

REPORT OF THE MASON FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Over the past year the Mason Forestry Committee, together with the Mason Conservation Commission, had tax map lots E-28 and E-38 selectively thinned. During the thinning operation, select mature and low quality pine and hardwood were removed, leaving a healthy stand of high quality crop trees for future growth. In an effort to increase the food source and browse for local wildlife, special attention was taken to promote the release of nut producing trees such as oak and hickory. The committee employed Downs Forestry Services to prepare the lots for thinning and then to supervise the field work. The timber products were inventoried and put out to bid to local lumber mills and timber buyers. The winning bid was \$33,911.29 and the project was awarded to Monadnock Forest Products, Inc. of Jaffrey, NH. The field work started last winter and was finished this summer. The Town also collected an additional \$3319.13 for the yield tax on the project.

In the future, the Mason Forestry Committee plans to continue its efforts to manage the Town's forest assets for multiple use purposes, including timber production, wildlife habitat enhancement and recreation.

Respectfully submitted,
Mason Forestry Committee

TOWN MEETING March 12, 1996

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk. The Town Clerk read the warrant through Article 1.

Polls were declared open at 12:00 noon. Checklist total was 707. Polls were closed at 7:00 pm, after 170 had voted. There were eight absentee voters.

Results were as follows:

Selectman for 3 years:	Anne Richards	149
Moderator for 2 years:	Catherine Schwenk	152
Town Clerk for 3 years:	Charlotte N. Hastings	153
Treasurer for 3 years:	Jeanne L. Hamel	144
Tax collector for 3 years:	Charlotte N. Hastings	154
Auditor for 1 year:		
Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 years:	Linda M. LeBlanc	160
Library Trustee for 3 years:	Mary Calderan	153
Trustee of Cemeteries for 3 years:	Arthur J. Rafter	165
Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years: (Write in)	James Losee	15
Ballot vote on provisions of RSA 40:13	Yes 23 No 146	

The meeting was re-opened at 8:00 pm. Mrs. Schwenk reviewed the procedure we would follow. Note was made of the fire and emergency exits. Reverend Bonnie C. Evans gave the invocation. New Eagle Scouts Benjamin and Luke Dube led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Schwenk expressed the Town's appreciation to Shirley Morley for more than 17 years of service to the Town as Supervisor of the Checklist and several years as Selectman. Mr. Schwenk expressed thanks to Curt Dunn and the Selectmen for their help in the recent Klondike Derby. Badges were presented to Mr. Dunn and the Selectmen.

Reference was made to the fact that the Town Reports were not available as required by RSA 40:4. A motion was made, seconded and passed to continue with the meeting. A motion was made, seconded and passed to waive the reading of the Warrant.

State Senator Thomas P. Stawasz and State Representative Jeffrey C. MacGillivray brought greetings from the Legislature.

Note was made of the following errors or omissions in the Town Report.

Page 18 under Warrant Articles 1996, add # 12 Library Computer \$3500.

The correct total of the 1996 Warrant Articles should be \$59,378.

Page 22 under Summary of Valuation, under Public Utilities, scratch out "NET".

Page 6 under Ballot Clerks, add Florence Wilson and March 1998.

Page 14 under appropriations for Highway Maintenance, add \$2000 for Over Time Wages, which changes the total appropriations to \$236,185.

Page 12 under Library, add copy machine \$460, new total \$22,485.

Article 2, scratch the word "and" in the amount to be raised.

Article 2. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or borrowing or otherwise, the sum of Seven Hundred One Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars (\$701,467) for the operation and expenses of the Town for the operation and expenses of the Town for the year ensuing, or take any other action relative thereto.

Mrs. Schwenk proceeded to review the line items of the budget. Mrs. Lewicke explained the need of the copier for the library and how the cost would be covered by users. Mr. Larochelle questioned why the appropriation for the Conservation Commission was cut from \$1500 to \$150. Note was made of the \$33,000 that they had received from tree cutting. Mrs. Fletcher explained where that money will be used and the future plans of the Commission. A request was made that they make an accounting of their expenses during the year. A motion was made by Mrs. Fletcher and seconded by Mr. Larochelle to restore the \$1500 to the Conservation Commission. This motion passed.

Mrs. Godjikian questioned the legal expenses and inquired whether or not any of said fees were for the conflict with Mascenic, over late school payments. The fees were for 1994 and 1995 other legal expenses. No payments have been made to date on legal fees pertaining to Mascenic.

Mr. Lewicke questioned the \$400 expense for Alcohol and Drug Testing. A motion was made by Mr. Lewicke and seconded by Mrs. Lewicke that \$400, in the Highway Department Budget for Drug Testing, be removed. Further moved that the Selectmen send a letter to the State Department attempting to mandate this expenditure, protesting the violation of Article 28A (unfunded mandates) and protesting their unwarranted invasion of the privacy and civil rights of our Town employees. This motion failed to pass.

Article 2. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$705,277 for the operation and expenses of the Town for the year ensuing. This included an increase in the Library of \$460, in the Conservation Commission of \$1350 and \$2000 in the Highway Overtime Wages. The vote was unanimous.

Article 3. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,352 for the second payment of the lease for the Highway Department's dump truck as voted for at Town Meeting, March 1995. The vote was unanimous.

Article 4. The Town voted to ratify and affirm the authority of the Selectmen to enter into that lease agreement for the purpose of leasing a 1996 GMC vehicle for the Police Department. The vote was unanimous.

Article 5. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9900 for the second payment of the ten self contained breathing air packs and spare bottles as voted for at Special Town Meeting, September 1995. The vote was unanimous.

Article 6. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8000 to replace overhead doors at the Fire Station.

A motion made by Mrs. Richards that Articles 7 & 8 be discussed together, but voted separately. Mr. Cook led the discussion on the possible uses and benefits of owning a Defibrillator. Pros and cons were stated as to using the trust fund for this purchase.

Article 7. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to withdraw the amount of six Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$6950) from the Ellen Augusta Worcester Wilson Trust Fund for the purchase of a Defibrillator and assorted accessories and service warranty, or take any other action relative thereto. This article failed to pass.

Article 8. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6950 for the purchase of a Defibrillator and assorted accessories and service warranty.

Article 9. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1926.32 from surplus. These amounts received in 1995 from the sale of Highway Department equipment to be added to the Highway Capital Reserve Fund. The vote was unanimous.

Article 10. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen to withdraw the amount of \$6000 from the Highway Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of a sander body. The vote was unanimous.

Article 11. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen to withdraw \$5000 from the Cemetery Land Improvement Fund for the purpose of installing lot markers and starting gravel roads in the new cemetery. The vote was unanimous.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3500) to purchase a computer with multimedia capability laser printer, fax machine, telephone installation and service charges, and fees for one year of dialup modem access to the Internet for the Mason Public Library, or take any other action relative thereto. Mrs. Lewicke explained the purpose, benefits and possible uses for the computer. Many comments were shared of the possible telephone expenses, how the use would be monitored, the lack of parking and if a fee should be charged for those using the Internet.

Article 12 passed on a standing vote. 55 Yes, 34 No.

Article 13. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2600 for the purchase of a lawn tractor mower to be used for cemetery, town common, and recreational field work.

Article 14. The town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1000 for the purchase of a combination printer, fax, copier and scanner for the Police Department.

Article 15. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150.00 from surplus. These amounts received in 1995 from the sale of cemetery lots, to be added to the Cemetery Land Improvement Fund.

Article 16. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Road Agent to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Highway Department.

Article 17. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Fire Chief to sell or dispose of surplus equipment and vehicles from the Fire Department.

We adjourned at 10:03 pm. Sine Dai
Charlotte N. Hastings, Town clerk

State General Election November 5, 1996

The Moderator called the meeting to order. She reviewed the newer registration laws and expressed thanks to all of the workers.

Polls were declared open at 11:00 am. There were 710 on the checklist. This included 264 Republicans, 125 Democrats, 5 Libertarians and 316 Undeclared.

Polls were closed at 7:24 pm after 548 had voted. This included 23 absentee voters. Total checklist at closing was 732. There are now 267 Republicans, 127 Democrats, 5 Libertarians and 333 Undeclared on the checklist. We had a 75% turnout.

President:	Dole	213	Clinton	245	Brown	11	Phillips	0	Perot	73
Governor:	Lamontagne	215	Shaheen	285	Kingsbury	14	Bramante	29		
Senator:	Smith	262	Swett	218	Blevens	56				
Congressman:	Bass	266	Arnesen	233	Kendel	7	Lamirande	27		
Exec. Councilor:	Streeter	424								
State senate:	Squires	280	Ouellette	235						
Rep. District 20:	Arnold	225	Hall	322	Jacques	160				
Rep. District 21:	MacGillvray	287	Flanagan	212						

County results are on record at the Secretary of State's office.
Charlotte N. Hastings Town Clerk