

WEB SITE 2004 REPORT

www.holderness-nh.gov

The Holderness Town web site has been up and operating for a little over a year and is reaching an ever increasing number of people each month. The average number of hits on the site for 2004 was 13,500 visitors per month with a high of nearly 19,000 visitors logging on during the month of November.

Last spring we added a new feature to the web site that allows us to post news and important information on the homepage. The "What's New" feature is located in the right-hand column of the homepage and announces important dates such as office and transfer station closings, notices from various committees and town departments, special tax and assessment information, and other important news.

In late October we were able to post both the 2003 and 2004 property assessments. We have received much positive feedback from residents who are pleased to have this information so readily available.

We have also diligently maintained a full and up-dated Community Calendar of happenings in our local area. This is a great resource for residents, young and old, looking for information on concerts, educational programs, sporting activities and other entertainment opportunities.

We are currently looking at subtle changes to the homepage that will make the site even more user friendly. We hope you will take a few minutes to visit www.holderness-nh.gov and welcome your comments and suggestions on how our web site can better serve the Holderness community.

Respectfully submitted,
Alicia Abbott,
Webmaster

WELFARE OFFICER'S 2004 REPORT

Welfare assistance provided by this office increased by 44.5% in 2004 over previous expenditures. Primary in this increase was the cost of essential prescription drugs which are not covered under State and Federal assistance programs. Also noted is an increase in rental assistance. Other traditional welfare expenditures included food, electricity, fuel assistance, vehicle expenses, and phone costs, as follows:

Rent.....	\$9,362
Prescriptions.....	3,686
Electric.....	1,079
Heat.....	2,198
Auto	-0-
Phone	387
Food	<u>297</u>

Total \$17,009

Eligibility for assistance is determined by having the client complete an application which outlines essential and allowed expenses compared with actual income received. When expenses exceed income, the applicant household may become eligible for assistance. All of the application process is specified within the Town's Welfare Ordinance.

I have enjoyed working for the Town as your Welfare Director for the past year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Louis E. Pare

A SPECIAL EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

On behalf of the Town of Holderness, our heartfelt gratitude is hereby extended to "First Star Tonight" under the auspices of Mr. Ty Gagne for a most generous contribution to a needy welfare recipient. Thank you "Ty" and "First Star Tonight"

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT 2004 REPORT

	Denied	Granted	Withdrawn
Variances	4	3	1
Special Exceptions With Prejudice			1

This year the ZBA had one notable case, which involved unique issues and provoked considerable interest and controversy. This was the request for a special exception to permit gravel excavation at the Pemi Fish and Game Club property. There were several unique features to this case, one of which was that the application was made by the Town of Holderness and not by the property owner. This raised a number of issues, since the Town is the enforcement body for any restrictions in a special exception, which put the Town in the position of policing itself. It also created considerable expense to the Town, since the Town Attorney represented the Board of Selectmen in this application. The ZBA normally uses Town Counsel for legal questions, but in this case, the Town Attorney could not represent the Zoning Board, so an outside attorney was retained with permission of the Selectmen.

Hearings for this case involved attorneys representing the Town, the Pemi Fish and Game Club, and abutters objecting to the application. There was also copious testimony from townspeople and other interested parties, as well as Town appointed bodies, such as the Conservation Commission and Public Works Department. Numerous technical questions were raised, from lead issues, to the proper slope for excavations, and to overlapping land uses on grandfathered property. In addition there were challenges to board members sitting on the case, and two board members chose to recuse themselves to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest. More people attended these hearings than any other in recent memory, and while there were heated disagreements over the issues, townspeople were consistently polite and aired their views in the best spirit of local government.

There was no decision rendered in the case, as the applicant (the Holderness Selectmen) withdrew the application. Since the withdrawal was after testimony had concluded and board deliberations had begun, the withdrawal was accepted with prejudice, which is a legal way of saying the same application cannot be considered by future boards, unless there have been significant changes either to the application, the relevant ordinances, or the condition of the neighborhood. The legal effect is similar to a rejection of the application. Selectmen agreed to the withdrawal with prejudice rather than proceeding to a ruling.

Ivan Bass, Pro-tem

Respectfully Submitted,	
Ivan Bass, Vice Chairman	Alternate Members
Gyda Dicosola	Harry Decker
Susan Webster	Tim Lyons
Robert Rothschild	
Jack Barbera, Chairman	