

## **Report of the Town Administrator**

In January, the Selectmen made a presentation to Town Report Appreciation recipient Guerwood Holmes, presenting him with a photograph and the appreciation. It was wonderful to visit with Guerwood and his wife, and he seems to be enjoying his retirement!

Deliberative Session was held on Monday February 6, 2012 with ballot voting on March 13, 2012 at Ellis School. Voters supported the default budget. Voters also supported warrant articles to fund Capital Reserve Funds, some funded from unreserved fund balance (Highway equipment \$50,000, Police Cruiser \$12,500 and Town Hall Renovations \$10,000) and some from general taxation (Property Reassessment \$15,000 and Fire Truck \$50,000). The support of these Capital Reserve Funds helps the Town to save for future capital purchases, and creates a more balanced effect on the tax rate. Voters also funded the mosquito control program again.

Our winter was mild throughout, and spring was here right after the March 1 snowstorm! Temperatures reached 80 degrees by the middle of the month; and the flowers started to bloom early.

Also in March, the Town elected its Road Agent for the first-ever three year term. Mark Pitkin ran un-opposed for the position, and began planning for the next three years immediately. The Selectmen were given authority as agents of the Highway Building Capital Reserve Fund, and set about updating the planning for renovations to the existing building. As the year moved on, it was determined that there is not enough saved to renovate the building to a full maintenance garage. Instead, the Road Agent focused on a new sand and salt storage building, which began construction in October. He continues to work on plans to convert the existing shed for maintenance (and close it in); now that the sand and salt is in the new building. There are additional funds requested to supplement the Highway Building Capital Reserve Fund on the 2013 Warrant, and work will continue to progress on those plans in the new year.

After many years of hard work and determination, the Conservation Commission and Open Space folks helped the Town to close on the Smith Land on April 2, 2012. This purchase includes 76 acres of conservation land (funded in part with over \$80,000 in grants). This purchase was funded with minimal tax dollars from the 2005 bond authorization. The purchase was written up in the NH Forest Society Newsletter at <http://www.forestsociety.org/news/press-release.asp?id=598>. Many people worked hard to make this purchase a reality. Conservation Commission member Pat deBeer did an amazing job writing grants to support the project.

All of NH, and particularly our Seacoast neighbors, were stunned and saddened by the shooting death of Greenland Police Chief Michael Maloney on April 12th. This senseless act took the life of an honorable man who had dedicated his life to protecting others. Several other Seacoast police officers were injured that evening, and all of these men and women remain in our thoughts. It reminds us again of the frailty of everyday life. The world is not the same place it was even a few short years ago.



With the additional funds appropriated to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, the Town had enough to purchase it's first ever piece of construction equipment, a used backhoe with low hours and in great shape. The purchase became a reality in April, and has served the Department well.

Our new website went live at the end of April. We are still working on getting additional items to the web, but the new site is organized the same as many other NH Municipalities. We hope this has been helpful to residents. Several items are available by email subscription, so once you sign up and confirm your information, you will be sent an email notifying you of postings of items such as news, the Town Newsletter, and some Board and Committee meeting minutes. This can be done from the left hand navigation bar at [www.Fremont.nh.gov](http://www.Fremont.nh.gov) in the "Subscribe to E-Alerts" section.

To save the cost of printing and mailing, the Fremont Newsletter is now primarily published in electronic format. It is posted to the website monthly, and you can subscribe to receive an email when it is posted. We encourage you to subscribe to continue to receive the information included in the monthly publication.



We had another wonderful Memorial Day service on a bright Sunday May 27, 2012 with local guest speaker Army Sergeant Matt Jordan.

(Photo courtesy of Meredith Bolduc - View down Main Street from the Town Hall on Memorial Day.)

In August, Kathy Arsenault left the Town's employ to accept a full-time position with the Derry Tax Collector's Office. She then resigned from the position of Tax Collector on September 13, 2012; following some

tragic family events that caused her to reprioritize things in her life. She also stepped down as president of the Fremont Food Pantry. We miss Kathy's day to day presence at the Town Offices.

New construction and other property improvements increased the Town's overall assessed valuation from \$363,266,248 to \$365,787,834 for the September 2012 tax rate setting process. We are still seeing slight improvements in growth, and are hopeful that the renewal of the former Cooperage project will also help. Reports of overall 2012 market activity are improved

from prior years. There is presently some interest in further development of properties on Shirkin Road (Corporate Commercial District).

This fall Fremont was visited by the NH Department of Labor, bringing to light many areas we needed to improve in terms of the Town's Safety Program. We also underwent an inspection by the Department to ensure compliance with NH Statutes and Administrative Rules. We fared well, having spent time in preparation and being able to better organize many town buildings. As a result, we are nearing full compliance with the Department's Inspection Order, and have also made many changes to the Town's Safety Program including updating many Safety Policies. All Town employees have been very helpful in this endeavor. The safety of our employees is our first priority.

In October, Town Clerk Lori Holmes announced her resignation, having accepted a position with the NH Department of Motor Vehicles. We would like to thank Lori for 14 years of service to the Town as Town Clerk. We too, miss her day to day presence in the office.

Shannon Bryant was appointed to fill the position of Town Clerk as of October 31, 2012. We were lucky to have the assistance of the Newfields Town Clerk Sue McKinnon and the Hill Town Clerk Desiree Mahurin, to help us through the transition period. Shannon attended the NH DMV training seminar (four days in Concord) in November and came back with many of the tools she needed to assist residents with motor vehicle registrations. She continues to learn the tasks necessary to keep the Clerk's Office running smoothly. Thank you to all of you for your patience during this transition.

I would like to thank those people who stepped down from their service to the Town in 2012. Annmarie Stackpole and Neal Janvrin stepped down as Checklist Supervisors; Jeanne Nygren finished a one-year term on the Budget Committee; and Greg Fraize stepped down from his seat on the Budget Committee due to being elected to the School Board. Pat Martel stepped down from the Budget Committee, but rejoined when another vacancy opened.

Jack Baker retired from the Zoning Board of Adjustment in April when he prepared to move from his long-time home in Fremont. Jack has served the Town in a variety of capacities over the years, including being an active Bulky Day volunteer. Tricia Wlasuk left the Budget Committee in September, and in addition to former member Pat Martel, Mike Nygren returned to service on the Committee. Griffin Cordes was also appointed to fill a term through March 2013.

We thank everyone who gives so freely of their time to volunteer service in Fremont. Our dedicated employees, and all of the Town's many talented volunteers are invaluable to the day to day function of Town Government. As with all change, people moving on to other endeavors opens doors for new volunteers and employees to join our ranks. If you have some time and the desire to be involved in a role within the community, please come forward. There are unfilled positions on the Zoning Board of Adjustment, Planning Board, Conservation

Commission, and Energy Commission. We do need your help! Thank you to all who serve Fremont in so many ways!

In November, the State's 911 mapping project was completed, with maps turned over to the Selectmen for use by the Town's Safety Services. The project has been in progress for the past 18 months and involved the State of NH 911 Mapping Bureau attaching GPS locations to all physical addresses in Fremont. The end result are maps for use by emergency services.

In early December, a few members of the Fremont Police Department gathered donations and made a day trip to Staten Island NY to assist the victims devastated by Hurricane Sandy. They filled a trailer with water, food, clothing and toys, and made the trip to take it to one of the hardest hit neighborhoods. In these times of crisis, the beauty of the human spirit gleams through. Sergeant Jason Larochelle, Detective Shawn Carlson, and Administrative Assistant Mary Wheaton-Pinder were touched by their trip to help. Fremont was luckily spared vast damage from the October storm that wreaked havoc throughout the eastern seaboard.

Also in December, our one full-time Highway Department employee, Leon Holmes Jr, was honored at a luncheon sponsored by the UNH Technology Center for his achievement as a Master Roads Scholar. Leon completed the coursework in 2011 to reach this level of study, and was honored with many other public works employees.



The 250<sup>th</sup> Committee worked diligently all year to continue planning for the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Fremont to be held in June 2014. In 2012, voters supported \$10,000 in a Warrant Article for a Town Expendable Trust Fund, to be used to defray expenses of the community-wide events planned to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There is a link from the Town's website (Community Page) to the 250<sup>th</sup> Committee site or visit it directly at: [www.fremontnh250thcelebration.org](http://www.fremontnh250thcelebration.org).

The Fremont Day Celebration held on September 20, 2012 also fundraised for the celebration efforts. The Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Fremont Safety Complex and welcomes your input and attendance.

(Photo courtesy of Bob Meade – 1820 Town Pound reconstructed by the 250<sup>th</sup> Committee on the grounds of the Historic Fremont Meetinghouse).

All of our volunteers and employees are to be commended for their vigilance and dedication to Fremont and its residents. The Town is served well by these community servants, whose experience has helped to see Fremont through many projects, in good times and in bad. If you have never been involved in local government, it is difficult to understand the depth of dedication required to serve in these roles. I encourage all residents to find something in the



community to get involved with. From youth athletics to PTA to the many Boards and Committees that are needed within the Town and School District to function, there is a need for so many interested folks to make our community work. The local volunteer is an ever-precious commodity, and one that helps to keep costs down, and preserve the small-town character that Fremont is known and loved for.

We need your help, and community service is one of the most rewarding things you will ever do. You meet people you might not otherwise meet, cultivate friendships, and learn things you might not otherwise learn. There are so many opportunities to get involved in making Fremont the place you want to live and raise your family. Participate in the annual meetings and find a Committee that interests you. Come on out and see what is going on!

Thank you for your patience and support in these difficult economic times. We do understand the hardship families are facing, and continue to work hard to do as much as we can for all of our residents. The Board of Selectmen continues to meet weekly to address the Town's business, at 6:00 pm on Thursday evenings in the basement meeting room at the Town Hall.

Please feel free to contact our office with any questions or for general information at 895 2226 x 10.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson  
Town Administrator



Rebuilding of the Scribner Road Dam and  
Bridge  
Circa ~ Fall 1963  
Photo Courtesy of  
Elizabeth J Stanley

“Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation.”

[John F. Kennedy](#)

(1917-1963) Thirty-fifth President of the USA