

## Selectboard Report for Fiscal Year 2007

**Personnel:** The year saw many changes in both elected and appointed personnel. Ken Alden, who had retired effective July 5, 2006, after forty-four years of service to the Highway Department, died July 14, 2007. On August 14, 2006, Marcel Varney, who had been made acting Fire Chief on April 2, 2006, was appointed Fire Chief. A new town accountant, Tracey Baronas, was appointed and resigned after a brief tenure. The position of treasurer also became vacant in the spring when, after five years of devoted service under trying circumstances, Mary Neville Wall accepted a better-paying and less stressful position in southern Worcester County. Dana Robinson and Janice Barrett, respectively, were appointed to fill the treasurer's and accountant's positions. Terry Kemerer was appointed to a three-year term as Tax Collector and Rosa Calcari to a three-year term as Animal Control Officer. The board negotiated the resignation of Administrative Coordinator John Columbus. Highway Superintendent Tim Kilhart achieved Roads Scholar status. The board adopted revised personnel policies and ended the practice of providing health benefits to elected officials. Steve Wilson resigned from the Board of Selectmen upon moving out of town. Two new members, Patricia Lemon and Rick Abbott, joined two-year veteran Jim Toth on the Selectboard after the March election. Lemon was elected chairman. Outgoing Selectman Alan Genovese has our community's thanks for his six years of public service.

**Finance:** In November 2006, the Department of Revenue conducted a budget workshop in Warwick. An audit of the town's books by Scanlon & Scanlon of South Deerfield was begun. An earlier request that the DOR undertake a review of Warwick's financial management practices was renewed, as well. The town entered into an agreement to purchase electricity for town buildings from the Hampshire Council of Governments as a cost-cutting measure. The town used Chapter 90 money to purchase a brush chipper for the Highway Department.

**Administration:** The Highway Department continued to submit the weekly activity logs Tim Kilhart had begun when he became Highway Superintendent the previous year. Work was done on signage and naming of roads.

**Community Initiatives:** The Board created an *ad hoc* Town Buildings Committee. At members' request, their charge was expanded to include energy use and conservation. The T-1 Committee, established to look for ways to keep the high speed Internet connectivity to the Town Hall initially funded by a one-year grant from the Commonwealth, was renamed the Broadband Committee and its charge expanded to include broadband connectivity for the town as a whole. Both committees became very active.

A host of townspeople, boards and friends of Warwick came together to accomplish the restoration of the Mount Grace fire pond. Members of the Women's Guild and Crochery Committee worked with Selectboard members and Town Hall custodians Charlie and Patty Ernest and their sons Roy and Robert inventoried equipment in the Town Hall basement, sold some obsolescent objects, and disposed of a great deal of rubbish.

**Hearings:** A speed-zone hearing was held but action postponed pending the completion of background inquiries by the Police Department. After the requisite hearing, that portion of White Road west and north of the old bridge was renamed "Bass Road."

**Education:** Warwick youngsters at both public high schools distinguished themselves in 2007, and Molly Fellows, Pioneer Valley Regional School valedictorian, and Luke Fairman, Franklin County Technical High School valedictorian, and the Selectboard formally congratulated them and their parents.

—J. David Young, *Town Coordinator*

**Board of Selectmen** (three members *elected for three-year terms*)

Alan Genovese, 275 Wendell Road

2007

James J. Toth, 111 Northfield Road

2008

Patricia Lemon, 700 Old Winchester Road

2009 *elected to fill out*

*term of Steve Wilson*

Steve Wilson, 1 Orange Road

2009 *resigned*

Frederick H. Abbott III, 192 Old Winchester Road

2010