

ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT



Town of
EASTON
New Hampshire

Year Ending December 31, 2023

EASTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDERS (EMRs)



The Easton Volunteer Fire Department will soon deploy a group of three Emergency Medical Responders, Ned Cutler, Angela Thornton, and Zak Mei, with the purpose of responding to Easton's medical and accident emergencies quickly, stabilizing the patient(s) and remaining at the scene until the advanced paramedics arrive from Littleton (often a 20–30-minute wait). Ned, Angie, and Zak have taken part in over eighty hours of EMR training and have passed both State and National certification tests, written and practical. The EMR team has completed all paperwork necessary for a State License and has obtained a Medical Control Agreement with Littleton Healthcare. To further their training, they will need recertification every two years through educational credits obtained by attending classes at Littleton Regional Healthcare, as well as State and local training opportunities. They will also begin, shortly, to train with the Littleton Ambulance Emergency Response Team.

Our EMRs will carry radios powerful enough to communicate with each other, the Easton Fire Department, and Twin State and the 9-1-1 call system. Ned, Angie, and Zak will respond (if available) to 9-1-1 emergencies from their homes. They will have with them a backpack containing an AED, oxygen, and trauma related supplies. They are knowledgeable in the use of all equipment as well as CPR and diagnostics.

With our new Medical First Responders, Easton residents and those using our highways and outdoor resources will receive emergency care quicker and the EMRs presence on scene could mitigate against unnecessary ambulance runs.

We thank the Fire Department and our new EMRs for putting the safety and well being of Easton as their top priority.

Cover Photo by Claire Mei of Easton.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the Town Officers
for the year ending December 31, 2023
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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

Robert Thibault (2026)
 Zhenye (Zak) Mei (2025)
 Toni Woodruff (2024)

Treasurer

Darrel Gearhart (2024)

Moderator

Brent Detamore (2024)

Lafayette School Board

Megan Detamore (2026)
 Election at Lafayette Annual Mtg.

Cemetery Trustees

Richard Larcom (2026)
 Kevin Ryan (2025)
 Patricia O'Brien (2024)

Town Clerk

Angela Thornton (2024)

Tax Collector

Angela Thornton (2024)

Trustees of the Trust Funds

Jason Arquitt (2026)
 Ned Cutler (2025)
 John Hynes (2024)

Supervisors of the Checklist

Beth Harwood (2028)
 Lisa Cutler (2027)
 Tandra Gearhart (2026)

Planning Board

Tom Boucher (2026)	Zhenye (Zak) Mei (Ex Officio)
John Bracken (2026)	Robert Thibault (Ex-Officio Alternate)
Ned Cutler (2025)	Bob Lamanna (Alternate - 2025)
Laura Sabre (2025)	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

John Hynes (2026)
 Fred Moody (2025) **Road Agent:** Presby Construction Co.

Frank Woodruff (2025)
 Ellen Pritham (2024) **Recreation Committee:** Mike McKeever
 Kevin Ryan (2024) Kent Butterfield

Deputy Town Clerk: Toni Woodruff (2026) **Animal Control Officer:**
Assistant Town Clerk: Robert Thibault (2026) Richard Larcom

Conservation Commission

Linda Hansen - Chair (2025)	Kerri Williamson (2025)
Pamela McNary (2026)	Michael Kenney (2025)
Charles Pates (2025)	Richard Larcom (2024)
Avid Kamgar (2025)	

EASTON SELECT BOARD

Beginning mid-year, the Select Board adopted a new schedule for monthly meetings; the first and third Mondays of every month. The reason behind this change is for ease of remembering and planning. Just a note, if there is a federal holiday on a scheduled Monday, the meeting moves to the next day. All regular meetings begin at 6:00 pm. Please consider joining us.

Throughout the year the Select Board addressed many concerns related to Easton not least of which is the budget which impacts property taxes. Town appropriations make up the smallest percentage of the budget, this year 6% of the total, while local school taxes make up the largest, 66% of the total tax bill. Attendance at all budget hearings is low. If you are concerned about your taxes and how the budget (local, school, county, or state) impacts the taxes, please consider attending budget meetings/hearings and adding your voice to the conversation. Please also take note of two Warrants this year to address the needs of the Tri-Town Transfer Station, and Tri-Town Recreation. As part of the Tri-Town (Franconia, Sugar Hill, and Easton), Easton is asked to pay our share for improvements to both entities.

Early in the year, the Board developed and instituted Short-Term Rental Regulations that require a building inspection to ensure safety compliance in order to receive a permit to operate (there are a number of short-term rentals in Easton). All Building Applications and components such as Solar, and Back-Up Generator applications are in the process of update and revision. Please, prior to beginning a project, check the Town's Website's new "Ordinances and Permitting" section for information and directions.

Other major areas of discussion and action on an ongoing basis involve using ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds (\$40,000) to find the most cost effective and beneficial way to address culvert reconstruction on Paine Road. And, the Select Board has continued throughout the year to work with the residents of Paine Road and a state-licensed surveyor to decide on a uniform right-of-way for the total length of the road, allowing for the Town to maintain the road in its entirety while preserving the rights of abutters. Our determination of a two-rod right-of-way is now finalized with all appropriate notifications being mailed to those designated by law.

We would like to close with a thank you to all of our Easton community who responded many times without even asking, to assist us with the Town's work. We truly appreciate your willingness and commitment to help make Easton a great place to live!

Respectfully,
The Easton Select Board

Zhenye "Zak" Mei
Bob Thibault
Toni Woodruff

**TOWN OF EASTON
TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 14, 2023**

"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 Election to be held at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. Polls will open from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM for voting on Articles 1-4. The Town's annual business meeting will follow at 7:00 PM."

Town of Easton Moderator, Brent Detamore, opened the meeting at 7:01 pm.

Brent Detamore welcomed 37 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.

ARTICLE 1. Elect All Officers.

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

Brent Detamore announced the following results of the Ballot Vote with 55 residents voting:

Selectman

Bob Thibault	51
Blank	4
Bill Kenney	1

Town Clerk

Angela Thornton	54
Blank	1

Tax Collector

Angela Thornton	53
Blank	1
John McLaughlin	1

Treasurer

Darrel Gearhart	51
Blank	4

Planning Board

Thomas Boucher	39
John Bracken	41
Gary Harwood	17
Blank	7

Trustees of the Trust Funds

Jason Arquitt	53
Blank	2

Cemetery Trustee

Richard Larcom	53
Blank	1

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 add chimneys to the list of structures exempt from the 35-foot height limit contained in Section 704 Height. (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

YES	25
NO	2
BLANK	1

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 Accessory or Community-Shared Solar Energy Systems as allowed uses in Easton and provide standards regarding their construction. Systems up to and including 20 kW would be added to Section 602.1 as Permitted Uses, and systems over 20kW would be added to Section 602.2 to be allowed by Special Exception. A new section would be added to Article 8. General Regulations containing standards such as code requirements, screening, glare, setbacks and removal, and Section 1203. Special Exceptions would be expanded to include language specific to solar energy systems over 20 kW. A height limit of 20 feet would be added to Section 704 Height for freestanding systems. Article 2 – Authority and Purpose and Article 3 – Definitions would both be expanded to address solar energy systems. (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

YES 47
NO 6
BLANK 2

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 increase the number of occupants allowed in Short Term Rentals and would add standards required prior to issuance of a Zoning Permit. Section 602.1 Permitted Uses currently limits Short Term Rentals to two occupants for each permitted bedroom. This amendment would add “plus 2” to that section. A new section would be added to Article 8 General Regulations to address parking, septic systems, drinking water and code requirements. (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

YES 41
NO 13
Blank 1

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 5. Town Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$269,098 for general Town operation as follows:

Executive	\$ 14,150.00
Election Registration, Town Clerk & Vital Stats	\$ 11,500.00
Financial Administration	\$ 16,800.00
Revaluation of Individual Properties	\$ 6,152.00
Legal Expenses	\$ 10,000.00
Personnel Administration & Payroll Taxes	\$ 2,000.00
Planning & Zoning	\$ 5,000.00
Government Buildings	\$ 18,500.00
Cemetery	\$ 2,650.00

Insurance	\$ 3,500.00
Advertising & Regional Associations	\$ 1,574.00
General Government – Contingency	\$ 2,500.00
Police Department	\$ 0.00
Ambulances	\$ 12,220.00
Fire Department	\$ 22,550.00
Building Inspections	\$ 1,000.00
Emergency Management – Forest Fire	\$ 151.00
Public Safety – Other (including Communications)	\$ 1,750.00
Highways and Streets	\$ 60,001.00
Sanitation – Solid Waste	\$ 41,000.00
Animal & Pest Control	\$ 300.00
Welfare Assistance	\$ 2,000.00
Parks and Recreation	\$ 22,000.00
Library	\$ 0.00
Patriotic Purposes	\$ 100.00
Conservation Commission	\$ 1,000.00
Construction Bonds – Principal	\$ 8,800.00
Construction Bonds – Interest	\$ 1,900.00
Total Operating Budget	\$269,098.00

**Bob Thibault made a motion to move Article 5 as read. Zak Mei seconded.
Passed by spoken vote.**

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 6. Budget for Health Agencies & Hospitals

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,511 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	\$ 800.00
White Mountain Mental Health	\$ 211.00
Total Health Agencies & Hospitals	\$1,511.00

**Zak Mei made a motion to move Article 6 as read. Toni Woodruff seconded.
Passed by spoken vote.**

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 7. Budget for Other Welfare

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,034 for Other Welfare as follows: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Center for New Beginnings	\$ 250.00
Grafton County Senior Citizens Council	\$ 200.00
Tri-County Community Action Program	\$ 584.00
Total Other Welfare	\$1,034.00

**Toni Woodruff made a motion to move Article 7 as read. Bob Thibault seconded.
Passed by spoken vote.**

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 8. 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	\$1,000.00
Total Other Culture & Recreation	\$1,000.00

**Bob Thibaut made a motion to move Article 8 as read. Zak Mei seconded.
Passed by spoken vote.**

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 9. 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 Article 9 as read. Toni Woodruff seconded.
Passed by spoken vote.**

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 10. Fire Department Vehicle and Apparatus Capital Equipment Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 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.)

Toni Woodruff made a motion to move Article 10 as read. Bob Thibault seconded.

Mary Jo Greene asked if we have a main goal to reach for each trust fund or a cap amount we look to reach? Zak Mei responded every few years or so there is a review of the funds accounts and a goal amount is set based on balances during the review.

Passed by spoken vote.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 11. Fire Department Equipment Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 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 Article 11 as read. Zak Mei seconded.
Passed by spoken vote.**

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 12. 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 Article 12 as read. Toni Woodruff seconded.
Passed by spoken vote.**

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 13. 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 Article 13 as read. Bob Thibault seconded.
Passed by spoken vote.**

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 14. Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 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 the motion to move Article 14 as read. Zak Mei seconded.
Passed by spoken vote.**

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 15. 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 Article 15 as read. Toni Woodruff seconded.

Steven Sabre asks how Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund differs from Emergency Management-Forest Fire Fund. Ned Cutler provided clarification for which each account is used. One account is for training, the other account covers the cost of mutual aid if needed.

Passed by spoken vote.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 16. Legal Fees Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 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 16 as read. Bob Thibault seconded.

Robert Lamanna asked what is the current balance of Legal Fees Expendable Trust Fund account. John Hynes responded \$92,000.00

Passed by spoken vote.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 17. 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 17 as read. Zak Mei seconded.

Passed by spoken vote.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 18. Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$512.40 to add to the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Trust Fund (established in March 2019); of this amount the entirety is to come from the December 31, 2022 Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

Zak Mei made a motion to move Article 18 as read. Toni Woodruff seconded. Zak Mei explained the amount of \$512.40 is remaining monies after a purchase of a bobcat for the Transfer Station and is to be added back into the proper account.

Passed by spoken vote.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 19. READOPT the Optional Veterans Tax Credit

Shall the Town READOPT the OPTIONAL VETERANS TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$350. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

Toni Woodruff made a motion to move Article 19 as read. Bob Thibault seconded.

Darrel Gearhart asked why do we need to readopt if it's still in place? Zak Mei responded we needed to readopt due to new requirements and changes issued by the State of NH. Darrel Gearhart asked how we verify and approve a VETERANS TAX CREDIT. Zak Mei responded an application and proofs would need to be provided.

Passed by spoken vote.

Read by the Moderator:

ARTICLE 20. To act upon any other business that may legally come before this Meeting.

- Edward O'Brien shared concern for the safety of walkers and bicyclists' on Easton Valley Road. Edward O'Brien stated that the Easton Valley Road is not what it once was and given the fact there has been a large increase in volume of traffic that changes need to be made to ensure the safety for all. Edward O'Brien mentioned having the road widened in the future.
- Kevin Ryan asked if we have set goal amounts for each account or if there are caps on any of the accounts? Zak Mei responded repairs and purchases require more monies to be saved over time. Ned Cutler also responded mentioning funds are usually set in place with necessary unexpected purchases in mind.
- Mary Jo Greene asked if the Trust Funds are set by the Planning Board? Ned Cutler responded Planning Board as well as the Select Board.

Bob Thibault made a motion to dissolve Town Meeting at 7:42 pm. Brent Detamore seconded.

All in favor, none opposed. Passed.

BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF EASTON – REVENUE

SOURCES OF REVENUE	Estimated 2023	Actual 2023	Estimated 2024
Taxes:			
3185 Yield Taxes	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 5,522.00	\$ 5,000.00
3186 Payment in Lieu of Taxes	41,495.00	41,495.00	40,000.00
3190 Interest & Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	1,000.00	3,113.00	1,000.00
Licenses, Permits, & Fees:			
3220 Motor Vehicle Permit Fees	80,000.00	85,815.00	80,000.00
3230 Building Permits	2,000.00	2,288.00	2,000.00
3290 Other Licenses, Permits & Fees	4,000.00	5,113.00	4,000.00
From Federal Government:			
3311-3319 Federal Revenue	-	-	-
From State:			
3351 Shared Revenues	-	-	-
3352 Meals & Rooms Tax Distribution	28,054.00	28,054.00	25,000.00
3353 Highway Block Grant	8,962.00	11,510.00	8,000.00
3359 Other State Revenue	-	-	-
Charges For Services:			
3401-3406 Income from Departments	500.00	55.00	500.00
Miscellaneous Revenues:			
3501 Sale of Municipal Property	-	-	-
3502 Interest on Investments	7,000.00	12,446.00	10,000.00
3503 Other Miscellaneous Revenue	-	943.00	-
Operating Transfer In:			
3915 From Capital Reserve Fund	-	-	10,090.00
3916 From Trust & Fiduciary Fund	-	1,800.00	-
Other Financing Sources:			
Amount Voted From Fund Balance	-	-	-
Estimated Fund Balance To Reduce Taxes	-	-	-
Total Estimated Revenue and Other Financing Sources	\$180,011.00	\$198,154.00	\$185,590.00

BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF EASTON – EXPENDITURES

PURPOSES OF APPROPRIATIONS	Estimated 2023	Actual 2023	Proposed 2024
General Government:			
4130-4139 Executive	\$ 14,150.00	\$ 12,466.00	\$ 14,150.00
4140-4149 Election, Reg., & Vital Statistics	11,500.00	9,585.00	11,500.00
4150-4151 Financial Administration	16,800.00	17,386.00	16,800.00
4152 Revaluation of Property	6,152.00	6,806.00	6,356.00
4153 Legal Expenses	10,000.00	2,351.00	10,000.00
4155-4159 Personnel Administration	2,000.00	1,830.00	2,000.00
4191-4193 Planning & Zoning	5,000.00	1,630.00	5,000.00
4194 General Government Buildings	18,500.00	12,915.00	19,000.00
4195 Cemeteries	2,650.00	2,363.00	2,650.00
4196 Insurance	3,500.00	3,384.00	3,500.00
4197 Advertising & Regional Association	1,574.00	1,632.00	1,574.00
4199 Other General Government	2,500.00	-	2,500.00
Public Safety:			
4210-4214 Police	-	-	-
4215-4219 Ambulance	12,220.00	5,643.00	12,306.00
4220-4229 Fire	22,550.00	30,053.00	23,050.00
4240-4249 Building Inspections	1,000.00	4,028.00	1,000.00
4290-4298 Emergency Management	151.00	-	151.00
4299 Other (including Communications)	1,750.00	5,329.00	1,875.00
Highways and Streets:			
4312 Highways & Streets	60,001.00	67,423.00	75,001.00
Sanitation:			
4321 Administration	-	-	-
4323 Solid Waste Collection	41,000.00	37,504.00	27,620.00
4324 Solid Waste Disposal	-	-	-
Health:			
4414 Pest Control	300.00	-	300.00
Welfare:			
4442 Welfare Direct Assistance	2,000.00	-	2,000.00
Culture and Recreation:			
4520-4529 Parks & Recreation	22,000.00	13,702.00	18,158.00
4583 Patriotic Purposes	100.00	-	100.00
Conservation:			
4619 Other Conservation	1,000.00	1,219.00	1,200.00
Debt Service:			
4711 Principal-Long Term Bonds & Notes	8,800.00	9,059.00	9,100.00

4721	Interest-Long Term Bonds & Notes	1,900.00	1,644.00	1,600.00
Capital Outlay:				
4909	Other Capital Outlay	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
OPERATING BUDGET TOTAL		\$269,098.00	\$247,952.00	\$268,491.00

SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLES

4915	To Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 3,512.00	\$ 3,512.00	\$ 15,000.00
4916	To Exp. Trust Fund	\$21,500.00	\$21,500.00	\$ 8,500.00
4919	To Fiduciary Funds	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ 10,090.00</u>
SPECIAL ARTICLES RECOMMENDED		\$25,012.00	\$25,012.00	\$33,590.00

INDIVIDUAL WARRANT ARTICLES

4415-4419	Health Agencies, Hospital & Other	\$1,511.00	\$1,511.00	\$1,511.00
4445-4449	Vendor Payments & Other	1,034.00	1,034.00	1,034.00
4589	Other Culture & Recreation	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
4902	Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,096.00</u>
INDIVIDUAL WARRANT ARTICLES		\$4,045.00	\$4,045.00	\$12,141.00
GRAND TOTAL		\$298,155.00	\$277,009.00	\$314,222.00

BUDGET SUMMARY

	2023 Year <u>Budget</u>	2023 Year <u>Actual</u>	Ensuing Year <u>Budget</u>
Operating Budget Recommended	\$269,098.00	\$247,952.00	\$268,491.00
Special Warrant Articles Recommended	25,012.00	25,012.00	33,590.00
Individual Warrant Articles Recommended	<u>4,045.00</u>	<u>4,045.00</u>	<u>12,141.00</u>
Total Appropriations Recommended	298,155.00	277,009.00	314,222.00
Less: Estimated Revenues & Credits	180,011.00	198,154.00	185,590.00
Less: Fund Balance Use	<u>-</u>	<u>46,250.00</u>	<u>-</u>
Estimated Amount of Taxes to be Raised	\$118,144.00	\$ 32,605.00	\$128,632.00

REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

2023

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

3010	Tax Collector Cash Receipts	\$	0.00
3110-1	Property Tax Revenue		997,356.00
3185-0	Timber Taxes		5,521.84
3186-0	Payments in Lieu of Taxes		41,495.00
3190-0	Penalties & Interest		3,112.82
3220-0	Motor Vehicle Permits & Titles		85,815.00
3230-0	Building Permits		2,288.15
3290-0	Other Licenses, Permits & Fees		5,113.40
3352-0	Rooms & Meals Tax		28,053.61
3353-0	Highway Block Grant		11,509.81
3379	Income from Other Governments		3,821.77
3401-0	Income from All Departments		55.00
3402	Sale of Cemetery Lots		300.00
3502-0	Bank Interest		12,445.87
3508	Donations		0.00
3509-0	Miscellaneous Income		643.34
3916-0	Transfers from Expendable Trust Funds		<u>1,800.00</u>

Total Income \$1,199,331.61

Expense

4130-0	Executive		
4130100	Salaries - Selectmen, Moderator		7,950.00
4130150	Secretary Pay		504.25
4130300	Outside Services - Tax Maps		850.00
4130600	Office Expenses		<u>3,162.36</u>

Total 4130-0 Executive 12,466.61

4140-0 Election Registration, Town Clerk & Vital Statistics

4140100	Salary - Town Clerk		7,041.62
4140150	Deputy Town Clerk		1,500.00
4140200	Fees - Town Clerk		119.00
4140500	Election & Voter Registration		679.64
4140600	Office & Miscellaneous		<u>242.11</u>

Total 4140-0 Election Registration, Town Clerk & Vital Statistics 9,582.37

4150 Financial Administration

4150100	Salaries - Tax Collector, Treasurer, Auditor		5,999.97
4150125	Financial Services		6,200.00
4150200	Fees & Miscellaneous		700.53
4150600	Office Expenses & Bank Charges		<u>4,485.25</u>

Total 4150 Financial Administration 17,385.75

4152-0	Revaluation of Individual Property		
4152100	Revaluation	5,400.00	
4152200	Revaluation Software	<u>1,406.00</u>	
Total 4152-0	Revaluation of Individual Property		6,806.00
4153-0	Legal Expenses		2,350.82
4155-22	Personnel Administration & Payroll Taxes		1,830.11
4191-00	Planning & Zoning		1,630.25
4194-0	Government Buildings		
4194400	Utilities	6,395.15	
4194800	Repairs, Maintenance & Supplies	1,584.07	
4194900	Mowing, Gardening & Wreaths	1,890.00	
4194-0	Government Buildings - Other	<u>3,045.93</u>	
Total 4194-0	Government Buildings		12,915.15
4195-0	Cemetery		
4195900	Mowing & Maintenance	<u>2,362.50</u>	
Total 4195-0	Cemetery		2,362.50
4196-0	Insurance		
4196100	Property Liability-NHMA	2,923.01	
4196200	Worker's Compensation-Primex	<u>461.01</u>	
Total 4196-0	Insurance		3,384.02
4197-0	Advertising & Regional Association		1,632.00
4215-0	Ambulances		5,642.90
4220-0	Fire Department		
4220100	Salary - Fire Chief	1,150.00	
4220110	Firefighters Call Pay	1,735.00	
4220200	Training, Dues, Other	3,270.58	
4220400	Utilities	4,490.02	
4220600	Office & Miscellaneous	926.29	
4220630	Truck Inspection, Maintenance & Repair	1,876.06	
4220635	Truck Fuel	747.02	
4220700	Equipment & Small Tools	8,143.97	
4220800	Building Maintenance & Supply	<u>7,714.33</u>	
Total 4220-0	Fire Department		30,053.27
4241	Building Inspections		4,027.50
4197-0	4290 Emergency Management - Forest Fire		
4290200	Training	153.53	
Total 4290	Emergency Management - Forest Fire		153.53
4299-0	Emergency Management – Communication		
4299200	Hazard Mitigation Plan	3,300.00	
4299-0	Emergency Mgmt-Communication – Other	<u>1,875.00</u>	
Total 4299-0	Emergency Mgmt-Communication		5,175.00

4312000 - Highway Maintenance		
4312100 Highway Maintenance General	65,622.74	
4312200 Highway Maintenance Special Projects	<u>1,800.00</u>	
Total 4312000 Highway Maintenance		67,422.74
4324-0 Solid Waste		
4324100 Administration	2,000.00	
4324200 Disposal	<u>35,504.00</u>	
Total 4324-0 Solid Waste		37,504.00
4415 Health Agencies & Hospitals		2,222.14
4449 Other Welfare		1,034.00
4520 Parks and Recreation		
4520100 Administrative Fees	2,000.00	
4520200 Tri-Town Recreation Program	<u>11,702.00</u>	
Total 4520 Parks and Recreation		13,702.00
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		1,218.51
4711 Construction Loan - Principal		9,058.66
4721 Construction Loan - Interest		1,643.90
4915 Transfers to Capital Reserve		3,000.00
4916 Transfers to Trust/Agency Funds		21,500.00
4931 County Taxes		133,076.00
4933100 Lafayette Regional School District		533,350.00
4933200 Profile School District		<u>258,459.00</u>
Total Expense		<u>\$1,222,088.73</u>
Net Income		<u>\$ -22,757.12</u>

BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2023

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1001	WGSB Checking Account	\$ 30,654.20
1002	WGSB Money Market Fund	3,128.22
1004	Easton Escrow Account	4,322.41
1005	NHPDIP	99,994.47
Total Checking/Savings		<u>138,099.30</u>

Other Current Assets

1010.3	Petty Cash on Hand	100.00
1010.4	Cash Deposits on Hand	179,070.84
1080100	Property Taxes - Current Year	377,457.47
1080900	Resident for Abatements Current Year	-2,211.00
1110	Tax Liens Receivable	35,761.42
1311	Due From Trust Funds	1,800.00
1510	Prepaid Expenses	3,613.23
Total Other Current Assets		<u>595,591.96</u>

Total Current Assets 733,691.26

Other Assets

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

TOTAL ASSETS

\$735,134.23

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

2020	Accounts Payable at Year End	\$ 12,655.16
2023	Property Taxes POA/Overpayments	44.85
2025	Withholding Taxes	2,870.68
2075	Due to School Districts	442,876.00
2220	Deferred Revenue	67,533.38
2270-2	Yield Tax Bond	4,317.41
Total Other Current Liabilities		<u>530,297.48</u>

Total Current Liabilities 530,297.48

Total Liabilities

530,297.48

Equity

2440	Nonspendable Fund Balance	5,056.20
2460	Committed Fund Balance	665.00
2530	Unassigned Fund Balance	221,872.67

Net Income -22,757.12

Total Equity 204,836.75

TOTAL LIABILITES & EQUITY

\$735,134.23

TREASURER'S REPORT
for the Year Ending December 31, 2023

Cash Transactions

Bank Balance- January 1, 2023	\$ 169,655.66
Receipts:	
Property Taxes	\$755,728.83
Motor Vehicle Permits & Titles	88,563.00
Other License & Permits	5,113.40
Federal Government	88,295.00
State Government	40,085.19
Trust Funds	33,769.50
Bank Interest	12,445.87
Yield Taxes (Timber Logging)	5,521.84
Yield Tax Bond	4,317.41
Building Permits	2,288.15
Sale of Cemetery Lots	300.00
Miscellaneous Sources	<u>698.34</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$1,037,126.53</u>
Disbursements:	
School Districts	\$628,583.00
Grafton County Taxes	133,076.00
To Trust Funds	25,012.40
All Other Orders of the Selectboard	<u>282,011.49</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>\$1,068,682.89</u>
Bank Balance as of December 31, 2023	<u><u>\$ 138,099.30</u></u>

**STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS
2023 TAX RATE CALCULATION**

Town Portion

Appropriations	\$298,155.00	
Less Revenues	(180,011.00)	
Fund Balance Surplus	(512.00)	
Less: Fund Balance Used	(70,000.00)	
Add: War Service Credits	3,150.00	
Add: Overlay	<u>4,738.00</u>	
Net Town Appropriation		\$ 55,520.00

School Portion

Net Cooperative School Appropriations	811,809.00	
Net Education Grant	.00	
Less Locally Retained State Education Tax	<u>(150,305.00)</u>	
Net Local School Portion		661,504.00

State Education Tax

State Education Tax	150,305.00	
State Education Tax Not Retained	<u>0.00</u>	
Net State Education Tax		150,305.00

County Portion

Net County Apportionment	<u>133,076.00</u>	
Net Required County Tax Effort		<u>133,076.00</u>

Total Property Taxes Assessed		1,000,405.00
Less War Service Credits		<u>(3,150.00)</u>
Total Property Tax Commitment		<u><u>\$997,255.00</u></u>

2022 Tax Rate			2023 Tax Rate		
	\$	%		\$	%
Town	0.96	8	Town	0.72	6
County	1.78	15	County	1.71	13
School	7.91	66	School	8.50	66
State	<u>1.31</u>	<u>11</u>	State	<u>1.96</u>	<u>15</u>
	<u>\$11.96/1000</u>	<u>100%</u>		<u>\$12.89/1000</u>	<u>100%</u>

SUMMARY INVENTORY OF ASSESSED VALUATION 2023
MS-1

Land Value Only

Current Use	\$ 192,358.00
Residential Land	27,667,300.00
Commercial/Industrial Land	<u>286,700.00</u>

Total of Taxable Land **\$28,146,358.00**

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

Buildings Value Only

Residential	48,209,798.00
Commercial/Industrial	416,600.00
Discretionary Preservation Easements	<u>2,802.00</u>

Total of Taxable Buildings **48,629,200.00**

Tax Exempt and Non-Taxable Buildings (337,500.00)

Utilities and Timber

Utilities 1,136,500.00

Valuation Before Exemption **\$77,912,058.00**

Exemptions Applied

Elderly Exemption (0.00)

Total Dollar Amount of Exemptions **0.00**

Net Valuation **\$77,912,058.00**

Less Utilities **1,136,500.00**

Net Valuation Without Utilities **\$76,775,558.00**

Change in Net Valuation Over 2022 (\$76,067,099.00) **\$ 708,459.00**

2023 TAX COLLECTOR SUMMARY OF WARRANTS

Levies of 2023 – MS-61

DEBITS

Uncollected Taxes Beginning of Year	Account	Levy for Yr. of This Report	2022	2021+
Property Taxes	3110	\$	\$325,499.90	
Yield Taxes	3185			
Property Tax Credit Balance		(138.85)		
<u>Taxes Committed This Year</u>				
Property Taxes	3110	997,356.00		
Yield Taxes	3185	5,521.84		
<u>Overpayment Refunds</u>				
Property Taxes	3110			
Interest and Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	3190	<u>83.73</u>	<u>2,587.72</u>	<u> </u>
<u>TOTAL DEBITS</u>		\$1,002,822.72	\$328,087.62	

CREDITS

<u>Remitted To Treasurer</u>				
Property Taxes		\$619,804.48	\$309,920.91	
Yield Taxes		5,521.84		
Interest (w/ Lien Conversion)		83.73	2,103.72	
Penalties			484.00	
Conversion to Lien (Principal Only)			15,578.99	
<u>Abatements Made</u>				
Property Taxes				
Yield Taxes				
<u>Uncollected Taxes - End Of Year</u>				
Property Taxes		377,457.47		
Yield Taxes		(44.80)		
Property Tax Credit Balance		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>TOTAL CREDITS</u>		\$1,002,822.72	\$328,087.62	

2023 SUMMARY OF TAX LIEN ACCOUNTS
MS-61

DEBITS

	Last Year's Levy	2022	2021	2020+
Unredeemed Liens Balance at Beginning of Fiscal Year		\$ 0.00	\$13,369.83	\$8,765.06
Liens Executed During Fiscal Year		16,871.73	0.00	0.00
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution)		<u>45.77</u>	<u>356.02</u>	<u>39.58</u>
Total Debits	\$0.00	\$16,917.50	\$13,725.85	\$8,804.64

CREDITS

Remitted To Treasurer:

Redemptions		\$ 1,136.47	\$ 2,052.76	\$ 55.97
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution) #3190		45.77	356.02	39.58
Abatements of Unredeemed Liens				
Unredeemed Liens Balance #1110		<u>15,735.26</u>	<u>11,317.07</u>	<u>8,709.09</u>
Total Credits	\$0.00	\$16,917.50	\$13,725.85	\$8,804.64

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
For the Year Ending December 31, 2023

Motor Vehicle Registrations & Titles	\$85,815.00
Dog Registrations/Licenses/Penalties/Copies	333.40
Miscellaneous	99.00
Transferred to Town	\$86,247.40

VITAL RECORDS REGISTERED IN THE TOWN OF EASTON
For the Year Ending December 31, 2023

BIRTHS

Date & Place Of Birth	Name Of Child	Name Of Father & Mother's Name
November 15, 2023 Littleton, NH	Althea Lynn Horan	John Travis Horan Chelsea McKean-Horan

MARRIAGES

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

DEATHS

Date & Place Of Death	Name of Deceased
November 07, 2023 Littleton, NH	Patricia Marion Every

Respectfully submitted,
 Angela Thornton
 Easton Town Clerk

SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY

December 31, 2023

Assessed Values:	
Land - Town Hall and Fire Station	\$ 90,500.00
Land - Cemetery	74,800.00
Other	73,500.00
Building - Town Hall	295,800.00
Building - Fire Station	40,100.00
Estimated Values:	
Furniture and Equipment - Town Hall	26,000.00
Furniture and Equipment - Fire Station	<u>273,000.00</u>
Total Town Property	\$873,700.00

SCHEDULE OF LONG-TERM DEBT

December 31, 2023

**Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank
Refinanced Town Hall Addition from 2001
3/08/2018 @3.25% for 127 Months**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>
Original Amount	\$	\$	\$40,315.21
Balance December 31, 2022			23,489.09
Payments in 2023	4,507.92	707.16	<u>3,800.76</u>
Balance December 31, 2023			<u><u>\$19,688.33</u></u>

**Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank
Ashton Property Purchase
5/27/16 @2.95% for 185 Months**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>
Original Amount (\$75,000 authorized WA#6 of 2016)	\$	\$	\$60,427.17
Balance December 31, 2022			34,148.91
Payments in 2023	6,194.64	936.74	<u>5,257.90</u>
Balance December 31, 2023			<u><u>\$28,891.01</u></u>

Town of Easton Report of Trust Funds

December 31, 2023

Accounts	Type of Fund	Beginning Balance 2023	*Deposits	Interest Accrued	Withdrawals	Ending Balance 2023
Cemetery Maintenance	ETF	\$14,261.55	\$1,000.00	33.18		\$15,294.73
Cemetery Perpetual Care	Trust	\$13,217.40		\$36.70		\$13,254.10
Conservation	CRF	\$14,445.26	\$500.00	\$36.71		\$14,981.97
Easton Fire Dept Equipment	ETF	\$58,380.45	\$3,000.00	\$2,215.55	\$11,926.50	\$51,669.50
Easton Fire Dept Vehicle and Apparatus	CRF	\$80,973.41	\$2,500.00	\$3,779.35		\$87,252.76
Forest Fire	ETF	\$34,111.87	\$5,000.00	\$1,688.92		\$40,800.79
Legal Fund	ETF	\$92,271.00	\$5,000.00	\$4,455.22		\$101,726.22
Town Building Repairs	ETF	\$80,740.82	\$5,000.00	\$3,836.87		\$89,577.69
Town Road Maintenance	ETF	\$102,584.31	\$2,500.00	\$3,842.89	\$21,843.00	\$87,084.20
Transfer Station	CRF	\$15,340.56	\$ 512.40	\$563.23		\$16,416.19
Totals		\$506,326.63	\$25,012.40	\$20488.62	\$33,769.50	\$518,058.15

• Deposits are amounts appropriated at the 2023 Town Meeting.

Trust = Trust Fund

ETF = Expendable Trust Fund

CRF = Capital Reserve Fund

EASTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

2023 was another good year for members of the Easton Fire Department. The highlight of the year was the creation of our Emergency Medical Response Team who can now respond to emergencies and provide basic medical services to our residents until the Littleton Ambulance can arrive on scene. The Team currently consists of three certified members who each carry a medical kit with basic lifesaving supplies to include an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Ned Cutler has been promoted to the rank of Captain and will head up this Team. In addition to our routine training events, several of our members participated in the regional Twin State Mutual Aid Association spring Fire School that was held at the Blue Mountain School in Wells River, Vermont in May.

Easton Fire Department responded to a total of 13 calls in 2023. These calls are broken down as follows:

Fire/Smoke Alarm Activations	(6)
Motor Vehicle Accident	(4)
Structure Fire	(1)
Mutual Aid to Sugar Hill Fire (Other than structure)	(1)
Trees on Power Lines	(1)

The Fire Department will purchase four new radios in 2024 that will allow our Emergency Medical Responders to communicate while responding to an incident. Additionally, we will be looking to replace Easton Engine One, which is currently 35 years old and is showing signs of significant wear. We have attempted to extend the useful life of the engine for as long as possible, but some recent safety issues have made us realize that it is time to take it out of service. Engine One has served Easton and the surrounding communities well, but the time has come to find a replacement.

In an effort to assist emergency responders locate your residence, we strongly encourage you to display reflective 911 street numbers to allow Police, Fire, and Medical Personnel to quickly locate your home. The members of the Easton Fire Department would be happy to provide and install these street numbers at no cost. If interested, please contact the Fire Department.

The Easton Fire Department is always looking for new members to join the Department. If interested in joining the Fire Department, please contact Chief Darrel Gearhart 603-823-7152 or Deputy Chief Zak Mei 603-823-7264.

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

EASTON PLANNING BOARD

This year the Planning Board has been working on several changes to the Zoning Ordinances. We developed and are proposing the addition of a small Wind Energy Systems regulation that will allow installation of these systems in a responsible manner. The Board developed and implemented Site Plan Review regulations to aid the Town in reviewing commercial construction in an effort to protect environmentally sensitive areas and help mitigate any possible negative impacts on the Town. This new regulation will be used to review an upcoming Eversource project. The Board updated Section 904 Flood Hazard Zone to include language that is required to keep the Town in the National Flood Plan Insurance Program. In addition, we fine-tuned two Ordinances: Section 804 Signs and the Short-Term Rental definition. All of these changes will be Warrant Articles at the next Town Meeting.

The Board would also like to thank Tara Bamford for all of her guidance and support. As always, the Board invites residents to participate by either joining our Board meetings on the first Thursday of every month at 5:00 pm or by just forwarding your recommendations, concerns, questions, or areas that you feel the Board should review to eastonnhplanningboard@gmail.com. The Board greatly appreciates the support and input from Easton's residents.

For the Easton Planning Board,
Ned Cutler, Chair

EASTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION (ECC)

The ECC hosted a public meeting on January 3, 2024, with Eversource representatives to discuss Eversource's plans for replacing their poles on their right-of-way through Easton. See the minutes for this meeting on the ECC page of the Easton Town website for details about Eversource's plans, what questions were asked, and how questions were answered.

The ECC is continuing our collaboration with the Franconia and Sugar Hill Conservation Commissions and Plymouth State University Environmental Science seniors in educating the public about water resources and wildlife corridors in our shared valley.

The Easton, Franconia, Sugar Hill Conservation Commissions along with the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust (ACT) are co-sponsoring a presentation on Thursday, April 4, 2024, 6:00-8:00 pm at the Lafayette School in Franconia on "The History of the White Mountain National Forest with Dave Govatski followed by "Current Management of the WMNF-by-WMNF staff.







We also hope to develop a presentation on "Protecting Your Property from Natural Hazards".

If you wish to join our mailing list or have comments or questions, please contact us at eastonconservationcommission@gmail.com.

Submitted by,
Linda Hansen – Chair
Easton Conservation Commission

TRI-TOWN TRANSFER STATION

We would like to thank all our customers for another great year recycling. After the notice of the large hike in rates from Casella, the Tri-Towns made the decision to contract with Normandeau Trucking for our hauling needs and change landfills from North Country Environmental Services (NCES) to Mt. Carberry Landfill, which secured us a position at Mt. Carberry prior to the pending closure of the NCES landfill. We also changed our plastic program from accepting all plastic containers to only accepting #1 and #2 plastics, which allowed us to begin baling and selling the recycled plastic. Thank you for all your efforts with the plastic program.

RECYCLABLE MATERIAL	2023 RECYCLED AMOUNTS	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT! Here is just one benefit of recycling materials, rather than manufacturing new products from virgin resources.
PLASTICS	2,760 LBS	 You saved 145 gallons of gasoline!
GLASS	126,700 LBS	 You saved about 759 trash bags from ending up in a landfill!
SCRAP METAL	129,046 LBS	 You saved 192,279 pounds of iron ore!
PAPER &/OR CARDBOARD	172,960 LBS	 You saved 1,470 trees!
STEEL CANS	11,632 LBS	 You saved enough energy to swap 403 incandescent lightbulbs for LEDs!
TIRES	7,295 LBS	 You saved 174 gallons of oil!

AVOIDED EMISSIONS



Recycling uses much less energy than making products from virgin resources, and using less energy means fewer greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere.

By recycling the materials above, you avoided about **1,331,106 lbs. of carbon dioxide emissions**. This is equivalent to removing **135 passenger cars** from the road for an entire year!

Respectfully submitted,
 Tim Blake
 Kevin Dauphine
 Laurie Matthews

LAFAYETTE RECREATION

Lafayette Recreation had a fantastic year, thanks to the great efforts and dedication of our team. We were thrilled to welcome our new Recreation Director, Katherine Raymond, who brought fresh ideas and energy to the organization. Our youth programs and community events were particularly successful, and we can't wait to continue building on this momentum in the year ahead.

The youth sports programming organized this year was an absolute blast! We had a fantastic turnout with enthusiastic participation across all sports. The baseball season was exciting, with the 5th and 6th grade teams joining forces with the Bethlehem team to form a full team. The younger grades also showcased great enthusiasm and spirit. To further spice things up, we added Track and Field and Flag Football to the spring program and introduced a Pre-K and Kindergarten Saturday program that garnered great interest and appreciation from both young athletes and their parents.

Soccer season was a sensational success, with a considerable number of athletes participating. The 5th and 6th grade teams had exceptional players, and went on to win the Valley Cup. The 3rd and 4th grade team was highly competitive with around 20 athletes, while the 1st and 2nd grade team remained undefeated throughout the season.

Our Pre-K and Kindergarten program continued to run on Saturday mornings and received immense love and support from the community. Even the young athletes got to play a few games, and both parents and athletes had a great time.

Despite lower enrollment numbers compared to other sports, the basketball teams still managed to gather skilled and dedicated athletes to participate and compete in tournaments and games. The basketball teams put up a fantastic show, delivering some excellent performances in their league. However, we need more community members to fill the paid positions of referring and umpiring for all three sports seasons.

We had the privilege of being supported by our local community businesses in sponsoring our young athletes and teams. Thanks to their support, we were able to purchase new jerseys for our athletes, which they could keep. The businesses were enthusiastic about being a part of the local sports scene. The coaches, athletes, and parents were all delighted with the fresh new jerseys. Further, we were able to replace aging equipment with new ones, which is a significant boost to our teams. By providing new equipment for each sport, our coaches can now supply the entire team with proper equipment for practicing without relying on the athletes to bring their own.

Overall, this has been a fantastic year for our teams, and we are grateful for the support we have received from the community.

The yearly events organized by the Lafayette Recreation Department were a great success this year, drawing in a large number of participants and receiving positive feedback from the community. The town's 250th anniversary Old Homes Day event was a highlight, featuring a parade, music, food trucks, and fireworks. Due to inclement weather, the fireworks display was postponed but still drew crowds on the rescheduled date.

The Top Notch Triathlon, organized by Matthew and Elizabeth Steele, continued to be a popular event, with a dedicated team ensuring its success. The Wobble 'n' Gobble Thanksgiving tradition was well-received, with over 400 participants, and was held in collaboration with Adaptive Sports for a good cause. Despite the rainy weather, the Halloween Cup was also a hit with a competitive tournament and teams from all over the North Country. The event was a great fundraiser for the Lafayette Recreation Department, with food trucks and a local concession stand, brought to you by Lafayette Regionals PTO, bringing in a significant amount of revenue. The sweatshirts sold out within the first hour, making it a highly successful fundraiser.

We want to give a big shoutout to all the amazing folks in our community who have made Lafayette Recreation such a fantastic place to be! From coaches to business owners to recreation committee members, you've all volunteered your time and resources to help us succeed. We couldn't have done it without you! We're excited for another year of fun and growth in 2024, and we're so grateful to have such a fantastic community behind us. Thanks for being a part of our journey!

Respectfully submitted,

Lafayette Committee Members

Franconia: Adam Boyer, Haley Ireland, and Peter Gaudette

Easton: Michael McKeever and Kent Butterfield

Sugar Hill: Ryan Carlaw and Matthew Steele

Lafayette Regional School: Amy Kopp

Recreation Director: Katherine Raymond

ABBIE GREENLEAF LIBRARY

Abbie Greenleaf Library has hit its stride with a steady stream of patrons visiting throughout the year. Various programs and collaborations offered an assortment of diversions and educational opportunities. New books and program materials circulated particularly well.

TECHNOLOGY

Abbie Greenleaf Library was the proud recipient of a New Hampshire Charitable Foundation Technology Grant. This grant was applied to the purchase of a new printer, scanner, Owl remote communication device, ipads and several tech toys including the very popular Tonie Boxes (audio toys) and Indi Robots (programmable toy cars).

In addition, the NH State Library granted AGL a Summer Learning Grant for the creation of Folding Microscope Backpacks and a presentation in collaboration with ACT (Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust). In addition, several generous patrons made gifts of cash and/or books to help grow our collection.

THE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Over 469 new volumes were added to the Library collection plus several new adventure backpacks, toys and many jigsaw puzzles. In addition, the Seed Catalog continued to be popular with patrons.

PROGRAMMING AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The Abbie Book Group, a core group of dedicated readers, met on a semi-monthly basis to discuss all manner of books. Wednesdays was the Library's most sonorous day of the week as we simultaneously hosted the spirited Mah-Jong players and ebullient after-school gang. Story Time ebbs and flows with children enrolling throughout the year in 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. And, Andaman Salomon was our first wee patron to officially read 1000 Books Before Kindergarten and received a gift certificate awarded to him by the Fire Department!

In addition, the Library hosted guest artists who presented special art classes: Collage for Adults and a class for children with Keith Maddy and two sections of Printmaking with Kathie Lovett.

Summer activities were initiated on July 4 when over 25 people participated in the Read Aloud of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution. We once again sponsored a Summer Reading program for children: 29 children read 189 books and received free incentive books. We also offered a Summer Reading program and Raffle for Adults: 43 adults read 238 books and the winner of the raffle was Peggy Branch. Special thanks to Katie Raymond and the Recreation Department for their support of weekly summer events including music with Mr. Aaron, the North Country Chamber Players, Modern Times Puppet Theater (over 90 people attended), a microbiology collaboration with ACT, a NH Children's Museum workshop and Ice Cream for Lunch!

IN CONCLUSION

Thank you to the tireless 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 Jenny Monahan, Katie Raymond, Cory Rush, and Libby Staples. As always, thank you to members of the community for your eager participation, support and good humor.

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

ABBIE GREENLEAF LIBRARY

STATISTICS

MOST CIRCULATED BOOKS

Fiction – *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult
Mystery – *Desert Star* by Michael Connelly
Non-fiction – *Wager* by David Grann
Junior – *Dog Man: For Whom the Ball Rolls* by Dave Pilkey
Early Reader – *George Goes to the Potty* by David Gomez

MATERIALS CIRCULATED

Adult Fiction	2,801
Adult Non-Fiction	709
Young Adult	90
Juvenile	720
Easy Readers	1,263
Audio Books	39
DVD's	235
Magazines	443
Objects (toys, puzzles)	94
Computer Usage	1,500
Inter-Library Loans	388

Digital Material Downloaded

eBooks	1,002
eAudio	1,910
eMag	256

TOTAL CIRCULATION 11,450

The above figure includes 536 books loaned to NH Libraries via Inter-Library loan.

Total Accessions	469
Total Deaccessions	376

TOTAL VOLUMES approximately 10,350

Subscriptions

Periodicals	18
Newspapers	3

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

There are over 700 Library cardholders with approximately 300 patrons currently using their cards. 62 new patrons joined the Library in 2023.

KINSMAN VALLEY CLUB

Service to the Town of Easton is the key to the mission of the KVC. This encompasses three major areas of focus: programs and activities, fundraisers, and the purchase of needed items for the Town Hall. This past year we were able, with a great deal of volunteer assistance, to address all three.

Our programs and activities spanned the year beginning with a “Winter Game Night”, a “Valentine Charcuterie Class” taught by Claire Mei and assisted by her mom, followed by a “Growing a Pollinator Garden” with the Easton Conservation Commission and planned by Linda Hansen (Chair of the ECC). The Club also co-hosted a Ben Kilham “Bear Rescue Program”. The KVC planned and prepared a ham dinner with all the trimmings as a farewell to longtime resident and avid Easton volunteer and supporter, Ed O’Brien. Continuing into the summer we enjoyed our Annual Family Picnic on a beautiful August afternoon. The latter part of the year brought a program by the Humanities Council highlighting the Salem Witch Trials. And in December, our Holiday Party brought out many of our friends and neighbors to celebrate the season which was also the kick-off for our food drive which provided over four containers of non-perishable food items to the Franconia Food Pantry. We would be remiss not to mention Election Days and the many volunteers who prepared food to keep the poll workers energized and happy!

Fundraising this year consisted, in part, of t-shirt sales. We added a very popular native wildflower shirt to our collection. Claire Mei’s extraordinary homemade cannolis were beyond delicious and sold out quickly during Old Home Day, and our popular original “Easton Notecards” are always a favorite and are on sale (along with t-shirts) at the Town Hall.

The proceeds from our fundraisers were able to support our activities and purchase a new bulletin board for the Town which is located right outside the entrance to the Town Clerk’s Office. The Club also purchased and installed black-out shades for all windows in the “big hall”.

As a new year begins, we would love further input from the community. If you have new ideas or suggestions, please contact us kvceaston@gmail.com or attend one of our quarterly meetings. (April 17, 2024 – 6:30 pm)

Sincerely,
The KVC Board

Maria Hynes, Chair
Claire Mei
Bev Lamanna
Toni Woodruff

2023 COOLEY-JERICHO COMMUNITY FOREST REPORT

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, the forest hosts 6 miles of trails to enjoy including a connection that links ACT's trail system to the WMNF Jericho trail.

In 2023, the draft Memorandum of Understanding that had been in the works for a few years was finalized and signed by the Selectboards of all four towns. Many thanks are due to each town for their diligence and willingness to be a part of the process. This document formalizes the roles and responsibilities of the four towns and ACT in managing the Community Forest.

In late 2022 ACT was awarded cost share funding for a non-commercial forestry project to improve long-term wildlife habitat, climate resiliency, and timber value. We will likely start laying this project out in 2024 in hopes of implementing the practice in 2025 or 2026. It should be noted that over the last couple of years, there has been extensive logging on some of the abutting properties, including WMNF. There has been no logging on the CJCF since it became a community forest. There are no plans for a commercial timber harvest in the current 10-year management planning cycle. The windstorm in 2023 impacted surrounding properties, but damage on the community forest was minimal.

The existing parking lot on Trumpet Round Road accommodates 10 vehicles and is well maintained by the Town of Sugar Hill. Plans have been prepared by a local civil engineer to build a new parking lot below the old log landing to replace the existing lot to better serve the community and be respectful of the neighbors. This design work was paid for by a grant from the Davis Foundation with support from GBA. ACT is now soliciting bids from site contractors and will be applying for grant funds for the parking lot construction. ACT also has a small grant to update the information kiosk which provides maps and other information for 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.

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 Easton 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, combatting erosion and poor drainage on trails, and expanding our volunteer trails management crew. The latter was headed up by our Trails Program Manager who led several trail workdays and organized our wonderful team of volunteers. The two bridges across Salmon Brook were dedicated to Rebecca Brown, ACT's founding Executive Director, who was instrumental in the creation of the Community Forest. A new ski glade was cut in collaboration with volunteers from Granite Backcountry Alliance during the Graniteer Festival this fall.

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, Katrina Meserve 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,



Kimberly Cartwright
Executive Director
Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust

FEEES

(As of January 2024 - 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, Expert Review Fee Extra

Conditional Use Permit/Site Plan Review

\$25.00

Short-Term Rental Application

(See Website)

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*

NOTES

Information - continued next page 40

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: 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

And by Special Appointment

A license for all dogs is required by May 1, 2024

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

TOWN OF EASTON

easton-nh.org

Select Board Meetings for 2024

All Meetings Held at Easton Town Hall

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	*3	*4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				*1	2	3
4	5	6	*7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	*6	*7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	*3	*4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			*1	*2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	*5	*6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	*3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	*11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				*1	2	3
4	5	6	*7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	*4	*5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	*2	*3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	*6	*7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	*4	*5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Select Board Meetings – 6:00 p.m. 1st & 3rd Monday evenings, except January 1, February 19, and September 2. The first Select Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

***Planning Board Meetings** – 5:00 p.m. first Thursday of each month.

◊ **Conservation Commission** – 5:30 p.m. first Wednesday of each month.

Zoning Board, Supervisors of the Checklist, Trustee of Trust Funds, Cemetery Trustees - As Needed.

Department Head Meetings - with the Select Board quarterly or by request.

Fire Department – meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 6-8 PM.

Town of Easton
1060 Easton Valley Road
Easton, NH 03580