

ANNUAL REPORT
of the Town Officers
for the year ending December 31, 2022
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All Agency Reports Are On File In The Selectmen’s Office

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TOWN OFFICERS ELECTED OFFICIALS AND APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

Board of Selectmen

Zhenye (Zak) Mei (2025)
Toni Woodruff (2024)
Robert Thibault (2023)

Treasurer

Darrel Gearhart (2023)

Moderator

Brent Detamore (2024)

Lafayette School Board

Megan Detamore (2023)
Election at Lafayette Annual Mtg.

Cemetery Trustees

Ed O'Brien (2025)
Patricia O'Brien (2024)
Richard Larcom (2023)

Town Clerk

Angela Thornton (2023)

Tax Collector

John McLaughlin (2023)

Trustees of the Trust Funds

Jason Arquitt (2023)
John Hynes (2024)
Claire Mei (2025)

Supervisors of the Checklist

Ed O'Brien (2028)
Lisa Cutler (2027)
Tambra Gearhart (2026)

Planning Board

Ned Cutler (2025)	Zhenye (Zak) Mei (Ex Officio)
Laura Sabre (2025)	Robert Thibault (Ex-Officio Alternate)
Anita Craven (2023)	Bob Lamanna (Alternate - 2025)
John Bracken (2023)	Tom Boucher (Alternate - 2023)
	Gary Harwood (Alternate - 2025)

APPOINTED OFFICIALS & BOARD MEMBERS

Fire Chief: Darrel Gearhart **Emergency Manager:** Edward Cutler

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

Zoning Board of Adjustment: **Building Inspector:** Allan Clark

Ellen Pritham (2024)
Kevin Ryan (2024) **Road Agent:** Presby Construction Co.

John Hynes (2023)
Fred Moody (2025) **Recreation Committee:** Mike McKeever
Frank Woodruff (2025) Kent Butterfield

Deputy Town Clerk: Toni Woodruff (2023) **Animal Control Officer:**

Assistant Town Clerk: Robert Thibault (2023) Richard Larcom

Conservation Commission

Linda Hansen - Chair (2025)	Charles Pates (2025)
Inga Johnson (2023)	Avid Kamgar (2025)
Andrew Schatz (2024)	Kerri Williamson (2025)
Michael Kenney (2025)	

EASTON SELECT BOARD

2022 had the Select Board moving in many directions and addressing a diverse array of Town concerns. A few examples are:

- Processing building applications ranging from sheds to new homes
- Continuing to remain in contact with the NH Electric Cooperative regarding the progress of bringing high speed internet to Easton
- Conducting three elections; Town Election/Meeting, NH Primary Election, and the Mid-term Election
- Signing a one year contract for ambulance service with Littleton Fire and Rescue
- Responding to many 91-A requests from a few residents seeking Select Board and Town documents
- Completing all MS reports for the Department of Revenue
- Using Transfer Station Funds to help purchase new and much needed equipment for the Transfer Station
- Purchasing of two computers and two printers for use by Town Hall personnel

A great deal of the Select Board's time was spent on the determination of boundary lines for a public right-of-way for Paine Road. This included hiring a surveyor and seeking legal counsel when needed. The Board arranged a special Select Board Hearing in the summer to listen to the concerns of residents (most of them abutters to Paine Road). A result of this meeting was an eight-page document written by the Select Board which provided references and outlined the history of this Paine Road endeavor along with the Select Board's position. This document is available for all to read and is located on the Town's website.

The Select Board appointed Ralph Brigida to serve as Deputy Treasurer. Ralph is a retired accountant and has a wealth of knowledge in that field. Together with Treasurer, Darrel Gearhart, they worked to insure all of Easton's financial matters were up-to-date and correctly recorded. Also to assist in this oversight we hired the firm of Plodznik and Sanderson to serve as the official accountants for the Town. We thank all involved for their diligence in accurately reporting the financial standing of Easton.

The Board would also like to express our appreciation for the work of Kathy Ryan and Angela Thornton. Kathy, is not only the Secretary for the Select Board but also for the Planning Board and Zoning Board. She keeps us organized and always on task. Angie has served as Easton's Town Clerk for the past year and has shown her abilities both with motor vehicle transactions, voting responsibilities, and Town issues. Kathy and Angie are essential in keeping our Town on track!

During the past two months, the Select Board has developed a responsible budget for 2023 and worked with the fund balance to help lower municipal tax responsibility.

Short term rentals have become very popular throughout the North Country and Easton is no exception. To date they have not been subject to regulation in Easton. The Select Board worked with the Planning Board to create additions to the Zoning Ordinances

addressing short-term-rentals. Using these Ordinances, the Select Board will develop an application and permit for any short-term-rental in Easton, we hope to have this finalized and in place by April 1, 2023. The Select Board also worked with the Planning Board on a revision of the Building Permit process into a combination Zoning/Building permit process to better account for the differences between zoning enforcement and building code enforcement.

We would like to thank you for your support and assistance. This was especially evident during our “Holiday Storm” which resulted in the loss of power for a few days along with many downed trees and wires. Neighbor reached out to neighbor, electric company personnel from many states worked day and night to restore the power and clear impassable roads, and the Easton Fire Department was out to help all in need. Just a few examples of what makes Easton such a special place. Thank you all!

Respectfully,
The Easton Select Board

Zhenye “Zak” Mei - Chairman
Bob Thibault
Toni Woodruff

**TOWN OF EASTON
TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 8, 2022**

"To the inhabitants of the Town of Easton, in the County of Grafton, in the State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified and warned of the Annual Town Meeting to be held at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. Polls will open from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM for voting on Articles 1-9. The Town's annual business meeting will follow at 7:00 PM."

Town of Easton Moderator, Brent Detamore, opened the meeting at 7:03 pm.

- Brent Detamore welcomed 39 attendees, introduced the Select Board, reviewed the procedures for the meeting and called for civility.
- The attendees were invited to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 1. Elect All Officers. To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year, on the Official Ballot. (BallotVote)

Brent Detamore announced the following results of the Ballot Vote with 65 resident voting:

Selectman

Zhenye "Zak" Mei	62
Kris Pastoriza	2
Blank	1

Town Clerk

Angela Thornton	60
John McLaughlin	2
Blank	3

Tax Collector

John McLaughlin	47
Denys Draper	13
Blank	4
Spoiled	1

Treasurer

Darrel Gearhart	65
-----------------	----

Supervisor of the Checklist

Ed O'Brien	59
Tammy Gearhart	1
Blank	5

Moderator

Brent Detamore	62
Ned Cutler	1
Blank	2

Planning Board

John Bracken	55
Ned Cutler	58
Laura Sabre	59
Blanks	21
Gary Harwood	1
Cher	1

Trustees of the Trust Funds

Claire Mei	63
Kris Pastoriza	1
Blank	1

Cemetery Trustee

Denys Draper	53
Rich Larcom	2
Roy Stever	1
Kris Pastoriza	1
Blank	8

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Easton Zoning Ordinance as follows;

Amendment No. 1 would replace the existing Easton Zoning Ordinance with a revised Zoning Ordinance incorporating the following changes:

Reorganize (and renumber as needed) the Ordinance and make minor revisions to text and provisions throughout the Zoning Ordinance to clarify, update, correct, make consistent and add more detail where needed. This would include but not be limited to the following:

Article 3 - Addition and modification of definitions for several terms used in the Ordinance.

Article 4 - Clarification of zoning permit requirement.

Article 5 - Revised provisions for nonconforming uses and addition of provisions for nonconforming structures and lots.

Article 6 - Addition of sale of agricultural products to Permitted uses.

Article 7 - Clarification of minimum lot size and maximum density.

Article 8 - Addition of requirement for zoning permit for home occupation.

Article 9 - Addition of provisions for expansion of nonconforming use or structure in wetland buffer, and clarification of Planning Board vs. Conservation Commission role in Wetlands Conservation Overlay District (formerly Section 604, now would be Section 901) ; addition of required language in Flood Hazard Zone (formerly Section 607, now would be Section 904).

Article 10 - Addition of Equitable Waivers of Dimensional Requirements as provided in state law; add sample conditions for consideration by ZBA and Planning Board.

(The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

YES 50

NO 12

BLANK 3

Article 2 passes.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Easton Zoning Ordinance as follows;

Amendment No. 2 would add provisions for Accessory Dwelling Units including added Definitions in Article 3, addition of attached accessory dwelling as a Permitted Use in Section 602.1, and addition of detached accessory dwelling units in preexisting accessory buildings as a Special Exception in Section 602.2. Would also add new Accessory Dwelling section to Article 8.

(The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

YES 47

NO 14

BLANK 4

Article 3 passes.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Easton Zoning Ordinance as follows;

Amendment No. 3 would move houses of worship and schools from Permitted Uses in Section 602.1 to Special Exceptions in Section 602.2. similar to other public uses and buildings, and add preschool to uses allowed by Special Exception.

(The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

Yes	49
No	15
Blank	1

Article 4 passes.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Easton Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amendment No. 4 would provide opportunities for short term rental of dwellings and of rooms in dwellings within certain limits. Would amend Article 3 Definitions and Section 801 Home Occupations to allow rental of one or two rooms to up to a total of three guests in an owner-occupied home, as an Accessory Use for nontransient guests and as a Home Occupation for transient guests. The terms "Short Term Rental" and "Transient" would be added to Section 3 Definitions, and "Short Term Rental" would be added as a Permitted Use in Section 602.1. A definition for "Tourist Homes" would be added to Section 3 Definitions, and the number of allowed guest rooms changed from 8 rooms to 5 rooms in Section 602.2 Special Exceptions with a limit of 10 lodgers.

Yes	45
No	16
Blank	4

Article 5 passes.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of the Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Easton Zoning Ordinance as follows;

Amendment No. 5 would replace Section 804 Illuminations in its entirety with a new Outdoor Lighting section with provisions to address light pollution and glare. The new language also contains exemptions and a process for temporary permits.

(The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

YES	45
NO	16
BLANK	4

Article 6 passes.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Easton Zoning Ordinance as follows;

Amendment No. 6 would replace Section 606 Steep Slopes, Hillside & Ridgeline Development Overlay District and Appendix with a new Steep Slope Overlay District with performance standards that would apply to development on slopes over 15%.

(The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

YES	48
NO	10
BLANK	7

Article 7 passes.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Easton Zoning Ordinance as follows;

Amendment No. 7 would revise and expand the Special Exception Criteria in Section 1003 Special Exceptions.

(The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

YES 44
NO 13
BLANK 8

Article 8 passes.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 8 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Easton Zoning Ordinance as follows;

Amendment No. 8 would add a new Section to Article 4 Application of Regulations authorizing the Planning Board to adopt Site Plan Review Regulations for the development or change or expansion of nonresidential uses and for multi-family dwelling units.

(The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

YES 44
NO 15
BLANK 6

Article 9 passes.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 10. Town Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$235,771 for general Town operation as follows:

- Executive \$14,200
- Election Registration, Town Clerk & Vital Stats \$12,000
- Financial Administration \$15,300
- Revaluation of Individual Properties \$6,000
- Legal Expenses \$10,000
- Personnel Administration & Payroll Taxes \$2,000
- Planning & Zoning \$5,000
- Government Buildings \$12,500
- Cemetery \$2,350
- Insurance \$2,500
- Advertising & Regional Associations \$1,620
- General Government – Contingency \$2,500
- Police Department \$0
- Ambulances \$11,500
- Fire Department \$21,050
- Building Inspections \$1,500
- Emergency Management – Forest Fire \$151
- Public Safety – Other (Including Communications) \$1,500
- Highways and Streets \$55,000
- Sanitation – Solid Waste \$27,000
- Animal & Pest Control \$300

Welfare Assistance \$2,000
Parks and Recreation \$18,000
Library \$0
Patriotic Purposes \$100
Conservation Commission \$1,000
Construction Bonds – Principal \$8,600
Construction Bonds – Interest \$2,100
Total Operating Budget \$235,771

Bob Thibault made a motion to move Article 10 as read. Zak Mei seconded.

Andrew Noyes moved and John Hynes seconded a motion to not read each line item a second time. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.

- Deb Stever spoke to research done with Town Treasurer, Trustees as well as attendance at SB meetings. Denied ambushing the SB, noting discrepancies between the Annual Report and Budget Hearing numbers. Charged SB of overspending.
- Zak Mei responded by noting the Stevers had not brought up this issue during budget discussions at last night's SB meeting. He spoke to a \$17,000 Presby bill received in December and paid in January. He acknowledged and apologized for the error in the actuals and noted the filed MS numbers were corrected, stating he would post the correction online. He described the levels of Town budget oversight; the Town's auditors and the Department of Revenue. He spoke to SB efforts to keep the tax rates down in the Town Operating Budget and noted the school budget is not under the Town's control.
- Roy Stever questioned the amount budgeted for legal expenses and claimed financial mismanagement. He stated there were no Budget Hearing minutes and that all lines were not read at the Hearing as claimed. He argued that the Presby bill was a 7-month deferred bill.
- Zak Mei responded that line items are altered in the audit process and clarified that when tax revenue is less than estimated, the Town can make up the difference from the Unassigned Fund Balance. He noted that the Town's practice is to pay bills as they come in.

Ralph Brigida made a motion to move the Article. Darrel Gearhart seconded.

Passed by voice vote, 2 nays.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 11. Budget for Health Agencies & Hospitals

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,011 for Health Agencies & Hospitals as follows:

(The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Ammonoosuc Community Health Services \$500

North Country Home Health & Hospice \$800

White Mountain Mental Health \$211

CASA \$500

Total Health Agencies & Hospitals \$2,011

Zak Mei made a motion to move Article 11 as read. Angela Brigida seconded.

Passed by voice vote.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 12. Budget for Other Welfare

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,545 for Other Welfare as follows: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.)

(Majority vote required)

American Red Cross \$100

Center for New Beginnings \$250

Grafton County Senior Citizens Council \$45

Tri-County CAP Energy Service Program \$2,150

Total Other Welfare \$2,545

Toni Woodruff made a motion to move the Article as read. Bob Thibault seconded.

Passed by voice vote.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 13. Budget for Other Culture and Recreation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for Other Culture & Recreation:

(The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

North Country Boys & Girls Club \$1,000

Total Other Culture & Recreation \$1,000

Bob Thibaut made a motion to move the Article as read. Ralph Brigida seconded.

Passed by voice vote.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 14. Fee for Franconia Library

To see if the Town will vote to accept a special discounted patron rate of \$10 per Easton resident at the Abbie Greenleaf Library in Franconia, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for payment to such library for this purpose; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation.

(The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Zak Mei made a motion to move the Article as read. Toni Woodruff seconded.

- Andrew Noyes asked about the normal library rate. SB responded that they thought it was \$25.
- Ed O'Brien spoke to the value of the Franconia library in the absence of a library in Easton.

Passed by voice vote.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 15. Fire Department Vehicle and Apparatus Capital Equipment Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to add to the Easton Fire Department Vehicle and Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund (established in March 1997); of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation.

(The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

Zak Mei made a motion to move the Article as read. Toni Woodruff seconded.

Passed by voice vote.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 16. Easton Fire Department Equipment Expendable Trust

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the Easton Fire Department Equipment 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.)

Bob Thibault made a motion to move the Article as read. Zak Mei seconded.

- Ed O'Brien asked if the amount budgeted was enough to restore the non-operable fire truck to service. Darrel Gearhart responded that Engine 2, acquired over a year ago, needed transmission work with repair estimates being sought now. Discussion ongoing about the possibility of replacing manual with automatic transmission. In answer to the question about whether there was sufficient money in the reserve fund, D. Gearhart answered that there was enough.

Passed by voice vote.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 17. 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 \$5,000 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.)

Zak Mei made a motion to move the Article as read. Bob Thibault seconded.

Passed by voice vote.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 18. Town Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 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.)

Toni Woodruff made a motion to move the Article as read. Bob Thibault seconded.

Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 19. Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the Town Roads Maintenance 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.)

Bob Thibault made a motion to move the Article as read. Zak Mei seconded.

- Roy Stever questioned the amount in the fund, past expenditures, and asked about the plan for roads, noting no work had been done on Paine Rd. He maintained the road budget is in disarray, that the plan for Paine Rd is unknown and evidence points to eminent domain.
- SB and Stevers debated amount of funds spent on survey expenses for Paine Rd. Bob Thibault noted past survey (Sabourn and Tower) expenses spent on Ruskin Rd.

- Zak Mei reviewed what the fund is for and maintained that the \$5,000 addition to the fund is reasonable and prudent given wear and tear on roads. He cited the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan).
- Andrew Noyes asked what the Paine Rd survey is for.
- Gary Harwood spoke about the 6-year history of conflict in the Town over Paine Rd and claimed it is the most documented road in Town. He stated that focus should be on the disputed section only.

Brent Detamore repeatedly asked that the discussion be limited to the Article in question and encouraged attendees to take the discussion of Paine Rd to a future SB Meeting.

- Steve Whitcomb noted state statutes governing the width of NH roads.
- Debbie Stever asked if the CIP was online. Zak Mei responded that he would email it to her and noted the CIP is under the purview of the Planning Board. He stated that the Town was not voiced any intent to make Paine Rd a 3-rod road.

Passed by voice vote with a scattering of nays.

- Anita Craven asked that “a scattering of nays” be added to the vote tally.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 20. Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 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.)

Zak Mei made a motion to move the Article as read. Toni Woodruff seconded.

- Andrew Noyes questioned a line-item amount. Zak Mei and Ned Cutler responded that the funds were for Fire Warden training.

Passed by voice vote.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 21. Legal Fees Expendable Trust Fund.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to add to the Legal Fees 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.)

Toni Woodruff made a motion to move Article 21 as read. Bob Thibault seconded.

- Debbie Stever questioned adding to this fund and claimed that the SB stated at the March 7 meeting that there were no known pending lawsuits. She asserted that the monies would be better spent on Master Plan goals. She alleged that legal expenses were being paid from other sources.
- Roy Stever objected to the large Unassigned Balance and asserted monies from that fund were used to pay legal expenses.
- Zak Mei responded that some Unassigned Funds had been used to relieve the Town’s tax burden.
- Kent Butterfield commented that the amount of legal expenses was outrageous for a town of 300 people and asked why the Town is being sued, how many lawsuits, and do we have to pay if we win?
- Roy Stever handed out a document referencing a 2016 letter to Bob Craven and Bob Thibault defending the Stever’s legal action regarding the reclassification of the gravel section of Paine Rd at the 2016 TM and gave a verbal history of the Stever/Town legal actions.

- Bob Thibault responded that there had been 3 lawsuits and rebutted some of the Stever claims, noting that the Town spent \$100,000 to defend itself.

Brent Detamore redirected the discussion to the Article in question.

Ralph Brigida made a motion to move the Article. Darrel Gearhart seconded.

- Ed O'Brien spoke against frivolous lawsuits against the Town.
- Zak Mei noted that there were sources other than the Stevers resulting in legal expenses and objected to the serious allegation of misappropriation, reminding attendees of the oversights provided by the Town's auditors and the Department of Revenue. He asked that this discussion be continued in another venue.
- Debbie Stever noted that some TMs go on for days and noted legal expenses related to the cell tower.

Passed by voice vote with some nays.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 22. Conservation Capital Reserve Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 to add to the Conservation Capital Reserve 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.)

Bob Thibault made a motion to move the Article as read. Zak Mei seconded.

- Andrew Noyes asked what the money would be for.
- Steve Sabre responded that it would be held for possible future purchase of property for conservation.
- Ned Cutler noted that lands coming out of current use contribute to this fund.
- Anita Craven pointed to expenses associated with conserving land and wondered if these funds could go towards those expenses. SB responded that they were unsure who is authorized to expend the funds but thought the ECC, not the SB. John Hynes said the ECC has the authority.
- Gary Harwood added that this is an important issue and felt next year a lot more money should be appropriated.

Passed by voice vote.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 23. To act upon any other business that may legally come before the Meeting .

- Zak Mei recognized Denys Draper for her many years of service to the Town.
- Brent Detamore noted the many avenues in the Town to serve.
- Roy Stever thanked the SB for publishing the Howland Homestead photo on the Annual Report.
- Toni Woodruff noted a correction to the Annual Report; the names of the SB members should have been listed as ex officio members of the ECC, with expiration dates of 2024.
- Brent Detamore advised the attendees that in the future Easton could be absorbed by another town if Town government positions become vacant.

Bob Thibault made a motion to dissolve Town Meeting at 8:45 pm. Zak Mei seconded.

All in favor, none opposed. Passed.

BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF EASTON – REVENUE

SOURCES OF REVENUE	Estimated 2022	Actual 2022	Estimated 2023
Taxes:			
3185 Yield Taxes	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 4,446.00	\$ 7,000.00
3186 Payment in Lieu of Taxes	38,727.00	38,727.00	37,000.00
3190 Interest & Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	1,000.00	11,315.00	1,000.00
Licenses, Permits, & Fees:			
3220 Motor Vehicle Permit Fees	80,000.00	99,411.00	70,000.00
3230 Building Permits	1,500.00	2,056.00	2,000.00
3290 Other Licenses, Permits & Fees	500.00	345.00	500.00
From Federal Government:			
3311-3319 Federal Revenue	-	3,500.00	-
From State:			
3351 Shared Revenues	-	-	-
3352 Meals & Rooms Tax Distribution	25,878.00	25,878.00	15,000.00
3353 Highway Block Grant	8,742.00	16,164.00	8,000.00
3359 Other State Revenue	-	-	-
Charges For Services:			
3401-3406 Income from Departments	500.00	485.00	500.00
Miscellaneous Revenues:			
3501 Sale of Municipal Property	-	-	-
3502 Interest on Investments	2,000.00	3,024.00	500.00
3503 Other Miscellaneous Revenue	-	2,917.00	-
Operating Transfer In:			
3915 From Capital Reserve Fund	-	4,442.00	-
3916 From Trust & Fiduciary Fund	-	47,297.00	-
Other Financing Sources:			
Amount Voted From Fund Balance		-	512.00
Estimated Fund Balance To Reduce Taxes	<u>46,250.00</u>	<u>46,250.00</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Estimated Revenue and Other Financing Sources	\$212,097.00	\$306,257.00	\$142,012.00

BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF EASTON – EXPENDITURES

PURPOSES OF APPROPRIATIONS	Estimated 2022	Actual 2022	Proposed 2023
General Government:			
4130-4139 Executive	\$ 14,200.00	\$ 12,868.00	\$ 14,150.00
4140-4149 Election, Reg., & Vital Statistics	12,000.00	10,962.00	11,500.00
4150-4151 Financial Administration	15,300.00	15,200.00	16,800.00
4152 Revaluation of Property	6,000.00	6,152.00	6,152.00
4153 Legal Expenses	10,000.00	10,314.00	10,000.00
4155-4159 Personnel Administration	2,000.00	1,802.00	2,000.00
4191-4193 Planning & Zoning	5,000.00	2,021.00	5,000.00
4194 General Government Buildings	12,500.00	14,860.00	18,500.00
4195 Cemeteries	2,350.00	2,070.00	2,650.00
4196 Insurance	2,500.00	3,420.00	3,500.00
4197 Advertising & Regional Association	1,620.00	1,574.00	1,574.00
4199 Other General Government	2,500.00	-	2,500.00
Public Safety:			
4210-4214 Police	-	-	-
4215-4219 Ambulance	11,500.00	11,352.00	12,220.00
4220-4229 Fire	21,050.00	37,494.00	22,550.00
4240-4249 Building Inspections	1,500.00	-	1,000.00
4290-4298 Emergency Management	151.00	-	151.00
4299 Other (including Communications)	1,500.00	5,250.00	1,750.00
Highways and Streets:			
4312 Highways & Streets	55,000.00	80,949.00	60,001.00
Sanitation:			
4321 Administration	-	-	-
4323 Solid Waste Collection	27,000.00	31,052.00	41,000.00
4324 Solid Waste Disposal	-	-	-
Health:			
4414 Pest Control	300.00	-	300.00
Welfare:			
4442 Welfare Direct Assistance	2,000.00	363.00	2,000.00
Culture and Recreation:			
4520-4529 Parks & Recreation	18,000.00	16,772.00	22,000.00
4583 Patriotic Purposes	100.00	100.00	100.00
Conservation:			
4619 Other Conservation	1,000.00	1,025.00	1,000.00
Debt Service:			
4711 Principal-Long Term Bonds & Notes	8,600.00	8,785.00	8,800.00

4721 Interest-Long Term Bonds & Notes	2,100.00	1,918.00	1,900.00
Capital Outlay:			
4909 Other Capital Outlay	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
OPERATING BUDGET TOTAL	\$235,771.00	\$276,303.00	\$269,098.00

SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLES

4915 To Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 3,512.00
4916 To Exp. Trust Fund	<u>31,000.00</u>	<u>31,450.00</u>	<u>21,500.00</u>
Special Articles Recommended	\$36,500.00	\$36,950.00	\$25,012.00

INDIVIDUAL WARRANT ARTICLES

4415-4419 Health Agencies, Hospital & Other	\$2,011.00	\$ 800.00	\$1,511.00
4445-4449 Vendor Payments & Other	2,545.00	2,600.00	1,034.00
4589 Other Culture & Recreation	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>
Individual Warrant Articles	\$6,056.00	\$4,900.00	\$4,045.00
Grand Total	\$278,327.00	\$318,153.00	\$298,155.00

BUDGET SUMMARY

	2022 Year <u>Budget</u>	2022 Year <u>Actual</u>	Ensuing Year <u>Budget</u>
Operating Budget Recommended	\$235,771.00	\$276,303.00	\$269,098.00
Special Warrant Articles Recommended	36,500.00	36,950.00	25,012.00
Individual Warrant Articles Recommended	<u>6,056.00</u>	<u>4,900.00</u>	<u>4,045.00</u>
Total Appropriations Recommended	278,327.00	318,153.00	298,155.00
Less: Estimated Revenues & Credits	165,847.00	260,007.00	142,012.00
Less: Fund Balance Use	<u>46,250.00</u>	<u>46,250.00</u>	<u>-</u>
Estimated Amount of Taxes to be Raised	\$ 66,230.00	\$ 11,896.00	\$156,143.00

PROFIT & LOSS

2022

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

3010	Tax Collector Cash Receipts	\$.00
3110-1	Property Tax Revenue		914,235.00
3185-0	Timber Taxes		4,446.16
3186-0	Payments in Lieu of Taxes		38,727.00
3190-0	Penalties & Interest		11,315.00
3220-0	Motor Vehicle Permits & Titles		99,410.75
3230-0	Building Permits		2,055.60
3290-0	Other Licenses, Permits & Fees		345.40
3319	Federal Grants		3,500.00
3352-0	Rooms & Meals Tax		25,878.05
3353-0	Highway Block Grant		16,164.10
3401-0	Income from All Departments		485.00
3502-0	Bank Interest		3,023.93
3508	Donations		450.00
3509-0	Miscellaneous Income		2,466.70
3915-0	Transfers from Capital Reserve Fund		4,442.06
3916-0	Transfers from Expendable Trust Funds		<u>47,296.75</u>

Total Income

\$1,174,241.50

Expense

4130-0	Executive		
4130100	Salaries - Selectmen, Moderator		7,950.00
4130150	Secretary Pay		548.10
4130200	Fees-NHMA Lectures		55.00
4130300	Outside Services - Tax Maps		850.00
4130600	Office Expenses		<u>3,464.67</u>

Total 4130-0 Executive

12,867.77

4140-0 Election Registration, Town Clerk & Vital Statistics

4140100	Salary - Town Clerk		6,291.69
4140150	Deputy Town Clerk		1,500.00
4140200	Fees - Town Clerk		108.00
4140500	Election & Voter Registration		2,009.03
4140600	Office & Miscellaneous		<u>1,053.33</u>

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

10,962.05

4150 Financial Administration

4150100	Salaries - Tax Collector, Treasurer, Auditor		6,000.05
4150125	Financial Services		4,250.00
4150200	Fees & Miscellaneous		531.76
4150600	Office Expenses & Bank Charges		<u>4,417.82</u>

Total 4150 Financial Administration

15,199.63

4152-0	Revaluation of Individual Property		
4152100	Revaluation	4,800.00	
4152200	Revaluation Software	<u>1,352.00</u>	
Total 4152-0	Revaluation of Individual Property		6,152.00
4153-0	Legal Expenses		10,313.68
4155-22	Personnel Administration & Payroll Taxes		1,802.29
4191-00	Planning & Zoning		2,021.37
4194-0	Government Buildings		
4194400	Utilities	10,806.21	
4194800	Repairs, Maintenance & Supplies	2,703.57	
4194900	Mowing, Gardening & Wreaths	<u>1,350.00</u>	
Total 4194-0	Government Buildings		14,859.78
4195-0	Cemetery		
4195900	Mowing & Maintenance	<u>2,070.00</u>	
Total 4195-0	Cemetery		2,070.00
4196-0	Insurance		
4196100	Property Liability-NHMA	2,821.00	
4196200	Worker's Compensation-Primex	<u>599.00</u>	
Total 4196-0	Insurance		3,420.00
4197-0	Advertising & Regional Association		1,574.00
4215-0	Ambulances		11,352.00
4220-0	Fire Department		
4220100	Salary - Fire Chief	1,150.00	
4220110	Firefighters Call Pay	1,847.50	
4220200	Training, Dues, Other	2,493.00	
4220400	Utilities	4,844.95	
4220600	Office & Miscellaneous	130.16	
4220630	Truck Inspection, Maintenance & Repair	9,688.47	
4220635	Truck Fuel	1,042.34	
4220700	Equipment & Small Tools	14,117.14	
4220800	Building Maintenance & Supply	<u>2,181.18</u>	
Total 4220-0	Fire Department		37,494.74
4299-0	Emergency Management – Communication		
4299200	Hazard Mitigation Plan	3,500.00	
4299-0	Emergency Mgmt-Communication – Other	<u>1,750.00</u>	
Total 4299-0	Emergency Mgmt-Communication		5,250.00
4312000	Highway Maintenance		
4312100	Highway Maintenance General	59,106.48	
431220	Highway Maintenance Special Projects	<u>21,843.00</u>	
Total 4312000	Highway Maintenance		80,949.48

4324-0	Solid Waste		
4324100	Administration	1,000.00	
4324200	Disposal	<u>30,052.25</u>	
Total 4324-0	Solid Waste		31,052.25
4442	Welfare Direct Assistance		363.01
4449	Other Welfare		3,400.00
4520	Parks and Recreation		
4520100	Administrative Fees	1,000.00	
4520200	Tri-Town Recreation Program	<u>15,771.52</u>	
Total 4520	Parks and Recreation		16,771.52
4583	Patriotic Purposes		100.00
4589	Other Culture and Recreation		
Abbie Greenleaf Library		500.00	
4589900	Boys & Girls Club	<u>1,000.00</u>	
Total 4589	Other Culture and Recreation		1,500.00
4619	Other Conservation		1,025.00
4711	Construction Loan - Principal		8,784.73
4721	Construction Loan - Interest		1,917.83
4915	Transfers to Capital Reserve		5,500.00
4916	Transfers to Trust/Agency Funds		31,450.00
4931	County Taxes		137,564.00
4933100	Lafayette Regional School District		490,356.00
4933200	Profile School District		<u>220,063.00</u>
Total Expense			<u>\$1,166,136.13</u>
Net Income			<u>\$ 8,105.37</u>

BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2022

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1001	WGSB Checking Account	\$ 70,973.84
1002	WGSB Money Market Fund	6,088.72
1004	Easton ZBA Escrow Account	5.00
1005	NHPDIP	<u>92,588.10</u>
Total Checking/Savings		169,655.66

Other Current Assets

1010.3	Cash on Hand	100.00
1080100	Property Taxes - Current Year	325,499.90
1080900	Resident for Abatements Current Year	-2,402.05
1110	Tax Liens Receivable	22,134.89
1200	Deposits on Hand	2,748.00
1260	Due From Federal Government	3,500.00
1311	Due From Trust Funds	33,769.50
1510	Prepaid Expenses	<u>4,719.61</u>
Total Other Current Assets		<u>390,069.85</u>

Total Current Assets 559,725.51

Other Assets

1670	Tax Deeded Property	<u>1,442.97</u>
Total Other Assets		<u>1,442.97</u>

TOTAL ASSETS \$561,168.48

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

2020	Accounts Payable at Year End	\$ 38,448.63
2023	Property Taxes POA/Overpayments	138.85
2025	Withholding Taxes	2,973.94
2075	Due to School Districts	259,650.00
2080	Due to Trust Funds	512.40
2220	Deferred Revenue	27,533.38
2270-2	Yield Tax Bond	<u>4,317.41</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities		<u>333,574.61</u>

Total Current Liabilities 333,574.61

Total Liabilities 333,574.61

Equity

2440	Nonspendable Fund Balance	6,162.58
2460	Committed Fund Balance	665.00
2530	Unassigned Fund Balance	212,660.92

Net Income 8,105.37

Total Equity 227,593.87

TOTAL LIABILITES & EQUITY \$561,168.48

TREASURER'S REPORT
for the Year Ending December 31, 2022

Bank Balance- January 1, 2022		\$ 307,800.92
Receipts:		
Tax Collector	\$849,762.31	
Town Clerk	99,891.15	
Federal Government	59,949.28	
State Government	34,586.57	
Trust Funds	18,481.71	
Yield Tax Bond	4,317.41	
Building Permits	2,055.60	
Bank Interest	3,023.93	
Miscellaneous Sources	<u>3,266.70</u>	
Total Receipts		<u>\$1,075,334.66</u>
Disbursements:		
School Districts	\$770,187.00	
Grafton County Taxes	137,564.00	
Orders of the Selectboard	<u>305,728.92</u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>\$1,213,479.92</u>
Bank Balance as of December 31, 2022		<u>\$ 169,655.66</u>

**STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS
2022 TAX RATE CALCULATION**

Town Portion

Appropriations	\$278,327.00	
Less Revenues	(165,847.00)	
Less Fund Balance Used	(46,250.00)	
Add: War Service Credits	3,150.00	
Add: Overlay	4,682.00	
Net Town Appropriation	74,062.00	\$ 74,062.00

School Portion

Net Cooperative School Appropriations	748,474.00	
Net Education Grant	(38,058.00)	
Less Locally Retained State Education Tax	(99,600.00)	
Net Local School Portion	610,816.00	610,816.00

State Education Tax

State Education Tax	99,600.00	
State Education Tax Not Retained	-	
Net State Education Tax	99,600.00	99,600.00

County Portion

Net County Apportionment	137,564.00	
Net Required County Tax Effort	137,564.00	137,564.00

Total Property Taxes Assessed		922,042.00
Less War Service Credits		(3,150.00)
Total Property Tax Commitment		\$918,892.00

2021 Tax Rate			2022 Tax Rate		
	\$	%		\$	%
Town	0.58	5	Town	0.96	8
County	1.64	13	County	1.78	15
School	8.22	67	School	7.91	66
State	1.82	15	State	1.31	11
	\$12.26/1000	100%		\$11.96/1000	100%

SUMMARY INVENTORY OF ASSESSED VALUATION 2022

MS-1

Land Value Only

Current Use	\$ 218,899.00
Residential Land	27,536,600.00
Commercial/Industrial Land	<u>286,700.00</u>

Total of Taxable Land **\$28,042,199.00**

Tax Exempt and Non-Taxable Land (21,929,200.00)

Buildings Value Only

Residential	47,594,698.00
Commercial/Industrial	427,400.00
Discretionary Preservation Easements	<u>2,802.00</u>

Total of Taxable Buildings **48,024,900.00**

Tax Exempt and Non-Taxable Buildings (337,900.00)

Utilities and Timber

Utilities 1,153,000.00

Valuation Before Exemption **\$77,220,099.00**

Exemptions Applied

Elderly Exemption 0.00

Total Dollar Amount of Exemptions **0.00**

Net Valuation **\$77,220,099.00**

Less Utilities **(1,153,000.00)**

Net Valuation Without Utilities **\$76,067,099.00**

Change in Net Valuation Over 2021 (\$75,560,710.00) **\$ 506,389.00**

2022 TAX COLLECTOR SUMMARY OF WARRANTS

Levies of 2022 – MS-61

DEBITS

Uncollected Taxes Beginning of Year	Account	Levy for Yr. of This Report	2021	2020+
Property Taxes	3110	\$	\$234,290.22	\$66.76
Yield Taxes	3185			
Property Tax Credit Balance		(\$2,449.95)		
<u>Taxes Committed This Year</u>				
Property Taxes	3110	918,917.00		
Yield Taxes	3185	4,446.16		
<u>Overpayment Refunds</u>				
Property Taxes	3110	1,264.65		
Interest and Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	3190	<u>355.81</u>	<u>2,860.65</u>	<u>6.85</u>
<u>TOTAL DEBITS</u>		\$922,533.67	\$237,150.87	\$73.61

CREDITS

<u>Remitted To Treasurer</u>				
Property Taxes		\$592,370.65	\$214,770.62	\$66.76
Yield Taxes		4,224.70		
Interest (w/ Lien Conversion)		355.81	2,303.65	6.85
Penalties			557.00	
Conversion to Lien (Principal Only)			19,001.95	
<u>Abatements Made</u>				
Property Taxes			517.65	
Yield Taxes		221.46		
<u>Uncollected Taxes - End Of Year</u>				
Property Taxes		325,499.90		
Yield Taxes				
Property Tax Credit Balance		<u>(138.85)</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>TOTAL CREDITS</u>		\$922,533.67	\$237,150.87	\$73.61

2022 SUMMARY OF TAX LIEN ACCOUNTS
MS-61

DEBITS

	Last Year's Levy	2021	2020	2019+
Unredeemed Liens Balance at Beginning of Fiscal Year	\$	0.00	\$21,935.07	\$9,704.37
Liens Executed During Fiscal Year		20,439.42	0.00	0.00
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution)		<u>183.08</u>	<u>2,347.24</u>	<u>4,123.90</u>
Total Debits	\$0.00	\$20,622.50	\$24,282.31	\$13,828.27

CREDITS

Remitted To Treasurer:

Redemptions		\$7,069.59	\$13,117.56	\$9,704.37
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution) #3190		183.08	2,347.24	4,123.90
Abatements of Unredeemed Liens			52.45	
Unredeemed Liens Balance #1110		<u>13,369.83</u>	<u>8,765.06</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Credits	\$0.00	\$20,622.50	\$24,282.31	\$13,828.27

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
For the Year Ending December 31, 2022

Motor Vehicle Registrations & Titles	\$99,392.75
Dog Registrations	321.00
Penalties	8.00
Copies	4.40
Marriage License & Registered Copies	15.00
Miscellaneous	<u>150.00</u>
Transferred to Town	\$99,891.15

VITAL RECORDS REGISTERED IN THE TOWN OF EASTON
For the Year Ending December 31, 2022

BIRTHS

Date & Place Of Birth	Name Of Child	Name Of Father & Mother's Name
May 02, 2022 Littleton, NH	Wilder Roy Annunziato	Daniel Annunziato Hallie Annunziato
August 22, 2022 Littleton, NH	Willa Marie Moses	John Moses Jamie Moses

MARRIAGES

Date & Place Of Marriage	Name and Surname Of Groom & Bride	Residence of Each At Time Of Marriage
None		

DEATHS

Date & Place Of Death	Name of Deceased
April 01, 2022 Easton, NH	Gary Michael Shipko
May 26, 2022 Easton, NH	Denys Lane Draper
November 03, 2022 Littleton, NH	Stephen John Noga

Respectfully submitted,
 Angela Thornton
 Easton Town Clerk

SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY

December 31, 2022

Assessed Values:	
Land - Town Hall and Fire Station	\$ 90,500.00
Land - Cemetery	74,800.00
Other	73,500.00
Building - Town Hall	301,500.00
Building - Fire Station	36,400.00
Estimated Values:	
Furniture and Equipment - Town Hall	26,000.00
Furniture and Equipment - Fire Station	<u>273,000.00</u>
Total Town Property	\$875,700.00

SCHEDULE OF LONG-TERM DEBT

December 31, 2022

Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank Refinanced Town Hall Addition from 2001

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>
Original Amount	\$	\$	\$40,315.21
Balance December 31, 2021			27,168.50
Payments in 2022	4,507.92	828.51	<u>3,679.41</u>
Balance December 31, 2022			<u><u>\$23,489.09</u></u>

Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank Ashton Property Purchase from 2016/2017

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>
Original Amount (\$75,000 authorized WA#6 of 2016)	\$	\$	\$60,427.17
Balance December 31, 2021			39,254.23
Payments in 2022	6,194.64	1,089.32	<u>5,105.32</u>
Balance December 31, 2022			<u><u>\$34,148.91</u></u>

Town of Easton Report of Trust Funds

December 31, 2022

Account	Type of Fund	Beginning Balance 2022	*Deposits	Earned Interest	Withdrawals	Ending Balance 2022
Cemetery Maintenance	ETF	\$12,794.30	\$1,450.00	\$17.25		\$14,261.55
Cemetery Perpetual Care Maintenance	TRUST	\$13,199.90		\$17.50		\$13,217.40
Conservation	CRF	\$13,926.79	\$500.00	\$18.47		\$14,445.26
Easton Fire Department Equipment	ETF	\$57,235.29	\$5,000.00	\$72.41	\$3,927.25	\$58,380.45
Easton Fire Department Vehicle and Apparatus	CRF	\$75,935.43	\$5,000.00	\$37.98		\$80,973.41
Forest Fire	ETF	\$29,082.85	\$5,000.00	\$29.02		\$34,111.87
Legal Funds Regular	ETF	\$82,161.93	\$10,000.00	\$109.07		\$92,271.00
Town Building Repairs	ETF	\$75,640.42	\$5,000.00	\$100.40		\$80,740.82
Town Roads Maintenance	ETF	\$107,034.43	\$5,000.00	\$149.88	\$9,600.00	\$102,584.31
Transfer Station	CRF	\$20,272.61		\$22.41	\$4,954.46	\$15,340.56
Totals:		\$487,283.95	\$36,950.00	\$574.39	\$18,481.71	\$506,326.63

* Deposits are the amount appropriated at the 2022 Town Meeting except the Cemetery ETF deposits includes \$450 in donations in memory of Denys Draper.

TRUST = Trust Fund

ETF = Expendable Trust Fund

CRF = Capital Reserve Fund

All funds must receive a written application from Select Board and/or Trustees before any money is released from the fund, regardless of who has discretion over actual spending.

TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS

The year 2022 unfortunately saw the passing of our devoted chair, Denys Draper. Denys was an important member as a Trustee and brought considerable knowledge to the Board. She was always generous with her personal time over her many years serving the Easton community on a variety of boards. Her presence will be missed.

In November, Jason Arquitt was appointed by the Select Board to fill her unexpired term.

This year the Board has decided to participate in the NH Public Deposit Investment Pool (NHPDIP) available to all communities in NH. The aggressive interest hikes of late provides investment opportunities with higher rates of return benefiting the taxpayers of Easton. The goal is to have this new arrangement in place by mid-February, 2023.

Respectively submitted,

Claire Mei

Jason Arquitt

John Hynes

EASTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

2022 has been a very productive year for members of the Easton Fire Department. Some of the highlights include the promotion of Captain Zak Mei to Deputy Chief, and the promotion of Firefighter Jason Arquitt to Captain. We continued to conduct joint training with members of the Sugar Hill Fire Department. In addition to training at the Ray Burton Fire Academy in Bethlehem, Easton Fire Department members participated in the regional Twin State Mutual Aid Association spring fire school that was held at the Haverhill Fairgrounds on May 14-15. We also conducted extensive driver training and communications training. We began using the new RespondNH application that has enhanced our ability to communicate when responding to calls.

Easton Fire Department responded to a total of 9 calls in 2022. These calls are broken down as follows:

Fire Alarm Activations	(2)
Structure Fire	(2)
Mutual Aid to Sugar Hill Fire (Other than structure)	(3)
Brush Fire	(1)
Trees on Power Lines	(1)

Thanks to the hard work of Art Rainville, several needed repairs were made to the Firehouse. These repairs included the installation of two new doors, the repair of the south side of the building that had sustained severe water damage over the years, and the restoration of the deck.

Some significant repairs had to be made to both pieces of apparatus. Engine 1 had the brakes repaired and the clutch in Engine 2 had to be replaced.

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 need to charge into burning buildings. Our diverse membership reflects a broad swath of backgrounds, including computer programming, hospitality, education, finance, and military. We need help maintaining the firehouse, maintaining, and operating equipment, fire engines and other firefighting apparatus. Time commitment is entirely flexible and up to the individual. Keep your eyes peeled for a skills-reserve volunteer form which will be sent out with this year's first tax bill. Come check us out on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 6 pm or call Chief Darrel Gearhart 823-7152 or Deputy Chief Zak Mei 823-7264.

All of the Firefighters of Easton Fire Department would like to express our appreciation for all of your support, and we thank you for allowing us to serve our awesome community. We continue to stand ready to serve the residents of Easton and the surrounding communities.

Respectfully submitted,
The Easton Volunteer Firefighters
Darrel Gearhart, Chief

CEMETERY TRUSTEES

This year the Memorial Day service was well-attended, and the Veterans' expressed their appreciation for our continuing support. In the fall of the year the Kinsman Valley Club hosted a historical tour of the Cemetery which was very successful.

The Cemetery Trustees are looking at several projects for the coming year. The front gate needs repair; unfortunately, one side was hit by a truck causing visible damage. Also, several monuments need repair. This spring the site will be surveyed and ariel photographed by a drone which will help with a more detailed map which can be used in a visual display on site. A cost estimate for a Veterans' Memorial is being calculated which will be presented to the Select Board. Lastly, we are planning to plant a pollinator garden within the Cemetery, hopefully this spring. More information regarding this project will be forthcoming and posted on the Town website. Thank you all for your support of Easton's historic Kinsman Cemetery!

The Board of Trustees

Rich Larcom
Trish O'Brien
Ed O'Brien

PLANNING BOARD

In 2022 the Board continued to concentrate on updating and improving Easton's Zoning Ordinance. We created two new ordinances and upgraded one for your consideration in March. They consisted of a solar energy systems ordinance that highlights and allows different types of systems including community systems that could benefit Easton residents, and a Short-Term Rental Ordinance to try to protect Easton from run-away development of short-term rentals while taking into consideration the rights of residents to utilize their properties for their benefit. We clarified that chimneys would not be considered when measuring the permitted height of a structure. During the creation of these ordinances, we received input from residents during the hearings which were utilized to fine tune them, which we appreciate as these ordinances are for your benefit.

This year the Board will continue its review of the Town's Zoning Ordinance as well as the development of Site Plan Review regulations that will aid the Town in reviewing commercial construction and uses in sensitive areas or that may have a large impact on the Town. The Town's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) will be reviewed, and updated, if necessary, in a joint effort with the Select Board. As always, the Board invites residents to participate by either joining our Board meetings on the first Thursday of every month at 5:00PM or just forward your recommendations, concerns or areas you feel the Board should review to eastonnhplanningboard@gmail.com. The Board greatly appreciates the support and input from the Easton's residents.

For the Easton Planning Board
Ned Cutler, Chair

EASTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Mission Statement: The Easton Conservation Commission (ECC) was established for the proper utilization and protection of the natural resources and for the protection of watershed resources of the Town of Easton, New Hampshire.

Aside from suggesting the approval of building permits (so long as the proposed buildings do not encroach on any of Easton's wetlands), the ECC has been busy planning the following educational programs for Easton residents:

We sponsored a well-attended presentation at the Easton Town Hall in May 2022 on **"Building and Maintaining a Pollinator Garden"** by UNH Master Gardener Bill Weeks. (Many Easton residents are now aware that bees are responsible for pollinating one in three bites of food that we eat. Unfortunately, New Hampshire lost 47.73% of its bee colonies over the winter of 2019/2020, higher than our neighboring states of Vermont, Maine, and Massachusetts due to habitat loss, climate change, invasive species, and harmful pesticides.)

Rich Larcom, Easton's Cemetery Trustee, is **"building a pollinator garden"** with the help of the UNH Master Gardeners Program at the **Kinsman Cemetery** in Spring 2023. We will hold a public informational meeting sometime in April to learn more about his plans and a community workday in early May. Check the Town website, Kinsman Valley Club (KVC) mailing list, and local Facebook groups for dates and times.

Native plants nourish pollinators, but they can also nourish people. The ECC, along with the Sugar Hill CC, are sponsoring a presentation on **"Edible and Medicinal Native Plants"** by Holly Hayward, herbalist and resident of Sugar Hill. Meet at the Pioneer Barn in Sugar Hill at 9:30am on Saturday, June 3, 2023, and be prepared to head outside and gather native herbs after the presentation.

At our December meeting, members of the Easton Conservation Commission were treated to an interesting and informative presentation on the current stewardship of the **Cooley-Jericho Community Forest** by Jesse Mohr, consulting NH State Forester to the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust (A.C.T.) Jesse clarified the boundaries of the forest for the E.C.C. and reported on its history, topography, access issues, and current and future stewardship plans. Hopefully, he will repeat his presentation for the Conservation Commissions and any interested residents of Easton, Franconia, Landaff, and Sugar Hill. (Dates, times, and places, TBD)

Representatives of the Easton, Franconia, and Sugar Hill Conservation Commissions met in December and January with a small group of Environmental Policy and Planning seniors at Plymouth State University and their professor to consider areas of common environmental concern. Currently, we are awaiting the students' proposal of how they plan to address issues of water resources/protection and developing wildlife corridors between our three towns.

Speaking of wildlife corridors and large tracts of forest, bears and other important wildlife in our area need these resources to survive. **Ben Kilham** from the **Kilham Bear**

Center in Lyme, NH, will speak about his work **rescuing and rehabilitating orphaned bear cubs** at the Lafayette School, Franconia, NH on May 18, 2023 at 6:30pm. Sponsored by the Easton Conservation Commission, the Franconia Conservation Commission, the Kinsman Valley Club, and the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust. His previous presentations have been extremely popular, so come early to secure your seat.

Residents of Easton have expressed a strong desire to maintain the existing rural nature of Easton. Our goal is to educate and engage residents of all ages in the benefits of connecting with nature and preserving our environment. Should you have questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us at eastonconservationcommission@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Easton Conservation Commission
Linda Hansen, Chair

TRI-TOWN TRANSFER STATION

We'd like to thank our customers for another great and productive year with consistent participation in our recycling program. We did experience some service interruptions due to mechanical failures and appreciated the patience and understanding shown by our patrons during those times. We were also able to make a number of improvements around the facility; the building was painted this year and LED lighting added. We put in a C&D service ramp, improved the front garden area and installed new gutters on the building. We were fortunate to be awarded grant funds in the amount of \$1,056 through the state's NH the Beautiful program towards the Tri-Town purchase of a new storage container that was installed in late summer. We are excited that the compactor was also rebuilt this year and we replaced the Bobcat skid steer with a new Kubota skid steer.

Below please find information on the positive impact your recycling has had on our environment. The materials listed below were sent to market to be remanufactured into new products through our non-profit recycling organization, The Northeast Resource Recovery Association.

Recyclable Material	2022 Recycled Amounts	Environmental Impact
Glass	126,700 LBS	Conserved the equivalent of about 5,715.38 gallons of diesel being consumed!
Scrap Metal	107,610 LBS	You conserved enough energy to drive a car about 121,160.57 miles!
Paper	175,660 LBS	You conserved enough energy to charge about 9,692,261.85 cell phones!
Tires	11,020 LBS	You conserved the equivalent of about 5,581.15-lbs. of coal from being burned!

We also processed 513 fluorescent lamps of various sizes, 573 computers and laptops, 460 flat screen monitors, 794 flat screen televisions, 2,403 microwaves, 1,770 printers, 7,050 televisions and 1,239 miscellaneous electronics for recycling!

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Blake - Manager
Kevin Dauphine
Laurie Matthews

LAFAYETTE RECREATION

Lafayette Recreation had another successful year of providing a variety of community events for our three towns and the surrounding area. Everything from youth sports to 5k fun runs to breezy summer evening concerts were enjoyed by hundreds of our friends and neighbors.

Youth activities had full participation in all three sports seasons and over the summer. Our spring once again included a full slate of baseball. The older players joined forces with neighboring Bethlehem once again in grades 5 & 6. We were also able to offer Spring sessions of flag football and track and field to children that were interested in exploring different options. The fall yielded another full slate of soccer as well as a successful Halloween cup. And, over the winter all levels of basketball were available.

Our largest and most successful youth event as always is the summer rec program. This past summer was no exception with enrollment at full capacity and children getting a variety of activities from bike riding to swim lessons to canoeing and hiking in our local lakes and trails.

Other events that Lafayette Recreation took part in organizing included the construction of the new Welcome Center and a total resurfacing of the ice rink and parking area to create a much more welcoming space for locals and visitors alike. We once again hosted the North Country Chamber Players concerts as well as other local musical groups at the Dow Park, outdoor movie nights, and Old Home Day with fireworks. The Top Notch Triathlon and Wobble 'n Gobble were again hugely successful and well attended.

As always, we continue our efforts to enhance the recreational opportunities for residents of various ages and interests and strive to enhance the positive relationships formed with other community groups. The Lafayette Recreation Committee meets the first Thursday of each month and residents are welcome to attend.

Finally, we, the members of the Lafayette Recreation Committee, would like to take a moment to recognize and thank Kim Cowles for her more than 28 years of service to the tri-town community. Throughout her years of service, Kim has been instrumental in:

- the creation and continued development of the Dow fields and park;
- the construction/purchase of the gazebo, new pavilion, and the welcome center;
- the creation and continuous improvement of the Dow playground;
- the formation of the North Country soccer and baseball leagues;
- the Top Notch "Race to the Face" Triathlon;
- the many 5k fun runs through the years including the Triple Crown (Wobble 'n Gobble, The Fire Cracker, and the Dow Derby) and the Color Run etc.;
- the building and maintenance of the Fox Hill trail network;
- creation of the Touch a Truck event for youngsters.

And many more things that are just too numerous to list. It is with heavy hearts that we wish Kim the best as she ends this stage in her career and ventures forward into a new chapter of her life. She will be missed by us all in the Recreation Committee.

Respectfully submitted, Lafayette Committee Members

Franconia: Adam Boyer, Haley Ireland, and Peter Gaudette

Sugar Hill: Felicia Hamilton and Matthew Steele

Easton: Michael McKeever and Kent Butterfield

Lafayette Regional School; Gordie Johnk and Recreation Director: Kim Cowles, Retired

ABBIE GREENLEAF LIBRARY

Library operations normalized after two years of responding to and coping with the COVID pandemic. Masks were optional and the staff took bouts of COVID in stride. The number of visitors to the Library increased as did the number of new members, the summer programs were very well attended, and the average circulation of materials was at a high point.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Beginning in the spring, the new lift became functional, the terracotta roof was replaced, and the eyebrow windows and front door were restored. Also, a bike rack was donated by a generous patron. Again, the sculpture on the front lawn and the building itself were listed in the 2022 Art Walk brochure which attracted many visitors who marveled at the stained glass, wooden pillars, and mosaic floor.

TECHNOLOGY

The Library internet was updated with a new more robust router and modem.

GRANTS and GIFTS

We would like to express our gratitude to the organizations and individuals who supported the Library with grants, cash and in-kind donations. These include: the Small Acts Organization, the Tillotson Fund, Little City Thrift Store and the Littleton Toy and Book Store. NH State University gifted seed packets to be included in the Library's Seed Catalog. The NH State Library once again granted AGL a Summer Learning Grant for the creation of Aquatic Critter Backpacks in collaboration with ACT (Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust). The NH Humanities Council supported the Abbie Book Group with free copies of the book *Braiding Sweetgrass* and an honorarium for a scholar to facilitate a special meeting of the group. In addition, several generous patrons made gifts of cash and/or books to help grow the collection.

THE LIBRARY COLLECTION

The Library collection grew by over 419 new volumes, eight new children's adventure backpacks, five new dolls and many jigsaw puzzles.

PROGRAMMING AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Abbie Book Group has really taken off with a core group of dedicated participants who meet on a monthly basis to discuss all manner of books. Much to our delight the Seed Catalog was completely cleaned out this spring which prompted another round of seed saving this fall. You know it is Wednesday at the Library when you hear the chatter of Mah Jong tiles. Story Time ebbs and flows throughout the year. After-school meet ups have become a weekly occurrence with Minecraft Monday attracting a few avid computer gamers.

Summer activity was at an all-time high and once again was kicked off with the Read Aloud of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution. Over 30 children participated in the Summer Reading Incentive program. Special thanks to Gillian Cahill and the Recreation Department for their support of weekly summer events including music with Mr. Aaron, a visit from the naturalists of the Squam Lake Science Center, performances

by the North Country Chamber Players, Modern Time Puppet Theater and an experimental music performance by Jason Tors, Ben Solomon and Pierre St. Negritude that included participation from our youngest patrons.

IN CONCLUSION

Thank you to the indefatigable Library staff —Joanne Carey, Priscilla Hindley, Sara Daley, Ruth Houtte, Sophie Eddy, and Mya Walker, the Board of Trustees, and all of the Town employees including Kim Cowles, Cory Rush, and Jenny Monahan. And, thank you to members of the community for your continued, enthusiastic participation and support.

Respectfully reported by
Ann Steuernagel, Library Director
1/25/23

ABBIE GREENLEAF LIBRARY 2022 STATISTICS

MOST CIRCULATED BOOKS

Fiction – *Wish You Were Here* by Jody Picoult and *The Lioness* by Chris Bohjalian

Mystery – *Judge's List* by John Grisham

Non-fiction – *There is Nothing Here for You* by Fiona Hill and

Freezing Order by Bill Browder

Junior – *Girl from the Sea* by Molly Ostertag

Early Reader – *Dragon Kingdom of Wrenly* by Jordan Quinn

MATERIALS CIRCULATED

Adult Fiction	2,778
Adult Non-Fiction	747
Young Adult	73
Juvenile	731
Easy Readers	1,120
Audio Books	65
DVD's	223
Magazines	527
Objects (toys, puzzles)	102
Computer Usage	1,500
Inter-Library Loans	369
Digital Material Downloaded	
eBooks	1,037
eAudio	1,772
eMag	122

TOTAL CIRCULATION 11,166

The above figure includes 361 books loaned to NH libraries via Inter-Library loan.

Total Accessions 419

Total Deaccessions 295

TOTAL VOLUMES approximately **10,200**

Subscriptions

Periodicals 25

Newspapers 3

In addition, the Library subscribed to Explora and OverDrive/Libby (an eBook/eAudio database).

There are 786 Library cardholders with approximately 300 patrons currently using their cards. 76 new patrons joined the Library in 2022.

KINSMAN VALLEY CLUB

Moving into 2023, the Kinsman Valley Club reinstated quarterly in-person meetings and hosted a number of community events and fundraisers. Some of the notable events were:

- Old Home Day Participation with Our Cookies and Milk Stand
- An August Family Picnic (beautiful weather, great food, and lots of fun)
- A Historical Walk in the Kinsman Cemetery Led by Cemetery Trustee Rich Larcom
- A NH Humanities Presentation by Humorist Rebecca Rule
- Our Traditional December Holiday Party
- Feeding the Poll Workers (delicious homemade meals) at the Town Meeting, NH Primary and General Elections

The Club's fundraisers included a holiday food collection for the Franconia Community Food Pantry where we gathered over two large containers of canned and boxed goods. We conducted a T-Shirt Design Contest in the Spring and the winning designs are now for sale on t-shirts, mugs, water bottles, and a number of other "uniquely" Easton items. We are also selling Easton notecards featuring designs by resident Laura Sabre and former resident Marek Malessa. Our last fundraiser was a Charcuterie demonstration by Claire Mei with assistance from her mom, Joan. Twenty-seven adventurous chefs prepared their own unique Valentine-themed Charcuterie Boards beautifully arranged with meats, cheeses, fruits, and delicious desserts (just in time for Super Bowl Sunday). The KVC is actively planning fun-filled activities for the coming months. Please check the Town website frequently for additional information.

Using the proceeds from these fundraisers, the Club was able to purchase and install black out shades for all windows in the big hall. Also purchased were a projector for presentations and movies and a microphone set-up also for presentations (handy for Zoom meetings) and for Town Meeting.

Please consider attending one of our meetings. There is no fee to belong to the KVC and we look forward and encourage new ideas for future activities. Our next meeting is Wednesday, **April 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Town Hall. We hopefully will see many of you then!

Sincerely,

Maria Hynes - President
Claire Mei - Vice President
Bev Lamanna - Treasurer
Toni Woodruff - Secretary

COOLEY-JERICHO COMMUNITY FOREST

The Cooley-Jericho Community Forest was created in 2013 and is a collaborative effort of the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust (ACT) and the Towns of Easton, Franconia, Landaff and Sugar Hill. ACT owns the 840-acre property on behalf of these communities.

CJCF offers a plethora of wonderful outdoor recreation opportunities including hiking, mountain biking, bird watching, hunting, snowmobiling and glade skiing. In conjunction with ACT, the Granite Backcountry Alliance (GBA) and many enthusiastic volunteers worked hard over the years to create challenging and inspiring glades and associated trails which are attracting back-country skiing enthusiasts from across the region. In addition to the glades, new trails have been completed, providing a total of 6 miles of trails to enjoy including a connection that now links ACT's trail system to the WMNF Jericho trail.

The existing parking lot on Trumpet Round Road can accommodate 10 vehicles, signage has been updated and is well maintained by the Town of Sugar Hill. Plans are underway to design and eventually build a new parking lot below the old log landing to replace the existing one to better serve the community and be respectful of the neighbors. ACT was successful in applying for grant funds for the parking lot design which is being undertaken by a local civil engineering firm and local surveyor. ACT also has a small grant to update the information kiosk which provides maps and other information to those coming to explore the community forest. ACT continues working with GBA to have a parking host on busy ski weekends to manage the parking lot, and ACT volunteers and staff are checking the site after weekends for trash and any other parking issues.

Additional gates installed on Dyke Road and Merrill Mountain Road in Landaff continue to better control unauthorized motorized access to the forest from these areas and in turn better protect the trails from erosion and degradation.

The Stewardship Plan was updated in 2020 and is now available online at www.act-nh.org/stewardship-plan. Hard copies can also be made available to the four towns.

The Stewardship Team met this year in Franconia with representatives from all four towns to review the goals in the updated Stewardship Plan and discussed any steps that need to be taken in the next few years such as the improvements of the parking at Trumpet Round Road, refreshing the marking on some of the boundary lines and expanding our volunteer trails management crew. The latter was headed up by our new Trails Program Manager who led several trail work days and organized our wonderful team of volunteers. We also raised funds from local donors to build two bridges across the Salmon Hole Brook in accordance with our NH DES wetlands permit. The bridges were built largely by volunteers in November and December and will be dedicated to Rebecca Brown, ACT's founding Executive Director who was instrumental in the creation of the Community Forest.

ACT is honored to be involved with this wonderful example of people working together for a common long-term community benefit and is grateful to all four towns for sharing

the vision of a community forest that is open to all. If anyone is interested in helping out with volunteer workdays, please send an email to us at volunteer@act-nh.org.

Please feel free to contact ACT's Outreach & Member Services Director, Gal Potashnick at 603-823-7777 or outreach@act-nh.org for information on other programs or check the website at www.act-nh.org.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly Cartwright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kimberly Cartwright
Executive Director
Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust

FEEES

(As of January 2023 - Subject to Change)

Building Permit Fee

New Residence, Garage, Shed, Barn, Renovations, Solar Permit – Fees Vary
See Building Permit (online)

Building (Address) and 9-1-1 Numbering for New Residence

\$30.00

Current Use Application

\$20.00

Driveway Permit for Town Roads

\$20.00

Reappraisal Charges

\$45.00

Major and Minor Subdivision Application Fee **Major and Minor Lot Line Adjustment and/or Boundary Agreement**

\$200.00

Plus \$10.00 per Abutter
This Covers All Filing Fees

Short-Term Rental Application (See Website for Details)

Subdivision and Zoning Ordinances

Available on the Town of Easton website: easton-nh.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 Prior to the Release of Information*

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police – Fire – Medical Emergency

9-1-1

New Hampshire State Police – Troop F

603-846-3333

Fire Chief

Darrel Gearhart – 603-823-7152

Deputy Fire Chief

Zak Mei – 603-823-7264

Fire Warden

Edward Cutler – 603-823-5050

Emergency Management Director

Edward Cutler – 603-823-5050

Town Clerk

Town Hall Telephone – 603-823-8017

Town Hall Fax – 603-823-7780

Town Clerk Email – eastonnhtownclerk@gmail.com

Hours

Thursday: 1:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

And by Special Appointment

A license for all dogs is required by May 1, 2023

**A current rabies certificate is required, in Easton,
in order to license a dog**

TOWN OF EASTON

easton-nh.org