



**Annual report of the Officers of
the Town of Mount Washington,
Massachusetts**

Incorporated, June 21, 1779

For the Year Ending December 2020

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2020 Annual Report Select Board

The Mount Washington Select Board had a very busy year in 2020. In January, the Select Board, with the help of the Highway Department and all of the Town's residents, implemented a completely revised system of street numbers to assist Emergency Responders in locating homes on the Mountain. Despite initial concerns, the renumbering was a smooth and well-organized process in our opinion. When the COVID-19 Pandemic arrived in Mount Washington in March of last year, the Select Board began holding its biweekly meetings via Zoom and it has worked very well, with increased participation of Town residents. The annual Town meeting and Annual Town Elections that are usually held in the first weeks of May were moved to the end of June, and these two went off without a hitch.

Also in May, the Select Board appointed Egremont Fire Chief Joe Schneider as the Mount Washington Acting Fire Chief, to replace Bill Turner, who gave the Town many years of service, for which we will always be grateful. Following that, Jim Lovejoy was re-elected as a Selectman in late June.

In the Spring, The Select Board began an initiative to address the increasing difficulty of maintaining the Town's gravel roads during the winter months due to the effects of climate change. An engineering study was undertaken by Beta Group, Inc to rate the conditions of the roads, and a series of recommendations for remedial action was provided. The Highway Department began a major effort to improve road conditions, and work will continue. We applied for a STRAP grant from MassWorks and narrowly missed approval but will try again. Lastly, the Town completed a major paving project on East Street and a portion of West Street and undertook the repair of a large culvert on Cross Road.

The Select Board is also responsible for managing the Mount Washington Broadband Network (MWBN). After three years of successful operations and budget surpluses, the Select Board decided in the autumn to reduce the monthly operations fee received from subscribers, from \$80 to \$60 dollars for those whose original three-year service agreement had expired, provided they were willing to sign a new three-year commitment agreement. Nearly all customers agreed to do this, and the MWBN continues to operate within its budget. Annual surpluses go into Free Cash and are transferred to the Broadband Stabilization Fund by the Town's voters at the Annual Town Meeting. A new grant was applied for to cover the expense of drop costs and other broadband expenses, and it was approved by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development in the Fall. The \$53,000 grant has been used towards the cost of numerous new installations and emergency restoration services. The Town has received in total over \$500,000 in State Grants to pay for the MWBN. In December, The MWBN renewed its contract with White Mountain Cable (dba Next Gen) for the current year of restoration services at the same rate as the previous year. The Town also renewed its contract with Crocker Communications as our Internet Services Provider (ISP) and to handle billing operations and customer support. The Select Board wishes to thank Jeb Rong for his dedicated service as our MWBN and Internet Services consultant.

Also in the Fall, the Select Board voted unanimously to re-establish School Bus service, provided by Massini Bus Company. With new families coming to the Mountain, the demand for this service will only grow.

The Select Board looks forward to being of service to all Town residents, both full-timers and seasonal/weekenders. We thank everyone for their support and trust in us.

The Select Board

2020 Police Department Report

The Mount Washington Police Department's primary responsibility is the issuance and renewal of gun permits, otherwise known as a "License to Carry." As Acting Chief of Police, I also liaise with the Massachusetts State Police at the Lee Barracks to report on criminal matters that are brought to my attention, and to support the MSP in any way I can. In addition, I am occasionally called by the Berkshire County Sheriff's office to assist the State Police and Egremont Fire and Rescue with lost hiker rescue operations. This occurred twice in 2020, both times at night at Bash Bish Falls. I was also called upon several times to assist with crowd control at Bash Bish Falls, and the roads leading to it. This included the placement and removals of ROAD CLOSED signs leading to the Falls at the New York State line, Bash Bish Falls Rd and West Street, and Cross Road and West Street. There was an unprecedented number of visitors to the Falls in 2020 because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. No matter what the issue is, it is always a pleasure to serve my community in any way I can.

In the last year, the MWPD issued a total of 9 LTCs, including two renewals. For new applications, I meet with applicants to take fingerprints at the Great Barrington Police Department. We are grateful for the GBPD's assistance with this. I'd also like to acknowledge and thank Senior Police Officer David Whitbeck for his assistance on a variety of responsibilities, including lost hiker searches and parking control at the Bash Bish Falls parking lot.

Brian Tobin, Acting Chief of Police

Treasurer's Report - Year Ending June 30, 2020

Broadband grant	12,633.64
Checking	(37,608.11)
Depository	159,901.32
Stabilization	338,371.87
Hwy Const	393,308.91
Equip Fund	4,157.19
Cultural Council	3,911.20
Legal Def	2,223.60
Conservation	4,826.70
Hwy Facilities	415,661.15
Broadband Stabilization	101,469.20
Tricentennial	3006.98
Total Cash & Investments	1,401,863.65

*Note: checking account had "transfer" in transit in QuickBooks, so there was not a negative balance recorded on TD Bank bank statement. Note: prior to June 30, 2020 town had paving expenses on East and West street and Sallie's Cradle construction expenses paid from Depository. These amounts were reimbursed via state grants after June 30. "Due From State" grants was \$299,834.10. Depository with "due from" added back (\$299,834.10) would bring total to \$459,735.42.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lesliann Furcht, Treasurer

2020 Tax Collector's Annual Report

Taxes billed between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020:

2019 Motor Vehicle and Trailer Excise Tax	\$112.10
2020 Real Estate Taxes second bill due June 1, 2020	\$271,359.10
2020 Personal Property Taxes second bill due June 1, 2020	\$4,912.96
2020 Motor Vehicle and Trailer Excise Tax	\$25,513.10
2021 Real Estate Taxes first bill due November 18, 2020	\$288,655.09
2021 Personal Property Taxes first bill due November 18, 2020	\$5,935.23
TOTAL TAXES BILLED	\$596,487.58

Page 2 is a list of money deposited from January 1, 2020 thru December 31, 2020.

Page 3 is the summary page report of outstanding back taxes. Amounts prior to July 1, 2015 when I took office on have not yet been audited as required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 60 Subsection 97, so I cannot attest to the accuracy of those figures. According to the Legal Department of the Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services, the previous tax collectors' records must be audited back to when he took office, or a previous audit of his records was conducted. After these records have been audited, the assessors can re-commit the outstanding taxes to me. Until the audit has been completed, I am unable to do anything about the outstanding taxes. As of April 11, 2021, 2021, the previous collector has not been able to find the detailed list of who owes what for the years 1993 thru 2003. He claims he had them when he came up with the totals for those years but does not know where he put the itemized records. The audit has still not been done.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dorothy Bonbrake,
Tax Collector

2020 Tax Collector's Annual Report (cont.)

Taxes, Fees, and Interest Deposited between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020

Note: Money received by December 31, 2020 but not deposited until 2021
will be reported on next year's annual report.

FY	Tax Type	Tax	Interest	Fees	Deputy Collector	
2021	RE Tax	\$279,811.13				
2021	PP Tax	\$3,842.80				
2021	WM	\$100.00				
2020	RE Tax	\$252,224.55	\$949.57	\$20.00		
2020	PP Tax	\$5,361.08	\$52.48	\$10.00		
2020	MVE Tax	\$22,731.07	\$29.64	\$15.00		
2020	WM	\$27,400.00		\$10.00		
2019	RE Tax	\$1,766.71	\$224.32	\$5.00		
2019	PP Tax					
2019	MVE Tax	\$799.60	\$78.91	\$155.00	\$125.00	
2019	WM	\$1,000.00				
2018	RE Tax					
2018	PP Tax					
2018	MVE Tax	\$244.38	\$73.05	\$65.00	\$159.00	
2018	WM	\$400.00				
2017	RE Tax					
2017	MVE Tax	\$42.50	\$17.96	\$15.00	\$49.00	
	Broadband					
TOTAL		\$595,723.82	\$1,425.93	\$295.00	\$333.00	\$597,777.75

2020 Tax Collector's Annual Report (cont.)

Taxes Outstanding as of December 31, 2020

<u>FY</u>	<u>Real Estate</u>	<u>Pers. Prop.</u>	<u>MVE</u>	
2021	\$ 11,174.66	\$ 437.33	\$	<- Taxes Due November 18, 2020
2021	\$ 259,881.42	\$ 4,496.21	\$	<- Taxes Due May 3, 2021
2020	\$ 5,326.72	\$ 6.67	\$ 1,669.52	
2019	\$ 2,313.32	\$ -	\$ 472.92	
2018	\$ 3,092.88	\$ -	\$ 558.33	
2017	\$ 2,445.28	\$ -	\$ 186.04	
2016	\$ 2,469.76	\$ -	\$ -	
* 2015	\$ 2,877.89	\$ 69.28	\$ 1,776.25	
* 2014	\$ 3,933.55	\$ 127.20	\$ 1,017.43	
* 2013	\$ 3,412.52	\$ 145.06	\$ 972.74	
* 2012	\$ 2,717.56	\$ 140.36	\$ 1,403.14	
* 2011	\$ 3,746.25	\$ 56.26	\$ 1,662.74	
* 2010	\$ 2,937.13	\$ 32.06	\$ 3,421.87	
* 2009	\$ 735.66	\$ 6.08	\$ 2,581.26	
* 2008	\$ 1,353.99	\$ 127.50	\$ 1,324.38	
* 2007	\$ 1,626.60	\$ -	\$ 496.06	
* 2006	\$ 2,222.25	\$ 102.66	\$ 1,158.97	
* 2005	\$ 616.52	\$ 17.06	\$ -	
* 2004	\$ 394.50	\$ 84.14	\$ 456.77	
* 2003	\$ 2,766.72	\$ -	\$ 550.32	
* 2002	\$ 2,547.93	\$ 22.22	\$ 1,077.08	
* 2001	\$ 1,347.91	\$ -	\$ 175.44	
* 2000	\$ -	\$ 18.46	\$ 265.16	
* 1999	\$ -	\$ 25.92	\$ 526.78	
* 1998	\$ -	\$ 58.31	\$ 587.41	
* 1997	\$ -	\$ 21.05	\$ 88.85	
* 1996	\$ -	\$ 53.96	\$ -	
* 1995	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 118.54	
* 1994	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 128.75	
* 1993	\$ -	\$ 10.88	\$ -	
TOTAL	\$ 319,941.02	\$ 6,058.67	\$ 22,676.75	\$ 348,676.44

* NOTE: Years prior to FY 2016 have not been audited yet.

The audit is waiting for the previous collector to find his records for 1993-2003

2020 Report of the Finance Committee

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, 2020 The Finance Committee is made up of five members appointed by the Town Moderator. Its mission is to work with the Select Board to come up with the Town's annual budget. The budget is based on figures, which are a combination of State Aid and tax revenue, provided by the Board of Assessors. The committee can approve or disapprove spending articles on the Annual Town Meeting warrant but cannot prevent the Select Board or petitioners from placing spending articles on the warrant. The Finance Committee also reviews spending articles on Special Town Meeting Warrants when requested by the Select Board.

The committee has direct control of the Reserve fund. Money is appropriated for this by the voters at the annual town meeting and is generally \$5000.00. Monies from this fund can be moved via majority vote of the Finance Committee. Generally, this is done to cover small expenses that would otherwise need to go through the Special Town Meeting process. Any money left in the fund at the end of the fiscal year gets rolled back into the general fund. After the treasurer completes the end of year reports and the reports are approved by the State, these and other left-over funds become available for use as "free cash" and can be appropriated at a special or annual town meeting during the fiscal year the free cash was certified.

The Finance Committee usually has two major meetings a year, one in March and one in April to set the budget figures to be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting. The committee works closely with the Select Board during these deliberations. Occasionally there will be one or two other meetings during the year when unexpected shortfalls or expenses arise; or there is a special town meeting involving finances.

Broadband operations continue to show a robust system that is providing excellent service with reasonable operational expenses. In order to keep broadband revenue, separate from other revenue year over year, the select board and finance committee created the broadband stabilization fund. Stabilization funds unlike regular budget line items carry their balances forward into new fiscal years. Therefore, all revenue raised from broadband fees minus expenses are put in this fund to be used for future necessary equipment replacement and upgrades. Over time, the balance in this fund helps the select board determine when or if fees should be adjusted. In fact, the first 3-year contracts of the system expired in November of 2020 and the Select Board decided to lower the fee by \$20/month for subscribers signing a new 3-year contract. Ideally, the broadband stabilization fund will allow for proper upgrade/replacement of the network without having to go to the taxpayers for additional funding.

This report is written for the calendar year 2020 which means the report's coverage ends in the middle of fiscal year '21 and the midst of the second surge of the covid 19 pandemic. While the town had to pass a fy21 budget prior to the end of fy20 the state did not. In fact, the State waited until December 11, 2020 nearly halfway thru fiscal year 21, to pass its fy21 budget. Fortunately for the town, projected state aid figures that were used to calculate our fy21 revenue were indeed passed. To date, the State has met its monthly obligations to the town for fy21.

As we move toward fiscal 2022, the Finance Committee and Select Board will be ready to deal with any unexpected moves by the state and overall economy and we will approach fiscal 2022 as we always do, in as fiscally conservative a manner as possible while still funding the services required to keep our community going. The Finance Committee has always pushed hard to fund our stabilization accounts, which act as combination capital expenditure savings accounts and "rainy day funds". This approach, along with a fiscally conservative mindset, allows us to shield the rest of the budget from shortfalls in State Aid or tax income, while keeping our property tax increases relatively minimal year over year.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Furcht, Cathy Torrico, Betsy Spears, Cory Hines, and Bob Bott

2020 Planning Board Report

The Planning Board spent much of this past year updating and reorganizing the current Zoning Bylaw at its monthly meetings. The Board held a special *“Community Discussion on the Future of Agriculture in Mount Washington”* in mid-August as we looked for input from Town residents on how to address agriculture and farming in the bylaw. Beth Goodman, Mount Washington’s legal counsel, and Mark Bobrowski, the preeminent Massachusetts lawyer on land use and planning law, reviewed our revised zoning bylaw and offered suggestions for making it compliant with state law. Nancy Wright continued her work as a consultant, helping the Board research various aspects of the Bylaw. After extensive discussions during more than 40 monthly open meetings over the past 3+ years, the Planning Board will present a final recommendation for a Town vote in the spring of 2021. There were five permit applications that came before the Planning Board, including three Special Permit requests that the proposed bylaw, if adopted, would eliminate by just requiring a building permit.

Current members include: Bill Short (chair), Amy Boehmcke (secretary). Morgan Bulkeley, Liam Dugan, Keith Torrico, Eric Mendelsohn (associate member).

2020 Cultural Council Annual Report

The Mount Washington Cultural Council had a wonderful year planned, before the pandemic upended everything. The Council kicked off 2020 with the annual *“Poetry and Potluck”* gathering in February, a favorite way for residents to warm their bodies and souls. There were several other events planned but all had to be canceled when the Governor restricted public gatherings in March through the remainder of the year.

In addition to events on the mountain, the Council awarded grants and scholarships to Berkshire County organizations offering programs to everyone from the young to the young at heart, with an emphasis on programs for children in the arts, education, music, theatre, history, and the environment. The Massachusetts Cultural Council gave us permission to pay organizations and artist who submitted reimbursement forms.

Linda Beckwith ended her two terms on the Council in September. Her dedication was much appreciated by everyone on the Council.

Current Mount Washington Cultural Council members include: Dottie Bonbrake, Greg Boehmcke, Bill Short, Marc Siegel and Bill Warford. The Cultural Council will be seeking at least one new member this year. Please contact any of the members if you have an interest in joining the Council or have suggestions or comments about our programs.

2020 Highway Department Report

2020 was another busy year for the Highway Department. We continued with our routine maintenance of grading roads, mowing roadsides, brush removal, and repairing potholes. There was also a great deal of attention paid to black topping, adding shoulders to the black top, and cutting shoulders off dirt roads for improved drainage.

Some of the more notable projects accomplished this year by the Highway Department were replacing culverts on East Street with Keith Wilkinson Excavating in preparation for black topping. The Highway Department also cut and ditched the roadsides on East Street and West Street in preparation for paving.

Black topping was one of our vital projects this year. New black top was laid on East Street from Hatch Hill past the Cattle Shed. FDR was used in this mile of pavement. Black top was also laid on West Street from the intersection of West and Falls, up to the West Street dirt. A large area of ditching was also needed on East Street to complete the black top project. Several smaller black top patching jobs also took place in various spots throughout the town.

Another vital project this year was shoulder cutting. Two major areas of shoulder cutting were performed on a majority of East Street dirt and West Street. Cutting was carried out on West Street from Anne Lee Cottage to West Street Extension. On East Street, cutting was performed from the black top to Fred's. Stumps were also removed between Teddy's and Fred's. Along with shoulder cutting, new shoulders were established in order to accommodate the new black top.

East Street dirt was completely re-topped with 3 to 4 inches of screen fill gravel and sprayed with liquid calcium chloride in attempt to combat the mud, which seemed to be a success.

The Highway Department would like to extend their appreciation to the Select Board and especially a huge thank you to Eric Mendelsohn for his continuing support.

2020 Zoning Board of Appeals Report

2020 was a quiet year for the Mount Washington Zoning Board of Appeals. No appeals or requests for variances were filed with the Zoning Board.

Respectfully submitted:

Eleanor Tillinghast, chairperson
John Alexander
Peter Diamond
Scott Miller
Mackenzie Waggaman

2020 Conservation Commission Report

The Commission meets when there is business to conduct. Date and time of meetings are posted at the Town Hall and on Mt Washington website. Commonwealth law requires the Commission to enforce the State Wetlands Protection Act and other laws and regulations. These laws and regulations affect all work done within and near wetland areas. We also continue our routine monitoring of logging projects in wetlands areas. The Wetlands Protection Act and the procedures to file for work being done in and near resource areas may affect work being done on your property.

Please check with the Commission before starting any projects that may be regulated. We hope Town residents that are concerned about our local environment will take advantage of the many informational and educational resources of the Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ben Granskog,
Dan Kasten,
Ray Kasevich

2020 Board of Assessors Report

As of January 1, 2020
From Fiscal Year 2021 Recap

Valuation by Class:

Residential-	87,440,500
Open Space-	0
Commercial-	271,594
Industrial-	385,300
Personal Property-	1,675,737
Total Tax Assessed-	89,773,131
Tax Rate Per 1000 -	6.55

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Furcht
Jeb Rong
Vicki Torrico

2020 Cemetery Report

There was one burial and one reinterment at Cross Road Cemetery in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Torrico
Linda Beckwith
Bobbie Hallig

2020 Board of Health Report

This annual report reflects activity for the year 2020. As we are still experiencing the COVID-19 Health Emergency, the Board of Health encourages everyone to stay informed by following the Town and Commonwealth websites. If you have any symptoms of the COVID virus, contact your healthcare giver and get tested immediately. Should you need assistance, please contact us. Assistance is available and CONFIDENTIAL. We are all anxious to move forward, but it is VERY IMPORTANT that we continue the hygiene and social distancing practices we have been using so successfully.

If you are need of immediate assistance for a life-threatening situation, please call 911. Otherwise, the agent's direct telephone number is 413 528-1798. Please feel free to call anytime. The agent will respond as quickly as possible.

The members of the Board of Health are Jim Lovejoy, Christopher Ryan, Sr. and Justin Torrico. The agent for the Board of Health is Ellie Lovejoy. Members and the agent may be contacted via the Town's website: www.townofmtwashington.com . All meetings of the Board of Health are posted on the Town's website.

Please note that any personal information or questions are kept confidential and are not part of the public record.

A current fee schedule for all inspections, permits and licenses is available on the town website. As forms are updated, they will be added to the website.

A reminder about septic systems and wells: all septic tanks should be pumped every three-to-five years and your well water should be tested every two-to-three years. Septic-pumping companies must be licensed in the town before they pump the tank. Well-drilling companies must be licensed by the Commonwealth and a Town permit for drilling must be obtained before any work is done. Contact the Board of Health for more information.

The Board of Health maintains an extensive library of information regarding radon in your home and/or water, flu facts, communicable disease fact sheets, emergency preparedness, dealing with beaver problems, and rabies information. Please contact the Board and we will make sure that we get you the information you need.

We are heading into high season for tick- and insect-borne illnesses as well. Please contact us for information and suggestions on how best to protect yourselves and your pets. Rabies is a rare, but very serious problem. Please report **any** contact with wild animals (bats, raccoons, fox, etc.) **immediately** to the agent for follow-up procedures. Remember, rabies vaccination for your pet dogs is mandatory. We strongly recommend vaccinating your cats as well.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellie Lovejoy, Agent
Mount Washington Board of Health

2020 Mount Washington Council on Aging (COA) Report

The COA continues to support seniors' ability to live independently and enjoy a high quality of life in and around the mountain. With the emergence of Covid-19, the COA canceled in-person programming and replaced that with regular outreach initiatives including:

- weekly neighbor - to - neighbor phone visits
- home delivery of a 'Cabin Fever Endurance Gift Bag' (including masks made by Nancy Wright) to those 70 & older
- a 'menu' of local home delivery services including groceries, prescriptions, home-cooked meals and garden material
- emailed suggestions for maintaining health and wellness
- weekly walking get-togethers on the RailTrail
- information about accessing online library resources across the state
- a self-assessment and socially distanced program on What Helps: Developing Resilience in the Time of Covid.

We were also able to continue the Welcome Wagon with outdoor, socially distanced visits.

Ongoing Support Services offered to residents in need:

- Help finding the right resource for In-Home Care and Support
- Volunteers to grocery shop and provide transportation to medical appointments

Ongoing Collaborations

- Egremont Council on Aging (COA)

To ensure that we are up to date on current and newly developed programs and services throughout the county, we regularly attend information meetings with the Egremont COA and with local organizations including ElderServices and Salisbury VNA.

Every month during Covid the Mt Washington and Egremont COAs offered a picnic lunch at French Park. During the winter months we have transitioned to a pick-up lunch at The Barn in Egremont.

- Mount Washington Library

In October, in an effort to provide an inter-generational and safe in-person celebration, the Library and the COA sponsored a Halloween Ghost Hunt and Book Reading near Town Hall followed by seasonal refreshments.

Participants really enjoyed the event and thought it ought to be a 'regular thing.'

I am grateful that the COA continues to find opportunities to bring the community together in ways that reflect the needs and desires of others - old and young. There are many who support this work, and more are always welcome!

Respectfully submitted,
Cory Hines

2020 School Report

January 1-June 30, 2020

Tuition: \$9,000 (note total tuition for school year was \$18,000 billed in latter part of 2019)

Transportation: \$6,000

1 student: 8th grade

July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

Transportation: \$1,850

(note: due to increase in students attending, town went back to bus transportation provided by Gregg Massini Bus Co. A bill for calendar year 2020 was not sent until after January 1, 2021. Transportation for school year 20/21 was \$150/day regular and \$132/day for remote day. Remote day due to pandemic. Billing began in November due to pandemic. The cost was \$3,228 (billed in January 2021)

Tuition: SBRSD did not submit first half bill for calendar year 2020. Tuition charge will show up in 2021 report. Note tuition per student for school year 20/21 was \$19,543.25/student. Special Ed costs for school year 20/21 was \$11,035.20. Of which \$5,517.60 should have been billed in calendar year 2020.

5 students

- 1 kindergarten
- 2 second grade
- 1 8th grade
- 1 9th grade

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesliann Furcht, Keith Torrico and Sarah Kenyon

School committee

2020 Library Report

Library Trustees: Elizabeth Kasevich, Allison Giracca, and Margaret Whitbeck

Mount Washington library continues to be a certified library in Massachusetts; thus, we receive state grants to help operate the library.

Margaret Whitbeck continues to choose a wide array of popular and award-winning fiction and non-fiction books for the library. Anytime the Town Hall is open, you may browse our collection.

Due to pandemic of 2020/2021, the town hall was closed to public. But library plans to continue with its mission to provide town with library services post pandemic restrictions.

We welcome suggestions!

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesliann Furcht

Librarian

2020 Solid Waste Coordinator Report

Mount Washington Transfer Station reports 14.39 Tons of Bottles and Cans and 12.85 Tons of Mixed Paper for our recycling efforts this year. The compactor total for 2020 is 38.47 Tons, and Bulky Waste report is 13.55 Tons. That means that we have processed 79.26 Tons of Waste for a town that lists a residential population of 158 full-time residents.

Changes in how recycling products are being accepted in the world market have already made a huge impact on our country's ability to handle waste products. Just because we are recycling products does not mean we are not generating waste. Recyclable and Non-Recyclable items need to be managed, and this will get more and more expensive as time goes on.

The mixed container recycling is for clean household cleaners and clean food packaging ONLY. Single use cups and straws may not be accepted. Please put these and other items (hangers, flowerpots, etc.) in a plastic bag and in the compactor. We cannot recycle Styrofoam, packing material, pottery, or broken glass items. The paper recycling is only for printer paper, magazines, newspaper, books without covers, and cardboard. We cannot recycle used paper towels, used tissues, metallic papers, shredded paper, shopping bags with rope handles, mailing envelopes, or boxes that are not made out of cardboard or are covered with wax or plastic reinforcement. All boxes must be flattened.

If you have questions about what may be recycled, please use the Recyclopedia found at the mass.gov/dep website.

There is a seasonal newsletter for the Transfer Station on the Town Website. It has announcements, helpful hints and directions on how and where to get rid of items. If you need to get rid of some items that our Transfer Station does not collect, Egremont has offered to allow the use of their facility for construction debris, small appliances, fluorescent bulbs, and a few other items on a "pay as you go" basis. Using this option will require that you obtain a pass from our Transfer Station Attendant. Refrigerators, dehumidifiers, air conditioners and any other item that contains a refrigerant WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED unless it is serviced and tagged by a licensed collection facility. They will not be accepted in Mount Washington during Bulky Waste Collection or at Egremont's facility.

If, for whatever reason, the compactor and the dumpsters are not open, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR TRASH**. It attracts vermin and larger pests. That's a problem for the people who live next to the site as well as for the Town. Be a good neighbor, take it back and check back a little later.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellie Lovejoy

Solid Waste Coordinator

2020 Animal Control Report

I hereby submit the following report covering the activities of Animal Control from January 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020.

Domestic:

0 Lost dogs found/returned
6 Roaming/loose dog, dog off leash complaints
2 Nuisance dog complaints 0
Dangerous dog complaint
0 Requests to locate lost dogs/cats
0 Nuisance dog complaints (handled by phone) 0
Dogs/cats killed by motor vehicles
0 Dogs placed in homes
0 Dog bites reported to this department 0
Livestock loose on the road
1 Livestock worried, maimed or killed by dog 0
Possible animal abuse reports
1 Other miscellaneous

Wildlife:

0 Bear complaints 1 Deer
fawns found
3 Coyote/raccoon/opossum/porcupine/beaver/fox/fisher/bats/other 0
Rattlesnake calls referred
0 Calls referred to Massachusetts Wildlife

I would like to thank all the town's people and Town Officials of Mount Washington for their cooperation in helping improve Animal Control.

Respectively submitted, Emily E.
Mendelsohn Animal Control Officer
(413) 528-1327

Elected Officials 2020-2021

Select Board	Brian Tobin, Gail Garrett, Jim Lovejoy
Assessors	Vicki Torrico, Tom Furcht, Jeb Rong
School Committee	Lesliann Furcht, Keith Torrico, Sarah Kenyon
Constable	David Whitbeck
Town Clerk	Gail Garrett
Treasurer	Lesliann Furcht
Tax Collector	Dorothy Bonbrake
Planning Board	Bill Short (Chair), Keith Torrico, Liam Dugan, Morgan Bulkeley, Amy Boehmcke
Moderator	Morgan Bulkeley
Library Trustee	Margaret Whitbeck, Elizabeth Kasevich, Allison Giracca
Librarian	Lesliann Furcht

Appointed Positions 2020-2021

Acting Chief of Police	Brian Tobin
Animal Officer and Inspector	Emily Mendelsohn
Board of Health	Jim Lovejoy, Christopher Ryan, Justin Torrico Agent: Ellie Lovejoy
Board of Registrars	Gail Garrett (Chair), Tom Furcht, Linda Whitbeck, Eric Mendelsohn
Cemetery Council	Vicki Torrico, Linda Beckwith
Conservation Commission	Ben Granskog, Dan Kasten, Ray Kasevich
Cultural Council	Bill Short (Chair), Linda Beckwith, Dottie Bonbrake, Marc Siegel, Greg Boehmcke, Bill Warford
Emergency Management Director	Brian Tobin
Finance Committee	Tom Furcht, Cathy Torrico, Bob Bott, Betsy Spears, Cory Hines
Acting Fire Chief	Joe Schneider
Insect Pest Control Officer	Judy Isacoff
Plumbing and Gas Inspector	Robert Krupski
Propane Inspector	Robert Krupski
So. Berkshire Solid Waste Management	Ellie Lovejoy
Town Counsel	Kopelmann & Page, Local Counsel: Elizabeth Goodman of Cain Hibbard & Myers
Tree Warden	Orville Garrett
Veteran's Agent	Laurie Hills
Veteran's Representative	Ray Kasevich
Water Resource Manager	Judy Isacoff
Wire Inspector	Tom Torrico; Alt. Charles Boutelier
Zoning Board of Appeals	Eleanor Tillinghast (Chair), Mackenzie Waggaman, Peter Diamond, Scott Miller, John Alexander

TOWN OF MOUNT WASHINGTON
Mt. Washington, MA
DOINGS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, June 23, 2020

Present: Morgan Bulkeley, Ellie Lovejoy, Jeb Rong, Brian Tobin, David Whitbeck, Allison Giracca, Vincent Giracca, Ava Garrett, Betsy Spears, Bobbie Hallig, Jim Lovejoy, Bob Bott, Keith Torrico, Nicole Torrico, Tom Torrico, Cathy Torrico, Lesliann Furcht, Liam Dugan, Dottie Bonbrake, Fred Collins, Nathan McCarthy, Rie McCarthy, Eric Mendelsohn, Emily Mendelsohn, Brian Torrico, Justin Torrico, Taylor Garrett, Elsie Vierra, Pooja Fawkes, Eleanor Tillinghast, Ian Collins, Tom Furcht, Vicki Torrico, Geneve Brossard, Stewart McClure and Pierre Chee.

Also present: Ellis Gross, Pat Pyle, Ben Green, Jonathan Busky, Jacob Lewis, Olivia Lewis, Jigen McCarthy and Golden Chee.

The Moderator, Morgan Bulkeley, acknowledged several deaths in the past year or so: Reggie Laite, Darryl VanDeusen, Bill Furcht and Ben Frankel, all great members of the community.

Morgan read the following Articles which were disposed of as follows:

Article 1: To hear the report of the Selectboard or any other officers or committees and act thereon.

Moved by Jim Lovejoy. Seconded by Dottie Bonbrake. All voted in favor, no one opposed. The Article passed unanimously.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the following sums of money, or any other sums, as may be required to defray the expenses of the town for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

	Appropriations FY2020	Proposed Appropriations FY2021
Loan(s)	0	0
Accounting Officer	3,400	3,400
Accounting Expenses (audit)	20,000	20,000
Animal Control Officer	500	510
Assessors Consulting Service (rev/map)	10,000	10,000
Bank Services	1	1
Berkshire County Retirement System	32,319	30,282
Cemeteries	3,550	3,550
Communication fee	1,307	1,300
Council on Aging	400	400

Egremont Fire Companies	15930	17,373
Emergency Preparedness	1	1
Employee Medicare matching funds	2,975	2,975
Fuel	18,000	18,000
Full Time Highway Employees	97,490	99,439
Insect Pest Control	1	1
Insurance - Group	74,730	67,777
Insurance - Town	18,000	18,000
Library	1,500	1,600
Machinery Maintenance	35,000	35,000
MA Division of Employment Security	206	177
Police	1	1
Printing & Supplies	8,000	7,500
Schools incl bus	36,000	79,800
So. Berk. Volunteer Ambulance Squad	2,000	2,069
Town Buildings- Maintenance & Repair	5,000	5,000
Town Counsel	5,000	5,000
Town Highway	45,000	40,000
Town Highway Stone and Gravel	0	70,000
Town Officers' Expense	5,000	5,000
Constable pay, election year	925	825
Mileage reimbursement	200	200
BOH Admin	3,864	3,942
Town Secretary	20,000	19,227
Tree Warden	18,000	18,000
Utilities	10,000	10,000
Veterans' Services	971	1,000
Winter Maintenance	65,000	65,000
Total	\$560,271	\$662,350

Dottie requested explanation on Berkshire County Retirement. Justin asked for explanation of schools including bus. Jeb asked about the few items having only one dollar. Jim Lovejoy explained that the dollars were placeholders in the event funds were needed for that line item in the future.

Jim moved the Article. Betsy Spears seconded. Lesliann said Retirement number is determined by BC Retirement. Lesliann then said there was only one student last year, three this year. Eleanor asked for further explanation on the numbers, and it was explained that one child costs about \$18000 for tuition. Bob Bott asked how do we know revenue each year and whether it included internet. Tom Furcht said some numbers are a leap of faith, specifically state funding and we are relying on people to pay taxes. Tom said broadband is included but kept separate. Brian Tobin explained Broadband stabilization as the net income from broadband. Lesliann explained collection and spending on broadband and how the difference goes to stabilization. Brian Tobin explained some of the broadband numbers. Tom advised Bob he would get all this information as a new finance committee member, but the information would be too much to include in Warrant. Bob felt the problems of municipalities is not having a revenue budget. Gail explained how assessors determine estimated income and finance and selectboard use as the spending for this budget. Jim Lovejoy said we anticipate revenue, and financial picture is pretty solid. We have a balanced budget. Brian Tobin called the question.

All voted in favor. No one opposed. The Article passed unanimously.

Article 3: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money to fix salaries of the Elected Town Officers:

	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>
Treasurer	16,791	17,127
Tax Collector	3,870	3,997
SB Chair	1,862	1,899
SB Member	1,395	1,423
SB Member	1,395	1,423
Assessor	1,531	1,562
Assessor	1,531	1,562
Assessor	1,531	1,562
Town Clerk	2,500	2,500
Constable	401	409
Moderator	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	32,807	\$33,464

Jim Lovejoy moved the Article. Ellie seconded. All voted in favor. No one opposed. The Article passed unanimously.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$27,000.00 in Waste Management fees, to cover all costs associated with waste disposal and recycling.

The Article was moved by Dottie. Seconded by Bobbie Hallig. Eleanor thought this number seems low. Ellie explained that next year this will likely go up substantially. Bob Bott asked if we have collected any fines? Ellie said, no. Brian Tobin said we would discuss that at a selectboard meeting. All voted in favor. No one opposed. The Article passed unanimously.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appoint any committee or committees and give them or any Town Officer an authority or indemnity and to transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Jim moved the Article. Dottie seconded. All voted in favor. No one opposed. The Article passed unanimously.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$13,000.00 for inspection services. (This is a revolving fund to cover expenses for inspections until payment is received for those services by third parties.

Jim moved the Article. Dottie seconded. All voted in favor. No one opposed. The Article passed unanimously.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for a Reserve fund, as provided in Chapter 40, Section 6 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Dottie moved the Article. Ellie seconded. Bob Bott asked the purpose of this fund. Brian Tobin explained that it is there every year to use if we need to transfer funds from an account that is insufficient. Jim too explained if we go over in one account, we can use it. Lesliann clarified that it is the finance committee that controls this.

All voted in favor. No one opposed. The Article passed unanimously.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$94,000.00 to cover all costs associated with the Mount Washington Broadband Network. (to be reimbursed in fees collected)

Brian moved the Article. Jim seconded. All voted in favor. No one opposed. The Article passed unanimously.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$90,000.00 to fund the Equipment Replacement Stabilization Fund.

Dottie moved the Article. Ellie seconded. Jim explained that we have a capital plan for town equipment. Each year we fund and buy equipment on a rotating basis.

All voted in favor. No one opposed. The Article passed unanimously.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$79,997.00 to fund the Highway Construction Stabilization Fund.

Dottie moved the Article. Jim seconded. All voted in favor. No one opposed. The Article passed unanimously.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$59,196.00 from free cash to the Broadband Stabilization Fund.

Jim moved the Article. Ellie seconded. Bobbie asked what this was for. Brian explained income and expenses of broadband. We are funding with the surplus. Tom Furcht said we put what we do not spend in stabilization to fund replacement of the system when necessary. We know we are going to have large expenses to keep system running properly. We are building a nest egg, so we don't have to raise taxes or seek grants. Brian Tobin indicated we are eligible for another grant possibly 50k that we could also add to stabilization.

All voted in favor. No one opposed. The Article passed unanimously.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$50,000.00 from free cash to the Highway Dept. Facilities Stabilization Fund.

Dottie moved the Article. Jim seconded. All voted in favor. No one opposed. The Article passed unanimously.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$138,188.00 from free cash to the Highway Construction Stabilization Fund.

Bobbie moved the Article. Dottie seconded. Brian Tobin advised line painting would occur Thursday night 10 pm to 2 a.m. All voted in favor. No one opposed. The Article passed unanimously.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to authorize \$10,540.00 from free cash to be paid to the Town of Egremont as a donation for the Egremont Fire Department.

Bobbie moved the Article. Dottie seconded. Brian Tobin said Egremont asked town to contribute to new rescue truck. We thought a good idea to agree to help fund the rescue truck. We thought good idea to have on Warrant for approval. We have not been in habit of paying capital costs. We will meet with Egremont about further costs. Bobbie encouraged all to donate to the fire department. All voted in favor. No one opposed. The Article passed unanimously.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General Bylaws by adding the following new Section to Chapter 143 Fees:

Article IV

Employment of Outside Consultants

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44 §53G, a license granting officer or board when implementing authority conferred under any statute, ordinance or bylaw, may impose reasonable fees for the employment of outside consultants and may deposit such fees in a special account.

Jim moved the Article. Eleanor seconded. Bobbie asked who determines fees. Jim said the board and applicant would determine the expert. Brian Tobin said it enables board to get expert advice. Bob Bott said the applicant pays for cost of hiring consultant. Justin asked who brought bylaw forward. Jim replied that the selectboard brought forward from various boards. Lesliann asked why this needed to be added now. Brian Tobin said he was advised by the Chair of the Planning Board that this just codifies a policy.

Tom Furcht asked about the applicant's rights. Eleanor, Chair of the ZBA, said they cannot hire a consultant without this article. The applicant and board would discuss consultant needed and there is an appeal process. Problem has been if complex, town can't hire its own consultant without the town paying for it unless this provision is in place. Tom Torrico asked what is required to be a consultant. Eleanor said a proper license for engineer for example. Jim said that often it is in applicant's interest to have consultant as board doesn't have experience to prove what they want, and this is not intended to make applicant's life more difficult.

Keith Torrico expressed concern about an applicant's rights if this were used excessively by a board for simple issues. Eleanor said statute and caselaw give rights of appeal. Eleanor said this is consistent with what other Towns do. Nicole asked the difference between consult and legal fee? Why can't tax dollars be used for consultants. Is there a consultant fund? Jim Lovejoy said this is an advantage to applicant not town. Jim said we don't have staff, attorneys. If Town needs additional info town needs to negotiate arrangement to get work done. Town could create a fund. Lesliann said other than wetlands what examples can you share in which we would need consultant. She felt we don't need it for the typical situation. Eleanor said this is not anticipated to be used regularly. It is intended for a complicated project-the Ycamp for example, or state park project, complex engineering plans for example. If board doesn't understand and can't obtain info, it can turn down project. Gives board expertise. This is good to have if needed. She referred to the telecommunications bylaw and solar bylaw. We were fortunate to have expertise in town, but that might have not been the case. We might have needed a consultant. Bob Bott gave as an example the new bylaws in process which needed a consultant. We can have stricter rules than state but not less. Planning board needed help to make sure accurate. Pooja said it is not clear who chooses the consultant and in what circumstances it is needed. Brian Tobin said it is up to the board. Eleanor said the applicable board makes the decision. She gave the example of American Tower and their ability to spend on experts, while the Town would not want to spend and thus the need. Ellie said if aggrieved, you may appeal. She said if town has large parcel bought and they want to do something to change town, if you don't have this, the Town is at the mercy of people with deep pockets. This is for big projects. This protects town. We shouldn't be in situation where we feel we are getting deep sixed by a board. Need someone credible. This supports those who serve. It is a big burden and complicated now. Brian Tobin called the question. Justin said it is reasonable to talk about big projects, but there must be a way to regulate large projects without giving the board too much power to impose unreasonable fees. This bylaw could create roadblocks. Eleanor said she didn't think this would ever be used for a private home. She doesn't perceive it as a burden. There would be no additional cost for an ordinary project. It is for a big project. Eleanor said with respect to telecommunications, we would have been at a disadvantage if didn't have Gerry Allen, a local expert for free. Morgan added that we had Jeb on solar bylaw. Keith Torrico said he thought it is a nice sentiment, but he is concerned about the language and how a board might use it. The moderator called for a vote and recorded:

Opposed: 16

In Favor: 12

The Article did not pass.

Ellie moved to adjourn. Jim seconded. All voted in favor of adjourning. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully,

Gail Garrett