

## **BUILDING SAFETY**

The Building Department will continue the quality of service that our residents expect.

Samuel Zannini, Jr. is the Deputy Assistant Building Inspector. Sam is a Master Plumber by trade and his direct duties are plumbing inspector, gas inspector, mechanical inspector and the energy compliance inspector.

Dan Reilly is our Assistant Building Inspector, with direct duties as the electrical and foundation systems inspector. Dan is a Master Electrician by trade.

Tina Cardoso is our Code Enforcement Officer and is tasked with enforcing zoning and building violations. Barbara White is our Permit Clerk.

The Department of Building safety is dedicated to procuring a safe community through communication and education.

A total of 470 permits were issued during 2015

Building permits	153
Plumbing	40
Electrical	117
Mechanical	64
Gas	73
Well	8
Code enforcement cases	16

Respectfully submitted,  
Ronald LeMere  
Chief Building Official  
Department of Building Safety

## **CABLE COMMITTEE**

After more than two years the committee has put together an extensive upgrade to the cable equipment which was approved by the Board of Selectmen just before the end of the year. Many hours were spent preparing for this upgrade to include three new cameras, sound upgrade and mounted screen and projector. Presentations will be projected on the cable channel as well as on the screen for public meetings. The upgrade of \$73,188 will be paid from the Cable Revolving Fund therefore it will have no tax impact.

The committee continues to work on airing important meetings and historical presentations; send any suggestions or recommendations to [cable@newtonnh.net](mailto:cable@newtonnh.net). We continue to look to hire cable operators and for additional volunteers to join our committee; meetings are held once a month on Wednesday nights at 7pm at the Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Winglass, Chairman, Diane Morin, Station Manager  
Marilyn Landry, Vice Chairman, Sally Woodman, Secretary  
Cable Committee

## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The winter of 2015 started off fairly average but it didn't last too long. The end of January and into the month of February brought cold temperatures and record setting snowfall of 109+ inches which kept the highway department extremely busy. I would like to thank the highway employees and the hired contractors for their outstanding job.

Unfortunately, due to that situation the winter budget was quickly expended, which in turn allowed for only a few of the scheduled road upgrades and repairs to take place this year. We were able to put 1800 feet of topcoat pavement on Heath Street and 600 feet of overlay pavement on Meadowview Drive.

Scheduled repairs to the culvert on Country Pond Road were postponed due to the fact that the NH Department of Environmental Services has not yet issued the permit for work to begin. This is still on the books to be done in 2016.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Pivero  
Road Agent

## CEMETERY TRUST FUNDS

Created for the Year Ending December 31, 2015

### HIGHLAND CEMETERY

Michael & Stacia Mackie	Four Lots	\$1,300.00
William & Leslie Steinhoff	Two Lot	650.00
Richard J. Busch	Four Lots	1,300.00
David & Grace Morgan	Two Lots	<u>650.00</u>

**TOTAL \$3,900.00**

Mary M. Allen

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lynne Camp  
Trustees of Trust Funds

Joseph A. Simone, Jr.

## CEMETERY TRUSTEES

Last Memorial Day new veterans' flags were placed at the Willow Grove, Highland Street and the Town Hall Cemeteries; something the Cemetery Trustees oversee every year. Once again, the flags for Willow Grove were expertly placed by the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class of Newton Memorial School.

The WW2 Memorial at Willow Grove was refurbished this year. The PVC posts were replaced, as was the plywood backing. All the name plates were removed, cleaned, polished and replaced. On the back of the memorial a listing of the veterans from the wars dating back to the French and Indian are listed plus the highlighting shows who of these are buried in Newton.

You may have noticed at both the Willow Grove and Highland Cemeteries how the trees were expertly trimmed by T&M Properties of Newton. The tall maples and oaks at Highland were trimmed and thinned out, plus the low overhanging branches were cut back at Willow Grove. T&M also trimmed most of the problem shrubs on some of the grave sites which was extremely helpful to the Trustees. These efforts by T&M Properties made a huge difference in the appearance of the cemeteries.

### 2015 GRAVE SITE SALES

Highland Cemetery – 8  
Willow Grove – 2

### 2015 INTERMENTS

Highland - 0  
Willow Grove – 2

### 2015 TOTAL INCOME FROM LOT SALES - \$3,250.00

Respectfully Submitted by:

Michael W. Hughes  
William G. Landry  
Ronald N. Saunders

## ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Board of Appeals held six public hearings in 2015. One Applicant withdrew his request for a variance, and five other variances were granted.

The Board of Appeals meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Town Hall, starting at 7:30 PM. The Public is welcome to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Thomas R. McElroy, Chairman  
Board of Appeals

## PLANNING BOARD

In 2015, the Planning Board held 18 regular meetings.

Over the course of the year, the following applications were approved:

Date	Name	Location	Application Type	Map/Block/Lot
05/05/15	125 Development NH Corp	Puzzle Lane Lot 27-3 Phase II	Minor Site Plan	Map 14, Block 1, Lot 27-3
05/12/15	125 Development NH Corp	Puzzle Lane Lot 27-4 Phase II	Site Plan	Map 14, Block 1, Lot 27-4
08/11/15	RTW, LLC	129 N. Main Street	Cluster Development	Map 9, Block 6, Lot 7-1
08/11/15	Stephen and Helen Nault	5 Gale Village Road	Accessory Apartment	Map 9, Block 3, Lot 11-2
08/11/15	Robert Hayes	3 Audrey Lane	Accessory Apartment	Map 10, Block 2, Lot 9-30
08/20/15	Todd Fitzgerald	Chase Road & Highland Street	7-lot Subdivision	Map 11, Block 10, Lot 4
08/25/15	Country Pond Fish & Game	Pond Street	Excavation and restoration Permits	Map 5, Block 5, Lots 12, 12-1 and 13

In addition to the above approved projects, the following planning activities occurred during 2015:

A. The Planning Board drafted a Warrant Article to amend the General Provisions of the Zoning Ordinance regarding storage of vehicles on a property intended to bring the language into compliance with RSA 266:1. The Board also drafted a Warrant Article to amend the Commercial Architecture section of the Zoning Ordinance to eliminate conflicting language regarding sign design standards in different sections of the ordinance.

B. The Planning Board entered into a contract with the Rockingham Planning Commission to update the Capital Improvements Program. Most of the work to prepare the plan will be done in 2016.

C. The Planning Board continues to monitor development projects that had previously approved but not yet completed. They reviewed business occupancy certificates. They also approved a voluntary lot merger.

The Planning Board encourages all residents to participate in its proceedings and provide input to the Board. To contact the Planning Board office, call (603) 382-3419 ext. 15 or e-mail [planningboard@newtonnh.net](mailto:planningboard@newtonnh.net).

The Planning Board Members are: Chairman Roger Hamel, Vice Chairman and Board of Selectmen Ex-Officio James Doggett, Barbara White, Sandra Estabrook, Fred Gabriel, Robert Miller, and Bill Smith; Alternates: Rep. Mary M. Allen, James Holland, Robert Zalinski, James White, and Rick Milner.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Roger G. Hamel, Chairman  
Planning Board

## **RSA 674:39-aa – Restoration of Involuntarily Merged Lots**

If you own real estate lots that were involuntarily merged by municipal action, you may be able to have those lots restored to their pre-merger status.

Lots involuntarily merged by a municipality (for zoning, assessing, or taxation purposes) prior to September 18, 2010 shall be restored to their pre-merger status at the request of the owner **provided:**

- Request is made prior to December 31, 2016; and
- No owner in the chain of title voluntarily merged the lots; all subsequent owners estopped from requesting restoration. The municipality shall have the burden of proof to show that any previous owner voluntarily merged his or her lots.
- ✧ Requests for "un-merger" to be made to the local governing body, whose decisions may be appealed pursuant to RSA 676.
- ✧ The restoration of the lots to their pre-merger status shall not be deemed to cure any non-conformity with existing local land use ordinances.
- ✧ This notice must be continuously posted in a public place from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2016. Each municipality shall also publish the same or similar notice in its 2011 through 2015 annual reports.

## **TRANSFER STATION**

The November 14, 2015 Hazardous Waste Day for the Town of Newton was a large success. I want to thank Clean Harbors, the staff at the Transfer Station, and the residents of Newton for everyone's cooperation and hard work for a successful day. The set up and general disposal fee cost to the town came in at \$27,982.72 which was under the approved budget of \$35,000.00. The disposal of all household chemicals was done properly and correctly is always a victory for the environment. Please remember that problem contaminants such as ignitable materials (gasoline-diesel) corrosive materials (batteries tubes) reactive waste (fumes paint) and toxic waste (lead mercury) CAN NOT be submitted with regular trash! Taking a responsible stance helps reduce the risk of toxic substances getting into our ground water. It is your carbon foot print that will make a difference. Please Recycle, it costs over one million dollars in landfill costs to prepare ONE ACRE for disposal! There is a place for everything and everything in its place.

For 2016 all residents who own property, and pay taxes, again will receive one voucher, for a one-time disposal, free of charge, good for one maximum 8 foot pick- up truck bed. Blue stickers and ID will be required with YOUR voucher.

Unfortunately we have residents who are argumentative with the "Transfer Station Policies". Your questions, problems and concerns should not be voiced with the employees who work at the Transfer Station! Please address your concerns with the Board of Selectmen. Thank you.

**Safety issues are always concerning. Please STOP at the stop sign so our employees can do their job. Please park vertically (not horizontal) to the white compactor building when depositing of your trash. Please SLOW DOWN when entering and exiting the Transfer Station. Please NO SMOKING on the premises! Also watch your pets, and please leave your children under the age of twelve in your vehicle which includes the swap pile. This is a NH State Law. Thank you.**

Please Note: The swap pile is for usable items. It does not include electronics, books, or broken items. Please throw your junk away. Thank you.

Again speaking for myself and the employees at the Transfer Station, it's always a pleasure to serve the town of Newton. If you have questions please call us at 603-382-7250 and review Newton's Website <http://www.newton-nh.gov>. Thank You.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tom DiFalco  
Transfer Station Manager