



2007 Annual Town Report

Rowe
MASSACHUSETTS



Town of Rowe - Town Information and Meeting Schedules

Town Hall
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Rowe MA 01367

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Board of Selectmen	339-5520	Emergency	9-1-1
Town Coordinator/Town Accountant	339-5520	Police Chief Office	339-5546
Town Coordinator/Town Accountant	339-5520	Police Chief Office	339-5546
Assessors' Clerk	339-5520	Fire Station	339-4001
Board of Health	339-5520	Animal Inspector	339-4943
Inspector of Buildings	339-8393	Dog Officer	339-5533
Nurse Practitioner	339-9943	Environmental Officer	339-5588 or 339-8591
Tax Collector	339-5520	Inspector of Buildings	339-8393
Town Clerk	339-8587 or 339-5520	Plumbing Inspector	772-2026 x 125
Treasurer	339-8587 or 339-5520	Wiring Inspector	772-2026 x 126

Administrative Office	Mon -Thurs	8:00 am to Noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Assessors' Clerk	Wednesday	9:00 am to Noon
Police Chief	Tuesday	7:00 pm
Town Clerk	Tuesday	8:30 am to 11:30 am (or as otherwise posted)
Tax Collector	Thursday	9:00 am to Noon
Treasurer	Wednesday	9:00 am to Noon
Town Nurse	Tuesday	9:00 am to 5:00 pm (any needed home visits 3:00-5:00 pm)
	Thursday	11:00 am to 7:00 pm (any needed homes visits 2:00-4:00 pm)

Library 3 Days/Week: Tuesday 10 am – 5 pm, Wednesday 10 am - 8 pm, Saturday 10 am - 5 pm

Transfer Station 3 Days/Week: Wednesday 7-10 am, Saturday 10 am - 4 pm, Sunday 12 noon - 4 pm

Board/Commission	Frequency	Location
Board of Selectmen	Every other Tuesday (6:00 pm)	Rowe Town Hall
Assessors	As posted	Rowe Town Hall
Board of Health	Every other Thursday (9:00 am)	Rowe Town Hall
School Committee	Monthly - Second Tuesday (6:30 pm)	Rowe Elementary School
Library Trustees	Monthly - Usually First Tuesday (2:00 pm)	Rowe Town Library
Council on Aging	Monthly - Second Thursday (12:00 Noon)	Rowe Town Hall
Finance Committee	As posted	Rowe Town Hall
Conservation Commission	As posted	Rowe Town Hall
Park Commission	Monthly - First & Third Thursdays (6:30 pm)	Rowe Town Hall
Planning Board	Monthly - First Thursday (10:00 am)	Rowe Town Hall

All other Committee, Commission and Board meetings are held as posted on the Town Hall Bulletin Board at least 48 hours (not including Sundays or legal holidays) prior to the time and date of the meeting. All meetings are public and citizens are encouraged to attend. ♦

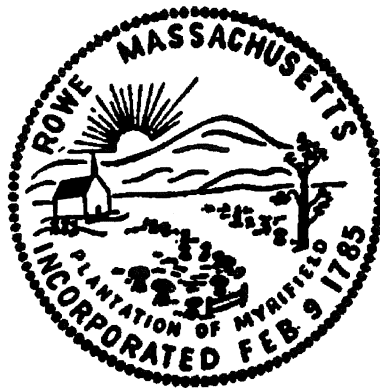
ON THE COVER ~ **Sugar Houses of Rowe** [clockwise from top left]: Chris Brown, with cousin Jay Williams, County Road ❖ Floyd & Phyllis Smith & family, Monroe Hill Road ❖ Dick Tower & family, Zoar Road ❖ and Junior & Shirley Veber & family, Hazelton Road. All photos by Carole Veber, Rowe MA.

Two Hundred and Twenty-First

Annual Report

Of the

Town of Rowe Massachusetts



*For the Year Ending
December 31, 2007*

*Compiled by: Ellen L. Babcock
Printed by: Adams Specialty & Printing Co.
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In Fond Remembrance



Leah Warren Gates
March 13, 1913 - March 7, 2007
Place of Death: Rowe MA



Kathleen G. Oliver
July 1, 1920 - June 5, 2007
Place of Death: Greenfield MA



Donald Jewett Atwood
April 16, 1931 - July 20, 2007
Place of Death: Williamstown MA

Jean Ann Atwood
March 9, 1932 - July 24, 2007
Place of Death: Williamstown MA

Town of Rowe

County of Franklin Commonwealth of Massachusetts

(First Settlement—Fort Pelham 1744 – Originally Known as the Plantation of Myrifiield)
Incorporated February 9, 1785

Population:	407
Total Area:	24.07 Square Miles
Land Area:	23.55 Square Miles
Public Roads:	45.30 Miles
Paved Roads:	36.24 Miles
Elevation:	1,370 Feet
Longitude:	W 072 53 55
Latitude:	N 42 41 42

FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Board of Selectmen; Open Town Meeting

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: Second Monday in May

ANNUAL ELECTION: First Saturday following Annual Town Meeting

Fiscal Year 2007 Tax Rates and Assessed Valuations:

CLASS	TAX RATE	VALUATION	LEVY	% OF TOTAL
Residential	\$4.11 per thousand	47,523,170.00	195,320.23	7.742%
Commercial	8.84 per thousand	316,685.00	2,799.50	0.111%
Industrial	8.84 per thousand	156,526,264.00	1,383,692.17	54.850%
Personal Property	8.84 per thousand	106,435,080.00	940,886.11	37.297%
Total		310,801,199.00	2,522,698.01	100.000%

Fiscal Year 2007 Revenue Sources

Tax Levy	2,522,698.00
Local Receipts	82,125.00
Cherry Sheet	177,515.00
Other Available Funds	165,794.00
Free Cash	272,295.00
Total	3,220,427.00

Fiscal Year 2007 Appropriations and Charges

Appropriations	3,041,951.04
Cherry Sheet Offsets	118,628.00
Cherry Sheet Charges	11,654.00
Snow & Ice Deficit	705.00
Allowance for Abatements & Exemptions	47,489.00
Total	3,220,427.00

Rowe – At a Glance

Socioeconomic

County	Franklin
School Structure	K-6; 7-12 Tuitioned
Form of Government	Selectmen / Open Town Meeting
2007 Population	407
2007 Labor Force	186
2007 Unemployment Rate	5.9
1999 Per Capita Income	28,134
2007 Population Per Square Mile	17.28
2007 Housing Units Per Square Mile	8.83
2007 Paved Road Miles	36.24
EQV Per Capita (2006 EQV/2006 Population)	867,520
Number of Registered Vehicles (January 2006)	493
Average Age of Vehicles (January 2006)	10.78
Number of Registered Voters (Dec 2007)	285

Fiscal Year 2007 Tax Classification

<i>Tax Classification</i>	<i>Assessed Values</i>	<i>Tax Levy</i>	<i>Tax Rate</i>
Residential	42,502,710	174,261	4.10
Open Space	0	0	0.00
Commercial	293,083	2,553	8.71
Industrial	155,369,764	1,353,271	8.71
Personal Property	105,706,720	920,706	8.71
Total	308,872,277	2,450,790	

Revenue by Sources

Revenue Source	FY07		FY08	
	Amount	% of Total	Amount	% of Total
Tax Levy	2,522,698	78.34	2,750,210	61.91
State Aid	177,515	5.51	176,085	3.96
Local Receipts	82,125	2.55	83,060	1.87
Other Available	438,089	13.60	1,432,837	32.26
Total	3,220,427	100.0	4,442,192	100.00

Proposition 2^{1/2} Levy Capacity

	<i>FY07</i>	<i>FY08</i>
New Growth	6,715	14,386
Override	0	0
Debt Exclusion	0	0
Levy Limit	2,523,128	2,750,592
Excess Capacity	430	382
Ceiling	7,770,030	7,771,542
Override Capacity	5,246,902	5,170,950

Bond Ratings

Moody's as of Jan 2008 and S&P as of Jan 2008

Not rated

Other Available Funds

**7/1/2007
Free Cash**
215,799

**FY2007
Stabilization Fund**
2,203,100

**FY2008
Overlay Reserve**
24,939

Rowe Average Single Family Tax Bill (tax bills issued semi-annually)

	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08
Number of Single Family Parcels	202	206	202	204	208
Assessed Value of Single Family	130,520	142,572	172,068	189,871	195,061
Average Single Family Tax Bill	469	512	705	780	882

State Average Single Family Tax Bill

	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07
Average Assessed Value Single Family	307,361	352,820	385,502	406,673
Average Single Family Tax Bill	3,412	3,588	3,801	3,962

Certification

Most Recent	2006
Next Scheduled	2009

Cherry Sheet Aid

	FY07	FY08
Education Aid	167,388	164,552
General Government	10,127	11,533
Total Receipts	177,515	176,085
Total Assessments	-11,654	-13,471
Net State Aid	165,861	162,614

Fiscal Year 2007 Schedule A – Actual Revenues and Expenditures

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise Funds	Trust Revenue	Total All Funds
Revenues	2,677,844	391,852	0	0	90,485	3,160,181
Expenditures	2,745,394	459,398	0	0	11,890	3,216,682
Police	24,962	0	0	0	0	24,962
Fire	98,269	0	0	0	0	98,269
Education	1,145,467	242,409	0	0	0	1,387,876
Public Works	466,280	190,311	0	0	0	656,591
Gen'l Fund Debt Service	0					0
Health Ins	260,026	0	0	0	0	260,026
Pension	104,410	0	0	0	0	104,410
All Other	645,980	26,678	0	0	11,890	684,548

Data does **not** reflect any transfers to or from other funds. Data should not be used to calculate an ending fund balance.

2007 Total Revenues and Expenditures Per Capita

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise Funds	Trust Revenue	Total All Funds
Revenues	7,586.0	1,110.1	0.0	0.0	256.3	8,952.4
Expenditures	7,777.3	1,301.4	0.0	0.0	33.7	9,112.4

MA Municipal Association Annual Town Report Contest

Category I
(Population 12,500 or greater)

1 st Place	Wilmington
2 nd Place	Arlington
3 rd Place	Brookline

Category II
(Population 5,000 to 12,499)

1 st Place	Bedford
2 nd Place	Lancaster
3 rd Place	Harvard

Category III
(Population 4,999 and under)

1 st Place	Rowe
2 nd Place	Edgarton
3 rd Place	Oak Bluffs



*Rowe Town Coordinator accepting award from
Massachusetts Municipal Association Officers*

The Town of Rowe again won an award at MMA's annual contest, with last year's 2006 report winning first place. Thank you to every one who contributed the report. These reports are both informative for townspeople and useful for town officials when planning for the town's future.

Ellen Babcock
Town Coordinator

Elected Town Officials

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Frederick N. Williams, Chair	2008
Ellen L. Babcock	2009
Heidi Cousineau	2010

BOARD OF HEALTH

Danette L. Reynolds-Gallagher, Chair	2008
Angela F. Foshay	2009
Daniel P. Poplawski	2010

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Myra B. Carlow, Chair	2008
Susan C. Wood	2009
James D. Brown	2010

CEMETERY COMMISSION

James W. Taylor	2008
Richard A. Tower	2009
James H. Williams, Chair	2010

CONSTABLE

Christine A. Tower	2008
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FINANCE COMMITTEE

William E. Loomis, Chair	2008
William Baker (<i>resigned 11-10-07</i>)	2008
Cara Morano	2009
Cynthia M. Laffond	2009
David Dvore	2010

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Ellynn B. Packard, Chair	2008
Jo-ann M. Brown	2009
Evelyn L. Dandeneau	2010

MODERATOR

Robert J. Clancy	2010
------------------	------

PARK COMMISSION

Eric A. Pike (<i>resigned 8-5-07</i>)	2008
Henry J. Dandeneau (<i>appt'd 8-10-07</i>)	2008
Earl P. Carlow	2009
Russell W. Jolly, Chair	2010

PLANNING BOARD

Jo-ann M. Brown	2008
David A. Roberson, Chair	2009
Angela F. Foshay	2010
Mitchell Soviecke (<i>resigned 7-17-07</i>)	2011
[Vacant]	2012

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Margaret B. Rice, Chair	2008
Lisa A. Danek-Burke	2009
Rebecca F. Richardson	2010

TAX COLLECTOR

Sandra P. Daviau	2010
------------------	------

TOWN CLERK

Heidi Cousineau	2008
-----------------	------

TREASURER

Heidi Cousineau	2010
-----------------	------

Appointed Town Officials/Employees

(Unless otherwise specified, appointments are made by Board of Selectmen and expire June 2008)

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/ ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Sandra P. Daviau (6-26-07)

AGENT FOR VETERANS

James D. Brown (7-10-07)

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION 3-yr term, staggered

Carol F. Lively (3 yrs – expires 2008) (6-7-05)
 Laura S. Roberson (3 yrs—expires 2008) (6-7-05)
 Debra Crowningshield (3 yrs—expires 2009) (7-27-06)
 Jonathon Lively (3 yrs – expires 2010) (7-10-07)
 MaryJo A. Phelps (3 yrs – expires 2010) (10-16-07)

ANIMAL INSPECTOR

Deborah L. Lively (3-20-07) - Resigned 8-07-07
 Laura S. Roberson (9-10-07)

ASSISTANT TOWN TREASURER

Susan B. Taylor (*appt by Treasurer, appvd by Selectboard*)

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE (7-10-07)

Marilyn H. Belval
 Jo-ann M. Brown
 Nancy Brown
 MaryJo A. Phelps (7-24-07)
 Richard A. Tower (7-24-07)
 John H. Williams

BOARD OF HEALTH CLERK

Ellen L. Babcock (Board of Health appt.) 6-29-07

BROADBAND INTERNET COMMITTEE (7-10-07)

Evelyn L. Dandeneau
 David Dvore
 Russell Jolly

Daniel Wessman
[Vacant]

BY-LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE (7-10-07)

Myra B. Carlow
Angela F. Foshay
Ellynn B. Packard
~~Michael M. Posever~~ – moved 10-31-07
John H. Williams

CARL NILMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Rebecca Bradley (7-10-07)

CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Ellen L. Babcock (6-26-07)

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE COOR.

Edwin L. May (6-26-07)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (3-yr term stag)

Myra B. Carlow (5-31-05) exp 6/2008
~~Cynthia M. Laffond~~ (11-15-05) exp 6/2008 - Resigned
Robert R. Rice (6-27-06) exp 6/2009
Robert J. Clancy (7-10-07) exp 6/2010
Prudence Berry (8-21-07) exp 6/2010
Nancy A. Brown (8-21-07) exp 6/2010

CONSTABLE

Roger L. Brown (9-4-07)

COUNCIL ON AGING (7-24-07)

Sandy P. Daviau, Co-Chair
Christine A. Tower, Co-Chair
Marilyn Belval (8-21-07)
Jo-ann M. Brown
Ellynn B. Packard

CULTURAL COUNCIL - Max 2 (3) yr terms

Terms must be staggered

Jo-ann M. Brown (7-10-07) (max 2010)
Daureen Petersen (5-31-05) (max 5/2011)
~~Annmarie Demetz~~ (11-29-05) - moved 10-31-07
Barbara J. Roche (6-27-06) (max 6/2012)
Elizabeth Vernes (6-27-06) (max 6-2012)
Jennifer Y. Wood (10-17-06) (max Oct 2012)
~~Ellynn Packard~~ – term expired Nov 2007
Kerri L. McLatchy (11-13-07) [max 11-2013]
Meghan K. McLatchy (11-13-07) [max 11-2013]

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SUPERINTENDENT

James W. Taylor (6-26-07)

DOG OFFICER

Russell Powers (7-10-07)

ELECTION OFFICERS (6-26-07)

Alan W. Bjork	Warden
Earl Carlow	Deputy Warden
Robin W. Reed	Clerk
Kristen C. Swenson	Deputy Clerk

ELECTION WORKERS (6-26-07)

John R. H. Packard (D)
Amy Chattin (U)
Shirley Veber (R)
Carole A. Veber (R)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

Edwin L. May (6-26-07)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (6-26-07)

Gail May, EMT, EMS Coordinator
Christopher Selmi Hyytinen, EMT

ENERGY COMMITTEE (7-10-07)

Earl Carlow
Carlos Heiligmann
John R. H. Packard, Chair
David A. Roberson
~~Richard K. Quinn~~ - Resigned 1-9-07

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

James W. Taylor (6-26-07)

FENCE VIEWERS

Earl P. Carlow (7-10-07)

FIELD DRIVER

[Vacant]

FIRE CHIEF

Edwin L. May (6-26-07)

FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS (7-10-07)

Daniel J. Miller, Deputy Chief
Dennis F. May, Captain
Paul McLatchy, Captain
Jonathan Lively, Lieutenant
William N. Reardon, Lieutenant
James A. White, Lieutenant

**FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS, Representative to**

James D. Brown (5-29-07)

FRANKLIN REGIONAL PLANNING BD, Rep to
[Vacant]

**FRANKLIN REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
REPRESENTATIVE**

Mary Ann Dykeman (7-10-07)

GRACY HOUSE STUDY COMMITTEE (7-24-07)

~~Annmarie Demetz~~ – Moved 10-31-07
Ellynn B. Packard
Judith A. Pierce
Paul P. Dunnell

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CONTROL OFFICER

Edwin L. May (6-26-07)

HEALTH AGENT

Lisa A. Danek-Burke (Board of Health appt.) 6-29-07

HISTORICAL COMMISSION (3-yr term, staggered)
Arlene Andognini 2-Yr Term Exp 2008 (7-25-06)
~~Ellynn B. Packard~~ 3-Yr Term Exp 2009 (7-25-06) - Resigned
John H. Williams 3-Yr Term Exp 2010 (7-10-07)

INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS
William G. Foster (6-26-07)

INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS, Alternate
FCCIP/James Hawkins (9-19-07)

MEASURERS OF WOOD, BARK and LUMBER
Ellsworth E. Palmer (7-10-07)
James H. Williams (7-10-07)
Thomas P. Danek, Jr. (7-10-07)

MMAC (Mohawk Municipal Advisory Committee), Rep to
Myra B. Carlow (5-29-07)

OLD HOME DAY COMMITTEE
Myra B. Carlow (7-24-07)
~~Jo-ann M. Brown~~ (7-24-07) Resigned

POUNDKEEPER
[Vacant]

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS (7-10-07)
Heidi Cousineau (U)
Judith A. Pierce (R)
Ellynn B. Packard (D)
Helen R. Shields (D)

**ROWE-HEATH EDUCATION EXPLORATORY
COMM** (9-18-07)
David Dvore
Jennifer Morse Sprague
Gerrit C. White

SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER - CHIEF
Henry J. Dandeneau (6-26-07)

SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS (6-26-07)
Charles Bellows
Jared Bellows
Melinda Herzig
Holland Herzig
Christopher Selmi Hyytinen
Gail May
David Rich

SUPT OF INSECT PEST & ELM DISEASE CONTROL
James W. Taylor (6-26-07)

TOWN ACCOUNTANT (3 yr appt.)
Ellen L. Babcock - expires 6/2008

TOWN COORDINATOR (3 yr appt.)
Ellen L. Babcock - expires 6/2008

TOWN COUNSEL
Kopelman and Paige, PC (6-26-07)

TRANSFER STATION ATTENDANT
Richard A. Tower (Board of Health appt.) 6-29-07

TREE WARDEN
James W. Taylor (6-26-07)

YANKEE LAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
James D. Brown
Nancy A. Brown
Rosemary R. Gordon
David W. Lenth
Voted to disband committee on 8-21-07

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (3-year term)
Lillian H. Danek, Term Expires 2009 (7-25-06)
Floyd W. Smith, Term Expires 2009 (7/25/06)
Roger L. Brown, Term Expires 2010 (7-24-07)
Judith A. Pierce, Term Expires 2010 (7-24-07)
George L. Gaudry, Term Expires 2008 (5-31-05)

ZBA ALTERNATES (3-year term)
Myra B. Carlow, Term Expires 2010 (7-24-07)
Marilyn Wilson, Term Expires 2010 (11-27-07)

Appointments to Fill Elected Position Vacancies

PARK COMMISSION
Henry J. Dandeneau (9-18-07)
[Joint appointment—Selectboard and Park Commission]

PLANNING BOARD
Ellynn B. Packard (9-4-07)
[Joint appointment—Selectboard and Planning Board]

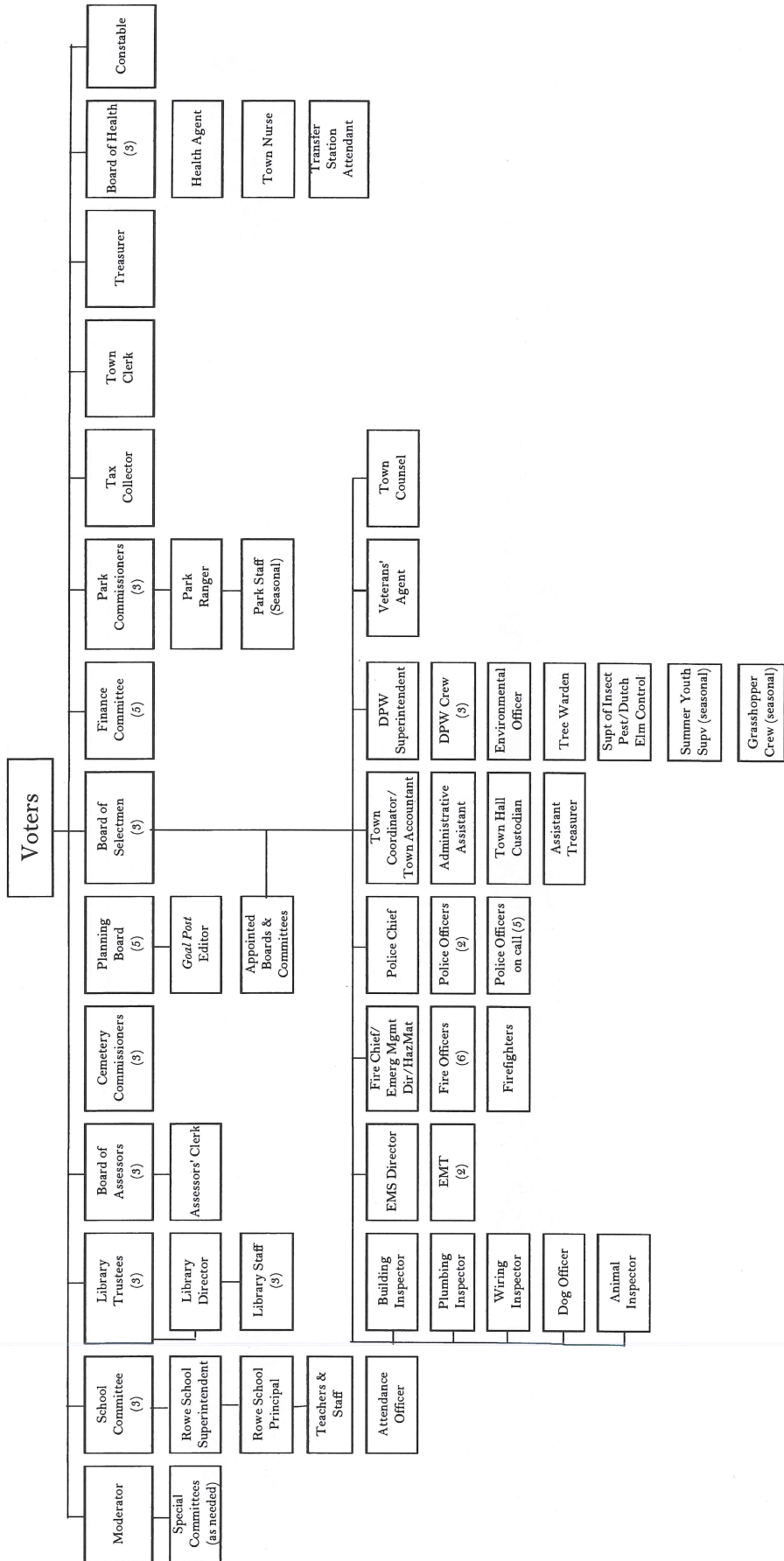
Note: Appointees' terms expire May 17, 2008

Town of Rowe

Appointed Boards, Committees & Other Positions

Administration & Finance	Elections	Planning & Environment	Human Services	Public Safety	Schools
By-Law Review Committee	Election Officers	Agricultural Commission	Council on Aging	Building Code Board of Appeals	Carl Nilman Scholarship Fund
FRCOG Representative	Election Workers	Broadband Internet Committee	FCCA Representative	Fence Viewers	MMAC Representative
Public Works	Registrars of Voters	Conservation Commission	FCHCC Representative	Field Drivers	Culture & Recreation
Beautification Committee		Energy Committee	FCSWMD Representative	Pound Keepers	Cultural Council
Gracy House Study Committee		Rowe Historical Commission	Veterans' Agent	Measurers of Wood, Bark & Lumber	Old Home Day Committee
		Zoning Board of Appeals			

Town of Rowe Organizational Chart





PART I

Reports of Committees, Departments and Boards

Board of Selectmen

With the election of James (Jim) Brown to the Board of Selectmen in May 2007, the full complement of three members was reestablished. Continuing members Myra Carlow and Susan Wood welcomed Jim as an experienced Selectman who had served previous terms.

Much of the attention and activity of the Selectboard during 2007 has been related to efforts to provide for the future stability and needs of the Town—in terms of both physical assets and virtual ones.

Capital Improvement Plan and Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund

The Challenge

During the summer of 2006 the Rowe Selectboard began a process to determine if there was a mechanism by which the town could continue to hold increases in the operating budgets to approximately 2½% a year and accumulate sufficient savings to ensure the continuing preservation of the assets that the town is so fortunate to own.

The Response

In August 2006, joined initially by two members of the Finance Committee, they began the process of creating a Capital Improvement Plan. Working with all the departments, committees and boards with responsibility for buildings, equipment, furnishings and vehicles, they began to develop a list of all the capital items (items expected to last five years or more) and, for each item, endeavored to determine: the “useful life” (how long it should last), its age, the replacement cost, how and when it should be replaced.

As the spreadsheet took shape, they explored the various funding scenarios and determined that, if the town specifically devoted approximately half of the general Stabilization Fund (\$1,100,000) to a Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund, and added to it \$150,000 each year, the Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund would be sufficient to use to pay for the substantial repair and replacement of all of the town’s capital items for at least the next twenty years.

At the Annual Town Meeting and election in May 2007, the Town approved the creation of the Municipal Capital Stabilization Plan, approved the transfer of \$1,100,000 from the General Stabilization Fund into the new Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund, and approved a Proposition 2½ override to specifically deposit \$150,000 into the Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund each year that the Selectmen vote to do so.

As part of the future budgeting process the Selectmen will request that each department, committee, commission and board with responsibility for capital assets carefully review the Capital Improvement Plan and discuss with them any recommended changes. The Capital Improvement Plan will be revised as necessary to reflect adjustments and corrections in information and assumptions.

Improvement in Telephone Service Provided by Verizon New England

The Challenge

The Selectboard members have repeatedly received complaints from town residents about the very poor telephone service many of them receive; i.e., noise and static on the line, frequent dropped calls, lengthy interruptions in service, and delays in repairs.

The Response

Seizing the opportunity of a *Petition to Install Poles* from Verizon New England to install 33 additional poles in the Town of Rowe in order to install fiber optic cable across Rowe to Monroe Bridge, the Board of Selectmen made extensive efforts to get the company to make a commitment to improve the terrible telephone service provided to the Town. Once the Selectmen realized that the Pole Petition process was not the appropriate avenue for this effort, they filed a *Petition Relative to Telephone Service*, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 159, §24 with the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable (DTC) in early August 2007. DTC has held a public hearing and is proceeding with the gathering of information and evidence relative to the petition. Subsequent to the hearing, Verizon New England has frequently been present in Rowe and has made numerous repairs and replacements to its equipment.

High-speed Internet Service/Broadband Access

The Challenge

With no access to high speed internet/broadband, many town residents are severely handicapped in terms of conducting their daily lives: students are at a disadvantage in their classrooms and residents are restricted in their ability to earn an income by working from their homes.

The Response

With funds appropriated at a Special Town Meeting in 2007, the Broadband Committee had a study performed to assess the possibilities of installing its own system for the provision of broadband access. The study has been completed and describes three possible scenarios with approximate costs. The Town’s Broadband Committee expects to present its findings and recommendations to the Annual Town Meeting in May 2008.

Energy Building Improvements in Town Buildings

The Challenge

Town buildings, particularly the Rowe Elementary School, have heating and lighting systems which could be much more energy efficient and cost less to operate. However, the cost of replacing the old, inefficient systems with new ones would require a significant capital outlay.

The Response

The Town’s Energy Committee, under the auspices of the Board of Selectmen and in conjunction with the School

Committee, put out a *Request for Qualifications for Energy Savings Performance Contracting*. (RFQ) in October 2007. Utilizing the provisions in M.G.L. Ch. 25A, §111, the Town is seeking a program of building improvements that will be paid for over time by the funds realized through energy savings. Four major energy service companies (ESCOs) submitted proposals. The present time-line predicts that an ESCO will be selected in mid-February and the major work performed during the summer of 2008.

Access to Community Development Block Grant Funds

The Challenge

In recent years the town had not qualified to receive Federal Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds which could be used by the town for major capital projects, and also by moderate-income homeowners for the repair and rehabilitation of their homes.

The Solution

During the end of 2006 and early 2007 the Selectboard prepared and submitted the documents necessary to establish the town's eligibility for CDBG funds and in the summer of 2007 the town was awarded approximately \$130,000 which could be used by eligible families to make improvements in their homes. Currently four households are in some stage of this process for home improvements.

In late 2007 the town was notified that it could be part of an application for eligibility for FY2009 funds. The application was completed and accepted as part of the larger application. This eligibility means that additional families may receive funds to rehabilitate their homes. The eligibility also means that the town may also apply for funds for some kinds of major projects a well.

Selectboard's Goals

Progress on the other items on the list of Selectboard's Goals adopted in 2006 and reaffirmed in 2007, are as follows:

- *Complete By-law Review/Revision* - The By-Law Review Committee has completed its work and is prepared to submit its recommendations for the general by-laws to townspeople for review and approval in conjunction with the Planning Board's proposed revision of the Zoning By-Laws.
- *Create Personnel Policies for Town Employees* - This project was put on hold until FY08. Proposed policies from other town's and agencies are being reviewed by the Selectboard. A specific policy was adopted for the procedures employees are to follow when requesting use of benefit time.
- *Stabilize Gracy House and Develop Proposal for its Disposition* - The Gracy House committee met during 2007, discussed possible future uses of the building, and held an open house in the building during which town residents completed a survey regarding future use of the building. The Committee's recommendations were that

the building not be sold or demolished. In addition, following the open house and survey, they recommended that the building be stabilized while its future use is determined and that it be used for the town's senior population.

Volunteers removed the old wet insulation from the basement of the building and installed plastic sheeting to reduce the amount of moisture in the basement. A structural engineer was hired who declared that the building could be used on a temporary and limited basis for occasional events. The Park Department and Rowe School's PTP held a very successful Halloween event for a number of children and their families, and the Council on Aging plans to use the space as well.

- *Create Pandemic Preparedness Plan* - The departments responsible for developing this process continue to work together and with the state and federal agencies responsible for this matter. Two projects related to this overall plan which were completed in 2007:
 - o installation of the emergency generator at the Rowe School, and
 - o implementation of an Emergency Notification System whereby emergency announcements are communicated to all residents by telephone and email. [This system is used for general announcements as well.]
- *Work Towards Identifying a Source for Residential Electricity Aggregation* - The Energy Committee continues to monitor the progress being made by agencies attempting to develop this program. This has moved more slowly than originally anticipated, as the Hampshire Council of Governments is working to develop a residential program.

Town Hall Staff

During 2007 Custodian Connie Sherman resigned her position in order to accept a promotion and greater responsibility in her "other" job. Although we regretted losing her, we congratulate her on her new position. After considering three excellent candidates, all Rowe residents, we selected Julie Shippee to fill the position. Julie continues in the tradition of those before her. The Town Hall is in excellent condition!

At the Annual Election in May 2007 Heidi Cousineau, who had been appointed to fill an unexpired term in 2006, was elected as Town Treasurer. Sharon Hudson declined reappointment as Assistant Treasurer and Susan Taylor was appointed to the position.

Heidi, who is also the elected Town Clerk, joins Ellen Babcock (Town Coordinator/Accountant) and Sandy Daviau (Administrative Assistant, Tax Collector and Assessors' Clerk) to complete the "Town Hall Administrative Trio" who work long and hard to meet the needs of town residents and elected officials. We thank you all for the time and effort you put in to your jobs.

Public Safety

Rowe is indeed fortunate to continue to have such skilled and conscientious Police, Fire and EMS personnel. Once again we extend our thanks to them for the many hours they give to the Town in being on call, receiving training and responding to emergencies. Every one deserves our appreciation and we give special thanks to Fire Chief and Emergency Manger Ed May, Police Chief Henry Dandeneau and EMS Coordinator Gail May.

Department of Public Works

Late in 2006 the DPW hired town resident Matt Crowningshield to fill the vacant fourth position on the highway department. Matt had worked for the department as one of the two part-time extra drivers.

The DPW, under the leadership of Jim Taylor, continues to provide the town with roads which are the envy of the entire county. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Myra Carlow, Chair
Susan Wood
James Brown

Agricultural Commission

The Rowe Agricultural Commission began 2007 with a public presentation by Jack Kittredge of the Northeast Organic Farmers' Association about the USDA's proposed National Animal Identification System and its potential ramifications for small farmers and livestock owners. This subject continued to be a topic of discussion throughout the year.

In October the Commission resolved to finalize a draft "Right To Farm" bylaw and present it for consideration to voters in an upcoming Town Meeting.

The Commission also voted to recommend Mary Jo Phelps for the vacant seat on the Commission. The Selectmen subsequently appointed her to the position. Welcome Mary Jo!

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Roberson, Chairman
Deb Crowningshield
Carol Lively
Jonathan Lively
Mary Jo Phelps

Animal Inspector

	Adult	Young
Cattle: Dairy	8	5
Cattle: Beef	18	10
Cattle: Steer/Oxen	1	-
Goats	20	8
Sheep	9	-
Horses/Ponies	25	1
Chickens	93	-
Turkeys	4	-
Waterfowl	6	-

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Roberson
Animal Inspector

Beautification

Spring again brought the arrival of the varied daffodils gracing the side garden at the Town Hall, the Veterans' Memorial, and near the roadside of residents of Hazelton and Tunnel Roads (along the Lenth, Babcock, Laffond and Besgen properties, et.al.).

Earlier still a carpet of mixed petite yellow, blue, white and violet croci cascaded down the hill between the town Library and Rowe Conference Center's Stone Church.

Window boxes of red geraniums, licorice stick and dusty miller added their bright note to the town hall and the library; and graced the front of the Veterans' Memorial in time for Memorial Day.

These were planted by Jodi Brown and Marilyn Belval. A planting of the same was done in the Town Common's wishing well, as well as in the planters fronting the Fire Station. The gazebo wore a wealth of amethyst blooms. The committee hired Green Care Landscaping service to weed, mulch, prepare and fertilize the beds by the Veterans' Memorial, Town Hall and Gazebo; and to replace the pale pink roses along the Town Common's split rail fence with eight resistant, hardy "Knock Out" rose bushes—Rosa "Radrazz." These rewarded the town with a brilliant show up until autumn.

The pink roses were transplanted along the Refuse Garden split rail fence. Dick Tower kept his window boxes at this facility blooming profusely—as usual—for all to enjoy.

Jodi and Marilyn then planted bright yellow marigolds in the Town Hall's main bed, and Jodi placed several dusty millers, grape gladioli, white gladioli and a few orange marigolds in the area. Earlier, red and yellow tulips had announced

and produced a spring bouquet. The wishing well by the Barnard Memorial, across from the Town Common, was hung with rose, white and purple wave petunias and the Gazebo was adorned by six lavender ivy geraniums.

The raised bed on the side of the Library (a perennial bed planted last season) rewarded us with lupine, lilies, mountain bluebells, bleeding hearts, evening primroses, and lambs' ears, and late in summer purple bee balm. Daisies nodded between the perennial growth.

The committee welcomed Nancy Brown on board, but said farewell to our Co-Chair Ellen Babcock, who served so well and was a font of knowledge—having over twenty years to her credit. Ron and Rosie Gordon again watered when Jodi vacationed.

Come Fall, Jim Taylor, DPW Superintendent and Tree Warden, requested a meeting with the committee in regard to a grant from National Grid for \$5,000 to be used for tree replacement. The committee, Jim and a representative from Stewart's Nursery met and exchanged ideas about number

and type of tree desired. Two workshops followed, including a drive-through to assess spots in town where trees might be planted. A support letter from the committee was written to aid the Tree Warden in obtaining said grant.

Members prefer receiving "antique" type trees such as elm and sycamore, to name a few. Further study and action will occur Spring 2008.

The Town Common and Library were bedecked with scarecrows, pumpkins, mums and haystacks—thank you Dick Tower—during the autumnal months.

The Beautification Committee extends an invitation to all townspeople to join in ideas and attend meetings to continue to maintain Rowe's rustic vistas.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Brown, Chair & Secretary
Marilyn Belval
Nancy Brown
MaryJo Phelps
Dick Tower
Jack Williams

Board of Health

With the resignation of Board of Health member **Dick Alix** on February 20, 2007, the Board functioned with two members until the May annual election when **Dan Poplawski** was voted to the Board. When the Board convened following the election, **Danette Reynolds-Gallagher** was elected chairman.

Rowe Health Agent

Lisa Danek-Burke was reappointed Health Agent for Rowe. In this capacity she conducts inspections of food establishments, bed & breakfast facilities, children's camps and housing; performs soils evaluations at percolation tests, reviews septic system plans and provides guidance to the Board when needed. Lisa is a Registered Sanitarian, Title 5 Inspector, Certified Soil Evaluator and is *Serv-Safe* certified. Her qualifications and vast reservoir of patience are great assets to the Board of Health.

Title 5

The Board reviewed building permit applications as required by state Title 5 regulations. Septic system inspections, soils evaluations/percolation tests, etc, pertaining to Title 5 are a major portion of the Board's workload—the details of which are on the following page.

Transfer Station/Solid Waste Disposal

Dick Tower was reappointed Transfer Station Attendant. Due to medical reasons, Dick needed to take time off starting in late October and so the Board reluctantly agreed to a

sabbatical for Dick's manager, **Archie** the junkyard dog. **Jim Lively** and **Ted Palmer** are sharing the attendant position until Dick returns. As for a fill-in for Archie, we will continue to try to teach Jim and Ted to eat dog biscuits and carry a stuffed toy in their mouth. We wish Dick a speedy recovery and thank Jim and Ted for continuing the good work that Dick does at the Transfer Station.

The Board thanks **Jan Ameen** and the staff at Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) for providing us with such good service. FCSWMD manages all of our solid waste, recycling and hauling contracts; the regional hazardous waste collection days; and our sharps and bio-hazard waste collection. They also compile all necessary reports and statistics throughout the year as well as respond promptly to our questions and requests. [Please see their separate report in the Regional section of this town report.]

Recycling

Rowe's recycling rate for paper, glass and plastic for 2007 was 22.3%, down from 23% in 2006. Of the nineteen (19) towns serviced by the FCSWMD, Rowe had the second lowest recycling rate. Please recycle. It reduces our disposal costs and keeps reusable items out of the landfills. Earnings from recycling are held in escrow by the FCSWMD and used to purchase copy paper for the town offices and offset our annual assessment from FCSWMD.

Water Management

Bill Enser and Berkshire-Enviro Labs of Lee, MA continued to serve as our Certified Water Operator for our four (4) Public Water Supplies—the Town Hall well, the Rowe Elementary School well, the Avery Fountain and the well at Pelham Lake Park. Berkshire-Enviro Labs conducts monthly testing on these four water supplies as well as weekly testing at the swimming area at Pelham Lake Park during the swimming season.

Board of Health Clerk

Once again **Ellen Babcock** accepted appointment as Board of Health Clerk enabling us to tap her expertise in Board of Health matters (and the chocolate jar in her office). Ellen has served on many boards and committees in Rowe over the years and we are lucky to have someone with her experience assist us.

Town Nurse

From January 1 until June 30, 2007 **Ruth Loomis**, NP served as the Rowe Town Nurse. In July 2007 the Board unanimously appointed **Sheila Litchfield**, RN as the temporary Town Nurse while they searched for a replacement. At Sheila's suggestion, the Board created a Nursing

Advisory Committee comprised of currently licensed nurses residing in Rowe. The committee is to function in a technical advisory capacity to the Board of Health and as a professional peer group for the town nurse. The Board thanks Lisa Miller, Maggie Rice and Cathy Snyder for volunteering to serve on the committee. [Please see the Town Nursing Services report in the Human Services section of this town report.]

In Closing...

Although some may disagree, the Board of Health tries to do what it believes is in the best interest of the town. We continue to follow our two guiding principles:

1. To treat all persons fairly and equally when enforcing State and local regulations, and
2. To assist all townspeople in finding satisfactory resolutions to the disparate problems that arise.

For all of their help and guidance we thank Lisa, Ellen, Sheila, Jim, Ted, and Dick and the townspeople for their understanding and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Danette Reynolds-Gallagher, Chair
Angela F. Foshay
Daniel Poplawski

Board of Health – Licensing, Inspections and Tests

LICENSES ISSUED

Septic Hauler/Pumper

A-1 Enterprises, Bernardston, MA
A-1 Septic & Sewer, North Adams, MA
Bostley Sanitary Services, Colrain, MA
Greg's Wastewater, Greenfield, MA
Houghton Sanitary Service, Greenfield, MA

Food Establishment

Rowe Camp & Conference Center (Farmhouse Kitchen)
Rowe Camp & Conference Center (Rec Hall Kitchen)
Rowe Elementary School

Bed & Breakfast

Maple House Bed & Breakfast

Children's Camps

Rowe Camp & Conference Center - Junior High Camp
- Transitions/Young Peoples' Camp
- Senior High Camp

Septic System Installer

Barkus Excavating, Readsboro VT
Danek Excavating, Rowe MA
Dodge Excavating, Florida MA
James H. Williams, Rowe MA

Temporary Food Establishment

Halifax Community Club
Readsboro Lions Club
Rowe Community Church

Caterer

Maple House Bed & Breakfast

TITLE 5 INSPECTIONS

Map 6 Lot 7	Old Cyrus Stage Road (Marchegiani)	Failed (Distribution box to be replaced)
Map 11 Lot 69	Leshure Road (Weller)	Passed

SOIL EVALUATIONS/PERCOLATION TESTS

Map 4 Lot 22	Brittingham Hill Road (Pierce)	Repair – Passed
Map 6 Lot 58	Davis Mine Road (Silva)	New Construction – Passed

SEPTIC SYSTEM INSTALLATION APPLICATIONS APPROVED

Map 6 Lot 58	Davis Mine Road (Silva)	New Construction
Map 11 Lot 30	Stone Hill Road (May)	New Construction
Map 6 Lot 7	Old Cyrus Stage Road (Marchegiani)	Repair
Map 12 Lot 65	Ford Hill Road (Williams)	Repair
Map 4 Lot 22	Brittingham Hill Road (Pierce)	Repair
Map 1 Lot 49	Zoar Road (Posever)	Repair
Map 11 Lot 66	Leshure Road (Little)	Repair
Map 1 Lot 34	Hazelton Road (Grogan)	Repair

SEPTIC SYSTEM INSTALLATION PERMITS ISSUED

Map 6 Lot 58	Davis Mine Road (Silva)	New Construction
Map 11 Lot 30	Stone Hill Road (May)	New Construction
Map 11 Lot 68	Cross Road (Snyder)	Repair
Map 1 Lot 11	Newell Cross Road (McLatchy)	Repair
Map 6 Lot 7	Old Cyrus Stage Road (Marchegiani)	Repair
Map 12 Lot 65	Ford Hill Road (Williams)	Repair
Map 1 Lot 49	Zoar Road (Posever)	Repair
Map 11 Lot 66	Leshure Road (Little)	Repair
Map 1 Lot 34	Hazelton Road (Grogan)	Repair

SEPTIC SYSTEM INSTALLATION FINAL INSPECTIONS

Map 11 Lot 68	Cross Road (Snyder)
Map 1 Lot 11	Newell Cross Road (McLatchy)
Map 12 Lot 65	Ford Hill Road (Williams)
Map 1 Lot 49	Zoar Road (Posever)
Map 11 Lot 66	Leshure Road (Little)
Map 1 Lot 34	Hazelton Road (Grogan)

PUMPING RECORDS

Map 11 Lot 18	Cross Road (Williams College)	2500 gal	Condition not noted
Map 2 Lot 8	Pond Road (Rowe School)	6500 gal	Good
Map 1 Lot 60	Ford Hill Road (Magnago)	1500 gal	Good
Map 11 Lot 89	Potter Road (Donelson)	1500 gal	Condition not noted
Map 12 Lot 84	Ford Hill Road (Bickford)	1000 gal	Good
Map 6 Lot 54	Dell Road (Wayne)	1000 gal	Good
Map 12 Lot 66	Shippee Road (Gates)	1000 gal	Good
Map 12 Lot 48	Shippee Road (Brown)	1000 gal	Good
Map 2 Lot 12	Middletown Hill Road (Bradley)	1500 gal	Good
Map 3 Lot 24	King's Highway (RC&CC)	1000 gal	Good
Map 11 Lot 28	Stone Hill Road (Baker)	1000 gal	Good
Map 1 Lot 19	Middletown Hill Road (Spratlan)	2500 gal	Good
Map 2 Lot 19	Pond Road (Taylor)	1000 gal	Good
Map 2 Lot 61	Middletown Hill Road (Williams)	1500 gal	Good
Map 2 Lot 12	Middletown Hill Road (Bradley)	1375 gal	Good
Map 1 Lot 31	Pine Hill Drive (Benson)	1000 gal	Good
Map 12 Lot 81	Ford Hill Road (Williams)	1000 gal	Good
Map 2 Lot 11	Pond Road (Phillips)	1000 gal	Good
Map 1 Lot 34	Hazelton Road (Grogan)	500 gal	Good
Map 11 Lot 23	Shumway Road (Brown)	1000 gal	Good
Map 12 Lot 14	Potter Road (Shields)	1000 gal	Good
Map 11 Lot 8	Cross Road (Williams College)	2500 gal	Good
Map 2 Lot 60	Ford Hill Road (Rice)	1000 gal	Good
Map 11 Lot 118	Old Cyrus Stage Road (Cousineau)	1500 gal	Good

PUMPING RECORDS (Cont.)

Map 2 Lot 15	Pond Road (Grodd)	2000 gal	Good
Map 8 Lot 11	Brittingham Hill Road (Rice)	1000 gal	Good
Map 11 Lot 69	Leshure Road (Weller)	1000 gal	Good
Map 13 Lot 23	Tunnel Road (Brown)	1000 gal	Good
Map 6 Lot 13	Dell Road (Corarito)	1000 gal	Good
Map 4 Lot 18	Brittingham Hill Road (Davidson)	1000 gal	Good
Map 1 Lot 38	Hazelton Road (Gordon)	1000 gal	Good
Map 10 Lot 21	Steel Brook Road (Gordon)	1000 gal	Good
Map 11 Lot 89	Potter Road (Donelson)	1500 gal	Condition not noted
Map 3 Lot 57	County Branch Road (Clancy)	1000 gal	Good
Map 1 Lot 43	Hazelton Road (Stetson)	1000 gal	Good
Map 1 Lot 50	Newell Cross Road (Larned)	1500 gal	Good
Map 11 Lot 18	Cross Road (Williams College)	1500 gal	Good

FOOD & HOUSING INSPECTIONS

Maple House Bed & Breakfast

Rowe Camp & Conference Center
Junior High Camp
Transitions/Young People's Camp
Senior High Camp
Farmhouse Kitchen
Rec Hall Kitchen

Rowe Elementary School Cafeteria

Rowe Old Home Day Food Vendors
Halifax Community Club
Readsboro Lions Club
Rowe Community Church

WELL LOGS RECEIVED

None

Broadband & Telecommunications Committee

In 2007 we continued our investigation into possible Broadband solutions for Rowe and kept abreast of State and Regional developments. There is some activity and the State may come up with some money for Broadband development, but progress will be slow and it is uncertain how much help we can expect here in Rowe where our population is so small.

Telecommunications

We were also tasked this year to work on improved telecommunications for Rowe. For many years, we have had poor quality telephone service, slow repairs, and no cell phone reception. There is not much we can do about cell phone service—it's entirely up to the companies whether they want to develop the infrastructure to service our area. We've contacted both Verizon and AT&T, but neither have offered any solutions other than to keep on asking.

As many of you know, Verizon is divesting its landline assets in Vermont. As a result, they need to service the power plants and Monroe Bridge from Massachusetts as they had previously been serviced from Readsboro VT. To accomplish this Verizon decided to bring a fiber optic line from Charlemont to Monroe Bridge through Rowe. They needed

permission to put up some new poles in Rowe. Our Committee recommended that the Selectmen use this as leverage to ask for upgraded phone service and DSL. Verizon refused and would not even bring the fiber to our remote terminals (switch boxes used to service most of our residents) for possible future use. The ensuing battle resulted in Rowe filing a complaint with the Massachusetts DTC. Our committee did what we could to supply the Selectmen with technical information in support of the complaint. Thusfar there is no resolution, but Verizon has been busy performing many repairs on the existing lines and may finally be bringing fiber to our Remote Terminals. We don't know when this might result in better phone service or DSL, but things are happening.

Broadband Possibilities for Rowe

Our 2006 Request for Proposals had disappointing results. Only three companies submitted proposals. Two of them said that an engineering study was required before they could submit a proper proposal, and the third was very expensive because they had to bid high to cover contingencies for unknowns which could be addressed by having an engineering study. So the logical next step was to commission a study.

We hired Doug Norton of AccessPlus Communications to do the study. We asked him to look at a variety of possibilities and come up with an inexpensive low-end solution, a high-end pie-in-the-sky solution, and an affordable mid-range solution. In December, Doug presented to the Broadband Internet Committee three possible solutions for making Broadband Internet available to residents in Rowe. The final report will be submitted in 2008, but the bulk of the information is now available. Here is a summary:

First, it's necessary to explain that the reason companies are not bringing broadband internet service to rural areas like ours is that they cannot recover the initial cost of building a delivery network. In most models the monthly operational costs can be met by subscription fees of about \$35 to \$40 per month and yield a small profit. But the substantial initial investment would not be paid back in a reasonable time period. This is a situation similar to the development of roads, electric lines, telephone lines, etc., in which an initial investment by Government was necessary to enable use of these infrastructures by individuals and corporations.

If Rowe, possibly in partnership with other sources, is willing to make an initial one-time investment, then service can be provided for a monthly subscription fee to the residents. The study assumes about 70% of households would subscribe resulting in sufficient income to operate and maintain the network with no further infusion of cash from the Town.

System Speed - The target data rate for the study is to deliver 1 Mbps service. This is about 50 times faster than typical telephone modem connections in Rowe, so a page that takes a minute to load would only take a little over a second. A 3MB photo attached to an email that takes 20 minutes to retrieve via modem would just take 25 seconds to receive. Those of you who have satellite systems that are rated as 1 Mbps should understand that this does not compare. Satellite connections suffer from an effect called latency which reduced the average data rate because of the time it takes to bounce the signal off a satellite. Satellite systems only achieve their full rate when streaming a large file. For typical web browsing—especially for secure sites—the actual rate is much lower. So a 1 Mbps land-based system will be much faster and more responsive than a 1 Mbps satellite system in most situations. As newer applications are available on the internet, the need for higher speeds will grow—but for now, 1 Mbps is fine.

The three approaches are: 1) A low-end all wireless 900 MHz network for \$160k; 2) A high-end all fiber network for \$1.4M; and an intermediate hybrid fiber and 2.4GHz wireless mesh network for \$500k. Here are some pros and cons for each:

The Low-End all-wireless 900MHz system would involve putting up about 7 to 10 mini-towers. Users would have to have a special modem unit to connect. These cost about \$400-\$500, but could be bought as part of the system. Though this system is much cheaper to implement, it would probably only be good for about 10 years due to the life of the components and the fact that it is not scalable; i.e., as requirements for higher capacity grow, this

system could not handle it. The speed and quality of the connections depend on the signal strength, so there may be a few people—10% or 20%—whose service would be sub par (but still much better than modem). There may be a small number who could not connect because of topography. Also, about half of the residents would not have sufficiently good service to use VOIP (Internet telephone service) or VPN (secure networking needed by some to connect to their business networks).

The High-End All Fiber network would provide all of the capacity we could possibly need for the foreseeable future—at least 50 years. Every resident could receive high quality connections capable of internet, VOIP (telephone), and even video (TV) if desired. Telephone and TV would involve separate subscription fees on top of the internet service. As need for higher capacity grows, fiber is capable of handling it easily.

The Intermediate Hybrid Fiber – Wireless Mesh solution involves running about 4 miles of fiber, and then branching off wireless service from the fiber. The 2.4 GHz system used in this approach requires about 60 radio units mostly put on telephone poles. This wireless system has more capacity than the 900MHz all wireless solution, but the radios have shorter range and do not penetrate vegetation as well. The economic life of the radios might be about 15 years, and there is some scalability as requirements grow—but not nearly as much as the fiber. When the system does need to be upgraded, the fiber component could be maintained and the radios replaced with fiber or other technologies. One special advantage to this network is that it should be possible to connect with a wireless equipped laptop anywhere in range, whereas the other two bring service to fixed nodes. Nearly everybody should be able to get the rated level of service. About 70% would have sufficient quality service to use VOIP telephone. Video is not an option.

Economics – The three solutions range greatly in cost and benefit. Even the low-end system for \$160k would require a Proposition 2½ override or digging into the Stabilization fund. The Selectmen are reluctant to go for a Proposition 2½ override, while the Finance Committee has recommended that, if anything, we should be building up Stabilization and not depleting it. So there will be much to discuss about how to pay for any of these systems. To put the cost in perspective, the *low-end* system could be paid for with a one-time 3% surcharge on real estate taxes. The *high-end* system as a one-time \$1.4M —about the same as we spend every year for the school budget (when you include benefits), would be a 46% surcharge if done all in one year. The *intermediate* as a one time surcharge would be 17%. For the intermediate and high-end solutions, it would probably be advisable to spread out the payments over a number of years by issuing a bond or taking out a loan. The number of years that you can spread the payments depends on the life expectancy of the system. For the hybrid system, it would be reasonable to spread the payments over 7 years, which—depending on the interest rate—would bring the tax increase down to about 3% for those years. Spreading the high-end fiber system out over 15 years would bring it down to about

4%; longer time periods would bring it down more. While the actual figures may seem high, it would be a major piece of infrastructure that would provide service for many years.

Those are the basics. For those who would like to see more details, a draft of the Engineering Study is available at the Library. A final version will be available soon. There are many nuances which could be discussed: ways to bring the cost down; other possible sources of funding; pay-back schemes, etc. There is interest on Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee to proceed with something. However, what, if anything, happens will largely depend on the interest of the Townspeople. It's a major undertaking that can only be justified if there is a sufficient show of support.

Concluding Statements

The Rowe Broadband & Telecommunications Committee has continued to serve the town for its stated goals. As a committee, we work together well. We were short one member mid-way through 2007 due to Cara Morano declining to be reappointed in July. Then in December Dan Wessman resigned for personal reasons. Both were valuable contributors to our discussions with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. We miss them both. At the time of writing this, Ray Wilson has just been appointed and we welcome him to our committee.

Going forward, we will continue to monitor developments at the State and Regional level to see what possibilities this may open for Rowe. Should the town decide to fund any of the proposed solutions for Broadband in Rowe, we would be actively involved in implementing them. Otherwise, we feel we have done our job and it is largely up to the Town to decide if it wants to act on the information we have provided.

Broadband & Telecommunications
Committee

David Dvore, Chair
Evie Dandeneau
Russ Jolly
Ray Wilson

Building Inspector

During the year 2007, 31 building permits were issued:

Remodeling	1
New Building/additions	7
New Siding	2
New Windows	2
Demolitions	1
New roofs	5
Wood Stoves	2
Decks	4
Repairs	1
Chimneys	3
Interior Renovations	3
Total	31

In addition, 31 Certificates of Inspection were issued.

Respectfully submitted,

William Foster, Inspector of Buildings
413-339-8393

Cemetery Commission

The Cemetery Commission would like to thank Terry and Carole Veber and Al Morse for their hard work maintaining the cemetery grounds.

Levin Hardison continued work on the East cemetery stone walls, and proceeded on work at the North cemetery. Levin's superb craftsmanship is outstanding and we are grateful for the work he does for the town. Repair work on damaged monuments will continue.

Cemetery lots are available in the East and West cemeteries. All lots have been sold in the North Cemetery. Please contact Chairman Jim Williams at 339-4731 for additional information concerning purchasing a lot(s).

Anyone with questions or comments, please contact any commissioner.

Respectfully submitted,

James H. Williams, Chair
James W. Taylor
Richard A. Tower, Sr.

Conservation Commission

A **Request for Determination** was filed by **Bear Swamp Power Company** for planned activities to create a one-mile hiking trail off of lower Tunnel Road, terminating at an overlook above the Fife Brook hydro station. At a public hearing on May 30, 2007, the Conservation Commission found that a *Notice of Intent* was not required, as the work described was within an area subject to protection under the *Wetlands Protection Act*, but would not remove, fill, dredge, or alter that area.

A **Request for Determination** was filed by **TransCanada** for the replacement of an existing manual trash rake at Sherman Dam with a generator-powered rake, and to repair concrete work on the Powerhouse. At a public hearing of the Conservation Commission on August 28, 2007, the commission found that a *Notice of Intent* was not required as the planned work entailed replacing, but not substantially changing or enlarging, an existing and lawfully located structure used in the service of the public and used to provide electric services (see MGL c.131, §40).

A **WPA Form 7 – Extension Permit for Orders of Condition** for Permit Number 274-25 was filed by **Yankee Atomic Electric Company** for an extension of the original Order of Conditions. At a public hearing of the Conservation Commission on August 28, 2007, the commission unanimously approved extension of the permit to September 14, 2009.

During 2006 Roberts Bros. Logging of Ashfield MA completed logging operations on two land-locked parcels they own in southwest Rowe. To access these parcels they had received permission to cross two town-owned parcels (one on each side of Pelham Brook in the area across from the Crowningshield property at 106 Zoar Road). As a condition of using the town property, Roberts Bros. agreed to reimburse the town for the cost of environmental oversight of the use of the town parcels.

The town hired Valley Environmental Services of Greenfield MA to develop a mitigation plan and to oversee that the plan was followed. The firm was paid with funds from the Conservation Commissions' Wetlands Protection revolving fund. The total cost was \$2004. Roberts Bros. reimbursed the town in early December 2007, and the funds were returned to the Wetlands revolving fund. Following the firm's findings that the site was appropriately restored, the town released a Letter of Guarantee in the amount of \$5,000 held in escrow on the town's behalf.

The Commission received the following two **Forest Cutting Plans** in 2007:

- Owner: Molly Scott
Harvester: Unknown
Location: Warner Hill Road, Charlemont
(land also in Rowe)
DCR File No. 053-3207-7
Total Harvest: 249.71 Mbf; Cords: 200
Stumpage Value: \$15,000 (est.)
Status: Approved
- Owner: Vivian C. Weston
Harvester: Mike Hammer, Lic #2008-092
Location: Intersection Steele Brook/Zoar Rds
DCR File No. 253-3259-8
Total Harvest: 100 Mbf; Cords: 0
Stumpage Value: \$8,000-\$10,000 (est.)
Status: Approved

Conservation Commission members: Robert Rice, Prudence Berry, Nancy Brown, Myra Carlow, Robert Clancy, Cindy Laffond (resigned Jan 2008) and Ellen Babcock (Jan-June 2007).

Respectfully submitted,

Robert R. Rice, Chair

Council on Aging

The year 2007 brought myriad changes and proved to be a busy but fruitful one for the Rowe Council on Aging.

February brought a Presidents' Day luncheon, catered with the always delicious dishes of the Mohawk Park Restaurant and was followed by the antics of the multi-talented T-Bone. The non-seniors of our hamlet were welcome to the after-meal festivities.

In late March the COA had to experience a reorganization of our committee after the resignation of Ruth Loomis, a long time co-chairman on our committee. We were all sorry to see her leave. Chris Tower was then voted to the co-chair position, along with Sandy Daviau who also took the position of Treasurer and Jodi Brown, Secretary. Ellynn Packard joined us in late March and presented many sound ideas for additional luncheons and social events including enthusiastic research for the possible use of the Gracy House for senior get-togethers.

The committee took over the medical lending program for our seniors, which included a policy for the borrowing, returning and cleaning of all of the medical equipment.

The COA was happy to be able to assist with the senior minor repair program and mileage reimbursement for prolonged medical treatments for our seniors.

Much time was spent with the TRIAD officer, Mo Rosenberger coordinating the Emergency Sign Program which will be paid for by the COA Formula Grant. For the Formula Grant to cover the cost of these signs, a matching number of signs for the non-seniors had to be met. This program will hope to show its benefits in spring of 2008, as soon as the ground thaws. Fire Chief Ed May has volunteered to install the signs and to cover the costs for the non senior signs from the Fire Dept. operations account.

Beneficial purchases made by the COA through the Formula Grant included a new personal computer and a new digital camera for capturing those precious moments at our senior events.

The Council on Aging would like to thank Heidi Cousineau for her donation of a color printer.

The spring event took us; via car-pool to Water Street Grille in Williamstown where a bountiful and unusual buffet awaited us. The seniors then toured the two interesting and historic museums at Heritage Park—the Hoosac Tunnel and train genealogy and the industrial and complex's past of once industrial North Adams.

A windy June day found us valiantly anchoring our decorated picnic tables at our own Pelham Lake Park. The Charlemont seniors found the lake too choppy and cold for the anticipated boat ride on the SS Percy Brown. Dusty Dufresne, arrayed in Hawaiian attire, managed to keep the tempo up-beat with her variety of old time songs.

In September we regretfully accepted the resignation of Jim McKee, who now has extended responsibilities and felt that he could not fulfill his responsibilities on the committee. His vigor and brawn has made our events less strenuous and always enjoyable, as he possesses a great sense of humor. He did a lot of research worked on the emergency signs and provided a special American flag for the Presidents' Day Gala.

Also in September, we were able to graciously welcome Marilyn Belval as a new member to the COA to replace Jim McKee.

Our October outing, although a misty setting, was a cozy autumn boat ride, departing from the shores of Wilmington VT cruising on Harriman Reservoir over a buried town of Yore, the glory-hole, and allowing us a magnificent view of our country's bird, a soaring eagle, while we enjoyed a sandwich platter and a birthday cake for our own Christine Tower, who continues as the ultimate decorator and theme planner for our events.

The year ended with a magical visit and luncheon at Chandler's at Yankee Candle Gift Shops, where an elegant luncheon was served and enjoyed by all.

The FRTA bus has remained on our list of benefits offered to our seniors.

Our Snow Shoveling program was working well this past year with the dependable hard working Brian Wickline, who unfortunately at the end of this year had moved and no one has come forward in answer to our ads to replace him.

It has been a pleasure to serve our senior community, which currently totals 128 of the Rowe population, and for those who will soon reach *two score* (60) come and join us as we look forward to another fun and interesting year. Elderberries rule!!

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Daviau, Co-Chair
Chris Tower, Co-Chair
Jodi Brown
Ellynn Packard
Marilyn Belval

Cultural Council

Grants Management INCOME

	<i>Total to Be Granted</i>	<i>Now</i>
Interest Revenue	\$ 0	\$ 0
Locally Raised Revenue		
Municipal	0	0
Foundation	0	0
Individual	0	0
Other	0	0
Total	0	0
Encumbered MCC Money	0	
Unencumbered MCC Money	0	0
Total in Local Account	0	0
Allocation	0	4,000
Total Income	0	4,000

REQUESTS

	<i>Applications Received</i>	<i>Total Amt Requested</i>
LCC Applications	(25)	11,895
PASS Applications	(0)	0
LCC-Originated Applications	(0)	0
Total	(25)	11,895

DECISIONS

Approved:	(13)	4,000
Denied	(12)	(7,895)
Undecided	(0)	0
Total	(25)	4,000

EXPENSES

Total Administrative Funds (not to exceed 5% of FY allocation)		0
LCC Projects approved	(13)	4,000
PASS Projects approved	(0)	0
LCC-Originated Projects approved	(0)	0
Total Expenses		4,000

Grants Awarded

<i>Name</i>	<i>Kind</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Discipline</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Academy at Charlemont	LCC	Summer Theater Workshop	Theater	\$ 500
Ashfield Community Thtre	LCC	Summer Arts Program	Multidisciplinary	100
Deerfield River Watershed	LCC	Deerfield River Fest: 20 th Annual	Multidisciplinary	200
Harcovitz, Ruth	LCC	Singing Performance for Seniors	Music	595
Heath Agricultural Society	LCC	Heath Fair Music	Music	90
Jackson, Gary	LCC	Contempaissance - Flute & Guitar	Music	500
Mohawk Trail Concerts	LCC	2008 Summer Festival	Music	250
Morin, Guy	LCC	Civil War Union Soldier	History	250
Pothole Pictures	LCC	Pothole Pictures Film Series	Theatre	50
Root, John	LCC	Edible Wild Plants of the Northeast	Science	400
Rowe Elementary School	LCC	Japan Cultural Studies-Artist in Residence	Multidisciplinary	600
Shantigar Foundation	LCC	Tibetan Book of the Dead – Play	Theatre	315
Spfld Symphony Orchestra	LCC	SSO Woodwind Quintet Goes to School	Music	150
TOTAL AWARDED				4,000

Rowe Cultural Council Members

Jennifer Y. Wood, Chair
 Annemarie Demetz
 Jo-ann M. Brown
 Kerri L. McLatchy
 Meghan K. McLatchy
 Daureen W. Petersen
 Barbara J. Roche
 Elizabeth Vernes

Department of Public Works

The Rowe Highway Department welcomed Matthew Crowningshield onto the road crew. This year we focused on general maintenance. Looking ahead, now that we have a full crew we will be able to move ahead on projects that have been on hold.

Equipment maintenance continues as an ongoing priority. The 1999 Ford received a major overhaul on the drive train. Many other repairs and preventive maintenances are performed in our facility.

Routine maintenance during the year included:

- Cleaning and repair of shoulders and catch basins
- Street sweeping
- Line painting
- Waterway repaving
- Roadside mowing
- Brush clearing
- Tree maintenance
- Upkeep of the Town Common and traffic islands

Special projects undertaken during 2007 were:

- Drainage and shoulder repair throughout the town following the April 2007 flood. Funds were received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in excess of \$30,000
- Truck Wash Station completed
- Paving took place on Brittingham Hill (berm replaced), Tunnel and Hazelton Roads.

Thank you to Ellen Babcock, Sandy Daviau and the Highway Department crew and Selectmen for all of your help and support this year.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. Taylor
DPW Superintendent



Rowe DPW Crew and their new John Deere Tractor

DPW - Summer Youth Employment

The “**Grasshopper**” program, under the direction of SYE Superintendent Sam Howe of Shelburne Falls did a great job trimming and cleaning our roadsides this past summer. All of the teens that participated last year should be very proud. This is very hard work under hot and humid conditions. Please know that you are all appreciated very much.

Thanks also go to the Supervisors **Jennifer Droesch** and **Andrew Lively** and Grasshoppers...

Abigail Phelps
Joshua Taylor
Presley Veber

Samantha Veber
Bryan White

Unfortunately **Samantha Wessman** wasn't able to join the crew. She had intended to work, but had a car accident just before the start of work, and was unable to join in the fun due to an arm injury. Maybe next year Sam!

There are 43.5 miles of roads in Rowe. When you double that for each side of the road that needs trimming...that adds up to 90.6 miles that needs mowing, trimming and cleaning in seven short (usually very hot) weeks! At the same time the crew also pays particular attention to saving certain ferns and flowers. Great job everyone!

And special thanks again go to **Ted Palmer** for performing his annual Poison Ivy Patrol. Everyone...and especially the Grasshoppers...appreciate your efforts, Ted.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen L. Babcock
Town Coordinator

DPW - Tree Warden

During the past year a Public Hearing was held on August 9, 2007 to discuss the removal of trees on Monroe Hill Rd. Verizon New England telephone company proposed new telephone poles on this road in conjunction with new fiber optic cable to Monroe Bridge. The hearing was held in coordination with the Planning Board. Subsequent review by the selectman resulted in approval of the request.

The Town of Rowe applied for and has been approved for funding through the National Grid Partnership Grant, under the auspices of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). This is a \$5,000 grant, with a matching value amount of \$1250 contributed by the Town of Rowe. This grant will cover tree plantings.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. Taylor
Tree Warden

Dog Officer

This past year was an uneventful one. On one occasion I was called to respond to a lost dog, which I retrieved from a home on Leshure Road. I kenneled the dog overnight, and was able to return him to his owner the following day.

I received numerous calls concerning dogs lost in surrounding communities, but none from our town.

One formal complaint was filed. I was made aware of a concern involving an aggressive, threatening dog that had challenged pedestrians on Hazelton Road. No civil charges were filed.

Respectfully,

Russell Powers
Dog Officer

Emergency Medical Services [EMS]

Another year has passed and once again our EMS personnel have done an outstanding job responding to all EMS emergencies. I am proud to be part of such a caring group of individuals. Their families play an important role in the work we do because of the support they give our team throughout the year. Your dedication is admirable. I appreciate all you do and the time you take out of your personal lives for training and responding to calls. In order to meet the requirements of a first responder one must complete an 80 hour course and pass a written and practical exam. Recertification is required every three years. EMT certification requires completion of a 110 hour course and successfully passing a state exam which also includes a written and practical exam. Recertification is required every two years and consists of a 24 hour refresher course and an additional 28 hours of continuing education classes.

We currently have 2 certified EMTs and 12 first responders. Last year our EMTs and first responders responded to 13 medical emergencies. This is a decrease from last year's total of 35 emergency calls. Our EMTs and first responders continue to respond in a timely manner to any situation and deliver the highest quality of care.

If you have an emergency it is extremely important to dial 911 immediately. Calling a knowledgeable friend or an EMT/first responder will delay the initiation of EMS. For our new residents in town and those that may not have ever utilized the 911 system, I would like to explain the sequence of events once a 911 call has been made. When 911 has been dialed a dispatcher from Shelburne Control will answer your call. He or she will ask the nature of your emergency and at that time determine the level of care needed for your emergency. The dispatcher will then notify Charlemont Ambulance and Rowe EMTs and first responders. If your emergency requires Advanced Life Support a paramedic unit will be dispatched from Greenfield at the same time. Considering the rural area in which we live, this response system has worked well in the past. If 911 is activated and you then decide you do not want or need the ambulance, or if you have dialed 911 by mistake, please stay on the line and explain the situation. Otherwise, you can expect a visit from the police department who will be dispatched to verify that an emergency situation does not exist.

Rowe EMS personnel will respond to your emergency with both the knowledge and equipment necessary to help stabilize a patient before and during transport to the hospital by ambulance. As rural as the town of Rowe is, our first responders play a critical role in the outcome of your emergency and thus are an important part of the chain of survival. Rowe EMS works closely with Rowe Fire Department. Most of our members are crossed-trained as medical, fire and /or police personnel. We respond to both fire and police scenes to aid and support these departments.

Due to the aging of EMT personnel associated with both the Charlemont Ambulance and Rowe EMS it is important

to recruit new or certified EMTs. To ensure ambulance service to both our town and neighboring towns in the future there must be enough EMTs to adequately staff the ambulance. If there is anyone who is currently EMT or first responder certified, or would be interested in becoming an EMT, and would like to join our department please contact me at 339-5761.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail May
EMS Coordinator

Energy Committee

In April, 2007, Jack Packard from the Rowe Energy Committee attended a day-long seminar on Guaranteed Savings Performance Contracting hosted by the Mass Division of Energy Resources (DOER) in Worcester. The committee took interest, and in June 2007 arranged for Siemens Building Technologies to conduct a free "snapshot audit" of the Town of Rowe's buildings. The results indicated the viability of an approximate \$30,000 per year energy savings that could be used to make payments, over a 20-year period, for a \$600,000 Performance Contract. The project would update or replace (and improve the control systems for) most of the heating, ventilation, cooling, and lighting systems, as well as address potential insulation and other building envelope improvements, in the following five (5) town buildings: Rowe Elementary School, Town Hall, Library, Fire Station, and Public Works Garage. This work would be budget neutral...no additional allocation of funds from the town would be called for, as new cash to pay for the construction would be created from the energy savings.

Since June 2007 the Energy Committee has worked with the Selectmen and the School Committee to prepare a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Energy Savings Performance Contracting which was approved by both boards and advertised in late November 2007. Submissions from ESCOs (Energy Services Companies) in response to Rowe's RFQ are scheduled to be received in early January 2008. If one of these companies is chosen by the Rowe Selectmen in January 2008, then the Board would sign an agreement for a detailed, investment-grade energy audit which would include proposals for energy conservation measures for Rowe. The Town would then successfully negotiate the scope of work and financing, and a contract covering the construction, financing, maintenance, and verification of savings would be signed in April 2008. The construction would begin in late June 2008. (In December 2007 we also applied for a MA Dept. of Energy Resources Energy Conservation Improvement Program matching grant that could help implement the performance contract project through supplementary funds. We will find out in July of 2008 if we are awarded any money.)

On June 7th of 2007 Rowe completed its first year with Hampshire Power — a supplier of electrical power generation to a cooperative of over twenty regional towns. For Hampshire Power's "Profit Sharing" plan, the total profit over National Grid rates was \$1,439, of which Rowe's share was \$719. The Elementary School has been on the "Real Time" plan since April 2007, and by December of 2007 has paid a total of \$1, 417 less than the National Grid rate (though, as yet, there are no net savings for the school account).

The Energy Committee has continued to explore the potentials for aggregation with other communities to obtain lower energy generation rates for Rowe residents. The Hampshire Power residential plan is still at least a year from implementation.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Packard, Chair
Earl Carlow
Carlos Heiligmann
David Roberson

Fire Department

During the last report period the Fire Department responded to forty-two (42) calls:

- 14 Medical Emergencies
- 2 Smoke in House
- 2 Suspected Structure Fires
- 1 Brush Fire
- 8 Mutual Aid Calls
- 4 Fire Detection Alarms
- 3 Carbon Monoxide Detector Alarms
- 3 Power Lines Down
- 1 Suspected Harmful Atmospheric Condition
- 3 Flooded Basement

As a result of the Department's chimney cleaning program, ten homes' chimneys were inspected and/or cleaned this year. In the coming year, as in the past, we will clean the chimneys of the elderly and assist able-bodied residents. We will attempt to conduct the cleaning in August and September, before the heating season, so names should be submitted early.

In the event of an emergency – fire, police, or medical — **call 9-1-1 immediately**. Do not waste precious time trying to contact a friend, neighbor or member of the Department directly. Enhanced 9-1-1 has been a highly effective and beneficial service to the town; any call to 9-1-1 automatically provides the dispatcher with the telephone number and the name and address listed for that number. If you have special needs or concerns, please contact me directly and I will provide the necessary information to the Dispatch Center.

The 450 MHz radio system has been operational since December 2006 and has proven to be a substantial improvement over the old low band system. The Franklin Regional Council of Governments maintains the radio license and equipment. Each of the 26 towns' police, fire and EMS are then assessed and annul fee to support the operation and maintenance of the county equipment. The new radio system allows fire, police, medical and other emergency personnel throughout the four counties in Western Massachusetts to communicate with one another as the situation requires.

On February 28, 2003, President Bush issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5), which directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private-sector, and non-governmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents. HSPD-5 required federal departments and agencies to make the adoption of NIMS by State and local organizations a condition for federal preparedness assistance (grants, contracts and other activities) by fiscal year 2005.

The Town complied by adopting the Incident Command System (ICS) and NIMS. The ICS was developed in the 1970s and was adopted by most fire departments. The ICS is a standardized, on-scene, all-hazard incident management concept which allows its users to adopt an integrated organizational structure to match the complexities and demands of single or multiple incidents without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries. ICS has considerable internal flexibility. It can grow or shrink to meet different needs. This flexibility makes it a very cost-effective and efficient management approach for both small and large situations.

Members of the Highway, Police and Fire Departments, elected officials and Town administration staff received NIMS 700, ICS 100 and ICS 200 level training to comply with both HSPD-5 and Governor Mitt Romney Executive Order No. 469. Currently Daniel Miller, James White and I have completed ICS 300. Daniel Miller and I have also completed ICS 400.

The Franklin County Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC) has completed a Hazardous Materials Emergency Plan. The plan was approved by all towns in Franklin County. The plan was then submitted and subsequently approved by the State.

The Franklin County REPC was formed to enhance cooperative regional emergency planning, and address the Federal SARA Title III requirement that all communities have active Local Emergency Planning Committees, procedures to deal with hazardous materials emergencies, meet right-to-know requirements, and encourage community awareness. With the leadership and administrative support

of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) all 26 Franklin County towns opted into a regional effort beginning in the year 2000.

Early on the Committee elected an “all hazards” approach to emergency planning which not only addresses our responsibility for aiding towns in planning for “haz mat” emergencies but also other natural, technological, and man-made events that call for a similar inter-town, inter-disciplinary response.

During the open burning season for 2007 there were a total of 148 permits issued. 310 CMR 7.07 contains the Massachusetts regulation defining allowable open burning. The regulation allows the disposal of brush, cane, driftwood and forestry debris, excluding grass, hay and leaves, during the period from January 15 to (and including) May 1 at 4:00 PM, provided a valid permit from the local fire department or fire warden has been obtained. The burning is allowed on the land proximate to the place of generation, at a location greater than 75 feet from any dwelling, between the hours of 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, except during periods of adverse meteorological conditions. This regulation does not apply to open burning for the purpose of combating or backfiring an existing fire by persons affiliated with an official fire fighting agency; open burning conducted primarily for cooking purposes; or open burning related to the operation of devices such as blowtorches and welding torches, for which no alternative source of heat can be used, provided that such devices do not cause a condition of air pollution.

Burning for agricultural purposes are controlled by a separate section of this regulation and define agriculture as those practices involved with the cultivation of soil for the purpose of crop production and/or the raising of livestock, when such crops are produced primarily for commercial food, and such livestock are raised primarily for commercial foodstuff or for work purposes. Agricultural operations as defined as those operations which raise commercial foodstuffs and/or livestock on an area larger than one acre.

The emergency generator project at the Rowe Elementary School has moved forward this year. The generator — through an automatic throw-over switch — provides the electricity to the school automatically on a loss of power.

Upon restoration of normal power the throw-over switch will transfer to the normal power supply and the diesel generator will shut down. The generator is currently programmed to automatically start and provide power to the school every Friday morning for 30 minutes. I would like to thank the Town Highway Department, Brandon Sprague, Dan Miller, James White, Paul May, Kathy May and Kristina May for their assistance during this project.

A new fire hydrant was installed on Davenport Road. The water supply for the hydrant is the old Davis Mine cistern on the property owned by Daniel Wessman and BJ Roche. Danek Excavating cleared the path through the woods, dug the 300 foot trench, and assisted laying the pipe and setting the hydrant. The Town Highway Department provided the crushed stone used around the base of the hydrant to form a void for drainage. The water was pumped from the cistern. Eilers Brothers Trucking of Readsboro VT then removed the years of debris that had collected in the bottom of the cistern.

The Fire Department is made up completely of volunteers from town. The effectiveness of this organization is determined by the number of individuals it can train and maintain in a state of readiness, and by the condition of its equipment. We welcome anyone who is interested in protecting his/her own and his neighbor's lives and property from the potentially devastating effects of fire. Not all of the activities required to prepare for and combat a fire involve hands-on fire fighting. There is plenty of other work with which we could use help. Our program of regular monthly training/meetings is conducted the first Monday of the month. These sessions are approximately one to two hours in length – a small investment of your time when weighed against the potential benefit that may be derived from your membership. The officers of the Department would like to thank all members who participate in our activities regularly, and ask other members of the town to become involved.

Respectfully submitted,

Edwin L. May, Fire Chief
Emergency Management Director
Community Emergency
Response Coordinator
Hazardous Materials Control Officer

Library

We had a busy year with the library open 24 hours per week and with a total of 2,859 recorded visits. The library owns 14,130 items available to loan. This includes books, cassettes, videos and DVDs. We also have three computers available for public use and wireless internet access for people wishing to bring their own computers.

We continue to provide family opportunities with Davis Bates performing to a packed house in the spring and John Root conducting a musical program to celebrate the end of summer reading in August. We also participated in the "West County Reads" program. People read *The Seven Wonders of Sasfras Springs* by Betty G. Birney and searched for local wonders. Author Betty Birney appeared in the area and in the fall the children at the Rowe School created a poster with pictures of local wonders. We continue the custom of giving the choice of a "family" library number or an individual account to borrowers.

Library Director Susan Gleason completed the last of the courses required by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners as part of the library requirements to receive state certification and state aid. The library's efforts brought in a State Aid to Public Libraries Grant of \$1,818.13.

The Library Trustees would like to thank our employees: Library Director Susan Gleason; Library Assistants Alan Bjork, Phyllis Smith, and Danette Reynolds-Gallagher; and our newest employee Custodian Stephanie Bird for their dedication, hard work and reliability. We have a wonderful little library set in a beautiful location, but our biggest assets remain our employees.

The Trustees meet at least monthly, normally at the library, and citizens are always welcome to attend. Meetings are posted at the Town Hall and at the Library. Library hours are:

Tuesday	10 am to 5 pm
Wednesday	10 am to 8 pm
Saturday	10 am to 5 pm

Library Trustees
Ellynn B. Packard, Chair
Jo-ann M. Brown
Melissa S. Quinn

Library Director
Susan P. Gleason

Old Home Day Committee

The weekend of July 6, 7 and 8 (the traditional first weekend following the Fourth of July) marked the 2007 Old Home Day celebration. Reflecting the events of years' past, the events began on Friday night with an old-fashioned square dance held in the gym at the Rowe Elementary School. Music was provided by the local Country Friendship Band and the caller for the event was Heath resident Doug Wilkins. Coordinated by Danette Reynolds-Gallagher, those attending the dance enjoyed a selection of desserts and drinks during the evening. Although the dance was attended by a modest forty dancers—adults and children—everyone present had a great time and danced every dance.

The weather on Saturday was perfect! Early Saturday morning the fishing derby was held in the brook near the town garage, organized and run by Tom Danek and the Park Department. As done in past years, the fish and prizes were donated by Jim Daneker.

The formal activities of the day began with the traditional parade — this year supplemented by the Shelburne Falls Military Band and approximately twenty-five antique automobiles. The theme of the parade was "Good Old Days." Several families and groups prepared floats and displays. The three winning entries were:

- **1st Place:** "Tea Time" with Jennifer Smith, Christina Lively and friends
- **2nd Place:** "Little House on the Prairie" with Rachel Richardson
- **3rd Place:** "The Good Life" with the Kyle & Kurt Shippee, Hailey Larned, and Eric, Gianna, Isaac, Joshua, Nathan and Sara Paige

Jennifer Morse made sure the parade moved in an orderly fashion and Margaret Woodside performed the role of Master of Ceremonies with élan.

Katherine and Carlos Heiligmann organized the Leah and Eugene Gates Antique Car Show in which these vehicles were displayed and viewed. People had an opportunity to vote for their favorite vehicles and the three winners were: the blue 1911 Maxwell AB roadster owned by Jonathan and Carrie Cranston of Ashfield, the 1931 Pierce Arrow driven up from Ashfield by Thomas and Cynthia Cranston and the maroon 1931 Ford owned by Rowe's Ed and Sandy Daviau. Both the Maxwell and the Ford were previously owned by Gene and Leah Gates, and their sons were present to hand out the awards to the winners.

Following the parade the Shelburne Falls Military Band gave a concert at the pavilion by Pelham Lake. At about the same time the Rowe Community Church began their annual auction which continued into the afternoon. As in past years, the church also provided food by selling hamburgers, hot dogs and their fabulous strawberry short cake! New this year was the Charlemont Lions Club provision of a mobile eye examining facility. Based on its popularity, this

may well become a fixture of Old Home day. Transportation during the day was provided by the Trolley which ran from the school to the library and by Dohn Sherman's hay ride which carried folks from the park to the riding rink during the day.

Special activities for children this year included a Bouncy Dragon, located at Pelham Lake Park and a Climbing Wall placed near the school. Also in the area near the school Becky Richardson provided Face Painting and Mary Paige organized a Treasure Hunt.



A few entries from the Leah & Eugene Gates Antique Car Show



The 1911 AB Maxwell driven by present owner Jonathan Cranston of Ashfield

Tower Photo

The “arts” were well represented at this year’s Old Home Day.

- At the Browning Bench Tool Factory — traditional location for the exhibition of the creations of Rowe resident artists and craftsmen — more than thirty exhibitors displayed their works, in response to the requests of Helene Glass, this year’s organizer of the event.
- Robin Reed recruited over a dozen local artists and craftsmen who set up booths in front of the school and sold an interesting variety of locally-made items.
- The Rowe Post Office created, with assistance from Bruce Cowie, a special Old Home Day Cancellation stamp which was in use all day.
- Ellen Babcock created the posters and program for the day, utilizing a drawing generously provided by illustrator Margot Apple of Conway MA.
- Performances during the day included the Colrain Cloggers at the school, Elizabeth Buck with a slide show about a trip to Chile at the Stone Church in the center of town, Prue Berry and Helen Shields leading singing at the Stone Church, the Frontier Soldier Historical Reenactment at the Historical Museum, and concluding the day at the park, the music of Contempaissance and Small Change.

The day’s activities ended at Pelham Lake with the sky-diving to the beach by Bob Clancy and two colleagues, the traditional chicken dinner provided by the Readsboro Lions Club, and finally, the wonderful fire works display.

Tom Chiofalo organized the traditional “open gardens” for Sunday and folks were able to view his garden as well as those of Norma Donelson, Nancy Williams and Sue Williams. Each garden was quite different from the others and the combination offered a lovely view of the range of gardening expression present in Rowe.

To all those, named and unnamed, who helped make this Old Home Day a success, we offer our thanks.

Jodi Brown
Myra Carlow
Ellynn Packard
Co-Chairs



A beautiful day and a great turnout for the Fishing Derby

Park Commission

2007 was, as always, a busy year at Pelham Lake Park.

Early in the year, a contractor brought in for repairs to the Browning Bench Tool building determined that there was significant degradation to the building sills and floor framework, so bids have been collected for major repair work to the building's supporting structures, planned to be performed this coming spring.

Winter activities at the Park were scant, due to the lack of snow and good ice; though some snowshoeing and cross-country skiing was still enjoyed by our residents. The Exercise room enjoyed regular attendance, with programs such as senior fitness, pilates, and yoga being offered.

The spring brought the popular fishing derby and annual plant swap. Summer's activities included swim lessons, a sports camp, our ever-popular kids rec program, and our annual Old Home Day, with an old car show, chicken barbecue, live music, and of course the evening fireworks. Good weather blessed us for this event.

The staff kept the beach area clean and welcoming, and performed much work on the hiking trail network, keeping the trails passable and repairing bridges. The fall brought a wonderful pumpkin carving, hayride, and haunted house at the Gracy House, to the delight of all who attended, and as winter began, the trails were opened and groomed for cross-country skiing.

Thanks, as always, to the staff and volunteers for a job well done!

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Jolly, Chair

Planning Board

2007 brought several changes to the makeup of the Planning Board, as well as a significant increase in business over previous years. While the Planning Board regularly holds meetings only once each month, this schedule was again exceeded, with the Board meeting on 24 separate occasions.

Planning Board Membership

Following many years of service on the Board, Rebecca Bradley announced that she would not be running for re-election in 2007. Becky had served at various times as Secretary and as Chairman of the Planning Board, and she has always had an active and respected voice in the Planning Board's deliberations. Her contributions were numerous and greatly appreciated.

There were no declared candidates for the open seat in Town elections in May, and no write-in candidate agreed to assume the post.

Shortly after the elections in May, Mitchell Soviecke announced that due to personal commitments he would be unable to complete the remainder of his term. Although Mitch's tenure was short, his considered insight was welcomed by all, and will be missed. He served ably as a member of the Board (as well as its Secretary) until his departure.

As a result of these changes the Planning Board operated with only three (of five) members for some time. Ann Foshay agreed to act as interim Secretary until another seat was filled.

Ellynn Packard, who had been attending several Planning Board meetings and expressed an interest in following the Board's deliberations, was recommended for appointment by the other members of the Board. This appointment was subsequently made by joint appointment of the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen. Ellynn was elected as Secretary, and the Planning Board conducted the remainder of 2007 with four members.

Regular Business

Public Hearings were held to consider applications by James Williams and by Kris Swenson for short-term property rentals, under Article V, Section 2 of the Rowe By-Laws. There were no objections from abutters or others, and permits were subsequently issued, subject to renewal every 5 years. Board members Rebecca Bradley and Angela Foshay recused themselves from these votes, as they also have short-term rental properties.

The Board was asked to sign off on a proposed lot division by Valerie and Albert Williams for property on Tatro Road which did not meet frontage requirements as a building lot. As this was viewed as an unusual request, the Board sought the advice of Town Counsel, which gave the opinion that the plan was entitled to an "Approval Not Required" (ANR) endorsement, but that such an endorsement would not render the new parcel conforming or compliant under the Town's Zoning By-laws. The Planning Board endorsed the lot division.

Robert Silva presented a plan to divide a 4-acre building lot parcel from his 130 acres on Davis Mine Road. The plan was endorsed by the Board, which noted that although the lot appeared to meet dimensional requirements, its suitability as a building lot would be determined by the Building Inspector and Board of Health.

A representative under contract from Verizon brought a plan for running fiber optic cable through Rowe to serve company facilities in Monroe upon the sale of certain assets in Vermont. As this plan entailed the cutting of trees on Monroe Hill Road, a joint Public Hearing was held with the Tree Warden in August. There were no objections from the audience at the hearing, and the tree-cutting was subsequently approved, subject to Selectmen's approval of pole

and wire installation. It should be noted that Verizon representatives repeatedly asserted that the Town was not entitled to deny placement of poles/wires unless they impeded the public way. Investigation of statutory and case law revealed this claim to be without merit.

Goal Post

The Rowe *Goal Post* magazine is published by the Planning Board to facilitate information exchange between Town departments and the citizens of Rowe. In April, long-serving editor Margaret Woodside announced that she was moving to California and would be resigning, so the Planning Board advertised the open position and interviewed several candidates. Ultimately, the position was awarded to Lynne Rudié of Turners Falls, who has done a very satisfactory job putting out the *Goal Post* since the October issue. The change has required considerable education and more hands-on involvement by the Planning Board than had previously been the case, but the process is becoming more streamlined with each issue published, and the *Goal Post* remains an entertaining and useful vehicle for disseminating important information. We invite all boards, committees and residents to submit articles for consideration.

Ongoing Projects and Other Business

The Planning Board continued its in-depth review of the Town's Zoning Bylaws through the first half of the year, and advertised to find someone who would format and index the revised bylaws for presentation at Town Meeting. However, the reduction in membership and an increase in matters requiring the Board's attention meant that further work had to be deferred to a later time. Similarly, the Board was unable to initiate its review of subdivision regulations as it had planned. It is anticipated that the revisions will be finalized and presented to voters sometime in 2008.

The Town was asked to comment on and endorse a "Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Plan" document, a joint project of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, with assistance from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. As the municipal entity charged with coordinating planning activities in Rowe, the Planning Board responded to this request. The key component of the proposal is a plan to site a significant number of new electrical generation facilities at unspecified locations in the arbitrarily-designated Pioneer Valley region, as well as legislative and regulatory approaches to "streamline" the permitting process. Given the potential for serious negative impacts that could arise from such development, the five-member Planning Board voted unanimously not to support the plan. A memo was sent to FRCOG and the Selectmen informing them of the Planning Board's position.

The suitability of lots for building — including the status of preexisting but nonconforming lots — is a topic that continued to feature on the Board's agenda, especially given the increase in requests for lot divisions that have come forward in recent years. To help address this issue, the Planning Board initiated a procedure whereby applicants for new construction will be required to submit a form to the

Building Inspector confirming that the lot in question either conforms to dimensional requirements or is a "grandfathered" buildable lot.

The Planning Board held a public hearing in November concerning proposed Rules for Hiring Outside Consultants, subsequently voting unanimously to adopt the rules. This enables the Planning Board to assess reasonable fees from applicants if the Board deems it necessary to hire consultants (such as engineers, planners, lawyers or other appropriate professionals) to assist the Planning Board and ensure compliance with all relevant laws, bylaws, and regulations.

The Planning Board holds regularly-scheduled meetings on the first Thursday of each month. Notices of meetings are posted on the official message board on the side of the Town Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Roberson, Chairman
Jo-ann M. Brown
Angela F. Foshay
Ellynn B. Packard

Police Department

Accidents (1 car)	5
Medical Assistance	6
Breaking & Entering	4
Assault & Battery	1
Vandalism	1
9-1-1 Hangups	4
Larceny	
Trespassing	1
Summons Served	1
Animal Complaints	3
Locked Cars	3
Permits Issued	18
Reported Incidents	33
Unfounded Incidents	10

The number of complaints decreased from last year and was similar to previous years. The number of reported crimes decreased slightly compared to the year 2006. The seriousness of the crimes increased in 2007. Most serious crimes were cleared through investigation and charges were filed.

I would like to thank the police officers of Rowe for accomplishing this with such professionalism.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry J. Dandeneau
Chief of Police

Report of the Town Clerk - Vital Statistics - 2007

BIRTHS

Mass. General Law prohibits release of info for persons under 17 without parental permission

MAGGIE MAY DANEK

Helen E. Danek
Thomas P. Danek

ADDISON ZAVOTKA LOOMIS

Leann Z. Loomis
Sean R. Loomis

NOAH AYRES SPRAGUE

Jennifer A. Morse-Sprague
Brandon A. Sprague

DEATHS

Leah Warren Gates

March 13, 1913 – March 7, 2007
Died in Rowe MA

Kathleen G. Oliver

July 8, 1920 – June 5, 2007
Died in Greenfield MA

Donald Jewett Atwood

April 16, 1931 – July 20, 2007
Died in Williamstown MA

Jean Ann Atwood

March 9, 1932 – July 24, 2007
Died in Williamstown MA

MARRIAGES

Ilyza Sarah Mann Andrew Devin Earle

May 20, 2007
Married in Rowe

Crystal Star Hardison Jordan Marder

August 11, 2007
Married in Charlemont

Jennifer Arlene Morse Brandon Ayres Sprague

June 23, 2007
Married in Charlemont

Bria Lei Ward Jacob Andrew Thurber

September 22, 2007
Married in Rowe

Kristina Anne McCue Paul Edwin May

August 5, 2007
Married in North Adams

William Morse Coulombe Kevin Michael Parent

October 6, 2007
Married in Rowe

LICENSES AND PERMITS SOLD

DOG LICENSES

40 Males @ \$3.00	\$120.00
5 Females @ \$6.00	30.00
47 Spayed Females @ \$3.00	146.00
2 Kennel (10 dogs or less) @ \$25.00	50.00

TOTAL DOG LICENSES	\$351.00
Less fees retained by Town Clerk	-70.50

Total Paid to Town Treasurer	\$280.50
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SPORTING LICENSES

F1 - Resident Fishing @ \$27.50	(16)	\$ 440.00
F2 - Resident Minor Fishing @ \$11.50	(0)	0.00
F3 - Resident Fishing 65-69 @ \$16.25	(0)	0.00
F4 - Resident Fishing 70 and over - Free	(3)	Free
F6 - Non-resident fishing @ \$37.50	(3)	112.50
F7 - Non-resident fishing-3 day @ \$23.50	(3)	70.50
F8 - Resident fishing-3 day @ \$12.50	(1)	12.50
F9 - Non-Resident fishing 15-17 @ \$11.50	(0)	0.00
H1 - Resident Hunting @ \$27.50	(5)	137.50
H2 - Resident Hunting 65-69 @ \$16.25	(1)	16.25
H5 - Non-Res Hunting Big Game@ \$99.50	(6)	597.00
H6 - Non-Res Hunting Sm Game@ \$65.50	(0)	0.00
H8 - Resident Minor Hunting @ \$11.50	(3)	34.50
S1 - Resident Sporting @ \$45.00	(18)	810.00
S2 - Resident Sporting 65-69 @ \$25.00	(3)	75.00
S3 - Resident Sporting 70+ over - Free	(18)	Free
DS- Duplicate Sporting @ \$2.50	(0)	0.00

TOTAL SPORTING LICENSES	\$2,305.75
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SPORTING STAMPS

M1 - Archery @ \$5.10	(4)	20.40
M2 - Waterfowl Stamp @ \$5.00	(1)	5.00
M3 - Primitive Firearm Stamp @ \$5.10	(18)	91.80

TOTAL STAMPS	\$117.20
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TOTAL SPORTING FEES COLLECTED	\$2,422.95
Less fees retained by Town Clerk	-30.95

Total Paid to MassWildlife	\$2,392.00
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RAFFLE PERMITS

One (1) Rowe Comm Church Raffle @ \$10.00	\$10.00
One (1) Rowe School PTP @ \$10.00	10.00
Total Paid To Town Treasurer	\$20.00

BUSINESS CERTIFICATES

Three (3) @ \$1.00	\$3.00
Total Paid to Town Treasurer	\$3.00

Appointees Sworn to Duty / Resignations

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/ ACCTG ASSISTANT

Sandra P. Daviau - July 17, 2007

AGENT FOR VETERANS

James D. Brown - July 25, 2007

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Jonathan Lively - July 23, 2007

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Sharon Hudson - January 5, 2007

Susan Taylor - September 25, 2007

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Jo-ann M. Brown - July 17, 2007

John H. Williams - July 31, 2007

Richard A. Tower - August 7, 2007

Marilyn Belval - September 6, 2007

Nancy Brown - August 7, 2007

Mary Jo Phelps - September 11, 2007

BOARD OF HEALTH CLERK

Ellen L. Babcock - June 30, 2007

BY-LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

Ellynn B. Packard - July 17, 2007

John H. Williams - July 31, 2006

Myra Carlow - July 20, 2007

Michael Posever - September 21, 2007

Angela F. Foshay - July 24, 2007

CARL NILMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Rebecca Bradley - July 31, 2007

CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Ellen L. Babcock - July 11, 2007

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATOR

Edwin L. May - July 17, 2007

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Prudence Berry - August 22, 2007

Nancy A. Brown - August 22, 2007

CONSTABLE

Roger L. Brown - September 11, 2007

COUNCIL ON AGING

Jo-ann M. Brown - July 29, 2007

Sandra P. Daviau - August 1, 2007

Christine A. Tower - August 1, 2007

Ellynn B. Packard - August 5, 2007

Marilyn Belval - August 21, 2007

CULTURAL COUNCIL

Jo-ann M. Brown - July 17, 2007

CULTURAL COMMISSION

Jonathan Lively - July 23, 2007

DOG OFFICER

Russell Powers - September 2, 2007

DPW SUPERINTENDENT

James W. Taylor - July 6, 2007

ELECTION WORKERS

Robin W. Reed - August 25, 2007

Alan W. Bjork - July 31, 2007

John R.H. Packard - July 25, 2006

Shirley Veber - July 25, 2007

Earl Carlow - July 7, 2007

Kristen C. Swenson - July 16, 2007

Carole Veber - July 25, 2007

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

Edwin L. May - July 17, 2007

EMS COORDINATOR

Gail May - July 8, 2007

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)

Gail May - July 8, 2007

C. Selmi Hyytinen - October 10, 2007

ENERGY COMMITTEE

David Roberson - July 24, 2007

John Packard - July 25, 2007

Earl Carlow - August 4, 2007

Carlos Heiligmann - July 24, 2007

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

James W. Taylor - July 6, 2007

FENCE VIEWERS

Earl Carlow - July 1, 2007

FIRE CHIEF - CIVIL DEFENSE DIRECTOR AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CONTROL OFFICER

Edwin L. May - July 17, 2007

FIRE DEPARTMENT - OFFICERS

Dennis May, Captain - August 24, 2007

James White - August 21, 2007

Paul McLatchy - September 7, 2007

Jonathan Lively - July 23, 2007

Daniel J. Miller - July 24, 2007

FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

James D. Brown - July 25, 2007

FRANKLIN REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE

MaryAnne Dykemann - September 6, 2007

GRACY HOUSE STUDY COMMITTEE

Ellynn B. Packard - August 5, 2007
Judith A. Pierce - August 28, 2007
Paul Dunnell - September 21, 2007

BROADBAND INTERNET COMMITTEE

David Dvore - August 10, 2007
Daniel Wessman - July 25, 2007
Evie Dandeneau - September 5, 2007
Russell Jolly - July 25, 2007

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Arlene Andognini - July 31, 2007
John H. Williams - July 31, 2007

INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS

William G. Foster - July 24, 2007

ALTERNATE INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS

James Hawkins - September 25, 2007

MMAC (Mohawk Municipal Advisory Committee)

Myra B. Carlow - July 20, 2007

MEASURERS OF WOOD, BARK & LUMBER

Ellsworth E. Palmer - July 19, 2007
Thomas P. Danek - July 20, 2007
James H. Williams - July 16, 2007

OLD HOME DAY COMMITTEE -FY 08

Ellynn B. Packard - March 29, 2007
Myra B. Carlow - August 16, 2007
Joann M. Brown - March 30, 2007

PLANNING BOARD

Ellynn B. Packard - September 6, 2007

POLICE CHIEF

Henry J. Dandeneau - July 8, 2007

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Judith Pierce - July 17, 2007
Heidi Cousineau - July 18, 2007
Helen R. Shields - October 13, 2007
Ellynn B. Packard - July 17, 2007

ROWE/HEATH EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

David Dvore - October 17, 2007
Jennifer Morse-Sprague - October 25, 2007
Gerrit White - October 20, 2007

SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS

Henry J. Dandeneau - July 8, 2007
Gail May - July 8, 2007
Charles Bellows - July 8, 2007
Jared Bellows - July 8, 2007
Melinda Herzig - July 8, 2007
C. Selmi Hyytinen - July 8, 2007
David Rich - July 8, 2007
Holland Herzig - July 8, 2007

**SUPERINTENDENT OF INSECT PEST/
ELM DISEASE CONTROL**

James W. Taylor - July 6, 2007

TREE WARDEN

James W. Taylor - July 6, 2007

YANKEE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

June Brown - August 7, 2007
Nancy Brown - August 7, 2007
Rosemary Gordon - August 6, 2007
David Lenth - August 6, 2007

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Judith Pierce - August 28, 2007
Roger Brown - August 7, 2007

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - ALTERNATES

Myra B. Carlow - August 16, 2007
Marilyn Wilson - November 28, 2007

RESIGNATIONS

Energy Committee - Richard Quinn, January 9, 2007
Old Home Day Committee - Margaret Woodside,
January 22, 2007
Board of Health - Richard Alix, February 22, 2007
Council on Aging - Ruth Loomis, March 6, 2007
Nilman Scholarship Fund - Karen Soviecke,
April 30, 2007
Planning Board - Mitchell Soviecke, July 17, 2007
Park Commission - Eric Pike, August 1, 2007
Animal Inspector - Deborah Lively, August 7, 2007
Finance Committee - William Baker,
November 27, 2007

Prospective Juror List 2007

<i>Name</i>	<i>Mail Address</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Mail Address</i>
Ash, Laurie L	6 Pine Hill Dr	Katz, Deborah B	Box 3023, Charlemont
Avery, Charles L	P O Box 312	Katz, Rebecca L	Box 3023, Charlemont
Avery, Linda E	P O Box 312	Kaufman, Jane	10 King's Highway
Balchunas, John	10 King's Highway	Keppler, David	145 Leshure Rd
Barish, Jane L	P O Box 296	Kindle, James	78 Hazelton Rd
Besgen, Karl Peter	198 Hazelton Rd	Laffond, Laurie L	208 Hazelton Rd
Bjork, Alan W	288 Zoar Rd	Laffond, Michael S	208 Hazelton Rd
Boutwell, Joyce A	7 Potter Rd	Lager, Joan S	10 King's Highway
Boutwell, Rebecca S	7 Potter Rd	Larned, Lance P	26 Newell Cross Rd
Boutwell, Scott	7 Potter Rd	Levitte, Cristine	P O Box 296
Bradley, Patrick M	51 Middletown Hill Rd	Lively, Abigail R	4 Stone Hill Rd
Bradley, Rebecca P	51 Middletown Hill Rd	Lively, Andrew J	4 Stone Hill Rd
Brown, Amanda J	110 County Rd	Loomis, Sean R	63 Middletown Hill Rd
Brown, Christopher M	110 County Rd	Loomis, William A	108 Hazelton Rd
Brown, Leonard J	16 Shumway Rd	Lowell, Frederick K	18 Old Cyrus Stage Rd
Brown, Lillian N	16 Shumway Rd		
Buck, Philip E	306 Zoar Rd	Mann, Sarah I	10 King's Highway
Camara, Kathleen M	33 King's Highway	May, Dennis F	22 Ford Hill Rd
Clancy, Robert J	12 County Branch Rd	May, Edwin L	68 Cross Rd
Corarito, MaryAnn	65 Dell Rd	May, Paul E	68 Cross Rd
Cousineau, David A	30 Old Cyrus Stage Rd	McCue, Kristina A	68 Cross Rd
Cowie, Bruce W	487 Tunnel Rd	McLatchy, Wendy K	17 Newell Cross Rd
Danek, Helen E	39 Cross Rd	Miceli, Stephen M	16 Newell Cross Rd
Danek, Lillian H	23 Cross Rd	Miller, Daniel J	P O Box 417
Danek-Burke, Lisa A	465 Tunnel Rd	Miller, Kirk L	162 Zoar Rd
Dionne, Loretta I	P O Box 314	Morano, Cara	14 Old Cyrus Stage Rd
Donovan, Sandra A	100 Zoar Rd	Morano, Chris	14 Old Cyrus Stage Rd
Drakulich, Jacqueline J	65 Potter Rd	Morse, Jennifer A	39 Stone Hill Rd
Dunnell, Paul P	137 Leshure Rd	Oliver, Katheen G	32 Davenport Brnch Rd
Dvore, David	75 Potter Rd	Packard, Ellynn B	47 Stone Hill Rd
Dykeman, Mary A	468 Tunnel Rd	Page, Dorothy F	P O Box 325
Faivre, Audrey I	P O Box 324	Paige, Mary E	23 Newell Cross Rd
Foberg, Kirsten E	160 Hazelton Rd	Palmer, Edwin A	6 Palmer Rd
Furgerson, Sheila M	59 Middletown Hill Rd	Parent, Margaret G	32 Shippee Rd
Gallagher, Robert L	30 Potter Rd	Phelps Jr, Daniel R	36 Petrie Rd
Gary, Virginia P	141 Cyrus Stage Rd	Phillips, Michael J	62 Pond Rd
Gleason, Susan P	248 Ford Hill Rd	Phillips, Regina L	62 Pond Rd
Gordon, Ronald P	49 Hazelton Rd	Pickett, Felicity	Box 273
Guardalabene, Ryan	80 Davenport Rd	Pierce, Judith A	37 Brittingham Hill Rd
Hardison, Billy L	22 Tunnel Rd	Pike, Eric A	14 Potter Rd
Hardison, Leonda I	Rd	Poehlein, David G	61 Zoar Rd
Houghtaling, Heather	14 Tunnel Rd	Poplawski, Claudine M	37 Shippee Rd
Hudson, Sharon C	15 Newell Cross Rd	Poplawski, Daniel P	37 Shippee Rd
Hyttinen, Christopher S	65 Hazelton Rd	Powers, Russell L	163 Hazelton Rd
Hyttinen, Tabitha J	65 Hazelton Rd	Quinn, Richard K	P O Box 281
Jackson, Crystal A	88 Hazelton Rd	Quist, Walter J	4 Ford Hill Rd
Jackson, Darlene A	88 Hazelton Rd	Reardon, Crystal J	146 Cyrus Stage Rd
Jackson, Lisa M	88 Hazelton Rd	Reardon, Mary A	146 Cyrus Stage Rd
		Reardon, Tiffany J	146 Cyrus Stage Rd
		Reardon, William N	146 Cyrus Stage Rd

<i>Name</i>	<i>Mail Address</i>
Reed, Robin W	48 Hazelton Rd
Reynolds-Gallagher, Danette L	30 Potter Rd
Rice, Bradley J	86 Ford Hill Rd
Rice, Donald A	24 Brittingham Hill Rd
Rice, Robert R	88 Davis Mine Rd
Roberson, David A	539 Tunnel Rd
Roberson, Laura S	539 Tunnel Rd
Robinson, Sayward M	163 Hazelton Rd
Rode, Christina M	131 Zoar Rd
Shafer, Renate L	75 Cross Rd
Sherman, Dohn W	77 Hazelton Rd
Shippee, Julie J	21 Newell Cross Rd
Silva, Edward J	P O Box 272
Smith, Floyd W	4 Monroe Hill Rd
Snyder, Catherine T	49 Cross Rd
Snyder, Timothy C	49 Cross Rd
Soviecke, Anna	41 Davenport Rd
Soviecke, Mitchell	41 Davenport Rd
Soviecke, Nicholas J	41 Davenport Rd
Sprague, Brandon A	1 Pelham Dr
Sprague, Brittani M	242 Ford Hill Rd
Strules, Jennifer	145 Leshure Rd

<i>Name</i>	<i>Mail Address</i>
Taylor, James W	58 Pond Rd
Taylor, Susan B	58 Pond Rd
Thompson, Audrey A	99 Brittingham Hill Rd
Thurber, Jacob	122 Davenport Rd
VanItallie, JeanClaude	63 Davenport Rd
Veber, Carole A	294 Zoar Rd
Veber, Florence M	P O Box 118
Veber, Mary	292 Zoar Rd
Ward, Bria	122 Davenport Rd
Wessman, Daniel J	Box 342, Charlemont
White, Glenn M	245 Leshure Rd
White, Gerrit C	65 Potter Rd
Williams, Albert R	58 Tatro Rd
Williams, Frederick N	25 Middletown Hill Rd
Williams, James H	106 Middletown Hill Rd
Williams, James T	75 Stone Hill Rd
Williams, Kaitlyn R	75 Stone Hill Rd
Williams, Leah L	75 Stone hill Rd
Williams, Susan A	7 Middletown Hill Rd
Williams, Valerie A	58 Tatro Rd
Wilson, Raymond	37 Potter Rd
Wilson, Rev. Douglas	144 Leshure Rd
Wood, Jennifer Y	19 Stone Rd

Rowe Voters List – December 31, 2007

Alix, Richard E	U	Corarito, Maryann	U	Grogan, Barbara	R	May, Edwin L	R
Andognini, Arlene	Q	Cousineau, David A	U			May, Gail	U
Ash, Brian S	U	Cousineau, Heidi	U	Halberg, Neil	U	May, Katherine E	R
Ash, Laurie L	U	Cowie, Bruce W	D	Hardison, Billy L	D	May, Kristina A	R
Avery, Charles L	D	Cowie, Janet L B	D	Hardison, Justin Lane	U	May, Paul E	R
Avery, Linda Eileen	L	Crowningshield,		Hardison, Leonda Iris	U	May, Seth A	U
Avery, Marion A	U	Debra Ann	U	Heiligmann, Carlos	D	McKee, James M	U
		Crowningshield,		Heiligmann, Katherine S	D	McLatchy, Kerri L	U
Babcock, Ellen L	U	Howard C	U	Houghtaling, Timothy L	U	McLatchy, Lesley K	U
Baker, Roberta T	U	Crowningshield,		Hudson, Gary H	D	McLatchy,	
Baker, William J	U	Jeanette	U	Hudson, Sharon C	D	Megan Kristine	D
Barish, Jane L	U	Crowningshield,		Hyttinen,		McLatchy, Paul, Jr	U
Belval, Marilyn Hurd	U	Matthew R	U	Christopher Selmi	U	McLatchy, Wendy K	D
Belval, William C	U	Crowningshield,		Hyttinen, Tabitha J	U	Miceli, Steven M	U
Benson, Francis S	U	Steven Robert	U			Miller, Daniel J	U
Benson, Luella M	U			Jackson, Crystal Ann	U	Miller, Deborah	U
Bergeron-Larsen, Linda	U	Dandeneau, Evelyn L	D	Jackson, Darlene A	U	Miller, Kirk L	U
Berry, Prudence	D	Dandeneau, Henry G	U	Jackson, Lisa Marie	U	Miller, Lisa Lynn	D
Besgen, Anne E	U	Dandeneau, Henry J.	U	Jackson, Oral L	U	Miller, Nicole P	U
Bickford, Linda Jean	Q	Dandeneau, Marion E	U	Johnston, Robin Lee	U	Morano, Cara	U
Bjork, Alan W	R	Danek, Helen Elizabeth	U	Jolly, Russell W	D	Morano, Chris	U
Bjork, Florence M	R	Danek, Lillian H	D			Morse, Alfred C, Jr	U
Bjork, Timothy J	U	Danek, Thomas P, Jr	U	Kalaus, Dorothy M	U	Morse, Marjorie H	U
Booth, Robin	D	Danek-Burke, Lisa Ann	U	Kalaus, Warren	U	Morse-Sprague, Jennifer	D
Boutwell, Joyce A H	U	Daviau, Edward A	U	Katz, Deborah Booth	U		
Boutwell, Raymond L	U	Daviau, Sandra P	D	Katz, Esther D	U	Packard, Ellynn Baxter	D
Boyd, Irene M	U	Dionne, Loretta Irene	D	Katz, Rebecca Leah	D	Packard, John R H	D
Boyd, William M	U	Donelson, Brian A	R			Page, Dorothy F	U
Bradley, Michael F	U	Donelson, Norma J	R	Laffond, Cynthia M	U	Paige, Clifford III	U
Bradley, Patrick M	U	Donovan, Eugene J	D	Laffond, Laurie L	U	Paige, Mary Eve	U
Bradley, Rebecca P	U	Donovan, Sandra A	U	Laffond, Leonard J	U	Palmer, Edwin A	U
Bradley, Timothy J	U	Dunnell, Dale W	U	Laffond, Michael S	R	Palmer, Ellsworth E	U
Brown, Christopher M	U	Dunnell, Paul P	R	Lager, Joan Selby	U	Parent, Jeffery E	U
Brown, James D	U	Dvore, David	U	Landry, Phyllis J	U	Parent, Margaret G	U
Brown, Jo-ann M	D	Dykeman, Mary Ann	U	Larned, Danielle M	U	Petersen, Daureen W	U
Brown, June W	R	Dykeman, Robert L	U	Larned, Lance P	U	Phelps, Abigail M	U
Brown, Leonard J, Jr	R			Lenth, David W	R	Phelps, Daniel R, Jr	U
Brown, Lillian Norma	R	Essert, Mary B	U	Lenth, Mary E	U	Phelps, MaryJo Anne	U
Brown, Nancy A	U	Essert, Robert	U	Lesure, Lawrence M	U	Pickett, Felicity	D
Brown, Roger L	D			Levitte, Cristine	U	Pierce, Judith A	R
Brown, William M	R	Faivre, Audrey I	U	Lively, Abigail R	U	Pike, Eric A	R
Bryant, Lisa A	D	Fensky, Doris C	U	Lively, Andrew J	U	Pike, Laurie Jean	U
Buck, Elizabeth Victoria	U	Fensky, Kenneth G	U	Lively, Carol F	U	Pike, Michelle C	U
Buck, Philip Edward	U	Flagg, Donna J	U	Lively, Deborah L	U	Plante, Jenna M	U
Burke, Daniel J	U	Foberg, Benjamin A	U	Lively, Dennis G	U	Poehlein, David Gregory	U
		Foberg, Kirsten Ellen	U	Lively, James W	U	Poplawski,	
Camara, Kathleen M	U	Foshay, Angela F	U	Lively, Jonathan A	U	Claudine Micheala	U
Carlow, Earl	D	Foster, Bernice A	U	Lively, Sandra Julia	U	Poplawski, Daniel Paul	U
Carlow, Myra Bennett	D	Foster, William G	U	Loomis, Leann Zavotka	U		
Cascone, Nancy J	U			Loomis, Ruth E	U	Quinn, Melissa S	D
Chattin, Amy	U	Gallagher, Robert L	U	Loomis, Sean R	U	Quinn, Richard K	D
Chattin, Michael	U	Gary, Virginia P	D	Loomis, William A	U	Quist, Kelle J	U
Chiofalo, Thomas L	U	Gaudry, George L	R	Lowell, Frederick K.	D	Quist, Walter J	U
Cirinna, Geoffrey T	D	Glass, Helene S	D				
Clancy, Robert J	D	Glass, Herbert L	D	Mann, Sarah Ilyza	D	Reardon, Crystal J	U
Cooper-Quevedo,		Gleason, Susan P	U	Markert, Karen	D	Reardon, Mary A	U
Paige Anne	D	Gordon, Ronald P	U	Markert, Robert T	U	Reardon, Tiffany J	U
Corarito, Arthur D	U	Gordon, Rosemary R	U	May, Dennis F	U	Reardon, William Neil	U

Reed, Robin W	D	Shippee, Julie J	R	Taylor, James W	U	White, Glenn M	U
Reynolds-Gallagher, Danette L	U	Shippee, Kenneth R	R	Taylor, Sharon L	U	White, Marguerite S	D
Rice, Bradley J	U	Silva, Edward J	U	Taylor, Susan Berry	U	White, Susan M	D
Rice, Dean T	R	Silva, Sandra J	U	Tower, Christine A	U	Williams, Albert R	U
Rice, Donald A	R	Smith, Floyd W	U	Tower, Richard A., Sr	R	Williams, Frederick Newton	U
Rice, Jennifer L	D	Smith, Phyllis T	U	Vadeboncoeur, Joseph A	U	Williams, James H	R
Rice, Margaret B	U	Snyder, Catherine T	U	VanItallie, JeanClaude	U	Williams, James Thomas	R
Rice, Robert R	U	Snyder, Timothy C	R	Veber, Carole A	R	Williams, John H	R
Richardson, Rebecca F	D	Sousa, James E	D	Veber, Florence M	U	Williams, Nancy N	R
Roberson, David A	U	Soviecke, Anna	U	Veber, Shirley	U	Williams, Robert O	U
Roberson, Laura S	U	Soviecke, Karen	U	Veber, Terry	R	Williams, Susan A	U
Roche, Barbara J	D	Soviecke, Mitchell	U	Vernes, Elizabeth Anna	U	Williams, Valerie Ann	U
Rode, Christina M	R	Soviecke, Nicholas J	D	Vernes, Ian Arie	U	Wilson, Douglas Rev	D
Rossi, John F	R	Sprague, Brandon A	U	Volland, Phyllis E	D	Wilson, Marilyn	D
Rossi, Martha	U	Sprague, Brittani ME	U	Wayne, David B	D	Wilson, Raymond	D
Scrivens, Betty R	U	Sprague, Katherine D	U	Webster, Gideon K Mr	U	Wood, Jennifer Younglove	D
Scrivens, David F	U	Sprague, Kevin D	U	Wessman, Daniel J	U	Wood, Susan Carol	D
Sherman, Connie Anne	U	Stetson, Jane B	U	White, Gerrit C	U	Woodward, Eleanor L	U
Sherman, Dohn Wayne	U	Stetson, Wendell L	U			Woodward, Martin V	U
Shields, Helen R	D	Stickney, Barbara	R				
		Swenson, Kristen C	R				

**Town of Rowe
Voters List
12/31/07**

U - Unenrolled	191
D - Democrat	56
R - Republican	37
L - Libertarian	1
G - Green Party	0
Q - Independent	2
Total Voters	287

Town Nursing Services

I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide temporary Town Nursing Services to the residents of Rowe during the later half of 2007, July through December. I'd also like to convey my appreciation for the patience that Rowe residents and the Board of Health have extended given the limited time I have had available to provide these services due to my full-time work schedule. Office hours have necessarily been limited to my one day "off" per week with occasional evening hours during the height of the flu vaccine season, but there has been no time for home visits. I recognize that this temporary service has been a significant reduction in the health services Rowe residents have come to enjoy.

During this period of transition in the Town Nurse office, Dr. Warner continued as supporting physician for this office and was consulted as needed. And while I have not as of yet had opportunity to meet with the newly established Nursing Advisory Committee, I look forward to being able to consult with them as the need arises.

In summary, between July and December 2007 there were a total of 155 patient encounters. Of these 146 were office visits and 9 were phone consultation visits. At the request of the Board of Health, office visits that required referral to a primary health care provider such as a doctor or Nurse Practitioner have been tracked. For this reporting period 8 office visits or 5.5% were referred to their primary care provider for follow-up. Through December 2007 a total of 91 influenza vaccines and 6 pneumonia vaccines were administered. The previous year annual report indicates that a total of 135 vaccinations were administered in 2006. This compares with 97 in 2007. As the flu vaccination season is not yet over, residents continue to come into the office for vaccinations, and the Department of Public Health continues to communicate that "It's not too late to vaccinate". A majority of residents have had the pneumonia vaccine in past years, so while there are still some folks taking advantage of this vaccine, there is a reduction in requests.

Progress is being made toward Medicare Roster billing for the flu and pneumonia vaccines. The 2007 upgraded software has been installed and we continue to work with Medicare consultants as apparently they want us to use a dialup connection for the billing rather than the VPN system we have, indicating that it is more secure. IT consultation is assisting in this regard. If we are able to resolve these obstacles, the estimated amount the Town of Rowe could receive is \$519.00 for the purchase of flu vaccine for Medicare recipients (note: this is vaccine Rowe purchased and not the free vaccine we received through the DPH, which we cannot bill for), and \$806.91 for flu vaccine administration to Medicare recipients, for an estimated total of \$1322.10. We are not eligible for reimbursement for pneumonia vaccine (PPV23) so far this year as all the PPV23 we received was free through the DPH and so far no Medicare recipient has required a pneumonia vaccination.

In addition, prior to submitting for roster billing, Medicare now requires providers to apply for a National Provider ID number. The application for a NPI number was submitted, with no result as of this writing.

Again I want to thank you for the opportunity to reconnect with so many friends and former co-workers from Yankee; it has been my pleasure to serve the residents of Rowe in this capacity.

Sincerely,

Sheila M. Litchfield
RN, BSN, COHN-S, COHC
Rowe Town Nurse

Veterans' Services

The first half of the year began with Leo Parent of Turners Falls as Veterans' Agent. In mid July I was appointed by the Selectboard as Veterans' Agent.

In mid May resident Carole Veber asked the Selectboard if she and some members of Rowe Community Church could place U.S. Flags at all Veterans' graves in town in time for Memorial Day. As there was no list of Veterans' graves available, she volunteered to conduct an inventory of the three town cemeteries (East, North and West) to compile a list of all graves with veteran markers. She did a wonderful job. She presented the list to the Selectmen. Flags were obtained from previous agent Leo Parent, and soon after Carole and Roger and Jodi Brown placed flags at each of the 77 Veterans' graves. They also placed 16 other flags as follows:

- at the site of the Old Methodist Church (at the East Cemetery)
- at each of the Unknown Soldier Memorial stones at each cemetery
- at the entrances and gates at each of the three cemeteries

We thank Carole, Roger and Jodi for honoring our fallen veterans with such care and respect.

Appreciation also goes to David Scrivens who obtained a veterans marker for recent fallen veteran Sheila Furgerson. Sheila was a Vietnam-era veteran of the U.S. Marines Corps. Thank you David.

Any Veterans needing assistance should contact me at 337-4706.

Respectfully submitted,

James D. Brown
Veterans' Agent



*Rowe School Third and Fourth grade students recite
"Flanders Fields" during Memorial Day observation at the East Cemetery*



PART II

Education



Congratulations Graduates - 2007

Mohawk Trail Regional High School

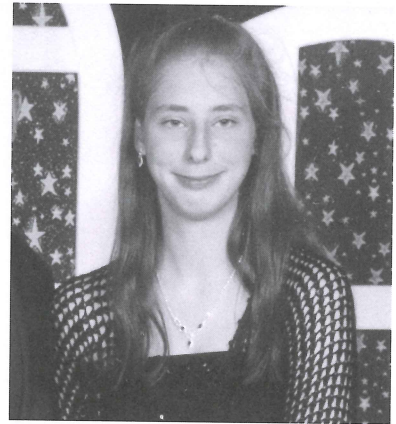


Samantha E. Wessman

*No Photo
Available*

Andrew J. Lively

Franklin Regional Technical High School



Abigail M. Phelps

Rowe Elementary School - 6th Grade Class



*Front Row (L to R): Eric Paige, Makayla Coburn, Kendal Houghtaling
Back Row (L to R): Charlotte Posever, Will Booth, Alex Rice, Sophie Taylor, Francesca Marony, Ashton Moore*

School Committee

The Rowe School Committee would like to thank the Townspeople of Rowe for their continued support of our Town's school for the children of Rowe which provides a quality education.

The financial business of the committee has been a major focus to remain within the constraints and again continue to provide a quality education for all our children pre-school through high school. We again were able, with input from educators, the LEC, parents, and Townspeople, to be creative in order to continue all of our programs and remain the benchmark for elementary education.

After some input over the school front lawn, "The Habitat" was created. It brought the young and elders together with planning, preparing, planting and care of the six gardens. A sign was constructed to let us all know what to look for in our new habitat. It will be a living learning area for all to enjoy for years to come.

An outdoor classroom went from concept to a reality with the help of grant monies, gifts and a lot of hard work. Weather slowed the project, but it continues to progress with expected use the summer of 2008.

We said good-bye to a dedicated member, Margaret Woodside, and hello to a new member, Rebecca Richardson. Rebecca is an educator herself and very involved with children and their needs.

The Rowe School Committee again would like to express our thanks to all Rowe Townspeople and invite you to our open meetings the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Rice, Chairperson
Lisa Danek-Burke, Vice Chairperson
Rebecca Richardson, Secretary



New flower beds at Rowe School are part of the new Outdoor Classroom

School Enrollments

Rowe Elementary School

38	Rowe residents
23	School of Choice-In
	(2) Buckland
	(10) Charlemont
	(2) Colrain
	(2) Conway
	(7) Heath
61	TOTAL

Mohawk Trail Regional Middle/High School

16

Franklin County Technical High School

3

The Academy at Charlemont

1

Four Rivers Charter School

1

Home Schooled Students

8	Elementary Level
2	Middle/High School

School of Choice - Out

0

Rowe Elementary School - Principal's Report

It is an honor to submit my Principal's Report for the Rowe Elementary School. Our community can be justifiably proud of the great work done by our students and staff in calendar year 2007. The quality of student work on state, district, and school-based assessments continues to rise and so do expectations for our students. The professional staff continues to make improvements in the delivery of instruction in the classroom. Spring 2007 MCAS test results for grades three through six show a marked increase over all previous years. Our students were given a targeted aggregate score to reach in English Language Arts of 85.4 out of 100 and our students reached 93.1, and in Mathematics the target was 76.5 and students reached 89.2. Everyone should applaud these accomplishments as an indication of the high standards set in our school and the fact our students continue to surpass them. The improvements made in our early literacy program over the past five years can be credited with making the strong foundation students must have in order to succeed along with the individual attention and education plan provided to students at every grade level.

The supportive and academically challenging curriculum in place continues to improve along with student performance. Science units for all grades are being designed with a new curriculum development tool and our mathematics program remains one of the most challenging curriculums offered. Spanish is taught to students from preschool through grade six and they are immersed as English is rarely spoken during this class time. Our students are easily at a conversation level in Spanish by the fourth grade and have been tested at the completion of grade six at a high school level 2. Research has shown that learning a second language will increase the success of children in their personal and professional lives. Students also tend to use critical thinking skills more effectively and show improvements in their overall learning as they make better connections in other subject areas. Our instructional technology is also in use everyday in classrooms with the use of Smart Boards, laptop computers, and a high-speed Internet connection—paid for by way of federal grants.

Enrichment continues to be as important as the general curriculum. Students participate in vocal and instrumental music weekly and are provided opportunities to write and act in plays. Primary classroom students performed an environmental tale that they wrote about the importance of cleaning up the earth, and upper grade students performed Japanese folk tales. The whole-school cultural arts unit of Japan included an outstanding evening performance of dance and song with artist-in-residence Motoko Dworkin, paid for in part by a grant from the Rowe Cultural Council. We hosted a Springfield Symphony Orchestra woodwinds quintet and had students from the Heath School come over and visit to take part in the event. Our third and fourth grade students also continued the annual trek to Greenfield to experience the Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra.

The fifth and sixth grade students spent five days in Washington, D.C. During this biannual trip our students visited many of our National Memorials and the Smithsonian Museums. Students were also able to visit with our Congressional Representative, John Olver. The group was also privileged to observe the Senate debate and vote on a major piece of immigration legislation and listened to Senators Ted Kennedy and John McCain among others that spoke on the Senate floor. Students also attended a play at the Kennedy Center, visited Arlington National Cemetery and the National Zoo. The trip remains a treasure that students talk about decades later.

We continued to make improvements to the school site in 2007 by adding seven wild flower beds by the entrance to the school. There were many donations of flowers from residents and purchases that were made were done so by way of a grant. Construction started on the outdoor classroom with the foundation and columns poured during the summer. The completion of the classroom is planned for 2008.



New flower beds at Rowe School are part of the new Outdoor Classroom

The school applied for and received an Extended Learning Time Grant from the Department of Education. We studied the possibility of adding 20% more time to our school

day as a dozen other schools did the year before. After much research and consideration the conclusion was to pass on moving further with an extended day. Parent concerns about an already long day for their children were rated highly, as was the possibility of state funding not continuing after the first year.

Student work for local, national, and international relief efforts continued with students working for "Good Neighbors," "Adopt-A-Family," "Warm the Children," and "UNICEF," to name a few. Students also continued their participation in their ninth year of the Deerfield River Cleanup by picking up trash at the Zoar picnic area. These demonstrations of good will and service to the community are more than a part of the school's Mission Statement—the students' genuine concern for the global community is remarkable.

The Holly Berry Craft Fair is an institution now and is looked forward to by Rowe residents and many from in and out of Franklin County that come here for the event and the quality art and craft products available for sale. The profits from this event, and many others, that the Parent-Teacher-Partnership take on each year helped us greatly this year with the rising costs of field trips and enrichment programs such as the winter enrichment program at Berkshire East.

I would once again like to thank the SCA/AmeriCorps program that Rowe School has been very fortunate to be a part of each year. We host two volunteers that are

essentially part of a domestic Peace Corps program with a mission of environmental awareness. Another one of the great benefits is that these young people are outstanding role models for our students. If you ever have the opportunity thank a Congressman for the continued support of this great program please do so on our behalf.

We had one staff change in 2007. Our school custodian Brian Crowningshield left us to go back to work with building contractors. Brian did a fantastic job for us in the short time he was with the school. Rowe resident Daniel Miller replaced Brian, and Dan stepped right up to the plate and has been a great addition to the school staff.

To sum the year up the learning adventure continued, thanks in large part from the support of all the Rowe School families as they continue to be the cornerstone of this great school. Our accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges is also in good standing and all we do really does revolve around our Schools Mission Statement: *"Through a program of academic excellence students will acquire the knowledge and skills to become lifelong learners, successful communicators, and effective citizens, developing a respect for the rights, dignity, and opinions of others."* I, along with the staff, thank the Town of Rowe for its continued support of its students at the Rowe Elementary School, the Mohawk Trail Regional Middle/High School, and Franklin County Technical High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Clancy, Principal

Franklin County Technical School District

82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls, MA 01376

We submit this annual report for 2007 on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students.

Total enrollment as of October 1, 2007 was 525 students, with town breakouts as follows:

Bernardston	26	New Salem	6
Buckland	16	Northfield	29
Colrain	25	Orange	66
Conway	11	Shelburne	13
Deerfield	15	Sunderland	13
Erving	7	Warwick	8
Gill	10	Wendell	8
Greenfield	138	Whately	8
Heath	6	Non-District	42*
Leyden	5		
Montague	6	* Incls 3 from Rowe	

Franklin County Technical School awarded 117 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2007. This marked the sixth year that Massachusetts students were required to pass the MCAS in order to receive a high school diploma. Once again our students were very successful in meeting this high academic standard. The graduates also earned their vocational certificate along with their diploma. 45% of our graduates planned to go on to either a two or four year college, 38% joined the area work force, 2% planned to join the military, 9% went on to a post secondary trade/technical school. We are proud of the accomplishments of the Class of 2007.

All schools in the Commonwealth are required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) to meet or exceed specific student performance standards in English/language arts and mathematics. The Franklin County Technical School did not achieve adequate yearly progress determinations for the 2006/2007 school year and, with one exception, this is the first time this has occurred since 2001. This determination is based solely on how students perform during the 10th grade MCAS exams. Our students commence their education with us in their ninth grade year, and although this determination was not achieved within their first two years with us, we are nonetheless proud of the fact that our students have a 99% success rate of passing MCAS by the time they graduate.

During the 2007 school year, the students from various vocational programs continue to give back to the municipalities and non-profit entities in our district through the completion of a variety of projects. Our unique house building partnership with Habitat for Humanity continues this

year and is being considered as a case study by Habitat International in Atlanta GA. They are interested in replicating this mutually beneficial relationship in other areas. The police station in Bernardston will receive a turf installation in the spring, the Central MA Steam, Gas and Machinery Association located at the Orange airport will benefit from a new heating system installation, Veterans Memorial Field in Greenfield will experience phase two of the plumbing/lighting renovation and the Union 38 school district has had computer projectors installed by our electrical students to name a few projects. There are at least a dozen more either in progress or planned in the future.

We have a very well maintained building that has aging mechanical systems and, consequently, we are confronted with increasing repair and maintenance costs for these systems. The administration began to explore a possible solution to these issues last winter through performance contracting. Performance contracting allows municipalities and regional school districts the opportunity to install new energy efficient systems and use the resulting savings in energy costs to finance the improvements. The law states that the net impact on the overall budget must be zero. We are currently pursuing a performance contract and, with school committee approval, could have new systems in place in 2008.

We continue to work with Greenfield Community College to offer evening courses at Franklin County Technical School, as well as a program that is co-taught by a F.C.T.S and a G.C.C. instructor and is offered after our normal school hours. This program enables our seniors to experience the college environment first hand while obtaining college credits.

We also continue to work with Franklin County businesses, the Regional Employment Board and the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce to make sure that our graduates are part of the Economic Development for Franklin County.

We thank each and every citizen of Franklin County for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz
School Committee Chairman

Mr. Richard K. Lane
Superintendent

Mohawk Regional School System - Report of the Superintendent

Mohawk Trail Regional School District Hawlemont Regional School District - Rowe Regional School District

Mohawk entered its 40th year of operation in 2007. With a long history steeped in educational excellence, the school system has much to celebrate.

District Educational Planning

With the goal of promoting student achievement, the school system focused a great deal of energy toward educational planning in 2007. In particular, administration began the process of aligning district educational goals with district improvement plans and school improvement plans. Each of the three districts made considerable progress toward establishing district goals. Mohawk voted its goals late in the year. Hawlemont and Rowe will be in a position to vote their goals in early 2008. Both the district improvement plans and the school improvement plans are slated for completion by the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

Educational Accountability

All three districts performed very well on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) in 2007, which is used to hold districts and schools accountable for adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward the objective of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Law that all students be proficient in Reading and Mathematics by 2014.

District Level - Mohawk

The 2007 MTRSD MCAS results indicate that the district is on target. For the second consecutive year, the MTRSD met AYP requirements in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics both in the aggregate and subgroups.

School Level - Mohawk

At the individual school level, three of four Mohawk elementary schools met all AYP targets in both ELA and Math in 2007: Sanderson Academy, Colrain Central, and Heath Elementary. The High School also met all AYP targets. Unfortunately, Buckland-Shelburne Elementary (BSE) and the Middle School (grades 6-8) did not meet AYP in 2007; the District has modified their respective school improvement plans to help the schools improve their performance in 2008.

School Level - Hawlemont

After three consecutive years of meeting AYP in both ELA and Math, Hawlemont came up just a bit short in 2007, meeting its Math AYP target but just missing its ELA target by 0.6%. Hawlemont's school improvement plan has also been amended to improve performance in 2008.

School Level - Rowe

Rowe Elementary School's 2007 AYP results were very positive. The students substantially exceeded state performance targets in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.

Bringing Healthcare Costs In-Line

Taking advantage of new legislation, both Mohawk and Hawlemont moved to join the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) during the fall of 2007. This transition from their membership in the Franklin County Regional Schools Health Group is expected to yield substantial savings for both districts in the next fiscal year. For Mohawk, the savings may be as much as \$1 million in FY09 and marks a significant step toward financial sustainability. For Hawlemont, the savings are estimated to reach approximately \$60K. The school system also forwarded information about joining the GIC to the Town of Rowe for future consideration.

Additional Revenue from the State

As a result of a collaborative effort with local legislators and area school districts, Mohawk was awarded \$200K in foundation reserve "pot hole" aid under category F "Assistance for regional districts in rural areas with declining enrollment" (otherwise known as the RED Circuit Breaker). This allocation was the 4th highest among the 63 award recipients. Hawlemont also received \$24K under this same category. Additionally, the school system alerted the Town of Charlemont to apply for pothole aid under category B "Extraordinary increases in minimum required local contribution to an individual district." Charlemont was awarded \$5K.

Pilot Vocational-Technical Program

In the fall of 2007, the MTRSD piloted an Information Technology program in a creative manner that may pave the way for additional programming. Rather than pay a staff person to fix computers at the high school, the District created an educational program in which students learned to provide that service. Based on the success of this pilot program, the MTRSD is exploring expansion into other vocational-technical programming in the 2008-2009 school year, such as Landscaping and Office Technology. This creativity may lead to a win-win situation in which the District will be able to seed new educational programming while simultaneously reducing the budget.

Looking Ahead

2007 was a terrific year for the students of the Mohawk Trail Regional School System. Despite a challenging fiscal environment, the Mohawk, Hawlemont, and Rowe school districts provided solid educational programming for their students. In addition to core programming, the related arts were preserved and flourished. The students excelled. With a long tradition of success, the students of the Mohawk Trail Regional School System can look forward to 40 more years of educational excellence.

Michael A. Buoniconti
Superintendent of Schools

Mohawk Trail Regional School - Report of the Principal

I am pleased to present the annual report as the Principal of Mohawk Trail Regional Middle/High School. The accomplishments of the students and staff at Mohawk continue to provide the communities with a great source of pride.

Our total enrollment has declined to 634 students. Our school still continues to compete with area public and private schools for students due to the excellent performance and reputation of our student body and the high levels of creativity and dedication of our teaching staff. We welcome 54 students to Mohawk from communities outside of our 9 towns. The school continues to find ways to market the school, its excellence, and to attract students to Mohawk from areas inside and outside of Franklin County.

I am pleased to announce that the New England Association of Schools and Colleges accepted our 5 Year Accreditation Report. There are many new and exciting programs proposed in this report. The first semester of this school year we were able to successfully pilot Internships in Elementary Education, Middle School Education, Journalism with a local newspaper, and several students served the school as Technology Assistants. The English Department organized a trip to Italy as part of the Humanities curriculum and Kathy Stier ran a course called Tropical Ecology of Belize for 19 students that culminated with a trip to Belize

this past summer. And this past year's State Science Fair produced a Mohawk student who qualified and participated in the National Science Fair.

The Mohawk Music Program once again won several awards in national competitions. The All School Musical for this year will be *"Annie Get Your Gun"*. This year Mohawk will celebrate its 40th Anniversary with an event that is being planned for May. We are hopeful that alumni, students and parents will join us to glimpse back at the history of the school and catch up with some old friends.

This past fall, 281 students participated in a sport and another 50 students participated in the Ace of Clubs after school program. 51% of Mohawk students participated in an after school program, and when combined with participation in the music program, more than 70% of Mohawk students participate in an extracurricular activity.

On behalf of our students, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the towns and the members of the school-related organizations for their commitment to support such outstanding educational experiences for our children.

Brian E. Beck
Principal

Mohawk Regional School System - Library/Media Services

<u>School/Library Director</u>	<u>Total circulation</u> (books, videos, other materials)
Buckland Shelburne Elementary - Toni Wilcox	6,845
Colrain Central School - Eugenia Shearer	5,754
Hawlemont Regional School - Mary Boehmer	8,732
Heath Elementary - Wanda Musacchio	2,437
Mohawk Trail Regional (7-12) - Gina Wells	2,433
Rowe Elementary - Sue Kranz	1,823
Sanderson Academy - Eileen Rauch	4,891

Special Programs in Each School

Buckland Shelburne Elementary - A Scholastic Book Fair was held from October 6-10. This event raised \$735 and added many new titles to the library. On the last day of the fair the PTO held a family reading event. Students in 4th-6th grade were introduced to the MA Children's Book Award Program. The students set up a display and log of books they have read. Also, the students voted for a favorite book in this program. Students in the 3rd and 4th grade played a Spine Label Match 3 game to learn the importance of alphabetical order and numerical sequence in the library.

Colrain Central School - Two book fairs were held in 2007. These fairs enabled the library to buy the 2007 edition of the World Book Encyclopedia. Book fair profits made it possible for each Colrain student to have two new paperback books for summer reading. Many Colrain students read

the West County all-community-read book, The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs.

Hawlemont Regional School - In April the students and staff participated in the West County all-community-read by reading The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs. Author/Illustrator John Steven Gurney visited the school and did workshops with each class. In late May library classes took walking fieldtrips to the local Tyler Memorial Library to kick off summer reading.

Heath Elementary - A Dr. Seuss Birthday and Read Across America Celebration was done in March 2007 with members of the National Honor Society from Mohawk Trail Regional School dancing, singing, and reading a Dr. Seuss book. The Friends of the Heath School Library sponsored a continental breakfast for the annual town meeting, a booth at the Heath Fair and a book fair at the school to raise money for books for the library.

Mohawk Trail Regional (7-12) - Two TV specials for Falls Cable TV (Ch. 17) were produced. One was on the Mohawk Trail Regional School System library program. The other featured a Mohawk student interviewing the author of the book, Monique and the Mango Rains, Kris Holloway. A day-long-training-session for all Franklin County librarians and library workers was held in the Mohawk library on October 26.

Rowe Elementary - In the spring a library birthday party was held. Students came to the party dressed as characters from favorite books. In the fall the 3rd and 4th graders did an art project related to the book, The Big Wave. Students created art and poetry based on the book.

Sanderson Academy - In the winter a Medieval Festival including games and food was held.

Terry McConnell
Director of Library/Media Services

Mohawk Regional School System - Special Education

The Mohawk Trail Regional School System provides services to students with special needs through a variety of services. From pre-school to graduation or aging out of the system at twenty-two years, students receive direct services in and out of classrooms in the districts. The districts' Early Education Coordinator works with local agencies to ensure the youngest children in our communities receive the support they need to be ready to learn as they enter our schools. Special education programs provide specialized and individualized instruction and classroom support for qualifying students in all grades. Related services, including speech and language therapy, occupational and physical therapy, assistive technology, and counseling are provided in each of the three districts.

The districts work to provide appropriate instruction to all students with special needs in the least restrictive environment, preferably their home school. While the districts support more inclusion practices, resource rooms found in each building provide a setting for meeting the needs of individual students, as well. Specialized programs within the district include the Language-Based Classroom in the middle school, the Mohawk Supported Classrooms for emotional needs in the middle and high school, the Vocational Integration Program, and Life Skills Program.

In 2007 special education enrollment in the Mohawk Trail Regional School System dropped by three percent from the previous year—from 23% to 20%. While all schools are participating in review of identification, evaluation, and place-

ment procedures to improve appropriateness and effectiveness of student services, increased costs of out-of-district placements and transportation have worked against any fiscal benefit to our reduced numbers.

Data collected for the October 2007 SIMS report indicate the following:

<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>SpEd</i>	<i>% SpEd</i>	
Mohawk Trail Regional	662	2	21
Buckland/Shelburne Sch	194	40	21
Colrain Central	130	25	19
Heath Elementary	77	9	12
Sanderson Academy	138	28	20
Hawlemont Reg'l School	118	23	20
Rowe Reg'l School	70	11	16

The district completed its response to the Coordinated Program Review in November. The Department of Education made a site visit to Mohawk Trail Regional School to assess compliance in the substantially separate classrooms, formerly known as Walnut Hill. The District is also working on compliance with new English Language Learners guidelines from the state; writing curriculum, training teachers and providing service to students with limited English language skills. All schools work to assure compliance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title IX to prevent discrimination on the basis of race, gender, or disability in our educational process.

Patricia Bell
Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Fund

The fund was established under the provisions of the will of Carl H. Nilman for the purpose of providing scholarships. Recipients shall reside in the school district and be graduates of the Mohawk Trail Regional High School who desire and are deemed worthy of post high school education or training and who are in need of financial assistance.

This year the Awards subcommittee read 109 applications. 45 were from seniors and 64 from previous graduates of Mohawk. \$40,100 is to be awarded using 30% for seniors and 70% for graduates. The committee feels that seniors have multiple scholarship opportunities from other sources, while graduates have far fewer resources. 31 scholarships totaling \$11,900 were awarded to seniors (69% of applicants). 40 scholarships totaling \$28,200 were given to graduates (63% of applicants). The awards committee is Sheila Graves, Marion Scott (Buckland), Marge Porrovecchio (Charlemont), Alicia Tripp (Heath), and Michelle Hillman (Colrain).

From 1991-2007 a total of \$615,950 has been awarded in scholarships. Mohawk seniors have received \$191,675 and \$424,275 has been awarded to Mohawk graduates.

Other members of the committee are: Richard Bole, Sarah Rich, Julia Aron, Ken Chaffee, David Engle, Rebecca Bradley and Nancy Dole.

Judy Hoyt is continuing her role as our financial advisor.

This year we accepted with regret the resignations of Robert Gruen, Karen Soviecke and Marguerite Willis.

The Mohawk community owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Nilman for his foresight in supporting higher education for the students of Mohawk Trail Regional High School. The committee members are honored to bring the wishes of his will to fruition.

Students of any age who are graduates of Mohawk are encouraged to apply for scholarships to help meet their continuing education needs. Call the Guidance Office at Mohawk for information regarding requirements and deadlines.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle F. Hillman
Secretary

The Mary Lyon Foundation, Inc.

Supporting Excellence in Local Education

This past year the Mary Lyon Foundation helped welcome an official eight person delegation from our sister village, Mutianyu, China, and was involved in coordinating an itinerary for our guests while they visited Shelburne Falls in June. In support of future exchanges, both official and unofficial, we will continue to promote the concept of this unique sister village relationship. Our annual MTRS Outstanding Graduate award was presented this year to Julie Upton-Wang '73, formerly of Shelburne Falls, for creating the concept of this special partnership. Other awards were the George Needham Business Award presented to Staples of Greenfield, Jim Boulger Spirit of Adventure Award presented to Adam Hinds '94, and special recognition was given to Sharon Hudson, board member from Rowe, for her loyal support and outstanding spirit of volunteerism.

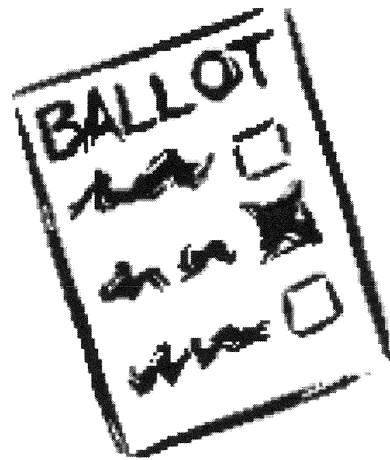
After well over a decade at our downtown Shelburne Falls office, we have moved to the Buckland Shelburne Elementary School where we are enjoying a spacious classroom and close proximity to students and staff. We greatly appreciate the use of this lovely space. Our mailing address and telephone number remain unchanged, and we continue to welcome visitors to our new office.

One of our major events in 2007 was the distribution of new backpacks and books to elementary school children in all our schools. The kick-off event was held at the Buckland Shelburne Elementary School with radio station WHAI providing lively music and entertainment. We especially thank Office Depot, Cradles to Crayons, Infinite Ideas and Grace Friary Public Relations for making this event a reality. In

addition to our annual student spelling bee each spring, we again sponsored a unique community spelling bee this past November. There were thirty teams representing public and private schools, youth groups, senior citizens, religious and civic organizations, businesses and local government. Master of Ceremonies Jill Connolly, brought back by popular demand, was flanked by Spell Master Extraordinaire Art Schwenger. The event was a major success, raising significant funds for mini-grants to be awarded for innovative, replicable, educational projects in all our schools.

Members of the Board of Directors for 2007 were Marion Taylor (Past President), Winston Healy, Curtis Rich (President), Pat Kerrins (Treasurer), Jim Pilgrim, Stephanie Purington, Sharon Hudson (Secretary), Nina Coler, Hugh Knox (Vice President), George Dole, Jr., Heather Viens, Tom and Karen Harmon, Dan Field, and MTRS students Holly Braziel and Brittney Bissell. Business Manager is Gina Sieber. The Board of Directors joins me in thanking the many generous individuals and businesses in our community for making 2007 a highly successful year. The Mary Lyon Foundation is a 501(c)(3) community-based, non-profit organization that supports all aspects of excellence in local education in our nine West County towns. Named in honor of Buckland-born educator Mary Lyon, who founded Mount Holyoke College, the organization continues to provide innovative programs and services that greatly enhance the quality of local education.

Dr. Susan B. Samoriski
Executive Director



PART III

Elections and Town Meetings

Special Town Meeting – Official Results - FY 2007 and FY 2008

Town of Rowe
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
May 14, 2007

The Special Town Meeting was held at the Rowe Elementary School on May 14, 2007.

Moderator: Robert Clancy, Town Clerk: Heidi Cousineau, Selectboard, Myra B. Carlow and Susan C. Wood.

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM a quorum being present.

The following tellers were sworn in by the Moderator: Sandra Daviau, Shirley Veber, Susan Gleason and Robin Reed.

ARTICLE 1: The motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE from FREE CASH** the sum of **\$1,000.00**, for the purpose of subscribing to a **town-wide emergency notification system**, for the **FY07** fiscal year, and the sum of **\$1,000.00** for the **FY08** fiscal year.

ORAL AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

ARTICLE 2: The motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE from FREE CASH** the sum of **\$5,000.00**, for the **Legal Expenses** account for the **FY07** fiscal year.

**SHOW OF HANDS TIED VOTE
TIE WAS BROKEN BY MODERATOR.
MOTION PASSED
YES - 19 NO - 18**

ARTICLE 3: No business was transacted under this article.

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM

A true copy, Attest: Heidi Cousineau, Town Clerk
May 14, 2007

RECAPITULATION OF ARTICLES

(Recapitulation is for information only)

<i>Appropriations from Taxation</i>		0.00
<i>Appropriations from Free Cash</i>		
Emergency Notification System – FY07	1,000.00	
Emergency Notification System – FY08	1,000.00	
Legal Expenses – FY07	5,000.00	
<i>Total Appropriations from Free Cash</i>		7,000.00
<i>Appropriations from Available Funds</i>		0.00
<i>Appropriations from Stabilization</i>		0.00
 TOTAL FY2007 BUDGET ALL FUNDS		 \$ 6,000.00
TOTAL FY2008 BUDGET ALL FUNDS		\$ 1,000.00

Annual Town Meeting – Official Results – FY08

Town of Rowe COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS May 14, 2007

The Annual Town Meeting was held at the Rowe Elementary School on Monday May 14, 2007 at 7:00 PM.

Quorum was present.

The Meeting was called to order by Moderator Robert Clancy at 7:05 PM.

Tellers: Sandra Daviau, Shirley Veber, Susan Gleason and Robin Reed were appointed and sworn in by the Moderator.

Warrant was posted April 23, 2007.

The Moderator asked for a moment of silence to honor town residents who had passed on since last year's Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 1: The motion was made and seconded to act on and approve reports of the Town officers and committees.

ORAL UNANIMOUS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

ARTICLE 2: The motion was made and seconded to allow the Board of Selectmen to choose all necessary officers not elected by ballot for the ensuing year.

ORAL UNANIMOUS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

ARTICLE 3: The motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the conduct of **General Government**, including the charges and expenses of the various town offices, and compensation for elected and appointed officials for the 2008 fiscal year.

Administration

Legal Expenses	8,000.00
General Administration	29,580.00
Town Officer Expenses	1,530.00
Print Town Reports	3,315.00
Municipal Audit	5,000.00
Town Coordinator/Town Accountant Salary	53,308.00
Admin Asst/Acctg Asst Compensation	9,800.00
IT Hardware/Software	11,000.00
FRCOG – Fees for Services	100.00
Bank Charges/Loan Interest	500.00
Subtotal Administration	122,133.00

Assessors Office

Assessors Clerk Compensation	10,000.00
Assessors Operations	6,750.00
Full Measure/List (10-yr)	8,000.00
Triennial Revaluation	25,000.00
Subtotal Assessors Office	49,750.00

Planning Board

Planning Board Operations	500.00
Goal Post Publication	18,700.00
Planning Board Legal Expenses	2,000.00
Subtotal Planning Board	21,200.00

Other

Conservation Commission Operations	200.00
Council on Aging	5,500.00
Subtotal Other	5,700.00

Stipends

Selectmen Stipends	5,562.00
Assessors Stipends	5,100.00
Board of Health Stipends	4,635.00
School Committee Stipends	4,284.00
Tax Collector Stipend	6,384.00
Town Clerk Stipend	6,384.00
Miscellaneous Officers Stipends	
Moderator	412.00
Constable	515.00
Animal Inspector	515.00
Dog Officer	618.00
Subtotal Stipends	34,409.00

Other Compensation/Expenses

Assistant Treasurer Compensation	100.00
Election/Teller Expenses	2,000.00
Registrars & Census Takers Compensation	350.00
Subtotal Other Compensation/Expenses	2,450.00

Veterans' Services

Veterans' Agent Stipend	500.00
Operations	400.00
Veterans' Benefits	100.00
Subtotal Veterans' Services	1,000.00

TOTAL ARTICLE 3 **236,642.00**

Amendment #1: A motion was made and seconded to **AMEND Article 3 Line Item - Administration - Legal Expenses to decrease the amount to \$8,000.00.**

AMENDMENT PASSED BY A SHOW OF HANDS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

THE MAIN ARTICLE, AS AMENDED, PASSED BY SHOW OF HANDS VOTE

ARTICLE 4: The motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the sum of **\$7,000.00** for the **Treasurer's Stipend** for the 2008 fiscal year.

SHOW OF HANDS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT **243,642.00**

ARTICLE 5: The motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE from FREE CASH** the following sums for the conduct of **General Government** for the 2008 fiscal year.

Computer Network Support	16,000.00
FRCOG Core Assessment	23,889.00
FRCOG Statutory Assessment	10,480.00
Bonding and Insurance	45,000.00

TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT FROM FREE CASH	95,369.00
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Amendment #1: A motion was made and seconded to **AMEND Article 5** to read: "to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the conduct of **General Government** for the 2008 fiscal year."

**'SHOW OF HANDS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE
(ON THE AMENDMENT)**

'YES - 38 NO- 27

**THE MAIN ARTICLE, AS AMENDED,
PASSED BY A SHOW OF HANDS
AFFIRMATIVE VOTE**

ARTICLE 6: The motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the operation and maintenance of **Public Works and Facilities** for the 2008 fiscal year.

Highway Department

DPW Heavy Equipment Operators' Wages	156,961.00
DPW Superintendent's Salary	70,409.00
DPW Operations & Maintenance	36,720.00
Fuel for Town Vehicles	28,000.00
Road Surface Maintenance/Reclamation	45,000.00
Annual DPW Projects	30,600.00
Snow & Ice Removal	64,260.00

Sub-Total Highway Department	431,950.00
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Cemeteries Maintenance	11,000.00
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Other Public Works & Facilities

Summer Youth Employment Program	25,500.00
Street Lighting	5,000.00
Municipal Center Custodian Wages	12,000.00
Municipal Center Operations/Maintenance	22,000.00
Elevator Maintenance Contract	5,900.00
Municipal Center Fuel Oil	4,500.00
Gracy House Maintenance/Repair	2,000.00
Beautification	2,000.00
Dam Maintenance, Inspections & Repairs	3,000.00

Sub-Total Other Public Works & Facilities	81,900.00
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SUB-TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES FROM TAXATION	524,850.00
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SHOW OF HANDS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

ARTICLE 7: The motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE from FREE CASH** the sum of **\$10,000.00** for the purpose of **Gracy House Maintenance/Repair**.

A motion was made and seconded to TABLE Article 7.

**MOTION TO TABLE PASSED BY SHOW OF HANDS
AFFIRMATIVE VOTE**

ARTICLE 8: The motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE from AVAILABLE FUNDS** the sum of **\$111,906.00** for the maintenance, repair, improvement and construction of town highways, or any other purpose allowed under Chapter 90, which amounts shall be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through funds made available by Chapter 90, or take any action in relation thereto.

TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES ALL FUNDS	636,756.00
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**SHOW OF HANDS UNANIMOUS
AFFIRMATIVE VOTE**

ARTICLE 9: The motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Public Safety** for the 2008 fiscal year:

Police Department

Police Chief Stipend	9,044.00
Police Officers Compensation	14,493.00
Operations	6,800.00
Subtotal Police Department	30,337.00

Fire Department

Fire Chief Stipend	6,384.00
Fire Officers Stipends	6,180.00
Firefighter Reimbursements	7,000.00
Fire Department General Operations	23,500.00
Fire Extinguisher Testing	4,000.00
Emergency Management	1,000.00
Forest Fire Control	100.00
Hazardous Material Control	1,000.00
Subtotal Fire Department	49,164.00

Emergency Medical Services

EMS Coordinator Stipend	1,859.00
EMS Operations and Maintenance	3,500.00
Emergency Personnel Stipends/Expenses	3,800.00
New Ambulance Fund (Charlemont)	2,000.00
Subtotal Emergency Medical Service	11,159.00

Inspections

Building Inspector Fees (Estimated)	5,000.00
FCCIP Plumbing/Gas Inspection Program	1,288.00
FCCIP Electrical Inspection Program	1,018.00
Subtotal Inspections	7,306.00

TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	97,966.00
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**THERE WAS A MENTION OF THANK YOU FOLLOWED
BY APPLAUSE TO ED MAY FOR THE SETUP AND**

**INSTALLATION OF THE EMERGENCY GENERATOR
AT THE ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**SHOW OF HANDS UNANIMOUS AFFIRMATIVE
VOTE ON ARTICLE 9**

ARTICLE 10: The motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Public Health and Sanitation** for the 2008 fiscal year:

Public Health & Sanitation

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day	700.00
Refuse Garden Operations	43,900.00
Transfer Station Attendant Compensation	13,543.00
FCSWMD Administration Assessment (partial)	1,760.00
Recycling Shed	1,600.00
Board of Health Operations	16,500.00
Health Services Salary	49,619.00
Health Services Operations	6,041.00
Health Services Physician's Stipend	1,000.00

TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION	134,663.00
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Amendment #1: A motion was made and seconded to **AMEND Article 10, Line Item-Health Services Operations** amount to \$7,786.00.

**AFTER A FIVE MINUTE RECESS TO CHECK WITH
TOWN COUNSEL, NO VOTE WAS TAKEN.
RULED BY MODERATOR: LINE ITEM CANNOT BE
RAISED PER ADVICE OF TOWN COUNSEL**

Amendment #2: A motion was made and seconded to **TABLE Article 10.**

MOTION TO TABLE WAS DEFEATED

**THE MAIN ARTICLE, AS READ, PASSED BY SHOW
OF HANDS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE**

ARTICLE 11: The motion was made and seconded to authorize the Board of Health, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E^{1/2}, to use a **revolving fund with a limit of \$3,500.00** for the 2008 fiscal year to accept receipts from the Medicare Roster Billing Program for the purpose of **providing vaccine services**, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2009.

Amendment #1: A motion was made and seconded to **amend Article 11 to read: "To use a revolving fund with a limit of \$5,156.00 for the purpose of providing vaccine services."**

MOTION TO AMEND WAS DEFEATED

Amendment #2: A motion was made and seconded to **TABLE Article 11.**

**MOTION TO TABLE PASSED
BY MAJORITY AFFIRMATIVE VOTE**

* **At this point in the meeting the Moderator appointed Frederick Williams to serve as temporary Moderator for Article 12.**

ARTICLE 12: The motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Public Schools** for the 2008 fiscal year:

Instructional Programs/Tuition to Mohawk & FCTech	684,442.00
Instructional Staff Training	5,020.00
Special Education and Other Tuitions	50,421.00
Speech Pathology & Audiology	16,735.00
Psychological Services	13,783.00
Library Services	38,411.00
Health Services	61,263.00
School Committee (incls. High School late bus)	21,530.00
Principals Office (incls 3-D attendance program/admin)	95,900.00
Food Services	27,428.00
Plant Operations	103,720.00
Shared Services	81,544.00
Pupil Transportation	18,533.00
Special Education Transportation	5,436.00
New Transportation Equipment	0.00
Sub-total Public Schools	1,224,156.00
School Choice Estimated Receipts	(127,000.00)

TOTAL SCHOOLS	1,097,156.00
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SHOW OF HANDS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

* **A motion was made by School Committee Chair Margaret Rice to ask leave of the meeting to have MTRSD Superintendent Michael Buonoconti speak. Motion was seconded and passed by affirmative vote. Mr. Buonoconti asked that Margaret Woodside be recognized for her many years of service as a School Committee Member, as she was not seeking re-election after many years of service. The audience responded with great applause.**

ARTICLE 13: The motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will support sending to the Governor and Legislators of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts the following request on behalf of the Mohawk Trail Regional School System:

WE, the residents of the Town of Rowe Massachusetts make the following request on behalf of the children of our town and of our neighbors in the surrounding towns. Although this year's state budget climate may be unusually challenging, the school districts do not, unfortunately, have the option to wait for better times. The school districts included in the Rural, Economically Challenged and Declining Enrollment (R.E.D.) Circuit Breaker Proposal, representing 47 cities and towns, are in severe fiscal crisis and require emergency assistance in FY08.

We request that the following actions be taken:

- *Restore the Pothole Grants for FY08 to an amount equal to FY07 amounts, adjusted for inflation.*
- *Advance the Rural, Economically Challenged and Declining Enrollment (R.E.D.) Circuit Breaker Proposal for FY09*
- *Incorporate the criteria detailed in the R.E.D. Circuit Breaker as new eligibility language in the FY08 Pothole Grants program.*

**SHOW OF HANDS
UNANIMOUS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE**

ARTICLE 14: The motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the **Rowe Town Library** for the 2008 fiscal year:

Library Director Compensation	20,449.00
Library Staff Wages	13,275.00
Library Operations and Maintenance	20,122.00
TOTAL ROWE LIBRARY	53,846.00

**SHOW OF HANDS
UNANIMOUS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE**

ARTICLE 15: The motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the followings sums for **Old Home Day**:

Old Home Day Celebration	4,000.00
Old Home Day Fireworks	5,000.00
TOTAL OLD HOME DAY	9,000.00

SHOW OF HANDS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

ARTICLE 16: The motion was made and seconded to authorize the **Old Home Day Committee**, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E^{1/2}, to use a **revolving fund with a limit of \$4,000.00** for the 2008 fiscal year to accept departmental receipts generated by Old Home Day activities and programs for the purpose of **defraying expenses of Old Home Day**, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2009.

**SHOW OF HANDS
UNANIMOUS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE**

ARTICLE 17: The motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the **management and operation of Pelham Lake Park** for the 2008 fiscal year:

Park Wages	38,207.00
Head Ranger Wage	38,563.00
Operation and Maintenance	22,500.00
TOTAL PARK	99,270.00

**TOTAL CULTURE
AND RECREATION** **162,116.00**

SHOW OF HANDS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

ARTICLE 18: The motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Pensions and Insurance** for the 2008 fiscal year.

Franklin County Retirement Assessment	104,388.00**
Randolph, MA Retirement Assessment	800.00
Unemployment Insurance	1,000.00**
Group Health Insurance	300,000.00**

FICA/Medicare Tax 33,075.00**

**TOTAL PENSIONS
AND INSURANCE** **439,263.00**

**Includes pensions and insurance for school employees

**SHOW OF HANDS
UNANIMOUS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE**

ARTICLE 19: The motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE from FREE CASH** the sum of **\$20,000.00** to be used as a **Reserve Fund** for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures for the 2008 fiscal year.

SHOW OF HANDS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

ARTICLE 20: The motion was made and seconded to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate a contract with the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Charlemont to **salt, sand and plow approximately .5 miles of Zoar Road**, lying within the Town of Charlemont, for one (1) winter season beginning November 1, 2007.

SHOW OF HANDS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

ARTICLE 21: The motion was made and seconded to **Create a Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund**, into which money will be deposited, accumulate and be disbursed for the substantial repair and replacement of the Town's capital items; i.e., items with a useful life of five (5) years or more.

**SHOW OF HANDS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE
(CARRIED BY 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE)**

ARTICLE 22: The motion was made and seconded to **TRANSFER** the sum of **\$1,100,000.00** from the general **Stabilization Fund** to the **Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund**.

**SHOW OF HANDS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE
(CARRIED BY 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE)**

ARTICLE 23: The motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the sum of **\$150,000.00** to the **Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund**, subject to a **successful Proposition 2^{1/2} Override Vote** at the Annual Town Election on May 19, 2007.

**SHOW OF HANDS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE
(CARRIED BY 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE)**

ARTICLE 24: The motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE from the Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund**, the following sums for capital repairs and improvements for FY 2008.

DPW - New Roof at Town Garage	10,000.00
DPW - Tractor for DPW Department	60,000.00
DPW - Pelham Lake Dam Engineering Study	12,000.00
DPW - Mill Pond Dam Engineering Study & Repair	9,000.00
Park - Browning Bench Tool Factory Structural Repair	5,000.00

Park - Tennis Court Resurfacing	7,400.00
Park - Fitness Equipment	2,000.00

TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES 105,400.00

**SHOW OF HANDS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE
(CARRIED BY 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE)**

ARTICLE 25: The motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the sum of **\$100,000.00** for the purpose of funding the **Stabilization Fund**.

**MOTION DEFEATED BY SHOW OF HANDS
MAJORITY VOTE**

ARTICLE 26: The motion was made and seconded to **ADVISE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO INCREASE Town Employee Contributions** to their **Group Medical, Medicaid, Health and Life Insurance**

plans from 15% to 25% of the cost of said plans, and to adjust the total cost of Employee Benefits accordingly.

**MOTION DEFEATED BY SHOW OF HANDS
MAJORITY VOTE**

ARTICLE 27: Resident Robert Essert made a motion, which was seconded, to take a sense of the meeting for the request of our Congressman, John W. Olver, to support any and all actions for the impeachment of the current President and Vice-President of the United States of America.

**THE SENSE OF THE MEETING WAS AFFIRMATIVE
FOR THE IMPEACHMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 PM.

*A true copy, Attest: Heidi Cousineau, Town Clerk
May 14, 2007*

RECAPITULATION OF ARTICLES

<i>Appropriations from Taxation</i>		
General Government	339,011.00	
Public Works and Facilities	524,850.00	
Public Safety	97,966.00	
Public Health/Sanitation	134,663.00	
Schools	1,097,156.00	
Library	53,846.00	
Old Home Day	9,000.00	
Park Department	99,270.00	
Pensions and Insurance	439,263.00	
Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund	150,000.00	
<i>Total Appropriations from Taxation</i>		\$ 2,945,025.00
Appropriations from Available Funds		
Chapter 90	111,906.00	
<i>Total Appropriations from Available Funds</i>		111,906.00
<i>Appropriations from Free Cash</i>		
General Government	0.00	
Gracy House Maintenance / Repairs	0.00	
Reserve Fund	20,000.00	
<i>Total Appropriations from Free Cash</i>		20,000.00
<i>Appropriations from Stabilization Fund</i>		
Stabilization Fund	(1,100,000.00)	
Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund	1,100,000.00	
<i>Total Appropriations from Available Funds</i>		0.00
<i>Appropriations from Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund</i>		
Department of Public Works	91,000.00	
Park Department	14,400.00	
<i>Total Appropriations from Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund</i>		105,400.00
TOTAL FY2008 BUDGET		\$ 3,182,331.00
Less c. 90 Funds		111,906.00
TOTAL FY2008 BUDGET ALL FUNDS		\$ 3,070,425.00
<i>Revolving Fund Authorizations</i>		
Board of Health – Vaccine Services	0.00	
Old Home Day	4,000.00	
<i>Total Revolving Funds Authorized</i>		\$4,000.00

Annual Town Meeting (Second) – Official Results - FY08

Town of Rowe
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
June 28, 2007

The Special Town Meeting was held at the Rowe Elementary School on Thursday June 28, 2007 at 7:00 PM.

Moderator: Robert Clancy, Town Clerk: Heidi Cousineau

Selectboard: Myra Carlow, Susan Wood, James Brown. Town Counsel: Janet Pumpfrey

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, a quorum being present. The following tellers were sworn in by the Moderator: Robin Reed and Leonard Laffond

Myra Carlow, Selectboard Chairman presented a brief explanation to the audience on voting for Articles 1 and 2a/2b. If Article 1 passes by affirmative vote, Article 2a and 2b will be passed over and will not need to be voted upon.

ARTICLE 1: The motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE from FREE CASH** the sum of **\$70,031.00** to reduce the FY08 fiscal year tax rate.

**PASSED BY SHOW OF HANDS
MAJORITY VOTE**

ARTICLE 2a: The motion was made and seconded to **REDUCE the sums** voted at the May 14, 2007, Annual Town Meeting for the **FY08** fiscal year by the following amounts:

Administration

General Administration	\$1,700.00
IT Hardware/Software	1,000.00
Subtotal Administration	2,700.00

Assessors Office

Full Measure/List (10-year)	1,095.00
Subtotal Assessors Office	1,095.00

Other

Conservation Commission Operations	4.00
Subtotal Other	4.00

Public Works & Facilities

DPW Road Surface Maintenance/Reclamation	9,503.00
Cemeteries Maintenance	242.00
Dam Maintenance, Inspection & Repairs	2,000.00
Sub-Total Highway Department	11,745.00

Public Safety

Police Department Operations	667.00
Fire Department General Operations	1,082.00
EMS Operations & Maintenance	245.00
Subtotal Public Safety	1,994.00

Public Health & Sanitation

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day	15.00
Refuse Garden Operations	966.00
Board of Health Operations	363.00
Health Services Operation	133.00
Subtotal Public Health & Sanitation	1,477.00

Culture & Recreation

Park Operations & Maintenance	2,450.00
Old Home Day Celebration	200.00
Subtotal Culture & Recreation	2,650.00

Pensions and Insurance

Bonding & Insurance	2,000.00
Subtotal Pensions and Insurance	2,000.00

Veterans' Services

Veterans' Operations	22.00
Subtotal Veterans' Services	22.00

TOTAL FY08 Funds to be Reduced: 23,687.00

ARTICLE 2A PASSED OVER—NO VOTE TAKEN

ARTICLE 2b: The motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE from FREE CASH** the sum of **\$46,344.00** to reduce the FY08 fiscal year tax rate.

ARTICLE 2B PASSED OVER — NO VOTE TAKEN

ARTICLE 3: The motion was made and seconded to **appropriate from any available funds the additional sum of \$1,745**, for Health Service's Operation for the 2008 fiscal year for continuing education, licensure, and dues for the Nurse Practitioner as listed in the job description and previously funded by the town.

DEFEATED BY SHOW OF HANDS MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 4: The motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize and direct the Board of Health, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E^{1/2}, to use **a revolving fund with a limit of \$4,600.00** for the 2008 fiscal year to accept receipts from the Medicare Roster Billing Program for the purpose of **providing vaccine services**, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2009.

PASSED BY SHOW OF HANDS MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 5: The motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **authorize and direct the Board**

of Selectmen to prepare future town meeting warrant articles which seek appropriation of money from any source, to include "or any other sum" to permit the voters to amend any dollar amount, up or down, and thereby empower the voters to make the final decision regarding appropriations, or take any action in relation thereto.

*Selectboard Chairman, Myra Carlow, recommended Town Counsel Janet Pumpfrey, speak on Article 5 before discussion. Ms. Pumpfrey believed by MGL39, Sec 10 the town cannot legally authorize and direct the Board of Selectmen to accept this article, as read. Town meeting vote can only "recommend" to take a vote on this article.

A motion was made and seconded to AMEND Article 5 to read "To recommend the Board of Selectmen to prepare future town meeting warrant articles which seek appropriation of money from any source, to include "or any other sum" to permit

the voters to amend any dollar amount, up or down, and thereby empower the voters to make the final decision regarding appropriations."

**SHOW OF HANDS
MAJORITY VOTE TO AMEND ARTICLE 5**

**ARTICLE 5, AS AMENDED, DEFEATED BY
SHOW OF HANDS MAJORITY VOTE**

ARTICLE 5, MAIN MOTION, DEFEATED

ARTICLE 6: Resident Leonard Laffond motioned for applause to Town Administrator, Ellen Babcock, for all her work preparing and finalizing the Annual Town Report. The audience responded with applause.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM

A true copy, Attest: Heidi Cousineau, Town Clerk
June 28, 2007

RECAPITULATION OF ARTICLES

Appropriations from Taxation

None	0.00	
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Total Appropriations from Taxation		0.00
------------------------------------	--	------

Appropriations from Available Funds

None	0.00	
------	------	--

Total Appropriations from Available Funds		0.00
---	--	------

Appropriations from Free Cash

To Reduce FY08 Tax Rate	70,031.00	
-------------------------	-----------	--

Total Appropriations from Free Cash		70,031.00
-------------------------------------	--	-----------

Appropriations from Stabilization

None	0.00	
------	------	--

Total Appropriations from Available Funds		0.00
---	--	------

Appropriations from Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund

None	0.00	
------	------	--

Total Appropriations from Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund		0.00
--	--	------

TOTAL FY2008 BUDGET ALL FUNDS		\$ 70,031.00
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Revolving Fund Authorizations

Board of Health – Vaccine Services	4,600.00	
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Total Revolving Funds Authorized		4,600.00
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Annual Town Election Results

May 19, 2007 – Rowe Town Hall
197 voters of 287 registered, voted

Election Officials:	Warden:	Alan Bjork	Tellers:	Earl Carlow
	Clerk:	Robin Reed		George Gaudry
	Constable:	Christine Tower		Shirley Veber
	Town Clerk:	Heidi Cousineau		

BOARD OF ASSESSORS (3 YEARS)

Heidi Cousineau	167
Daniel J. Burke	28
Blanks	2

BOARD OF HEALTH (3 YEARS)

James D. Brown	56
Daniel P. Poplawski	103
Valerie A. Williams	30
Blanks	8

BOARD OF SELECTMEN (3 YEARS)

James D. Brown	127
Albert R. Williams	54
Frederick Williams	2
John H. Packard	2
Blanks	12

CEMETERY COMMISSION (3 YEARS)

James H. Williams	180
Blanks	17

FINANCE COMMITTEE (3 YEARS)

David Dvore	54
Jean Atwood	5
Michael Bradley	2
Roger Brown	2
Blanks	134

LIBRARY TRUSTEE (3 YEARS)

Melissa S. Quinn	168
Blanks	29

MODERATOR (3 YEARS)

Robert J. Clancy	126
Valerie A. Williams	52
Frederick Williams	8
Paul Dunnell	3
Blanks	6

PARK COMMISSIONER (3 YEARS)

Michael S. Laffond	80
Russell W. Jolly	114
Blanks	3

PLANNING BOARD (5 YEARS)

Rosie Gordon	25
Leonard Laffond	4
Blanks	168

SCHOOL COMMITTEE (3 YEARS)

Rebecca F. Richardson	157
David Dvore	2
Blanks	38

TAX COLLECTOR (3 YEARS)

Sandra P. Daviau	176
Blanks	21

TREASURER (3 YEARS)

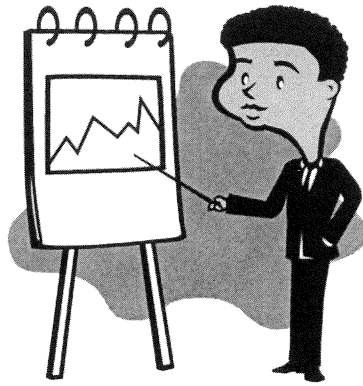
Heidi Cousineau	175
Sharon Hudson	4
Blanks	18

QUESTION # 1:

Shall the Town of Rowe be allowed to assess an additional \$150,000.00 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007?

Yes	99
No	89
Blanks	9

A true copy, Attest: Heidi Cousineau, Town Clerk
Date: May 19, 2007



PART IV

Financial Reports

Board of Assessors

Membership of the Board remained the same for this year as **Heidi Cousineau** was re-elected at the annual town elections in May 2007. Heidi joined fellow Board member **Ellen Babcock** in nominating and electing **Rick Williams** to serve again as Chairman.

As always, the Board would again like to thank **Sandy Daviau**, Assessors' Clerk, for her handling of the day-to-day tasks in the Assessors Office. Sandy has a good deal of contact with the public and always manages to be gracious and helpful to everyone.

The Assessors Office continues to use the **Patriot Properties** assessing software *Assess Pro*. **Mayflower Valuation** continues to provide consulting services.

At the routine monthly meetings, the following items were addressed, as needed: **building permits** received from the building inspector were reviewed and field inspections were conducted as necessary to make any adjustments to property cards...**deeds** recording property transfers and **survey plans** received from the Franklin County Registry of Deeds were reviewed and compared to tax maps for verification of data and adjustments were made to property cards...**tax map changes** were documented and forwarded to the mapping service for update...and **property and excise tax bill commitments and abatements** were reviewed and approved as required.

State-mandated interim year valuation adjustments for FY08, based on real estate sales review, resulted in the creation of two neighborhood codes (Lake Area and Lake Front) with significant increases in associated land values. Overall the total town valuation increased by only 0.02% to **\$310,861,669** for FY08. The FY08 tax rates of **\$4.52** for Residential and **\$9.64** for Commercial/Industrial/Personal Property (CIP) were set in mid-November of 2007. This contrasts to the previous fiscal year tax rates of **\$4.11** for Residential and **\$8.84** for CIP. The tax rate increase reflects the normal 2.5% increase in the Levy Limit plus the \$150,000 Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund Proposition 2½ Override approved at the Annual Town Meeting.

According to Mass Department of Revenue records for FY08, Rowe is tied for **6th lowest residential tax rate** and now has the **2nd lowest average single family tax bill** in the state (\$882).

Work continued on the new Geographic Information System (GIS) **tax map system** developed by **Cartographics Associates** from Littleton, NH. The new tax map system, consisting of digital maps combined with aerial photography will be linked to the existing Assessors software to provide a fully integrated information system. Rollout of the new GIS tax map system is planned for 2008.

In the fall of 2007, **Mayflower Valuations** was contracted to conduct the state-mandated **Full Measure and List** review of all real property in town. This process, which involves exterior measurements and interior inspections of all dwellings and buildings, is required to be performed at least once every 9 years to ensure that property card information is accurate and up-to-date.

Preparations were also made for next year's **FY09 Triennial Revaluation**. These preparations included the solicitation of appraisal consultants for valuation services for the hydroelectric generating facilities, the dry cask spent fuel storage facility, and the town residential properties. Selection of the consultants will occur in early 2008.

In early 2007, the **Selectmen** identified a state law (MGL Chap 41 Sec 23) which prohibits an Executive Secretary or Town Administrator from holding elective town office. After receiving an opinion from Town Counsel, the Selectmen delivered an ultimatum to Ellen Babcock in mid-July to either quit her position as Town Coordinator (a position she has held since 2004) or resign as an Assessor (a position she has held since 1994). Questions were raised and the decision was put off until completion of a Department of Revenue financial management review of the town requested by the Selectmen. The DOR report was received in late December 2007 but no action was taken on it before the end of the year.

The so-called **Proposition 2½ Levy Limit** continues to restrict the amount of money that Rowe can raise from taxation in any given year. By law this limit only increases by 2½ % (or about \$65,000) in each subsequent year. Despite our enviable low tax rate and low tax bills, the Town has been bumping up against its Prop 2½ Levy Limit for a number of years and has had to make cuts, defer projects, or utilize other "available funds" from Free Cash and the Stabilization Fund to balance the regular operating budget and to pay for special projects. At the FY08 Annual Town Meeting, a **\$150,000 Proposition 2½ Override** was approved for the creation of a **Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund**. This important decision authorized an increase in the Levy Limit for the express purpose of setting aside money into "savings" on an annual basis for municipal capital improvement projects. This action reestablishes and formalizes something that the town historically used to do.

Please feel free to visit the Assessors' Office during posted office hours or posted meeting times, or contact any of us directly.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick N. Williams, Chairman
Ellen L. Babcock
Heidi Cousineau

Board of Assessors – Property Transfers

HOUGHTALING, THOMAS V. and **DEBORAH** of Rowe, for consideration of \$100,000.00, grant to **HOUGHTALING, THOMAS A.** of Rowe, property located at 14 Tunnel Rd. Map 9 - Lot 19

HILLERY, PATRICIA L. of North Carolina, for consideration of \$3,000.00, grant to **N.R.L.L. EAST, LLC** of Irvine CA, land located on Davis Mine Rd. ML 6-62

NOBLOCH, KEVIN T. and **BUCHANAN, ELIZABETH, J.** of Arlington, MA, grant to **NOBLOCH, KEVIN T.** of Arlington, MA, land located off Zoar Rd. ML 3-46, 7-12, 7-13, 7-14, 7-27, 7-28

BUSINESS LOAN CENTER, INC. of New York, NY, for consideration of \$100,000.00, grant to **HILLIER, JOHN H.** of Shirley, MA, land located on Tunnel Rd. ML 8 -3, 8-4, 13-20

AVERY, CHARLES L. of Rowe, for no monetary consideration, grant to **AVERY, CHARLES L.** and **LINDA E.** of Rowe, property located at 276 Zoar Road. ML 3-61

TRANSCANADA HYDRO NORTHEAST INC., of Alberta, Canada for consideration of \$1.00, release to **BEAR SWAMP POWER COMPANY, LLC** of Millinocket, Maine, property located in Rowe.

TRANSCANADA HYDRO NORTHEAST INC., of Alberta, Canada for consideration of \$1.00, release to **BEAR SWAMP POWER COMPANY, LLC** of Millinocket, Maine, property located in Rowe.

DUNNELL, PAUL P. and **DALE S.** of Rowe, for no monetary consideration, grant to **DUNNELL, DALE W.** of Rowe, Trustee of the Dale S. Dunnell 2004 Living Trust, property located on Leshure Road.

DUNNELL, PAUL P. and **DALE S.** of Rowe, for no monetary consideration, grant to **DUNNELL, DALE W.** of Rowe, Trustee of the Dale S. Dunnell 2004 Living Trust, property located on Leshure Road.

BEAUMIER, LUCIEN A. of West Hartford, CT & **BEAUMIER, ROBERT PAUL** of West Hartford, CT, for no monetary consideration, grant to **BEAUMIER, LUCIEN A.** of West Hartford, CT, land located on Leshure Road. ML 11-107, 11-110, 11-111, 11-114

WHITE, GLENN M. of Rowe, for no monetary consideration, grant to **WHITE, GLENN M. & FLAGG, DONNA** of Rowe, property located at 245 Leshure Rd. ML 11-4.

WILLIAMS, ALBERT R. of Rowe, for consideration of \$85,000.00, grant to **DESOURDY, CHARLES N.** of West Boylston, MA, land located on Tatro Rd. ML 7-37

PECK, REALTY, LLP of Westfield, MA, for consideration of \$60,000.00, grant to **SILVA, ROBERT A. & CARRIE**

Y. of Salem, NH, land located on Davis Mine Road. ML 6-21, 6-23, 6-25

SUMMERS, CAROL A. Executrix for **YOUNK, HOPE E.** of Newton, MA, for consideration of \$1.00, grant to **SUMMERS, CAROL A.** of Newton, MA and **YOUNK, DAVID A.** of Mukwonago, WI, land located on Dell Road. ML 6-17.

LOOMIS, LEANN Z. of Rowe, for no monetary consideration, grant to **LOOMIS, LEANN Z. & SEAN R.** of Rowe, property located at 63 Middletown Hill Road. ML 2-3, 2-57

PATLIN, STEVEN E. & LESLIE S. of Hawley, MA for consideration of \$119,000.00, grant to **MILLER, NICOLE P.** of Rowe, property located at 162 Zoar Road. ML 4-26

BEAUMIER, LUCIEN A. of West Hartford, CT, for consideration of \$50,000.00, grant to **MORANO, CHRISTOPHER P. & CARA L.** of Rowe, land located on Old Cyrus Stage Road. ML 11-114

CASCONE, NANCY J. of Rowe, for no monetary consideration, grant to **CASCONE, MICHAEL J.** of Charlemont, MA, subject to a life estate reserved by **CASCONE, NANCY J.**, property located at 24 Steele Brook Road. ML 8-29

PECK REALTY, LLC of Westfield, MA, for consideration of \$50,000.00, grant to **CAMPELLI, MARIO M. & CHRISTINE C.** of Tolland, CT, land located on Zoar Road. ML 7-17

LITTLE, DAVID & PRISCILLA of Washington, DC, for no consideration, grant to **LITTLE, DAVID**, Trustee of the **DAVID LITTLE REVOCABLE TRUST & LITTLE, PRISCILLA C.**, Trustee of the **PRISCILLA C. LITTLE REVOCABLE TRUST**, property located at 163 Leshure Road. ML 11-27, 11-86, 11-90

HILLERY, PATRICIA L. of New Ipswich, NH, for consideration of \$3,000.00, grant to **N.R.L.L. EAST, LLC** of Irvine, CA, land located on Davis Mine Road.
(Correction to previous transfer) ML 6-62

JACKSON, STANLEY F. & JOAN M. of Holyoke, MA, for consideration of \$36,000.00, grant to **GOLDEN, DANIEL J. SR & JEAN C.**, land located on Leshure Road. ML 11-105, 11-106

DIONNE, JON, of Peru, MA, for no monetary consideration, grant to **DIONNE, LORETTA** of Rowe, property located at 21 Hazelton Road. ML 3-62

POSEVER, MICHAEL M. & DEMETZ, ANNE-MARIE of Rowe, for consideration of \$330,000.00, grant to **BERNHARDT, WILLIAM** of Ridgefield, CT, property located at 332 Zoar Road. ML 1-49

MANZI, ANTHONY, of Longmeadow, MA, **DION, DONALD** of Ludlow, MA & **SKORKER, JOYCE** of

Everett, MA, Administratrix for the Estate of **NIEBALA, DAVID**, for consideration of \$8,500.00, grant to **QUIST, WALTER J. & KELLE J.** land located on Ford Hill Road. ML 11-95

N.R.L.L. EAST LLC of Irvine, CA, for consideration of \$12,650, grant to **KIM, SON K. & YONG N.** of Bristol, CT, property located on Davis Mine Road. ML 6-62

WELLER, JAMES D. of Rowe, for consideration of \$197,500.00, grant to **SUTHERLAND, WENDY S & JENNIE R.** of Montague, MA, property located at 202 Leshure Road. ML 11-69

LOOMIS, WILLIAM A. & RUTH E. of Rowe, for consideration of \$1.00, grant to **LOOMIS, WILLIAM A.** property located at 108 Hazelton Road. ML 1-4

Rowe Average Single Family Tax Bill - State Ranking - 20-Year History

Fiscal Year	Assessed Value	Number of Parcels	Average Value	Tax Rate	Single Family Tax Bill	State Hi-Lo Rank	Number of MA Towns Included
1989	\$ 18,892,237	201	\$ 93,991	\$ 4.56	\$ 429	297	297
1990	\$ 19,477,857	213	\$ 91,445	\$ 4.53	\$ 414	323	323
1991	\$ 22,817,970	215	\$ 106,130	\$ 4.52	\$ 480	265	265
1992	\$ 22,842,280	203	\$ 112,524	\$ 4.86	\$ 547	338	339
1993	\$ 23,152,453	204	\$ 113,492	\$ 5.98	\$ 679	336	339
1994	\$ 21,566,700	203	\$ 106,240	\$ 5.25	\$ 558	339	340
1995	\$ 21,580,400	200	\$ 107,902	\$ 5.61	\$ 605	340	340
1996	\$ 22,144,400	203	\$ 109,086	\$ 4.89	\$ 533	340	340
1997	\$ 21,543,200	201	\$ 107,180	\$ 5.34	\$ 572	340	340
1998	\$ 21,941,500	204	\$ 107,556	\$ 5.35	\$ 575	340	340
1999	\$ 22,065,700	204	\$ 108,165	\$ 5.36	\$ 580	340	340
2000	\$ 21,195,600	202	\$ 104,929	\$ 3.22	\$ 338	339	340
2001	\$ 21,735,900	204	\$ 106,549	\$ 3.36	\$ 358	339	340
2002	\$ 22,164,900	205	\$ 108,121	\$ 3.44	\$ 372	340	340
2003	\$ 26,309,900	203	\$ 129,605	\$ 3.49	\$ 452	340	340
2004	\$ 26,365,100	202	\$ 130,520	\$ 3.59	\$ 469	340	340
2005	\$ 29,369,900	206	\$ 142,572	\$ 3.59	\$ 512	340	340
2006	\$ 34,757,700	202	\$ 172,068	\$ 4.10	\$ 705	307	307
2007	\$ 38,733,700	204	\$ 189,871	\$ 4.11	\$ 780	307	307
2008	\$ 40,572,700	208	\$ 195,061	\$ 4.52	\$ 882	309	310

Finance Committee

This past year our committee sadly lost Jean Atwood. Her contribution to our team is missed greatly. We extend our condolences to her family, and may she rest in peace. Another loss—yet only in membership—was Bill Baker. Family and work commitments necessitated Bill's resignation in late November. We miss his contribution on the team, but know he will continue to advocate maintaining services and increasing savings. The vacancies prompted the search for new members, and we were fortunate to have David Dvore accept an appointment. David has served as the Chairman of the Broadband Committee and has great problem solving and analytical skills from which we have already benefited.

The committee met each month with the primary focus being: 1) the status of the ongoing budgets, and 2) preparation for the FY2008 budget for the year beginning July 1, 2007. The Selectmen and Finance Committee worked closely during the budget process; however, the Finance Committee chose to provide its own recommendations for each article during town meeting. By doing so we began to reestablish our Committee as the advisory board for the town's finances.

The FY08 budget included a Finance Committee recommended \$150,000 Override to the Stabilization Fund for a documented Capital Improvement Plan. One of the goals of the 2007 Finance Committee was to increase town savings. To realize this goal the Finance Committee also recommended the following for the FY08 budget: 1) a \$100,000 Override to the Stabilization Fund for savings—which was defeated, and 2) a reduction in appropriations from Free Cash in an effort to rebuild this savings account—which was successful (see table at end of report).

During the initial stages of the FY09 budget process, which we began in late 2007, the Finance Committee again stressed to the Selectmen that increasing town savings is vital to the future of our town.

This 2007 annual report covers the last half of Fiscal Year 2007 (Jan to June 2007) and the first half of Fiscal Year 2008 (July to Dec 2007). Here are some important figures for both FY07 and FY08:

	FY2007	FY2008
Total Town Valuation	\$310,801,199	310,861,669
Residential Valuation	47,523,170	48,143,917
CIP Valuation	263,278,029	262,717,752
Residential Tax Rate/\$1000	\$4.11	\$4.52
Town Meeting Appropriations		
From Taxation	2,603,862	2,945,025
From Free Cash	272,295	97,031
To Stabilization	0	150,000
From Stabilization	17,000	105,400
Proposition 2½ Figures		
Levy Limit	2,523,128	2,750,592
Levy	2,522,698	2,750,210

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Loomis, Chair
Cara Morano, Secretary
Bill Baker
David Dvore
Cindy Laffond

Tax Collector's Report - Fiscal Year 2007

July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007

Year/Tax	Outstanding 7/1/2006	Commit- ments	Abate- ments	Tax Title	Pay- ments	Refunds	Adjust ments	Outstanding 6/30/2007
00 MVE	-67.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-67.50
01 MVE	-72.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-72.50
02 MVE	-42.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-42.50
04 MVE	-369.17	0.00	48.75	0.00	148.75	-48.75	0.00#	-220.42
05 MVE	-1,223.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	666.99	0.00	0.00	-556.25
06 MVE	-3,085.86	-5,010.51	548.23	0.00	6,270.51	-348.75	0.00	-1,626.38
07 MVE	0.00	-41,274.73	436.25	0.00	37,929.38	-333.00	0.00	-3242.10
05 PP	-26.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-26.29
06 PP	-69.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.15	0.00	0.00	-29.18
07 PP	0.00	-940,886.11	14.67	0.00	940,839.09	0.00	0.00	-32.35
04 RE	-204.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	204.70	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 RE	-1,346.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.47	0.00	0.00	-846.16
06 RE	-5,253.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,604.38	-4.88	0.00	-653.67
07 RE	0.00	-1,581,812.06	1,862.04	71.10	1577034.76	-268.39	0.00	-3112.55
TOTALS	-11,760.89	-2,568,983.41	2,909.94	71.10	2,568,239.18	-1,003.77	0.00	-10,527.85

Miscellaneous Collections

\$700.00	Municipal Lien Certificate Fees
480.00	Demand/Warrant/Misc Fees
171.00	Deputy Collector Fees
60.00	Mark for Non-Renewal
1,130.51	Interest on Overdue Tax Payments
75.00	NSF Fees Collected
100.00	Bank Interest
<u>\$2,716.51</u>	

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra P. Daviau, Tax Collector

Town Accountant

All requisite reports were filed with the State and Federal authorities, including Schedule A, Free Cash Balance Sheet, cash reconciliations, employer state and federal tax reports, Franklin Regional Retirement monthly reports, Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement Reports, Department of Employment and Training reports, Division of Unemployment Assistance Reports, and Chapter 90 Reports. Required reports for the Tax Recap sheet were prepared and submitted for tax rate certification.

Payroll and Treasury Warrants were prepared on a biweekly basis, and general ledger maintained. Department heads were supplied with budget vs. actual information on a monthly basis, and more often as needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen L. Babcock
Town Accountant

Town Accountant – Revenue & Expenditures

In accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 41, Section 61, "The town accountant shall make an annual report, to be published as a town document, giving a statement of all receipts and expenditures of the town for the past financial year..."

General Fund – Revenue

Taxes	
Personal Property Taxes *	940,865
Real Estate Taxes *	1,583,322
Motor Vehicle Excise	44,284
Penalties/Interest	1,228
In Lieu of Taxes	0
Total	2,569,699
Charges for Service/Other Departmental Revenues	
Other Departmental Revenues	28,541
Total	28,541
Licenses, Permits and Fees	
Licenses and Permits	206
Total	206
Revenues from State	
Cherry Sheet, etc.	57,248
Total	57,248
Revenues from Other Govts - Court Fines	0
Miscellaneous Revenues	
Miscellaneous Revenues	0
Interest from Investments	22,150
Total	22,150

General Fund – Revenue	2,677,844
Inter-fund Transfers	
Special Revenue Funds	0
Transfers from Trust Funds	17,000
Total	17,000
Total General Fund Revenues and Other Financing Uses and Transfers	2,694,844
General Fund – Expenditures	
Salary and Wages	549,674
Expenditures	1,627,722
Construction	42,100
Capital Outlay	64,575
Debt Service	0
Unclassified	461,273
General Fund – Expenditures - Total	2,745,394
Other Financing Uses	
Transfers to Other Fund	77,000
Total Other Financing Uses	77,000
General Fund Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	2,822,394

Special Revenue Funds

Revenues

Taxes and Excises	0
Charges for Services	0
Federal Revenue	0
State Revenue	385,876
Miscellaneous Revenue	5,976
Total Revenues	391,852

Other Financing Sources

Bond Proceeds	0
Transfers from Other Funds	0
Other Financing Sources	0
Total Other Financing Sources	0

Total Revenues & Other Financing Sources 391,852

Expenditures

Salary and Wages	0
Expenditures	459,398
Construction	0
Capital Outlay	0
Debt Service	0
Total Expenditures	459,398

Other Financing Uses

Transfers to Other Funds	0
Other Financing Uses	0
Total Other Financing Uses	0

Total Expenditures & Other Financing Uses 459,398

Excess (Deficiency) (-67,546)

Fund Balance Beginning of Year	197,081
Adjustments	0

Fund Balance End of Year 129,535

Capital Project Funds

Revenues	0
Expenditures	0

Enterprise Funds

Revenues	0
Expenditures	0

Trust Funds

Revenues

Charges for Services	0
Federal Revenue	0
State Revenue	0
Miscellaneous Revenue	8,374
Earnings on Investments	82,111
Total Revenues	90,485

Other Financing Sources

Transfers from Other Funds	77,000
Other Financing Sources	0
Total Other Financing Sources	77,000

Total Revenue & Other Financing Sources 167,485

Expenditures

Salary and Wages	0
Expenditures	11,890
Construction	0
Capital Outlay	0
Debt Service	0
Total Expenditures	11,890

Other Financing Uses

Transfers to Other Funds	17,000
Other Financing Uses	0
Total Other Financing Uses	17,000

Total Expenditures & Other Financing Uses 28,890

Excess (Deficiency) 138,595

Fund Balance Beginning of Year	2,132,101
Adjustments	0

Fund Balance End of Year 2,270,696

Agency Fund Balance

Agency Fund Balance July 1, 2006	-498
Additions	25,527
Deductions	-27,708

Agency Fund Balance June 30, 2007 -2,679

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen L. Babcock
Town Accountant

* Personal Property Taxes and Real Estate Taxes are reported net of 60 day accruals

Accountant's Report - Appropriation Balances June 30, 2007

Account No.	Account Name	Budget	Actual	Variance	% Remaining
(1) General Government					
01-5-101-110	Sel - Legal Expenses	23,000.00	(19,703.70)	3,296.30	14
01-5-101-220	Sel - Selectmen Stipend	5,562.00	(4,385.42)	1,176.58	21
01-5-101-290	Sel - Gen Administration	29,000.00	(27,486.94)	1,513.06	5
01-5-101-291	Sel - Microfilm Twn Records	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	100
01-5-101-292	Sel - Misc Officers' Stipends	2,060.00	(2,060.00)	0.00	0
01-5-101-293	Sel - Town Officers' Expenses	1,500.00	(1,369.52)	130.48	8
01-5-101-294	Sel - Print Town Reports	3,250.00	(3,250.00)	0.00	0
01-5-101-295	Sel - Municipal Audit	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	0.00	0
01-5-101-296	Sel - Summer Youth Employment	25,500.00	(25,459.42)	40.58	0
01-5-101-297	Sel - SYE Encumb	2,079.00	(2,079.00)	0.00	0
01-5-101-298	Council on Aging	5,500.00	(3,373.66)	2,126.34	38
01-5-101-299	Sel - Fixed Asset Inventory	6,000.00	(5,650.00)	350.00	5
01-5-101-350	Sel - Accnt/Admin Sal	51,605.00	(51,605.00)	0.00	0
01-5-101-351	Sel - Asst Acct/Clerk	9,502.00	(9,501.68)	0.32	0
01-5-101-352	Sel - AsstAcct Clrk Pay Encum	110.18	(110.18)	0.00	0
01-5-101-360	Sel - FRCOG Core Asses	23,324.00	(23,323.29)	0.71	0
01-5-101-361	Sel - FRCOG Statutory Asses	9,362.00	(9,361.14)	0.86	0
01-5-101-365	Sel - Computer Equip/Software	8,200.00	(6,948.77)	1,251.23	15
01-5-101-367	Sel - Computer Support	16,000.00	(16,000.00)	0.00	0
01-5-101-368	Sel - Broadband Analysis/Planning	18,500.00	0.00	18,500.00	100
01-5-101-370	Sel - FRCOG Fees	100.00	0.00	100.00	100
01-5-101-410	Assessor Stipends	5,100.00	(5,100.00)	0.00	0
01-5-101-411	Assessor Clerical Wage	9,897.77	(9,887.47)	10.30	0
01-5-101-412	Assessor Clrk Encumb Pay	242.39	(242.39)	0.00	0
01-5-101-413	Assessor Operation	2,033.23	(1,747.02)	286.21	14
01-5-101-414	Assessor Software/Computer	2,500.00	(2,500.00)	0.00	0
01-5-101-416	Assessor Mapping Services	1,000.00	(750.00)	250.00	25
01-5-101-418	Assessor GIS Mapping Project	6,153.77	(414.99)	5,738.78	93
01-5-101-420	Assessor Revaluation/Property Updates	5,298.70	(900.00)	4,398.70	83
01-5-101-450	Treasurer Stipend	6,180.00	(6,180.00)	0.00	0
01-5-101-451	Assist. Treasurer Pay	100.00	(66.00)	34.00	34
01-5-101-460	Tax Collector Stipend	6,180.00	(6,180.00)	0.00	0
01-5-101-610	Town Clerk Stipend	6,180.00	(6,180.00)	0.00	0
01-5-101-620	Election/Teller Expenses	4,000.00	(3,096.48)	903.52	22
01-5-101-630	Registrar/Census Compensation	350.00	(350.00)	0.00	0
01-5-101-710	Conservation Comm Operations	200.00	(165.75)	34.25	17
01-5-101-750	Planning Board Operations	500.00	(66.36)	433.64	86
01-5-101-752	Planning Board Goal Post Operations	18,700.00	(18,505.79)	194.21	1
01-5-901-908	Planning Board By-Law Print	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	100
Total		329,770.04	(278,999.97)	50,770.07	
(2) Public Works					
01-5-204-220	Hwy - Wages	115,421.76	(109,270.31)	6,151.45	5
01-5-204-221	Hwy - Encumbered Wage	1,514.40	(1,514.40)	0.00	0
01-5-204-222	Hwy - Operations & Maintenance	36,000.00	(35,914.99)	85.01	0
01-5-204-224	Hwy - Fuel for Town Vehicles	29,178.24	(29,137.73)	40.51	0
01-5-204-228	Hwy - Road Maint/Reclamation	8,000.00	(8,000.00)	0.00	0
01-5-204-230	Hwy - Annual Projects	30,000.00	(29,962.68)	37.32	0
01-5-204-232	Hwy - Superintendent's Salary	68,160.00	(68,160.00)	0.00	0
01-5-204-240	Hwy - Wash Station/ Yard Improvements	10,294.32	(507.25)	9,787.07	95
01-5-204-244	Hwy - New Pickup Truck	4,000.00	(4,000.00)	0.00	0
01-5-204-250	Hwy - Winter Roads	63,000.00	(63,000.00)	0.00	0
01-5-204-251	Hwy - Winter Rd Overdraft	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
01-5-204-252	Street Lighting	5,000.00	(4,676.18)	323.82	6
01-5-504-910	Cemetery Maintenance	7,000.00	(7,000.00)	0.00	0

Account No.	Account Name	Budget	Actual	Variance	% Remaining
01-5-504-915	Cemetery Fence Repair	5,730.00	(5,730.00)	0.00	0
01-5-900-100	Custodian Wage Encumbered	307.75	(307.75)	0.00	0
01-5-901-901	Mncpl Cntr Custodian Wage	19,503.00	(15,262.88)	4,240.12	21
01-5-901-902	Mncpl Cntr Operations/Maintenance	22,360.00	(21,529.89)	830.11	3
01-5-901-903	Elevator Maintenance	5,900.00	(5,900.00)	0.00	0
01-5-901-904	Mncpl Center Fuel Oil	4,623.25	(4,623.25)	0.00	0
01-5-901-905	Gracy House Repair/Maintenance	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	0.00	0
01-5-901-906	Beautification Committee	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	0.00	0
01-5-901-912	Dam Maintenance/Repairs	7,100.00	(6,600.00)	500.00	7
01-5-901-916	Gracy House/Soule Barn Maintenance	13,035.67	(1,634.50)	11,401.17	87
01-5-901-924	Town Hall Entrance Modifications	12,480.00	(12,100.00)	380.00	3
Total		471,608.39	(437,831.81)	33,776.58	
(3) Public Safety					
01-5-602-100	Police Chief Stipend	8,755.00	(8,755.00)	0.00	0
01-5-602-103	Police Officer Wages	14,161.00	(11,591.25)	2,569.75	18
01-5-602-104	Police Off Encumb Wage	589.32	(589.32)	0.00	0
01-5-602-105	Police Dept Operations	6,650.00	(5,341.76)	1,308.24	19
01-5-602-200	Fire Chief Stipend	6,180.00	(6,180.00)	0.00	0
01-5-602-201	Fire Officers' Stipends	6,180.00	(6,180.00)	0.00	0
01-5-602-202	Fire Fighters Reimbursements	7,000.00	(6,850.00)	150.00	2
01-5-602-203	Fire Dept Operations	23,050.00	(23,050.00)	0.00	0
01-5-602-209	Fire Dept Air Compressor	4,126.33	0.00	4,126.33	100
01-5-602-214	Fire Dept Fire Pond Maintenance	7,630.78	(8.80)	7,621.98	99
01-5-602-218	Fire Dept Emergency Generator	55,000.00	(55,000.00)	0.00	0
01-5-602-400	Bldg Inspetor Fees/Reimbursements	5,350.00	(5,090.60)	259.40	4
01-5-602-430	Plumbing/Gas Inspection Programs	1,300.00	(350.00)	950.00	73
01-5-602-450	Electrical Inspection Program	3,600.00	(3,084.00)	516.00	14
01-5-602-901	Emergency Management	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	0.00	0
01-5-602-910	Emergency Notification System	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	100
01-5-602-940	Forest Fire Control	100.00	(100.00)	0.00	0
01-5-702-302	New Ambulance Purchase	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	0.00	0
01-5-702-320	EMS Coordinator Stipend	1,800.00	(1,800.00)	0.00	0
01-5-702-321	EMS Operations	3,500.00	(763.32)	2,736.68	78
01-5-702-323	EMS Emergency Personnel	4,600.00	(4,600.00)	0.00	0
01-5-704-310	Fire Dept Haz Mat Control	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	0.00	0
Total		164,572.43	(143,334.05)	21,238.38	
(4) Health and Sanitation					
01-5-602-942	Dutch Elm Disease	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
01-5-602-943	Insect Pest Control	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
01-5-704-312	Hazardous Waste Collection	700.00	(123.42)	576.58	82
01-5-704-330	Refuse Garden Operations	45,900.00	(37,070.52)	8,829.48	19
01-5-704-335	Transfer Station Attendants Wages	12,978.00	(12,865.91)	112.09	0
01-5-704-336	FCSWMD Assessment	4,500.00	(3,990.75)	509.25	11
01-5-704-337	Attendant Wages Encumb	90.72	(90.72)	0.00	0
01-5-705-090	BOH Stipends	4,635.00	(4,258.77)	376.23	8
01-5-705-100	BOH Operations	12,235.00	(12,226.44)	8.56	0
01-5-705-120	BOH FRCOG Health Service	2,099.00	(2,099.00)	0.00	0
01-5-705-220	Health Services Salary	48,034.00	(48,034.00)	0.00	0
01-5-705-222	Health Services Operation	7,144.00	(6,940.06)	203.94	2
01-5-705-223	Health Services Physician's Stipend	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	0.00	0
Total		139,315.72	(128,699.59)	10,616.13	
(5) Education					
01-5-300-001	School Committee Stipends	4,284.00	(4,284.00)	0.00	0
01-5-300-002	Rowe Elementary School	1,075,835.00	(1,075,633.48)	201.52	0
01-5-300-003	Rowe Schl Encumbered	44,397.19	(44,397.19)	0.00	0
01-5-300-004	Rowe Schl Mohawk Tech. Assistant	60,000.00	(60,000.00)	0.00	0

01-5-300-009	Rowe Schl Capital Improvements	1,188.73	0.00	1,188.73	100
01-5-300-015	Rowe Sch Athletic Fields	30,000.00	(30,000.00)	0.00	0
Total		1,215,704.92	(1,214,314.67)	1,390.25	
(6) Culture and Recreation					
01-5-306-100	Library Director Wages	19,796.00	(19,112.64)	683.36	3
01-5-306-101	Library Staff Wages	12,853.00	(11,394.10)	1,458.90	11
01-5-306-102	Library Operations	19,366.00	(19,366.00)	0.00	0
01-5-306-103	Library Wages Encumbered	222.80	(222.80)	0.00	0
01-5-306-104	Librarian's Wages Encumbered	396.20	(396.20)	0.00	0
01-5-306-108	Library Computer	3,575.48	(3,575.48)	0.00	0
01-5-906-300	Old Home Day	5,000.00	(4,993.76)	6.24	0
01-5-906-305	Old Home Day Fireworks	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	0.00	0
01-5-906-500	Park Wages	45,064.00	(35,596.88)	9,467.12	21
01-5-906-501	Park Wages Encumbered	1,796.00	(1,796.00)	0.00	0
01-5-906-502	Park Operations	23,000.00	(22,622.68)	377.32	1
01-5-906-503	Park Ranger Salary	37,331.00	(37,331.00)	0.00	0
01-5-906-505	Park Insurance Reimb for Prop Damage	1,859.07	0.00	1,859.07	100
01-5-906-507	Park Tennis Court Repairs	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	100
01-5-906-514	Park Headquarters Improvements	575.09	(575.09)	0.00	0
01-5-906-516	Park Browning Bench Repairs	2,367.35	0.00	2,367.35	100
Total		181,201.99	(161,982.63)	19,219.36	
(7) Pensions and Insurance					
01-5-901-900	Bonding & Insurance	45,000.00	(44,457.72)	542.28	1
01-5-909-110	County Retirement	103,644.00	(103,644.00)	0.00	0
01-5-909-111	Retirement-Randolph	800.00	(765.97)	34.03	4
01-5-909-130	Unemployment Insurance	11,000.00	(10,615.30)	384.70	3
01-5-909-140	Grp Medical/Medex Prem Twn Shr	283,000.00	(260,026.34)	22,973.66	8
01-5-909-145	FICA/Medicare Tax Twn Shr	31,500.00	(27,100.58)	4,399.42	13
Total		474,944.00	(446,609.91)	28,334.09	
(8) Veterans					
01-5-405-430	Veterans Agent Stipend	515.00	(292.00)	223.00	43
01-5-405-431	Veterans Admin Operations	400.00	(33.95)	366.05	91
01-5-405-432	Veterans Benefits	100.00	0.00	100.00	100
Total		1,015.00	(325.95)	689.05	
(9) Debt Service					
01-5-807-520	Bank Chrgs & Loan Interest	500.00	(389.00)	111.00	22
Total		500.00	(389.00)	111.00	
(10.3) Transfer and Other					
01-5-909-200	Stabilization Appropriation (to)	77,000.00	(77,000.00)	0.00	0
01-5-957-800	Reserve Fund FY2007	11,226.75	0.00	11,226.75	100
Total		88,226.75	(77,000.00)	11,226.75	
(10.4) State Charges					
01-5-907-001	State Charges Air Pollution	505.00	(505.00)	0.00	0
01-5-907-002	State Charges Reg Transit	3,709.00	(3,709.00)	0.00	0
01-5-907-003	State Charges RMV Non-Re	140.00	(60.00)	80.00	57
01-5-907-004	State Charges Sch Choice	7,300.00	(10,000.00)	-2,700.00	0
Total		11,654.00	(14,274.00)	-2,620.00	
GRAND TOTAL		3,078,513.24	(2,903,761.58)	174,751.66	8

Ellen L. Babcock
Town Accountant

Treasurer's Report

Trust Funds FY2007

Name of Fund	Balance 7/1/2006	Transfer In	Interest	Transfer Out	Balance 6/30/2007
M. Wells Memorial Library	\$7,965.28		\$238.66		\$8,203.94
Cemetery	\$20,450.42	\$200.00	\$599.41	-\$738.02	\$20,511.81
Rowe Library Gift	\$387.96		\$11.62		\$399.58
Charles Wells Library	\$3,162.31		\$94.76		\$3,257.07
Preserved Smith Library	\$2,725.90		\$67.85	-\$929.29	\$1,864.46
Gould Library	\$15,349.81		\$459.94		\$15,809.75
Foster Donation	\$2,832.79		\$84.88		\$2,917.67
White Memorial Library	\$4,993.83		\$149.64		\$5,143.47
L. Tower/Jones Library	\$4,993.83		\$149.64		\$5,143.47
Rowe Memorial Scholarship	\$3,615.76		\$108.27	-\$25.00	\$3,699.03
TOTALS	\$66,477.89	\$200.00	\$1,964.67	-\$1,692.31	\$66,950.25

Stabilization Fund FY2007

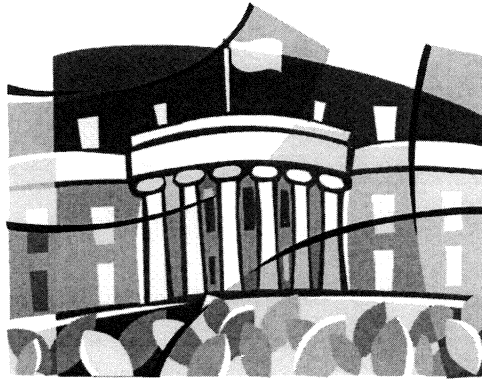
Beginning Balance 7/1/2006	\$2,063,153.48
Transfers to General Fund (internal borrowing)	-\$1,075,000.00
Transfers from General Fund (repay borrowing)	\$1,075,000.00
Approp to Stabilization (5-8-06 ATM))	\$60,000.00
Approp from Stabilization (10-5-06 STM)	-\$17,000.00
Approp to Stabilization (12-19-06 STM)	\$17,000.00
Interest earned 7/1/05 to 6/30/06	\$79,946.10
Balance as of June 30, 2007	\$2,203,099.58

This amount was borrowed to offset costs in anticipation of tax revenues, and was returned to the fund when tax monies were received.

School Agency Account FY2007

Beginning Balance 7/1/2006	\$6,668.03
Deposits	\$4,825.19
Withdrawals	\$9,878.37
Interest 7/01/06 to 6/30/07	\$8.69
Balance as of June 30, 2007	\$1,623.54

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Cousineau, Treasurer



PART V

Regional Reports

Franklin County Cooperative Electrical Inspection Program

Dear Member Town,

We had another busy year for electrical inspections. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few important points:

- Electrical work is to be done by a Massachusetts Licensed Electrician.
- A permit is required for most work.
- You have a right to ask to see an electrician's license.
- Work done on any building may not be covered by your insurance if it is not inspected by this office.

In the next column is a report for Fiscal Year 2007 which reflects Wiring permits and fee activity for all member towns. For more information on activity in your town, please contact the office. A review of the number of permits and fees collected by the program each fiscal year for the last 5 years shows the following:

FY2003	597	\$ 44,961
FY2004	629	\$ 51,460
FY2005	570	\$ 54,589
FY2006	591	\$ 62,267
FY2007	565	\$ 70,363

If you have any questions I can be reached during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 7 AM - 9 AM at 772-2026, ext 126 or by email at electric@frcog.org. You will find permits, fee schedules, and helpful information on our web site at www.frcog.org, under the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program.

Wiring Permit Fee Receipts from Towns (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007) Reinspection

Towns	Fees	Permits	Amount
Ashfield	\$ 50	52	\$ 5,295
Bernardston	0	67	6,570
Buckland	100	61	6,470
Charlemont	0	38	3,335
Conway	0	60	5,823
Erving	0	37	3,110
Gill	5,100	30	8,935
Hawley	0	11	775
Heath	0	20	2,210
Leverett	50	50	5,300
Leyden	0	0	0
Monroe	0	0	0
Northfield	0	0	0
Rowe	0	17	1,995*
Shelburne	0	62	6,925
Shutesbury	0	0	0
Wendell	0	0	0
Whately	0	60	8,320
TOTAL	\$5,300	565	\$65,063
TOTAL FEES COLLECTED			\$70,363

Respectfully submitted,
James Slowinski
Wiring Inspector

* Rowe fees are paid by Town of Rowe

Franklin County Cooperative Plumbing Inspection Program

Dear Member Town,

Below is a report for Fiscal Year 2007 which reflects Plumbing/Gas permits and fee activity for all member towns. For more information on activity in your town, please contact the office. A review of the number of permits and fees collected by the program each fiscal year for the last 5 years shows the following:

FY2003	589	\$ 43,580
FY2004	574	\$ 44,436
FY2005	627	\$ 54,968
FY2006	552	\$ 53,033
FY2007	588	\$ 63,023

I would like to take this opportunity to remind town residents that plumbing permits are required for installation and repairs with the following exception... *"A permit is not required for plumbing involving the repair of leaks in a faucet, valve, or other working part of a plumbing fixture, or the clearance of a stoppage"*. Permits shall only be issued to licensed plumbers. You can contact me during office hours on Tuesday and Thursday mornings 7 am - 9 am at 772-2026, ext. 125 or email me at plumbing@frcog.org. You will find permits, fee schedules, and helpful information on our web site at www.frcog.org, under the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program.

Once again, I would like to extend my appreciation to all town officials for your cooperation and assistance during the past year.

Plumbing/Gas Permit & Inspection Fee Receipts (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007) Reinspection

Towns	Fees	Permits	Amount
Ashfield	\$ 0	62	\$ 6,195
Bernardston	0	42	5,150
Buckland	30	68	7,420
Charlemont	0	33	3,305
Conway	15	75	7,725
Erving	45	29	2,910
Gill	0	33	4,210
Hawley	0	11	870
Heath	10	32	3,555
Leverett	10	74	7,105
Leyden	0	13	1,110
Monroe	0	0	0
Northfield	0	0	0
Rowe	0	7	1,070*
Shelburne	10	72	7,845
Shutesbury	0	0	0
Wendell	0	0	0
Whately	10	37	4,423
TOTAL	\$ 130	588	\$ 62,893
TOTAL FEES COLLECTED			\$ 63,023

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew French
Plumbing/Gas Inspector

* Rowe fees are paid by Town of Rowe

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

The Solid Waste District was formed in 1989 to help Franklin County towns manage all aspects of their solid waste – recyclables, organics, hazardous waste, wastewater treatment sludge, and trash. We continue to provide assistance to the twenty-one member towns through administrative support, professional consultation, trainings, and outreach to residents and businesses.

We are finalizing plans for a permanent collection program for unwanted medications. This program will be the first in the Commonwealth. We are also working on disaster debris planning, with a focus on managing deceased farm animals. Franklin County has a large number of farm animals and a disaster or disease-outbreak could wreak significant devastation. Our planning efforts are intended to identify a clear response system should an emergency arise.

We have worked with several schools to improve their recycling program as well as to implement a program to collect food waste for composting. The District also provides hands-on assistance to businesses and institutions that want to recycle or compost their waste.

Using a small grant from the MRF Advisory Board, we researched, designed, and uploaded a new page to our website called, “**What Do I Do With...**” This page lists hundreds of items that are found in household trash and identifies the options for recycling or disposing of them.

In 2007, District towns recycled approximately 2,400 tons of paper and 1,100 tons of mixed containers. By diverting a total of 3,500 tons of recyclables from landfills and incineration, District towns collectively saved over \$230,000 in disposal costs.

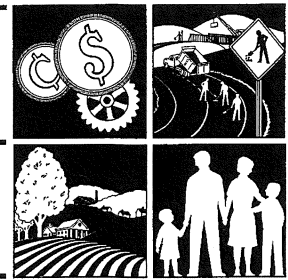
The District held its annual household hazardous waste collection in September. Almost 400 residents participated at the three regional sites. Through a state grant, we were able to collect old pesticides from ten area farms. The next household hazardous waste collection will be held on September 13, 2008. The annual “Clean Sweep” collection was held in October. There were 300 participants at three regional sites. Residents delivered close to 40 tons of appliances, scrap metal, bulky items, electronics, tires, and propane tanks!

If you have questions about District programs, visit our website at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org, call us at 772-2438; or visit us at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen, - *Executive Director*
Becky Jurek, Bernardston - *Chair*
Nathaniel L'Etoile, Northfield - *Vice -Chair*
Andrea Donlon, Buckland, - *Treasurer*

FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

425 Main Street, Suite 40, Greenfield, MA 01301-3313
Telephone 413-774-3167 • Fax 413-774-3169 • www.frcog.org
Executive Director • Linda Dunlavy



The Franklin Regional Council of Governments is pleased to submit this annual report for calendar year 2007. As the regional planning agency and governmental membership organization serving the twenty-six towns of Franklin County, we provide a broad array of planning, advocacy, and community services, as well as assessment-based programs serving municipal needs. The FRCOG and the region accomplished an enormous amount in 2007.

After years of advocacy on the part of the FRCOG and our partners, Pioneer Valley Connect and Berkshire Connect, Governor Patrick announced in August a **\$25 Million Broadband Investment Fund** to bring broadband to the **31 unserved** and the additional under-served communities in Western Massachusetts.

FRCOG Planning staff worked with **twelve towns** on zoning revisions and other planning technical assistance and completed Commonwealth Capital Applications, a required smart growth assessment for MA grant eligibility, for **four towns**.

The Community Coalition for Teens, as cosponsor of the Communities That Care Coalition, was **named national "Coalition of the Year"** by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America for its work with schools and youth to reduce teen alcohol and tobacco use and abuse. A 4-year comparison of use as reported by 10th graders in the annual Teen Health Survey shows: **a 25% reduction in alcohol use, a 19% reduction in cigarette smoking, and a 35% reduction in marijuana use.**

The FRCOG's Public Health Preparedness Planners helped local Boards of Health continue to refine their Emergency Dispensing Site procedures, which prepare for the possibility of a mass vaccination or mass prophylaxis during a large-scale health crisis. **Eleven towns conducted flu clinic drills in the past year, with over 1,000 people vaccinated.**

After years of FRCOG advocacy, planning and cobbling of resources, the Erving Papermill realignment project on Route 2 and portions of the Franklin County Bikeway were completed and opened for the traveling public.

In 2007 the FRCOG and the Franklin Regional Transit Authority continued work on the creation of a **Regional Transit Center** in Greenfield. With the help of funding from Congressman Olver, the Environmental Assessment was completed and work on site acquisition began.

For the past three years, the FRCOG has managed and overseen the expenditure of more than **\$12 million of Homeland Security federal funding** on behalf of all of western Massachusetts, including \$63,000 approved for **reimbursement for training overtime/backfill** for Franklin County first responders.

With the help of the FRCOG, the Western Regional Homeland Security Council invested over **\$800,000** in the **Franklin County Emergency Communications System** for interoperable communications improvements which enhanced emergency communication ability for all Franklin County communities.

The FRCOG completed the **Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Plan** in collaboration with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, to help our region decrease energy consumption, reduce greenhouse gasses, and increase the supply of renewable energy resources. View the plan on our website.

The FRCOG Brownfields Program conducted environmental site assessment work on **8 properties in 6 Franklin County towns**, providing over **\$40,114 of professional engineering services.**

The Municipal Accounting Program now serves **6 Franklin County towns and 1 Hampshire County town.** The program offers all participating communities secure backup and **24-7** remote access to their accounts.

26 Franklin County towns and 9 other entities participated in group bids through the Cooperative Purchasing Program, including **fuel oil, highway materials, and dog tags and licenses.**

The Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program provided building, plumbing, and electrical inspection services to **17 towns.** The FCCIP issued a total of **1022 building permits, 565 wiring permits and 588 plumbing permits totaling \$355,679 in permit fees** for participating towns. The FCCIP also hosted a training session for **more than one hundred** local contractors about the new Building Code in effect for 1-2 family homes.

At the request of our member municipalities, a **regional Information Technology Consultant** was procured for **14 Franklin County towns.** **Regional engineering services** were also procured at a discount rate for member towns. Stantec Consulting is the winning provider.

The Regional Health Inspection Program provided **professional assistance in food and housing inspection and septic system reviews** to 8 Franklin County towns.

The FRCOG sponsored **dozens of training events for local officials**, including sessions on: incident command systems, select board essentials, infectious disease surveillance, alternative septic systems, energy savings, and how to hold public hearings.

In fiscal year 2008 the FRCOG total budget is estimated at **\$10,705,170**, of which **\$7,173,171** was spent on capital projects (primarily in Homeland Security funding), leaving a net operating budget of **\$3,531,999** that is being used to provide services to the region and all Franklin County towns.

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments is committed to providing the best possible service to its member towns and to the region. Working together, the towns and the FRCOG are a small region with a big voice! For additional details about FRCOG programs, projects, and services please contact us for our full 2007 Annual Report at 413-744-3167 ext. 100 or visit us at **www.frcog.org**.

Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin County Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC)

A Franklin County LEPC was formed to enhance cooperative regional emergency planning, and address the Federal SARA Title III requirement that all communities have active Local Emergency Planning Committees, procedures to deal with hazardous materials ("HazMat") emergencies, meet right-to-know requirements, and encourage community awareness. In 2000, under the leadership and administrative support of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), all 26 Franklin County towns opted into this regional committee and elected an "all hazards" approach to emergency planning. This approach addresses planning for HazMat emergencies as well as other natural, technological, and man-made events that call for a similar inter-town, inter-disciplinary response.

Since that time the Committee developed a Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Plan (HMEP) which is a planning and guidance document that provides resources and recommendations for the development of individual community response plans. In addition, it established several subcommittees (including a Planning, Industry, and Training Subcommittee), elected an Executive Committee, and began to conduct regular meetings. The Committee provided trainings and exercises to emergency responders and local community leaders throughout Franklin County to meet local and state training requirements. These efforts resulted in the Committee being recognized by the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and becoming a fully-certified Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC) in 2006.

The Franklin County REPC remains the largest of 23 REPCs in the Commonwealth. During 2007, the Committee continued its mandated activities:

1. Reviewing and Updating the HMEP annually.
2. Training emergency responders.
3. Exercising response plans.
4. Creating a system to collect, store and respond to public requests.

With the assistance of FRCOG, the committee collected and recorded Tier II Hazardous Material data updates from 57 sites in Franklin County. Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) facilities using, storing or manufacturing more than a certain amount of hazardous chemicals on-site at any time during a reporting year are required to submit reports on their chemical inventories to state and local authorities.

The REPC conducted training surveys to determine needs. Trainers provided Hazardous Materials Awareness Training for 20 responders in Charlemont. Training was conducted to the Incident Command System IS-100 and National Incident Management System IS-700 programs during four classes for more than 40 first responders at various locations.

Additionally, the Committee developed and made available laminated Hazardous Materials Action Guides for first response vehicles. Emergency Response Planning Maps which included Tier II Hazardous Material Sites were printed

and distributed for each city/town. Four quarterly committee meetings were held, and representatives participated in the Western Regional Homeland Security Council and the Franklin County Emergency Communications System Oversight Committee. The REPC also supported the development of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) programs in the county. And finally the Committee continued to work in cooperation with the FRCOG and the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) on developing Disaster Debris Management and Animal Carcass Plans.

Your REPC membership currently consists of the following individuals who represent fourteen disciplines:

Fire Service:	Walter Tibbits (Franklin County Fire Chiefs)
Law Enforcement:	Gary Sibilia (Franklin County Police Chiefs)
Emergency Medical Services:	Dave Hansen (Franklin County EMS)
Board of Health:	Dave Chichester/Gina McNeeley (Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition)
Hospitals:	Fred Callahan (Franklin Medical Center)
Transportation:	Tina Cote (Franklin Regional Transit Authority)
Media:	George Claxton (The Recorder)
Emergency Management:	John Bartus (Town of Orange)
Public Works:	Open
Community Groups:	Dawn Josefski (Franklin County CERT Team)
Environmental:	John Bourcier (MA Department of Environmental Protection)
Elected Officials:	Mark Gilmore (Town of Deerfield)
Industry:	Jim Field (University of Massachusetts)
Schools:	Open

In addition each of the member communities has designated an Emergency Response Coordinator who is the contact between the REPC and their town:

Ashfield:	Doug Field
Bernardston:	Peter Shedd
Buckland:	Milton Rock III
Charlemont:	Charles Bellows
Colrain:	Lawrence Dumas
Conway:	Jeff McFarland
Deerfield:	Mark Gilmore
Erving:	Mitchell LeClaire
Gill:	Jason Edson
Greenfield:	Michael Winn
Hawley:	Greg Cox
Heath:	Tim Lively
Leverett:	James Field
Leyden:	Gilda Galvis
Monroe:	David Nash
Montague:	Bob Escott
New Salem:	Thomas Reidy
Northfield:	Gary Sibilia
Orange:	Dennis Annear
Rowe:	Edwin May
Shelburne:	Angus Dun III
Shutesbury:	Walter Tibbits
Sunderland:	Robert Ahearn
Warwick:	Donald Matthews
Wendell:	Everett Ricketts
Whately:	Lynn Sibley

Thank you to all who contributed to this effort, including the support of Ben Wood, Michael Pattavina, Teri Koopman and everyone at the FRCOG.

John Taylor (Shelburne), Chair
 Mark Gilmore (Deerfield), Vice Chair
 Lynn Sibley (Whately), Secretary
 Patricia Auchard (Greenfield), Treasurer
 John Bartus (Orange), Executive Committee
 Jim Field (Leverett), Executive Committee
 Michael Winn (Greenfield), Executive Committee

Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition (MAPHCO)

The Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition (MAPHCO) is a regional coalition that represents the Boards of Health (BOH) from the following towns: Ashfield, Buckland, Bernardston, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Goshen, Greenfield, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Leyden, Monroe, Montague, Northfield, Rowe, Shelburne, Shutesbury, Sunderland, Warwick, Whately, Williamsburg, and Wendell. This coalition is responsible for public health emergency planning as mandated by the State Department of Public Health, and members work collaboratively to enhance communities' collective capacity to share resources and respond to public health threats and emergencies including terrorism and outbreaks of infectious diseases. An elected Steering Committee is the governing body that guides the work of MAPHCO and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments is the Host Agency serving as the Coalition's fiscal and administrative agent.

Currently the Steering Committee is comprised of the following selected representatives:

Bernardston	Jon Pineo
Charlemont	Ruth Cannavo
Conway	Dave Chichester
Deerfield	Carolyn Ness
Greenfield	Nicole Zabko
Shutesbury	Bill Elliott (Co-Chair)
Montague	Chris Boutwell (Co-Chair)
Montague	Gina McNeely
Williamsburg	Donna Gibson

During 2007, MAPHCO continued assisting Boards of Health in planning and testing their Emergency Dispensing Sites (EDSs). An EDS is a location where mass vaccinations can be provided in the event of an outbreak or flu pandemic. MAPHCO's Emergency Dispensing Sites are located at:

- Hawlemont School - serving Charlemont, Hawley, Heath, Monroe, Rowe
- Mohawk High School - serving Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Shelburne
- Pioneer High School - serving Bernardston, Leyden, Northfield, Warwick, NMH School
- Greenfield Middle School & Greenfield High School - serving Greenfield
- Montague High School - serving Erving, Gill, Montague, Wendell
- Frontier High School - serving Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland, Whately
- Leverett Elementary School - Serving Leverett, Shutesbury
- Dunphy Elementary School - Serving Williamsburg, Goshen

Eleven of the twenty-six towns served by MAPHCO conducted joint EDS Drills/free influenza mass vaccination clinics. The Frontier Region (Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately) distributed 490 vaccine doses; Shutesbury distributed 76 vaccinations; Ashfield distributed 231 vaccinations; Sunderland vaccinated 215 residents; and the Pioneer Region (Bernardston, Leyden, NMH School, Northfield, and Warwick) used a health fair to drill their EDS plan.

In addition, 12 public health-related trainings were conducted for BOH members during the year. In April of 2007, MAPHCO participated in the Commonwealth's first regional public health emergency communications drill. This drill involved all of the Public Health Coalitions in the four counties of Western Massachusetts and tested 24/7 communication systems. Over 93 individuals from this region participated in this event.

In 2007 MAPHCO, via its Host Agency, distributed mini-grants totaling \$31,000 to towns for public health capacity building. Mini-grants totaling \$35,000 were also distributed to EDS Sites for medical and clerical supplies. The Coalition also spearheaded a Public Health Awareness and Logo campaign that was designed to increase the visibility of Public Health in towns and throughout the region. MAPHCO continued to be represented on several statewide committees, including the Strategic National Stockpile/Emergency Dispensing Site Statewide Task Force, through the Coalition's Public Health Emergency Planning staff.

Under funding provided by the National Association of City and County health Officials (NACCHO) and the Western Massachusetts Homeland Security Advisory Council, the Coalition continued its Vulnerable Populations Emergency Preparedness Project. This project includes the development of a database of service agencies which can assist individuals requiring special assistance during times of emergencies, and develops/conducts personal preparedness trainings for service agency staff and consumers, as well as developing a training curriculum to educate emergency responders on the specific needs of differing populations.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

United States of America - Commonwealth of Massachusetts Federal, State and Local Officials

President of the United States The Honorable George W. Bush - R

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
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Comments 202/456-1111
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E-mail President@whitehouse.gov

Governor of Massachusetts The Honorable Deval Patrick – D 2007

The State House
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1-617-565-3170 (Boston)

John F. Kerry - D

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1-413-785-4610 (Springfield)
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& Franklin District
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Massachusetts Representative In Congress

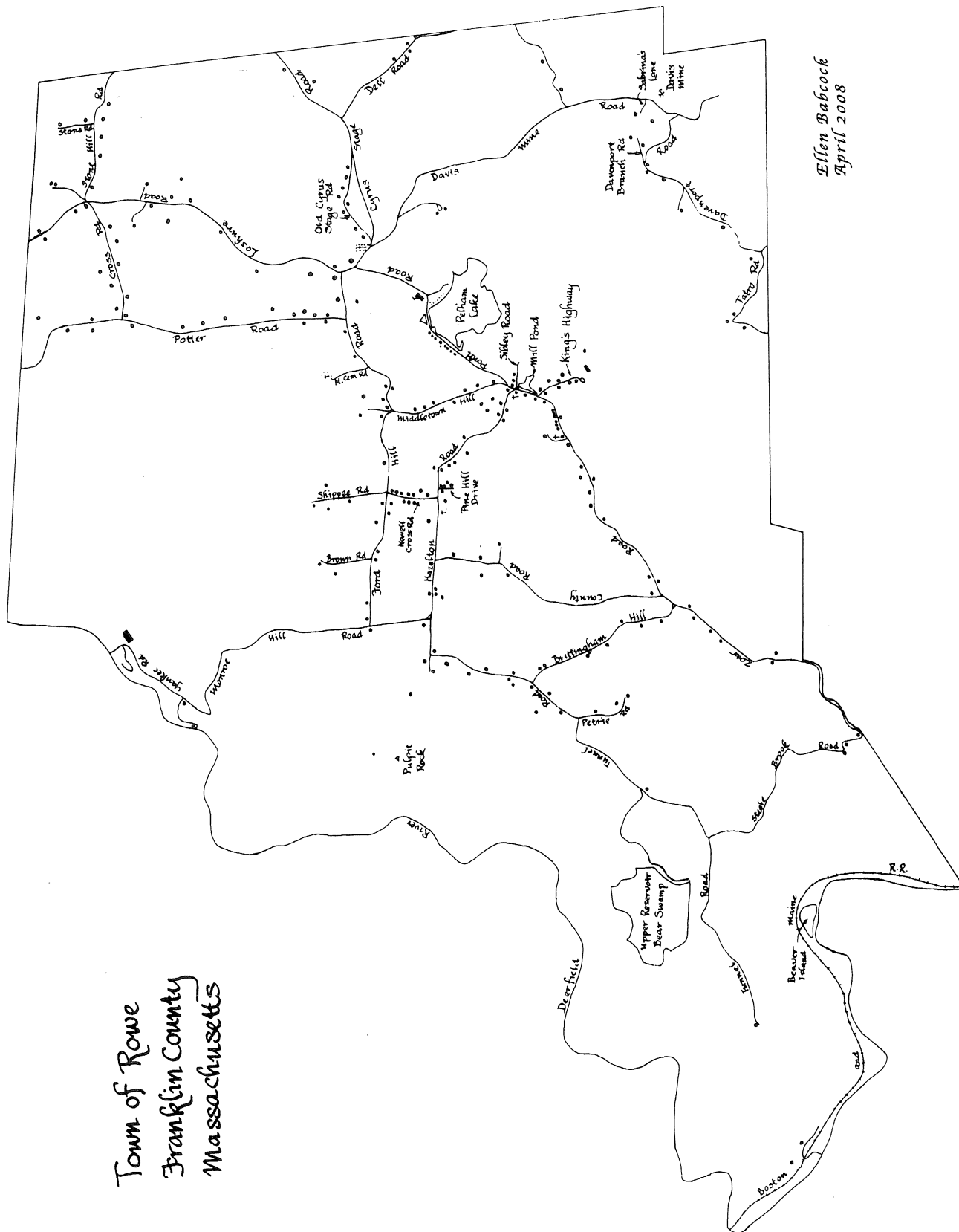
John D. Olver - D

1st District, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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1-202-226-1224 (DC Fax)
1-413-532-7010 (Holyoke)
1-413-532-6543 (Holyoke Fax)

Representative Daniel E. Bosley - D

1st Berkshire District
State House, Room 42
Boston, MA 02133
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Ph: 1-413-663-7486 (No. Adams)
Fx: 1-413-664-8588 (No. Adams Fax)
E-mail Rep.DanielBosley@hou.state.ma.us

Town of Rowe Franklin County Massachusetts



Ellen Babcock
April 2008

