



The

Richmond Rooster

Something to Crow
About

February 2023

Our Valentine

Mackenzie Clark, age 10, hand-drew the beautiful Valentine below. Mackenzie, we congratulate you! You are the winner of the *Richmond Rooster's* "Best Valentine by a Child Contest!"

More to follow in our March issue...



The DiLuzio Dilemma

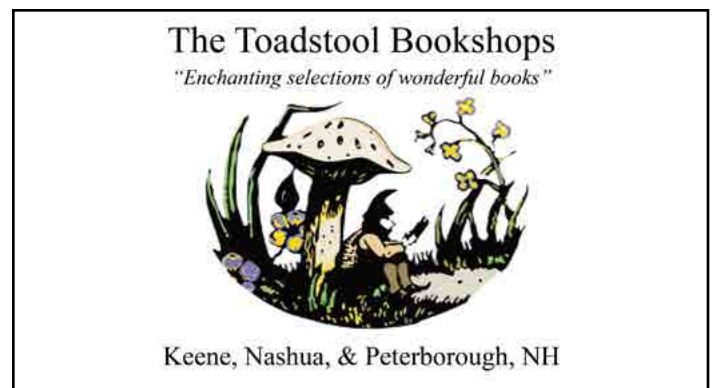
Fran Heap

The Three Visits: Visit #1

Prior to the opening of the January 9th Selectmen's meeting, the three Selectmen had a last-minute guest, State Representative Jennifer Rhodes. Rep. Rhodes arrived at 5:25 PM to discuss an IRS letter sent to the New Hampshire legislators and municipalities. She explained no invoice payments could be made to DiLuzio Ambulance Service ("DiLuzio's") until the IRS lifts its levy. She advised the legislature is monitoring the situation, because public access to emergency medical services ("EMS") could be adversely affected.

The Three Visits: Visit #2

It was only five minutes later when in walked Rob DiLuzio, Jr., along with another representative of DiLuzio's, Tyler Boucher. They provided the Selectmen with statistical charts of DiLuzio's call response rate to Richmond during 2022, as well as written answers to frequently asked questions. In 2022, our little town had 67 calls answered by DiLuzio's, with an average response time of 11.5 minutes. Breathing problems, motor vehicle accidents, and falls topped the list of reasons why Richmond residents needed EMS.





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The Selectmen expressed concern about the IRS levy and the potential for DiLuzio's to file for bankruptcy. DiLuzio's has hired a new medical billing company to improve billing efficiency and has worked with the regional mutual aid system to more correctly categorize EMS calls, so paramedics are not sent out unnecessarily. DiLuzio's will no longer handle costly interfacility transfers which tied up ambulances and paramedics for hours as patients increasingly were forced to go out-of-state for care, i.e., to Albany, Providence, Bridgeport, and Springfield.

Rob Jr. gave a history of what led up to the IRS levy: COVID-19 slowed the processing of Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements owed to DiLuzio's. His parents, owners Linda and Bob DiLuzio, Sr., put their personal assets into the business to keep the ambulance company afloat in anticipation of those reimbursements. Those personal assets were incorrectly characterized on tax returns, leading the IRS to believe DiLuzio's profits were higher than declared. Rob Jr. assured the Selectmen that DiLuzio's had hired a new accountant and a new legal team to straighten the IRS mess out. He expected the IRS levy to be lifted in days.

When asked why Richmond should stay with DiLuzio's, Rob Jr. replied that DiLuzio's:

- had demonstrated its commitment to the community for over 70 years;
- offered patient care second to none;
- continued to support and fund EMS training, with online classes and low cost Emergency Medical Technician classes held in Keene.

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From a friend on Athol Road

Selectmen Daniels commented DiLuzio's service and price (approximately \$12,000 per year) were great. Selectmen Wallace expressed his relief that DiLuzio's clearly had a plan to go forward. Rob Jr. pointed out that, although our three year contract includes allowance for a 3% increase, DiLuzio's has not exercised that option. Richmond's contract auto-renews unless cancelled in writing. There stands a reciprocity agreement between the City of Keene and DiLuzio's to cover each other's primary customers, an agreement which has allowed Keene to act as DiLuzio's back-up to Richmond. The Three Visits: Visit #3

At 6:30 PM, representatives of Cheshire County EMS ("CC EMS") arrived to make their pitch: Chief Mike Spain, Chris Coates, and Chad Butler. CC EMS has purchased three ambulances and has three on order. It is expected that four ambulances will be dedicated to emergencies and two for interfacility transfers. Traveling nurses and paramedics will be charged rent to sleep at the new facility in Swanzey. CC EMS currently has 32 staff and will hire as additional needs arise. CC EMS is the primary interfacility transporter for Cheshire Medical Center. CC EMS received a \$200,000 grant to hire an EMS educator in the area; training will be customized. To date, CC EMS has applied for \$14 million in grants and is willing to assist its customers with grant applications. Chief Mike has a goal to average nine minutes response time for each call. He is excited about Pulsepoint, a cell phone app which locates nearby AEDs. He envisions increased use of paramedic "fly cars" which would be used to

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send one paramedic out to treat a patient who does not require transport by ambulance. CC EMS has already paid for its Swansey facility, its ambulances, and its equipment. At this point, CC EMS only needs to pay for staffing (probably 55 staff) and equipment replacement.



New Cheshire County EMS Facility. Photo by Alan Conklin

In 2023, Richmond would be charged \$10.95 per person; this price would rise to \$18.25 in 2025, because the federal government is only subsidizing CC EMS for three years. CC EMS expects to charge Richmond roughly \$23,000 per year. Chief Mike asked, if Richmond decided to stay with DiLuzio's, that it add CC EMS to its "run card", so CC EMS could be back-up when Keene could not. Richmond Fire Chief Ed Atkins explained that Richmond has no mutual agreement for EMS services, only for fire, so setting up run cards would be necessary.

CC EMS believes it will cost \$400,000 a year to run one ambulance and is relying on interfacility transfers to make money. It is likely that CC EMS will cost Richmond 2.5 times as much as DiLuzio's, with 92 emergency calls and 60 transport calls anticipated each year. CC EMS must allocate its grant money by 2024 and spend it by 2026. It is currently looking to place an ambulance on standby at the county nursing home in Westmoreland.

Per Ed Atkins, Fitzwilliam would charge Richmond \$90,000 per year if Richmond decides not to use DiLuzio's nor CC EMS. Chief Ed reminded everyone that it was only 20 years ago that Richmond had to take a chance on DiLuzio's when it decided not to use Winchester EMS anymore.

After the CC EMS representatives left at 7:30 PM, the Selectmen spoke for twenty minutes with some of the Richmond volunteer firefighters present about their experiences as part-time employees of both ambulance services. The firefighters reported positive experiences, and no firefighter has experienced any delays in receiving a paycheck. In fact, DiLuzio's has actively been hiring new staff over the past two months. Richmond is still covered for EMS services by its contract with DiLuzio's. The Selectmen hope to hear from DiLuzio's about its situation with the IRS within 30 days. Concern was expressed about joining a regional entity, like CC EMS, where Richmond might be expected to pick up a larger percentage of costs than fair for its use. Selectmen Bersaw noted that both ambulance services offer "jump out" clauses, so Richmond can terminate its contract with either service at any time.

To update, on January 16th, during a phone call I had with Rob Jr., he reported the IRS levy on DiLuzio's had been lifted on Friday, January 13th. Richmond selectmen are under less pressure now to decide whether to stay with a well-regarded, low cost, private ambulance service formerly in a financial tug-of-war with the IRS, or to switch to a new regional public service, having access to grants for expansion and EMS education, but costing almost twice as much.

Thank You Susan Harrington

As many of you know, my husband, Steven, was in a motorcycle accident last November. He broke five ribs, had a collapsed lung, and suffered a concussion with three contusions within his brain. He was hospitalized for four days at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. After three follow-up appointments involving CT scans and x-rays, the doctors cleared him of all the restrictions placed on him due to the accident. Currently, he is doing well, only having a small issue with his vision and muscle soreness.

On behalf of my family, we would like to say thank you to everyone who has helped us while Steven was



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recovering. It was beyond belief the amount of support we received from our Richmond family. Thank you for the enormous number of much needed prayers, well wishes, and heartfelt advice. Thank you for the offers we received to help if we needed a ride/pick-up or even to go to the Winchester Transfer Station for us. Thanks to so many of you who took time to ask me how Steven, I or the kids were doing which still means so much even two months later! And, thank you for the delicious food, gas cards, gift cards, money and even a Christmas tree complete with a bird's nest found when we decorated it.



Please know that EVERYTHING you have given us is so appreciated and we will pay it forward.
Sincerely,
Steven, Susan, Erin and Mason Harrington

A Special Thank You to the Richmond Rays of Sunshine 😊 Pam Bielunis

When I decided to organize a group of residents who were willing to help other local individuals, I never thought I would end up being a person who received this amazing kindness. On December 19th, I had surgery and, beginning that day, the Richmond Rays of Sunshine began delivering meals to us. We received a meal every day for two weeks. It was amazing!! A special thank you to Susan and Mark

Lanen, Bridget Murphy, Alison VanBrocklin, Bonnie McCarthy, Fran Heap, Alan Conklin, Mary Silver, Jennifer Thompson, Kathi and Doug Hildreth, Kim Gold, Norma Blair, Karen O'Brien, and Susan Harrington. With the help of these wonderful people, I am now doing well. My husband Al and I thank you.



Richard P. McCarthy

Richard Paul McCarthy, age 84, passed away peacefully on January 5, 2023 at Cheshire Medical Center-Keene, NH with his family nearby after a period of failing health (non-COVID).

He was born in Hartford, CT on July 19, 1938 to Arlene (Ouelette) and Michael McCarthy. He attended Our Lady of Sorrows Elementary School and graduated from Hartford CT Public High School. He was a lifelong sports enthusiast who enjoyed playing golf. His passion for baseball began as a youngster when he pitched a perfect game while attending Our Lady of Sorrows. He served his country in both the Army and Air Force National Guard. He spent most of his working life in the computer field, with a brief hiatus as a West Hartford, CT Firefighter. Upon moving to Richmond, NH, he served the town as Tax Collector and eventually retired from Cheshire Medical Center as a Security Officer.


Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Bonnie (Whitwell) McCarthy, his daughters from his first marriage to Mary (Kearney) McCarthy, Lynn (John) Borkowski of Hudson, FL, and Colleen McCarthy of Bloomfield, CT, and his precious cat, Christopher. His kindness, sense of humor and generosity will be greatly missed by all. Services will be private at the convenience of the family.

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Tuesdays & Thursdays 3-7pm
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 Saturdays 10am-2pm

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Richmond Born and Raised?

The Richmond Historical Society would love to speak with you! Please contact Lenny Solomon by phone at (603) 392-2006 or by email at: lenny@solomonband.com

Join RHS on the Ides of March

Wendy O'Brien

The Richmond Historical Society is pleased to present a series of historical lectures in 2023. Our first will take place on **March 15th at 6:30 PM at the Veterans' Hall** and features Richmond resident Suzen Perry discussing genealogical research. Suzen has been studying genealogy for the past 10 years. Although she has taken several classes on the subject, she is largely self-taught. To date, she has discovered over 5,000 direct descendants in her family tree. She has found relatives born in England, several of whom sailed on the Mayflower, as well as others who fought in the Revolutionary War. Her talk will discuss some of the basic tools used in genealogical research, as well as the joy in finding your roots.

Future lecture offerings include archaeologist Professor Robert Goodby, "Digging into Native History in New Hampshire" on May 17th and historian Steve Taylor, "One Room Schoolhouses" on July 19th. Stay tuned for information on additional lectures in September and October.

Library News

Wendy O'Brien

Library Calendar for February

Saturdays, 10 AM-Noon: Drop-in Knitting Circle;

12:30 PM-2 PM: Macrame Club

Wednesdays, 10 AM: Storytime

Special Events

Tuesday, February 14th, 6 PM: Book Group, *The Language of Flowers*

Wednesday, February 22nd, 10 AM: School Vacation Snow Party

Tuesday, February 28th, 6 PM: LEGO Club

Book Club: *The Language of Flowers*

Our Tuesday Book Club will be meeting on February 14th at 6 PM to discuss *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. A Goodreads nominee for best fiction in 2011, this contemporary novel focuses on a troubled young woman who finds solace in helping others through the flowers she chooses for them.

School Vacation Snow Party

Join us on Wednesday, February 22nd at 10 AM for a snow party! We'll have craft stations, games, and weather permitting, an outside scavenger hunt. Hot chocolate and snacks will be available.

LEGO Club

This month's LEGO Club will be meeting on Tuesday, February 28th at 6 PM. We won't tell you what this month's challenge is, but here's a hint: **here be monsters!** We'll have your creations on display during March, and, who knows, your creative talents might be featured in a Facebook post.

New Titles

Sea of Tranquility, Emily St. John Mandel

The Candid Life of Meena Dave, Namrata Patel

Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, Gabrielle Zevin

Until Leaves Fall in Paris, Sarah Sundin

Carrie Soto is Back, Taylor Jenkins Reid

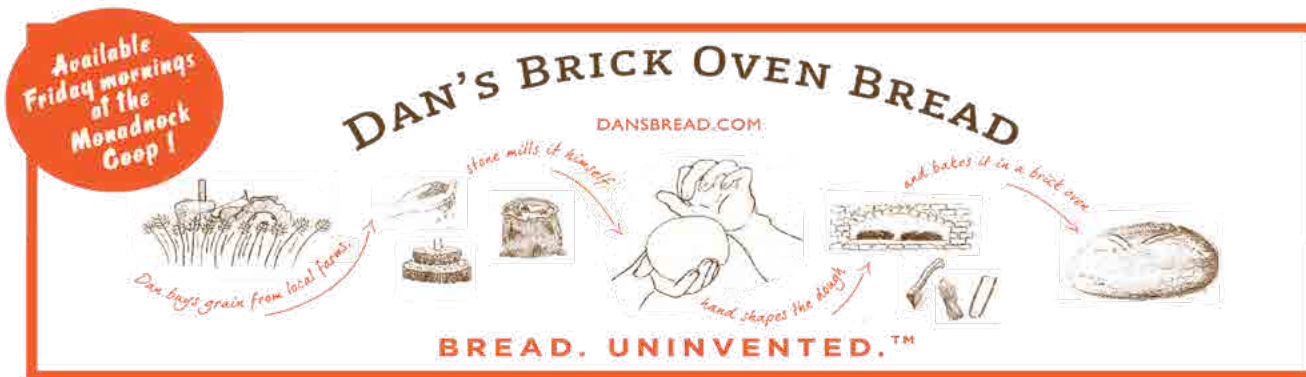
Doggone It!

Karen O'Brien, Town Clerk



It's that time of year again: time to license your dog. You can go online (EB2Gov) and get a license issued if your dog's rabies vaccination is up to date. There is a small additional fee for the transaction. Or, you can come in and visit; we've got dog biscuits for your pooch if you want to bring your well-behaved pet along to say "woof." It is state law that all dogs be licensed, and we receive notification of vaccination from NH veterinarians, so we do know if you have a dog or even a new puppy.

If you have reached your golden years (65 years young), be advised that your first dog license will only cost \$2.00 – what a bargain! Spayed or neutered dogs are \$6.50 and unaltered pets are \$9.00. If you do not make the deadline of April 30th, a \$1.00 fee



per month will be added to your license. Then, after May 31, you will be assessed a civil forfeiture fee which will be hand delivered by the sheriff's office.

As an added incentive, we are having a raffle of dog goodies for all those dogs licensed before April 1st. If you have already licensed your dog, don't worry: your name will be added to the drawing. So, don't delay. Make sure your pet is up-to-date on rabies' shots and come on down to get your dog license!



**New Hampshire
Division of Motor Vehicles**
A Division of the New Hampshire Department of Safety

Town Clerk Tidbits **Karen O'Brien**

There are a lot of nuances to the laws at the DMV. A new one this year is the suspension of registration for E-Z Pass violations. As of January 1st, any vehicle with a violation not paid will not be able to be registered.

This is from Jennifer Gornnert, Supervisor of the MA Help desk at the DMV:

Vehicle with violation will receive a notice and have 30 days to clear Hold. If not cleared:

- Vehicle in violation will receive a single Registration Suspension effective 30 days after DOT Hold;
- Registered owner will owe an E-Z Pass Admin Fine (\$50-\$1,000 based on violation type);
- Registered owner will owe a \$25 restoration fee. (If multiple vehicles have E-Z Pass Holds, a \$25 fee will exist for EACH vehicle);
- Registered owner of vehicle in violation will be unable to:
 - o Renew registration;
 - o Transfer a plate to vehicle in violation;
 - o Obtain a new plate for vehicle in violation OR any other vehicle (to include Temp Plates);

- o Sell/Transfer vehicle in violation to any family member and/or person with the same legal address.

- Please note that the registered owner will be able to process any transactions for additional vehicles owned as long as they do not have E-Z Pass violations/Holds.

There are a lot of questions residents have concerning their vehicles. Every day, I encounter problems, because either people are given erroneous information (whether by a dealer, bank, well-meaning friend or relative, or even law enforcement official), or they do not understand the intricacies of vehicle titling or registration. Moving here from out-of-state adds to the confusion, because we do things differently here in NH. Please remember that all vehicles on the road need to be registered, and all vehicles with a manufacturing date later than 1999 need to be titled, as well. The registration and title MUST match. So, if you have a title in one person's name only, for example, you cannot just add another name to the registration. If you have paid off a lien or changed from a leased vehicle, the DMV needs to be notified of the change. Best practice is to apply for a new title, so there is no issue down the road. *[If you lose the title, for example, the Title Bureau will have no record of the change]*. Signed off titles (from the lease or lien company) should be sent to you. This is your proof that the vehicle belongs to you. Not all states require this, apparently, so be insistent that you get the title, if at all possible. Many states are instituting electronic titles only, so if there's a problem it's harder to fix without backup. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out – preferably by email at obrienrichmondclerk@gmail.com – and I will do my best to address the issues.

If you have a moving violation you have ignored, you can be denied the right to renew your vehicle. If you owe the state money, that can also come into play when you want to renew. If you have bounced a check, the town has the right to refuse to let you renew. So, get your ducks in a row, call or email me if you have questions, and let's get it right the first time!



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Strawberry Cake Mix Cookies Terri O'Rourke

Ingredients

1 box strawberry cake mix
2 eggs
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1 cup white chocolate chips

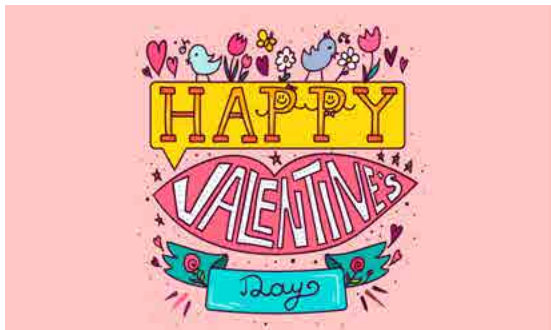
Directions

Preheat oven to 350°F and line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Combine the cake mix, oil, and eggs into a mixing bowl, mixing until a soft dough forms. Add white chocolate chips and fold into dough by hand with a spatula or wooden spoon.

Use a small ice cream scoop or melon-baller to portion out about 1 Tbsp. of dough per cookie. Roll into a ball and place each dough ball on the prepared pan, about 2 inches apart. Bake at 350°F for 8-10 minutes.

When done, take baking sheet out of the oven and let cookies rest for a minute or two on the pan, before transferring to a wire rack to finish cooling. Yields about 3 dozen.

This is a great and easy recipe to do with children!



Community Power for New Hampshire Susan Opal

The New England Union of Concerned Scientists' most recent report singled out New Hampshire as having the worst record for climate-related policies. Analyzing global renewable energy potential, we find that every region on Earth can replace fossil fuels with renewable energy to keep warming below 1.5°C and provide reliable energy access to all. The solutions to this crisis are already in our hands, but what's lacking in New Hampshire is to improve the grid and modernize our energy sources. NH communities pay soaring energy prices, due to over-reliance on natural gas for generating the bulk of our electricity, a lack of forward-looking state energy policies, and outdated electric utility restructuring laws. Energy costs are skyrocketing, and New Hampshire utility customers are paying the price. The solutions to this crisis are already in our hands, but what's lacking is the will to wholeheartedly commit to creating the sustainable and prosperous future the world needs.

Everyone wants access to clean power with lower bills. Community Power can do it for utility customers! This year, NH legislation is addressing Community Power Networks. These towns and cities are located in counties which have signed up for Community Power: Lebanon, Town of Hanover, City of Nashua, Cheshire County, Town of Harrisville, Town of Exeter, Town of Rye, City of Dover, Town of Warner, Town of Walpole, Town of Plainfield, Town of Newmarket, Town of Enfield, Town of Durham, Town of Pembroke, Town of Hudson, Town of Webster,

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In an event held on January 24th, leading proponents, organizers, and providers of Community Power gathered to explain the who, what, when, and how for others to seize this unique opportunity. Community Power gives NH communities control of their energy supply decision-making including access to potentially less costly electricity, development of innovative local energy supply projects, and keeping energy costs local not going to other states' and countries' economies.

The will to commit to creating a sustainable and prosperous future. With such compelling evidence that it's more than possible, transitioning to renewable energy systems is simply a no-brainer. The data to support this conclusion is only growing, with report after report detailing that humans are more than capable of achieving a future free of fossil fuels. Yet, despite the overwhelming research suggesting the world can move away from planet-warming fuels, many fossil fuel projects and proposals continue to move forward. Notably, the report indicates that existing government pledges will not achieve the goal of net zero by 2050 and that transformational changes to our energy systems must begin immediately. In order to limit warming to 1.5°, the International Energy Agency is significantly ramping up clean energy technologies, deployment, and innovation.

The Richmond Energy Committee was started in 2007 by a small group of renewable energy enthusiasts interested in networking and learning about sustainable building and applications. If you are interested in joining us, please email us at: susanopalwyatt@gmail.com

Richmond Historical Society

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**Connecticut River
Conservancy**

18 River Restoration Projects Completed in 2022 by Connecticut River Conservancy

Kathy Urffer

Rivers are healthier and more resilient thanks to restoration initiatives along Connecticut River.



Greenfield, MA [1/3/23] — As we begin the New Year and reflect on last year's accomplishments, we are happy to share that Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) completed over 18 river restoration projects throughout 4 states of the Connecticut River Watershed (NH, VT, MA, & CT) in 2022. From dam removals to tree planting, we take a holistic approach to implementing



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initiatives that prioritize protecting clean water, restoring natural river flow, and improving wildlife habitat. Through CRC's dedication to social impact, these initiatives further benefit local economies by purchasing from local plant nurseries and employing construction crews, seasonal planting teams, engineering and design firms, and others who help these projects to life.

"Restoration efforts for the Connecticut River and its tributaries are incredibly important for maintaining clean water and healthy habitat," said Ron Rhodes, Interim Executive Director at CRC. "These projects create a long-lasting impact for both people and wildlife, and are made possible thanks to our donors and the incredible dedication of our team and partnerships throughout the four states of the Connective River basin. We look forward to continuing to build upon these accomplishments in 2023 and beyond."

The river restoration projects completed by CRC in 2022 are:

- 3 dam removals: Including removing two remnant dams on the mainstem of the Connecticut in Guildhall, VT and Colebrook, NH and one obsolete dam on the Ompompanoosuc River in Post Mills/Thetford, VT.
- 1 floodplain forest project: Using an innovative approach to restore 10 acres of former hay-field to floodplain forest on the Johnson Farm Wildlife Management Area in Canaan, VT.
- 11 tree planting projects: Planting a total of 9,600 trees along rivers in 10 towns including Bath,

- Colebrook, Lisbon and Lyme, NH; Lyndon, Norwich, Townsend, West Windsor, and Windham, VT; as well as Hartford, CT.
- 3 projects for invasive species removal and prevention: Consisting of dozens of regional events throughout the summer months in Massachusetts and Connecticut.



The removal of the two remnant dams this year have eliminated hazards for boaters and paddlers using the Connecticut River Paddlers Trail or others recreating locally on the river. Removal of the obsolete mill dam opened 19 miles of river for the first time in 150 years by removing a barrier that prevented fish and other aquatic life to pass freely upstream. The floodplain forest project restored 10 acres of rare and specialized habitat

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 the freedom of the press,
 and that cannot be limited
 without being lost"**

Thomas Jefferson

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Chip Adams

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that helps wildlife and allows floodwaters to slow and spread out naturally during storms. CRC's tree planting projects across 21 acres will improve water quality and wildlife habitat along more than 8,100 feet of stream.

CRC is also partnering with State staff and others across the watershed to tackle aquatic invasive plants. Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), considered the most destructive submerged aquatic invasive plant in many southern states, now threatens the ecological and economic viability of the Connecticut River. Hydrilla was first found in the Connecticut River in 2016. This season, CRC and partners used benthic barrier mats to suppress its growth at a site in Cromwell, CT. Benthic barriers are roughly 10x50ft mats placed on the river bottom in the spring and weighed down with rebar. They can be removed after 4-6 weeks and have been found to be an effective tool for managing the growth of hydrilla at specific sites.

Another aquatic invasive plant found in the watershed is water chestnut (*Trapa natans*). It is fast growing and quickly reproducing. If left unattended, it will easily cover an entire waterbody with its rosettes. Each rosette can produce 15 to 20 seeds, which are viable for up to 12 years. Monitoring water chestnut spread annually is vital. Since 2019, CRC has taken the lead on the removal efforts for water chestnut in Connecticut and Massachusetts. This work couldn't have been possible without 50 participating organizations, businesses, and agencies that collaborated with us. In 2022, the effort brought in 230 hard working

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volunteers to participate in water chestnut pulls in CT and MA. Together, over 2,110 person hours were contributed to the effort of removing 900,000 rosettes or 97,000 lbs. of water chestnut via hand pulling events led by volunteers, and mechanical removal events led by CRC and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

CRC thanks our many partners: Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust, Connecticut Agricultural Experimentation Station, Friends of Whalebone Cove, Intervale Conservation Nursery, Jonah Center for Earth and Art, New England Wetland Plants, Newbury Conservation Commission, Northwoods Stewardship Center, Passumpsic Valley Land Trust, Redstart Forestry, River Park Estates, Friends of the Silvio O. Conte Refuge and Friends of Fannie Stebbins Memorial Refuge, Chicopee 4Rivers, SWCA Environmental Consultants, Appalachian Mountain Club, Friends of Forge Pond, Broad Brook Coalition, Nashawannuck Pond Association, Beseck Lake Association, Massachusetts Aubuchon, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, and private landowners; and funders including our generous CRC donors, City of Middletown, Community Foundation of Middlesex County, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's Sestero Fund, Holyoke Gas and Electric, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, One Tree Planted, PUR Project, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, and Watersheds United Vermont.

While these projects are examples of what CRC was able to implement this field season, the organization has many more in planning and design. All of these restoration projects require grant funding and multiple years of planning work to accomplish. If you are interested in exploring projects to enhance our rivers on your land, or supporting our overall work, don't hesitate to reach out to CRC. Email restoration@ctriver.org.

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**January 9, 2023 Meeting of
Board of Selectmen
(Draft Minutes, pending Approval)**

Selectmen present: William Daniels, Douglas Bersaw and Andrew Wallace

Administration Present: Jennifer Thompson and Susan Harrington

Public Present: Fran Heap, Ed Atkins, Rob Skrocki, Andy Pearsall, Spencer Heise and Mike Bailey.

Meeting opened at 5:31 pm

Bersaw moved; Wallace 2nd; Board voted to approve the manifest dated January 9, 2023 for week of December 30, 2022-January 5, 2023 in the amount of: \$13,315.43 for payroll/accounts payable.

Daniels moved; Bersaw 2nd; Board approved Building Permit for Map 402 Lot 081.

Wallace moved; Daniels 2nd; Board approved the Intent to Cut for Map 405 Lots 100, 109, 110, and 111.

Board discussed the job description for the Land Use Assistant position.

Board discussed garage doors for the new building at the Town Shed. Board approved estimate from Keene Doors for \$11,288.76.

Board discussed the 2023 Holiday/Town Hall Closed dates.

New Hampshire Department of Transportation Driveway Permit received for the following: Map 408 Lot 087-Temporary Logging, Map 402 Lot 077-Residential Subdivision

New Hampshire Department of Environmental



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Services regarding Restoration Plan approval for Map 407 Lot 018.

Email received from Winchester Town Administrator, Karey Miner regarding a meeting between the Winchester Selectmen and
[this portion of the minutes to be completed upon review and approval of Selectmen]

New Hampshire State Representative for District 15 Jennifer Rhoades met with the Board to discuss ambulance services.

Rob Diluzio, Jr. and Tyler Boucher of Diluzio Ambulance met with the Board to discuss the Ambulance Contract for 1/1/2023-12/31/2026. The topics discussed were but not limited to; training, response time, service agreements with other towns, and future billing and growth. Rob Skrocki represented the Richmond Fire Department. A copy of the Proposed Diluzio Ambulance Contract for 2023-2026 is attached to these minutes. Board has agreed to wait for and discuss again at the Monday, January 23rd meeting.

Mark and April Beal met with the Board to discuss the zoning options for Map 202 Lot 056. Board advised to contact Zoning Compliance Officer, Richard Drew to clarify if it is a nonconforming lot.

Mike Spain, Chris Coates and Chad Butler from Cheshire County Emergency Medical met with the Board to discuss the Ambulance Contract for 1/1/2023-12/31/2026. The topics discussed were but not limited to; training, response time, service agreements with other towns, and future billing and growth. Rob Skrocki represented the Richmond Fire Department. A copy of the Proposed County of Cheshire EMS Contract is

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attached to these minutes. Board has agreed to wait and discuss again at the Monday, January 23rd meeting.

Jen Duda from the Richmond Parks and Recreation Commission and Megan Brousseau met with the Board to introduce a new member for the Parks and Recreation, Megan Brousseau. Jen mentioned that the skating rink has been filled with water and ready for skating! Skating rink is located at the basketball court at the Fire Department. Bersaw moved; Wallace 2nd Board approved the appointment of Megan Brousseau to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Term to expire on 03/31/2026.

Wallace moved; Daniels 2nd; the Board voted to enter into nonpublic under RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

Roll Call: Daniels (Y), Bersaw (Y), and Wallace (Y). Non-Public session was entered at 7:50 pm.

Bersaw moved; Wallace 2nd; the Board voted to reconvene Public session. Roll call: Daniels (Y), Bersaw (Y), Wallace (Y). Public session was reconvened at 8:15pm.

Wallace moved; Daniels 2nd; the Board voted to SEAL the minutes. Roll call: Daniels (Y), Bersaw (Y), Wallace (Y). Minutes have been sealed.

Board discussed the area town definition of "STRUCTURE".

Board discussed the renovation of the Taylor/Van Brocklin Building. Board will table the idea for the future.

Board discussed 3 estimates for security system for Town Hall. Selectman Wallace contacted Monadnock Security for another estimate for a security system for the Town Hall. Monadnock Security has offered to donate the equipment to the Town and a charge of \$250.00 annually for monitoring. Board voted to go with Monadnock Security for services.

Harrington confirmed with Board, ok for Road Agent

A Friend On Granite Hill Road

to buy springs for town truck. Harrington asked Board about 2022 bills paid in 2023, will contact NHMA to clarify the encumbrance of funds.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Harrington

[Editor's Note: Due to space constraints, no attachments to these draft minutes will be included in this Rooster issue.]



January 23rd Storm

Renée Murphy

The wet heavy snow that started on Sunday night left many residents without Power, Internet and Cell signal early Monday morning and for some of us the whole week and more. Trees and lines were down everywhere. I wanted to share my appreciation for all the people who worked so hard to get us up and running and safe again. I wish I knew all their names and where they were from but they all put in a lot of hours. FB group Richmond Grumblings page was a great way to share updates on power progress, roads closed, where to get public wifi and with Ed Atkins answering questions about how to get help. Refilling for my generator at Kulicks I ran into people all with a good attitude making the best of the situation. One guy said "Well, at least we aren't like Buffalo." If you have any pictures you would like to share, send them on to *the Rooster!*

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Wires Down on Whipple Hill. Photo by Renée Murphy



Snow Fall. Photo by Alan Conklin



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Town Administration

Selectmen: William Daniels, Doug Bersaw, Andrew Wallace

Selectmen Meeting at Town Hall – Mon. 5:30 P.M.
Public is welcome to attend. Please call 239-4232 for an appointment if you have an item for the agenda.

Town Administrator: Susan Harrington
Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Thompson

Mon. 9 AM – Noon, 3 PM – 5:30 PM
Wed. 9 AM – 1 PM
Thurs. 9 AM – Noon

For town business outside of the above hours, please call 239-4232 for a Monday evening appointment.

Town Clerk: Karen O'Brien

Deputy Town Clerk:

Tues. 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM
Wed. 9 AM - Noon & 1 PM - 4 PM
Thur. 8 AM - Noon

For Tues. appointments (5 PM, 5:30 PM, 6 PM), call 239-6202 or email the clerk.

Tax Collector: Steve Boscarino

Deputy Tax Collector: Mary Rogers

Mon. 6 PM – 8 PM, Wed. 9 AM – Noon

Planning Board: Meetings held at Veterans Hall.
1st Tues. of the month – 7:30 PM and 3rd Tues. if needed

Transfer Station and Recycling Facility: 239-8136

Tues. 8 AM – 4 PM, Thurs. 8 AM – 7 PM
Sat. 8 AM – 5 PM

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

Tues. 3 PM – 7 PM, Wed. 9 AM – 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

Fire Permit: Buzz Shaw, 239-4238

Selectmen – 239-4232

Town Clerk – 239-6202

Tax Collector – 239-6106

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

Building Maint.: James Nolan, 239-3353

Zoning Compliance Officer: Richard Drew

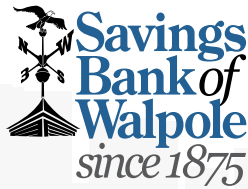
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