

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**of the Town Officers**  
**for the year ending December 31, 2015**  
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All Agency Reports Are On File In The Selectmen’s Office

*Front cover photo courtesy of Roy Stever*

*Printed at Harrison Publishing House, Littleton, New Hampshire.*

## TOWN OFFICERS ELECTED OFFICIALS AND BOARD MEMBERS

### Board of Selectmen

Zhenye (Zak) Mei (2016)  
Deborah Stever (2017)  
Edward Cutler (2018)

### Treasurer

Darrel Gearhart (2016)

### Moderator

Jim Collier (2016)

### Lafayette School Board

Denys Draper (2017)

### Cemetery Trustees

Kristina Pastoriza (2016)  
Richard Larcom (2017)  
Denys Draper (2018)

### Town Clerk

Toni Woodruff (2016)

### Tax Collector

Lisa Cutler (2016)

### Trustee of the Trust Funds

Ralph Brigida (Retired) (2016)

### Supervisors of the Checklist

Ed O'Brien (2016)  
Tambra Gearhart (2020)  
Lisa Cutler (2021)

### Library Trustees

Bernice Ford (2016)  
Denys Draper (2017)  
Amy Baker (2018)

### Planning Board

Phil Reeder (2016)	Zhenye (Zak) Mei (Ex Officio)
James Collier (2016)	J. Thomas Boucher (Alternate)
Gary Harwood (2017)	Anita Craven (Alternate)
Samuel Brown (2018)	Denys Draper (Alternate)

## APPOINTED OFFICIALS & BOARD MEMBERS

**Fire Chief:** Arthur Rainville      **Emergency Manager:** Edward Cutler

**Health Officer:** Inga Johnson      **Welfare Officer:** Zhenye (Zak) Mei

**Zoning Board of Adjustment:**      **Road Agent:** Robert Peckett

Dennis Ford (2016)

Greg Sorg (2016)

John Hynes (2017)

Ellen Pritham (2018)

Kris Pastoriza (2018)

(Ex Officio)

Kevin O'Brien (Alternate)

**Recreation Committee:** John Hynes

Matt Koehler

**Deputy Town Clerk:** Robert Thibault

**Deputy Tax Collector:** Robert Thibault

**Animal Control Officer:** Richard Larcom

### Conservation Commission

Roy Stever, Chair (2017)      Beth Harwood (2017)      Anita Craven (2018)

Kris Pastoriza, Vice Chair (2016)      Carl Lakes (2017)      Steve Sabre (Alternate)

Maria Hynes (2016)      Deborah Stever (2018)      (2018)

## SELECTMEN'S REPORT

In the year 2015, the trend of formalization continued in the Town of Easton.

The building permitting process was strengthened with the reinstatement of a Building Inspector and a more rigorous set of inspection requirements which conformed better to state-wide standards.

With the help of the Kinsman Valley Club and its aim of improving the Town Hall, the Select Board adopted an updated Town Hall Rental Policy, and welcomes the use of the Town Hall as a forum for events providing benefit to the Town and its residents.

Another project is the possible purchase of the Ashton property next to the Town Hall for a conversion into a more green, public-friendly space for residents and Town Hall users. Further on the recreation front, the Town has made much progress in working with the Tri-Town Recreation Program to produce a formal agreement between the two entities.

A hearty thanks to all of our property owners for allowing the full-town property revaluation work by our assessors to be completed smoothly and on time. We are happy to report that despite the generally lower valuations, the Town tax rate is about the same as before.

As the Northern Pass proposals evolve, the Select Board has been staying vigilant over new issues that the burial of cable can cause in our Town and is working with other Towns to present a more unified front. A successful hearing was held in mid-November at the Town Hall where the residents had a chance to engage first-hand with representatives for the Northern Pass Project.

Also over the summer, our property owners came together and successfully prevented NHEC from spraying toxic chemicals throughout their rights-of-way in the Town.

Lastly but not least, the Select Board would like to thank Ralph Brigida (who stepped down this year) for his years of service as Trustee of the Town Trust Funds. The Board would also like to thank Toni Woodruff who stepped down from the Select Board secretary position in the fall. Your careful attention to details and thoughtful spirit will be missed in the meeting room!

We encourage any of you to attend our bi-weekly Monday meetings. They begin at 6, with the public portion starting at 6:30. Please visit our website, at [www.townofeastonnh.org](http://www.townofeastonnh.org).

Respectfully submitted,  
The Easton Select Board  
Edward Cutler - Chairman  
Zhenye (Zak) Mei  
Deborah Stever

## TOWN MEETING MINUTES MARCH 10, 2015

To the inhabitants of the Town of Easton, in the County of Grafton, qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 10, 2015. Polls will open from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM for voting on Articles 1 and 2. The Town's annual business meeting will follow at 7:00 PM.

*Ballot clerks were sworn in between 2:00 and 2:30 pm by Town Clerk Bob Thibault. Moderator Jim Collier read the warrant above officially opening the polls at 3:00pm. Ballot voting commenced from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. Election results are below.*

*The deliberative session was called to order at 7:08 pm by the Moderator. The Moderator asked for the veterans present to stand and be recognized; they were given an energetic round of applause. The Moderator followed with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions of the Select Board members, Town Clerks and Assistant Moderator. The Moderator recited from a past Selectman's report of many years ago in which the Select Board listed many problems it had to deal with at that time but ending with "Easton is still a desirable and beautiful place to live, filled with talented and energetic people". He then thanked the current Select Board for all of their work on behalf of the Town.*

*This year's check-in procedure with voting cards and yes-no ballots was explained to the assembly. In addition to the usual review of the rules of the meeting, Mr. Collier explained the reconsideration procedure to the body. He then introduced the law enforcement officer on duty for the meeting.*

*The Moderator then read the call to the warrant and announced the results of the election, warrant articles 1 and 2. As the Moderator was not given all the write-in names at that time, they were later posted.*

**ARTICLE 1. To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year, on the Official Ballot.**

*With 134 people voting:*

<p><i>Selectman - 3 year term:</i> <b>Edward Cutler</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>109</b></span></p>	<p><i>Planning Board - 1 year term:</i> <b>Sam Brown</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>119</b></span></p>
<p><i>Town Clerk - 1 year term:</i> <b>Toni Woodruff</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>119</b></span></p>	<p><i>Cemetery Trustee – 3 year term:</i> <b>Kristina Pastoriza</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>116</b></span></p>
<p><i>Tax Collector - 1 year term:</i> <b>Lisa Cutler</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>119</b></span></p>	<p><i>Supervisor of the Checklist - 6 year term:</i> <b>Lisa Cutler</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>115</b></span></p>
<p><i>Treasurer - 1 year term:</i> <b>Darrel Gearhart</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>122</b></span></p>	<p><i>Library Trustee – 3 year term:</i> <b>Amy Baker (write-in)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>6</b></span></p>

**ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town is in favor of amending the Easton Zoning Ordinance Section 604, WETLANDS CONSERVATION OVERLAY DISTRICT, by adding the following:**

**Protection of Ponds and Streams to provide pure water quality and protect aquatic life.**

1) There shall be a fifty (50) foot no cut buffer from natural ponds, 1st, 2nd and 3rd order streams within the boundaries of the Town of Easton.

Conditions/Exceptions:

a) Buffer may be interrupted by paths to the water that are no more than 6 feet wide. On one lot having greater than 200 feet frontage, similar paths, no greater than 6 feet in width, may be constructed at intervals greater than 200 feet along frontage.

b) Existing lawns, gardens, or landscaped areas present prior to March 10, 2015 may continue but may only be expanded outside the no cut buffer zone.

c) Minor pruning or trimming of vegetation in buffer zone no lower than three feet or higher than ten feet above the ground may be done to control growth and provide view-scape.

d) Vegetative invasive species as defined by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture that are specific to New Hampshire may be removed by manual digging with care to minimize damage to root zone.

2) There shall be a one hundred (100) foot buffer from ponds, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> order streams restricted from the use of pesticides/herbicides/chemical fertilizers.

Conditions/Exceptions:

a) Pesticides/herbicides may be applied as a spot treatment for control of invasive species as defined by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture that are specific to New Hampshire by a professional applicator properly licensed by the N.H. Dept. of Agriculture.

b) Permitted fertilizers: lime, wood ash, and residential compost.

c) A 3-foot perimeter exempted zone around structures is created for control of household pests.

**YES - 47**

**NO - 85**

**ARTICLE 3. Discontinuance of Easton Public Library**

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Easton Public Library, and to authorize the Library Trustees to dispose of all books and materials therein, except those relating to Easton's history, and any costs incurred in so doing to be paid from the Library Memorial Fund.

*Ned Cutler moved that the Town discontinue the Easton Public Library, and to authorize the Library Trustees to dispose of all books and materials therein, except those relating to Easton's history, and any costs incurred in so doing to be paid from the Library Memorial Fund, seconded by Debbie Stever.*

*Denys Draper, Library Trustee, spoke to the motion, giving a short history of the library and outlining a 3 year plan of improvements and achievements thus far. She asked that the library be given 3 years time and more money to achieve the goals of the trustees.*

*Ralph Brigida noted that there was no money in the Memorial fund mentioned in the motion.*

*Kathy Thibault spoke to say that budget hearing attendees were told that there were only 10 users of the library last year and that it was suggested then that town residents use the Franconia Library and possibly subsidize anyone who couldn't afford the \$25*

*fee with the current library budget of \$250. She also stated her concerns with the safety of the stairs for general public use and the fact that there is no second exit from the library.*

*Kris Pastoriza asked to amend the article as follows, "to see if the town will vote to keep the library open and fund it with an additional \$1000.", seconded by Ellen Pritham.*

*Barbara Collier pointed out that the new library budget would now be \$1,250 under the amendment. Sue Ford expressed her concern about the library stairs and the danger of only one exit.*

*Denys Draper spoke saying that \$1000 was not a lot for the town and that the stair issue had been resolved by the policy of tending to anyone who couldn't handle the stairs by taking requests and delivering books to them. She also stated that she thought there were more than 10 users of the library. She further discussed the values of a library to towns in general.*

*Angela Brigida moved the question. The amendment failed on a hand vote.*

*Selectman Zak Mei moved to amend the article and after some suggestions by Mike Kenney and Steve Sabre about what should be preserved, the amended motion became:*

*To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Easton Public Library, and to authorize the Library Trustees to dispose of all books and materials therein, except those relating to Easton's history, operation and government and that any costs incurred in so doing to be paid from the general taxation. The motion to amend passed on a hand vote.*

*Kris Dobbins asked whether the Library currently has internet access available, the answer was there is not, but there is internet access through the town offices.*

*There being no further discussion, the amended motion passed on a hand vote.*

**ARTICLE 4. Town Operating Budget**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$238,768.00** for general Town operations as follows:

Executive	\$18,350.00
Election Registration, Town Clerk & Vital Stats	13,200.00
Financial Administration	13,200.00
Revaluation of Individual Properties	11,340.00
Legal Expenses	5,000.00
Personnel Administration & Payroll Taxes	2,000.00
Planning & Zoning	2,500.00
Government Buildings	16,200.00
Cemetery	1,800.00
Insurance	5,800.00
Advertising & Regional Associations	1,920.00
General Government - Contingency	7,500.00
Police Department	0.00
Ambulances	4,900.00
Fire Department	21,800.00
Building Inspections	0.00
Emergency Management - Forest Fire	600.00
Emergency Management - Communication	7,500.00
Highway Maintenance	55,000.00
Solid Waste	23,948.00

Animal & Pest Control	300.00
Health Agencies & Hospitals	1,761.00
Welfare Assistance	3,000.00
Other Welfare	2,790.00
Parks & Recreation	8,300.00
Library	250.00
Patriotic Purposes	100.00
Other Culture and Recreation	1,250.00
Conservation Commission	1,750.00
Construction Bond - Principal	4,500.00
Construction Bond - Interest	<u>2,209.00</u>
Total Operating Budget	\$238,768.00

*Debbie Stever moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$238,768 for general Town operations, seconded by Darrel Gearhart.*

*Ned Cutler moved to dispense with reading the entire budget and deal only with specific lines with which there is a concern. Seconded by Sue Ford. That motion passed on a voice vote.*

*Discussion on the budget; Denys Draper asked the Select Board to consider changing highway maintenance contractors and then moved to amend the article by removing the funding of \$55,000 from the Highway Maintenance fund and adding it to the Police Department fund. There was no second.*

*John Hynes, Recreation Committee representative, questioned why there was a \$1000 administrative cost included in both the Parks and Recreation amount of \$8,300 and the Solid Waste budget of \$23,948 questioning whether it might be a double payment. Selectman Cutler answered that he would seek clarification from the Recreation Committee.*

*John Hynes questioned the increase in the Fire Department budget and the department's over spending of the budget the past 2 years. Kevin Low, Fire Department member, responded that he felt that the Department was not totally clear on its budget responsibilities. More discussion ensued with John Hynes and Select Board members Ned Cutler and Debbie Stever speaking about the effect that spending trust or reserve fund money has on the actual spent line of budgets and that it could look like a budget is overspent when actually the overage might have come out of a previously raised fund.*

*Ned Cutler made the point favor of the Easton Fire Department's overall budget by comparing it's \$21,800 to Sugar Hill's \$175,000 budget.*

*Ed O'Brien expressed his approval of the Fire Department and the purchase of a new fire truck now, stating that a town in northern New Hampshire just received a new truck for almost nothing with grants.*

*Inga Johnson, Easton Health Officer questioned the difference between the two welfare lines in the budget. Ned Cutler responded that one goes to welfare agencies and the other goes directly to town residents in need.*

*There being no further discussion, the motion passed on a hand vote.*

**ARTICLE 5. Darvid Farm and Forest Conservation Easement**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,500.00 from the Conservation Capital Reserve Fund to help meet expenses associated with the proposed conservation easement on 151 acres of the properties identified in the Town of Easton Tax Map 4 Lot 33, Map 4 Lot 34, Map 4 Lot 35, and Map 5 Lot 1; of this amount the entirety is to be paid to the easement holder: Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

*Zak Mei moved that the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,500.00 from the Conservation Capital Reserve Fund to help meet expenses associated with the proposed conservation easement on 151 acres of the properties identified in the Town of Easton Tax Map 4 Lot 33, Map 4 Lot 34, Map 4 Lot 35, and Map 5 Lot 1; of this amount the entirety is to be paid to the easement holder: Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Seconded by Ned Cutler.*

*Roy Stever, Conservation Commission Chairman, spoke to the motion, first thanking the Select Board for recognizing the Conservation Commission on the Town Report's inside cover. He informed the meeting that the property is Anna Darvid's property and gave a brief account of the long history of the Darvid family on the property. He also reported that it was Miss Darvid's sentiment that she would like the property to remain as a farm and that funds were being raised to make this happen.*

*Ed O'Brien spoke in favor of the conservation easement.*

*Howard Pritham questioned how much of the property would go into easement and noted that this property was probably an important headwaters site.*

*Roy Stever responded that 5 acres would be kept out and agreed that it was an ecologically important site.*

*Mike Kenney asked whether the goal was to get someone to live there and farm the area. The answer from Roy Stever was that it is unknown at this time, but possibly.*

*Trish O'Brien asked whether the property was an original kings land grant property. She was told that it was part of the original Kinsman property.*

*Kris Dobbins inquired as to the location of the property and was answered by many.*

*With no further discussion, the motion passed on a unanimous hand vote.*

**ARTICLE 6. Conservation Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to add to the Conservation Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation.

*Ned Cutler moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to add to the Conservation Capital Reserve Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. Seconded by Debbie Stever.*

*With no discussion, the motion passed on a hand vote.*

**ARTICLE 7. Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to add to the Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount \$10,000.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$20,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2014 Fund Balance.

*Debbie Stever moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to add to the Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount \$10,000.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$20,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2014 Fund Balance. Motion seconded by Zak Mei.*

*Denys Draper asked what this fund was going to be used for. Answered that it was to be used to help pay for the work on correcting the Gibson Road entrance onto Rt. 116.*

*Ralph Brigida stated that he felt that the original intent of this fund was not to fix roads but for large expenditures of the highway fund. Debbie Stever explained the large scope of this project and NH DOT's involvement.*

*Ellen Malessa questioned whether a similar correction could be made to Valley View Road. Ned Cutler answered that it was not as severe a problem and he thought it could be improved by trimming trees at the corner of Valley View and Sugar Hill Roads.*

*Debbie Stever stated that any resident who thought they have a dangerous road situation should bring it before the Select Board.*

*Nelson Crowe asked if the job would get done this year, Ned Cutler responded that we don't know.*

*There being no further discussion, the motion passed on a unanimous hand vote.*

#### **ARTICLE 8. Town Emergency Lane Repair Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to create a Town Emergency Lane Repair Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 231:59-a and 31:19-a, for the purpose of repair of any class VI highway which has been declared an emergency lane. Further, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000.00 to add to such fund; of this amount \$2,000.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$2,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2014 Fund Balance; and to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund.

*Zak Mei moved that the Town create a Town Emergency Lane Repair Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 231:59-a and 31:19-a, for the purpose of repair of any class VI highway which has been declared an emergency lane. Further, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000.00 to add to such fund; of this amount \$2,000.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$2,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2014 Fund Balance; and to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. Seconded by Ned Cutler.*

*Zak Mei spoke to the motion explaining that as the center portion of Paine Road and all of Reel Brook Roads were designated as Class VI emergency lanes state law requires that any funds used to maintain these roads come from a separate designated fund.*

*Barbra Collier asked if Reel Brook Road crossed the river, and was answered no it does not.*

*There being no further discussion, the motion passed on a hand vote.*

#### **ARTICLE 9. Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation.

*Ned Cutler moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. Seconded by Debbie Stever.*

*Ned Cutler explained that this was a standard Article required for building maintenance and repair costs.*

*With no discussion, the motion passed on a hand vote.*

**ARTICLE 10. Town Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to add to the Town Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation.

*Debbie Stever moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to add to the Town Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. Seconded by Zak Mei.*

*Debbie spoke to the motion stating that this is money put aside to maintain the Town cemetery.*

*With no discussion, the motion passed on a hand vote.*

**ARTICLE 11. Expendable Trust Fund for Legal Fees Incurred Representing the Town's Position Regarding the Northern Pass Project**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500.00 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund for Legal Fees Incurred Representing the Town's Position Regarding the Northern Pass Project; of this amount \$2,500.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$5,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2014 Fund Balance.

*Zak Mei moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500.00 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund for Legal Fees Incurred Representing the Town's Position Regarding the Northern Pass Project; of this amount \$2,500.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$5,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2014 Fund Balance.*

*Dennis Ford asked what the fund balance current was and was told \$15,089.06.*

*Kris Dobbins asked what the Town's position was regarding Northern Pass and was told by a few that the Town voted to oppose it several years ago.*

*There being no further discussion, the motion passed on a unanimous hand vote.*

**ARTICLE 12. Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 to add to the Easton Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (established in March 1997) for the purchase of a firefighting vehicle; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation.

*Debbie Stever moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 to add to the Easton Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (established in*

*March 1997) for the purchase of a firefighting vehicle; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation.*

*Seconded by Darrel Gearhart.*

*Denys Draper moved to amend the article to say that the \$20,000 to be raised to be combined with the current fund balance of \$40,404.06 to purchase a fire truck now. The motion was not allowed as the purchase of a fire truck was not a warned article.*

*Ed O'Brien expressed his opinion that the Town should not wait to buy a truck.*

*Denys Draper asked how much a truck would cost and was answered by Ned Cutler that it could be \$300,000 to \$500,000 depending on specifications. Possible grant applications of 50 to 95 % of the purchase price was discussed by Ned Cutler and Kevin Low with Kevin offering to apply for grants.*

*Denys Draper stated that she felt that the fund was not building fast enough and related that the Towns of Stark and Pittsburg both recently received new trucks for next to nothing with grants.*

*There being no further discussion, the motion passed on a unanimous hand vote.*

### **ARTICLE 13. Fire Department Major Equipment Replacement and Repair Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to add to the Fire Department Major Equipment Replacement and Repair Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount \$5,000.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$5,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2014 Fund Balance; and to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund.

*Debbie Stever moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to add to the Fire Department Major Equipment Replacement and Repair Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount \$5,000.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$5,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2014 Fund Balance; and to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. Seconded by Zak Mei.*

*Ned Cutler explained that this is a different fund than the one discussed previously. This fund is to be used strictly to replace damaged or replacement type items, for example airpack maintenance.*

*With no further discussion, the motion passed on a hand vote.*

### **ARTICLE 14. Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to add to the Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation.

*Zak Mei moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to add to the Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. Seconded by Darrel Gearhart.*

*Ned Cutler explained that Easton is responsible to reimburse other Towns that help fight forest fires in Easton and that the cost could be very significant.*

*Howard Pritham asked if we were financially responsible for forest fires in the National Forest.*

*Ned Cutler answered that Federal and State pay for those.*

*There being no further discussion, the motion passed on a unanimous hand vote.*

*At this point, with all warrant articles decided, Moderator Jim Collier asked if there was anything else to come before the meeting.*

*Ellen Malessa announced that the Easton Town Hall Improvement Committee, ETHIC, was having a Soup Supper on March 22 at 5:00 pm and invited everyone to attend.*

*Sue Ford commented on the great kitchen remodel and asked that the group responsible stand and be recognized for a job well done.*

*Ed O'Brien stood to recognize and thank outgoing Town Clerk Bob Thibault for his many years of service to Easton Residents and asked for a standing ovation which was well received.*

*John Hynes announced an "Adopt a Road" program coming in April and to see him for more information.*

*Ned Cutler informed the group that this year's Library report was written by trustee Treuman only and the other two trustee names should be removed from the report.*

*Ned Cutler thanked outgoing Town Clerk Bob Thibault for his help to the Select Boards over the years.*

*Ellen Pritham announced a Cooley-Jericho Community Forest Stewardship meeting at the Franconia Town Hall on April 9th at 5:30 pm.*

*Denys Draper reminded the group of the upcoming school annual meetings.*

*Moved to adjourn by Bob Thibault, seconded by Jim Collier, passed by many.*

*The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Thibault  
Easton Town Clerk

## BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF EASTON – REVENUE

SOURCES OF REVENUE	Estimated 2015	Actual 2015	Estimated 2016
<b>Taxes:</b>			
3185 Yield Taxes	\$ 0.00	\$ 5,255.00	\$ 0.00
3186 Payment in Lieu of Taxes	31,500.00	33,714.00	27,000.00
3190 Interest & Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	4,100.00	3,922.00	1,000.00
<b>Licenses, Permits, &amp; Fees:</b>			
3220 Motor Vehicle Permit Fees	45,000.00	55,169.00	45,000.00
3230 Building Permits	200.00	760.00	500.00
3290 Other Licenses, Permits & Fees	500.00	1,304.00	500.00
3311-3319 From Federal Government	6,000.00	0.00	0.00
<b>From State:</b>			
3352 Meals & Rooms Tax Distribution	12,487.00	12,455.00	11,000.00
3353 Highway Block Grant	8,656.00	9,340.00	8,000.00
3379 Other State Grants	0.00	0.00	142,500.00
<b>Charges For Services:</b>			
3401-3406 Income from Departments	500.00	4,435.00	500.00
<b>Miscellaneous Revenues:</b>			
3502 Interest on Investments	300.00	631.00	200.00
3503 Other Miscellaneous Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Interfund Operating Transfer In:</b>			
3915 From Capital Reserve Fund	1,500.00	1,500.00	57,500.00
3916 From Trust & Fiduciary Fund	0.00	0.00	26,000.00
<b>Other Financing Sources:</b>			
3934 Proceeds from Long Term Bonds and Notes	0.00	0.00	75,000.00
9998 Amount Voted From Fund Balance	32,000.00	32,000.00	57,000.00
9999 Estimated Fund Balance To Reduce Taxes	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>15,000.00</u>	<u>15,000.00</u>
<b>Total Estimated Revenue &amp; Credits</b>	<b>\$ 142,743.00</b>	<b>\$ 175,485.00</b>	<b>\$ 466,700.00</b>

## BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF EASTON – EXPENDITURES

PURPOSES OF APPROPRIATIONS	Estimated 2015	Actual 2015	Budgeted 2016
<b>General Government:</b>			
4130-4139 Executive	\$ 18,350.00	\$ 16,758.00	\$ 18,350.00
4140-4149 Election, Reg., & Vital Statistics	13,200.00	10,760.00	14,200.00
4150-4151 Financial Administration	13,200.00	11,613.00	12,700.00
4152 Revaluation of Property	11,340.00	12,870.00	7,300.00
4153 Legal Expenses	5,000.00	2,545.00	1.00
4155-4159 Personnel Administration	2,000.00	2,025.00	2,050.00
4191-4193 Planning & Zoning	2,500.00	5,363.00	2,500.00
4194 General Government Buildings	16,200.00	9,345.00	12,200.00
4195 Cemeteries	1,800.00	1,550.00	1,800.00
4196 Insurance	5,800.00	4,370.00	6,000.00
4197 Advertising & Regional Association	1,920.00	1,857.00	1,900.00
4199 Other General Government	7,500.00	550.00	7,500.00
<b>Public Safety:</b>			
4210-4214 Police	0.00	0.00	0.00
4215-4219 Ambulance	4,900.00	4,322.00	5,700.00
4220-4229 Fire	21,800.00	15,707.00	20,550.00
4240-4249 Building Inspections	0.00	0.00	600.00
4290-4298 Emergency Management	600.00	193.00	650.00
4299 Other (including communications)	7,500.00	4,500.00	1,500.00
<b>Highways and Streets:</b>			
4312 Highways & Streets	55,000.00	29,592.00	55,000.00
<b>Sanitation:</b>			
4321 Administration	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
4323 Solid Waste Collection	0.00	0.00	0.00
4324 Solid Waste Disposal	22,948.00	21,148.00	23,587.00
<b>Health:</b>			
4414 Pest Control	300.00	220.00	300.00
4415-4419 Health Agencies & Hosp. & Other	1,761.00	1,511.00	0.00
<b>Welfare:</b>			
4442 Welfare Direct Assistance	3,000.00	926.00	3,000.00
4449 Other Welfare and Donations	2,790.00	2,600.00	0.00
<b>Culture and Recreation:</b>			
4520-4529 Parks & Recreation	8,300.00	7,599.00	9,134.00
4550-4559 Library	250.00	106.00	0.00
4583 Patriotic Purposes	100.00	100.00	100.00
4589 Other Culture & Recreation	1,250.00	1,250.00	0.00

Conservation:			
4619 Other Conservation	1,750.00	319.00	1,000.00
Debt Service:			
4711 Principal-Long Term Bonds & Notes	4,500.00	2,000.00	3,000.00
4721 Interest-Long Term Bonds & Notes	<u>2,209.00</u>	<u>2,013.00</u>	<u>1,013.00</u>
<b>OPERATING BUDGET TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 238,768.00</b>	<b>\$ 174,712.00</b>	<b>\$ 212,635.00</b>

**SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLES**

4915 To Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 30,500.00	\$ 30,500.00	\$ 50,500.00
4916 To Exp. Trust Fund	53,500.00	53,500.00	63,000.00
4909, 4901, 4220-4229	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>280,000.00</u>
<b>Special Articles Recommended</b>	<b>\$ 84,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 84,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 393,500.00</b>

**INDIVIDUAL WARRANT ARTICLES**

<b>Individual Articles Recommended</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,002.00</b>
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**BUDGET SUMMARY**

	Prior Year	Ensuing Year
Operating Budget Appropriations Recommended	\$ 238,768.00	\$ 212,635.00
Special Warrant Articles Recommended	84,000.00	393,500.00
Individual Warrant Articles Recommended	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>6,002.00</u>
Total Appropriations Recommended	\$ 324,268.00	\$ 612,137.00
Special Warrant Articles Not Recommended		26,000.00
Less: Amount of Estimated Revenues & Credits	<u>(136,743.00)</u>	<u>(466,700.00)</u>
Estimated Amount of Taxes to be Raised	\$ 187,525.00	\$ 171,437.00

**PROFIT & LOSS**  
**January through December 2015**

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

3110-1	Property Tax Revenue	\$ 687,868.32
3185-0	Timber Taxes	5,255.43
3186-0	Payments in Lieu of Taxes	33,714.00
3190-0	Penalties & Interest	3,922.20
3220-0	Motor Vehicle Permits & Titles	55,169.00
3230-0	Building Permits	760.00
3290-0	Other Licenses, Permits & Fees	1,304.02
3352-0	Rooms & Meals Tax	12,455.04
3353-0	Highway Block Grant	9,339.68
3401-0	Income from All Departments	4,435.10
3502-0	Bank Interest	631.16
3916-0	Transfers from Trust Funds	<u>1,500.00</u>

Total Income

\$816,353.95

Expense

4130-0	Executive	
4130100	Salaries - Selectmen, Moderator	9,175.00
4130150	Secretary Pay	2,936.00
4130200	Fees-NHMA Lectures	249.30
4130300	Outside Services - Tax Maps	960.00
4130600	Office Expenses	<u>3,437.30</u>

Total 4130-0 Executive

16,757.60

4140-0 Election Registration, Town Clerk & Vital Statistics

4140100	Salary - Town Clerk	5,500.00
4140150	Deputy Town Clerk	1,000.00
4140200	Fees - Town Clerk	547.60
4140500	Election & Voter Registration	1,505.59
4140600	Office & Miscellaneous	<u>2,206.98</u>

Total 4140-0 Election Registration, Town Clerk & Vital Statistics

10,760.17

4150 Financial Administration

4150100	Salaries - Tax Collector, Treasurer, Auditor	5,000.00
4150125	Financial Services	3,700.00
4150200	Fees & Miscellaneous	1,475.66
4150600	Office Expenses & Bank Charges	<u>1,437.67</u>

Total 4150 Financial Administration

11,613.33

4152-0 Revaluation of Individual Property

4152100	Revaluation	9,295.00
4152200	Reval Software	<u>3,575.10</u>

Total 4152-0 Revaluation of Individual Property

12,870.10

4153-0	Legal Expenses		2,544.85
4155-22	Personnel Administration & Payroll Taxes		2,024.93
4191-00	Planning & Zoning		5,363.28
4194-0	Government Buildings		
4194400	Utilities	6,681.50	
4194800	Repairs, Maintenance & Supplies	1,813.03	
4194900	Mowing, Gardening & Wreaths	<u>850.00</u>	
Total 4194-0	Government Buildings		9,344.53
4195-0	Cemetery		
4195600	Miscellaneous, Office Expense, Mem. Day	60.00	
4195900	Mowing & Maintenance	<u>1,490.00</u>	
Total 4195-0	Cemetery		1,550.00
4196-0	Insurance		
4196100	Property Liability-NHMA	4,302.64	
4196200	Worker's Comp.-Primex	<u>67.83</u>	
Total 4196-0	Insurance		4,370.47
4197-0	Advertising & Regional Association		1,856.56
4199-0	General Government-Contingency		550.00
4215-0	Ambulances		4,321.86
4220-0	Fire Department		
4220100	Salary - Fire Chief	1,500.00	
4220110	Firefighters Call Pay	1,427.00	
4220200	Training, Dues, Other	1,740.00	
4220400	Utilities	3,716.02	
4220600	Office & Miscellaneous	499.33	
4220630	Truck Inspection, Maintenance & Repair	1,496.64	
4220635	Truck Fuel	25.51	
4220700	Equipment & Small Tools	3,414.69	
4220800	Building Maintenance & Supply	<u>1,888.22</u>	
Total 4220-0	Fire Department		15,707.41
4290	Emergency Management - Forest Fire		
4290200	Training	<u>192.67</u>	
Total 4290	Emergency Management - Forest Fire		192.67
4299-0	Emergency Management – Communication		
4299200	Hazard Mitigation Plan	3,000.00	
4299-0	Emergency Mgmt-Communication - Other	<u>1,500.00</u>	
Total 4299-0	Emergency Mgmt-Communication		4,500.00
4312000	Highway Maintenance		
4312100	Highway Maintenance General	28,891.55	
4312800	Emergency Lane Management	<u>700.00</u>	

Total 4312000	Highway Maintenance		29,591.55
4324-0	Solid Waste		
4324100	Administration	1,000.00	
4324200	Disposal	<u>21,148.00</u>	
Total 4324-0	Solid Waste		22,148.00
4414-0	Animal & Pest Control		219.50
4415	Health Agencies & Hospitals		1,511.14
4442	Welfare Direct Assistance		925.61
4449	Other Welfare		
4449100	Other Welfare & Donations	<u>2,600.00</u>	
Total 4449	Other Welfare		2,600.00
4520	Parks and Recreation		
4520100	Administrative Fees	1,000.00	
4520200	Tri-Town Recreation Program	<u>6,598.73</u>	
Total 4520	Parks and Recreation		7,598.73
4550	Library		106.12
4583	Patriotic Purposes		100.00
4589	Other Culture and Recreation		
4589900	Boys & Girls Club	1,000.00	
4589	Other Culture & Recreation – Other	<u>250.00</u>	
Total 4589	Other Culture and Recreation		1,250.00
4619	Other Conservation		319.13
4619201	Other Conservation Darvid Land		1,500.00
4711	Construction Bond - Principal		2,000.00
4721	Construction Bond - Interest		2,013.38
4915	Transfer to Capital Reserve		20,500.00
4916	Transfer to Trust/Agency Funds		63,500.00
4931	County Taxes		110,529.00
4933100	Lafayette Regional School District		172,630.00
4933200	Profile School District		<u>247,371.00</u>
Total Expense			<u>790,740.92</u>
Net Ordinary Income			<u>25,613.03</u>
Net Income			<u>\$ 25,613.03</u>

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**December 31, 2015**

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash in Banks	\$199,848.60
Other Current Assets	
Cash on Hand	100.00
Property Taxes Current Year	79,867.76
Tax Liens Receivable	19,667.12
Due From Trust Funds	565.00
Deposits held by Tax Collector	128,191.00
Prepaid Expenses	<u>215.00</u>
Total Other Current Assets	228,605.88
Total Current Assets	<u>428,454.48</u>
Other Assets – Tax Deeded Property	1,442.97
Total Assets	<u>\$429,897.45</u>

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Current Liabilities	
Property Taxes POA	\$ 1,461.28
Withholding Taxes	3,638.52
Bills Payable	20,004.23
Due to School Districts	<u>156,003.00</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	181,107.03
Equity	
Restricted Fund Balance - Conservation	709.85
Assigned Fund Balance	1,442.97
Unassigned Fund Balance	221,024.57
Net Income	<u>25,613.03</u>
Total Equity	248,790.42
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$429,897.45</u>

**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**for the Year Ending December 31, 2015**

Bank Balance- January 1, 2015	\$ 346,398.29
Receipts:	
Tax Collector	\$552,004.95
Town Clerk - Motor Vehicles, Fees, etc.	56,204.02
From Federal & State Government	55,508.72
From Capital Reserve Fund	1,500.00
Bank Interest	631.16
Other Sources	<u>5,525.10</u>
Total 2015 Receipts	<u>671,373.95</u>
Total Available Receipts	\$1,017,772.24
Disbursements:	
Grafton County - County Taxes	\$110,529.00
School Districts	469,050.00
Selectmen Ordered Paid	<u>238,244.64</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>\$817,823.64</u>
Bank Balance as of December 31, 2015	\$199,948.60

**STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS  
2015 TAX RATE CALCULATION**

<b>Town Portion</b>			
Gross Appropriations			\$324,268.00
Less: Revenues			(118,855.00)
Fund Balance Voted Surplus			(32,000.00)
Fund Balance to Reduce Taxes			(15,000.00)
Add: War Service Credits			2,950.00
Actual Overlay Used			<u>1,770.00</u>
<b>Net Town Appropriation</b>			<b>163,133.00</b>
<b>School Portion</b>			
Net Local School Budget			0.00
Regional School Apportionment			420,001.00
State Education Taxes			<u>(157,913.00)</u>
<b>Approved School(s) Tax Effort</b>			<b>262,088.00</b>
<b>State Education Taxes</b>			
Equalized Valuation (no utilities) x \$2.56			
\$61,743,306.00			
Divide by Local Assessed Valuation			
(no utilities) \$62,646,306.00			<b>157,913.00</b>
<b>County Portion</b>			
Due to County			110,529.00
Less: Shared Revenues			<u>(0.00)</u>
<b>Approved County Tax Effort</b>			<b>110,529.00</b>
Total Property Taxes Assessed			690,713.00
Less: War Service Credits			(2,950.00)
Add: Village Commitment(s)			<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Property Tax Commitment</b>			<b>\$687,763.00</b>
<b>2015 Tax Rate</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2014 Tax Rate</b>	<b>%</b>
Town \$ 2.61	23	Town \$ 2.22	20
County 1.76	15	County 1.61	15
School 4.18	40	School 4.52	42
State 2.56	22	State 2.46	23
<u>\$11.11/1000</u>	100%	<u>\$10.81/1000</u>	100%

## 2015 SUMMARY INVENTORY OF ASSESSED VALUATION

***Value Land Only***

Current Use	\$ 249,506.00
Residential Land	26,275,100.00
Commercial/Industrial Land	<u>192,500.00</u>
Total Of Taxable Land	\$26,717,106.00
Tax Exempt and Non Taxable Land	(20,711,000.00)

***Value Buildings Only***

Residential	34,571,198.00
Commercial/Industrial (excluding Utility Buildings)	<u>472,200.00</u>
Total of Taxable Buildings	35,043,398.00
Tax Exempt and Non-Taxable Buildings	(281,800.00)

***Utilities and Timber***

Utilities	900,000.00
Valuations Before Exemptions	\$62,660,504.00
Exemptions Applied	<u>(20,000.00)</u>
Net Valuation	\$62,640,504.00
Less Utilities	(900,000.00)
Net Valuation without Utilities	<b>\$61,740,504.00</b>
Change in Net Valuation over 2014 (\$67,582,827.00)	\$ (5,842,323.00)

**TOWN OF EASTON  
TOWN MEETING WARRANT  
MARCH 8, 2016**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Easton, in the County of Grafton, qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. Polls will be open from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM for voting on Article 1. The Town's annual business meeting will follow at 7:00 PM.

To act upon the following subjects:

**ARTICLE 1. To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year, on the Official Ballot. (Ballot Vote)**

**ARTICLE 2. Town Operating Budget**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$212,635.00** for general Town operation as follows:

Executive	\$18,350.00
Election Registration, Town Clerk, Vital Stats	14,200.00
Financial Administration	12,700.00
Revaluation of Individual Properties	7,300.00
Legal Expenses	1.00
Personnel Administration & Payroll Taxes	2,050.00
Planning & Zoning	2,500.00
Government Buildings	12,200.00
Cemetery	1,800.00
Insurance	6,000.00
Advertising & Regional Associations	1,900.00
General Government - Contingency	7,500.00
Police Department	0.00
Ambulances	5,700.00
Fire Department	20,550.00
Building Inspections	600.00
Emergency Management - Forest Fires	650.00
Emergency Management - Communication	1,500.00
Highway Maintenance	55,000.00
Solid Waste	24,587.00
Animal & Pest Control	300.00
Welfare Assistance	3,000.00
Parks and Recreation	9,134.00
Patriotic Purposes	100.00
Conservation Commission	1,000.00
Construction Bond - Principal	3,000.00
Construction Bond - Interest	<u>1,013.00</u>
Total Operating Budget	\$212,635.00

**ARTICLE 3. Budget for Health Agencies & Hospitals**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,612.00 for Health Agencies & Hospitals as follows: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

Ammonoosuc Community Health Services	\$ 500.00
North Country Home Health & Hospice	900.00
White Mountain Mental Health	<u>212.00</u>
Total Health Agencies & Hospitals	\$1,612.00

**ARTICLE 4. Budget for Other Welfare**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,940.00 for Other Welfare as follows: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

American Red Cross	\$ 100.00
Burch House	140.00
Center for New Beginnings	250.00
Grafton Country Senior Citizens Council	300.00
Tri-County CAP	<u>2,150.00</u>
Total Other Welfare	\$2,940.00

**ARTICLE 5. Budget for Other Culture & Recreation**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 for Other Culture & Recreation as follows: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

North Country Boys & Girls Club	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Total Other Welfare	\$1,000.00

**ARTICLE 6. Bond for purchase and demolition of Ashton House, to create common green space**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000.00 (gross budget) for the purchase of the lot at 1070 Easton Valley Road (Map 3 Lot 14), and its demolition, removal and conversion into public space, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$75,000.00 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (2/3 ballot vote required.)

**ARTICLE 7. Authorize Planning Board to Start a Capital Improvement Program**

To see if the Town will vote to direct the Planning Board to begin and complete the process to create a Capital Improvement Program for the Town. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.)

**INDIVIDUAL WARRANT:**

**ARTICLE 8. Fee for Franconia Library**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$450.00 for payment to the Abbie Greenleaf Library in Franconia, for a special discounted patron rate of \$10.00 per Easton resident. (Majority vote required.)

**SPECIAL WARRANTS:**

**ARTICLE 9. Paine Road Petition 1**

Are you in favor of clarifying the status of the Town portion of Paine Road as a Class V road and designating the approximately six-tenths of a mile gravel section as a “Class V Highway to Summer Cottages” (New Hampshire RSA 231:79-81); and consistent with such designation, directing the Board of Selectmen as follows:

- 1) to close the gravel section of Paine Road for as many days before or after December 10 and April 10 as might be required because of early or late snowfalls;
- 2) to have the gates at each end of the gravel section remain open except in the event of a temporary emergency;
- 3) in consultation with the Road Agent, to make repairs and improvements to Paine Road, such as the installation of speed bump(s), to make it suitable for safe light travel; and
- 4) to appropriate and expend \$13,000 to accomplish the above work as follows: \$3,000 from the Town Emergency Lane Repair Expendable Trust Fund, and \$10,000 from the Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund.

(The Selectmen do not recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 10. Paine Road Petition 2**

Are you in favor of clarifying the status of the Town portion of Paine Road as a Class V road and designating the approximately six-tenths of a mile gravel section as a “Class V Highway to Summer Cottages” (New Hampshire RSA 231:79-81); and consistent with such designation, directing the Board of Selectmen as follows:

- 1) to close the gravel section of Paine Road for as many days before or after December 10 and April 10 as might be required because of early or late snowfalls;
- 2) to have the gates at each end of the gravel section remain open except in the event of a temporary emergency;
- 3) in consultation with the Road Agent, to make repairs and improvements to Paine Road, such as the installation of speed bump(s), to make it suitable for safe light travel; and
- 4) to appropriate and expend up to \$13,000 to accomplish the above work from the Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund.

(The Selectmen do not recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 11. Legal Fees Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to create a Legal Fees Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of funding any legal expenses the Town may incur. Further, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to add to such fund; of this amount \$7,500.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$7,500.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance; and to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 12. Deposit Land Use Change Tax into Conservation Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize 100% of the Land Use Change Tax collected pursuant to RSA 79-A:25 to be deposited into the existing Conservation Capital Reserve Fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5, III, as authorized by RSA 79-A:25, II. If adopted this article shall take effect March 10, 2016, and shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by a future vote of the town meeting. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 13. To Fund the Conservation Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to add to the Conservation Capital Reserve Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 14. Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to add to the Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount \$5,000.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$10,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 15. Town Emergency Lane Repair Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500.00 to add to the Town Emergency Lane Repair Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount \$1,500.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$2,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 16. Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 17. Town Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to add to the Town Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 18. Expendable Trust Fund for Legal Fees Incurred Representing the Town's Position Regarding the Northern Pass Project**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500.00 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund for Legal Fees Incurred Representing the Town's Position Regarding the Northern Pass Project; of this amount \$2,500.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$5,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 19. Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to add to the Easton Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (established in March 1997) for the purchase of a firefighting vehicle; of this amount \$25,000.00 is to be raised from general taxation, and \$25,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 20. Purchase of New Fire Department Tanker**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 for the purchase of a new Fire Department Vehicle, with \$57,500.00 to come from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, and \$142,500.00 to come from FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant. This article is contingent on receipt of the grant. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 21. Fire Department Major Equipment Replacement and Repair Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to add to the Fire Department Major Equipment Replacement and Repair Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount \$5,000.00 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$5,000.00 to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 22. Town Information Sign**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to purchase and install a Town Information Sign, to be located between the Fire Department and Town Hall; of this amount 50% or \$2,500.00 is to be raise from general taxation, and 50%, or \$2,500.00, to come from the December 31, 2015 Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 23. Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to add to the Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

Selectmen of Easton  
Edward Cutler, Chairman  
Zhenye (Zak) Mei  
Deborah Stever

## NOTES

## **TAX COLLECTOR**

The Tax Collector's office is continuing with an initiative we began two years ago. An Internet kiosk is available for you to look up taxes and view tax cards. This will greatly facilitate getting information, quickly, to those who express a need. The website is [www.nhtaxkiosk.com](http://www.nhtaxkiosk.com).

As always, you can call the office (603-823-8017) Thursdays between 1:00 and 5:00 P.M. or stop in if you need more personal assistance or email [eastontaxcollector@gmail.com](mailto:eastontaxcollector@gmail.com).

Lisa Cutler  
Easton Tax Collector

**TAX COLLECTOR – SUMMARY OF WARRANTS**  
**Levies of 2015 and Prior**

		<b>DEBITS</b>		
		2015	2014	Levies of: 2013 Prior
Uncollected Taxes Beginning of Year:				
Property Taxes	#3110	\$	\$77,698.53	\$64.08
Prior Years' Credit Balance				
This Year's New Credits		(1,713.49)		
Taxes Committed This Year:				
Property Taxes	#3110	690,727.00		
Yield Taxes	#3185	5,255.43		
Overpayment Refunds:				
Interest - Late Tax	#3190	<u>376.28</u>	<u>3,170.78</u>	<u>30.23</u>
Total Debits		\$694,645.22	\$80,869.31	\$94.31
<b>CREDITS</b>				
Remitted To Treasurer:				
Property Taxes		\$610,585.14	\$59,305.85	\$64.08
Yield Taxes		5,255.43		
Interest (include lien conversion)		376.28	2,747.28	11.23
Penalties			423.50	19.00
Conversion to Liens (Principal only)			18,392.68	
Abatements Made:				
Property Taxes		21.89		
Uncollected Taxes-End Of Year: #1080				
Property Taxes		79,867.76		
Property Tax Credit Balance*		<u>(1,461.28)</u>		
Total Credits		\$694,645.22	\$80,869.31	\$94.31

\*This is the amount of taxes pre-paid for next year as authorized by RSA 80:52-a

## SUMMARY OF TAX LIEN ACCOUNTS

### DEBITS

	2015	2014	2013	2012
Unredeemed Liens				
Beginning of Fiscal Year	\$0.00	\$ 0.00	\$2,898.69	\$0.00
Liens Executed During Fiscal Year	0.00	20,025.59	0.00	0.00
Interest & Costs Collected After Lien Execution	<u>0.00</u>	<u>130.73</u>	<u>153.18</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Debits	\$0.00	\$20,156.32	\$3,051.87	\$0.00

### CREDITS

Remitted To Treasurer:

Redemptions	\$0.00	\$ 1,989.01	\$1,268.15	\$0.00
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution) #3190	0.00	130.73	153.18	0.00
Abatements of Unredeemed Liens	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unredeemed Liens End of FY #1110	<u>0.00</u>	<u>18,036.58</u>	<u>1,630.54</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Credits	\$0.00	\$20,156.32	\$3,051.87	\$0.00

**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**  
**For the Year Ending December 31, 2015**

Motor Vehicle Registrations & Titles	\$55,169.00
Dog Registrations	452.00
Penalties	61.00
Copies	28.00
Marriage License & Certified Copies	95.00
Miscellaneous	<u>399.02</u>
Transferred to Town	\$56,204.02

**BIRTHS REGISTERED IN THE TOWN OF EASTON**  
**For the Year Ending December 31, 2015**

Date & Place Of Birth	Name Of Child	Name Of Father & Mother's Name
October 17, 2015 Easton, NH	Oakley Lachlan Wells Miller Weed	Charles Weed Genesis Miller

**MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN THE TOWN OF EASTON**  
**For the Year Ending December 31, 2015**

Date & Place Of Marriage	Name and Surname Of Groom & Bride	Residence of Each At Time Of Marriage
July 18, 2015 Sugar Hill, NH	Patrick W. Plante Kathleen P. Walsh	Easton, NH Freedom, NH

**DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE TOWN OF EASTON**  
**For the Year Ending December 31, 2015**

Date & Place Of Death	Name & Surname Of Deceased
--------------------------	-------------------------------

None Reported

Respectfully submitted,  
Toni Woodruff, Town Clerk

## **SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY**

**December 31, 2015**

Assessed Values:	
Land - Town Hall and Fire Station	\$ 90,500.00
Land - Deeded	15,200.00
Land - Cemetery	92,300.00
Building - Town Hall	247,200.00
Building - Fire Station	58,400.00
Estimated Values:	
Furniture and Equipment - Town Hall	18,900.00
Furniture and Equipment - Fire Station	163,285.00
Furniture and Equipment - Library	2,200.00
Furniture and Equipment - Police	<u>600.00</u>
Total Town Property	\$688,585.00

## **SCHEDULE OF LONG-TERM DEBT**

**December 31, 2015**

	Principal	Interest	Total
Balance December 31, 2001	\$120,000.00	\$58,425.00	\$178,425.00
Payments through 2014	75,613.38	49,652.99	125,266.37
Payments made in 2015	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>2,013.38</u>	<u>4,013.38</u>
Balance Remaining 12/31/15	\$ 42,386.62	\$ 6,758.63	\$ 49,145.25

Note: Loan from the USDA Rural Development for the Town Hall addition dated December 14, 2001. 30 year loan with payout over 20 years at 4.75% interest.

# Town of Easton Report of Trust Funds

December 31, 2015

Funds	Type of Fund	Beginning Balance	Principal	Additions Interest	Withdrawals	Ending Balance
Cemetery Maintenance	T/F	\$ 13,076.14	\$ 0.00	\$ 14.47	\$ 0.00	\$ 13,090.61
Fire Dept. Equipment	CRF	40,404.06	20,000.00	51.98	0.00	60,456.04
Emergency Lane	Exp/TF	0.00	4,000.00	1.15	0.00	4,001.15
Conservation	CRF	2,002.79	500.00	.66	1,500.00	1,003.45
Cemetery Maintenance	Exp/TF	1,000.32	1,000.00	.79	0.00	2,001.11
Town Building Repairs	Exp/TF	38,185.95	10,000.00	66.57	0.00	48,252.52
Road Maintenance	Exp/TF	82,147.60	30,000.00	264.11	0.00	112,411.71
Forest Fire	Exp/TF	2,002.32	1,000.00	2.58	0.00	3,004.90
Northern Pass Legal	Exp/TF	15,089.06	7,500.00	29.16	0.00	22,618.22
Fire Dept. Major Equip	Exp/TF	6,398.81	10,000.00	17.17	0.00	16,415.98
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$200,307.05</b>	<b>\$84,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 448.64</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 283,255.69</b>

TF = Normal type fund. Trustees share discretion over spending.

CRF = Capital Reserve Funds. Needs Town vote to spend.

Exp/TF = Board of Selectmen have discretion over spending.

## EASTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

2015 was another great year for the Easton Volunteer Fire Department. The Fire Department has once again proven its effectiveness and value to the Town of Easton and the many surrounding Towns that Easton Volunteer Fire Department provides mutual aid to.

Easton Volunteer Fire Department responded to a total of 19 calls in 2015 and these calls are broken down as follows:

Fire Alarm Activations (4), Trees on Power Lines (2), Motor Vehicle Accidents (5), Structure Fires (4), Welfare Checks (1), Forest/Brush Fires (3)

Mutual Aid Calls: Franconia (3), Landaff (2), Sugar Hill (4)

This year was marked with the retirement of Chief Charles (Butch) Casey who dedicated over 25 years to the Department. Butch was instrumental in forming the Department in 1990. The Select Board has appointed Arthur Rainville as the new Chief and Darrel Gearhart as the Deputy Chief. The Easton Fire Department has an ongoing regimen of training with two new members attending a pre-level one structural firefighting class. This gives them a great start on the path to becoming competent firefighters.

The Easton Fire Department has applied for a FEMA grant in the amount of \$150,000.00 Dollars. The grant is a 95% with a 5% match. With the townspeople's support we will use \$50,000.00 from the Equipment Replacement Trust Fund. With this approach we will have a much greater chance of getting the grant. With \$200,000.00 in funding we will be able to replace our 33 year old tanker that was built by the Department fifteen years ago.

The Easton Fire Department is always looking for new members (male & female) to join the Department. We need all types of volunteers; you do not necessarily need to charge into burning buildings. We need help operating equipment, fire engines and other firefighting apparatus. In addition to fighting fires, we typically respond to reports of downed power lines and traffic accidents. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Chief Art Rainville at [823-9558](tel:823-9558) or Deputy Chief Darrel Gearhart at [823-7152](tel:823-7152) or stop by the Fire Department during one of our meetings which take place on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 pm.

All of the Firefighters of the Easton Volunteer Fire Department would like to express our sincere appreciation for all of your support and we Thank You for allowing us to serve our great community. We stand ready to respond when called to action.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Easton Volunteer Firefighters  
Art Rainville, Chief

# EASTON FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET-2015

January 1, 2016

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b><u>Category</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>
	<b>4220</b>	
Fire Chief's Salary	100	\$ 750.00
Fire Fighters Call Pay	110	3,200.00
Training, Dues, Other	200	1,000.00
Utilities	400	4,000.00
Office and Miscellaneous	600	300.00
Truck Inspection, Maintenance and Repair	630	4,500.00
Truck Fuel	636	750.00
Equipment and Small Tools	700	4,250.00
Building Maintenance and Supplies	800	<u>1,800.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$20,550.00</b>
<b>Emergency Management/Forest Fire</b>	<b>4290</b>	
Labor	500	\$ 500.00
Equipment	300	<u>0.00</u>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$21,050.00</b>

## **EASTON LIBRARY REPORT**

At the 2015 Town Meeting residents voted to close the Library and the Trustees were charged with disposing of the inventory. \$250.00 was raised to facilitate this process.

In September the Trustees held a sale, in conjunction with the Kinsman Valley Club yard sale, which netted \$226.00. The remaining books were purchased by Ragamuffins store in Bethlehem for an additional \$122.10. So, a total of \$348.10 was raised and the \$250.00 appropriation was not used. Donations of books were also made to Copper Cannon Camp, Grafton County Nursing Home and Franconia Library.

The large room is now empty and the small room contains all the books which were saved. This included books by local authors and anything pertaining to New Hampshire, Easton or Conservation. Thanks to Kris Pastoriza for help with this project.

Thanks also to Bob Thibault for trash removal and book drop disposal.

Although it is sad to see our Library close after so many years, we do have a great option in Franconia. Currently we can use that Library for a \$25.00 yearly fee and we have a proposal for lowering that cost, which we will discuss at this year's Town Meeting.

The Franconia Library has handicap access from the parking lot and they have open hours every day except Sunday. Computers, laptops, WIFI access and Kindles are available. They do Inter-library loans and can get any book you might want (if it is available from another NH Library). There are subscriptions to many magazines as well as newspapers (NY Times, Wall Street Journal, The Courier and The White Mountain Record) with comfy chairs and large tables for reading and computing. Audiobooks, movies and puzzles are available and just added to their lending file are telescopes, microscopes, snowshoes and a Mah Jongg set.

There is a large children's room with an extensive book selection, as well as toys, movies, games and puzzles. The Library recently received a CLIF grant and purchased many new books. Their motto is, "1000 books before kindergarten." They have recently also established a Young Adult section and purchased several graphic novels, which appeal particularly to this age group.

Many Easton residents are already Franconia Library patrons. If you have not checked it out, we urge you to do so.

The Board of Trustees  
Bunny Ford  
Denys Draper  
Amy Baker

## **CEMETERY TRUSTEES REPORT**

The Cemetery Trustees are pleased to report that the Cemetery continues to operate in good shape. This year we made arrangements for several dead and dying trees to be removed before they could fall and cause any damage. The boundaries of the Cemetery itself continue to be of paramount concern to the Trustees. Harry Burgess has been hired to mark the Cemetery boundaries with permanent markers. This enables us to monitor any development by abutters.

We are still working on a kiosk to be erected at the Cemetery as well as a new flagpole with appropriate lighting.

Please note that there are to be no pets in the Cemetery. The language allows for service animals and animals participating in a ceremony (i.e. a horse drawn hearse). Thank you all for your cooperation and understanding.

Denys Draper-  
Richard Larcom  
Kristina Pastoriza

## EASTON PLANNING BOARD

The Easton Planning Board meets monthly, in the Town Hall, on the first Thursday at 7:00 p.m. We encourage anyone who has an interest in Town planning, including zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations to attend. Your property interests and concerns are important to this Board and we are very willing to discuss such matters with you. All ordinances, regulations, meeting minutes, and notices are found on the Town website: [www.townofeastonnh.org](http://www.townofeastonnh.org).

This past year, the Planning Board was involved with a subdivision application for a property on the corner of Routes 116 and 112. After informal meetings, formalized presentations, and public hearings, a three parcel minor subdivision was approved. The Planning Board members worked to assist the property owner in this endeavor by familiarizing themselves with the property and analyzing the application and related documents to insure adherence to the ordinances and regulations of the Town.

This Board has continued to show a willingness to work with the public toward enhancing our Town for the benefit of all Easton residents, homeowners, and landowners and would welcome those interested in volunteering to assist us. Recently Anita Craven and Denys Draper joined the Planning Board as alternates. Their time and contributions are truly appreciated.

Easton's Master Plan is scheduled for revision in three years. Even though three years seems a long way off, thinking of and building a vision for Easton's future will take time, thought, consideration, and input from as many of you as possible. Please join us in our effort to ensure that Easton will remain our treasured Town for many years to come.

Sincerely,  
The Easton Planning Board  
James Collier, Chairman  
Gary Harwood  
Phillip Reeder  
Samuel Brown  
Zhenye (Zak) Mei – Ex Officio  
Anita Craven, Alternate  
Denys Draper, Alternate

## EASTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In 2015, the Conservation Commission delivered on an ambitious work plan developed over the past three years. All efforts were inspired by the Town Master Plan, and were in support of the entire community.

- **Anna and Tonie Darvid Easement.** Commission members introduced Anna to representatives of the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) in 2014, assisting these selfless landowners in permanently preserving their family's legacy in 2015.
- **Eversource Pole Removal.** Discovered and monitored by the Commission in 2014, continued pressure in 2015 resulted in a major helicopter operation to remove most of the poles abandoned in the Reel Brook watershed in the 1980's.
- **Northern Pass.** Conducted community information sessions, offered testimony, wrote letters to the editor, and filed as interveners in the State's Site Evaluation Committee process. The Commission is pleased to claim ownership in the broad-based effort to defeat the towers in Easton and White Mountain National Forest, and continues to represent the interest of the Town in supporting burial along Interstate 93.
- **NHEC Right-of-Way Spraying and Trimming.** Commission members met with NHEC to represent landowner concerns about aggressive trimming, and successfully mounted a landowner write-in campaign to postpone spraying.
- **Building Permit Reviews.** There were two new applications.
- **Landowner Issue.** The Commission forwarded a letter to the Select Board expressing concern on one landowner issue.
- **Telecommunications Proposal.** The Commission forwarded a letter to the ZBA, encouraging their due diligence in the review of a proposal for the Town's first cell tower.
- **Energy.** The Commission continued work on informing Town residents on energy conservation and alternatives with a mailing and in preparation for Solarize Ammonoosuc, a regional initiative to encourage residential solar photovoltaic systems.

If you believe strongly in the importance of conservation in Easton, we need your help. The Commission will be looking for both new members and alternates as the 2016 term begins. Please join us!

Roy Stever, Chair  
Kris Pastoriza, Vice-Chair  
Deborah Stever, Member  
Carl Lakes, Member

Beth Harwood, Member  
Maria Hynes, Member  
Anita Craven, Member  
Steve Sabre, Alternate



**Caledonia Essex Area Ambulance  
Service Inc.  
2015 Town Report  
Sugar Hill  
2015 CALEX Responses 57**

Another busy year providing Emergency Services in our region. CALEX continues to provide the highest quality of pre hospital care to all the towns we serve providing 911 coverage at the Paramedic level 24/7/365. Serving 12 towns in Vermont & New Hampshire – Saint Johnsbury, Waterford, Barnet, Concord, Kirby, Victory, Danville, Peacham, Walden and in New Hampshire – Littleton, Sugar Hill, Easton.

We responded to 57 calls for service in the Town of Sugar Hill. Our busiest day is Wednesday and our busiest time is from 1200-1500. Our average response time for our entire service area in our NH operation is eight minutes and ten secs. Across our fleet of 6 Ambulances we put on 116,177 miles. Overall for our agency both VT & NH we responded to 3,623 up 270 responses over last year. CALEX provided 742 inter-facility transports throughout the year, 330 of these were Dartmouth-Hitchcock and the remaining to a variety of hospitals and facilities across VT & NH. CALEX continues to provide emergent and non-emergency transports from Littleton Regional Hospital to various facilities across the state.

We have started a fundraising effort for new ambulance purchases as our fleet is aging. Recommended replacement is 5 years and our fleet average is 8 years currently. Our newest truck purchased in 2012 has over 100,000 miles on it. We have placed an order for our newest ambulance which costs just over \$160,000, it is expected to arrive early fall of 2016. We have incorporated new crew safety concepts into this design which will create the safest possible environment for our crews to work. You can help support our fundraising campaign or obtain more information by visiting us at [www.buildanambulance.org](http://www.buildanambulance.org)

CALEX St. Johnsbury continues to serve as the area's American Heart Association CPR and First Aid Public Training Center. Classes are offered monthly to the public, they can also be arranged to be held privately, and are also held for large and small businesses throughout the Kingdom. Of course, having seen first-hand the positive difference immediate CPR and First Aid can make to patient outcomes, we urge everyone, from teens to seniors to take part in these classes. Imagine the joy in knowing you made the difference in saving a life, easing fears, and/or discomfort. Those who have been able to make the difference in even the life of a stranger will tell you how wonderful the experience truly is. Visit us at [www.calexambulance.org](http://www.calexambulance.org) to sign up today!

As we end 2015, I look forward to another successful year of providing the very best of pre hospital care to our communities. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and experienced team providing care for when it is needed to anyone who may need our service in the communities we serve.

In closing, I would like to thank all of our staff, their families, and the CALEX Board of Directors and our dedicated dispatchers for their continued support and dedication to the Agency's mission.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael J. Wright, NREMT-P  
Chief Executive Officer

## **FRANCONIA LIFE SQUAD**

The Franconia Life Squad/Ambulance currently has four (4) members who are certified to provide Advanced Life Support, three (3) of which are nationally registered paramedics. The Franconia Ambulance at year's end, has thirteen (13) active members. A membership well prepared to assist our citizens and visitors to our area with quality emergency medical care.

All members are Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technicians. They are continually training and improving their skills. Each member must have a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education each year plus every two years must take an additional 24 hour of classroom refresher, where members must demonstrate their proficiency to State examiners.

Many of the members have other specialized training including ice rescue, swift water rescue, high angle rescue and motor vehicle extrication certifications. All of our members are certified in advanced CPR and in the use of the heart monitor and defibrillator. Most importantly, all of our members are dedicated to providing compassionate emergency medical care from the scene to the hospital.

The Ambulance Service continues to seek its' membership from the surrounding area by recruiting from the towns of Franconia, Sugar Hill and Easton, the same communities it provides service to. Anyone willing to volunteer is welcome to apply for membership. Each member is dedicated to providing the highest quality emergency care to the communities we serve.

The current list of active members of the Franconia Ambulance is:

Chief Paul Schmucker EMT

Asst. Chief Mark Taylor EMT

Capt. Pam Oakman Paramedic

William Mead Paramedic

Allan Clark EMT

Steven Czarnecki Paramedic

Bill Blackwell AEMT

Jennifer Liang EMT

Susan Simpson EMT

Linda Mordhorst EMT

Zach Chicoine EMT

Ned Wilson EMT

William Demers EMT

The Franconia Ambulance responded to 261 calls for assistance during 2015, of those 138 required transport.

In 2015, the total operating expenses for the Franconia Ambulance were \$65,664. Income obtained from patient billing and subsidies from Sugar Hill totaled \$81,413. The net cost for the operation of the Franconia Ambulance to the Town of Franconia being no cost and a surplus of \$15,749.

Your Ambulance is currently operating at the Advanced Life Support- paramedic level. Again, I sincerely thank the townspeople for their continued support and the privilege of serving them. And I especially thank the men and women of the Franconia Ambulance for their countless hours of dedication and sacrifice, serving others in their community in their time of need.

In closing, I would like to pay special note to the retirement of John Ireland, who for many years donated countless hours of selfless, compassionate service to his neighbors and the community of Franconia.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Schmucker-Chief  
Franconia Life Squad

## TRI-TOWN TRANSFER STATION

2015 saw a drop in the market prices for recycled products but an increase of revenue in the special handling fees. We said goodbye to Nate Hartford who decided to make a career change and welcomed Corey Rush as a full time employee. To round out our staff we have brought aboard Don “Chipper” Dimick as a part time employee. As always we thank you for your continued support.

- Cardboard ----- 72.9 tons
- Newspaper ----- 27.7 tons
- Mixed paper --- 35.9 tons
- Magazines ----- 22.1 tons
- Aluminum ----- 12.4 tons
- Tin ----- 7.5 tons
- Plastics ----- 10.3 tons
- Scrap Metal----- 18.6 tons
- Glass ----- 163.8 tons
- Textiles----- 5.7 tons
- Electronics----- 8.2 tons
- Tires ----- 5.5 tons

Respectfully submitted,

Your Transfer Station Crew,  
Greg Wells, Manager  
Kevin Dauphine  
Corey Rush  
Don Dimick

## LAFAYETTE RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Lafayette Recreation Committee saw a 2015 filled with events, activities, and sporting fun for residents of all ages. The Committee works hard to provide recreational opportunities to the residents and guests of Franconia, Sugar Hill, and Easton, and we're continually striving to expand our activities in ways that engage our communities.

Lafayette Recreation sponsors or assists with several events each year: The Longest Day in June, Old Home Day, the Top Notch Triathlon, the Franconia Scramble Color Run, Community Harvest Potluck Dinner, the Wobble-n-Gobble and the Longest Night in December. This year also saw curling on the Lafayette ice rink, and dancing in the Franconia Town Hall with the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire.

We are continuing work to inventory, maintain, map, and sign the many trails in our three towns. Anyone interested in adopting a trail may email [recreation@franconianh.org](mailto:recreation@franconianh.org). We also sponsor Earth Day activities in the spring, Old Home Day Fireworks, a series of summer concerts on the Dow, the Halloween bonfire, and the Community Holiday Party in December.

These events throughout the year bring our communities and residents together to visit and celebrate the beautiful place we call home. This year's holiday party was expanded to include downtown Franconia businesses and activities for all ages, including caroling at the Lafayette Center and a visit by Santa at the Village Store.

Youth Programs Director Kris Kappler oversees our summer Recreation program of 97 enrolled campers and 13 counselors and orchestrates school-year sports through Lafayette Regional School. From fall soccer (including the hugely successful Annual Halloween Cup) to winter basketball and spring baseball/softball, these programs engage almost 95% of the Lafayette Regional School children with the essential assistance of over 20 dedicated volunteer coaches and officials. Information about our youth programs can be found at [www.LafayetteRecreation.weebly.com](http://www.LafayetteRecreation.weebly.com).

Finally, the Lafayette Recreation Committee meets the first Thursday of each month in the conference room at the Lafayette Regional School; residents are welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Lafayette Committee Members

**Franconia:** Beth Horan, Adam Boyer, & Meghan McPhaul

**Sugar Hill:** Haley Ireland & Launa Glover

**Easton:** John Hynes & Matt Koehler

**Lafayette Regional School:** Gordie Johnk

Kris Kappler, Youth Programs Director

Kim Cowles, Park & Recreation Director - [recreation@franconianh.org](mailto:recreation@franconianh.org)

## COOLEY-JERICHO COMMUNITY FOREST REPORT

The 840-acre Cooley-Jericho Community Forest is owned and managed by the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust (ACT) on behalf of the towns of Easton, Franconia, Landaff, and Sugar Hill. With participation by these towns and numerous local residents, the property was acquired in 2013.

This year was devoted to recreation and education. Great progress was made in creating the first multi-use trails. Trail planning has been in the works for a couple of years. A consulting ecologist/forester, assisted by members of the Stewardship Team and other volunteers, explored the entire property, identifying and mapping wildlife corridors, bird nesting areas, wetlands, communities of various plants and trees, and identifying areas that are sensitive to disturbance and ought to be avoided by trails. Along with the topography, road access, and other natural features such as good view points, the team laid out a trail network.

To ensure that trail building followed best techniques, ACT partnered with the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), which has been building and maintaining trails in the White Mountains for well over a century. AMC led trail building training for local adult volunteers, and also worked with a terrific group of students from Lisbon's Panther Adventure Wilderness Program (PAWS). The students built a series of sturdy bog bridges through particularly wet areas. Summer teen crews from AMC continued the bog bridges and laid stone to harden other muddy sections of trail. Meanwhile, adult volunteers cut the new trails, cleared viewpoints, and put up trail markers. Eagle Scout candidate Asher Merrill of Sugar Hill designed, built, and installed a kiosk at the Trumpet Round access with the help of another volunteer team.

Now a loop trail (marked with blue blazes) originates from the Trumpet Round access that is suitable for hiking, and for the intrepid, mountain biking and cross-country skiing. A mountain bike trail (yellow blazes) originates not far from the beginning of the blue loop as it heads up the eastern side of the property. It is also found at the end of the Jericho Road by following a short trail. A map is at the kiosk and can be downloaded at [www.cooley-jericho.org](http://www.cooley-jericho.org). Thanks to all the hardy volunteers who worked tirelessly on these trails!

Part of the reason for creating the Community Forest was to use the land for education. Last spring, ACT partnered with AMC to bring "A Mountain Classroom" to the Forest. AMC's highly regarded environmental education program gets kids outside to combine hands-on discovery, problem solving, and lots of fun to learn about topics ranging from glacial history to stream ecology to map and compass use. Students from Bethlehem Elementary participated. This spring, we hope to work with additional schools, and to start a new effort to continue this vital work of reuniting kids and nature. We will be recruiting adults for a Community Conservation Corps, where AMC will train and mentor volunteers so that we may grow our local capability to lead the outdoor classrooms on the Community Forest and other conserved land. Please contact ACT (823-7777) if you're interested in volunteering.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Cooley-Jericho Stewardship Team

## **CENTER FOR NEW BEGINNINGS**

For over 30 years the Center for New Beginnings, located in Littleton, NH, has been quietly helping individuals and families around the North Country, some of whom are your friends, family members, neighbors and employees, lead happier, more stable and productive lives. The Center was founded with a main focus of services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Today our nonprofit organization is dedicated to improving the lives of people who struggle with depression, anxiety, grief, trauma, marital problems, and many other difficulties. The children and teenagers we see come to us with a myriad of challenges that reflect the social, cultural, and economic struggles of our time. *We are also working hard to answer the need of those suffering with addiction – a widespread problem.*

In 2015, The Center for New Beginnings provided services to 600 individuals. We logged 8200 patient appointments. Five of our clients reside in Easton.

## **AMMONOOSUC COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES, INC.**

This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc. (ACHS). We have been recognized by USDHHS HRSA as a National Quality Leader being in the top 1-2% in the country for our outcomes in prenatal care, preventive care and chronic care. As a Federally Qualified Health Center, ACHS provides comprehensive primary preventive healthcare to all, *regardless of ability to pay.*

As a community Health Center, many of our services are paid for through Medicare, Medicaid and grants, funding sources at the federal, state and county level – this funding helps to offset the costs of providing care to all regardless of ability to pay. As you may be aware, these funding sources continue to be cut.

We offer a sliding fee scale for payment of services at ACHS as well as in the ACHS Dental & Oral Health Center, which opened in January. The sliding fee scale provides a vehicle for uninsured and under insured patients, preventing a possible costly emergency room visit, or, worse, hospitalization. We continue to work on new initiatives.

Last year we provided services to over 10,000 citizens of the 26 towns in northern Grafton and southern Coos counties. Healthcare was provided to 75 Easton patients.

## **SUPPORT CENTER AT BURCH HOUSE**

The Support Center at Burch House is a private, non-profit agency that provides direct services and emergency shelter to victims of domestic and sexual violence and stalking in Northern Grafton County. In the fiscal year 2015, the Support Center at Burch House provided 413 victims of violence in our catchment area, which includes the Town of Easton. *All of our services are provided free of charge to the recipient.*

Last year we provided 11,635 support services, and spent 9368 hours of service to the community.

The Support Center at Burch House is a program of Tri-County Community Action, Inc., and a member of the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

## **AMERICAN RED CROSS (New Hampshire and Vermont Region)**

The American Red Cross of New Hampshire and Vermont is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the New Hampshire and Vermont Communities prepare for, respond to and recover from local disasters. These services help thousands of residents each year.

In the past year, the American Red Cross responded to 354 local disasters, helping over 1,000 people in two states. We installed over 500 smoke detectors, helped 283 Nurse Assistants and 26 Phlebotomists graduate from training, held 510 blood drives and collected 120,000 units of blood, and connected with 317 military members with their families and loved ones. We currently have over 1,330 volunteers.

The American Red Cross provides *all its emergency relief services free with no support from federal or state governments.*

## **NORTH COUNTRY HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE AGENCY**

North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency provides skilled services such as nurses, therapists, home health aides, medical social workers, and homemakers. Under our hospice program we also pay for medications for symptom relief, medical supplies and equipment, short term hospitalization and in-patient respite care, counseling and pastoral support. Hospice volunteers provide valuable support to those living with a life-limiting illness.

Although many of North Country Home Health & Hospice services are paid for through Medicare, Medicaid, and State grant programs, our reimbursement under these programs continues to fall significantly short of actual expenses. We have unfunded mileage reimbursement, and our hospice volunteer program depends largely on community donations to exist. Hard economic times are resulting in an increase in the number of uninsured and underinsured.

## **TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC.**

The Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc. (Tri CAP) serves Carroll, Coos and Grafton Counties with fuel and electric assistance, homeless prevention, and weatherization. We are also the conduit which the USDA Surplus Food is distributed to the food pantries throughout Grafton County.

Tri CAP/Grafton County assists low-income, elderly and disabled persons to solve problems and meet their physical and financial needs. We accomplish this by providing information, counseling, referrals, budget counseling, guidance and organizational assistance and by effectively linking households with CAP assistance programs and using community resources. Tri CAP provides necessary services for the less fortunate citizens in our community, who would otherwise have to seek help from the Town.

Last year we provided services to 12 residents of Easton, with services totaling \$10,639.18.

## **GRAFTON COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL**

Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. (GCSCC) is a private nonprofit organization that provides programs and services to support the health and well-being of our communities' older citizens. The Council's programs enable elderly individuals to remain independent in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. The Council operates with senior centers throughout the North Country.

Through the centers, older adults and their families take part in a range of community-based long-term services including home delivered meals, community dining programs, transportation, outreach and counseling, chore/home repair services, recreational and educational programs, and volunteer opportunities.

Last year, nine Easton residents enjoyed hot nutritious meals in the Littleton Area Senior Center dining room, and three hundred and sixty four meals were delivered to the homes of Easton residents by caring volunteers. In addition, on 56 occasions Easton residents were transported to health care providers or other community resources by our lift-equipped busses, and ServiceLink assisted Easton residents on 36 occasions. Easton citizens also volunteered 31.5 hours to GCSCC.

The cost to provide Council services for Easton residents in 2014/2015 was \$5,127.71. Easton's population over age 60 has increased by 79.6% over the past 20 years, according to the US Census data from 1990-2010.

## **NORTHERN HUMAN SERVICES – WHITE MOUNTAIN MENTAL HEALTH**

Northern Human services is the safety net provider of behavioral health services for the twenty two towns in upper Grafton and lower Coos counties, White Mountain Mental Health strives to assure that everyone in the community, regardless of income or insurance status, has access to high quality services, delivered by caring and well trained mental health professionals. Services include evaluation in crisis situations, short-term, solution-focused counseling offered to adults, children and families, comprehensive life-long supports to persons suffering from severe and persistent mental illness, and treatment focused on recovery from addiction, with a special focus on the high

percentage of persons dually diagnosed with mental illness and substance abuse. Our goal is to make mental health treatment an accepted and easily accessible component of general good health.

This past year, 3 people from the Town of Easton received 38.6 hours of services. Our cost for these services was \$5,597.00.

## **BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE NORTH COUNTRY**

Approximately 200 children from Bethlehem, Littleton, Lisbon, Landaff, Franconia, Easton and Sugar Hill are members of the Boys & Girls Club of the North Country (BGCNC). The after school programs and vacation camps that BGCNC offers are, in many cases, the key to the development of these children and we strongly believe that we are both preparing them for a happy and productive future and, in some cases, literally saving their lives.

The BGCNC is committed to our mission of providing a fun, safe and positive place for all children of the North Country under the guidance of caring adults, as well as connecting community members of all ages to the Club, providing healthy living initiative to keep our members fit and to making sure that both fun and education are a focal point to all our activities.

The BGCNC provides a safe and emotionally stimulating place to go after school.

# **TOWN OF EASTON**

## **FEES**

**(As of January 2016 - Subject to Change)**

### **Building Permit Application Fee**

**New Residents: \$285.00**

**New electric and/or plumbing in existing building: \$240.00**

**No electrical or plumbing in new construction (requires 1 inspection): \$150**

**All others that require no inspection: \$5.00**

### **9-1-1 Building Numbering**

**\$30.00**

### **Current Use Application**

**\$20.00**

### **Driveway Permit for Town Roads**

**\$20.00**

### **Reappraisal Charges**

**\$45.00**

### **Subdivision Application Fees**

**Minor and Major Subdivisions: \$200.00**

**Plus \$10.00 per Abutter**

**This Covers All Filing Fees**

**Minor Lot Line Adjustment and/or Boundary Agreement: \$10.00**

### **Subdivision and Zoning Ordinances**

**Available on the Town of Easton Website - [www.townofeastonnh.org](http://www.townofeastonnh.org)**

**Planning Board Link**

**Paper Copies for Review Available at Town Hall**

### **Copies**

**Taxpayers - \$0.10 per page**

**Non-Taxpayers - \$0.25 per page**

**Non-Resident Tax Card - \$2.00**

### **Faxes**

**\$1.00 per page**

***Clerical Time to Meet Miscellaneous Information Requests***

***\$25.00 per Hour, Payable Before Information Is Released.***

## **EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

### **Police – Fire – Medical Emergency**

**9-1-1**

### **New Hampshire State Police – Troop F**

**846-3333**

### **Fire Chief**

**Art Rainville – 823-9558**

### **Fire Wardens**

**Warden – Arthur Rainville – 823-9558**

**Deputy – Darrel Gearhart – 823-7152**

**Deputy – Edward Cutler – 823-5050**

**Deputy – Zhenye Mei – 823-7264**

### **Town Clerk and Tax Collector**

**Town Hall Telephone – 823-8017**

**Town Hall Fax – 823-7780**

### **Hours**

**Thursday: 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
and by appointment**

**A license for all dogs is required by May 1, 2016**

**A Current Rabies Certificate is required in order  
to obtain a dog license  
in the Town of Easton.**