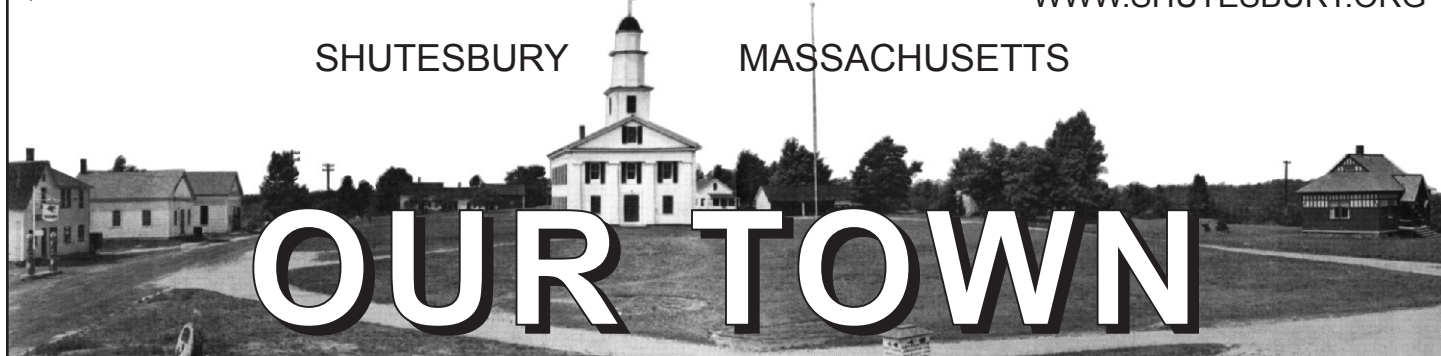


SHUTESBURY

MASSACHUSETTS



OUR TOWN

Open invitation to residents and landowners

Shutesbury Planning Board

Do you have questions about how the proposed new Zoning Bylaws could affect you? About the Town Districts or Open Space Design? Come to one of our Fall Workshops!

When: Wednesday, September 12, 7:00-9:00pm and Saturday, October 20, 9:00-11:30 am. **Where:** Downstairs at Town Hall **What to bring:** A map or sketch of your land, your own land use goals, acreage of any wetlands, water bodies, or slopes greater than 20%, information about existing easements or other legal restrictions.

Each person will get an individual review of their potential options.

OR

Contact us anytime by email: planning@shutesbury.org or call **Deacon Bonnar** at 259-1276 to:

Set up a private review at your home.

Review your options or questions at a Planning Board meeting.

Set up a review session for yourself and your friends or neighbors.

We look forward to speaking with you!

Celebrate Shutesbury and more

Rita Farrell, *Shutesbury Education Foundation*

Mark your calendars now for Celebrate Shutesbury, Saturday September 29, on the Town Common. This annual town festival features the best of Shutesbury entertainment, local food, belly dancing, bounce castle and bungee jumping, cake walk, radar gun activities and more.

It will be held from 10:00am - 3:00pm and it will kick off with a bike parade. For the first time we will welcome alpacas to the town common, and we are sure you will enjoy this lively addition.

This year we will be honoring **Harry Vernell**, a former Shutesbury resident. Harry lived here for 42 years, serving on the fire department, town boards and even raising turkeys.

We hope you can join us for the ceremony at noon honoring Harry's many contributions to the town.

Shutesbury Rocks is also a new addition to the day's festivities, so we hope you will enter this first-ever roadside rock sculpture competition. This is a unique opportunity to build some muscle and add to the public art in Shutesbury. Contest rules and an application form are available at the library, town hall and post office and we encourage all sculptors, young and old, to pick up some of those rocks in your yard and get creative! **Apply and complete your sculpture by September 15.**

And finally, we are pleased to report that SEF has supported camp activities for a few Shutesbury youngsters this year. As always, we are looking for ways to support education for one and all. So if you have ideas, please contact me ritafarrell@verizon.net or speak with any of the other SEF board members, **Dina Stander, Ron Berger, Marylise Lamet, Chris Warren, Deborah O'Brien, David Dann** or **Geoff Rogers**.

See you on the 29th!

Historical Commission hands on gold cane and hosts autumn events

We are pleased to announce that as Shutesbury' oldest resident, **Adele Menardo**, age 94, received the traditional New England gold cane honor at a May 15 Council on Aging luncheon.

Initiated in 1909 by Mr. Edwin A. Grazier, publisher of the *Boston Post*, 431 towns in New England received gold-headed ebony canes from the newspaper as a publicity measure. The towns owned the canes and

were instructed to award them to the oldest resident of the town, compliments of the newspaper. The canes were to be returned to the towns to be awarded over and over again.

Some towns, including Shutesbury, lost their original canes somewhere along the way. The Historical Commission developed substitute awards over the years. Adele received a certificate and a replica, hand-made by **Joan Hanson**, of the original Boston Post Cane.

With her daughter and other family members by her side, Adele shared the highlights of her 94 years with the many guests who attended the

luncheon.

Interested residents are invited to **join the Commission on a fall wander** down Mt. Mineral Road to its intersection with New Boston Road, where the Felton blacksmith shop, sawmill and turning mill once thrived, powered by the force of the West Branch of the Swift River.

There will be stone walls and other structures to view along the way. The pace and possible side tracks along the approximate two-mile, fairly level round trip will be set by the mood of those in attendance.

See History, continued on page 3

Messages from the Town Clerk

Leslie Bracebridge, *Town Clerk*
Joan Hanson, *Assistant Town Clerk*
Office Hours: Monday through
Thursday 9:00am - 1:00pm
Call 259-1204 for special
appointments or to leave a message.

Many people move to Shutesbury during the summer. If you are a new resident, "Welcome!" If you have a dog, it must be licensed through the Town Clerk's office, within 30 days of arrival to Shutesbury. If you have any questions about our town or our government you are invited to call this office or visit us at www.shutesbury.org.

Please feel free to call or stop in if you would like to **register to vote**. It's never too early to register for the March 2008 Presidential Primary - or for people who may have lived here longer, to check your voter registration status.

Dogs must be re-licensed within 30 days of July 1 each year. All dogs should now be wearing their purple badge-shaped tags. If you forgot to re-license, you can download a mail-in licensing form and instructions from www.shutesbury.org. You may prefer to have a licensing form sent to you by calling the Town Clerk's office, or to stop in at the Town Hall.

If you mail your form and payment in, please remember to add the \$5 late fee to the check and also please remember to enclose proof of rabies vaccination and a self-addressed stamped envelope. The rabies vaccination form will be returned to you with your dog's new license.

If your dog loses its tag part way through the license year, or if your dog models more than one fashion collar, just call us. We will provide you with additional tags for \$1 apiece.

The **Old Town Hall** will be open on September 29 during Celebrate Shutesbury. Please feel welcome to stop in and look around. We look forward to seeing you there or at our office at the current Town Hall any time.

Note from the Town Collector

Ellen McKay, *Tax Collector*

Dear Shutesbury residents,

With the fall approaching, so, too, is the mailing of the next installment of your real estate and personal property taxes. This will occur the end of September with a due date of November 1. If you have fully paid the first half bill with your first quarter payment you will not receive a bill for November.

We are pleased to enable you to pay your tax bills on-line if your computer is equipped with Windows Explorer 5.0 or higher. You can make payment either through a direct debit from your bank account or, for a fee based on the amount of the payment, a Master Card or Discover card transaction. To do this, click on the Collector's page on the Town's website and then follow the directions. You should only enter the year of the bill (ie 2008 NOT 2008 RE).

If you pay bills with a banking program, please be aware that there is a paper check generated that can take the bank over a week to mail so please plan ahead. It is also imperative that you verify the bill number identifier you are using as a memo. Your bill numbers change every year for all types of taxes and your failure to correct the bill number causes difficulty in recording your payment.

"Why is the name of the previous owner still on my real estate tax bill?" is a question we are frequently asked. Under Mass. General Laws, the name of the person who owns property on January 1 of the year in which the fiscal year begins must appear on the bill. In the case of this fiscal year (2008) that date is January 1, 2007. We highlight the "in care of" designation to make certain the bill is delivered to the new owner and not forwarded to the previous owner.

This is also the time to verify all information on your auto registration, license, and insurance documents. Your insurance company furnishes information to the Registry of Motor

Vehicles during the last quarter of the calendar year that provides the database from which your motor vehicle excise tax bills on vehicles registered on January 1 are generated. It is essential that the place of garaging and both the mailing and residential addresses are absolutely correct to insure proper and prompt delivery of your bills.

Let me remind you that any tax bill sent from this office should not be ignored, even if it is on property you no longer own. The Town is not notified if you dispose of an automobile, turn in your license plates, or dispose of personal property. You must notify the Board of Assessors by completing the appropriate abatement application form or Form of List.

If you move from Shutesbury, please leave a forwarding address and make certain you change your license and registration to indicate your new address and place of garaging. Any registration that lists Shutesbury as a place of garaging will result in an excise tax bill being sent from Shutesbury.

Remember, your unpaid excise bills from any municipality will follow you through the data base at the Registry of Motor Vehicles and its compact with other states. Unpaid bills can result in your inability to register a vehicle or renew your driver's license and registration.

Have a good autumn.

Thank you!

Our Town appreciates the folks who help stuff, fold and label this newsletter (now to be published three times a year) and other Town Hall mailings.

In April, we were joined by **Marilyn Tibbetts, Barbara Goodhind, Al Springer, Ken Hartwright, Lynda Grybko and Tracy Rogers**. Marilyn came up again to help with the special August 23 mailing!

If you'd like to join future "work parties," please call us at 259-1204 to be added to our list of people to call. We welcome your help daytime, nighttime, in your home or at Town Hall, whenever or wherever it suits you best.

A busy time ahead for improvements and repairs

David Dann, *Town Administrator*
Town Newsletter Fall 2007

In this issue I would like to focus on the wide range of activity going on regarding town-owned buildings and property. The Building Committee has been working very hard the past several years to maintain our current buildings, and to make repairs and improvements to them. As the summer is nearing an end we still have a number of months available for construction work and repairs.

The Library Access project should begin shortly. This project will provide a handicap accessibility ramp, a compost toilet, and a new parking area. At the same time, with financial assistance from the Library Trustees, we hope to make carpentry repairs to the exterior of the library and finally paint the library when everything is complete.

During the past few months the Select Board has engaged in discussion with a wide variety of committees and people on how to best preserve the church on the town common. A very significant historic building, the church is in need of significant repairs and the Select Board has asked the Building Committee to provide a rough cost estimate of the repairs in order to use the building. The Building Committee will be discussing their cost estimate with the Select Board at their September 4 meeting.

An upcoming project at Town Hall will be improving the quality of air in the main meeting room by installing a heat recovery ventilator. Future Town Hall projects include insulation, indoor painting, and repairing a roof leak and the ceiling.

Other significant capital improvement projects I am involved with include the Lake Wyola Dam repair (hopefully to be done in the fall of 2008), a new culvert for Ames Brook that will include the widening of Wendell Road, various improvements at the Highway Garage, and the reconstruction of Leverett-Coolleyville-Prescott Road. Preserving and maintaining our capital assets is very

NOTICE TO THE VOTERS OF SHUTESBURY

As required by MGL Ch. 40, § 32 notice is hereby given that amendments to the Town of Shutesbury's Zoning Bylaws approved at the May 5, 2007 annual town meeting:

* Article 11: replacement of "Rate of Development" bylaw with a revised "Rate of Development" bylaw which will limit permits to eight dwelling units per year through the calendar year 2008,

* Article 12: replacement of Section III "Telecommunications Towers" bylaw with a new Section III (H) "Wireless Communication Facilities" bylaw, and

* Article 13: an addition of a "Small Wind Energy Systems" bylaw were approved by the Office of the Attorney General on August 28, 2007.

This announcement with copies of the amendments is also posted at the Locks Pond Bulletin Board, the Town Hall, and the Shutesbury Post Office. Copies of the amendments are incorporated in the Shutesbury Zoning Bylaws available for review at the town website: www.shutesbury.org and also available in the Town Clerk's Office.

important to our Select Board, and is carefully scrutinized by our Capital Planning Committee and Finance Committee.

Another topic of equal importance is volunteerism.

Small towns like ours depend on volunteers for so many municipal functions. We have several vacancies and hope you will seriously consider volunteering your time. Current vacancies exist in the:

- * Broadband Committee
- * Conservation Commission
- * Energy Committee
- * Finance Committee
- * Fire Department
- * (Upcoming) Recreation Committee
- * (Upcoming) Open Space Committee.

Editor's note: The Recreation and Open Space Committee is about to be divided into a Recreation Committee and an Open Space Committee.

History, continued from page 1

Bring your interest in flora and fauna, industrial past, or natural or man-made stone structures and join us on Sunday, September 23.

We will meet at the Town Hall at 1:00pm and car pool to the starting point.

Should there be any question about the weather, predicted to be beautiful, or any other detail, please call **Leslie Bracebridge** by noon that

day at 259-1973.

Please join Chairwoman Barbara Goodhind at the one-room **West School Open House** at the intersection of Leverett and West Pelham Roads on Monday October 8 of Columbus Day Weekend from 1:00-3:00pm, rain or shine.

Let authentic textbooks, period maps, and school desks with inkwells help you to reminisce and learn about days gone by.

If you have **photos, documents or artifacts** that you would like to share with us, allow us to photograph or photocopy, and/or if you would be interested in joining us for meetings or helping with specific preservation tasks, please call Chairwoman Barbara Goodhind at 259-1428 or stop in at our 1:00pm meetings on the second Wednesday of the month.

Our Town, published in January, late April, and late August or early September, is supported by tax dollars. We welcome news from Town of Shutesbury departments, boards, and committees, and from individuals and groups about local projects, activities, or special events of benefit to our community. Submissions promoting the sale of goods or services for private profit cannot be accepted.

Janis S. Gray, Editor
Leslie Bracebridge, Town Hall
Liaison



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BEFORE starting a project, contact the Conservation Commission!

Penny Jaques, Randy Stone and Kevin Weir, *Conservation Commission*

Many Shutesbury homeowners have wetlands on or near their property. If you plan to do any work 1) in a wetland resource area, 2) within 100 feet of a wetland (wetland buffer zone), 3) within 200 feet of a river, or 4) any other activity that might alter wetlands or their buffer zones, you must contact the Conservation Commission before you start work. This includes the following projects:

- * Tree removal or other vegetation clearing
- * Grading or excavation
- * New landscaping
- * Construction, additions, etc.
- * Installation of new or replacement septic systems or wells.

The complexity of the approval process is commensurate with the type and scale of the activity proposed.

Minor projects such as removing a few trees may be handled by a simple approval letter, while a large construction project may require a detailed application and evaluation during one or more public hearings.

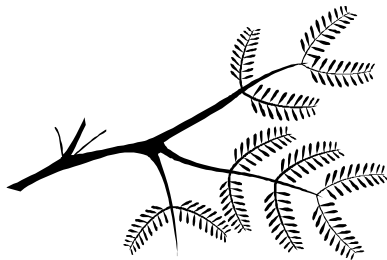
Do not assume your contractor will pull all necessary permits. If you do need approval for your project, the Conservation Commission is ready to answer your questions and help guide you through the application process.

The Conservation Commission signs off on all Building Permit Applications when any digging is required.

Before signing any application, a site visit is scheduled to determine whether the project is near a wetland.

If there are wetlands near your proposed project, you will be asked to file a Request for Determination of Applicability or a Notice of Intent before a signature is given.

This can take several weeks, so don't wait until your contractor is ready to start your project to request the commission's signature!



What are wetlands?

"Wetland resource areas" include the commonly known cattail marshes and open water ponds, also rivers that generally flow throughout the year, 200-foot riverfront areas which border rivers on both sides, intermittent streams that dry up during part of the year, low-lying flood plains and vernal (springtime) pools.

In Shutesbury, wooded wetlands and shrub wetlands are the most commonly found wetlands. These can easily be overlooked, as they may be dry part of the year. Our town wetland bylaw protects small wetlands that are not protected under the state regulations.

Wetland resource areas (except riverfront areas) are surrounded by "buffer zones" - 100 foot wide protective zones around wetlands that protect wetlands from human impacts and provide valuable wildlife habitat.

Wetland "Do's and Don'ts"

Many activities near wetland resource areas are allowed and do not require Commission approval, including:

- * Mowing an existing lawn
- * Working in an existing garden
- * Pruning and maintaining existing landscaping
- * Planting native vegetation
- * Hiking, horseback riding, and other passive recreation
- * Cleaning out culverts.

Other activities are prohibited in wetland resource areas or buffer zones and are subject to fines (some are allowed, but only with a permit):

- * Dumping yard waste such as leaves, grass, etc, or other waste products, including manure
- * Constructing animal paddocks
- * Dumping dirt or other fill
- * Draining or pumping water from a wetland, pond or stream

* Building dams or removing beaver dams.

Wetlands function best in a natural state. Do not clear them or "clean them up." Wildlife often thrives in areas with brush piles, rotting logs, and other things some people might consider "untidy."

Why are wetlands Important?

Wetland resource areas provide critical habitat to wildlife and help maintain the aesthetic beauty of our town. They also provide priceless yet "free" services, including:

- * Drinking water purification
- * Groundwater recharge
- * Flood control
- * Pollution prevention.

All Shutesbury residents benefit from these services because of our reliance on natural settings for property values, wells for drinking water, and septic systems for waste disposal.

To contact the Conservation Commission:

* Leave a message at 259-2123, extension 2.

* Visit Town Hall during the office hours of **Linda Scott**, Conservation Commission Clerk (Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am - noon)

* Come to one of our meetings (from March to October, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7:00pm and from November to February, on the 2nd Thursdays).

The Shutesbury Conservation Commission is a five-member volunteer group, appointed by the Select Board, and charged with implementing the Wetland Protection Act (G.L. Ch. 131 §40), Shutesbury's General Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the accompanying regulations.

The commission wants to help property owners proceed with their projects while simultaneously protecting the valuable wetland resources that benefit all of us.

Thanks to the Boxford Conservation Commission for compiling much of the information in this article.

Help wanted

Our town's Conservation Commission is seeking one or two new members. We welcome those interested in open space and wetland resource protection and with a willingness to gain working knowledge of the Wetlands Protection Act to attend our meetings. We would especially welcome expertise in engineering, hydrology and soils.

The commission meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month March - October and the second Thursday of the month November - February at 7:00pm.

Site visits are done prior to the Thursday meetings; during the winter, visits are done weekend mornings. For more information about our commission, please see our page on the town web site or call us at 259-2123 extension 2.

Training for end-of-life care

Hospice of Franklin County's next Volunteer Training begins Wednesday,

September 19 and runs for 8 weeks from 5:30-7:30pm at the Hospice office: 329 Conway St. in Greenfield. This eight-week training course prepares volunteers to serve hospice patients and their families through their life-limiting diagnosis.

Trained volunteers provide a range of services including: respite care, supportive listening, companionship, running errands, assisting with meals and other duties as requested.

Volunteers for fund raising, assist with projects in the office or assist in various other program related tasks and activities are also needed.

For more information contact Jayne Allen, Volunteer Services Coordinator, 774-2400 or jgallen@hospicefc.org.

Family Network reaches out to little ones

Erving School Union #28 is funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Education/MA Family Network to provide outreach, educa-

tion and support services for families with children under 4 years of age living in the towns of Shutesbury, Leverett, Erving, New Salem and Wendell.

We offer weekly story hours at the Shutesbury library and play groups at the school gym; Parent Council meetings; workshops based on assessed families needs; field trips; and frequent fun events for the entire family.

We also make Home Visits with our Baby Gift Bags to families with newborns to welcome them into our program.

If you have just moved into Shutesbury, have a child under four years of age, are pregnant or have a newborn, then please call Naz Mohamed at 413-423-3337 or email mohamed@erving.com to be put on our mailing list.

This is a wonderful way to meet other Family Network families with young children in your and neighboring towns.

The M. N. Spear Memorial Library



10 Cooleyville Road
259-1213 www.mnspear.org

Hours:

Monday and Wednesday

11:00am to 1:00pm
3:00pm to 6:00pm.

Tuesday and Thursday

3:00pm to 7:30pm

Saturday

10:00am to 12:00pm

Sunday

3:30pm to 5:30pm

Library Director Jane Buchanan turns another page

Janis S. Gray, *Editor*

A little over three years after arriving at the M. N. Spear Memorial Library, Director **Jane Buchanan** is leaving to take a position in Greenfield. Her last day in Shutesbury is September 13.

Plans by the Library

Board of Trustees for a farewell gathering to honor Jane's significant contributions were still being worked out as *Our Town* prepared to go to press.

During her time here, Jane reorganized the interior of the small library and expanded its hours.

She delighted patrons (and others keyboarding from their cars in the parking lot!) by introducing wireless Internet access, and got the ball rolling on getting our library on line with C/W MARS, our regional library system.

Jane noted that the offer of another position came just as the library launched its **new web site**, www.mnspear.org.

People who log on will find a partial on-line card catalog of the library's holdings, as well as news from the library and from the Friends of the Library.

Buchanan, a native of western Massachusetts, returned to this area in 2004 after many years in Pennsylvania. On September 17, she will become head of Borrower Services at the Greenfield Public Library.

"I will miss Shutesbury," she said, "But I'm really looking forward to working in my home town."

Thanks for all your hard work, Jane! Roadtown's readers are sure to miss you, and we wish you well.

Summer Reading Party!

Sunday, September 9

4:00-6:00pm

On the Town Common

HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

ACCOUNTANT <i>Gail Weiss</i>	259-1108	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL <i>Robert Mahler, Principal</i>	259-1212	RECREATION & OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE <i>Janice Stone</i>	259-1557
ADA COMMITTEE <i>Martina Carroll</i>	259-1110	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIR. <i>Walter Tibbetts</i>	259-1211	RECYCLING COORDINATOR <i>Blaire Robey</i>	259-3796
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR <i>David C. Dann</i>	259-1214	FINANCE COMMITTEE <i>Eric Stocker</i>	259-1478	REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE <i>Marianne Jorgensen</i>	259-1842
ANIMAL INSPECTOR <i>Denise Chiminiello</i>	259-1020	FIRE DEPARTMENT <i>Walter Tibbetts, Chief</i>	259-1211 259-1286	ROADS COMMITTEE <i>Vacant</i>	Call 259-1214
ASSESSORS <i>Kenneth Holmberg</i>	259-3790	HEALTH AGENT <i>David Zarozinski</i>	549-3710	SCHOOL COMMITTEE <i>Daniel Hayes</i>	259-2102
BOARD OF HEALTH <i>William Elliott, Chair</i>	259-2122	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT <i>Tim Hunting</i>	259-1215	UNION 28 SCHOOL SUPT. <i>Joan Wickman</i>	423-3337
BUILDINGS COMMITTEE <i>Dale Houle</i>	259-1696	HISTORICAL COMMISSION <i>Barbara Goodhind</i>	259-1428	SELECT BOARD <i>Becky Torres, Chair</i>	259-1618
BUILDING INSPECTOR <i>Jim Hawkins</i>	772-2026	M.N. SPEAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY <i>Jane Buchanan, Director</i>	259-1213	<i>Debra Pichanick</i>	367-9550
CEMETERY COMMISSION <i>Marilyn Tibbetts</i>	259-1976	LIBRARY TRUSTEES <i>David Cormier</i>	259-1572	<i>Ralph Armstrong</i>	259-1021
COUNCIL ON AGING <i>Muriel Gross</i>	259-1371	OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER <i>Janis S. Gray</i>	259-1584	SHUTES.-LEV. BROADBAND COMMITTEE <i>Rob Brooks</i>	253-0887
CONSERVATION COMMISSION <i>Leave inquiries at</i>	259-2123	PERSONNEL BOARD <i>Penelope Kim</i>	259-1326	TAX COLLECTOR <i>Ellen McKay</i>	259-1615
CULTURAL COUNCIL <i>Renee A. Richard</i>	259-9296	PLANNING BOARD <i>Deacon Bonnar</i>	259-1276	TOWN CLERK <i>Leslie Bracebridge</i>	259-1204
DEPT. OF VETERAN'S SERVICES <i>Leo J. Parent, Jr.</i>	863-3205	PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR <i>John Letourneau</i>	367-0017	TREASURER <i>Gabriele Voelker</i>	259-1801
DOG OFFICER <i>Nancy Long</i>	259-2123	POLICE DEPARTMENT <i>Chief Thomas E. Harding</i>	259-1279	TREE WARDEN <i>Thomas Houston</i>	259-1508
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR <i>Maurice Gregoire</i>	367-9988	<i>Dispatch</i>	625-8200	WEB COMMITTEE <i>Fred Steinberg</i>	259-9996
		POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE SQUAD	911	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS <i>Charles J. DiMare</i>	548-9567



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