

HOLDERNESS BOARD OF SELECTMEN 2004 REPORT



Left to right:: Town Administrator Paul Weston, Selectman Peter Francesco, Selectman Peter Webster, Chairman Steve Huss, Selectman Barbara Currier, Vice Chairman Sam Laverack, and Municipal Secretary Dee Canavan.

We were all shocked and saddened on the day of last years Town Elections by Selectman Art Bartholomew's passing. He was an active participant in our Town government serving in his second term as a Selectman and a former School Board member for nine years. We miss the quick humor he so often used to quell heated discussion. His unexpired term was completed by Steve Huss.

Here are some of the projects that were completed this year:

- The Town Hall renovations were accomplished under the capable guidance of Paul Montour and the Town Hall Committee. Hopefully you have all had a chance to see the internal changes as well as the more obvious external improvements in parking, access and landscaping.
- The New Hampshire DOT made good on its promise to fix the recreation path by paving it this summer.
- This summer we became "official" participants in the State's 911 Emergency Program by issuing Town wide house numbers. (Something most of us have accepted with mixed feelings!) This was the culmination of eight years of work primarily done single handedly by Fire Chief Dick Mardin.
- The New Hampshire Electric Co-op completed its voluntary evaluation and upgrading of our street lighting, replacing most of our existing fixtures with the "dark sky" lamps. They also added 4 badly needed lights around the Central School. No cost to the Town. Thank you NH Electric Co-op.

There are two major projects scheduled for 2005. The beginning of the replacement of the Route 175 Bridge to Plymouth by NH DOT and our "Village Sidewalk" project to construct a sidewalk from Squam Boats to the Golden Pond Country Store (Chesley's). The funding for the new sidewalk will be an article to be voted on in this years Town Meeting Warrant, 80% of which will be funded by a Federal Grant.

With the defeat of Article 8 on last years Warrant, to give the Selectmen the power to run the dissolved sewer district on Rivers Streets, the selectmen tried unsuccessfully to find an entity to take on that responsibility. After several meetings with the affected property owners this summer the Selectmen agreed to put the article back on this years warrant to give the sewer line users a chance to present their case.

Following up on the positive vote on Article 10 of the 2001 Town Meeting that authdrize the Town to enter into a contract with the Pemi Fish & Game Club to allow the Town to excavate gravel for Town use, the Selectmen, as instructed by the article, applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals to obtain a Special Exception. During the process of the hearings the Selectmen decided to withdraw the application. Along with strong local opposition, we learned that a Special Exception, if granted, runs in perpetuity with the property deed not just the term of the contract. None of the parties involved wanted this and there seemed to be no legal way around it. Thus the Selectmen decided to withdraw the application.

It is worthwhile to note the successful completion of the town wide property re-evaluation of the Town which involved about 2,200 parcels of land. The Town had only 77 abatement requests filed which amount to only 3.5% of the total parcels. To us it reflect the complete and fair approach taken by Corcoran Assoc. to assess the town as close to market rates as possible.

We would like to thank those employees who left us during 2004 including Corporal Mark Nash from the Police Department; Kay Hansen, our Recreation Director; and Stuart Sherburne, who retired from the Highway Department after 13 years. We wish them good luck.

We extend a warm welcome to Eric Difilippe and David Bourne, both of whom joined th Police Department as Patrol Officers; Wendy Werner, our new Recreation Director; dn David Goodwin, our new Heavy Equipment Operator, in the Highway Department.

We thank you all for your support and we invite you to continue to participate in your government. It's much easier to stay involved today if you have a computer and areo nected to the internet. Our website, www.holderness-nh.gov, posts the current meeting agendas for the selectmen (and most committees), as well as the minutes for all past meetings. Have a Great 2005!

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Huss, Chairman
Sam Laverack, Vice-Chairman
Barbara Currier
Peter Francesco
Peter Webster
Holderness Board of Selectmen