



The **Something to Crow About** RICHMOND ROOSTER

September 2020

Copy or cut out pages 15 and 16 for use as an Application for State Election Absentee Ballot

A JOURNEY WITH HOPS

Karen O'Brien

Back in the early 80s, my husband and I decided to try home brewing. This was back before there were microbrews, craft beers, etc. It was before you could easily purchase Coors Beer in the Northeast, really. Though I wasn't (and still am not) much of a beer drinker, I said, "Sure, let's give it a go." We could save money, create a unique beer, and have our own O'Brien Brew.

We immersed ourselves in the process, acquiring five gallon carboys, fermentation locks, a bottle capper, and all the ingredients that went into home brewing. Of course, we also had to drink several cases of beer, so that we would get the heavy, refillable bottles necessary for the project. We had to drive an hour and a half to find a supplier for the malt, hops, and everything else we needed. We even made labels, as I worked at a printing shop, and they were kind enough to make some for me, in exchange for some of our golden brew.

This was my first experience with using hops. The dried hops didn't look like much, and the whole brewing activity made the house smell like, well, a brewery. Making beer sounded better than it was, and we never could really clarify the brew, so we ended up with the bottom inch of the bottle full of sediment. That experiment went by the wayside eventually, but I became acquainted with hops as a plant for my ever burgeoning garden.

I don't remember where I got the first plant, but I did know I would need an arbor, which I built with several lattice panels. The arbor looked good, and I dreamed of the hops trailing over it, providing a shady spot. The plant thrived, and I thought life was good.

The next year, the plant left the confines of the arbor. It spread, and spread, and became a thug in my yard. Even thirty years later, after ruthlessly cutting it back and ripping it out when necessary, the arbor long disintegrated, I would catch my ankle in a hidden tendril, a reminder that this is one tenacious plant.

Humulus lupulus, hops, is a native of north temperate zones. Gerard, (c. 1545–1612) the botanist and herbalist, noted "The hop joyeth in a fat and fruitful ground." *Humulus* is believed to be derived from "humus" or moist ground. *Lupulus* comes to us from "lupus" or wolf. The name is possibly a corruption of an earlier name *Lupus salictarius*. Pliny the Elder (c. 23-79), Roman author, naturalist, and natural philosopher, claimed the plant killed willows by turning around them and strangling them, as a wolf does to a sheep. The name hops comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "hoppan" – or to climb. And this plant does, at an astonishing rate.

Hops are fast growing, and the wiry, hairy stems travel clockwise, one revolution in about 2 ½ hours. It is related to Indian hemp, and some find its prickly stems are an irritant to the skin. As hops are in the nettle family, this makes sense. I have experienced almost a burn from the vine lashing across my arm, so I expect that it could easily aggravate sensitive individuals.

Although hops nowadays are associated with brewing and beer, the plant originally was used as food and medicine. As early as Pliny, the Romans used it as a garden plant, eating the young shoots in spring as one would prepare asparagus. The flower buds, or strobiles, were cooked for use in salads, and a liquid made from them was used as a leavening agent for breads. An in-





fusion of the strobiles has been recommended for ages as a sedative and soporific, promoting sleep and as an antidote for insomnia, due to the presence of lupulin. Sherry infused with the flowers is used as a nerve sedative and aids digestion.

The dried flowers, sewn into pillows, help promote slumber. This first well known device, called *Pulvinar Humuli*, was prescribed for King George III of England by Dr. Willis with excellent results for His Majesty's insomnia. Having worked at Old Sturbridge Village as an interpreter of 1830's life, I can attest to the efficacy of this treatment. Those interpreters making hops pillows with visitors experienced lots of yawning and great difficulty in staying awake after breathing in the aromatic flowers.

As to what most of us think of when we hear the word, hops means beer and brewing. The first recorded mention of hops used in beer was by Hildegard, Abbess of Rupertsburg, in a reference to oat beer prepared with hops. Beer, or ale, had been brewed for centuries, and various plants such as ground ivy, had been used to clarify and add flavor. Ale was traditionally made from malt alone, or mixed with heath or ground ivy, and honey. Mrs. Grieve notes: "tannic acid in strobiles adds value by causing precipitation of vegetable mucilage and thereby the cleansing of beer."

Dutch brewers were adding hops in the fourteenth century, but the use of hops in Great Britain did not catch on until the reign of Edward VI (1547-1553). In fact, Henry VIII and previous monarchs had expressly forbidden the use of hops in beer, feeling that melancholy would result. In 1524, Parliament received a petition denouncing the "wicked weed" and an admonition that such an addition to the drink would spoil the taste and endanger people. John Evelyn, as late as 1670, cautioned that wholesome ale would be corrupted by hops, which would, though, preserve the drink but

result in diseases and a shorter life.

Nowadays, with craft beers all the rage, hops have become a hot commodity. Many cultivars have been created, and the brewing industry guards many of these carefully and so can be hard to obtain. In the twentieth century, many areas of England grew hops, and the area around Kent was particularly known for its cultivation. In fact, it was customary for anyone visiting a hopfield in Kent to contribute "foot money" lest luck leave the field. Hops also flourished in New England and New York until a fungal blight decimated fields at the turn of the twentieth century.



As an herb, one could hardly find a better example of a multi-purpose plant than hops. If you have the space, an arbor of hops is a delightful place to cool off on a hot, summer day. Use it as a potherb, employ the strobiles for either brewing, tea, or as a sleep remedy, but just remember, if hops are happy, they love to travel and you may get more than you wish.

Agriculture Commission Announces New Scholarship

Karen O'Brien

The Richmond, NH Agricultural Commission is a volunteer-based commission governed by the Selectmen of the Town of Richmond, NH. The Commission works with the community to ensure that the voices of those involved in agricultural pursuits are heard.

The Commission is announcing their new scholarship opportunity for a Richmond resident planning to study agricultural related fields of farming, horticulture, natural resources, environmental sciences, or veterinary studies. This scholarship may be used in any recognized accredited institution of higher learning. Public and private institutions may be attended within or outside of New Hampshire. Scholarship assistance is available to

undergraduate students only. Courses of study must entail a major within the field of agriculture. All monies or donations collected during their Agricultural fairs in August and October will go to a deserving student, as well as any other donations so designated.

Recognizing a need in the community, the Richmond Agriculture Commission is hoping to encourage students to enter the fields of agriculture and hopes that their scholarship will help with their career path. The application can be found on the Town of Richmond website, or by contacting Chair Lisa Hedenberg lmhdnbrg@gmail.com. Applications need to be submitted by April 15, 2021

Town Clerk

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

The State Primary Election will be held on September 8, 2020, at the Veteran's Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Some people have inquired if in-person voting is still occurring. It is! At the very least, social distancing and the wearing of face masks will be encouraged. Other PPE-related materials will be provided to each person who votes at the polls.

If you are not yet registered to vote, you may do so at the Supervisors of the Checklist session on September 1, 2020, from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Veterans Hall. You may also register to vote on Election Day.

Voters registered as Undeclared may receive either a Republican or Democratic ballot on Election Day by stating their party preference to the check-in clerks. Voters with an Undeclared status will be given an "Affiliation Change Form," most likely when they receive

their ballot, thus offering them the opportunity to return to Undeclared status after voting. Voters registered as Republican or Democrat will only be given the ballot of the party to which they are affiliated. These voters cannot change their party affiliation on the day of the September Primary.

If you are not able to come to the polls on Election Day or otherwise qualify to vote absentee (see insert printed in this issue), contact the Town Clerk's office to obtain an absentee ballot. After marking the ballot and properly sealing it in the envelopes provided, the absentee ballot can be returned in one of three ways:

- Personally, returned to the Town Clerk's office by the voter, no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 7th. Please hand the absentee ballot directly to the Town Clerk.
- If the absentee ballot is mailed back, it must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 8th, Election Day.

HERBS AND NATIVE PLANTS FOR SALE
 Call or email for list of available plants.
 Heirloom Tomatoes – Hot Peppers

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robertpowers92@gmail.com

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• The absentee ballot may also be delivered no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 8th by a “delivery agent,” as described in the instructions enclosed with the absentee ballot. The delivery agent should hand the ballot directly to the Town Clerk during regular business hours. If the ballot is delivered on Election Day (and no later than 5:00 p.m.), it should be given to the Town Clerk at the polling place. Please be certain to bring a government-issued photo ID if you are a delivery agent.

You can view your status as a registered voter in Richmond, your party affiliation, or the status of your absentee ballot by going to <https://sos.nh.gov>. Click on “Voter Information Look-up” and follow the instructions.

Sample ballots are posted at the Veteran’s Memorial Hall, at the Town Hall and on the Town of Richmond website. I also have copies available at my office. Please call 239-6202 if you have any questions.

Dates to Remember

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

August 31: Last day to register to vote with Town Clerk

September 7: Open for absentee ballots only from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

September 8: State Primary Election

September 30: Transfer Station stickers expire. Purchase new ones at the Town Clerk’s office, at the Winchester Transfer Station, or at the Winchester Town Clerk’s office. \$20 for the 1st one, \$1 for additional stickers for same household

The General Election

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

The General Election will be on November 3, 2020. In previous General Elections where the office of President of the United States is on the ballot, average turnout in Richmond has been 79-86% of the total registered voters. This translates to between 650 and 710 voters. Because of the expanded definition for absentee voting for the remainder of this calendar year, a higher-than-usual volume of absentee voting is anticipated.

I encourage anyone who is considering voting absentee to submit the Application for Absentee Ballot as soon as possible. This form is printed in *The Rooster* for your convenience. The Application, once completed and signed, should be mailed to: Town Clerk, 105 Old Homestead Hwy., Richmond, NH 03470. You may also

return the completed and signed Application in the Drop Box located at the main entrance of the Town Hall or bring it to my office.

I anticipate receiving the absentee ballots in late September or early October. I will mail any absentee ballots as soon as I receive them for all Applications that I have at that time. I will continue to mail absentee ballots the same business day that I receive requests.

You may also come to my office if you prefer. Once you receive your absentee ballot, I encourage you to mail or deliver your ballot as soon as possible. It must be delivered by the voter no later than November 2, by 5:00 p.m. or received either by mail or by a qualified “delivery agent” no later than Election Day, November 3, at 5:00 p.m.

Whether the voter or a delivery agent returns the marked absentee ballot, do not leave the ballot in the drop box or on any shelf. Hand it directly to the Town Clerk. Any absentee ballots received after 5:00 p.m. on November 3 cannot be counted.

As always, in-person voting will be occurring during the polling hours of 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The Town Hall Is Opened During Regular Business Hours.

Tax Collector

Monday: 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Town Clerk

Monday: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m.–4 p.m.

6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

Thursdays: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Online services still available 24/7

Selectmen’s Office

Monday: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m. Selectmen meeting,

Selectmen meet at 5:30 p.m.

100th Anniversary of the Great Washout

Wendy O’Brien

On August 10, 1920, a great thunderstorm raged through Richmond, creating what has come to be known as the Great Washout. This unexpected storm destroyed much of Route 32 (Old Homestead Highway) between the top of Stinson’s Hill to Mill Road. The



gully was 10-15 feet deep in places. People came from all over Cheshire County to look and have their picture taken. Records at the time indicate that lightning killed the milk cow of former Librarian Sarah Twitchell. Heading towards Richmond from Keene, you can still see the gully on the right hand side of the road.

Photograph: Richmond Town Archives, Robert Weekes Collection

Historic Stone Step Returns to the RPL

Wendy O'Brien

The Trustees are pleased to announce the installation of the original stone step to former Old Schoolhouse #6 in the Library's garden. Under the oversight of former Library Trustee Jerry Mills, a beautiful bronze plaque, donated anonymously, was installed that commemorates the many children that passed through the School-



RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Richmond, NH The Town and the Forest,
250+ years of living and growing together.

house door since 1850. Athol Granite then carefully situated the 900 pound stone in the garden, where it will become a lovely focal point. While no-one misses the slippery, high granite step when entering the Library, it is wonderful to have this historic piece returned to a place of prominence.

Is 5G Coming to Richmond?

John Boccalini

In a time when cellular technology has become a major role in many of our lifestyles, Richmond has the possibility to jump from an almost non-existent cellular form of technology to the most advanced form of it – that being 5 G technology. Industrial Tower and Wireless (ITW) is proposing to erect a 5G Cell Phone tower on the property located on the Christmas Tree Farm, Rt. 119 Fitzwilliam Rd.

July 15, 2020

The proposal was brought to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) Public Hearing on July 15, 2020 at the Richmond Pavilion, when ITW requested a Special Exception from Article 3 General Provisions, more specifically Section 312 to build a 175-foot lattice cell tower. The location of the proposed tower will be 1500 feet off of Rt. 119 (Fitzwilliam Rd.) and 925 feet from the nearest home. There is an existing gravel drive that will be used as the access driveway for the compound so there will be no noticeable difference traveling by the property. The tower compound will be 80 x 80 with a chain link security fence, and space for five (5) personal wireless service shelters on concrete pads with communications equipment, and additional supporting infrastructure. The tower will have no lights, the height is below the required height by the Federal Aviation Administration. With the height and canopy of trees and the lattice design the tower will not be seen when traveling by it.

Richmond Public Library

19 Winchester Road, Richmond, NH 03470
library@richmondnh.us Tel. 239-6164

Tuesdays & Thursdays 3-7pm
Wednesdays 9-noon
Saturdays 10am-2pm

Catalog:
opac.libraryworld.com/
opac/home.php. Library
name: Richmond Public.
No password required.



The cell tower will be used as a co-location for larger towers around the area to bring service to connect coverage through the eastern and middle portions of Richmond. The tower will cover approximately 4.0 miles south to north along rt. 32 and 3.7 miles east and west along Rt. 119.

A somewhat cantankerous discussion took place, which led to a motion, which passed, to continue the Public Hearing on August 12, 2020, at 7 p.m. at the Richmond Pavilion.

(Details of this meeting can be read in a copy of these minutes, which can be found at the Town of Richmond website or on *The Richmond Rooster's* website on the home page.

August 12, 2020

On August 12, 2020, Public Hearing on the ITW request for a Special Exception continuance. It was a hot time of night, 50+ people showed up, the cameras were rolling and the boxing gloves were put on.

Opponents of the tower cited health concerns and site plans of the project. Those in favor of the tower cited the need of cell service in Richmond. All were reminded that this Public hearing was only concerned with whether the project can be granted a special exception according to the Richmond Zoning Ordinance.

Still residents for and against continued to express their concerns outside the prevue of the ZBA limits. At 10:20 p.m., there was a motion to adjourn the meeting and continue it on September 9, 2020.

Details of this meeting can be read in a copy of these minutes which can be found at the Town of Richmond website or on *The Richmond Rooster's* website.

Whether 5 G towers will be built in town will not be decided by the Zoning Board. If it approves that ITW fits the criteria for the Special Exception, then it goes to the Planning Board for approval and if they don't get the Special Exception, we will see where it goes from there. There is always an appeal or other ways to bypass the decision.

To get an answer to this article if 5G technology comes to Richmond, NH. I tried Googling "will 5g come to Richmond NH?" and the answer was "No results found" Maybe the answer will become more apparent after the next the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) Public Hearing on September 9, 2020, at the Richmond Pavilion. All of you can attend and participate.

Tomato Watermelon Salad

Terri O'Rorke

In a serving bowl, combine 4 cups coarsely chopped tomatoes and 2 cups coarsely chopped seedless watermelon. Toss with 2 tablespoons olive oil, 1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar, salt and cracked black pepper to taste along with 2 tablespoons chopped, fresh mint. Top with 1/4 cup chopped pistachios.

Food Boxes

Pam Bielunis

Hope everyone enjoyed the free fresh plums that were available at pick up last delivery! We would like to do a delivery of fresh produce approx. September 17. I need to be sure we have enough to get the free delivery to Richmond. Thanks so much. 603-239-6498

<https://simosproduce.com/collections/delivery>

Standard \$55 Box

8oz Cheese. Dozen Large Eggs. 1lb of Butter. Half Gallon of Whole Milk. Pint of Half and Half. Half Gallon of Orange Juice. 2 Apples. 1 Bunch Bananas. Half Pint of Blueberries. 1 Bag of Red Grapes. 1 Cantaloupe. 1 English Cucumber. Broccoli. 2 Oranges. 2 Pears. 1 Pineapple. 1 Bag of Baby Carrots. 1 Bag of Celery. 2 Heads of Iceberg Lettuce. 1 Bag of Yellow Onions. 1lb Red Peppers. 1lb Green Peppers. 1 Bag of Potatoes. 1 Pint of Grape Tomatoes

Veggie Box \$25

Asparagus. Yellow Squash. Zucchini. Sweet Potato. Brussel Sprouts. Mushrooms. Avocado. Red Onion. 2 Heads of Garlic. Kale Bunch. 2 Tomatoes

Fruit Box \$25

Strawberries. Blueberries. Mango. Kiwi. Gala Apples. Pineapple. Cantaloupe. Grapefruit. Oranges. Red Grapes. Lemon. Lime

Organic Fruit Box \$33

Container of Strawberries. 3 Nectarines. 3 Peaches. 2 Fuji Apples. 1 Bag of Red Grapes. 5 Plums. 2 Asian Pears. 1 Bunch of Bananas

Organic Veggie Box \$39

1 container of spinach. 1 container of kale. 1 container of cherry tomatoes. 1 sleeve celery. 1 baggie of potatoes. 1 head of cauliflower. 2-4 broccoli crowns. 1 bag of onions. 1 head of Boston butter lettuce

Dairy Box \$39

Milk. Dozen Eggs. Sliced American Cheese. Pepper Jack Cheese. Cheddar Cheese. Cottage Cheese. Sour Cream. 1 quart of Greek Yogurt. Half & Half. 1lb of

Butter. Cream cheese. Orange Juice.

Grill Box \$37.50

Yellow Squash. Green Squash. Green Beans. Red Peppers. Asparagus. Baby Roasting Potatoes. 6 Ears Corn. Eggplant. Yellow Onion. Green Leaf Lettuce. Plum Tomatoes. Cilantro. Lime. Jalapeños. Avocados. Poblanos Pepper. Red Onion

Fresh Patriot Pickles 32 oz \$5.79

Variety of types of pickles, a drop down box on the site.

Fresh Summer Special \$29.65

Kirby Cucumbers. Dill. Sour Cream. Lemons. Fresh Sliced Mozzarella. Cluster Tomatoes. Fresh Basil. Whipped Cream. Jersey Blueberries. Strawberries.

Salad Box \$19.85

Artisan Lettuce Blend. Kirby Cucumbers. Grape Tomatoes. Scallions. Sweet Vidalia Onions. Red and Yellow Peppers. Avocado. Carrots. Sugar Snap Peas.

Parks and Recreation

Karen Daugherty

The beach has been teeming with laughter and chatter this summer. It's so nice to see neighbors out and about enjoying the outdoors together. We would like to send a huge thank you to Camp Takodah for hosting Rich-



mond Community Day! Adults and kids alike enjoyed canoeing, kayaking, rock climbing, archery, tie-dying, and swimming. The staff at Takodah was extremely welcoming and considerate of everyone's needs and level of comfort at the event. Takodah also hosted free Red Cross swimming lessons for Richmond residents



again. Thank you for the outreach and effort you put forth for the town this summer! By the time you're reading this we will have had our Back-to-School Event. If there was a good turn-out, we will continue with our yearly schedule for the Harvest Festival and Movie Time at Takodah. We hope to see you soon!

September, 2020, Harvest Festival and Potluck

December, 2020, Movie Time at Takodah

January, 2021, Winter Event

February, 2021, Movie Time at Takodah

Greetings from "The Old Brick Church"

Pastor Sharon and Members of RCUM Church

During this time of COVID-19, so much of our lives seems to have been interrupted. Many feel lonely and isolated, and some are struggling with financial burdens or job loss. We would like to let you know that we are here for you, and welcome you to join us for prayer and worship.

If you have driven by the Old Brick Church on Route 119, you may have noticed the sign that we are holding Sunday Worship Services at 10:30 a.m. at the Richmond Pavilion located behind the Fire Station. We will continue holding outdoor worship services through Labor Day Weekend.

We are returning to indoor worship beginning on September 13, 2020, following strict guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Service begins at 10:30 a.m. Dress is informal. Masks are required and will be made available at the entrance to the church. We have roped off some of the pews to assure social distancing. We will be entering the church through the door to the left and exiting from the building using the door on the right. Exceptions will be made for those requiring handicap accessibility and use of the ramp.

Starting on September 9, 2020, we will be holding

informal prayer meetings at the church beginning at 6:30 p.m. We invite anyone who is in need of healing or prayer, comfort, and peace to join us. If you are unable to attend, prayer requests can be sent via email to richmondcommunityumc@gmail.com.

We are also collecting non-perishable food donations for the Richmond Food Pantry. Donations can be brought to the Old Brick Church on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, or by appointment. Pastor Sharon can be reached at 978-987-6036 or via email.

The mission of our church is to embrace and share God's Grace with one another. We welcome you to join us and celebrate a relational community working to serve the needs of others. Peace and Blessings

LITTLE SQUIRREL

Lenny Solomon

IN THE BEGINNING

It was Tuesday night, August 27th, 2013, at 9:30 p.m. I was out walking my dog on a warm, pleasant summer evening. About 20 minutes into our walk, I saw what appeared to be a small squashed squirrel in the middle of the road. I say squashed because all four limbs were stretched out flat. He almost looked like a cartoon character run over by a steamroller. When I bent down to get a better look, I saw that it had not been run over, that he was still alive, but was gasping for breath.

I'm partial to squirrels. About 40 years ago, one of my sons found two tiny baby squirrels at the base of a tree. Just a few days old, he brought the babies home. We called various wildlife refuges to find out what we should do. We ended up learning very quickly how to raise orphan squirrels. Initially, we kept the animals in a shoebox, but soon after, I went to a local pet store and bought a leaky 55 gallon aquarium that would become their home. I covered the top of the tank with wire mesh and built a wooden nest box on top to simulate the hollow of a tree. We cared for these squirrels, feeding them with an eyedropper for over two months. Just when they were getting to the point of having their tails bush out, both unexpectedly died.

I learned a lot about squirrels back then – one of those things being that it's best to leave a foundling young squirrel alone, with the hope that its mother will tend to the matter. When I found this squirrel in the road, I remembered that. I also saw that he seemed near death. While there was no blood and his limbs were intact, he was barely breathing. I decided to finish walk-

ing the dog, and then come back to see if the baby squirrel had moved. My hope was that I'd give the mother an opportunity to reclaim her own.

When I went back about 20 minutes later the little squirrel was still there. Since it hadn't moved, I scooped him up. When I got home, I placed him in a small box and put it inside an old parakeet cage I had stored in the basement. Although it was a warm night, I covered him up with a clean towel but assumed he wouldn't survive the night.



The following morning I poked my finger underneath the towel and the baby squirrel jerked. Surprised and delighted that he was still alive, I brought him into the kitchen, quickly went out and bought some baby formula, and started to feed him with an eyedropper. He took in four-droppers-full of formula that first morning and then went to sleep.

I searched through websites to learn again about raising baby squirrels, and they all pretty much agreed. I'd have to feed him at least five times a day, and that the biggest issue at this point, was dehydration. They also said that after a few days, once it was clear he was coming along, that I needed to feed him Esbilac, a formula specifically designed for puppies. Human baby formula does not have the appropriate balance of nutrients for other animals. If I continued to feed him human formula, it would harm and possibly kill him. Puppy formula was the closest product to squirrel milk that I could feed him.

I also investigated how old the squirrel might be. Looking at photos, as well as noting that his eyes had not as yet opened, I judged that he was about four weeks old. This was confirmed when he first opened his eyes about five days later, right on schedule.

Every subsequent day he ate more and more, and it was a true pleasure to see how he progressed. By the

time he was weaned in October, he was taking in as much as forty-droppers-full of formula at one setting. Remembering my experience of 40 years ago, I considered every day a blessing when seeing he was still alive.

Soon after his eyes opened he began to anticipate my taking him out to feed him. He'd cling to the inside of the birdcage and run up my arm when I opened the door. Little Squirrel got bigger, stronger, feistier, and after about six weeks, I began the process of weaning him off the formula.

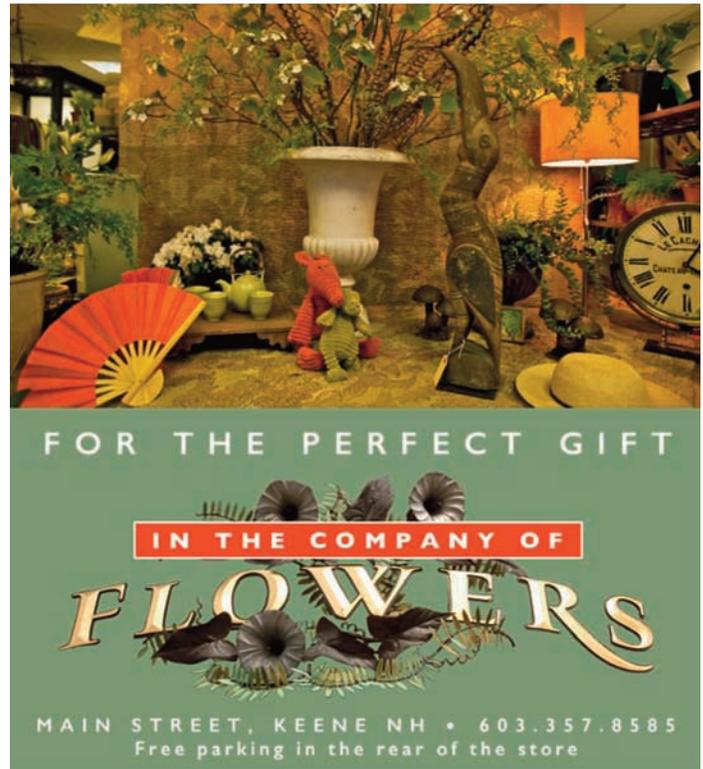
I began to offer him grapes (which he loved), sunflower seeds, and an occasional shelled acorn. I started to take him outside for several hours a day so he could get used to the wind and outside air temperature. Though I tried not to refer to the squirrel as a pet, since I knew he was a wild animal, I loved him like I did my dog and my cats.

Once he was weaned and acclimated to the outside air, I planned to have him live for several weeks in a large outdoor cage that I made for him on my back porch before setting him free. Since the colder weather was coming on, and his mom had not been around to teach him the survival skills he would need in the wild, I took a very conservative approach. I felt I needed to keep an eye on him and leave acorns in his cage since it might take him awhile to learn how to completely fend for himself.

In late October I opened the door to squirrel's pen at about 10 a.m. After a few minutes of exploring my back porch, he fell off the railing and tumbled about 15 feet into my back yard and promptly ran under the house where he stayed for about 15 minutes. When he reappeared, he discovered the fence surrounding my yard and climbed up. For about an hour, I watched him explore my neighbor's trees, up and down each one, several times sussing out his new turf. Around noon-time, he figured out how to get back up into his outdoor pen and nest box. He said "hi" then jumped onto my arms, went back into his pen, and went to sleep. This was the beginning of a friendship that lasted over three years.

For the curious, I wrote a song and made it into a video called *The Ballad of Little Squirrel*. It can be seen by clicking on:

<http://solomonband.com/Ballad%20Of%20Little%20Squirrel480.mov>



Widow Gage Forest to Little Monadnock and North Meadows

Carol Jameson

In the July edition of the Rooster, Jon Hill and I wrote about our hike in the Widow Gage (Fitzwilliam) Town Forest on the Widow Gage blue loop trail, with an optional extension north on the Widow Gage Road to the Troy town line. We noted the many hikes that are accessible from Widow Gage Town Forest, including the one that connects to the Metacomet-to-Monadnock (M&M) trail north to Little Monadnock, then Gap Mountain, ending at Big Monadnock.

One day in July, my husband Peter and I decided to hike from Widow Gage to Little Monadnock and the North Meadows viewpoint past the Little Monadnock summit with our friends Jennie and Mike Gomarlo.

The hike is a beauty, although it is a longer and steeper hike than the one to the Troy line – about 3 ½

A business card for "Ceremonies from the Heart". It features a red rose illustration and a large heart outline. The text inside the heart lists "Marriages", "Life Celebrations", and "Baptisms". Below the heart, it says "Rev. Bonnie McCarthy, D. Div.", "Richmond, NH 603-239-4088", and "www.ceremoniesfromtheheart.ws".

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or 4 miles with an overall elevation gain of 700 feet, when you count in the walk from the Little Monadnock summit to the North Meadow viewpoint and back. All these trails are well-marked and there is a kiosk with a map of the trails at the parking area.

We parked at the Widow Gage Town Forest parking lot on Rhododendron Road in Fitzwilliam. We entered the mixed hardwood forest at the trail head near the kiosk and, in about one quarter mile, turned right on the well-marked blue loop trail. After ten or so minutes on the blue trail, past the magnificent curved wall on the left, we turned right onto the well-marked orange connector trail. After a short distance on the orange connector trail, we came to the junction of the M&M trail. We turned right on the M&M trail, marked with white blazes, heading north to Little Monadnock.

The M&M trail meanders through the woods for about a mile, a rolling ascent of about 500 feet that is not overly steep, to the Little Monadnock summit. Much of the trail is on a west facing ridge and, while the trees were too high to offer views from the trail, there was a nice breeze for most of the walk. Had the trees not been so thick, I imagine we would have seen

Grassy Hill to the west. On the day we hiked, there were scads of tiny frogs hopping across the trail, most no larger than the size of the fingernail on a thumb.

The summit of Little Monadnock is on a knoll with no view to speak of, just a summit sign marking the elevation at 1883 feet. We continued on the M&M trail past the summit for 15 minutes until we reached the junction with the trail that comes up from Rhododendron State Park. There are nice views of Monadnock here, rock ledge and blueberry bushes, but continue on north, following the white blazes over the rock ledge to reach the viewpoint at North Meadows, about ten minutes further from the Rhododendron Park trail junction. The viewpoint at North Meadows is a fine place to stop and picnic, enjoying the expansive views to the north and northwest.

Back the way we came – returning on the white-blazed M&M trail to the Little Monadnock summit, then descending to the junction with the orange connector trail, taking the orange connector trail to the blue loop trail, turning left on the blue loop trail to go to the Widow Gage Parking lot.

The hike to Little Monadnock on this route, taking Widow Gage trails to the M&M trail, is far and away my favorite trail to the summit. The trail up from Rhododendron State Park is more direct but it is rocky and

steep in places. It is much more heavily trafficked and, like its big sister Mt. Monadnock, some of the trail has been over-hiked to the point where there is little dirt covering some of the boulders. It is still worth a visit and a walk, of course, especially in early- to mid-July when the rhododendron are in bloom. And when you do go to the top of Little Monadnock, be sure to extend the hike the short distance to the north to see the view from North Meadows. The trees grow so fast – don't wait too long or the views may be gone!

Board of Selectmen Minutes

July 27, 2020, Meeting

Selectmen present: Douglas Bersaw and Andrew Wallace. Selectmen absent: William Daniels. Non-Board member present: Susan Harrington.

Meeting opened at 5:30 p.m.

Bersaw moved; Wallace 2nd; Board voted to approve the manifest dated July 27, 2020, for payroll accounts payable in the amount of \$32,593.04 for the week of July 17, 2020-July 23, 2020. This amount includes the monthly stipend payroll and First Responder Stipends.

Bersaw moved; Wallace 2nd; Board voted to sign notice in agreement to work with Southwest Regional Planning Commission on the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Wallace moved; Bersaw 2nd; Board approved Pistol Permit #R698920.

Wallace moved; Bersaw 2nd; Board approved Building Permit for Map 408 Lot 082.

The State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation driveway permit for Map 407 Lot 079. Reviewed.

Librarian Wendy O'Brien submitted an update on the COVID procedures for the Library. Read.

Received water test results for Cass Pond. Reviewed. Harrington to contact Parks and Recreation Commission for follow up questions.

Reviewed monthly meeting schedule for August and September.

The Law Offices of Steven E. Gill submitted documents in reference to Industrial Tower and Wireless, LLC. Read.

Andrew Wallace signed letter to SAM (Systems Award Management) to assign the Point of Contacts as Susan Harrington, Town Administrator and Jennifer Thompson, Administrative Assistant.

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Appointments

Road Agent Buddy Blood met with the Board to provide update.

Lisa Hedenberg and Karen O'Brien met with the Board and spoke regarding a scholarship for a Richmond graduate in 2021 from the donations received by the Agricultural Commissions, with the Board to discuss COVID-19 restrictions for the Agricultural Bazaar in August.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Harrington.

August 3, 2020, Meeting

Selectmen present: Douglas Bersaw and Andrew Wallace. Selectmen absent: William Daniels. Non-Board member present: Susan Harrington.

Meeting opened at 5:30 p.m.

Amendment to July 27, 2020, minutes that read: Wallace moved; Bersaw 2nd; Board approved Building Permit for Map 408 Lot 082. The Map should have been Map 402 not 408.

Wallace moved; Bersaw 2nd; Board voted to approve the manifest dated August 3, 2020, for payroll/accounts payable in the amount of \$ 141,581.46 for the week of July 24, 2020-July 30, 2020. This amount

includes the monthly payment in the amount of \$126,000.00 to Monadnock Regional School District.

Bersaw moved; Wallace 2nd; Board approved the following abatements: Map 202 Lot 027 Sub 038 in the amount of \$44.00; Map 202 Lot 027 Sub 009 in the amount of \$17.00; and Map 202 Lot 027 Sub 005 in the amount of \$23.00.

The State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation driveway permit for Map 405 Lot 005. Reviewed.

Letter received from Richmond resident regarding the beach. Read.

Resident submitted a business card received from Hubb66 – a Fiber & Wireless Internet Sendee.

Copy of a letter from GZA Geoenvironmental, Inc. regarding a Statutory Permit-by-Notification of 379 Transmission Line Right-of-Way. Reviewed.

Board is following up on a previous Zoning Violation Map 407 Lot 040. Board also discussed Zoning Violations Map 408 Lot 102.

Appointments

James Harper met with the Board to discuss signs posted and complained of noise/party from a house being built near him. Mr. Harper also asked for information regarding education funding.

Jerry Cote met with the Board to discuss the beavers on Tully Brook Road.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Harrington

August 10, 2020, Meeting

Selectmen present: Douglas Bersaw and Andrew Wallace
Selectmen absent: William Daniels
Non-Board member present: Susan Harrington.

Meeting opened at 5:30 p.m.

Bersaw moved; Wallace 2nd; Board voted to approve the manifest dated August 10, 2020. for payroll/accounts payable in the amount of \$ 12,087.32 for the week of July 31, 2020-August 6, 2020.

Bersaw moved; Wallace 2nd; Board approved abatement in the amount of \$.50 for Map 201 Lot 026.
Wallace moved; Bersaw 2nd; Board approved Occupancy Permit for Map 405 Lot 020.

Wallace moved; Bersaw 2nd; Board approved raffle permit from the members of the Richmond Fire Department to benefit the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Bersaw moved; Wallace 2nd; Board approved Intent to Cut for Map 408 Lots 001 and 002.

Wallace moved; Bersaw 2nd; Board approved the

following:

Appointments to the Inspector of the Elections: Karen Daugherty, Richard Drew, Jonathan Bloom, Stanley Pogorzelski, Lisa Traeger, and Christopher “Brad” Grinstead. Appointments expire July 31, 2022.

Letter from the State of N.H. Department of Transportation to advise the Town of Richmond will be receiving \$55,755.49 in 2021(July 2020-April 2021) for the Highway Block Grant.

Letter from the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Sendees reference Map 413 Lot 011 Confirmation of Complete Forestry Statutory Permit-by-Notification (RSA482-A). Read.

Letter from resident regarding the beach received. Harrington to follow up with resident.

Letter of resignation from Ann Lauretti from the Agricultural Commission received. Read.

Appointments

Antoinette Cincotta met with the Board regarding the minutes from the July 15, 2020, public hearing regarding the Special Exception for a cell tower reference Map 407 Lot

Amanda Grinstead met with the Board to advise that she was misquoted in the minutes of the July 15th Public Hearing regarding the Special Exception for a cell tower reference Map 407 Lot 095.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Harrington.



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on Athol Road

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Registering to vote and voting in person at 2020 elections may pose a health risk to some due to the COVID-19 health emergency. You may register and vote by absentee (by mail) if:

- You are ill due to COVID-19, or caring for someone with COVID-19/symptoms; or
- You are concerned that registering or voting in person will expose you or others to COVID-19.

The term “disability” in the election law extends to these circumstances. Even if you do not consider yourself a person with disability in other circumstances, this term applies for registering to vote and voting in 2020. The opportunity to register and vote absentee due to disability from COVID-19 will apply in 2020, regardless of the future development of the public health crisis. You must sign the “disability” affidavit on the forms for absentee registration and absentee voting.

REGISTERING ABSENTEE (BY MAIL)

You may request absentee voter registration forms and instructions from your clerk before requesting an absentee ballot. Supervisors of the Checklist must review and approve your application. They are required to meet on a date 6 to 13 days before the September 8, 2020 primary and again before the November 3, 2020 general election. Unless the supervisors hold voluntary sessions before then, the supervisors will review your application at that meeting. You are registered to vote when the supervisors approve the application.

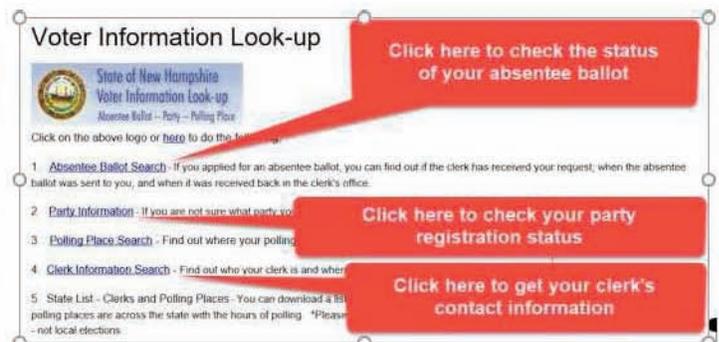
If you request an absentee ballot and are not registered, the clerk will send you both your absentee ballot and your absentee voter registration forms and instructions.

VOTING ABSENTEE (BY MAIL)

Request your absentee ballot from your town/city clerk as early as possible. An Absentee Ballot Application can be downloaded from: <http://sos.nh.gov/ElecForms2.aspx> See below for how to obtain your Clerk’s contact information.

If you are returning your completed absentee ballot by US Mail, the clerk must receive it by 5:00 p.m. on election day. To increase the likelihood the absentee ballot arrives on time and assist with an expected high volume of absentee ballots, we recommend mailing it at least two weeks before the election. After 5 days, check the Voter Information lookup, Absentee Ballot link, to see if your clerk has received the ballot. Contact your clerk if your ballot has not been received. You may also deliver it to the clerk’s office in-person or by a delivery agent until 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election. A delivery agent may deliver it to the clerk at the polling place until 5 p.m. on election day. Family members, nursing home and elder care facility administrators, and a person assisting a voter with a disability who signs the absentee ballot affidavit (limited to delivering ballots for 4 voters) may be a delivery agent. See RSA 657:17: <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/LXIII/657/657-17.htm>

Find your clerk’s contact information, your party membership status, or the status of your absentee ballot request here: <http://sos.nh.gov/>



Please Note: To use the following 2 pages, simply cut them out of The Rooster, fill in the blanks and send them in to the Town Clerk’s office.



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Application for State Election Absentee Ballot-RSA 657:4

Absence (Excluding Absence Due to Residence Outside the United States), Religious Observance, Concern for the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), and Disability

2020 COVID-19 Application

For Official Use Only
Voter Not registered

Voter ID#

Date Returned: / /

Date Mailed: / /

Date Requested: / /

Last Name: _____
First Name: _____

I. I hereby declare that (check one):

- I am a duly qualified voter who is currently registered to vote in this town/ward.
- I am absent from the town/city where I am domiciled and will be until after the next election, or I am unable to register in person due to a disability or concern for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), and request that the forms necessary for absentee voter registration be sent to me with the absentee ballot.

II. I will be entitled to vote by absentee ballot because (check one):

- I plan to be absent on the day of the election from the city, town, or unincorporated place where I am domiciled.
- I cannot appear in public on election day because of observance of a religious commitment.
- I am unable to vote in person due to a disability.
- I am unable to vote in person due to concern for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).
- I cannot appear at any time during polling hours at my polling place because of an employment obligation. For the purposes of this application, the term "employment" shall include the care of children and infirm adults, with or without compensation.

Any person who votes or attempts to vote using an absentee ballot who is not entitled to vote by absentee ballot shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. RSA 657:24

III. I am requesting an official absentee ballot for the following election(s):

- *State Primary Election to be held on September 8, 2020.
- State General Election to be held on November 3, 2020

***For primary elections, I am a member of or I am now declaring my affiliation with the (check one):**

- Republican Party
- Democratic Party

and am requesting a ballot for that party's primary.

Turn Over – You Must Complete Page 2



IV. Applicant's Name (Please Print):

Last Name First Name Middle Name (Jr., Sr., II,III)

Applicant's Voting Domicile (**home**) Address:

Street Number Street Name Apt/Unit City/Town Ward Zip Code

Mail the ballot to me at this address (**if different than the above home address**)

Street or PO Box # Street name Apt/Unit City/Town State Zip Code

Applicant's Phone Number: (_____) _____ - _____
(Cell phone or number where you can be contacted prior to and on election day is preferred.)

Applicant's Email Address: _____@_____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date Signed: _____

The applicant must sign this form to receive an absentee ballot. Any person who witnesses and assists a voter with a disability in executing this form shall print and sign his or her name in the space provided on the application form.

I attest that I assisted the applicant in executing this form because he/she has a disability.

Signature _____ Print Name _____

Mail/fax/or hand deliver this completed form to your local City/Town Clerk.

For local clerk addresses and fax numbers: <https://app.sos.nh.gov> – Click on “Clerk Information Search” tab.

Visit the web site: <https://app.sos.nh.gov/Public/AbsenteeBallot.aspx> to track your absentee ballot. You may verify receipt of your application, obtain the date when your absentee ballot was mailed to you, the date the clerk receives your completed absentee ballot, and after the election learn if your absentee ballot was rejected/not counted and why. Contact your clerk if you have questions regarding the information on the “Voter Information Look-up / Absentee Ballot Search” site.

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The RICHMOND ROOSTER

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Town Business Hours

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Mon. 9 AM – 12 PM, 3 – 7 PM, 5:30 – 7 PM for business
7 PM – ? for public concerns)

Wed. 9 AM – 1 PM

Thurs. 9 AM – 12 NOON (unless posted)

Public is welcome to attend. Please call for an
appointment if you have an item for the agenda.

Town Administrator: Susan Harrington

Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Thompson

Town Clerk: Annette Tokunaga

Deputy Town Clerk: Martine Imon

Mon. 9 AM – 12 NOON, 1 – 4 PM, 6 – 8 PM

Wed. 9 – 12 noon, 1 – 4 PM, Thurs. 9 AM – 12 NOON

Tax Collector: Steve Boscarino

Deputy Tax Collector: Ann Dea Whippen

Mon. 6 PM – 8 PM, Wed. 9 AM – 12 NOON

Planning Board:

Meetings held at Veterans Hall.

1st Tues. of the month – 7:30 PM

and 3rd Tues. if needed

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Sat. 8 AM – 5 PM

Town Library: Wendy O'Brien, Librarian, 239-6164.

Tues. 3 PM – 7 PM, Wed. 9 AM – 12 NOON

Thurs. 3 PM – 7 PM, Sat. 10 AM – 2 PM

Police (Non Emergency): 355-2000

Fire/Rescue (Non Emergency): 239-4466

Fire Warden: Ed Atkins, 392-2027

Selectmen – 239-4232

Town Clerk – 239-6202

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Road Agent: Elton "Buddy" Blood, II – 400-3629

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