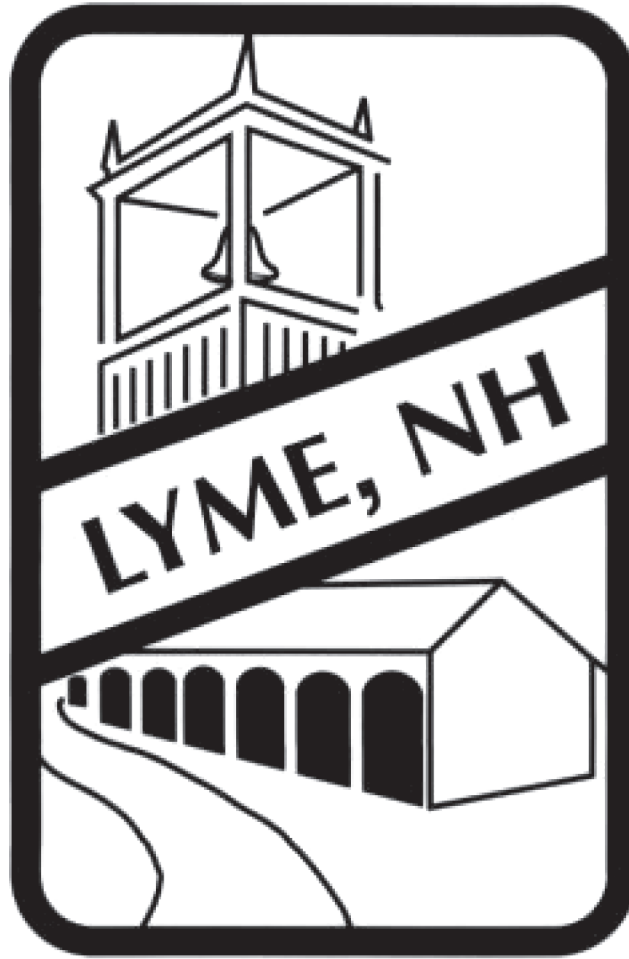


# **TOWN OF LYME**



## **NARRATIVE REPORTS 2012**

## **Annual Report of the Lyme Select Board**

Immediately before Town Meeting 2012 we were fortunate to receive a commitment from the Natural Resources Conservation Service of USDA for significant funds to assist in repairing the washed-out portion of River Road. Together with funds voted at Town Meeting, this enabled the town to undertake the repair of the road, which was re-opened on August 17. We would like to express our grateful thanks to Shirley Tullar, who was instrumental in putting the town in contact with NRCS within the necessary timeframe. The work was performed by L & M Contractors, with significant input from the Highway Department, who hauled much of the soil and fill necessary and then went on to haul in the sand required for the ball field project. Their work on these two projects, together with the regular maintenance of our roads, has kept them busy and we are most appreciative.

The question of road maintenance throughout town has become more important especially with several recent mud seasons that have seen portions of our dirt roads fail badly. To address these issues, the Select Board has set up a Class V Roads study committee under the chairmanship of C. Jay Smith. The committee's aim is to develop comprehensive long-term plans for the maintenance of all town roads.

Bill LaBombard retired as a full-time employee at the end of December. He will continue to step in for emergency work with the Highway Department through winter storms and will also be continuing with cemetery care and maintenance. We are very grateful for his dedicated work over many years.

Legal affairs still continue to give the Select Board significant concern, especially with respect to the costs expended (a total of \$55,000 in 2012):

- The case regarding the Post Pond Water Release policy and installation of beaver pipes was appealed to the Wetlands Council and, on their refusing the appeal, was then appealed to the NH Supreme Court. It is expected that the appeal will be heard in the near future.
- Three property owners have appealed their assessments to Superior Court.
- A decision of the ZBA regarding a proposed development on Route 10 was appealed to Superior Court and was overturned there. The Select Board took the view that it would not be productive to appeal this to the NH Supreme Court. Instead, an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance has been put forward on the warrant. If the town votes for this amendment, the problem will be resolved.
- We are also defending an appeal from the NH Electric Co-op for the assessment on their utility poles and, now that the legislature has removed the exemption on telecom utility poles, Fairpoint has appealed their assessment. We have joined with sixteen other towns in fighting this appeal.

Lyme Select Board: Simon Carr - Chair, Richard Vidal, Charles Smith

## **Annual Report of the Lyme Assessing Agent**

I have just completed the 2012 ratio study and will be submitting it to the Department of Revenue Administration. Our median level of assessment for 2012 will be 97%, effectively 100% of market value. This ratio is the same as 2011. The average sale price of a single family home in Lyme in 2011 was \$523,708 and in 2012 it was \$775,000. The median (one in the middle) was \$398,000 in 2011 and \$700,000 in 2012. The range of qualified improved property sale prices was \$262,000 (condo) to \$1,825,000.

I am in the Town Office the first Friday of the month, March through December. Should you have questions or concerns about your assessment, please phone the Town Office to schedule an appointment to meet with me.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diana Calder, Assessor

### Annual Report of the Lyme Police Department

I would like to thank all of you for supporting the efforts of the Lyme Police Department. 2012 was a very busy year for the department, handling nearly 2,500 calls for service. This number is extremely high, besting the previous high mark by almost 600 calls.

Due to the high number of burglaries, break-ins and thefts throughout Lyme and the Upper Valley, 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.

Please drive safely, watch for things that are out of place, and take care of your neighbors.

Chief Shaun J. O'Keefe

The following is a compilation of the types of incidents, investigations, and activities, which were reported, investigated, or performed by the Lyme Police Department for the year 2012: (Total 2,442)

Accidents	22	Firing Weapon	3	Public Relations/Lectures	5
Accidents ~ Non-Reportable	11	Follow Up/Investigations	55	Road Hazard	24
Alarm ~ Bank	4	Forgery/Bad Check/Fraud	11	Robbery/Burglary	7
Alarm ~ Business	8	Found Property	5	Sex Offender Registration	5
Alarm ~ Residence	26	Harassment	2	Sexual Assault	1
Animal Control	38	Juvenile Offenses	3	Stalking	2
Assist Ambulance	26	Liquor Violations	9	Stranded Motorist	28
Assist Citizen	108	Littering/Illegal Dumping	7	Suicidal Subject	2
Assist Fire	8	Mental Subject	1	Suspicious Person/Activity	66
Assist Other Police	29	Missing ~ No Foul Play	2	Theft	13
Criminal Threatening	5	Motor Vehicle Complaint	23	Trespass	10
Directed Patrol	13	MV Unlocks	8	Vacant Residence	87
Disorderly Conduct	8	Neighborhood Dispute	1	Vandalism	14
Domestic Disturbances	5	NHSP Covered Calls	45	VIN Verification	19
Drug Violations	5	Noise Disturbance	2	Violation of Protective Order	8
DUI	4	Paper Service	32	<b>Total MV Stops</b>	556
Extra Patrol/Welfare Check	20	Paperwork Relay	4	Citations Issued	71
Fight	2	Parking Violation	35	Warnings Issued	485
Fingerprints	18	Pistol Permits	13	<b>Total Incidents</b>	2,442

### **Annual Report of the Lyme Highway Department**

- River Road: The town was fortunate to work with L & M construction relocating the washed-out section of the roadway. The highway department did a considerable amount of hauling for the bank stabilization portion of this fix.
- Goose Pond Road: Finally, Goose Pond Road is paved. The total spent in 2012 on this portion of the project was \$79,954.40; the funding came from the State Block Grant program. Goose Pond Road has been a 3-year project and we wish to thank all of the people who were inconvenienced with dust, dirt and machinery.
- Mud season: In 2012 we had 2 mud seasons; we overspent on the material & maintenance line item because of these mud seasons. The town has been struggling with costs associated with mud season, dirt road repairs and maintenance. In an attempt to address some of the issues concerning these costs, the Selectmen have formed a committee to look at all of the related issues. The Class V Roads Committee has been meeting throughout the year to discuss many of the problems our town faces with our dirt roads.
- John Balch Memorial Ball Field: We have been working with Derby Mountain Construction on this project. The highway department hauled in the sand and stone for the spring repairs to the field.

I would like to thank the road crew for the work they accomplished this past year and the Town for your support and remind you that if you have concerns to contact me at 795-4042. Please go slow in work zones and have a safe year.

Fred O. Stearns III, Road Agent

### **Annual Report of the Lyme Transfer Station**

In 2012 we saw a small decrease in the amount of household trash as well as a small decrease in the overall recycling volumes. We hope this means that we are becoming more conscientious consumers. The first of the 3 R's (Reduce) is the action that has the most impact on the solid waste stream; please continue to be mindful consumers. The revenues from cardboard, paper & steel are down 42% from last year. This makes it even more urgent that we all continue to take responsible solid waste disposal carefully. The more we are able to ensure that our recyclables are done correctly (and crushed as much as possible), the more we can decrease the number of hauls, resulting in saved haul fees as well as decreasing environmental impacts. As the recycling market continues to shift please stay aware of Transfer Station Guidelines for revisions & updates. We have purchased one new 40 yard container which will result in a \$600 per year cost savings on bin rental.

**\*WE WISH YOU'D SQUISH\***

Lance Goodrich, Transfer Station Supervisor

### **Annual Report of the Converse Free Library Trustees**

In 2012, the library lent 26,457 items, both physical and digital. We welcomed 13,565 visitors through our doors and hundreds more to our website resources and online catalog over the course of the year. The retirement of much-loved Library Director Betsy Eaton—and the hiring of our new director, Judy Russell, in October of 2012—combined with the installation of our new integrated library system, *Koha*, marked a year of significant change and growth. Indeed, libraries around the world are thriving as they embrace new technologies to improve and enhance patron services. We're thrilled to be part of this new wave.

This past year saw cosmetic improvements to the building: the painting of the interior and repairs and renovations to the portico at the front door. Although roughly 90% of the library's annual operating budget comes from the taxpayers of the Town of Lyme, the library receives a modest amount of other support as well (see below). This year, the library spent roughly \$8,000 in reserve funds on these projects.

In November, the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association named Steve Campbell their 2012 Library Volunteer of the Year. We are so pleased Steve has been recognized throughout the state for his enormous contribution to the library's technological advancement. We thank our staff members, Margaret Caffry and Karen Webb, for their excellent work. We appreciate the ongoing and energetic support of the volunteers, the generous backing we receive from the Friends of Lyme Library, and the cooperation we enjoy with the Lyme School administration and staff, especially Media Specialist Jake Cooke.

#### **2012 Non-Town Income**

Trustees of Trust Funds	\$3,042
Grants	\$480
Blisters for Books 2012	\$5,619
PTO	\$241
Other donations	\$237
Copier & fax fees (net)	\$630
Interest	\$366
Kilham Book Fund	\$247
Other sources	\$810

#### **2012 Non-Town Expenses**

Books & other media	\$2,198
Programs	\$635
Building maintenance	\$8,748
Koha system	\$3,188
Blisters 2011	\$6,003
(transferred to town to disburse)	
Supplies	\$371
Other expenses	\$1,620

Note: Children's books and other materials are funded entirely through the annual Blisters for Books run (ably organized this year by Jake, parents Denby Coyle and Margaret Minnock, and P.E. teacher Lisa Damren), and through the Lyme School Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) "Birthday Book" program.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Snyder, Chair; Margaret Bowles, Treasurer; Judy Russell, Director

### **Annual Report of the Lyme Emergency Management Director**

Lyme's first responders to emergencies are and will continue to be members of the Fire Department, FAST Squad, Police Department and Highway Department. During larger-scale emergencies that have a widespread effect on Lyme, the Emergency Management Director works closely with these agencies, the members of the Select Board and many others to coordinate a response and muster the necessary resources. Lyme's response is guided by the Emergency Operations Plan, developed by past EMD Wallace Ragan and adopted by the town in 2011.

In 2012, we were fortunate to have experienced only a couple of relatively minor incidents, including wind and ice events that knocked out power to scattered sections of town. Lyme escaped the damage and devastation associated with "Superstorm Sandy" in October. Although large portions of New Hampshire received a federal 'disaster' declaration, we did not have to take advantage of federal or state resources made available during and after the storm.

Sandy serves as a tangible reminder of the need to plan for emergencies – at the regional, town, neighborhood and household level. A great resource is Ready NH ([www.nh.gov/readynh](http://www.nh.gov/readynh)), where you can find emergency preparedness tools for your home and family, as well as up-to-date information on emergency events and the state's response to those events.

The Emergency Operation Center, located at the Lyme Fire Station, began using "WebEOC" this year, an on-line tool to keep Lyme connected with the state office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management during an emergency. This tool will help communicate needs and issues in real time, and it should enable resources to get to Lyme more quickly and efficiently than in the past.

Finally, we celebrated Wallace Ragan at an event at the Town Offices on October 12, 2012. Wallace served as EMD for 20 years, retiring in 2011. His consistent and diligent efforts - mostly conducted quietly, out of the public eye—led to the creation of a new comprehensive Lyme Emergency Management Plan—one of the best such plans in New Hampshire and a model for communities around the state and across New England. We are deeply indebted to Wallace for his quiet, steady service.

Respectfully Submitted, Kevin Peterson, Lyme Emergency Management Director

### **Annual Report of the Lyme Volunteer Fire Department**

The Lyme Fire Department provides our town with fire protection and emergency response capabilities. There are over twenty volunteer members who respond when an emergency occurs. The Fire Department is equipped with four pieces of apparatus: 2 fire engines, 1 tanker and 1 rescue truck.

The Fire Department responded to 87 calls for assistance: 2 chimney fires, 10 fire alarm activations, 3 carbon monoxide alarms, 8 motor vehicle collisions, 16 trees into wires, 2 wires down, 4 brush fires, 1 smoke investigation, 4 propane problems, 2 flooded basements, 4 calls to assist the FAST Squad, 1 corn drier fire, 2 electrical problems, 2 appliance fires, 2 vehicle fires, 2 animal rescues, 1 house struck by lightning, 1 boat sinking in Post Pond, 1 gasoline spill and 7 service calls.

The Lyme Fire Department responded mutual aid 12 times in 2012: 4 times to Thetford; 3 times for structure fires and once for station coverage, once to Orford for a structure fire, 4 times to Hanover for structure fires, and twice to Norwich for structure fires. Dry hydrants, funded by private donations, were installed at the Post Pond boat landing and on Lamphire Hill Lane.

We would like to extend an invitation to any citizen who would be interested in joining the department. It is a terrific way to serve our community. And, thank you to all of the generous people who have donated time and money. We will use the donations for a variety of equipment, training, and supply needs.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Hinsley, Fire Chief

### **Annual Report of the Lyme Cemetery Commission**

Work on the Porter Cemetery was completed this year. For the past few years, the Cemetery Commission has been cleaning, restoring and documenting the gravestones in this scenic old graveyard. With the generous help of Terry and Laura Smith, the old granite fence posts have been reset and the fence line cleared to provide an attractive setting for these historic grave markers.

The Cemetery Commission wants to thank Jennifer Cooke who retired this year from her years of service. She spent many hours in our old graveyards, helping with the restoration work of our historic gravestones, and she was instrumental in the completion of work on both the Gilbert and Porter Cemeteries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Smith - Commissioner, Laurel Ross and Michael Hinsley.

### **Annual Report of the Lyme Heritage Commission**

Created by vote at the 2011 Town Meeting, the Heritage Commission can advise and assist residents and Town boards and commissions on matters relating to historic preservation, historical resources, and revitalization efforts.

To provide a foundation for its mission, the Commission's principal task in 2012 was funding, organizing, and executing an inventory of Lyme's historic resources. A professional architectural historian, Elizabeth Hengen, was engaged to oversee the inventory project and prepare a report. In keeping with the Commission's wish not to use tax monies, the inventory process was funded by the Lyme Foundation, the Lyme Historians, and generous responses from individuals and businesses to the Commission's local fundraising effort.

Commission members gathered information and photos on over 200 properties deemed older than 50 years. In early May and in mid-October, members, volunteers, and Ms. Hengen surveyed each building from the outside. (Buildings in the Lyme Common and Lyme Center districts already listed on the National Register of Historic Places were not part of this survey, although existing information will be updated.) The Commission greatly appreciated the cooperation of owners who provided information and permitted access to their properties.

In 2013, the report prepared by Ms. Hengen on Lyme's architectural heritage will be presented at a public meeting and remain available to Town residents and governmental bodies, together with the inventory of historic assets. The Commission is always happy to receive and share historical information on properties.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Clark - Chair, Charlotte Furstenberg, Adair Mulligan, Jane Fant. Alternates: Tim Cook, Laurie Wadsworth, Simon Carr - Select Board Representative.



## **Annual Report of the Lyme Conservation Commission**

### **Trails and Land Management:**

The major 2012 agenda item for the Commission was a thorough updating of the Trout Pond Forest Management Plan. This revised study focused on best husbandry practices for the pond and surrounding forest as well as recommendations for enhancing the public's recreational experience of the 389-acre tract. Copies are available for public perusal at the Town Offices and Converse Free Library.

Eurasian Milfoil in Post Pond continued to be a source of concern. Herbicide treatments were conducted in September at four different sites around the pond, and divers from the NH Dept. of Environmental Services continued the task of hand harvesting the invasive plants.

Throughout the year, members of the Commission and townspeople helped repair and maintain trails in the town's conserved properties: Trout Pond Forest, The Town Forest, Big Rock Nature Reserve, Lower Grant Brook Trail and Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary.

### **Project and Application Review:**

At the request of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, the Commission made several site visits that included reviews of bank stabilization projects along the Connecticut River, repair of a Dartmouth Skiway sewage treatment pond and an impact assessment of a proposed housing site at Loch Lyme Lodge.

### **Outreach and Education:**

In May the Commission organized the Town's annual Green Up Day event that saw 40 volunteers collect litter from more than 24 miles of town roads. In June, the Commission sponsored an open-to-the-public workshop on invasive plant control.

Matt Stevens - Chair, Lee Larson, Blake Allison, Thomas Colgan, James Graham, Russell Hirschler, Joanna Laro, Heather Toulmin, Richard Vidal - Select Board Representative.

## **Annual Report of the Lyme Energy Committee**

2012 was a busy year for the LEC. We initiated a general survey of the energy sources and technologies that Lyme residents use to heat and power their homes. More than half of the 51 respondents to the survey use wood (22) or wood pellets (4) as their primary heat source, while 18 respondents list wood (17) or wood pellets (1) as a secondary heat source. More than a dozen homes report using solar hot water systems, and more than a dozen have installed photovoltaic systems to generate electricity.

We have also had a voice in the Lyme School expansion project. A representative from the LEC has been involved in helping the school explore energy efficient options as part of their planning process. Two of our members spent considerable time taking an inventory of every single electrical appliance used in the school in order to give the school information on its "plug-load."

The committee provided suggestions for the Energy Chapter of the new Town Master Plan. Our suggestions focused on ensuring that Lyme continues to work towards expanding the use of renewable energy systems and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

We continue to publish our newsletter on the Lyme listserv. In 2013 we will also post news bulletins to update citizens on energy-related matters taking place both locally and around the state. The LEC meets at the Lyme Town Offices the 3rd Monday of every month at 7:30pm. The meetings are always open and we welcome public attendance.

Mark Bolinger - co-chair, Rebecca Lovejoy - co-chair, Matt Brown, Joanna Laro, Dan O'Hara, Gary Phetteplace, Scott Nichols, Robin Taylor, Simon Carr - Select Board Representative.



## **Annual Report of the Class V Roads Study Committee**

In March 2012 an unusual week long warm spell caused an early and costly mud season throughout the region and resulted in many dirt roads suffering significant failures. In Lyme many roads were not passable and repairs resulted in considerable expense in manpower and materials. While the expense in dollars was high the cost could have been much higher since many areas were unreachable by emergency vehicles. As a result of this and the money expended in previous years the Board of Selectmen appointed a Class V Roads Study Committee in May 2012 to look at all Town Roads with a goal of mitigating the damage and effects of chronic failures.

The first discussion was the dirt/gravel roads and the chronic areas of failure during mud season with the goal of coming up with a long term solution to minimize future failures. Our first priority was to determine the areas of chronic failures and to look at what new technology and different materials are available today to provide a road bed that will hold up during mud season and periods of heavy rain with minimal problems and require less maintenance during the summer. One item which we feel is absolutely necessary for long term solution is the placing of geotextile cloth to prevent the seepage of silt from below into the stone base. Another factor considered was the increased trips by heavy vehicles such as UPS, FEDEX and fuel delivery trucks which put additional stress on the road and need to be considered when upgrading roads.

Estimating costs became a challenge due to several variables. Each piece of road must be evaluated on its own to determine costs. Some roads or areas may not require as much drainage and some have sufficient large stone that can be dug up and reused as base material in the reconstructed road. Depending on the area and stretch of road costs can run from \$35.00 to \$110.00 per lineal foot. This will be a long term project to repair our roads properly doing a section at a time as funds permit.

The Committee has also looked at sections of River Road as a separate project since costs there are affected by permitting and other environmental factors due to the proximity of the Connecticut River. We have plans for the half mile section from the Hanover line however we will need to have an engineer look at it to determine if it is feasible. The hope is that we will be able to obtain some grants in the future to cover at least part of the costs for these repairs.

## **Annual Report of the Independence Day Committee**

The Independence Day Committee wishes to thank all who made this year's festivities possible.

All of the money raised from the BBQ and proceeds from glow sticks & ice cream sales goes toward the fireworks. **No tax dollars go to supporting the fireworks, it's all raised and that's a tribute to the people of Lyme.** This is a huge undertaking each year and thanks to the many folks who donate their time to this fun event.

This community has continued to support the Independence Day Committee efforts and we THANK YOU very much! For the 2013 year we will be on the hunt for parking. Because this area has been "the perfect place" the sense of this committee is that if we cannot secure enough parking close to this site we will need to cancel this event. It has been a great event for 19 years!

Bob Couture, Dina Cutting, J.J. Pippin-Finley, Jim Mayers & Marci O'Keefe

### **Annual Report of the Lyme Recreation Commission**

GREAT NEWS: As all you beach families can attest to, Chase Beach is beautiful. The grass is green, the beach is sandy and best of all the mud puddles are gone. We still have a few loose ends to wrap up for 2013; new children swings, new volleyball net, and a new dock are on the “to do” list. The ball field was started and due to weather issues will be finished up this spring. The field will not be usable until spring of 2014. A big thank you to Crossroads Academy for allowing Lyme to use the field on Shoestrap Road. We are thankful for the support this project has received throughout of community.

The majority of Lyme children participate in one or more Recreation program. The following list represents 2012 numbers: Soccer 151 participants, Skiing/Snowboarding 131 participants, Basketball 51 participants, Baseball 57 participants, Lacrosse 19 participants. We offer summer Challenger Sports soccer camp for K-8th grade. The Recreation Commission sanctions the following adult programs: soccer, futsal, men’s and women’s pick-up basketball, tennis, and slow pitch softball.

The commission would like to thank our volunteer sports Commissioners: Mark and Jennifer Schiffman for soccer, Bill Malcolm, Rusty Keith, Paula Tensen, Maggie Minnock, and Denby Coyle for downhill skiing, Matt Brown for cross-country skiing, Tom Hunton for basketball, Nathan Maxwell for baseball and Matt Stevens for lacrosse. All of our youth teams are coached and instructed by volunteers. We are indeed grateful for your hard work and long hours devoted to our children. Please remember more volunteers each season helps keep the fees associated with these sports programs as low as possible.

Robert Couture, Dina Cutting, Pete Mulvihill, Curtis Shepard, Richard Vidal, Select Board Representative

### **Annual Report of the Lyme Summer Pond Program**

This year the Summer Pond Program located on Chase Beach at Post Pond ran for four weeks, beginning July 2, 2012 and ending July 27, 2012. The day began at 8:30am and ended at 12:00pm for the camp children. Each day of the program includes Red Cross swimming lessons, snack, arts and crafts, free choice, read aloud, drama, sports and lunch. The camp program is available to the children of Lyme starting at age 4 (by December 31<sup>st</sup>) through the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

This year we averaged 20 children per week and saw a lot of new faces. We had 2 head counselors per week with an average of 6 junior counselors. Any students in grade 6 and above are invited to apply to be a counselor for this program. All counselors began their days at 8:00AM. Each day they are given Red Cross swim lessons, basic training in CPR and first aid. These counselors are all volunteers; this is a testament to the dedication the youth of Lyme have to this program.

We had great weather this year with lots of sunshine! We are all so blessed to have such a wonderful area.

Thank you to all the families who continue to support this program, new and old. I have truly enjoyed running this program and look forward to the children of Lyme joining me for another fabulous summer at Post Pond!

Torey Elder-Pond Program Coordinator



## UPPER VALLEY LAKE SUNAPEE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The Commission has been providing professional planning assistance to municipal boards since 1963 when it was the Upper Valley Development Council.

Local dues from municipalities support just under 10% of the budget. In FY12, member communities and counties provided membership dues that allowed the Commission to leverage approximately \$619,580 in federal funding to assist municipalities within the region.

The Commission consists of representatives appointed by the leadership of each member municipality or county. ***The Town of Lyme is currently represented by Dan Brand and Sam Greene.***

In February 2012, the Commission implemented a new tracking system to ensure efficient use of and accountability for public dollars. Between February and September 2012, the Town of Lyme received 27 hours of technical assistance service as a member. Professional assistance included; providing data re: housing issues, Preparing for facilitation of public forums, Addressing Class V roads and road conditions, Ordinance review, Providing school enrollment data and grade progression analysis.

The Commission was engaged in over 51 projects within the region this year and has increased its capacity to serve the communities of the region. Please visit our website [www.uvlsrpc.org](http://www.uvlsrpc.org) to view project currently underway and those recently completed.

### Annual Report of the Upper Valley Household Hazardous Waste Committees

The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission established a new website to represent both the Upper Valley Household Hazardous Waste Committee and the Greater Sullivan County Household Hazardous Waste Committee. This regional website ([hhw.uvlsrpc.org/](http://hhw.uvlsrpc.org/)) provides educational outreach, nontoxic alternatives to typical toxic products, and the schedule for upcoming household hazardous waste and unwanted medicines collections.

**Home & Life Show Event Booth:** The Household Hazardous Waste Committee's booth in March 2012 featured information on avoiding toxic products in the store. The exhibit showed enlarged examples of labels on every day products such as toilet bowl cleaner. Who could read the tiny print to see you should wear goggles, gloves, and protective clothing to clean your toilet!! Read the label.

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection Support:** Both committees provided volunteer support at the collections keeping waiting times short and residents informed: July 12<sup>th</sup> in Lebanon, August 18<sup>th</sup> in Sunapee; September 15<sup>th</sup> in Claremont; and October 20<sup>th</sup> back in Lebanon.

**Unwanted Medicine Collections:** Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center Pharmacy partnered with the Committees and UVLSRPC to provide unwanted medicine collection at the Lebanon collections.

We encourage anyone interested to attend our HHW Committee meetings and become involved as a member or as an event volunteer. Contact Victoria Davis at 448-1680 for more information.



## **Connecticut River Joint Commissions**

CRJC's mission is to preserve and protect the visual and ecological integrity and sustainable working landscape of the Connecticut River Valley, and to guide its growth and development through grassroots leadership. Fiscal Year 2012 was full of activity and outreach to Connecticut River communities. CRJC meetings featured presentations by experts in environmental services and natural resources and on the impacts of Hurricane Irene on the river and its watershed.

### ***Strategic Plan***

The CRJC adopted a three-year Strategic Plan to develop engaged and active membership for Local River Subcommittees and the Joint Commissions to guide its programs, promote implementation of the Connecticut River Management Plan, reach out to communities on river issues and best practices for riverfront land management, and to articulate issues that affect the Connecticut River and its watershed.

### ***Website and Publications***

CRJC's new website makes CRJC publications and events easier to locate. The new bi-weekly email update keeps CRJC members, subcommittees, and those with a general interest in CRJC activities informed. It has over 180 subscribers to date. We invite you to visit our website to view a complete annual report and to join our mailing list at <http://www.crjc.org>



*Rebecca Brown, President (NH); Chris Campany, Vice President (VT)  
Tom Kennedy, Secretary (VT); Mary Sloat, Treasurer (NH)*



## **Upper Valley Local River Subcommittee of Connecticut River Joint Commissions**

This has been a year to increase connections, especially for our parent group, the Connecticut River Joint Commissions. Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) is now sending an electronic update each month to a growing list of partners – to sign up, visit <http://www.crjc.org>. One of our partners, Connecticut River Watershed Council, now has two stewards: David Deen and Ron Rhodes. Ron came to Upper Valley River Subcommittee to talk about his work with local communities on culverts, bank stabilization and tree planting.

New Hampshire changed its law covering the Connecticut River and all other protected rivers. Upper Valley River Subcommittee wrote a letter to realtors to tell them about recent changes in the law regarding protected rivers. Another educational opportunity was invasive species training held by New Hampshire Rivers Council. Upper Valley River Subcommittee is working on our own outreach plan and Recreation Management Plan. Don't be surprised to see Connecticut River information in a library near you.

The reconstruction of River Road in Lyme and the relicensing of Wilder Dam were two important projects that the Subcommittee reviewed this year. During each meeting, we discuss 1-3 project permit applications and give suggestions for making the plans more river friendly. We welcome new regular and alternate members to serve on the subcommittee. If you like rivers, please contact CRJC at (603) 727-9484 or [contact@crjc.org](mailto:contact@crjc.org).

*Your Local Representatives ~ David Kotz, Sue MacKenzie and John Mudge (alternate).*

## **Annual Report of the Lyme Forest Fire Warden and N.H. State Forest Ranger**

Your local Forest Fire Warden, Fire Department, and the State of New Hampshire Division of Forests & Lands, work collaboratively to reduce the risk and frequency of wildland fires in New Hampshire. To help us assist you, please contact your local Forest Fire Warden or Fire Department to determine if a 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. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services also prohibits the open burning of household waste. Citizens are encouraged to contact the local fire department or DES at 603-271-1370 or [www.des.state.nh.us](http://www.des.state.nh.us) for more information. Safe open burning requires diligence and responsibility. Help 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](http://www.nhdf.org).

Due to a record warm winter and little snow, our first fire occurred on February 4<sup>th</sup> with several more early fires to follow. Normally a large percentage of the warm windy days with low humidity occur when the ground is saturated from a long snow covered winter. By the time the surface fuels and ground dry out enough to burn, we only have a few weeks until "green up". This year however we had an extended period of these favorable spring fire conditions. Our largest fire in the state was 86 acres. The average size fire was .6 acres. Extensive summer rains kept total acreage burned to near normal levels.

As has been the case over the last few years, state budget constraints have limited the staffing of our statewide system of 16 fire lookout towers to Class III or higher fire danger days. Despite the reduction in the number of days staffed, our fire lookouts are credited with keeping most fires small and saving several structures due to their quick and accurate spotting capabilities. The towers fire spotting was supplemented by the NH Civil Air Patrol when the fire danger was especially high. Several of the fires during the 2012 season threatened structures, a constant reminder that forest fires burn more than just trees. Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department, and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe!

In 2012 the Lyme Fire Wardens issued 108 permits including 17 for small seasonal fires and 3 larger seasonal permits. Outside open burning requires a permit unless the ground is covered with snow. Always call Hanover Dispatch at 643-3424 when you start your burn. Only clean, untreated wood with no painted varnish or pressure treated material, which includes plywood and paneling, may be burned.



## **Annual Report of the UNH Cooperative Extension – Grafton County**

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.

Four Extension Field Specialists, a statewide Dairy Specialist and two Program Coordinators serve the Grafton County area. Program and state-based specialists from across the state also expand the knowledge base available to agriculture producers, land owners, professional loggers and foresters, youth volunteers and communities.

Volunteers are critical to expanding the work of Cooperative Extension. They work with youth within our 4-H club program, serve as judges for various events, help preserve the environment, provide education about gardening, support our community development efforts and serve on the Grafton County Extension Advisory Council.

During the past year staff: worked with a local group to support agriculture as a stimulus to the economy; facilitated a group of town volunteers exploring options for their police department; conducted a Natural Resource Inventory for one community; conducted a variety trial of sweet potatoes; coordinated volunteers to update the Memorial Gardens at the County Complex; worked with a local elementary school to teach healthy living habits; provided training for after-school program staff and coordinated a statewide training on Understanding Animal Handling.

Our Staff write educational news articles, provide a monthly electronic calendar and use the local media options of Facebook and Twitter to market and educate the residents of Grafton County. Our office is located at the County Complex in North Haverhill and we can be reached at 787-6944 or by emailing us at [ce.grafton@unh.edu](mailto:ce.grafton@unh.edu).

Respectfully submitted: Deborah B. Maes, Extension Field Specialist & County Office Administrator





P.O. Box 433  
Lebanon, NH  
03766-0433

Phone: 603-448-4897  
Fax: 603-448-3906  
Web site: [www.gcsc.org](http://www.gcsc.org)

### **Annual Report of the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc.**

Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. is a private nonprofit that provides services to support the health and well-being of our communities' older citizens. Through GCSCC senior centers, ServiceLink and RSVP, older adults and families take part in a range of activities including home delivered meals, community dining, transportation, outreach and counseling, chore assistance, recreational and educational programs, and volunteer opportunities.

During 2011-12, 27 older residents of Lyme were served by one or more of the Council's programs offered through the senior centers or RSVP. Twenty-three Lyme residents were assisted by ServiceLink.

- Older adults from Lyme enjoyed 470 balanced meals in the company of friends in the senior dining rooms.
- They received 307 nourishing meals delivered to their homes.
- Lyme residents were transported to community resources on 281 occasions by volunteers or GCSCC caregivers.
- Frail Lyme residents benefited from 726 hours of care from our home care program. (*GCSCC no longer provides home care as of July 2012.*)
- Lyme residents contacted ServiceLink or GCSCC counselors on 62 occasions for assistance with 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 419 hours of volunteer service.

The cost to provide GCSCC services for Lyme residents in FY12 was \$31,930.06.

Such services can be critical to older adults who want to remain in their own homes and out of institutional care in spite of chronic health problems and increasing frailty, saving tax dollars that would otherwise be expended for nursing home care. They also contribute to a higher quality of life for older citizens. As our population grows older, supportive services such as those offered by the Council become even more important.

Roberta Berner, Executive Director

### **Annual Report of the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire** ***Home Healthcare, Hospice and Maternal Child Health Services in Lyme, NH***

The Visiting Nurse & Hospice is a compassionate, nonprofit healthcare organization committed to providing the highest quality home healthcare and hospice support services to individuals and their families. By keeping Lyme residents out of emergency rooms and hospitals, and reducing the need for relocation to institutional care, our services likely offer significant savings in the town's emergency services and other medical expenses.

Visiting Nurse & Hospice serves clients of all ages and at all stages of life. Services are provided to all in need regardless of ability to pay. Between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012, the Visiting Nurse & Hospice made 687 homecare visits to 46 Lyme residents and absorbed approximately \$46,312 in unreimbursed charges.

**Home Healthcare:** 486 home visits to 33 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.

**Hospice Services:** 185 home visits to 7 residents who were in the final stages of their lives.

**Maternal and Child Health Services:** 16 home visits to 6 residents for well-baby, preventative and high-tech medical care.

Additionally, Lyme residents made visits to Visiting Nurse & Hospice community clinics for foot care, blood pressure screenings, cholesterol testing and flu shots.

Lyme's annual appropriation helps the Visiting & Hospice meet the demand for quality home healthcare, and to ensure that all who qualify for services will always be able to receive them. On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Jeanne McLaughlin, President (1-888-300-8853)

### **Annual Report from LISTEN**

LISTEN provides a spectrum of human service programs designed to assist individuals and families in their efforts toward successful independence. Our in-take process offers immediate crisis assistance while allowing our counselors the chance to evaluate what type of support will bring lasting changes to a client's life. All services are provided free of charge. Our programs have grown from our vision of *a community connected by and supportive of the process of "Neighbor Helping Neighbor."* This vision is more important now than ever before.

In 2012, LISTEN COMMUNITY SERVICES provided Lyme residents the following benefits:

<b>FY 2012 Service</b>	<b>Description of unit of Service</b>	<b># of Households Served</b>	<b>Cost of Service or Benefit</b>
Food Pantry	Households receive food	2	\$280
Housing Helpers	Households receive rent asst	0	0
Heating Helpers	Households receive heating oil	6	\$2,745
Misc. Client Need	Households receive benefits	0	0
Holiday Basket Helpers	Households receive gift basket	2	\$400
Thrift Store Vouchers	Households receive clothing	1	\$25
Summer Camp	Children in-need attend camp	4	\$800
USDA Food	Households receive USDA food	1	\$50
	Total	16	\$4,300

Respectfully submitted, Merilynn B. Bourne , Executive Director

### **Annual Report from WISE**

For over forty years, WISE has been an important resource for residents of the Upper Valley. Its humble roots reflect an informal gathering of women in the early 1970's who sought guidance from one another as they searched for work outside the home; today, four decades later, WISE is thriving as a multi-faceted organization that addresses violence against women of all ages through a comprehensive array of direct services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence, a robust school-based and community prevention program, and an active commitment to social advocacy. The WISE Program Center is located in downtown Lebanon at 38 Bank Street; this location is accessible by public transportation.

All services are free of charge and available to any Lyme resident.

#### **Crisis Intervention and Support Services Program**

The WISE Crisis Intervention and Support Services Program provides a continuum of services and supports to victims and their children, including 24-hour crisis intervention, emergency shelter, transitional housing, hospital accompaniment, law enforcement and court advocacy, service coordination, peer support groups, and on-going supportive services. This program also offers confidential emergency shelter to victims and their children who are fleeing violence and suffer immediate risk to their safety.

#### **Prevention and Education Program**

Through well-developed collaborations with middle and high schools in New Hampshire and Vermont, including the Dresden School District, WISE delivers prevention education to adolescents that focuses on building skills and behaviors which encourage strong, respectful, and healthy relationships. WISE also conducts trainings in many community agencies, businesses, and other professional spaces that focus on raising awareness as to the warning signs and impact of domestic violence and how to safely respond and refer a victim to needed services.

*The WISE Board of Directors, staff and volunteers would like to thank the residents of Lyme, on behalf of many survivors of domestic and sexual violence, for your on-going support of our programs and services.*



# WEST CENTRAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

AFFILIATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, GEISEL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT DARTMOUTH

West Central Behavioral Health is the state-designated community mental health center for Lyme and a broader community that includes Sullivan and southern Grafton counties. Our mission is to reduce the burden of mental illness and improve the quality of life in our community. We commit ourselves to providing mental health services that are safe, effective, patient-centered, timely and efficient.

West Central serves about 3,400 local residents each year who suffer from a range of chronic disorders and illnesses including psychosis, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Our clients may also battle addiction, anxiety, depression, divorce or relationship-related stress, and other debilitating but treatable conditions. We work with people of all ages in outpatient clinics, homes, nursing homes, correctional facilities, schools, and residential supported living programs, offering a variety of counseling, psychiatric, case management and emergency services. Last year, West Central served the needs of 23 Lyme residents, including eight children and their families. This represents a 10% increase over fiscal year 2011.

West Central Behavioral Health staff and board members are committed to providing the highest quality mental health services to clients in our region, regardless of their ability to pay. Last year, this course of action resulted in West Central's provision of close to \$900,000 in charitable care. To sustain our commitment to some of our most vulnerable neighbors, we are asking the cities and towns we serve for continued support in fiscal year 2014, including an appropriation request to the town of Lyme in the amount of \$1,870. These essential funds will help West Central continue to provide mental health care to Lyme families who rely on our services. We are grateful for your generous support.

Sincerely,



Heidi Postupack, Director of Marketing and Development ~ West Central Behavioral Health

## **Annual Report of Headrest**

Headrest has completed 42 years of continuous services operating our 24-hour Hotline. This service started on January 4, 1971. The Hotline answered 8,450 calls this past year dealing with suicide, crisis, substance abuse and adolescent issues as well as providing information on services related to food, shelter and assistance. Please know that someone is always here to take your call 24/7 at 603-448-4400 or 1-800-639-6095.

Headrest receives suicide calls for New Hampshire and Vermont from two national suicide lines (1-800-273-8255) & (1-800-SUICIDE). Headrest was accredited by the American Association of Suicidology on August 6, 2012 for a three year period. We currently are the only crisis call center in New Hampshire and Vermont with this designation.

Headrest also does substance abuse counseling and a Residential Transitional Living Program. Both of these programs due to State of New Hampshire grant funding are required to give priority to New Hampshire residents.

The Hotline is generously supported by municipalities in the Upper Valley as well as donors from those towns including Lyme. I would like to extend to the taxpayers of Lyme my thanks and appreciation for your past and future support. The staff at Headrest will do our very best to put your funds to good use serving those in crisis.

Michael J. Cryans, Executive Director (603-448-4872 ext. 110)