

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

As directed by the board of selectmen, in addition to the routine duties associated with the operation of our local government the town office worked on the following projects during 2007:

Edward and Elaine Brown 323 Center of Town Road: The town office's role in this federal fugitive from justice issue was focused primarily on dealing as best we could with the national spotlight and assisting our Police Department in assuring town residents that all that could be done was being done to reach a resolution of this matter. To a large extent that town's options in this extraordinary case were quite limited. We did communicate regularly with the Federal Marshall's Service and our elected representatives about the need to resolve the matter as quickly and efficiently as possible. Enough good things cannot be said about the way our Police Department did its job throughout this difficult summer. The leadership that Chief Gillens demonstrated during this event was exceptional. Likewise, the nearly endless patience and common sense that Center of Town Road residents displayed in cautiously going about their lives as best they could while allowing the federal authorities to successfully complete their work also contributed greatly to the safe and reasonable resolution of this matter.

Property Assessment Update: The town entered into a competitive bid for a required update of our 2003 assessments (cities/town's are required by the state constitution to update assessments every five years). Three proposals were received and the contract was awarded to Avitar Associates of Chichester, NH. Avitar was the low bidder for the work, and they also have the experience of having done the town's 2003 full revaluation. The update work began in late 2007 and will continue until mid summer 2008. All property owners will be given notice of their new valuations and an opportunity to meet with Avitar appraisers and discuss their new valuations.

Brook Road: Late in 2007 the initial work on the Willow Brook Road project began with mitigation work to a small slide area near the Meriden Covered Bridge. The first phase of the main project will begin in the summer of 2008.

River Road: The town was able to obtain FEMA assistance in the amount of \$35,000 to repair a slide on the river bank south of the River Cemetery. We worked throughout the summer with the affected landowners, local river conservation groups and the New Hampshire Wetlands Bureau to design a repair that is reasonable and utilizing sound conservation practices. The actual repair work should begin in the spring of 2008.

Vernon Hood Map Update: Thanks to the extraordinary talents of local artist David Smith the town office was able to have the much used and loved "Vernon Hood Map" updated. The map has a unique style that is very informative, but also distinctive from the multitude of computer drawn street maps that are widely available. This is the third time in its history that the map has been updated. This latest version represents an entire redrawing of the map. The timing of this work has allowed us to combine this project with the Service Memorial capital campaign.

Service Memorial: The capital campaign for this important civic project was started and continues at this time. To date we have raised about \$12,000 in local donations and we hope with another \$8,000 in cash assistance and in kind donations we will be in a strong position to construct the memorial during the summer of 2008.

Welcome to Plainfield Signs: Late in the year ten new signs welcoming visitors to our town and various village areas were installed around town. The signs represent the work of a "sign committee" appointed by the selectboard. Determining the design, location and number of signs was an interesting exercise that took far more time and energy than was anticipated, however, the final result has been well received.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran
Town Administrator