

**TOWN OF
DORCHESTER
ANNUAL REPORT
2014**



Schoolhouse Painting by Barbara MacAlistar

2015

January

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2016

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
OFFICERS

OF THE TOWN OF
DORCHESTER, NH

YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2014

DORCHESTER TOWN OFFICERS

SELECT BOARD

Chairman — Sherman Hallock — 2016
Representative to Planning Board
Vice Chairman — Arthur Burdette — 2015
Representative to Board of Adjustment
Selectwoman — Maria Weick — 2017
Representative to Historic District Commission

MODERATOR

Joshua Trought — 2017

TOWN TREASURER

Cheryl Legg
Karen Yetman, Deputy

TOWN CLERK

Darlene Oaks
Liz Houghton, Deputy

TAX COLLECTOR

Darlene Oaks
Liz Houghton, Deputy

ROAD AGENT

Dean Stockwell — 2015

PLANNING BOARD

William Trought, Chairman — 2016
Robert Green, Vice Chairman — 2016
John Morrissey, Representative to Historic District Commission — 2015
Bethann Weick — 2017
Sherman Hallock, Ex-Officio, Select Board — 2017
Michael Woodard, Alternate

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

David Morrill, Chairman — 2017
Claudette "Cookie" Hebert — 2015
David Conkey — 2017
Robert Green, Planning Board Rep. — 2014
Michael Howe — Alternates

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Darlene Oaks, Chair — 2015
Virginia Carroll, Vice Chair — 2017
Elizabeth Houghton, Secretary — 2016
Sherry Coleman — 2017
Holly Conkey — 2017
John Morrissey, Planning Board Rep.
Maria Weick, Select Board Rep.
Sandy Green, Regina Rinaldo — Alternates

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

Claudette "Cookie" Hebert — 2015
 Justine Majeski — 2017
 Virginia Carroll — 2016

CEMETERY TRUSTEES

Elizabeth "Betty" Trought, Chair — 2016
 Bethann Weick — 2017
 Cristin Green — 2015

HEALTH OFFICERS

Select Board
 Asst. Health Officer—Chuck Stata

FOREST FIRE WARDEN

Jay Legg, Warden
 Mark Romano, Deputy Warden
 Graydon Legg, Deputy Warden
 Alfred Balch, Deputy Warden
 Matthew Dow, Deputy Warden
 Joshua Trought, Deputy Warden

PERMIT OFFICERS

Select Board

HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR

Linda Dowling; Select Board, Deputy

CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE

Bruce Pratt, Jr.
 Joshua Trought
 Regina Rinaldo

SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST

Shawn Russell — 2019
 Adrienne Morrison — 2015
 Cristin Green — 2015

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Claudette "Cookie" Hebert
 Dean Stockwell, Deputy

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Ernest Lavertue, Director
 Arthur Burdette, Asst. Director
 Claudette "Cookie" Hebert, Asst. Director

AUDITORS

Martha Walker—2016
 Cindy Azotea—2015

CONSERVATION COMISSION

Ryan Harvey, Chair
 John Morrissey, Vice Chair
 Maria Weick, Secretary
 Dave Sheffield, Alternate
 Gavin Veasey, Alternate

REPRESENTATIVE TO MASCOMA HEALTH INITIATIVE

Shawn Russell

MASCOMA VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

Claudette "Cookie" Hebert

MASCOMA VALLEY REGIONAL BUDGET COMMITTEE

Amber Barsaleau

REPRESENTATIVE TO UVLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

William Trought

REPRESENTATIVE TO PEMI-BAKER SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

Joshua Trought

REPRESENTATIVE TO LAKES REGION MUTUAL FIRE AID

Arthur Burdette

SELECT BOARD'S REPORT

2014 welcomed a number of new faces to town government: selectwoman, town clerk and deputy clerk, tax collector and deputy collector, town treasurer and deputy treasurer, and a whole new slate of supervisors of the checklist. Inexperience made for some interesting days at the office early on, but was more than offset by a commitment from all to bring themselves up to speed as quickly as possible via diligence, the art of asking Holly, Sherman, and Artie questions, questions, and more questions, and attendance at numerous trainings.

A particularly challenging transition came with Holly's resignation in October as she moved on to a better-paying job. We were fortunate Holly continued to work part-time through the end of November as we scrambled to find and train a new administrative assistant. We thank Holly for her service and we wish her well!

Beth White of Wicked Accurate Bookkeeping Services has been hired as bookkeeper to take care of the Town's financials. She will work two evenings per month and as needed. Town resident Beth Weick has been hired as the minute-taker for the select board/public meetings. Former resident Regina Rinaldo was hired to put together this Annual Report which you're having the pleasure of reading.

To close out personnel issues, thank you to Brian and Brenda Howe for their many years of service to the Town as tax collector, town clerk, and treasurer. Also, thank you to Martha Walker for decades of service as Town Auditor. And thank you to Virginia Carroll for her service as a Trustee of the Trust Funds.

The select board is happy to report the completion of a number of projects this year. Town Hall has a new roof and storm windows courtesy of funds appropriated at last year's Town Meeting. These will go a long way to protecting the structural integrity of Dorchester's historic meeting place and increasing its energy efficiency. In the coming year we will be looking to grants to help with further repair and upkeep.

The new Highway building is just about complete. Almost all the work was accomplished in house. Make a point to stop by and check out what's been done! You'll find the building no frills and functional.

Our historical school house renovations continued in 2014. We have accomplished restoring our school house to structural stability to last into the future generations. What is remaining is the finishing touches to the interior of our school house.

The five-year revaluation of properties in Dorchester was completed in 2014 by the Town's contracted assessors: Commerford, Nieder, & Perkins (CNP). Overall the Town's valuation decreased about \$3 million which means that our tax rate rose slightly (\$.43). The positive result is that the revaluation was conducted assessing properties close to their 100% market value compared to past revaluations that in some cases used values of 110% and 105%. Also, in conducting property assessment reviews there were discovered significant structures and features not reported by some landowners. These are now part of the assessment and tax rolls. Valuation and the tax rate are directly related: when valuation goes down, the tax rate goes up; if valuation goes up the tax rate goes down. Beginning in 2015, CNP will spread the five year revaluation required by state law over five years which will hopefully help minimize future costs.

2014 was also the first year of our contract with CAI Technologies, the company hired to re-draw the Town's tax maps. This year the goal was gathering an inventory on the approximately 500 parcels located in Dorchester by fact checking the tax maps against records on file for each parcel. GIS technology will enable CAI to reduce the margin of error for the tax maps from 33' to 6'.

In late November 2014 the Select Board learned that a Portuguese company, Energias de Portugal, was proposing a 29 turbine industrial wind facility north of Mt. Cardigan that would include two wind turbines sited in Dorchester. The Select Board is committed to keeping residents informed as we become aware of new developments. It is important that the Select Board hears residents' views on siting an industrial wind facility in Dorchester. This will enable the Board to follow the directive of the people and act with due diligence to advance the best interests of the Town. The Select Board, along with the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission, has provided informational sessions with more upcoming as needed and as speakers are available.

In 2015 we are facing an estimated \$.62 increase in the overall town budget due to the bond issue which was passed for school renovations last year. Add to that a proposed increase in the school operating budget and the fact we never know how many students Dorchester will send to school, and you can see why the Select Board is a little apprehensive as we enter 2015. Also, the mitigation grants the Town received 4 years ago which not only improved our roads but also provided some financial benefits that rippled through the municipal budget, have run their course. The Town eventually needs to get back to the level of the 2009 highway budget which was \$222,000. The Board did not want to raise the municipal budget this year because of the rise we will see in our overall tax rate, so we increased the highway budget only \$5000 and made some cuts in other areas to offset the increase.

A rise in the total town appropriations will also prompt an increase to the amount of money the Town should hold in its fund balance. It's been the goal of this Select Board to hold our fund balance at 15 – 17% of the total town appropriations. In order to keep this policy going, 2015 will be a year we need to be vigilant and to take advantage of any grants which might become available.

In 2014 the Select Board and elected Town officials, Town employees and volunteers, all did their best to serve Dorchester, the community and the place we all call home. As the class of newbies can attest, the desire to serve can overcome what you don't know. So in 2015 don't hesitate to step forward – working together, we can make sure that Dorchester is a special place to live, work, and play far into the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherman Hallock
Arthur Burdette
Maria Weick

SELECT BOARD 2015 MEETING SCHEDULE

Every other Thursday
6:30 pm
Town Hall

January 15	May 7	September 3
January 29	May 21	September 17
February 12	June 11	October 1
February 26	June 25	October 15
		October 29
March 12	July 9	
March 26	July 23	November 12
April 9	August 6	December 10
April 23	August 20	December 24

MEETING TIMES

All meetings held at Town Hall

Select Board.....	Every other Thursday, 6:30pm
Planning Board	2nd Wednesday of each month, 7:00pm
Conservation Commission	3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00pm
Historic District Commission	Meeting times to be posted
Cultural Arts Committee	Meeting times to be posted
Board of Adjustment	As Required

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Town Clerk/Tax Collector	Mon — 9am–11am
.....	Wed — 3pm–6pm
Last Saturday of the month	9am–11am
Admin Assistant to the Select Board	Mon, Tue, Thur — 9am–2pm
.....	Wed — 3pm–6pm

CONTACT INFORMATION

Town Clerk/Tax Collector	786-9476
.....	town.clerk@townofdorchester.net
Administrative Assistant.....	786-5095
.....	lindadowling@townofdorchester.net
Board of Selectman	selectmen@townofdorchester.net

TOWN WARRANT

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

To the inhabitants of the Town of Dorchester in the County of Grafton in said state, qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said Dorchester on Tuesday, the 10th day of March 2015, polls to be open for voting on Articles 1 through 6 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, and to close no earlier than 7 o'clock in the afternoon, with action on the remaining Articles to be taken commencing at 10 o'clock in the forenoon on Saturday, March 14th, 2015.

1. To choose by nonpartisan ballot all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

2. Are you in favor of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Land Use Regulation Ordinance as follows: delete the list of specifically prohibited uses and replace it with a provision that any use not specifically permitted is prohibited.

Recommended by Planning Board (4 – 1)

3. Are you in favor of Amendment # 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Land Use Regulation Ordinance as follows: delete all references in Article V(A) to the automatic merger of nonconforming lots, as such automatic mergers are now prohibited by state law.

Recommended by Planning Board

4. Are you in favor of Amendment #3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Land Use Regulation Ordinance as follows: amend the criteria for a variance by referring directly to the state law which establishes the criteria.

Recommended by Planning Board

5. Are you in favor of Amendment #4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Land Use Regulation Ordinance as follows: delete the provision which allows the Zoning Board to require economic or environmental impact statements, bonds, and impact fees as a condition of variances or special exceptions, as the Board is not empowered to require such things under state law.

Recommended by Planning Board

6. Are you in favor of Amendment #5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Land Use Regulation Ordinance as follows: delete the section which allows the Zoning Board to overrule a decision by the Permit Officer or the Board of Selectmen that no variance or special exception is needed for a proposed use, as the Zoning Board is not empowered to this under state law.

Recommended by Planning Board

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand four hundred fifty five dollars (\$7,455) for the second of three (3) annual payments to CAI Technologies for the purpose of producing digital parcel maps for the Town, and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing \$7,455 from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2014.

Recommended by Select Board

8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund previously established under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of acquiring and developing land for a Town Cemetery, and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing one thousand dollars (\$1,000) from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2014.

Recommended by Select Board

9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Capital Reserve Highway Equipment Maintenance Fund, previously established in accordance with RSA 35:1, and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing five thousand dollars (\$5,000) from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2014. Further, to appoint the Select Board to be the agent to expend from this fund.

Recommended by Select Board (2 – 1)

10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,400 (ten thousand four hundred dollars) for the compensation of the Town Clerk. This reflects an hourly rate of \$20 (twenty dollars) an hour and would be in lieu of all statutory fees. This will allow the Town Clerk to expand her hours to Monday 8AM – 2PM, Wednesday 2PM – 6PM and the last Saturday of the month from 8AM – 11AM. A change of 5 to 10 hours a week plus an expanded hour on the last Saturday. This amount excludes mileage.

By Petition

11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred thirty four thousand ninety five dollars and two cents (\$434,095.02), to defray Town charges.

Recommended by Select Board

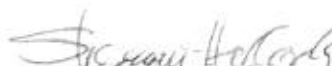
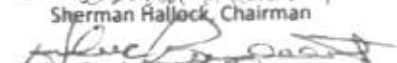
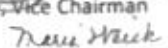
12. For the Town to adopt a Community Bill of Rights Ordinance to protect the people's right of local community self-government. This would protect our Town from corporations working to use our land for industrial projects, such as Wind Farms. By placing the approval of these projects in the hands of the local self-government instead of the procedure in place currently. Whereas these projects only need approval of the state. The Ordinance would also protect the people's health and safety as well as the health and safety of local environment.

By Petition

13. To see if the Town will vote to support or oppose the siting of an industrial wind facility in the Town of Dorchester. All those in support of the siting of an industrial wind facility in the Town of Dorchester vote aye. All those opposed to the siting of an industrial wind facility in the Town of Dorchester vote nay. This Article is nonbinding and meant to be advisory to the Select Board.

14. To act upon any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Given under our hands this the 23rd day of February, 2015.


Sherman Hallock, Chairman

Arthur Burdette, Vice Chairman

Maria Weick

Dorchester Select Board

NOTICE

Division of Involuntary Merged Lots: Chapter 206 (HB 316) requires a municipality, upon request of the property owner, to divide lots that were involuntarily merged prior to September 18, 2010, subject to certain conditions. First, the request must be submitted to the governing body prior to December 31, 2016. Second, if any owner in the chain of title from the date of the involuntary merger abandoned a lot line or took any other action indicating that the owner regarded the lots as merged, the municipality is not required to divide the lots. Third, the legislation makes clear that separation of previously merged lots does not cure any non-conformity with current land use ordinances. Fourth, the amendment authorizes a municipality to adopt ordinances that provide more generous relief than the statute. Finally, municipalities must inform the public of this new law by posting a notice in a public place continuously from January 2012 until December 2016, and publish notices in the town's annual report for years 2011 through 2015.

FY 2015 BUDGET ESTIMATES

	2014	2014	2014	2015	
	ORIGINAL	EXPENDITURES	FUNDS REMAINING	PROPOSED BUDGET	INCREASE (DECREASE)
	BUDGET	TURES	REMAINING	BUDGET	(DECREASE)
2015 TOWN OF DORCHESTER					
4130-4139-EXECUTIVE	43,060.00	45,151.94	(2,091.94)	39,500.00	(3,560.00)
4140-ELECTIONS	4,000.00	2,726.16	1,273.84	2,000.00	(2,000.00)
4150-FINANCIAL_ADMIN	35,335.00	17,651.28	17,683.72	35,335.00	-
4152-REVALUATION	4,000.00	12,600.00	(8,600.00)	5,500.00	1,500.00
4153-LEGAL	6,000.00	5,593.82	406.18	6,000.00	-
4154-Recording & Reporting		12,498.44	(12,498.44)		
4155-Personnel Administration	11,000.00	9,954.51	1,045.49	11,000.00	-
4191-PLANNING_ZONING	3,500.00	2,559.65	940.35	3,500.00	-
4194-BUILDINGS	32,000.00	65,673.87	(33,673.87)	20,000.00	(12,000.00)
4195-CEMETERIES	2,000.00	1,110.00	890.00	2,000.00	-
4196-INSURANCE	26,780.00	39,180.55	(12,400.55)	30,958.02	4,178.02
4199-OTHER_GEN_GOV	800.00	947.00	(147.00)	940.00	140.00
4210-4214 - POLICE		-	-	-	-