

SELECT BOARD

This annual report tells the tale of many ups and downs for 2016. It was with sincere regret that we learned of the unexpected death on April 10, 2016, of Joanne Coburn, who served as Lyme's Tax Collector for 30 years. This traumatic event set the stage for what would be a year of many challenges.

River Road woes continue to build, with findings and emergency repairs on at least two other locations. The efforts to resolve the closure near the East Thetford Bridge continue to be met with resistance and consequently there has been little advancement made toward resolution to the problem. The sad reality is that the longer this gets drawn out, the more expensive it becomes for the town. Additionally, there has been great interest with the operations and ownership of the Wilder Dam and how it impacts the River Road properties.

A Tax Study & Advisory Committee was created to take a hard look at the impact of property taxes on retirees and others, and to try to find additional ways of generating revenues to offset the rising costs of operating the town.

Coffee hours continued to be well received and attended. The town employees for one reason or another had an extraordinarily busy year, and this Board extends its most sincere appreciation to each and every one of them for jumping in to help as necessary and providing our Town with competent and excellent service.

ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

I have done the preliminary annual ratio study for the Department of Revenue Administration. Our median level of assessment for 2016 is 94%. Our equity rating is excellent. I did a Statistical Update this year. An interesting factoid that I came across in the process is that the average sale price of a home between 6/15/2015 and 6/15/2016 was \$553,000 in Lyme and \$476,000 in Hanover.

All assessments (Tax Cards) are on line! You can view the data that your assessment is based on at <http://gis.vgsi.com/lymeNH/> this will take you to the Vision Government Solutions website. Vision is our assessing software provider.

I am retiring this year and your new assessor, Todd Haywood, will be starting in January. Todd brings many years of experience to the job and I am sure he will serve you well. Thank you for making Lyme a friendly and interesting town.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Lyme's Budget Committee is a statutory budget committee, established under the State RSAs. The proposed budget of the Budget Committee is the budget that is voted on at both Town Meeting and School District Meeting.

The Budget Committee consists of 11 voting members, nine of which are elected. One member is a Selectboard representative and one member is a Schoolboard representative. Unless there is a tie vote, the Chair does not vote. This year's members are Phil Barta, Judith Brotman, Richard Jones, Erick Colberg, Eric Furstenberg, Elizabeth Glenshaw (school board representative), Greg Lange, Sue MacKenzie (select board representative), Wilkes McClave, Cybele Merrick, and Charles Ragan.

Typically, the Budget Committee meets with the Selectboard mid-summer for a six month Town update. In mid-September the Budget Committee begins to hold regularly scheduled meetings for a review of the current Town and School budget status and to develop with the Selectboard and the Schoolboard the proposed budget for the up-coming year. The Budget Committee's binding vote on the budget finalizes the operating budget for presentation to the Town and the

School District meetings. Money Warrant Articles are developed by the respective boards and are considered after the proposed operating budgets are finalized. The operating budgets and the warrant articles can be amended at their respective legislative meetings. However, the total amount voted is limited to not more than 10% of the total amount recommended by the Budget Committee. The 10% limitation affects the budget's bottom line, not individual line items.

Below is a typical meeting schedule for the year, beginning in mid-summer and continuing until the Budget Committee vote on the proposed Warrant Articles in February.

1. BOS update BC on 6-month status, School status update – *July-August-September*
2. BC discussion and recommendations to BOS and SB – *September, October*
3. BC hears department requests – *October-November*
4. BC hears BOS recommended budget presentation – *November*
5. BC meets with Department Heads concerning department budget requests - *November*
6. BC discusses proposed BOS budget, line items – *November-December*
7. BC takes “advisory” vote on BOS budget – *November-December*
9. BC discusses proposed School budget – *December-January*
10. BC takes “advisory” vote on School budget – *December-January*
11. BC holds Public Hearing on proposed Town and School operating budget AND takes binding vote on budgets - *January*
12. BC holds second Public Hearing, if necessary, AND takes binding vote on budget (if not done previously) - *January*
13. BC signs Town and School Warrant for State DRA
14. BC considers – and votes on - money articles for Town and School Warrants – *February*

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Library: new elevator was installed, front walkway & steps were replaced and/or repaired, water damage to the portico was assessed and a dead tree in the front yard was taken down with plans for a replacement by Hudson Forestry.

Utility Shed at Old Cemetery: Power lines were removed. Conduit piece now needs to be removed.

Academy Building: Pump issues resolved; still working on a maintenance plan for damaged window sills and siding. Museum area has been vacated. This Building Committee supports having this area occupied as soon as possible as it's not good for the building to left unused. A town entity, charged a nominal fee would be ideal.

Town Offices & Highway Building: An energy audit was performed and plans for changing out the lights at the highway garage to more efficient ones are in the works. There are also plans for solarizing the town office building by Energy Committee.

Pike House: New tenant. Minor septic repairs done.

Fire Station: Repairs done to interior and exterior.

The committee unanimously supports hiring a General Maintenance person. The Select Board included the position in the 2017 proposed budget. The Budget Committee cut the hours and costs for the position. Given the number of buildings and the age of some of them, the Committee feels that this is an essential position help properly maintain our properties, therefore recommends the original \$18,000 budget item be reinstated.

Priorities for 2017: Create a schedule of necessary maintenance items to be done and make sure it happens. Including, but not limited to getting the scrub brush & small trees cut away from the Police garage, painting it, having the parking lot crack sealed and/or repaved correctly, getting the damaged wood and sills repaired and painted at the Academy Building, providing support to the new B&G position.

CEMETERY TRUSTEES

The primary mission of the Cemetery Trustees is to oversee the operations of the town cemeteries, which includes burials, general maintenance and special projects concerning all five of the town's cemeteries.

In the Old Cemetery, efforts were continued to preserve the integrity of the gravestones. Each year work is done to preserve the stones, and this year a total of 46 stones and monuments were re-leveled, reset, cleaned and/or repaired. Our largest project of 2016 was the removal of three large pine trees in the back corner of the Old Cemetery, which were all dead or dying. The removal of these trees was essential to preserve and protect the historic gravestones in the Old Cemetery. The Trustees would like to thank the Dowd family for allowing us to access to the cemetery from their property for this project.

In the Highland Cemetery, efforts were continued to maintain the landscape. This included road maintenance, pruning of the large oak trees along the entrance road and general landscaping on the property. Porter, Beal and Gilbert Cemeteries were all maintained at a satisfactory level throughout the year.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Trails and Land Management

In August, the Commission, in partnership with the Upper Valley Trails Alliance, put the finishing touches on the Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary's new wildlife viewing blind that overlooks Little Post Pond. Lyme resident and UVTA Executive Director Russ Hirschler and UVTA's trails manager John Taylor were instrumental in shepherding the project along. Lyme residents Tom Colgan and Kevin Peterson donated materials. Funding came from the Commission's maintenance fund and The Lyme Foundation.

Project and Application Review

At the request of the ZBA and the Planning Board, the Commission made several site visits. These principally reviewed the potential impact of work that would be conducted in shoreline protection zones or wetland buffers.

Outreach and Education

Programs offered to the community included a mid-April visit to a vernal pool in the Town Forest led by wetlands scientist James Kennedy of Hanover and an evening talk on terrestrial invasive species presented by Commission member Matt Stevens. The Commission also facilitated "outdoor classroom" projects for the Lyme School's Third Grade class in Big Rock Preserve and workshops for the Fourth and Fifth grades along Lower Grant Brook. Other events hosted by the Commission during the year included its annual February snowshoe walk, Lyme's annual "Green Up Day" in May and a "Trails Day" in June.

More information about the Commission, its properties and activities can be found at:

<http://www.lymenh.gov/conservation-commission>

CONVERSE FREE LIBRARY

What a busy year it has been at the library! During 2016, we broke nearly every record that we keep on circulation and attendance. We loaned 25,789 physical items, 3,235 electronic items, and opened the door to 20,976 individual library visits (including school children). Two thousand six hundred fifty children and adults attended over 75 programs. We are ever-grateful for the

generous support of the Friends of Lyme Library, the Lyme School, and Select Board Administrative Assistant extraordinaire Dina Cutting.

This past year, through the kindness of the Joe and Hellen Darion Foundation, the Weng Family Trust, and the Lyme Foundation, we were able to install a modern, three-stop lift. This has made participation in library events easier and more accessible for many and allows us to make better use of our downstairs space for programming and other activities. We also were able to use the library's private funds to install a beautiful new brick walkway to the front of the building.

We thank Blisters organizers Maggie Minnock and Denby Coyle, who are retiring after many years. Our devoted and energetic volunteers (33 of them!) contribute so much to the life of the library. Our keen staff of Judy Russell (Director), Margaret Caffry (Assistant Director), Lyme School's Jake Cooke (Media Specialist), and Mike Beck (Custodian) keep everything running professionally and efficiently. We invite everyone to "check out" what the library has to offer.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Emergency Management Committee of Lyme is tasked with the responsibility of assuring that Lyme is prepared to respond in the event of a community wide emergency. 2016 was a fairly quiet year for significant emergency weather events in the area. There was only one event in July that required that the emergency operations center be open. However, 2016 was a very active year in emergency planning for the town. Both the Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) were due for revision. After Lyme applied for and was awarded two grants by the NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management the services of Mapping and Planning Solutions were retained as consultants. The committee's revision process started in October 2015 and was completed in September 2016 for both plans. The meetings were well attended by various representative individuals in the community and as a result of the process the new plans are more robust and tractable. Copies of the updated plans for Emergency Operations and Hazard Mitigation are available for review in the Town Office. Thanks to all who participated and contributed to the process!

Emergency Management now has a webpage on the Town of Lyme website <http://www.lymenh.gov/>. There are a number of links and attachments to assist individuals and families in preparing for emergencies. Don't forget to sign up for NH Alert <http://www.readynh.gov/resources/index.htm> to receive emergency alerts by phone, email, or text.

Thanks to all the individuals who have volunteered resources and/or skills in the event of an emergency to date. There is a "Volunteer Resources and Skills" form you can complete on the Emergency Management website if you would like to volunteer.

For more information on these or other activities in Emergency Management you may contact Margaret Caudill-Slosberg, emd@lymenh.gov.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Lyme Energy Committee worked on four significant projects to benefit the town in 2016. First, the trail-blazing Lyme School is now one of the first entities in the state set up to earn revenue from the sale of thermal renewable energy credits (T-RECs) generated by its wood pellet boilers. In the fourth quarter of 2016 alone, the school's sale of T-RECs generated roughly \$2000 of much-needed revenue. Second, the Committee continued to investigate model zoning language to govern the siting of non-accessory ground-mounted solar projects in town (this work will continue into 2017). Third, the Committee initiated an LED lighting retrofit and upgrade at the highway garage and town office buildings, which will hopefully be implemented in 2017, yielding significant electricity bill savings. Fourth, after much planning, the Committee issued a formal request for proposals and pursued financing for the installation of an 18 kW solar

photovoltaic (PV) system on the roof of the town office building. This PV system, which is projected to generate positive cash flow for the town right from the start, will be voted on at Town Meeting 2017. Committee members would be happy to discuss any of these projects (and particularly the PV project requiring voter approval) with interested residents.

FAST SQUAD

"I looked up and there you were. Thank you." Lyme resident

The Lyme FAST Squad (LFS) provides pre-hospital emergency medical response in Lyme before the ambulance arrives and supports the ambulance crew on scene. LFS is well-trained team offering a wide variety of skills and experience, including wilderness search-and-rescue, low-angle backcountry rescue and water rescue. We also support surrounding communities as a participant in the Upper Valley mutual-aid system and the Lyme Fire Department on fire calls. Other activities included:

- Offering CPR courses free to all who work and live in Lyme.
- Working for effective house numbering to decrease response time from police, FAST and Fire.
- Working closely with the LCC Parish Nurse with the permission of the family to assure they get the full range of services and are safe and healthy at home – the key to living independently.

We were toned out 90 times 2016 (same call volume as 2015). 49% of our calls were medical, 47% accidents, 4% fire and 3% Mutual Aid. 42% - seniors, and 20% of the calls are for falls. 14% of our patients represented 36% of our calls.

This year was particularly hard for our community – Orford Firefighter Charlie Waterbury made the ultimate sacrifice, and he died on the scene of the woods fire at Claflin Lane. Fires claimed homes in Lyme, too, and FAST is there to assure firefighter safety and to provide help and care for homeowners, too. 2016 was also a year that showed tremendous support for other towns in our mutual-aid response – responding to Hanover, Thetford and Orford offering EMS help and firefighter support.

Special thanks to all the donors who support the Lyme FAST Squad – your gifts in the past year funded the EMT course taken by our affiliates and allowed us to purchase gear and equipment for them that is not available through our budget.

Members:

EMT-Paramedic: Michael Hinsley, Andy Miller*

EMT-Basic: Tom Frawley, Karen Keane, Jim Mason, Kristen Munroe*, Lisa Rayes*, Aaron Rich

Affiliates: Rose Knaus**, Joanna Jaspersohn**, Bob Sloop*

*New to the squad in 2016

** Affiliates are members who are not yet licensed. They attend our meetings, participate in training, and respond to calls under the supervision of licensed providers.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Lyme Fire Department had a busy year with a 130 total calls. 12 structural fires including responses to our mutual aid towns, 28 motor vehicle accidents, multiple brush fires, chimney fires, boiler problems including carbon monoxide leaks, propane leaks, injured and lost hikers and an assortment of other service calls and alarms.

The Emergency Operation Center was opened at the station for two days in July when strong thunder storms toppled many trees, closed roads and downed power lines. A lightning strike off Claflin Lane led to a multi acre brush fire that went to a second alarm. It was at this call that Orford Fire Fighter Charles Waterbury suffered fatal heart failure. Members of the Lyme Fire Department, Fast Squad and the Lyme Police joined first responders from the Upper Valley and

beyond for a memorial service on the Orford Common.

Through a generous donation by a Lyme citizen, the Lyme Fire Department now has an inflatable rescue boat to assist in water rescues. We also want to thank everyone else for the donations we received to help defray the cost of our upcoming safety equipment replacement, including our Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA's). Please think of Lyme Fire and Fast Squad when considering your annual giving.

We continue to meet and train bimonthly; please contact Chief Mundy or anyone on the department if you may be interested in joining our volunteer department.

HERITAGE COMMISSION

Since Town Meeting established Lyme's Heritage Commission in 2011, we have worked to promote appreciation of our town's historic features, including houses, barns and bridges.

This year the Heritage Commission raised private funds and worked with volunteers to design and install a stately fence on the Little Common, with approval by Town Meeting and the Select Board. We are currently working with experts to list the 1937 East Thetford Bridge on the National Register of Historic Places, in anticipation of its renovation.

We invite all to explore our intensive town-wide "windshield survey" of properties and historic assets by a professional architectural historian, available through both the Town Office and the Lyme Historians. See the 82 page, full color *Summary Report* at the library, or you can purchase your own copy from the Town Office (\$20).

Commissioners continue to explore ways to assist owners of historic properties to access information, resources and possible funding for renovation and restoration projects. Contact any Commissioner for assistance or to apply for help from the Historic Assets Fund.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

I would like to thank everyone for their encouraging words and patience this season. The Highway Department continued its maintenance of roads and town equipment with a three-man department and using local subcontractors as needed. This arrangement temporarily meets the needs of the department and the town saving money, until a fourth person who has a commercial driver's license and experience with road maintenance and all facets of a highway dept. is found.

In the ongoing effort to repair and or replace culverts there were 10 completed in 2016. Two that were completed on Grafton Turnpike were finished days prior to the surprise release of a beaver dam in the middle of the night, which would have caused catastrophic damage to the road and properties had the culverts not been working properly. Sometime a little luck is necessary. Another on Acorn Hill turned out to be a much larger project than anticipated due to ledge. The emergency repair was made due to undermining soils beneath the pavement.

The 2016 F-550 Ford truck was received in the fall. We added a wing this year and it has proven to be an excellent asset to the town fleet. Currently, the 1994 John Deere grader which was scheduled to be replaced a decade ago is currently to be replaced in 2017. It was consistently used throughout the spring, summer and fall months to keep the roads as well maintained as possible; on average which is about 800 hours per year. We also added a magnesium chloride/brine spray tank and 5,000 gallon holding tank to the fleet to control dust, keep the gravel in place and the brine aspect in the future to help with snow melt at a reduced salt usage.

As always, the Highway Department works for the good of the town. I try to keep the public posted of the grading schedule and road closures due to repair via list-serv. We welcome your questions, comments and especially your patience. It takes two of the town trucks an hour and a half longer to complete plowing, sanding and salting due to the closure on River Road. To end on a positive note, this is the second year we have finished significantly under budget.

Safe travels from the Highway Department.

INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMITTEE REPORT

The second year of July 4th festivities sans fireworks was a great success. Modelled largely after the 2015 event, there was a fun-filled day beginning with breakfast in the church, craft fair treasures in the horse sheds and music, parading, feasting and fun games throughout the afternoon on the common.

Bill Ackerly's family and friends were on hand to host his tradition of gifting ice cream to his friends, new and old. Provided very generously by Cuttings Northside Café & Hannaford's, over 300 ice cream treats were given out. Sincere thanks to Berway Farm, Bailey Farm and Darin Knaus for the use of their freezers for this event!

Kids had a wide assortment of games to play including a dunk tank in which Principal Valence was a key component! The Historians were on hand with samples of old-fashioned switchel to share and the Snelling family and friends cooked up a great BBQ dinner of burgers and hot dogs accompanied by salad, chips, water, and strawberry & blueberry shortcake for dessert.

The committee was enhanced this year by incredible help from members of the Historians and Community of Lyme (and collective spouses as needed!). Dowd's Country Inn/Latham Tavern, Lyme Inn and Stella's were also hugely helpful in supporting the event and hosted their own festivities in conjunction with ours. All in all it was another very successful day, gifted generously by private donations and no tax dollars. Thank you everyone who helped, contributed to the costs and especially to those who attended! Watch for information on the 2016 event.



Bill "the ice cream man" Ackerly

LYME POLICE DEPARTMENT

I would like to thank all of you for supporting the efforts of the Lyme Police Department. We do our very best to keep everyone safe while upholding the Laws of New Hampshire.

The Upper Valley continues to struggle with those who are suffering from addiction and with that, burglaries, break-ins and thefts continue to keep the Local Law Enforcement agencies on both sides of the river busy. New Hampshire ranked among the top in Opiate related deaths in 2016 (over 400).

I would encourage everyone to make sure your houses and vehicles are locked when you are not home. You should never leave your keys or valuables in your vehicles overnight. And you should always remove purses, wallets, and other valuables whenever possible if you are out in public places.

New Hampshire RSA 265:107-a: (Child Safety Seat Law) children MUST be in a properly fastened and secured child safety seat until the age of 7, OR 57 inches tall, whichever comes first. (PLEASE BUCKLE YOUR CHILDREN, IT'S THE LAW)

New Hampshire RSA 265:79-c: Use of Mobile Electronic Devices while Driving: PROHIBITED. The use of ANY Hand Held device used to transmit via voice or data will be prohibited to ALL drivers whether the vehicle is in motion or not. Fines will range from \$100.00 for first offense to \$500.00 for any and all subsequent offenses.

Please drive safely, watch for things that are out of place, take care of your neighbors and “Do The Right Thing.” I would like to wish everyone a Safe and Happy 2017.

RECREATION COMMISSION

The new field at Post Pond opened this spring for baseball, and was a huge success. The field looked absolutely beautiful, and dealt perfectly with the spring and fall rains draining well.

The majority of Lyme children participate in one or more Recreation programs. The following list represents 2016 numbers: Soccer 128 participants, Skiing/Snowboarding 116 participants, Basketball 75 participants, Baseball 53 participants, Lacrosse 9 participants. We also offered summer Challenger Sports Soccer Camp for K-8th grade.

The Commission would like to thank all our volunteer sports Commissioners: Mark Schiffman & Kate Miller- soccer, Rusty Keith & Robin Taylor – snow sports, Curtis Shepard - basketball, Luke Prince - baseball and Richard Hendrick & Matt Stevens - lacrosse.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who enable these programs to happen for the youth of our town. Remember we are ALWAYS looking for more volunteers.

The Recreation Commission also sanctions the following adult programs: soccer, futsal, men's and women's pick-up basketball, tennis, and slow pitch softball. As always a big thank you to the Lyme Green men's softball team for their continued help with field maintenance.

The Recreational Facilities Capital Reserve Fund is for the maintenance of the tennis/basketball courts and ball field. In 2016 the tennis court surface was patched, and fencing was repaired. The cost for these repairs was \$2,788.50. The ball field was fertilized and fed at the cost of \$2,794.25. Boat racks were purchased to allow residents the ability to rent a slot and store their canoes & kayaks at the facility. The total cost was \$2,542.00 and we now have 22 storage slots.

TAX STUDY AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee was set up by the Select Board “to investigate ways and means to decrease the tax burden on long term, fixed income, retired residents who wish to continue to reside in Lyme but can no longer meet the tax burden”.

Meeting monthly starting in February 2016, the Committee looked into sources of revenue available to the Town, causes of increasing tax rates, the impact of current and anticipated tax increases on residents, and available, existing (and possible) programs for tax relief and assistance.

Review showed that Lyme generally makes full use of tax relief available, for the blind, elderly, disabled and veterans and is generous when there is discretion. Study showed that aside from real estate taxes, a town's ability to raise revenue is considerably limited by State statute.

Members of the Committee (with help from others) prepared a *Guide to Resources for Senior Citizens* to educate and assist as to current programs. The Guide covers a wide range of topics, including health care, transportation and tax relief. Copies are available at the Library, Town Hall and on the Town's website.

Broad consideration and discussion was had on possible alternate sources of revenue, from non-resident beach fees (enforcement & administrative costs outweighed potential income), meals & lodging taxes, parking revenue, licensing fees, etc. However, either because of statutory prohibition or perceived impracticability these ideas bore no fruit. Assistance to qualifying residents by delaying tax payment (with an accompanying voluntary deferred tax lien) until property is sold was investigated.

The Committee also looked into the reasons for tax increases. The school system is a principal source, comprising approximately \$6.8 million of the Town's total \$9 million budget. Unfunded mandates contribute, special education being approximately \$1.2 million. Foreseeable increasing highschool student population mean bigger budgets. Rental units place a disproportionate burden on the school system. The continuing needs of road maintenance, particularly River Road, present challenges.

Two public hearings were held to present and discuss the Committee's work and recommendations, which are (1) authorizing Lyme to collect the additional \$5.00/year per vehicle registration permitted by State statute, anticipated to yield approximately \$12,500, all dedicated to road maintenance; (2) having 50% of amounts collected under the Land Use Change Tax [LUCT] going to the Conservation Fund and 50% to the General Fund, rather than 100% to Conservation Fund, as done presently; and (3) billing taxes twice per year (June & December) rather than all in December.

The increased registration fee is recommended because it is one of few revenue sources permitted the Town by statute and will be used fully to meet needs generated by vehicles. A large portion of the Town land is currently in conservation, tax exempt, or current use and funds from the LUCT will help mitigate future tax increases. Billing twice per year is anticipated to be revenue neutral but is believed to assist resident budgeting.

The Committee also considered a proposal for an Advisory Assessment and Abatement Review Committee to assist the Selectboard, but determined the proposal needed further study.

TRANSFER STATION/RECYCLING CENTER COMMITTEE

The committee was reorganized in 2015 to review the organization and costs of the transfer station, and research how we may reduce the costs of recycling. The group consisted of Lyme Residents, Transfer Station/Recycling Center staff (Matt Thebodo and Tim Cole), and Selectperson Patty Jenks. They contacted a former committee member, the current contract company and several other waste haulers, similar-size communities and the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) to gather information.

Currently we have a dual-stream recycling system: the contract company picks up compacted

solid waste and separated recyclables. Lyme's transfer station is located in the Highway Department area and was originally a temporary measure until the Town could identify funds and develop a plan for a new site for the transfer station. Lyme is no longer receiving reimbursement for certain recyclables, which previously offset the costs of recycling in past years. This is a sign of the times and is not unique to Lyme. It is affecting towns and cities across the country, mostly as a result of the economy and lower oil prices.

The issues with the current layout of the transfer station and recycling center are: 1) Compliance with NH's solid waste regulations; 2) Safety concerns with access to recycling containers, plus limited space and lighting; 3) Lack of covers to protect containers from rain and snow; 4) Eliminate leachate into soil; and 5) Larger location (NRRA recommends 5-10 acres).

The committee identified short- term improvements for safety concerns by changing transfer station hours in the winter; more attention to reduce slippery conditions around the recycling containers; and a proposal to purchase covers for the containers in 2017.

Other suggestions such as changing contractors; single-stream recycling; and Lyme residents assuming responsibility and cost were evaluated. These options were found to either not reduce costs, or reduce the control that the Town has over costs, plus the spirit of recycling by the community.

The Committee concluded that the Town needs to move forward with either creating a permanent facility; or shift the burden to citizen disposal options such as curbside pickup or using the Lebanon landfill and closing the Lyme recycling center.



Nancy Grandine-Citizen of the year 2016

Volunteers are a very special breed.
They're not afraid to step in when they see the need.

They're always willing to lend a hand,
To lift someone up who's sinking in quicksand.

They always have something encouraging to say,
And they manage to say it in the kindest way.

They share their skills, talents and time.
And in return, they don't ask for a dime.

So the next time you meet with some volunteers,
Shake their hands, and let them know you're happy they're here.

Report of Forest Fire Warden and State Forest Ranger

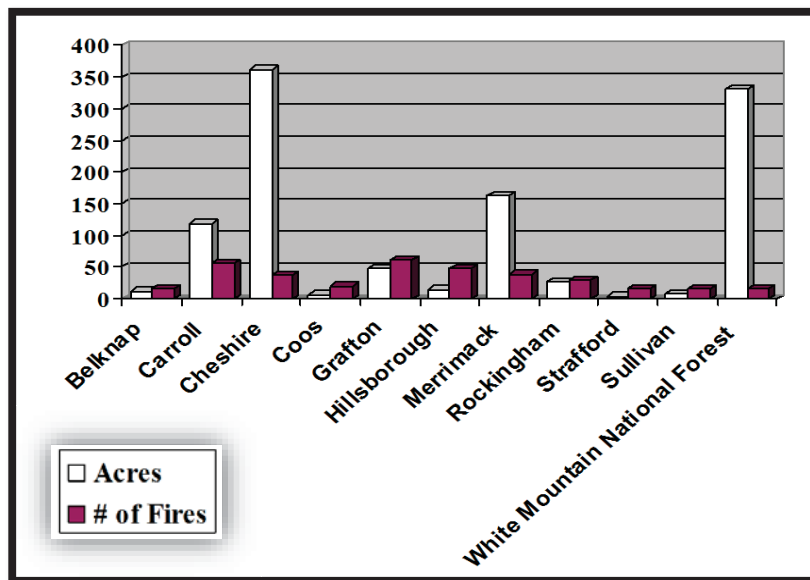
Over the past two years, New Hampshire has experienced its busiest fire seasons since 1989. 1,090 acres burned during the 2016 season. The White Mountain National Forest experienced its largest fire since becoming a National Forest, burning 330 acres in the town of Albany in November. Fires falling under state jurisdiction burned 759 acres, with the largest fire of 199 acres occurring in Stoddard. The extremely dry summer led to a busy fall fire season with large fires occurring into mid-November. Drought conditions hampered fire suppression efforts and extended the time needed to extinguish fires. Your local fire departments and the Division of Forests & Lands worked tirelessly throughout the year to protect homes and the forests. The statewide system of 16 fire lookout towers continues to operate on high fire danger days. Our fire lookouts are credited with keeping many fires small due to their quick and accurate spotting capabilities. The towers fire detection efforts were supplemented by the NH Civil Air Patrol when the fire danger was especially high.

Many homes in New Hampshire are located in the wildland urban interface, which is the area where homes and flammable wildland fuels intermix. Several of the fires during the 2016 season threatened structures, and a few structures were burned, a constant reminder that forest fires burn more than just trees. Homeowners should take measures to prevent a wildland fire from spreading to their home. Precautions include keeping your roof and gutters clear of leaves and pine needles, and maintaining adequate green space around your home free of flammable materials. Additional information and homeowner recommendations are available at www.firewise.org. Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department, and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe!

As we prepare for the 2017 fire season, please remember to contact your local Forest Fire Warden or Fire Department to determine if a fire permit is required before doing ANY outside burning. Under State law (RSA 227-L:17) a fire permit is required for all outside burning, unless the ground is completely covered with snow. Fire permits are also available online in most towns and may be obtained by visiting www.NHfirepermit.com. The burning of household waste is prohibited by the Air Resources Division of the Department of Environmental Services (DES). You are encouraged to contact the local fire department or DES at 603-271-3503 or www.des.nh.gov for more information. Safe open burning requires your diligence and responsibility. Thank you for helping us to protect New Hampshire's forest resources. For more information please contact the Division of Forests & Lands at (603) 271-2214, or online at www.nhdf.org.

2016 WILDLAND FIRE STATISTICS

(All fires reported as of December 2016)



HISTORICAL DATA		
YEAR	NUMBER of FIRES	ACRES BURNED
2016	351	1090
2015	124	635
2014	112	72
2013	182	144
2012	318	206

CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED

(These numbers do not include the WMNF)

Arson	Debris Burning	Campfire	Children	Smoking	Railroad	Equipment	Lightning	Misc.*
15	85	35	10	12	2	18	9	148

REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES!



Connecticut River Joint Commissions – 2016 Town Report

Suite 225, 10 Water St., Lebanon, NH 03766.

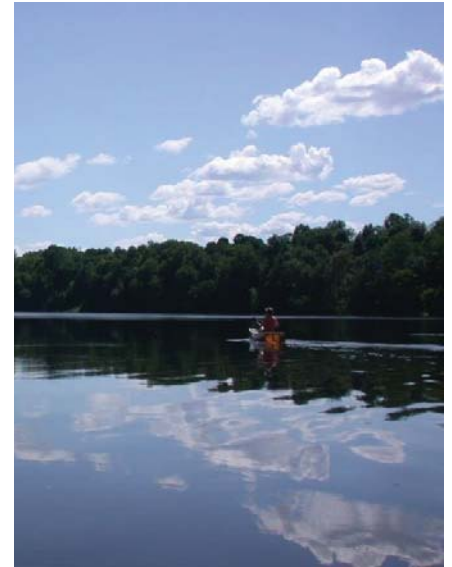
Website at <http://www.crjc.org>

CRJC continues its mission to preserve the visual and ecological integrity and working landscape of the Connecticut River Valley. With five local subcommittees and over 100 volunteers, it is guiding the watershed's growth by reviewing and commenting on proposed actions, from large scale development projects including the Northern Pass, to proposed regulatory changes, such as shoreland protection rules.

CRJC assisted with the installation of new wake speed signs at launches in VT and NH, and supported the Connecticut River Watershed Council with the 25th Source-to-Sea Cleanup. Along with the Conte Wildlife Refuge, CRJC is working to present educational programs about the river and clean water in the watershed.

Of note, during FY2016 the CRJC actively participated in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of the three TransCanada hydroelectric dams on the lower Connecticut by reviewing studies performed by TransCanada and communicating its concerns about project operations to FERC, particularly those related to erosion, mercury, climate change and economic impact.

CRJC advocates for the establishment of a mitigation and enhancement fund for the southern reach of the river as a means to compensate for unavoidable impacts from dam operations. In this role, CRJC Commissioners met with the governors of both VT and NH to draw attention to the relicensing process and enlist their support.



At the Commission annual meeting in June 2016 the following officers were elected to serve during the FY2017: *Rick Walling, President (NH); Jason Rasmussen, Vice President (VT); Mary Sloat, Treasurer (NH); Steven Lembke, Secretary (VT).*

UPPER VALLEY SUBCOMMITTEE

The Upper Valley Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions consists of appointed volunteers from the Vermont towns of Hartford, Norwich, Thetford, Fairlee, and Bradford, and the New Hampshire towns of Lebanon, Hanover, Lyme, Orford, and Piermont. We meet every two months on average to discuss and act on a variety of river-related issues. Meetings are usually held in Thetford.

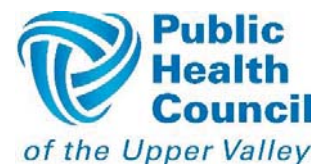
The Subcommittee reviewed and commented on a wide range of regulatory applications this year, including river shoreline stabilization, wetlands activity, and stormwater management at several private and public sites. Subcommittee members continued to bring a valuable contribution of expertise and local knowledge to the table for the assistance of landowners, municipalities and state agencies.

This year Subcommittee members volunteered a great deal of extra time to represent the interests of the River and its resources, as well as landowners and local municipalities, in the federal relicensing process for TransCanada's Wilder Dam hydroelectric facility. Study reports commissioned by the applicant were reviewed and comments submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding bank erosion and water quality. The CRJC Subcommittee joined with other advocates for municipalities and other property owners in requesting financial assistance from the dam owners for damage caused by erosion, since the operation of the dams is one of the contributors to the bank erosion problem.

The Subcommittee also reviewed New Hampshire's boat accesses and boat access maps for the N.H. Public Water Access Advisory Board. In addition, members assisted with an inventory of boat launch speed limit signs, which resulted in the production and installation of signs with New Hampshire speed limits at Vermont Fish & Wildlife and TransCanada launches (N.H. laws govern activities on the river.)

We will continue our coordination with other river conservation and planning organizations, such as the Connecticut River Watershed Council, the New Hampshire Rivers Council, the Connecticut River Paddlers, the White River Partnership, the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission, and the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission.

For more information or to become involved in the work of the CRJC Upper Valley Subcommittee, please contact Chairman Jim Kennedy (james.kennedy@valley.net) or our Planning Coordinator Tara Bamford (tara.bamford@crjc.org).



Thank you to the residents of Lyme for supporting Mascoma Valley Health Initiative (MVHI) in 2016. Our biggest news is that in October 2016, MVHI became part of the Public Health Council of the Upper Valley (PHC). We have the same Board of Directors, the same staff, and the same mission to protect and promote the health of our community. PHC is still the nonprofit public health organization which has served the towns of Canaan, Dorchester, Enfield, Grafton, Grantham, Hanover, Lebanon, Lyme, Orange, Orford, Piermont, and Plainfield since 2004. We recently expanded our PHC region to cover 22 towns in Vermont.

As one of the State of New Hampshire's thirteen regional public health networks, PHC has quickly become the largest and broadest coalition of advocates on public health issues in the greater Upper Valley region. The PHC is a dynamic organization with the flexibility to forge solutions that respond to the needs of its grassroots members with backing from governmental, philanthropic, and health care institutions. Through regular meetings and ongoing initiatives, the PHC empowers organizations, professionals, and citizens, who together make our communities healthier and better places.

In 2016, PHC staff and partners developed working groups and strategies to address substance misuse, mental illness, and other concerns for the region. The PHC supported a number of collaborative initiatives such as:

- Trained Recovery Coaches to assist people in early stages of addiction recovery;
- Provided supportive housing for pregnant and parenting women in early recovery from opioid addiction;
- Brought Crisis Intervention Team training to law enforcement partners. CIT improves law enforcement responses to people with mental illness;
- Launched a Heat and Older Adults initiative to raise awareness of the health risks of extreme heat and ways to stay safe;
- Facilitated quarterly gatherings of aging in community volunteer groups and community nursing projects;
- Published a guide book to help people find assistance paying for prescription medications;
- Disseminated information about free flu vaccines to the public. PHC hosted four flu vaccine clinics that provided 836 free flu vaccines to residents aged 10 and older. These clinics were held in Canaan, Enfield, Plainfield, and Orford.

PHC greatly appreciates the support we receive from Lyme and will continue to work hard to meet your needs in 2017. For more information about PHC, visit us at www.uvpublichealth.org.



UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension's mission is to provide New Hampshire citizens with research-based education and information, to enhance their ability to make informed decisions that strengthen youth, families and communities, sustain natural resources, and improve the economy.

Here are some of our noteworthy impacts during the past calendar year:

- Jim Frohn completed the County Forest timber sale. 1,418 cords were harvested for a net revenue of \$36,673 (127% of projected) and \$2,963 in tax revenue for the town of Haverhill.
- Michal Lunak continued work on a three year research project funded by the Tillotson Charitable Foundation looking at the economic feasibility of producing dairy beef in the North Country.
- Lisa Ford taught 350 youth about food groups, food safety, and physical activity.
- Donna Lee received a grant to fund an undergraduate Student Intern to host a Sheep Exploration Day for youth in the county and assist with 4-H activities at the North Haverhill Fair.
- Geoffrey Sewake collaborated on the New Hampshire First Impressions Program in Littleton using a secret shopper model to advance community development and on a multi-partner workforce-focused business outreach program in Lincoln and Woodstock.
- Jessica Sprague presented Safety Awareness in the Food Environment training to over 217 food service employees and volunteers and taught ServSafe® classes to 93 individuals.
- Heather Bryant collaborated with the Grafton County Farm and Conservation District, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service on a cover crop demonstration at the Farm.
- With help from Becky Colpitts, Grafton County welcomed 13 new Master Gardener volunteers.

Be sure to look for us on Facebook and Twitter and on-line at www.extension.unh.edu

Respectfully submitted: Heather Bryant, County Office Administrator

UPPER VALLEY LAKE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Serving 27 communities in Grafton, Sullivan and Merrimack Counties since 1963, the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) has been providing professional planning assistance to municipal boards, along with inter-municipal planning, liaison between local and state/federal agencies, and assistance on development, public health, and environmental issues.

In 2016 Executive Director Nate Miller became the Transportation Planner at Southern New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission, and Senior Planner Mike McCrory joined the City of Claremont as their new City Planner. We appreciate their contributions, and we do miss them.

Highlights of our work and accomplishments in 2016 include:

- Responded to more than 150 requests from our towns and cities for technical assistance.
- Provided five Household Hazardous Waste Collections that served approximately 1,000 households.
- Performed Community Readiness health assessments with Enfield, Lebanon, and Newbury.
- Initiated a regional Brownfields identification, assessment, and remediation planning program.
- Trained local staff about environmentally responsible transfer station practices.
- Conducted eleven school chemical site evaluations.
- Updated local Hazard Mitigation Plans with Claremont, Cornish, and Lebanon.
- Helped Unity, Washington, and Claremont update their Local Emergency Operations Plans.
- Assisted efforts toward a Sullivan County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.
- Began the 2019-2028 Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan to identify and prioritize regional infrastructure improvements to be funded and constructed by NHDOT.
- Helped to identify transit and paratransit issues in Sullivan County, to restore needed mobility services, and to coordinate planning for improved public and human services transportation.
- Conducted more than 110 traffic counts across the region.
- Developed Acworth's Road Surface Management System.
- Led transit feasibility study along the I-89 corridor linking New London, Lebanon, and Hanover.
- Assisted Lebanon, Hanover, and Advance Transit with public transit signal prioritization analysis.
- Helped Lebanon with funding requests for Route 120 pedestrian and bicycle improvements.
- Provided assistance to Enfield Shaker Village and Lake Sunapee Scenic Byway committees.
- Provided Circuit Rider planning staff assistance to Orford, Springfield, Claremont, and Wilmot.
- Helped Unity, Springfield, Newport, and Claremont to comply with new Accessory Dwelling law.

- Began the Wilmot Master Plan with completion of the Community Survey.
- Began the Transportation Chapter of Claremont's Master Plan; resumed the city's Rail Trail study.
- Helped Planning Boards to evaluate Projects of Regional Impact.
- Provided administrative and staffing assistance to the Connecticut River Joint Commissions.

Please contact us at (603) 448-1680 or jedwards@uvlsrpc.org, to share your thoughts and suggestions. It is a pleasure to serve the municipalities of this region. Thank you for your support over the decades.

VISITING NURSE AND HOSPICE FOR VT AND NH

Home Health, Hospice and Maternal Child Health Services in Lyme, NH

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) is a compassionate, non-profit healthcare organization committed to providing the highest quality home health and hospice services to individuals and their families. VNH provides care for people of all ages and at all stages in life, and delivers care to all, regardless of ability to pay.

VNH services reduce costs associated with town programs for emergency response and elder care. With quality care provided at home, there is less need for costly hospital and emergency room trips. And with VNH support, residents can age in place rather than relocating to a state or local nursing home.

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, VNH made 654 homecare visits to 45 Lyme residents. This included approximately \$38,925 in unreimbursed care to Lyme residents.

- **Home Health Care:** 636 home visits to 42 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.
- **Hospice Services:** 15 home visits to 2 residents who were in the final stages of their lives.
- **Maternal and Child Health Services:** 3 home visits to a resident for well-baby, preventative and palliative medical care.

Additionally, residents made visits to VNH wellness clinics at local senior and community centers throughout the year, receiving low- and no-cost services including blood pressure screenings, foot care, cholesterol testing, and flu shots.

Lyme's annual appropriation to VNH helps to ensure that all have access to quality care when and where it is needed most. On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your continued support.

WEST CENTRAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

West Central Behavioral Health (WCBH) was pleased to provide mental and behavioral health services for those in need in Lyme during the last fiscal year. Services were provided for 15 Lyme residents, including 5 adults, 9 children, and 1 elder. We were grateful to receive \$2,000 in funding from the Town of Lyme to help support the delivery of these services.

By supporting access to mental health care for all, the Town of Lyme is investing in the overall health and safety of the community. Mental health affects every facet of a community's welfare, from employment and education to health and housing. Mental health care enables individuals to reach and maintain the best possible quality of life, and to contribute to their fullest at home, in the workforce, and as a member of the community.

During the past fiscal year, WCBH provided individual and group therapy, counseling, medication management, and case management for people in the Upper Valley and in Sullivan County, serving more than 3,000 individuals of all ages, and providing close to \$500,000 in unreimbursed care. As the state-designated community mental health center for the region, WCBH ensures that quality, affordable mental health care is accessible for all, providing care regardless of ability to pay.

Services delivered at WCBH's Outpatient Clinics in Lebanon, Newport and Claremont and in the community included:

- Adult Outpatient Programs, providing mental health services for individuals coping with anxiety, adjustment during times of crisis (such as bereavement, divorce, or job loss), trauma, and other challenges.
- Child and Family Programs, providing counseling, therapy, and case management for children and families.
- Emergency Services, through a 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency response, and in collaboration with the area's network of first responders (police, fire, hospitals).
- Enhanced Care and Community Support Programs, serving those with chronic, severe, and severe and persistent mental illness.
- And additional programs including: Mental Health First Aid; Assertive Community Treatment; Supported Employment; and Halls of Hope, an alternative to incarceration program at the Grafton County Courts.

WISE

WISE is the Upper Valley's sole provider of crisis intervention services to victims of domestic and sexual violence. WISE provides a free and confidential 24 hour crisis line every day of the year, a confidential emergency shelter, and victim in-person advocacy at emergency rooms, police stations, and courthouses. WISE works with more than 1,000 victims every year for on-going safety planning, transitional housing assistance, legal aid, and provides creative support through writing groups; yoga classes; sobriety meetings; and therapeutic riding experiences. WISE leads the Upper Valley to end gender-based violence through survivor-centered advocacy.

WISE's Safe Home houses victims fleeing domestic or sexual violence and remains consistently full. This peaceful environment protects women and allows for respectful concentration on legal and logistical issues, regaining independence, and nurturing healthy parenting. WISE's website (www.WISEuv.org) has many WISE support resources to identify intimate partner violence, increase personal safety, and to offer support to a colleague or family member experiencing domestic violence, sexual abuse, or stalking. WISE delivers its expertise – routinely training law enforcement and medical professionals to identify victims at high risk of intimate partner homicide. Utilizing Lethality Assessment screening; those identified as at risk are immediately referred to WISE. Safety is crucial for survival.

In 21 communities, WISE educates through its structured K-12 curriculums, trainings to teachers, legal, medical, and law enforcement professionals, and by being a presence at farmer's markets, hospitals, company health days and local events. WISE educators instruct on healthy relationships, media literacy, bullying, dating violence, and consent in high schools, middle schools, and most local elementary schools. Students receiving prevention education classes throughout their K-12 experience evidence greater respect at home, in friendships and in dating relationships. WISE also presents educational programs to interested community, civic, parent and faith-based groups.

Supporting individuals in crisis, in confidence, and educating citizens is crucial to eliminating domestic violence and abuse. WISE remains grateful for funding; it helps assure WISE services are available to every citizen 24 hours of every day.

COMMUNITY CARE OF LYME

CCL is dedicated to strengthening Lyme's community of care and service, so that neighbors of all ages, backgrounds, and means live as they choose, contributing to a warm and vibrant Lyme. CCL values our village and all the individuals that call Lyme home; we respect and partner with Lyme organizations and existing resources in all of our work. During 2016, with a tremendous amount of support, in the form of volunteers, donations, trust, and Sarah Shipton as program director, CCL:

- Responded to 30+ neighbors in need and requests for information, resources and referrals
- Produced the consolidated Lyme events calendar and updated the Lyme contractor list, connecting with more than 500 listed service providers
- Involved community members in the life of Lyme -- more than 300 in Days of Service, 58 in Third Thursday Lunches, and 92 through New Neighbor welcome visits

- Worked with the Lyme Parish Nurses, Those Guys, town and county services, and others to coordinate care and support
- Strengthened neighborly connections as part of community events, such as the Independence Day celebration, Senior Lunches, and the Festival of Trees
- Promoted community health, wellbeing and aging in place educational programs
- Connected volunteers with opportunities to serve neighbors and improve town spaces
- Conducted the Lyme Individual and Community Assessment Survey to learn more about our residents' needs, interests, and plans for life in Lyme, information that will help CCL and others better serve the community.

Thank you, Lyme! We look forward to a happy, healthy 2017.

Please contact CCL at any time with suggestions, questions, requests, or offers to help.



info@cclyme.org



603-795-4801



www.cclyme.org



facebook.com/CCLyme

LYME PARISH NURSE

2016 has seen continued growth in the Parish Nurse Program. There were 86 people on the list of people seen by the Parish Nurse(s) at the end of 2012, 248 people were on the list at the end of 2016. 110 people were seen for a multitude of reasons this year with 25% were members of the Lyme Congregational Church and 75% were members of the broader Lyme community.

Engagement with these folks comes in many ways: Nursing Home or Hospital visits (41); Consultations about upcoming hospitalization, health issues and planning, resources available to meet care needs, post hospital care, home care, etc, (83); Medical Equipment visits (delivery, education about equipment and its use, broader education about upcoming surgery (for example), pickup)(43), Home visits (210) and phone/email connections (149+/-); blood pressure checks (100), respite visits for families (22), Medication management (40), adult protective services consults (1), Connections with physicians, visiting nurses, discharge planners, care coordinators, Medication reviews, caregiver support, pharmacy consults, rides, collaborations with CCL, the FAST Squad, and Colby Sawyer Nursing students. Over 2016, we have had 2 - 3 community members reliant on us for the ability to remain in their homes as they age or progress in their illness.

Health Promotion included 3 blood drives yielding 72 pints over 2016, a Flu Clinic yielding 50 immunizations, and monthly Lyme Church Newsletter articles. Thanks to Cathy Johnson, the lead person on the blood drives. In addition, as a follow up to the Balance Classes, we offer group balance exercises weekly on Mondays at 11am. Lynn and Ellen are now certified facilitators for Advanced Care Planning and completed 11 documents this year.

Lynn taught 2 sessions of the Matter of Balance classes as a certified instructor with great reviews. This class has been proven to reduce falls and is a part of the NH Falls Reduction Task Force work.

There are many opportunities to assist our neighbors and friends. We are grateful to the Town of Lyme for continued funding of our program. We look forward to continuing to serve you and developing a system of caring for Lyme that engages us as a community.

GRAFTON COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL, INC.

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

The Council operates eight senior centers in Plymouth, Littleton, Canaan, Lebanon, Bristol, Orford, Haverhill and Lincoln; and sponsors RSVP and the Volunteer Center and the Grafton County ServiceLink Resource Center. Through the centers, ServiceLink and RSVP, older adults and their families take part in a range of community-based long-term services including home delivered meals, community dining programs, transportation, outreach and counseling, chore/home repair services, recreational and educational programs, and volunteer opportunities.

During 2015-16, 29 older residents of Lyme were served by one or more of the Council's programs offered through the Orford and Upper Valley senior programs or RSVP. Twenty-three Lyme residents were assisted by ServiceLink.

- Older adults from Lyme enjoyed 402 balanced meals in the company of friends in the senior dining rooms.
- They received 618 hot, nourishing meals delivered to their homes by caring volunteers.
- Lyme residents received help from ServiceLink or GCSCC outreach workers on 49 occasions with such issues as long-term care, Medicare and caregiver support.
- Lyme's citizens also volunteered to put their talents and skills to work for a better community through 409 hours of volunteer service.

The cost to provide Council services for Lyme residents in 2015-16 was \$10,863.93.

Such services can be critical to elderly individuals who want to remain in their own homes and out of institutional care in spite of chronic health problems and increasing physical frailty, saving tax dollars that would otherwise be expended for nursing home care. They also contribute to a higher quality of life for older friends and neighbors. As our population grows older, supportive services such as those offered by the Council become even more critical. Lyme's population over age 60 has increased 71.7% over the past 20 years, according to U.S. Census data from 1990 to 2010.

GCSCC very much appreciates Lyme's support for our programs that enhance the independence and dignity of older citizens and enable them to meet the challenges of aging in the security and comfort of their own communities and homes.



Baseball on the Common



North Thetford Bridge, flood March, 1936