evenings.

Egremont Historical Commission:

"An army marches on its stomach." Napoleon observed, as he tried to feed his troops, and offered a reward for anyone who could transport food safely. A way was found to stuff food into wine bottles and then cook it. Canning was invented. Shipping food, and of course wine, got Napoleon and his army all the way to

Egypt. When the tin can came along, the first canned food in America was Borden's condensed milk. We are after all not French, but American. With factories in Ct., our dairy farms supplied fresh milk to be canned for the Union army during the Civil War, and during both world wars Borden's and Elsie the Cow developed powdered coffee and non dairy creamer for the troops as well.

Canning and wartime efficiencies led to surplus production of meats, fish, fruits and vegetables so in 1944 the Dept. of Agriculture started a program to encourage nutrition in the schools across America by supplying surplus foods at nominal cost when a state also put funds towards hot lunches in the classroom. Egremonters, never stinting in supporting their schools, were one of the first of only 32 towns in all of Mass. to sign up for the program.

With the Berkshire Hills School Union, Egremont's first school district organized with Richmond, Alford and West Stockbridge, a dozen or so Egremont women organized the shopping, cooking, delivery and clean up of a "well planned lunch". The cooks had all earned "enviable reputations" for their cooking with their contributions to church and grange suppers with dishes like Shepherd's Pie and Porcupine Meat Balls. By 1950 these women, under the fiscal oversight of Gertrude Burdsall, would serve 4,079 lunches, and volunteer over 500 hours of service to our community and its children.

Today as in 1944, with almost the same population (1,000), and almost the same number of students (19), attending the South Egremont School, a "well planned lunch" is still part of the day thanks to the Town of Egremont's unwavering support for supplying everything needed for a top notch education, including a "well planned meal." While no longer home cooked Porcupine Meat Balls, the Town will continue to see that our "army" of students will always have what they need to fuel their future.

To learn more about the history of Egremont in the 20th century, we invite you to visit us at the Archives on the first Saturday morning of any month, or by appointment.

ECO-TIP

If you prefer not to compost your food scraps (non-meat) at home in the winter, add them to our community compost pile at the Transfer Station!

Board of Health:

2016 was a transition year for the Board of Health. Nancy DuVall and Tom Carpenite, members for 19 years and 17 years respectively, retired. Tom Haas, a BoH member for 11 years resigned in January. Together Nancy and "the two Toms" formed a cohesive, knowledgeable board which selflessly served our community well for so many years. Their service will not soon be forgotten.

The new BoH is currently comprised of three terrific people from our community who have expressed their willingness to take on the myriad of responsibilities of the board. Charles "Chuck" Ogden, the new BoH chair, is known by many in town. He is a former Selectman, Finance Committee and Green Committee member. Dr. William "Bill" Rose, a former pediatrician, has proven to be a perfect fit for the board, bringing his added knowledge of medicine. Most recently, former Egremont School Committee member Ellen Maggio was appointed. Together they bring the perfect combination of intelligence, fairness and dedication to form a solid, well-rounded board.

The BoH typically meets twice a month in publicly posted meetings to discuss and occasionally vote on matters relevant to protecting public health. The many statutory requirements that fall under the public health umbrella is varied: water protection, safe food practices in our restaurants, housing, septic system inspections and maintenance, nuisance complaints, building permit requests, tobacco regulations to list just a view.

Thank you Chuck, Bill or Ellen for your willingness to serve our community in this way.

Sustainability Coordinator:

Community Choice Power Supply

In early December 2016 the town's work towards providing residents with lower-cost electricity supply rates was finalized. Residents receiving basic service from National Grid received an announcement in the mail stating they would automatically be switched over to the town's supplier or they could "opt out" by sending back a return postcard. For those wanting to participate in the program who received their electricity from a supplier other than National Grid were instructed to call the town's aggregator Colonial Power to make the switch.

What makes this program appealing is twofold: the town was able to procure electricity at a lower rate than National Grid's basic rate *and* purchase

electricity from a 100% renewable energy source. Bravo to those who have chosen to go with the town's electricity supplier Hampshire Power. You're saving money on a reduced kilowatt rate and supporting clean, renewable energy.

Green Communities Update

Egremont became an official Green Community last year and in doing so received a large grant to be spent on future energy efficiency and conservation projects at municipal sites. Here is a quick rundown of projects completed to date:

1. LED lighting upgrades at Fire House 1 and the Highway Garage
2. Automatic lighting shut off system at the Highway Garage
3. Weatherization upgrades at seven town buildings
4. New furnaces at Fire House 1 and the Library
5. Custom storm windows on all windows at the Library

As we all know, when we use less energy we save money. This simple principal that we practice in our homes is no different than what the town is striving for. For example, when the town replaced a 25 year old furnace with a new furnace with a higher efficiency rating the town saves money on future energy costs. These savings are then passed on to the taxpayers with a reduction in the town's operational expenses.

An Energy Reduction Plan for municipal energy use was created and approved as part of the Green Communities grant application. In that plan a goal of a 20% reduction in overall energy use was detailed. How well we are meeting that goal is tracked in a way-cool energy monitoring software program called Mass Energy Insight. It will take a full calendar year to see how well the above-mentioned projects are working towards meeting that 20% reduction goal. Trends are looking good and updates will be published in future newsletters.

ECO-TIP

Windows: Check all your window-sash locks. They aren't just for security! When locked, they help keep drafts out. Keep even more drafts out with indoor storm windows by Oregon company Indow: www.indowwindows.com.

Emergency Management

If you or someone you know would like to be checked on in an emergency such as severe weather events or power outages, please let us know! You may call or email the Town Hall or the Police Department and we would be happy to check in with you if the need arises. If you would like to change or add to your contact information in the Town's Alert System, please let us know the pertinent contact numbers and email addresses.

It is important to note that during a power outage, National Grid may not be aware of your individual situation. Make sure they are aware of your loss of power by calling them at 800-322-3223. Also, please call the Egremont Police Department so they are aware of possible downed power lines, etc. They may be reached at 413-528-2160.

Board of Assessors:

Real estate tax bills will be sent out in early January, and property owners have 30 days after the issue date of the bill to apply for an abatement. The fiscal year 2017 tax rate is \$9.34 per thousand of assessed value.

The applications for Non Profits and Forms of Lists for Personal Property have been sent out. If you have a new business in town, please contact our office. We wish you all a happy and healthy New Year,

Council on Aging:

It's been a busy few months for the Egremont and Mt. Washington COAs.

Our fall programs kicked off on Oct. 5 with a High Tea at the Egremont Village Inn. We celebrated seniors from both towns, with a special emphasis on our seniors ninety years of age and older, Abbey Rubinstein and Kenneth Frye. "Smitty" Pignatelli, our Representative, was present to award our special guests their certificates for reaching this memorable milestone. High tea was celebrated with an assortment of teas, provided by Harney & Sons Tea in Millerton, along with an assortment of goodies. Chief of Police Tyler Race introduced himself and offered his departments assistance in any instance. This special occasion is one of the Council's most popular and attended events.

"Send in the Clowns" was October's event, also at the Egremont Village Inn. After a yummy lunch of sandwiches and cookies, Egremont's own Roger "the Jester" Reed presented a program. Roger is

professional clown, juggler, and jester who has performed all over the world. His program was titled "Eye, Brain, and Ball". We all got to do some juggling, under Roger's excellent instructions. A very fun afternoon.

On Sunday afternoon, Dec. 4. the Village Inn was again the location of a special program by John Hockenberry. John is a multi-award winning journalist, radio host, and writer. His program was entitled "telling a Great Story". A large crowd enjoyed his observations and insights on today's political scene.

The joint COAs Dec. 14 program featured Christina Dellea, a talented musician who specializes in pop music, especially from the 1960's, 70's, and 80's. After sandwiches and goodies, Christina entertained with her selection of great songs. We ended by all joining together in singing some of our favorite Christmas songs. A great way to get everyone in a holiday spirit.

The Jan. 4 program will again be a hands on activity. Eunice Agar, a local artist and teacher, will present a program called "Yes, You can Draw". Join us and discover your hidden artistic talents.

As always there is no charge for COA lunches and programs. Donations are always appreciated. And we are all very grateful to the Egremont Village Inn for allowing us to use their facility. We hope you will be able to join us at future events. If you need a ride, leave a message with Will at the Town Hall and we will arrange it for you.

If your COA can be of any assistance, please contact the Town Hall or any COA member.

Egremont Free Library:

Winter is a great time to visit area museums and attractions. Egremont Free Library offers passes to the following area attractions:

Museums

- **Norman Rockwell:** Pass allows admission for up to 2 individuals for \$10 per person . Children 5 and under are free.
- **Berkshire Museum: Pass allows free admission for up to 2 adults and 2 children under the age of 18. Children 3 and under are always free.**
- **Mass MoCA: Admits up to two adults for free. Children 13 and under are free.**

· **Hancock Shaker Village: Pass allows free admission for 2 adults and 2 children**

Museum Pass Policies

1. First Come, First Served... Patron must come to the library and if the museum pass is here, they may borrow it for 48 hours. Please no calling ahead to reserve.
2. Patron must return museum pass in blue envelope provided within 48 hours of borrowing pass. They should put pass in envelope and place in the Book Drop Box outside library door.
3. Only one pass may be borrowed at a time. While it's cold outside, the library is warm inside. We have a cozy rocking chair, two computer stations, a large table to work or study and backjack chairs in the children's area for kids to play with trains, Calico Critters' characters and doll house, Legos and puzzles. If you're looking for something to do with family and friends, or need some solitude, stop by Egremont Free Library. We also have complimentary hot tea, coffee and cocoa. And chocolate. Hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. We're located at 1 Buttonball Lane in South Egremont. All are welcomed!

ECO-TIP

A tightly closed damper prevents furnace-heated air from going up the chimney. If you're not using your fireplace, check out the inflatable flue plug at www.batticdoor.com.

Water Department:

Recent repairs at the Mount Washington Road Bridge interrupted service to the Town for a few hours; the Water Commission would like you to know that when repairs like this take place, all efforts are taken to minimize the inconvenience to our customers.

Did you know that a dripping faucet can waste 20 gallons of water a day? A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons a day. These leaks waste your water and your money.

Toilet Leaks are hard to detect. They are usually caused by a bad main valve, flapper valve seat, a bad flush valve, an improperly positioned float arm, or a defective overflow tube. Test your toilets by dropping a few drops of food coloring into the tank. **DO NOT FLUSH!** Wait for

15 to 20 minutes. If color appears in the bowl, then you have a leak and repairs need to be made.

Faucet Leaks are easy to find. If it drips, or worse, continues running after you shut it off, it needs to be fixed. If the dripping water is warm, it is costing you extra money! Water dripping or running from the shower head when the shower is turned firmly off, it is usually caused by bad washers or seats which need replacing. Also, check for leaks from the tub faucet when the shower is turned on. This leak will defeat the purpose of a low-flow shower head because the water you save with the low-flow device is lost from the tub faucet.

If you have any questions about water supply or billing, the Water Department Clerk is available at Town Hall Monday - Friday from 7 to 3; telephone 528-0182 ext 17.

Planning Board:

This fall the Planning Board received three new special permit applications and one new amendment to a special permit.

The first of the new special permit applications was submitted by Amanda and Jonathan Hohman for a small boarding-only dog kennel. After a hearing and a continued hearing, the Planning Board voted unanimously to grant the special permit.

The amendment to a special permit was submitted by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy for 46 regular parking spaces and two new handicapped spaces. You may remember that in 2015 the ATC applied for and then withdrew without prejudice a special permit amendment for a parking area just south of the Kellogg Center on conserved land. After consulting with the conservation community, townspeople and abutters about where the parking lot should be placed, the ATC's proposed placing the 46 spaces north of the house and office. This is the same area that Mrs Kellogg originally specified for a parking lot.

The ATC's new plan includes bioswales, an abundance of native plants and trees, and a pipe to move excess water away from the parking area and the farm house's foundation thus saving it from continued deterioration. An engineering study will determine final specifications.

After a hearing and a continuance, the Planning Board voted unanimously to grant the amendment to the special permit. We are still in the process of writing it.

The other two special permit applications were submitted by Kearsage Solar LLC for two large, commercial solar arrays. The one to be built on the Riverbend Subdivision and another parcel of land abutting the subdivision, was named "Pumpkin Hollow Solar Array". Before it could come to a public hearing, the special permit was withdrawn without prejudice by the engineers representing Kearsage due to a variety of legal issues including the fact that the one solar array that was to be part of the whole was on land owned by only one owner and the other, larger array was planned for land owned by multiple owners on two lots – one within the subdivision and one abutting the subdivision lot. This presented setback issues among other problems.

The second Kearsage Solar LLC special permit application was for a commercial solar array on farmland on McGee Road, known as "McGee Road Solar Array". Because Kearsage proposed placing this very large solar array in a residential neighborhood, 42 people came to the first public hearing. Again, due to legal issues, the engineers representing Kearsage chose to withdraw the special permit without prejudice, which the Planning Board accepted.

An important legal question has now been confirmed: The only place a commercial large scale ground-mounted solar array can be built in Egremont is in the LGSPI Overlay District.

In addition to all the special permit work, the Planning Board has begun creating a questionnaire which we plan to send to all Egremont citizens.

You are always welcome at all Planning Board Meetings. We recommend that you check the meeting postings for the date.

Your Planning Board hopes you have enjoyed happy, peaceful, safe holidays. We look forward to a productive 2017 working on your behalf.

Open House at South Egremont Church:

The First Congregational Church of South Egremont, built in 1833, needs structural and drainage work and exterior painting. An historic landmark in the South Egremont village, the members are at a crossroads as to whether to sell it to the general public for any use, to donate it to the town, or to continue as a church.

Therefore, the members are going to hold an open house March 5, 2017, from 2-4 p.m with a presentation and question and answer period starting at 2:30 p.m. This open house is for ALL townspeople to see what

level of interest there is in raising monies to save this historical structure.

The Friends of Prospect Lake (FoPL):

This past summer Prospect Lake got double attention. A survey in the spring found concentrations of tape grass and curly leaf pondweed along the western shore and at the northern and southern tips of the lake. Treatment to control these weeds took place in late May. A second survey then checked the lake again in July and found sufficient weeds to warrant a second treatment. The cost of the double work totaled \$15,000, with permits adding another \$130.

The work paid off, because the really good news was that very little Milfoil weed growth was found. Milfoil is the most difficult weed to manage, and we (gulp!) seem to have it pretty well under control. Vigilance remains the name of the game here, and “Stubborn as the weeds” is FoPL’s motto.

Very noticeable around the lake this summer was the drought we all suffered through. At one point the lake was down from its usual shore line by as much as three full feet. Lots of muck was exposed, along with accumulated debris that could now be removed – large rocks, a broken cinderblock or two, lots of long-sunken branches – some of them really big -- a few bottles and cans. In a couple of places gravel briefly showed through thinned out muck.

FoPL’s annual Tag Sale in August was a solid success, netting just over \$5,000. 2016’s membership drive has resulted in 70 members as of this writing, exactly the hoped-for target. The drive generated \$3,500 in membership dues and \$1,500 in donations. Our Holiday Cake Sale provides sweet-tooth sustenance for Thanksgiving and the December Holidays and has traditionally earned another \$1,500, with this year looking to be no exception. The generous grant of \$5,000 voted in for the lake at the annual Town Meeting rounds out the funding for FoPL to control the weeds and manage the lake’s health.

A community initiative appears to be gaining traction to address the issue of public access to the lake. FoPL definitely supports this initiative and considers it important for two reasons: (a) we want Egremonters (and others) to have an easy way to enjoy the aesthetic and recreational gem that Prospect Lake is, and (b) we want them to do so in a safe

manner. To access the lake now, many people just park on the lake side of Prospect Lake Road near its fire hydrant and the sharp turn in the road. This practice is very unsafe for walkers, drivers, and those parking. The situation is (another) accident just waiting to happen.

FoPL enthusiastically endorses this public access effort. If you are interested in the project and don’t know whom to contact regarding it, you can get in touch with Chet Delaney 528-5957, delaney.chet@gmail.com.

Meantime, and above all, enjoy the lake’s winter wonder.

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 - Third Wednesday of each month at 1pm. Other times as needed.

Board of Health - Monday–Thursday 7am to 12noon.

Meetings - Thursdays as posted 10am

Board of Selectmen - Meetings every other Monday evenings 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 - January through April. Other times as needed.

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

Planning Board - Please check web page for meeting dates.

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

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

Town Clerk - Mon-Thurs 1pm to 3pm
or by appointment

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

Water Department - Office Clerk weekdays 7am-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 & Restoration

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 -

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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,
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413-528-5710

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<http://blaize.com/>

413-429-7467

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413-644-9979

www.CosmicResonance.com

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,
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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

Glenn Gallagher: Home repairs, property
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Jenna Brazie - gardening/weeding
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413-854-7417 bonbonz75@yahoo.com

Catamount Ski Area - Skiing & ropes course
413-528-1262

www.catamountski.com

Peter Goldberg, Realtor
Residential, Commercial, Land
Stone House Realty
35 Railroad Street, Great Barrington
413-281-6384m 413-528-4211o

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 &
Accessories
39 Main Street
413-528-2330
www.kenverltd.com

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

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)
<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
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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
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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. Providing a variety of educational, recreational and cultural programs for all ages - from early childhood 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.

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

Aston Magna Music Festival
 Saturday evenings at the new Saint James Place in Great Barrington, mid-June to mid-July.
www.astonmagna.org
 Susan Obel, Executive Director

Random Thoughts
 By Stanley R. Farnum
 Written in 2003

The end of life is not death. The end of life is to be alone and lonely. In all of my days, and they are now many, I had gramp and gram, and mom and dad, and aunts and uncles and cousins and brother and all of them have spent their days and passed; and so I am alone of all my line. I had a lovely girl who laughed and loved through a long lifetime, always at my side through the very full days of sixty years. But she has passed into the oblivion of the mind and must rest her remaining days with doctors and nurses in slow passage to the dark.

I have ten surviving children and they are loving and respectful but so very busy with their own lives and the raising of their offspring that I must still walk my lonely way. To help me on this path is my much loved grand old dog "Sam". His ever loving and watchful eye catches my every mood and he understands what I say when we have our many conversations. Like all dogs he is a wonderful creation devised by some higher power to be the most faithful and caring of any creature other than humankind to inhabit our unique world; indeed moreso than much of the humanoid species.

Of course in the advance of age, loneliness is somewhat dispelled by the realization that we are not an immortal being and so we become intent on absorbing whatever possible. We come at last to really see all of nature's bountiful gifts that heretofore have only been noticed in passing through the busy days.

I sit sometimes at sunset and watch the wonder of the skies as the flaming memories of a very full and wonderful life. Memories of birth and death, war and peace, family, friends, and above all the strength of love. In the approach of our own sunset we come to finally realize that we have never really seen what wonder lies all about us. Each flower that we look upon has sudden beauty not seen before, all little children glow with a radiance that shines from innocent eyes; a lovely girl becomes a warmth within the aging heart that makes the spirit not quite so heavy. The touch of sunlight, the soft sound of evening rain, the light breeze that whispers of far places and plays among the leaves. Then across the fields and far away the rise of the mountains against a cerulean sky.

We, who have become the ancients and will soon be those who came before, now find how dear are

the friends from yesteryear who with an increasing warmth of heart will shake the hand or kiss the cheek, for we are the band of brothers and sisters that walk the path to the unknown door of forever.



Happy New Year

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