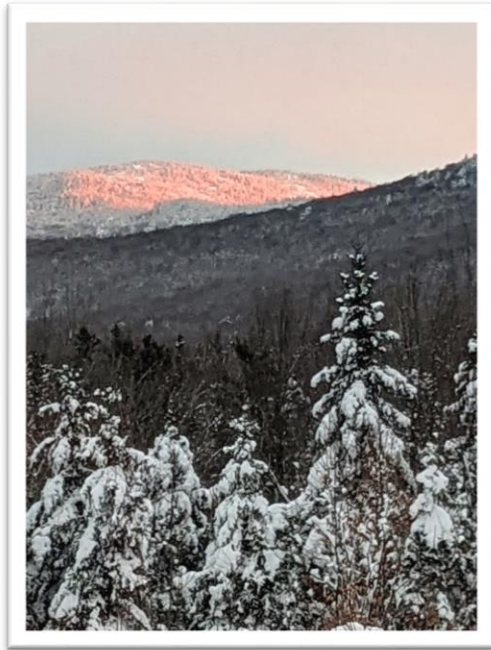


Town of Orange
New Hampshire
2022 Annual Report



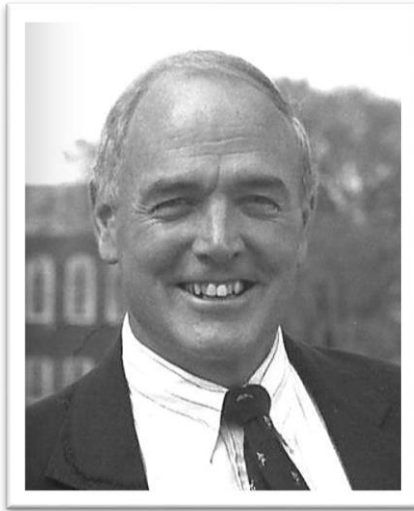
2022 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICERS



TOWN OF ORANGE NEW HAMPSHIRE

*Cover photo
by Trish Weekes*

*With appreciation to those who serve our community,
this town report is dedicated to*



*Richard Jaeger
1937 - 2022*

Richard “Dick” Jaeger served on the Orange Zoning Board of Adjustment and was once moderator for the town. He was a lifelong sports enthusiast. During his tenure as Dartmouth Director of Athletics, Dartmouth earned 43 Ivy League championships. Dick was known for his generosity and never missed a chance to help others. His many volunteer efforts included the Meals on Wheels program and serving on the Boards of the Grafton County Senior Center and Upper Valley Humane Society.

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Notary services are available at the Select Board’s office at no charge to Orange residents and property owners.

The town report can be viewed in full color and www.Orangenh.us

Officers of the Town of Orange

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tamara Fairbank, Chair '24
Aaron Allen '23 Betsy Coble '25

MODERATOR *TOWN CLERK*
Daniel Hazelton '24 Michelle Goffreda

TREASURER *ROAD AGENT*
Trish Weekes Scott Sanborn

TAX COLLECTOR *DEEDING AGENT*
Sharon Proulx Sharon Proulx

SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE
Kathleen Stacy

SCHOOL BUDGET COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE
Scott Sanborn, Chair

WELFARE DIRECTOR *AUDITORS*
Karen McFarlane Cohos Advisors

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS
Pauline Emerson '23 Sandi Pierson '25 Karen McFarlane '24

HEALTH OFFICER and BUILDING INSPECTOR
Douglas Weekes

PLANNING BOARD
Scott Sanborn, Chair '25 Donald McFarlane, Vice Chair '23
Hilary Allen, Secretary '23 Tessa Michetti '24
Karen McFarlane '24 Bruce Ells '25
Betsy Coble, Select Board ex officio

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
Robert Kuhns, Chair Alex Smith, Vice Chair
Sally Jaeger Anita Garland
Aaron Allen, Select Board ex officio
Alternates: Jana Mckay Laurie Sanborn Judy Connelly

SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST

Laurie Sanborn '28 Beth DiFrancesco '26 Donna Hazelton '24

CEMETERY COMMISSION

Tamara Fairbank '23 Anita Watson '25 Gulley Dunlap '24

FOREST FIRE WARDEN DEPUTY WARDENS

Brent Stevens Bill Bellion James McAllister

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Douglas Weekes Brent Stevens

BUDGET COMMITTEE

David Stacy, Chair '25 Robert Proulx, Clerk '23
Louis Shelzi '24 Tamara Fairbank, Select Board ex officio

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Aaron Allen, Chair David Stacy, Vice Chair
Douglas Weekes Dorothy Heinrichs Jay Heinrichs
Trish Weekes Sandi Pierson Tracy Hutchins Hilary Allen



Deputy Town Clerk Ali Proctor's son John and Aaron Allen's daughter Autumn are gearing up for the future.

State of New Hampshire
Town of Orange
Warrant for 2023 Annual Town Meeting

To the inhabitants of the Town of Orange in the County of Grafton and State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED to meet at the Town House in said Orange on Tuesday, the 14th day of March, 2023 at eleven o'clock a.m. for the election of Town Officers as called for in Article 1. The polls will open at 11 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. for voting on Article 1.

YOU ARE ALSO HEREBY NOTIFIED that the business meeting will be held at the Town House at seven o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, the 15th day of March, 2023 to act upon Articles 2 through 9 in this warrant.

ARTICLE 1: *(by official ballot)* To elect the following town officers for the following terms:

1 Selectperson 3-year term, 1 Town Clerk 1-year term, 1 Treasurer 1-year term, 1 Tax Collector 1-year term, 1 Deeding Agent 1-year term, 1 Road Agent 1-year term, 1 Budget Committee 3-year term, 1 Cemetery Trustee 3-year term, 1 Trustee of Trust Funds 3-year term, 2 Planning Board Members 3-year terms, and any other officers as required by law.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will authorize the Tax Collector to accept the prepayment of taxes pursuant to RSA 80:52-a. Taxpayers shall be allowed to prepay taxes no more than two years in advance of the due date of the taxes. No interest shall accrue to the taxpayer on any prepayment, nor shall any interest be paid to the taxpayer on any prepayment which is later subject to rebate or refund.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate eight thousand dollars (\$8,000.00) to be paid into the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to be paid into the Town House Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) to be paid into the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of revaluation of real estate. Revaluations of all real estate are required by law every five years.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) to be paid into the Town Road Improvement and Repair Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to establish a new Capital Reserve Fund as authorized by RSA 35:1-I which will be called the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of the maintenance, construction, and/or reconstruction of municipally-owned bridges, and to raise and appropriate \$26,507.49 to be placed in this fund to be under the custody of the Trustees of the Trust Funds, and to designate the Select Board as agents to expend. The funds deposited into this Capital Reserve Fund shall come from the one-time bridge payment of \$26,507.49 received from the State of New Hampshire in accordance with Senate Bill 401 and not raised by taxation.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

ARTICLE 8: To see if the town will vote to re-adopt the previously adopted RSA 72:28, II - Optional Veterans' Tax Credit, by readopting the \$200 credit to include eligible active duty veterans, as specified in the state legislature's 2022 amendment to RSA 72:28, and modifying, the previously adopted RSA 72:28-b - All Veterans' Tax Credit, by readopting the \$200 credit to include eligible active duty veterans, as specified in the state legislature's 2022 amendment to RSA 72:28-b? If readopted and approved, this article shall take effect for the 2023 property tax year.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended sum of \$275,889.00, **not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately**, for the ensuing year for the Town's general operations.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

ARTICLE 10: To hear the reports of agents, auditors, committees and officers and to transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

GIVEN UNDER OUR HAND AND SEAL ON THE SEVENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-THREE.

Tamara Fairbank, Chair

Aaron Allen

Betsy Coble

Select Board, Town of Orange, NH

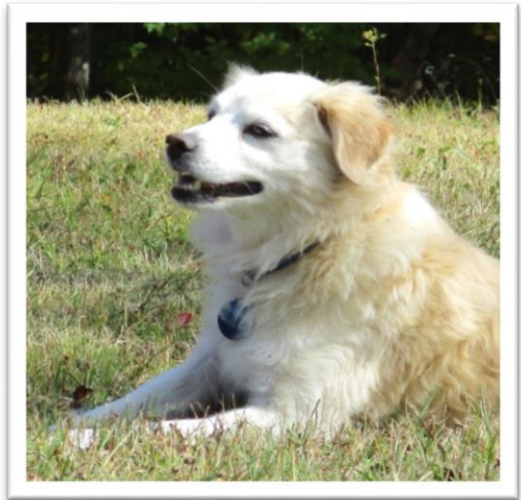
Further information on Warrant Articles 7 and 8

Warrant Article 7; The State of New Hampshire deposited a one-time payment of \$26,507.49, into the Town’s account in accordance with Senate Bill 401 for bridge work. The Board is requesting the Town establish a Bridge Capital Reserve Fund into which the monies will be deposited, and to be used in compliance with the purpose of the funds as specified by the State. The State reported there is no timeline in spending the funds and affirms they can be placed into a capital reserve fund.

Warrant Article 8; The Town adopted the All Veterans Tax Credit in 2020. In 2022, Governor Sununu signed HB 1667 into law which expanded the eligibility to include individuals who have not yet been discharged from service in the armed forces. If the All Veterans’ tax credit is not readopted, the Standard Veterans’ Tax Credit (\$50) will be in place for April 1, 2023 tax year.

*Annie
“Our Little
Cuckoo Dog”*

Sadly, in November we lost our office greeter due to complications from kidney failure. For 13 years “Cuckoo” delighted in welcoming visitors to the Select Board’s office with unbridled enthusiasm and happiness. Her greatest joy was hiking in our forests. She was truly part of our community.



*TOWN BUDGET PURPOSES OF
APPROPRIATION*

	Approp. <u>2022</u>	Expended <u>2022</u>	Approp. <u>2023</u>
<i><u>General Government</u></i>			
Officers' Salaries	\$37,730.00	\$38,388.08	\$39,000.00
Elections & Reg.	\$4,505.00	\$3,939.99	\$1,475.00
Financial Admin.	\$200.00	\$74.30	\$200.00
Property Reappraisal	\$4,000.00	\$5,484.98	\$5,000.00
Legal Expense	\$2,500.00	\$2,154.50	\$2,500.00
FICA Payments	\$3,000.00	\$4,449.59	\$3,500.00
Planning & Zoning	\$300.00	\$167.92	\$300.00
General Gov't. Bldgs.	\$9,000.00	\$13,180.60	\$9,500.00
Cemeteries	\$6,000.00	\$1,506.83	\$6,000.00
Insurance	\$2,400.00	\$2,387.28	\$2,716.00
Memberships	\$1,750.00	\$1,621.77	\$1,800.00
Officers' Expenses	\$7,500.00	\$6,161.43	\$7,500.00
<i><u>Public Safety</u></i>			
Canaan Ambulance	\$13,665.00	\$13,664.11	\$12,379.00
Canaan Fire Dept.	\$16,503.00	\$16,668.00	\$18,581.00
Building Inspection	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Emergency Mgmt.	\$1,550.00	\$4,309.32	\$1,600.00
<i><u>Highway & Streets</u></i>			
Highway	\$110,000.00	\$81,120.02	\$110,000.00
<i><u>Sanitation</u></i>			
Trash Collection	\$19,000.00	\$18,200.51	\$14,611.00
<i><u>Health</u></i>			
Health Agencies	\$3,900.00	\$3,283.00	\$3,900.00
<i><u>Welfare</u></i>			
Direct Assistance	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
<i><u>Culture & Recreation</u></i>			
Library	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Other Culture & Rec.	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
<i><u>Conservation</u></i>			
Conservation Comm.	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Timber Harvest Mon.	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$1.00

DEBT SERVICE

Tax Anticipation Note	\$4,000.00	\$2,105.20	\$4,000.00
Interest on FEMA loan			\$22,426.00

Capital Outlay

Town House	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
------------	------------	--------	------------

Budget Totals \$256,704.00 \$222,867.42 \$275,889.00

<u>Capital Reserves</u>	<u>2022 Balance</u>	<u>2023 Approp.</u>
Revaluation	\$8,213.27	\$4,000.00
Town House	\$33,509.50	\$10,000.00
Cemetery	\$1,621.61	\$0.00
Highway Equipment	\$18,925.74	\$8,000.00
Doc. Preservation	\$1,092.77	\$0.00
Legal Expense	\$4,298.07	\$0.00
Road Improv. & Repair	\$49,574.44	\$15,000.00
Land & Conservation	\$8,983.44	\$0.00
250 th Anniversary	\$41.44	\$0.00

SOURCES OF REVENUE

	<u>Estimated</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Estimated</u>
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>Taxes</u>			
Land Use Change Tax	\$3,000.00	\$3,650.00	\$0.00
Yield Tax	\$3,500.00	\$6,792.14	\$3,500.00
<u>Interest & Penalties</u>			
Delinquent Taxes	\$4,000.00	\$10,684.95	\$4,000.00
Inventory Penalties	\$1,000.00	\$1,588.00	\$1,500.00
UCC	\$50.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Motor Vehicles	\$65,000.00	\$64,038.80	\$60,000.00
Building Permits	\$50.00	\$200.00	\$100.00
Other Lic. & Permits	\$400.00	\$537.17	\$500.00
<u>From State</u>			
Unanticipated Rev.	\$16,000.00	\$18,512.12	\$0.00
Rooms & Meals Tax	\$22,000.00	\$24,135.42	\$20,000.00
Highway Block Grant	\$25,000.00	\$35,264.63	\$28,000.00
Special Hwy. Grant	\$0.00	\$45,339.29	\$0.00

- Fire Protection. +\$2,078.00
- Emergency Mgmt. +\$50.00
- FEMA loan interest +\$22,426.00

Increased Capital Reserve Funds: +\$21,507.00

(\$26,507.49 of the capital reserve appropriation has been funded by the State of New Hampshire. See page 12. The amount to actually be raised by taxation is \$5,000 less than in 2022)

<i>Appropriations</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Operating Budget</i>	<i>\$256,704.00</i>	<i>\$275,889.00</i>	<i>+\$19,185.00</i>
<i>Capital Reserve Funds</i>	<i>\$42,000.00</i>	<i>\$37,000.00</i>	<i>-\$5,000.00</i>
<i>Total Appropriations</i>	<i>\$298,704.00</i>	<i>\$312,889.00</i>	<i>+\$14,185.00 4.5% increase</i>



*Budget Committee members
Louis Shelzi, Dave Stacy and Bob Proulx*

TAX COLLECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2022

DEBITS:

Uncollected Taxes Beg. of Year	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Property Taxes		\$47,620.25
Yield Taxes		
Land Use Change Taxes		
Property Tax Credit Balance	(\$593.96)	
Taxes Committed This Fiscal Year		
Property Taxes	\$824,434.51	
Land Use Change Tax	\$3,670.00	
Yield Taxes	\$6,792.14	
Excavation Tax	\$84.00	
Overpayment Refunds		
Property Taxes		
Interest-Late Tax	\$154.36	\$1,508.37
TOTAL DEBITS	\$834,541.05	\$49,128.62

CREDITS

Remitted to Treasurer	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Property Taxes	\$771,549.00	\$40,685.35
Land Use Change Tax	\$3,650.00	
Yield Taxes	\$6,792.14	
Interest	\$134.36	\$1,272.87
Penalties	\$20.00	\$235.50
Converted to Liens (Principal only)		\$6,934.90
Abatements Made	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Property Taxes	\$1,373.88	
Land Use Change Tax	\$20.00	
Excavation Tax	\$84.00	

Uncollected Taxes**- End of Year**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Property Taxes	\$51,036.98	
Property Tax Credit Bal.	(\$119.31)	

TOTAL CREDITS **\$834,541.05** **\$49,128.62**

SUMMARY OF**DEBITS:**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Unredeemed Lien			
Balance beg. of FY		\$11,354.95	\$8,050.36
Liens Executed FY	\$7,459.51		
Interest & Costs			
Collected		\$503.89	\$2,327.19

TOTAL DEBITS **\$7,459.51** **\$11,858.84** **\$10,377.55**

SUMMARY OF**CREDITS**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Redemptions		\$3,569.85	\$8,050.36
Interest & Costs			
Collected		\$503.89	\$2,327.19
Unredeemed Liens			
End of FY	\$7,459.51	\$7,785.10	

TOTAL CREDITS **\$7,459.51** **\$11,858.84** **\$10,377.55**

*Sharon Lee Proulx,
Tax Collector
Town of Orange*

TREASURER'S REPORT 2022

CASH ON HAND 12/31/2021 **\$289,484.31**

RECEIPTS

Bank	52.78
Select Board	24,430.17
Tax Collector	860,837.85
State of New Hampshire	139,582.59
Town Clerk	65,596.80
FEMA Reimbursement	40,392.33
NHPA Grant	3,450.00
Transfer to Capital Reserve Funds	(42,000.00)
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$1,092,342.52

EXPENSES

Payment by order of Selectmen	915,471.67
Liability for FICA	450.78
Liability to State from Town Clerk	2,517.68
Difference between Treasury & Select Board	(1,941.19)
Payment applied to FEMA Note	40,392.33
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$956,891.27

**PRINCIPLE BORROWED ON
TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE** **\$158,280.31**

Tax Anticipation Note interest paid	(2,105.20)
Tax Anticipation Note principal paid	(158,280.31)
FEMA Note interest paid	(13,994.19)
2022 Property Tax deposited in 2023	(21,889.90)
NHPA grant report expensed TH Restoration Acct.	(2,300.00)
Ossipee Mtn. Logging Escrow paid out	(2,004.74)

CASH ON HAND 12/31/2022 **\$382,641.53**

EXPLANATION OF DIFFERENCES **\$(1,941.19)**

4 th quarter 2021 FICA/Intuit expense paid in 2022	1,931.39
Arithmetic error	(0.10)
Underpayment to S. Pierson carries to 01/2023	36.90
Intuit expense December no voucher	(27.00)

Road Recovery Financial Report to December 31, 2022

In 2022, there were no bills paid from the Road Recovery Fund checking account. The account was set up to pay for repairs to roads damaged by the July 11, 2019, weather event while the Town waited for promised FEMA reimbursement. The balance is \$398.59, same as end-of-year 2021.

While the road work is done and the contractors are paid, the town continues to have a financial obligation for payments made but not yet reimbursed by FEMA. Below is a summary of loan activity to date.

A one-year note was authorized for up to \$980,356 in June 2020. That note matured in June 2021 when principal and interest were due. FEMA had made small payment in June 2021 (\$42,994.10) and that was applied to the loan balance. That initial note was “rolled” or carried forward in June 2021, due in June 2022.

In April 2022, with only one payment made to Orange from FEMA and interest rates rising quickly due to the inflationary economic environment, Orange Treasurer requested a refinance of the loan for one year at the favorable rate of 2.5%. The interest owed, \$13,994.19, was paid and the principal was rolled again.

End-of-year summary of activity in the FEMA Reimbursement Anticipation Note or FRAN:

Principal balance December 31, 2021	\$937,361.90
FEMA payment applied to loan September 21	(8,788.87)
FEMA payment applied to loan September 21	(31,603.46)
CURRENT BALANCE FRAN	\$896,969.57

The interest balance on the loan as of December 31 is **\$16,693.31**, and continues to accrue at a per-diem rate of \$61.44. Over the two-and-a-half-year course of the FRAN, to December 31, 2022, the town has paid or accrued **\$37,015.87** in interest.

Respectfully submitted,
Trish Weekes, Treasurer
Tessa Johnson, Deputy Treasurer

Orange Town House Restoration Committee



On December 14, in Concord, Doug and Trish Weekes attended the LCHIP (Land & Community Heritage Investment Program) awards ceremony with Governor Chris Sununu and LCHIP officials.

Orange received an LCHIP grant of \$43,501 to help pay for improvements to the structural support for the Town House roof and for a new steel roof. Monies are also designated for chimney repair, and painting the exterior siding and trim. Prior to receiving the LCHIP award, Orange received a Moose Plate grant of \$20,000, which can be used as matching funds to the LCHIP grant.

Work will begin on the project as soon a weather permits in spring of 2023.

Photo courtesy of Joe Klementovich

2022 REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS

COMMON TRUST FUNDS

CEMETERIES

	Dec. 31, 2021	2022 Int.	Dec. 31, 2022
Hannah M. French	\$1,135.62	\$18.94	\$1,154.56
Jennie M. French	1,472.00	24.53	1,496.53
Arthur Briggs	534.56	8.90	543.46
Clara Huse	493.68	8.24	501.92
Asa Hoyt	507.14	8.46	515.60
Henry Eastman	1,382.86	23.05	1,405.91
Abbie Fellows	1,556.85	25.94	1,582.79
Adoniram Ford	1,587.86	26.46	1,614.32
Charles Ford	1,652.54	27.56	1,680.10
Lyman Batchelder	505.01	8.42	513.43

ERNEST KILTON BARNARD MEMORIAL FUND

Dec. 31, 2021: \$12,819.53; Interest: \$213.66; Balance Dec. 31, 2022: \$13,033.19

CAPITAL RESERVES

- *Highway Equipment:* Dec. 31, 2021: \$10,723.43; deposit per vote at 2022 town meeting: \$8,000.00; interest: \$202.31; Dec. 31, 2022 balance: \$18,925.74
- *Town Road Improvement and Repair:* Dec. 31, 2021 balance: \$33,964.16; deposit per vote at 2022 town meeting: \$1,000.00; withdrawal: \$15,000.00; interest: \$610.28; Dec. 31, 2022 balance: \$49,574.44
- *Revaluation:* Dec. 31, 2021: \$4,132.60; deposit per vote at 2022 town meeting: \$4,000.00; interest: \$80.67; Dec. 31, 2022 balance: \$8,213.27
- *Town House:* Dec. 31, 2021 balance: \$18,162.58; deposit per vote at 2022 town meeting: \$15,000.00; interest: \$346.92;

- Dec. 31, 2022 balance: \$33,509.50
- *Town Document Preservation*: Dec. 31, 2021 balance: \$1,074.84; interest: \$17.93; Dec. 31, 2022 balance: \$1,092.77
 - *Land & Conservation*: Dec. 31, 2021: \$8,836.18; interest: \$147.26; balance Dec. 31, 2022: \$8,983.44
 - *Cemetery Monuments*: Dec. 31, 2021: \$1,595.02; interest: \$26.59; balance Dec. 31, 2022: \$1,621.61
 - *Legal Expense*: Dec. 31, 2021: \$4,227.60; interest: \$70.47; balance Dec. 31, 2022: \$4,298.07
 - *250th Orange Anniversary*: Dec. 31, 2021: \$40.77; interest: \$0.67; balance Dec. 31, 2022: \$41.44

<i>Cemeteries:</i>	<i>\$11,008.62</i>
<i>Kilton Fund:</i>	<i>\$13,033.19</i>
<i>Capital Reserves:</i>	<i>\$126,260.28</i>
<i>Grand Total:</i>	<i>\$150,302.09</i>

At the 2022 town meeting, it was voted to place \$42,000 into four capital reserve funds. If there are no anticipated withdrawals during the year, deposits are made after the tax bills are issued so our Tax Anticipation Note does not take the hit. There were no withdrawals this year.

The tally for the 2022 interest for the cemetery trusts, Kilton Fund, and Capital Reserves was impressive. The total accrued interest of all funds in 2020 was \$966.39. In 2021 it had nose-dived to a total of \$27.18. The total accrued interest for 2022 was a notable \$1,897.26.

*Respectfully submitted by the Trustees of Trust Funds,
Pauline Emerson, Karen McFarlane, Sandi Pierson*

*ORANGE TOWN CLERK REPORT
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022*

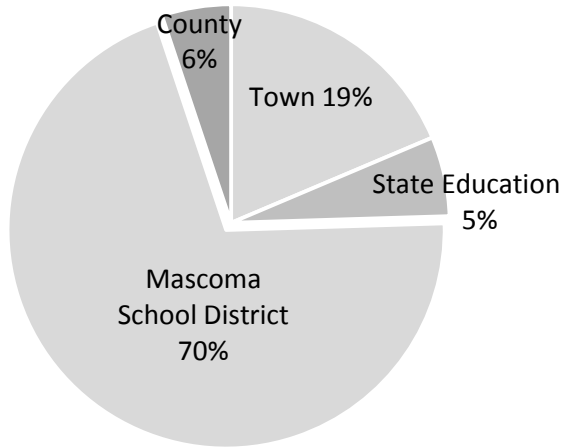
Automobile Registrations	\$63,917.60
Automobile Titles	\$108.00
Municipal Fees	\$976.00
Dog Licenses	\$202.00
UCC Fees	\$30.00
Vital Records	\$0.00
Voter List	\$350
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$65,583.60</i>

*Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Goffreda
Orange Town Clerk*



*Congratulations Olga!
Newly minted American citizen Olga Potapenko
celebrates with her husband, David Wilson, after voting
in her first U.S. election. It was a very proud day.
Photo courtesy of Beth DiFrancesco*

Your 2022 Tax Bill



TAX RATES PER \$1000 OF VALUATION

	Town	Mascoma School District	State Education	County	Total Tax Rate
2022	\$4.14	\$15.64	\$1.14	\$1.31	\$22.23
2021	\$4.13	\$16.07	\$1.70	\$1.45	\$23.35
2020	\$3.38	\$18.03	\$1.85	\$1.55	\$24.81
2019	\$4.03	\$18.53	\$2.14	\$1.90	\$26.60
2018	\$3.80	\$18.05	\$2.16	\$1.86	\$25.87
2017	\$3.88	\$18.07	\$2.20	\$1.77	\$25.92
2016	\$3.71	\$17.16	\$2.15	\$1.73	\$24.75
2015	\$4.45	\$11.70	\$2.74	\$1.54	\$20.43
2014	\$3.07	\$15.02	\$2.54	\$2.00	\$22.63
2013	\$2.50	\$14.92	\$2.47	\$1.66	\$21.55
2012	\$4.10	\$11.59	\$2.46	\$1.62	\$19.77
2011	\$2.00	\$14.85	\$2.62	\$1.50	\$20.97
2010	\$2.21	\$13.33	\$2.49	\$1.49	\$19.52
2009	\$4.05	\$11.92	\$2.12	\$1.44	\$19.53

2022 PROPERTY TAXES DATA

Town Appropriations: \$298,704
Less Revenue: (\$150,466)
Add Overlay Used: \$2,866
Add War Service Credits: \$2,900
Total Municipal Tax Effort: \$154,004

Net Local School Apportionment: \$875,095
Less Education Grant: (\$251,935)
Less Education Tax (from below): (\$41,420)
Total School Tax Effort: \$581,740

Education Tax: \$41,420

County Tax: \$48,548

Total Taxes Assessed: \$825,712
Less War Service Credits: (\$2,900)
Total Property Tax Commitment: \$822,812



*Thank you Dorothy Heinrichs for your many years of service
to the town, especially as Select Board Chair.*

Photo courtesy of Gullely Dunlap

2022 SUMMARY OF VALUATION

	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>VALUATION</u>
Current Use	8,717.71	\$612,312
Residential	936.85	\$12,720,500
Commercial	88.01	\$206,100
<i>Taxable total acreage</i>	<i>9,742.57</i>	<i>\$13,538,912</i>
Non-taxable*	5,577.48	\$3,835,200

*Town and State properties, including Mt. Cardigan State Forest

Residential buildings	\$21,260,200
Manufactured Housing	\$1,063,400
Commercial Buildings	\$455,900
<i>Total Taxable Buildings</i>	<i>\$22,779,500</i>
Non-taxable building (Town House)	\$163,000
Utilities:	\$991,500
Total valuation before exemptions	\$37,309,912
Less elderly exemptions	\$115,000
<i>Net Valuation:</i>	<i>\$37,194,912</i>

Town, County, and Mascoma School District taxes are based on the above net valuation.

State Education Tax is based on valuation minus the utilities value of \$991,500. (\$36,203,412)

Current Use Acreage and Values:

Farmland: 166.62 acres - \$54,394
 Forest Land: 7,674.9 acres - \$527,777
 Forest Land w/ Doc. Stewardship: 772.09 acres - \$27,904
 Unproductive Land: 42.4 acres - \$847
 Wetland: 61.7 acres - \$1,390
Total: 8,717.71 acres in current use valued at \$612,312

Other Current Use Statistics:

Receiving 20% recreation adjustment: 4,471.94 acres
 Removed from current use in 2022: 1 acre
 Total parcels in current use: 140
 Total number of current use land owners: 97

2022 SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY

Properties (assessed values):

- Map 1- Lot 34, Route 4, 0.10 acre (possible site of 1804 municipal toll booth), value: \$2,200
- Map 3- Lot 3-3, Tug Mountain Road, 0.38 acre, Common Cemetery, value: \$27,800
- Map 3 - Lot 11, 8 Town House Road, 2.27 acres, land value: \$41,100, building (Town House): \$202,900
- Map 3- Lot 56, Cardigan Mountain Road, 11.25 acres, “Williams Lot,” value: \$51,000
- Map 3- Lot 100, Cardigan Mountain Road, 0.37 acre, French Cemetery, value: \$30,700
- Map 3- Lot 100-1, Cardigan Mountain Road, 0.75 acre, Church Cemetery, value: \$29,600
- Map 7- Lot 3, Firescrew Forest, 8.9 acres on the north flank of Firescrew Mountain, value: \$8,000

Highway Department:

- 2015 GMC 3500D Truck: \$35,000
- Fisher XV2 Minute Mount Plow: \$4,500
- Fisher SteelCaster Sander: \$5,500
- Other equipment: \$700

Other:

- Town house, general contents: \$46,000
- Historical collection: \$5,042
- Art collection: \$7,385
- Set of six display units: \$3,000
- Gary Hamel 23 historical panels: \$7,500
- Standby generator: \$3,500

Properties: \$352,200.00

Highway Department: \$45,700.00

Other: \$72,427.00

TOTAL: \$470,327.00

CATEGORY PAYEES 2022

4130 SALARIES

Aaron Allen	\$3,000.00
Alexandra Proctor	\$464.20
Betsy Coble	\$3,000.00
Cohos Advisors	\$3,250.00
David Stacy	\$160.00
Karen McFarlane	\$100.00
Louis Shelzi	\$160.00
Michelle Goffreda	\$3,968.00
Pauline Emerson	\$100.00
Robert Proulx	\$260.00
Sandi Pierson	\$14,348.88
Sharon Proulx	\$3,202.00
Tamara Fairbank	\$3,000.00
Tessa Johnson	\$375.00
Trish Weekes	\$3,000.00

4140 ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

Aaron Allen	\$375.00
Anita Garland	\$375.00
Beth DiFrancesco	\$420.00
Betsy Coble	\$420.00
Daniel Hazelton	\$355.00
Donna Hazelton	\$125.00
Dorothy Heinrichs	\$265.00
Gary Hamel	\$375.00
Laurie Sanborn	\$479.99
Michelle Goffreda	\$375.00
Tamara Fairbank	\$375.00

4150 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION (DEEDS)

Grafton County Registry of Deeds	\$74.30
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4152 REVALUATION	
Avitar Associates of New England	\$5,484.98
4153 LEGAL	
Mitchell Municipal Group, P.A.	\$2,154.50
4155 FICA	
FICA	\$4,449.59
4191 PLANNING AND ZONING	
Valley News	\$64.60
Sandi Pierson	\$103.32
4194 GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS	
Barry Geddis	\$108.00
Bedard Preservation & Restoration	\$1,300.00
BMD Electric LLC	\$175.00
Brent Stevens	\$44.69
Canaan Hardware and Supply	\$115.79
Consolidated Communications	\$2,941.09
Defiance Electric	\$545.50
G. W. Lazarus Heating and Plumbing	\$179.50
George's Safes LLC	\$350.00
HEB Engineers, Inc.	\$2,800.00
Inov8v Energy LLC	\$1,951.14
Mae Williams	\$1,000.00
NH Electric Co-op	\$1,064.89
Poland Property Maintenance	\$130.00
Town of Hanover NH	\$475.00
4195 CEMETERIES	
Donna Markarewicz	\$11.34
Open Woods (Angus Gorman)	\$950.00
Canaan Hardware and Supply	\$7.49

Poland Property Maintenance	\$250.00
Barry Geddis	\$288.00
4196 INSURANCE	
Primex	\$2,387.28
4197 MEMBERSHIPS	
NH Municipal Association	\$1,104.00
NH Assoc. of Assessing Officials	\$20.00
NH Welfare Administration Assoc.	\$30.00
UVLSRPC	\$397.77
NH City and Town Clerks Assoc.	\$20.00
NH Preservation Alliance	\$50.00
NHTCA	\$20.00
4199 OFFICER EXPENSES	
Alexandra Proctor	\$105.30
Daniel Hazelton	\$55.00
Gnomon Copy	\$574.60
IDS Identification Source	\$196.02
Interware Development	\$1,026.00
Intuit (Quickbooks)	\$1,096.00
Jay Heinrichs	\$288.00
Laurie Sanborn	\$59.99
Michelle Goffreda	\$328.50
NH Municipal Association	\$40.00
NHCTCA Conference	\$100.00
Safflowers	\$100.00
Sandi Pierson	\$104.14
Sharon Proulx	\$105.80
Staples	\$1,002.44
Trish Weekes	\$230.04
United States Postal Service	\$736.00
Valley News	\$13.60
4215 AMBULANCE	
Town of Canaan, NH	\$13,664.11

4240 FIRE	
Town of Canaan, NH	\$16,503.00
Canaan Fire Fighters Association	\$165.00

4240 BUILDING INSPECTION	
No expenditures	\$0.00

4290 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	
Motorola Solutions, Inc.	\$1,867.40
Ossipee Mountain Electronics	\$1,175.00
Aaron Allen	\$1,266.91

4312 HIGHWAY	
Aaron Allen	\$255.13
Canaan Hardware and Supply	\$79.20
Cardigan Mountain Land Survey	\$450.00
Dyer's Welding & Line-X	\$299.00
Estate Wildlife Control, LLC	\$480.00
Ferguson Waterworks	\$1,007.20
Granite State Glass	\$344.00
Green Oak Realty Development	\$2,081.69
Jake's Market & Deli	\$962.30
Pike Industries	\$7,378.29
Richard Remacle Construction	\$62,835.00
Scott Sanborn	\$4,540.77
Upper Valley Line-X	\$407.44

4823 SOLID WASTE	
Cardigan Mountain Land Surveys	\$100.00
Town of Canaan, NH	\$17,463.31
Casella	\$637.20

4441 DIRECT ASSISTANCE (WELFARE)	
No expenditures	\$0.00

4550 LIBRARY
Canaan Town Library \$4,000.00

4589 CULTURE/RECREATION
No expenditures \$0.00

4611 TIMBER MONITOR
No expenditures \$0.00

4619 CONSERVATION
No expenditures \$0.00

4723 DEPT SERVICE (TAN)
Mascoma Savings Bank \$2,105.20

4903 BUILDINGS CAPITAL
OUTLAY
No expenditures \$0.00

OTHER PAYMENTS
Flood Event of July 11 (FEMA Disaster) \$1,300.00
Annual County Payment to Grafton County \$48,548.00
School payments to Mascoma School Dist. \$633,019.74



The Election Crew: Betsy Coble, Dan Hazelton, Gary Hamel, Aaron Allen, Anita Garland, Tamara Fairbank, Michelle Goffreda, Donna Hazelton, Laurie Sanborn, Beth Di Francesco

REPORTS



Casey has just arrived from Mississippi to spend the rest of his days here in Orange. Glad to have you aboard! Says Casey, “Yes, it looks like a great place to settle in, but about this weather...”

2022 REPORT OF THE SELECT BOARD

In 2022, some of the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic had lessened. Town Meeting was held at the Mascoma High School auditorium and our uniquely special Christmas party was cancelled out of an abundance of caution. But the Orange Harvest Festival made a glorious return! Our new residents, Dewey Mathis and Samara Pietre, graciously hosted the event at their Tuttle Hill farm. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Dewey, Samara, and the Harvest Festival committee for bringing this fantastic event back!

Dorothy Heinrichs brought to a close her time as Select Board member in 2022. She had served 11 years including 7 years as Chair. Most notably during her tenure, the town celebrated the 250th anniversary of our charter, recovered from a 1000 year flood and learned how to operate through a global pandemic! We thank Dorothy for her incredible dedication and leadership for over more than a decade!

Two Select Board members attended the New Hampshire Municipal Association's Good Governance course. This valuable 7 week course covered topics including Governing Body Roles & Responsibilities, Financial Responsibilities, Public Entity's Liability and Cybersecurity.

Emergency Radios were purchased with a New Hampshire State Grant "Local Equipment Purchase program" which covered 90% of the cost. Many thanks to Sandi Pierson for securing the hardware and funds as well as working with the FCC and emergency communication system to establish use.

Large Trash Disposal- September was well attended and valued by residents as a great resource. Thanks to Aaron Allen for organizing with Casella and assisting residents.

The 9-1-1 sign project was launched in 2022 with the goal of marking all properties for emergency management. Aaron Allen was instrumental in organizing the purchase of material, offering



Aaron working on the 9-1-1 project.

assistance and informing residents of the value and purpose of this important initiative.

The Town of Orange received the Land & Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) award for \$43,501 and Moose Plate grant of \$20,000 for structural support, repairs and designated

maintenance of the Town House. This would not have been possible without the diligent and tremendous efforts of Trish and Doug Weekes! Many thanks for preserving the legacy and integrity of the Town House!

Scott Sanborn has served as our Road Agent for 11 years. First elected in 2012, he has navigated the Town through two FEMA events; Hurricane Irene and the 2019 Flood! We thank Scott for his dedication to keeping our roads safe, through all seasons and obstacles (FEMA forms, down trees, beavers...)!

The Board wishes to thank Sandi Pierson for her dedication which, without question, is a tremendous gift to the Town. She has helped or been involved with nearly every project or initiative undertaken in the Town of Orange. We deeply appreciate the support, vast knowledge and assistance she has given to the Board every year!

*Sincerely,
Tamara Fairbank, Chair
Aaron Allen
Betsy Coble*

2022 REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

The Orange Planning Board conducted 2022 business in its usual cooperative and harmonious fashion. We returned to in-person meetings at the town house after two years of “going remote” due to the COVID pandemic.

In the spring of 2022, Scott Sanborn and Bruce Ells were re-elected to three-year terms. Betsy Coble has been our ex-officio member from the Selectboard. Our officers were the same as the past few years: Scott Sanborn as Chair, Donald McFarlane as Vice-Chair, and Hilary Rogers Allen as Secretary.

We had one minor subdivision application submitted this year, which was not technically a new subdivision, but rather to correct a “paperwork” deficiency on a lot created over forty years ago. Given the lack of pressing business, several meetings were cancelled.

Long range planning continues to include discussion on development of regulations, if deemed appropriate, for larger (commercial) solar arrays, and a review of the town’s Telecommunications Ordinance which at more than 20 years old, may well be due for updating. In the past few years, “tiny houses” have also been on this list, but after discussion, the board determined that the subject is more appropriately addressed within the context of the building ordinance and permitting process. Since that falls under the purview of the Selectboard, we have taken it off our agenda.

The Chair wishes to thank the members of the Planning Board for their commitment and thoughtful considerations to the planning issues that impact the Town of Orange. Thanks also, to our Board of Selectmen for their dedication to the town, and the town’s attorneys for being available to provide insight and legal wisdom. We also thank the members of the public who have provided input at our meetings and public hearings over the years.

The Planning Board adjusted its regular meeting night to accommodate a change in the Selectboard's schedule, and now meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM. Those wishing to be heard formally by the board, whether to discuss a subdivision or boundary adjustment, or any topic of general interest related to planning and zoning may ask to be placed on the agenda by contacting Secretary Hillary Allen at 603-381-4105, or Chair Scott Sanborn at 603-667-8237. Regulations and application forms are available at the town office, through the Planning Board Chair or Secretary, or on line at www.orangenh.us. The public is always encouraged to attend our meetings, and the Board is pleased to hear questions or comments whether on the agenda or not. It is recommended to check ahead, as meetings may be cancelled if there is no business requiring the board's attention. As the Chairman, I know I can speak on behalf the entire Board when I say that we look forward to continuing to serve the Town of Orange in the year 2023.

*Respectfully submitted,
Scott Sanborn, Chair*

*In memoriam
Christy Lynn Souza
December 25, 1968 – July 20, 2022*



The town lost a beautiful soul when Christy passed away this year. She was a happy, whole-hearted person with a passion for volunteering, travelling, farming, and marriage. (She married her husband Billy three times!) Christy ran Cross Water Farm in Orange, selling her products at a local farmers market. For a number of years she was the town's auditor. We miss this very special person.

2022 REPORT OF THE ROAD AGENT

It has been an honor and a privilege to have served as your road agent for the past 11 years. However, as stated in a message to the town back in November, I have decided to "pass the torch", and I have not filed for re-election for the coming year. My day-job workload has become much heavier than it was when I first took the position and it is also time (after 11 years) for me to be able to plan some occasional time away with my family during the winter, and not be "on-call" 24-7.

I will do whatever I can to ensure a smooth transition for whoever takes over the position.

I truly appreciate all of the support from the town officials and residents during my time as your road agent, and I will continue to serve the town in other capacities. We live in an amazing community!

The efforts to get reimbursement from FEMA for their share of the repairs and reconstruction of the 2019 flood damages continue at a glacial pace. All of the required information has been submitted for over a year, and the project reviews at the federal level are supposedly in the late stages. The funding is "obligated"; these reviews fine-tune the actual, final dollar amount of the awards.

Taking care of the roads in 2022 did present some challenges. Though the 2021-22 winter was relatively mild, the spring thaw resulted in an epic mud season throughout the entire region. While we did not fare as badly as some towns, it was still a challenge to keep some of the roads passable, but we got through it. The beginning of the '22-23 winter has been generally mild, though we had one good old-fashioned snowstorm that dropped up to 2 feet in the higher elevations of town. Rains and the lack of a good hard freeze have been difficult to deal with.

As I'm sure you all realize, Orange does not maintain equipment or personnel for a conventional highway department, and relies on a contractor who has served us for over three decades. Sadly, their long-time grader operator passed away unexpectedly last winter. Finding a replacement proved very difficult, and as a result, the road grading operations fell short of our usual standards. We recognize this was (and continues to be) an inconvenience and for that we apologize.

In general, the lack of an available workforce has presented challenges, and the contractor has had difficulty keeping steady and reliable crews available to assist us. As such, we were unable to get to all of the intended projects for the year, but we did replace a couple of failing culverts and widened the shoulders at the top of New Colony Road.

During much of the summer and fall, we have been "fighting" beavers at a stream crossing at the bottom of Burnt Hill Road. They appear very dedicated to plugging the culvert and flooding the road. The town hired a wildlife control company to remove them, but the beavers still persevered throughout the fall. We installed a grate on the intake of the culvert as the experts claim that the beavers bring materials to their dam sites from the upstream side. But lo and behold, once that was in place, they started coming in from the downstream side and continued to create problems. The battle is on hold for the winter, but I'm sure will resume in the spring when they become active again. Many thanks go out to Selectman Aaron Allen who took over much of the burden on this one to assist the road agent!

As always, thanks are due to Richard Remacle and his employees for their continued service to the town; it has always been a pleasure to work with him and his crews. Thanks also to the Board of Selectmen for their accessibility, confidence and cooperation, to Sandi Pierson for keeping us all in touch with each other and on track. Much gratitude to the residents of Orange for their support, and particularly for those times when I never even hear about trees blocking the road because one or more of you have simply cranked up your own chain saw to take

care of it. Finally, but most certainly not the in the least, thanks to my wife Laurie for putting up with the sometimes crazy hours and the need to bend schedules to the whim of the weather. I know she looks forward to my “retirement” from the position! To anyone I may have overlooked I extend my apologies and gratitude.

If you are reading this prior to voting day, I remain available by phone at 603-667-8237 or by email at scsanborn@myfairpoint.net at any time until then for questions, concerns or to report a problem. After that, I can only hope our next Road Agent will receive the same support as I have for the past eleven years.

I look forward to continuing to serve our outstanding community in other capacities moving forward.

*Respectfully submitted,
Scott Sanborn, Road Agent*



Thank you Scott for your many years of service!

2022 REPORT OF THE ORANGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

This has been a busy and productive year. We have been trying to complete projects and make plans for new ones. Our first challenge was to plan for a library book sale. The Commission first gained permission to sell the collection at the 1995 Town Meeting. The concern the Commission had was the enormous weight of the collection of several hundred books. We did vote to save the original 100+ books that the State of NH gave to the library. It was decided to box up all the remaining books and have a book sale on June 3rd for citizens of Orange only. The next day, the book sale was open to the general public. We sold all books for \$1.00 each, with a sale of \$3.00 a bag late on Saturday. We had a great turnout, and at the conclusion of the sale, the remaining books were boxed and moved out of the Town House.

Our efforts then focused on the time capsule. It was created to give Orange residents an opportunity to participate in the 300th Anniversary celebration of the town charter in 2069. Many of us will not be part of that celebration, but our submissions of items will help us be there in spirit. Much work has already taken place to make the time capsule a reality. Dave Stacy has created the capsule with an opening of 16" X 16" and an inside of 32" X 32" X 24". I mention this because it is not too late to submit items. Just contact Sharon Proulx at 523-4590 and I will arrange a pickup of your submissions. Dave Stacy has purchased a plaque to notify future residents of the existence of the capsule. The Commission has set a tentative date of May 20th or May 21st for the sealing of the capsule. We will notify citizens of the date chosen.

The Commission had a work day on October 12th to clean and pack up the historical displays upstairs. This was necessary to prepare for the work that will take place on the roof and ceiling in the spring of 2023. Thanks to the hard work of Trish and Doug Weekes, several grants have been awarded to Orange for the renovations of the Town House.

During the Harvest Festival held at the home of Dewey Mathis and Samara Petre, the new owners of 54 Tuttle Hill Road, Gary Hamel was asked to speak about the history of their home and set up a historical display. Many people enjoyed Gary's presentations that day.

The Commission is always looking for donations of memorabilia for the museum. This past year, Judith Lindahl and Art Pease donated artifacts to add to the collection.

If you are interested in joining the Historical Commission contact Sharon Proulx at 523-4590. It would be great to have more residents involved. After the renovations, the sky is the limit on what could be created on the second floor of the Town House.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Proulx, Chair*



At the 2022 Harvest Festival, Gary Hamel presents the history of one of the oldest farms in Orange. This Tuttle Hill farm is being beautifully preserved by new owners (and hosts of the Harvest Festival) Dewey Mathis and Samara Pietre.

*2022 Harvest Festival
Hosted by Dewey Mathis and Samara Pietre
—and a good time was had by all!—*





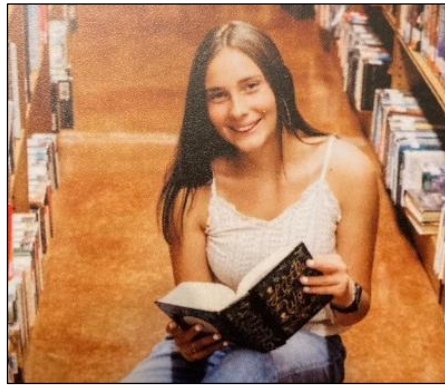
Thank you Samara and Dewey!

2022 REPORT OF THE ORANGE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

This is the 30th year of awarding scholarships to students living in Orange who will be furthering their education after high school. Seniors graduating in 2023 should have received their applications which were mailed in February. The application must be completed and returned to the Scholarship Committee by May 1, 2023. High school seniors living in Orange and graduating from schools other than Mascoma Valley Regional High School should contact the committee.

Starting in 2023, juniors must complete their service requirement for the Scholarship by August 1, 2023. We have created this new deadline to encourage seniors to use these documented service hours on their college application.

The scholarship recipient for 2022 was Ella Barrett. Ella is studying at Mt. Holyoke in South Hadley, Massachusetts. She will major in politics and plans to attend law school to complete her Juris Doctorate Degree.



Ella Barrett, 2022 scholarship recipient

We invite anyone to help us promote and support continuing education for our high school students. Please contact the Scholarship Committee if you would like to help.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Johnson for the Scholarship Committee*

2022 REPORT OF THE ORANGE CEMETERY TRUSTEES

“THE YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER”

This year, through the efforts of our wonderful volunteers, we continued the restoration of our cemeteries. We put to good use the knowledge gained from workshops held in 2021 and 2022, led by John Lord of the New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association.

In January we held a work day with arborist, Angus Gorman, to remove large and smaller trees at the Town Common. The purpose was to avoid any trees falling and breaking stones in the future. Removal was done with snow cover and burned on site. The larger wood was removed and all accomplished on one busy day, with lots of fresh air. (But we forgot the hotdogs!)

On Sunday, May 22, 2022, we held another workshop with John Lord at the French Cemetery. There were nine volunteers throughout the day, some cleaning stones or involved with the leveling of bases. The day always goes quickly.

Throughout the rest of the summer and fall we had seven more volunteer days. This included placing the flags for the holidays and general brush removal. Some small stone repairs (smaller units that needed bonding) were undertaken at the Town House for the warm and dry location.

We have also spent several days straightening head and foot stones in both the French and Town Common Cemeteries, so if you have occasion, stop and take a look at the now straightened monuments that no longer need the props that had been supporting them. We are quite pleased with the progress all the volunteers have made!

This year we made a major change in the care and mowing of the town house and cemeteries. Early in the season the town's

riding mower ceased to run and was not repairable. For the remainder of the year, we decided to hire a property management company to do the maintenance. There were several reasons we reached this decision: a new mower is costly, requires maintenance, and we don't have storage for our equipment. So for the present this is the path we have chosen.

*Respectfully submitted,
Anita Garland, Tamara Fairbank, and Gulley Dunlap
Orange Cemetery Trustees*





Cemetery photos courtesy of Gulley Dunlap

2022 REPORT OF THE FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER

This year was another year where we observed wet weather in early spring followed by rapid drying and drought conditions which extended through the summer for much of the state. Drying conditions in early May led to large fire growth on numerous fires which required multiple days to extinguish and firefighter response from local, state, and federal agencies. Wildfire activity continued through the summer months where dry conditions led to more multi-day fires. Fires burned deep into the ground, requiring firefighters to establish water supplies and to spend days digging out all the hot spots.

This fall we had multiple fires started by the careless disposal of woodstove ashes. Before dumping your woodstove ashes, you should place them in a covered metal container until they are out cold. Many homes in New Hampshire are located in the wildland urban interface, which is the area where homes and flammable wildland fuels intermix. Every year New Hampshire sees fires which threaten or destroy structures, a constant reminder that wildfires burn more than just trees. Homeowners should take measures to prevent a wildfire from spreading to their home. Precautions include keeping your roof and gutters clear of leaves and pine needles and maintaining adequate green space around your home free of flammable materials. Additional information and homeowner recommendations are available at www.firewise.org. Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department, and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe! If you start a fire, put it out when you are done.

*Remember Smokey's message about personal responsibility and follow his ABC's: Always **Be** Careful with fire.*

As we prepare for the 2023 fire season, please remember to contact your local Forest Fire Warden or Fire Department to determine if a fire permit is required before doing ANY outside burning, you are encouraged to contact the local fire department for more information. Safe open burning requires your diligence

and responsibility. Thank you for helping us to protect New Hampshire’s forest resources. For more information, please contact the Division of Forests & Lands at (603) 271-2214, or online at www.nh.gov/nhdfl/. For up-to-date information, follow us on Twitter and Instagram: @NHForestRangers

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Fires</i>	<i>Acres burned</i>
2022	66	217
2021	66	86
2020	113	89
2019	15	23.5
2018	53	46
2017	64	107
2016	351	1,090
2015	124	635
2014	112	72
2013	182	144
2012	318	206

*Causes of fires reported
(not including White Mountain National Forest)*

Railroad: 1 Firearms/explosives: 3 Undetermined: 21
 Recreation: 4 Debris burning: 6 Natural: 7
 Other: 5 Power generating: 7 Smoking: 1
 Arson: 2 Equipment/vehicles: 3 By minors: 1



Under State law a fire permit is required for all outside burning unless the ground is completely covered with snow. The burning of household waste is prohibited by the Air Resources Division of the Department of Environmental Services.

CANAAN FIRE, RESCUE, AND AMBULANCE 2022 REPORT FOR ORANGE

*Ambulance calls: 20
Alarm activation: 1
Animal rescue: 1
Structure fire: 1
Brush/grass fire: 1
Electrical problem: 1
Fire/rescue ambulance assist: 3
Search and rescue: 4
Service call: 2
Trees or wires down: 3*



*Thank you Canaan Ambulance, Fire, and
Rescue for always being there when we need
you. You are appreciated!*

*2022 REPORTS OF THE HEALTH AGENCIES
SUPPORTED BY THE TOWN OF ORANGE*

*VISITING NURSE & HOSPICE
OF VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE*

Visiting Nurse & Hospice clients are of all ages, from all backgrounds, and at all stages in life. The one commonality is a desire to be cared for at home in case of illness and injury. By keeping residents out of emergency rooms and hospitals and reducing the need for relocation to nursing homes, our care offers significant savings in the town's emergency services and other medical expenses.

In Orange, we continued to make homecare visits to residents last year. Services included home visits to residents with short-term medical or physical needs. This included over \$4,000.00 in unreimbursed care to Orange residents.

GRAFTON COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL

Grafton County Senior Citizens Council is a private nonprofit organization that provides programs and services to support the health and well-being of our communities' older citizens. The Council's programs enable elderly individuals to remain independent in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

During FY 2022, 53 older residents of Orange were served by one or more of the Council's programs offered through the Mascoma Area Senior Center including "Grab and Go" meals, home-delivered meals, transportation services, counseling, and assistance from outreach workers. Four Orange residents were assisted by ServiceLink. Orange residents participated in 46 health, educational, or social activities. The cost to provide Council services for Orange residents in 2022 was \$3,253.14.

PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL OF THE UPPER VALLEY

As one of the State of New Hampshire's thirteen regional health networks, Public Health Council of the Upper Valley has quickly become the largest and broadest coalitions of advocates on public health issues in the greater Upper Valley region. The PHC is a dynamic organization with the flexibility to forge solutions that respond to the needs of its grass root members with backing from governmental, philanthropic, and health care institutions. Through regular meetings and ongoing initiatives, the PHC empowers organizations, professionals, and citizens, who together make our communities healthier and better places.

Over the past year, Public Health Council has supported a wide range of COVID-19 vaccine efforts, especially in our more rural communities and for vulnerable populations, has hosted free flu vaccine clinics, has provided support for the summer meals program for low-income children, and has created a program for childhood lead poisoning prevention.

WEST CENTRAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

West Central Behavioral Health is the NH designated community mental health center for Orange, as well as Sullivan and Southern Grafton counties. Our mission is “to reduce the burden of mental illness and to improve the quality of life in our community. We commit ourselves to provide services that are safe, effective, client-centered, timely and efficient.”

Our clients suffer from a wide range of disorders and illnesses including psychosis, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and all forms of addiction. We also see patients with anxiety, depression, and other impairing but highly treatable conditions. We work with all ages in outpatient clinics, homes, nursing homes, jails, schools and a residential supported living program,

and offer a broad variety of counseling, psychiatric services, case management and emergency consultations.

Throughout the region, we assisted close to 2,000 individuals last year and provided over \$600,000.00 in charitable care, including mental health services to three residents of Orange.

TRI-COUNTY CAP

Tri-County CAP is a trusted private non-profit that has been serving the 3 most northern counties of New Hampshire for over 50 years. The Grafton County Community Contact Office of the Tri-County Community Action Program provides many essential services to low-income and elderly citizens of Orange and the surrounding New Hampshire towns:

- Weatherization
- (L.I.H.E.A.P.) Fuel Assistance
- New Hampshire Electric Discount Assistance
- Referrals and coordination with other agencies when citizens are in need
- Educational programs and speakers bureau on homelessness and poverty

Last year, Tri-County CAP provided \$6,733.00 in direct services to six Orange households through its fuel assistance and electric assistance programs.

BRIDGE HOUSE SHELTER AND VETERANS ADVOCACY

Bridge House in Plymouth prioritizes services to veterans and veteran families. Services include housing, food security, and health and medical assistance. This year, the Select Board has added Bridge House to its list of now six agencies to support.

(Health agency compilation courtesy of Bob Proulx)

CANAAN PUBLIC LIBRARY
2022 REPORT FOR THE TOWN OF ORANGE

COLLECTION

Adult Books	17,067	Adult Audios	643
Juvenile Books	9,884	Total Audios	745
Total Books	26,951	Music CDs	289
Juvenile Videos	262	Museum Passes	8
Adult Videos	955	Magazines	321
Total Videos	1,217	Artifacts	267
Juvenile Audios	102		

CIRCULATION

Total items checked out of the library 28,540. (Includes all items checked out of library, plus downloaded audio, ebooks, streaming video, database usage, and Interlibrary Loans.)

Number of materials circulated to Orange Borrowers based on total number of users: 1,370 (4.80% of circulation).

REGISTERED BORROWERS

As of December 31, 2022: 3,603.

Registered Borrowers from Orange: 173 (4.80% of card holders).

Some families share a library card, 173 cards in 2022 is actually 193 users.

Population of Orange: 282 (2021 census estimate from NH Energy and Planning www.nhes.nh.gov). 61.34% of Orange residents are Canaan Library card holders.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Summer Reading Program, Meetinghouse Readings, NH Humanities Council Events, Story Times, Tech Help Nights, Book Clubs, and more. This year we hosted a total of 59 programs: 33 for children and 26 for adults. Total number of attendees was 1,066: 605 children and 461 adults.

This year we continued our new tradition of gifting a book to each student at the Canaan Elementary School as part of their

Step -Up-Day festivities. We also offered Take and Make craft kits all year long, including as part of our annual Summer Reading Program and during the winter holiday season. This past summer, we worked with the Enfield Public Library to bring Singer and Children’s Performer Mr. Aaron to Huse Park in Enfield. Throughout the year we partnered with the Lyme and Plainfield Libraries to offer a series of virtual art history programs with Culturally Curious. The Library was also excited to participate in Christmas in Canaan this year, and gave away over 200 new, wrapped books to kids preschool through high school during the event!

The Library was excited to partner with the Canaan Elementary School in their application and acceptance of a Year of the Book grant from the Children’s Literary Foundation (CLiF). CLiF’s Year of the Book provides \$25,000 worth of literacy programs, support, and new children’s books over one school year to help build a culture of literacy in elementary schools across New Hampshire and Vermont. As part of this project, the Canaan Town Library will receive \$1000.00 of books for our children’s section.

Many thanks are given to our volunteers: Jessica, Wynn, and Cheyenne Grace for keeping the library decorated for the holidays. Susan Nero, Cheryl Junker, Nancy Loomis, Cindy Neily, Sharry Keller, Jenny Hooker, Jan Kulig, The Furbish Family, Stella Butterfield, Angie Robinson, Nick LaValley, Joanna Carr, Pete Thurber, Mark Fisher, and Jesse Fisher for helping with our book sales. Ian and Travis Moulton for assisting with the delivery of our new book drop (to be installed soon). And thanks to everyone who made donations of their time and materials to the library this year.

WHAT IS OFFERED AT THE CANAAN LIBRARY:

Audio Books	Adult Book Group
Book Sales	Children’s Craft Programs
Children’s Story Hour	Community Group Meeting Space
DVDS	Downloadable Audio Books
Downloadable eBooks	

Free Cable Internet Access
Friends of the Library Genealogy Assistance
Handicap Accessibility Inter-Library Loan
Kill-A-Watt Meters Knitting Needles
Large Print Materials Library Website
Local Artist Exhibits Meetinghouse Readings
Online Card Catalog Online Databases
Online Encyclopedia Photocopying
Reference Assistance Rubber Stamps
School Class Visits Story Hour
Streaming Video
Tax Materials Volunteering Opportunities
Wifi Hotspots
Wireless Internet Access Writers Group
Programming (author visits, speakers, etc.)
Summer Reading Program (Adult)
Summer Reading Program (Children)
Museum Passes

Library Hours: Monday 1-8 pm, Tuesday 1-8 pm, Wednesday 1-8 pm, Thursday 1-5 pm, Friday 9-12 pm, and Saturday 9-1 pm.
Library Take Out is available every day the library is open!

Find the Library Online at:
www.facebook.com/CanaanTownLibraryNH
www.librarything.com/home/Canaanlibrary
www.canaanlibrary.org

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Thurber, Canaan Librarian

*TOWN OF ORANGE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2022*

Officers present:

Moderator Dan Hazelton; Selectboard members Dorothy Heinrichs, Tamara Fairbank, and Aaron Allen; Selectboard Secretary Sandi Pierson; Road Agent Scott Sanborn; Treasurer Trish Weekes; Building Inspector Doug Weekes; Tax Collector Sharon Proulx; Budget Committee members Dave Stacy and Bob Proulx; School Board Representative Kathy Stacy; Planning Board Vice Chair Donald McFarlane; Planning Board secretary Hilary Allen; Cemetery Trustees Gulley Dunlap and Anita Watson-Garland; Supervisors of the Checklist Betsy Coble, Beth DiFrancesco, and Laurie Sanborn; Town Clerk Michelle Goffreda.

To commence the meeting, Dave Stacy leads the room in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

Moderator Dan Hazelton calls the meeting to order. He reviews some rules of the town meeting, including that participants must be registered voters in the town of Orange, all discussion must be relevant to the article on the floor, and all amendments must be made in writing. He reminds all participants to respect everyone's right to speak and to be heard, and describes how the deliberation will proceed: with reading each article aloud, then asking someone to move the article and someone else to second the motion, then opening up the floor for discussion. To vote "yes" will always mean a vote to adopt the article and to vote "no" is a vote to defeat it.

ARTICLE 1: (by official ballot) To elect the following town officers for the following terms: 1 Selectperson (3-year term), 1 Moderator (2-year term), 1 Town Clerk (1-year term), 1 Treasurer (1-year term), 1 Tax Collector (1-year term), 1 Deeding Agent (1-year term), 1 Road Agent (1-year term), 1

Budget Committee (3-year term), 1 Cemetery Trustee (3-year term), 1 Trustee of Trust Funds (3-year term), 1 Supervisor of the Checklist (6-year term), 2 Planning Board Members (3-year terms), and any other officers as required by law.

Dan summarizes the results of the town election (Article 1), commenting that there were no contested races and everyone whose name was on the ballot was elected. The moderator proceeds to Article 2.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will authorize the Tax Collector to accept the prepayment of taxes pursuant to RSA 80:52-a. Taxpayers shall be allowed to prepay taxes no more than two years in advance of the due date of the taxes. No interest shall accrue to the taxpayer on any prepayment, nor shall any interest be paid to the taxpayer on any prepayment which is later subject to rebate or refund. *Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)*

Scott Sanborn moves; Kathy Stacy seconds.

Donald McFarlane asks: what is the current law regarding tax prepayments; what is the current policy that is being changed by the adoption of this article?

Dorothy responds that the current law is not really changing, since the article has appeared on the warrant annually and continually passed in previous years. The town must vote on it every year in order for prepayments to continue being accepted.

No more discussion is made on the article. Article 2 passes by voice vote.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to accept the increases in hourly wages and stipends recommended in the Report of the Salary Study Committee.
Recommended by the Select Board (3-0).
Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0).

Scott Sanborn moves; Judith Lindahl seconds.

Sandi Pierson moves an amendment to the recommendations of the Salary Study Committee regarding the annual stipend for the Trustees of Trust Funds:

“ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to accept the increases in hourly wages and stipends recommended in the Report of the Salary Study Committee with the amendment that there is no decrease in the stipends for the Trustees of the Trust Funds and instead have them not increase or decrease from 2021.”

Sandi says: “I appreciate the work of the salary committee but ask that the trustee stipend remains as it is, rather than being cut in half.” Although the committee had recommended a decrease in the Trustee of the Trust Funds annual stipends, the amendment would approve the Trustee stipends with no change from the previous year.

Scott Sanborn seconds this amended article.

Donald McFarlane contributes that, although Karen McFarlane (unable to be present at the meeting) has not submitted vouchers for payment working as one of the Trustees and as the town Welfare Director, it doesn't mean she didn't do any work for the offices and he knows she did spend hours of her time working on them. The recommendation of the salary study may have been in reference to the fact that Karen said she didn't need the \$100 from the town but did not feel it was appropriate to lower it to zero. She was under the impression that it was the unanimous opinion of the Trustees but it appears that this wasn't the case. Donald comments that in general, the annual stipends are important for retaining people in these roles for the town.

Before taking a vote, Dan reads aloud the article as amended. Article 3 passes as amended by voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate eight thousand dollars (\$8,000.00) to be paid into the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

Donald McFarlane moves; Alex Smith seconds.

There is no further discussion on the article.

Article 4 passes by voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) to be paid into the Town House Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

Aaron Allen moves; Scott Sanborn seconds.

Kathy Stacy asks: “would someone speak to the improvement plan for the townhouse?”

Doug Weekes answers that the townhouse is 120 years old now and we want to maintain the building in good condition rather than rebuilding it, which would be a tremendous expense. Those involved in the restoration project are looking into doing something low-pitch with the roof, as there is a heavy snow load every winter and the roof is currently supported by a wood frame. The Restoration committee looked into restructuring it so that the townhouse will continue to exist in structurally sound condition.

Doug adds that the committee also has dedicated a lot of time looking into ways to pay for the structural improvements. He and Trish Weekes have been researching available grants and have found that the town will likely to be able to get \$50,000-150,000 in grant money for maintaining historic buildings. However, the town first has to put up some money, and \$15,000 seems appropriate. The amount of work done for restoration depends ultimately on how much money is available.

Donald McFarlane asks how urgent the repairs are and how much they are expected to cost.

Doug answers that the urgency depends on willingness to take risks. Currently there are cracks in the beam; a structural engineer who assessed it did not give any urgent red lights but it's unwise to wait until the house is in urgent danger of collapse to reinforce it. The structural engineer thought it was a very good idea to do something in the reasonably near future. The minimum cost would be \$35,000-\$40,000. This is considering that the entities that give grant money need to approve how it's done to maintain the historic nature of the building, which adds to the cost, but they're the ones giving half the money.

Sharon Proulx asks if there will be renovations done to the townhouse electrical systems.

Doug responds that this is not so important to the entities that give grants for historical buildings, but they are aware that if we're taking siding off, it would be an opportunity to do maintenance on the electrical systems as well. The cost of this and whether it might be covered by the grant would have to be negotiated down the road.

Dan reads the article aloud again before taking a vote.
Article 5 passes by voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) to be paid into the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of revaluation of real estate. Revaluations of all real estate are required by law every five years.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0).

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

Dorothy moves; Aaron seconds.

There is no further discussion on Article 6.

Article 6 passes by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) to be paid into the Town Road Improvement and Repair Capital Reserve Fund.
Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)
Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

Scott Lurgio moves; Scott Sanborn seconds.

Donald asks Scott Sanborn whether he believes the amount is adequate.

Scott responds - "The answer is no, I don't believe it's enough to address what we need to do in the long run. The flooding of 2 years ago was addressed in last year's meeting. The work has been completed and the invoice has been submitted, which goes to the state and then it goes to FEMA. It is being processed at the state level currently. This is a slow process but it is moving forward. We know we will be settling a hefty bill as a town, but I cannot in good conscience ask for a ton of money right now knowing we have the burden of these emergency repairs first, which is why I'm keeping it a modest amount."

Scott elaborates that in terms of future repairs, paving and asphalt are desperately needed but it would just be a lot to ask everyone to pay an extra \$600-800 per year to cover the cost of it. If people do want this, then he would happily go forward with it, but realistically the town may have to put up with the poor condition of the asphalt for a time.

No further discussion is made. Article 7 passes by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended sum of \$256,704.00, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, for the ensuing year for the Town's general operations.
Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)
Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

Scott Sanborn moves; Alex Smith seconds.

Dan opens the room for discussion but no further discussion is made on the article.

Article 8 passes by voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: To hear the reports of agents, auditors, committees and officers and to transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Dorothy thanks everyone who participated in the Salary Committee this year for their work and thanks the town officers for another great town meeting. Tamara then thanks Dorothy for everything she has done for the town during her 11 years serving on the Selectboard and leading everyone through some emotionally charged moments and a global pandemic with always such a calm and respectful civility.

Tamara adds that Dorothy has taught her to really value expressions of thanks and that her dedication over the years has been so much appreciated by everyone.

Dan thanks all the election officials and congratulates Betsy on becoming a member of the Selectboard. He says thank you to Judith for spearheading the salary committee, and that it has been such a pleasure to serve with Dorothy for the past 11+ years, elaborating that her leadership is what we needed during a tumultuous time and that we owe a lot to her.

Finally, Beth DiFrancesco announces that her and Laurie Sanborn will need to appoint another Supervisor of the Checklist and that anyone who is interested in the position should get in touch with them.

Dan Hazelton thanks everyone for coming out and concludes the meeting.

Submitted respectfully.

Michelle Goffreda

Orange Town Clerk

VITAL STATISTICS 2021

Births:

Colt Noah Adolph, born on July 16, 2022 at Lebanon, NH
Parent: Ashley Zarah McKinney

Noah Michael Smith, born on October 21, 2022 at Lebanon, NH
Parents: Daniel Bryant Smith and Chelsea Ann Cheverie

Everleigh Mae Drouin, born on October 28, 2022 at Lebanon, NH
Parents: Christopher Gene Drouin and Jenna Nicole Lancor Drouin

Tyler Stanley Henry born on November 6, 2022 at Lebanon, NH
Parents: Scott Anthony Liang and Nataleigh Marie Henry

Marriages: none

Deaths:

Christina Lyn Souza died on July 20, 2022 at Orange, NH.
Parents: David DeBettencourt and Sheila Glas

Gretna P. Baily died on August 26, 2022 at Lebanon, NH
Parents: William Goodale and Mary Jane Foor

Richard Gaines Jaeger died on September 27, 2022 at Hanover NH
Parents: Gustave Jaeger and Nancy Gaines



Trish Weekes Photo

After Chores...

Along the Skyland Ridge

By Sandi Pierson



Between Alexandria Four Corners and Rimrock (at Cardigan’s south peak) stretches a 4.4-mile trail along the crest of Skyland Ridge. From Rimrock to the fire tower is an additional one-mile hike. For those looking at this fine-looking, majestic ridge from a distance, it appears the trail would be a kindly walk—simply moseying along the gentle lay of the land. But Skyland is a trickster as you would soon find out. “When does she level out?” you will keep asking as you navigate over its expanse: Brown Mountain, Church Mountain, Grafton Knob, Crane Mountain, Orange Mountain, and, finally, the steep drop and rise to Rimrock. Only on mornings when the sun is coaxing a sluggish fog out of the crevices of this ridge is the trickster revealed from below.

Though at times a demanding trek on the ridge trail, one will be treated to several open ledge vistas along its expanse, and there *are* bits of park-like walks amidst picturesque stands of balsams. While the crowds congregate on the Cardigan summit, you will almost always have these scenic highlights for yourself.

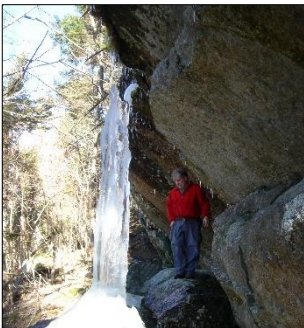
At the Alexandria end of the trail is Grammy and Grampa Church’s cellar hole and the surrounding bygone farmland. I think it was in the 1960s that a group of pioneer youth started a collection of subsistent homesteads here on the Church land, walking in with but axes and draft horses. I was told it was a Dartmouth College student project. There used to be quite a few curious remnants standing, but they’re mostly gone now. From the trail, after skirting a large field that is still mowed, you can see one of the structures still standing in the woods.

My first multi-day bushwhack of the Skyland territory was with my son Nate, then age 6, in search of an obsolete road that, according to an old map, ran between Burnt Hill Road to the Class 6 Washburn Road. For three days we scouted in the woods below the ridge, stealth camping at night where there was water. Scott Sanborn reports there is evidence of this road skirting the upper Lindahl acreage, but all we found of bygone days was an exceptionally well-preserved cellar hole deep in Sudrabin Forest (SPNHF). Two dogs accompanied us on the journey. My old girl stayed faithfully by our side, Nate's young one disappeared and ended up biding his time on the front porch until we returned.



Leaving from our backyard, for three days we scouted the forest below the ridge.

My second exploration started with Brown Brook, which runs below my orchard. My curiosity was this: Where does the brook originate? In early spring, Frank Baker and I followed the brook, always taking the direction of the stronger current when there was a split. We eventually found ourselves at a small wetland area just below the Crane Mountain summit. We skirted the wetland and came to the brook's main source, a still-frozen stream of water coming out of a giant rocky outcrop. We clamored above this outcrop to get on Skyland Trail where I promptly tripped over a moose antler.



Later that year, Frank and a friend scouted the land in anticipation for a deer hunt. Deep into the woods they came upon the remains of a kitchen cookstove and carried it out. Knowing the history of the area, I speculated that it was from a circa 1940s chopper's camp at the time the Church's relatives, the Sullaways, owned the land, and loggers spent weeks at a time in the woods chopping trees and hauling them out with horses. About 40 years ago, while hiking below the ridge, I came upon one of these camps, still standing but barely. I took a picture of it with my Brownie camera only to later never find the photo and never to come upon the camp again. I was told that horses were housed in the abandoned Powers house until one was killed after it fell through the kitchen floor and into the cellar. The oral history of this area was handed down to me by Cyrus Sullaway's great-grandson, Johnny Bassett.



Three consecutive bushwhacks from the top of Skyland to my home were done with my sister Debbie in the course of one week. On one of these hikes, we were in blizzard-like conditions at the top and a cold rain soaked us below. The highlight of that snowy and rainy day was finding a cluster of giant and cave-like boulders below one of the summits, their color and beauty enhanced by the wet rain. These are truly a striking yet hidden gem.



The Axe Head



Shelter from the rain

I am fortunate to have four sisters who also enjoy mountain summits and will do the work to get to them. Upon coming to a visual treasure, my sister Brenda will remark, “You can take all the photos you want, but it is no comparison to being here.” And it’s true. You cannot truly grasp the beauty and vitality without presence, and it is very humbling.

My favorite Skyland memory with the sisters is when four of us pitched camp on Orange Mountain. We had hiked from Newfound Lake on the Elwell Trail and after spending the night on Mowglis Mountain, dropped into Shem Valley and then hiked up to the Orange Mountain ledges. It was pouring out and it was cold. After setting up camp, my dog Cuckoo and I shivered under our damp sleeping bag until finally, crying like a baby, I dashed into a sister’s nearby tent only to find the rest of the sisters huddled together in their own misery. We ultimately gathered up all of our gear, and with packs doubled in weight because just about everything was drenched, scurried down the mountain and took refuge at the AMC lodge. Yeah, sometimes you can get a bit beat up on hiking trips but, hey, if you don’t have an easy day, you at least end up with a good story to tell.



The Backpacking Sisters