

1803 History Highlights

Moderator	Timothy Dakin
Town Clerk	John Blodgett
Treasurer	Selectmen
Selectmen	John Blodgett
	Joses Bucknam
	Artemus Manning
Representative	Col. James Wood

Marriages	12	
Births	32	
Deaths	19	Men - 7 Women - 7 Children - 3 (infants) Over 70 - 2

All the above information was taken from the Town History-1749 to 1858
by John B. Hill



"For God & Country"

Beatham S.M. <i>Miss</i>	Stuart D. D.
Brown E. V.	Schulze G. F.
Brown E. E. ☆	Valyou C. V.
Crosscup A. T.	Wharff C. H.
Conley G.	Whitney W. L.
Dunham A. L. Jr.	Whitney D. C.
Davis R. ☆	Wiik L.
Eaton A. T.	Wiik T.
Elliott H. F.	Washburn G. P.
Flagg I.	Winters R. L.
Gilmore W. E.	Whitaker A. C.
Gronlund V.	Gilmore J. F.
Harry R. I.	Wright C. H. Jr.
Hill L. R.	
Houghton P. S.	
Ilomaki O.	
Kivimaki T.	
Rossley G. A.	
Spear R. F.	
Spear I.	

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE TOWN OFFICERS OF

MASON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

For The Year Ending December 31

2003

Mason Historical Society

1) Yes 285 221 No
2) Yes 253 230
3) Yes 296 203

M. 202
230

World War II Veterans Honor List, formerly stood on Town Common.
Photo courtesy of Mason Historical Society.

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT - 2003

Rockwood Appraisal Service was contracted to conduct the reval of the town. This was completed in November. The Avitar software system used, included assessing and tax billing, worked well and was invaluable.

The Town voted to withdraw from the Mascenic Regional School District in 2003. C. Christopher Guiry DMD is the selectmen's representative on the withdrawal committee. An update on the withdrawal process is included in the Town Report.

Ray Scholl modernized the town office, police office and the library with a wireless local network. Direcway is the satellite provider. Safety of the encryption and security of the system has been provided. Thank you Ray for all your volunteer hours of installing and "proofing" the wireless system.

Numerous complaints were received about the noise of the airplanes, especially the aerobatic planes practicing hour upon hour over the northeast section of town. The air traffic control office in Portland, Maine is responsible for the air traffic below 6,000 feet in our area. They will conduct an investigation and submit a report to the Board of Selectmen.

The Selectmen approved AT& T's plan to install a wireless antenna in the Mason Congregational Church steeple. This will involve removing the clapboard surface of the Mason Congregational Church steeple and replacing it with a synthetic material, which will duplicate the appearance of the original steeple.

Wallace Brown has been appointed to the position of Building Maintenance Manager. He will be responsible for general repairs, upkeep, and maintenance of grounds and town buildings.

A cheery note for spring – Watch for daffodils to appear around the town buildings and common. The children (toddlers) of the Mom's Club diligently planted the bulbs. We thank you one and all.

David P. Cook, Road Agent, was presented a plaque for achieving the level of Senior Road Agent. Congratulations Dave!

D. Scholl
The beautiful Christmas decorations that adorned the Mann House and Town Hall were provided by the Boy Scouts of Troop 264 under the leadership of Diane Knisley, who also constructed all the wreaths and swags, and Joe McGuire, with assistance from Wally Brown. We thank you and the decorations were beautiful.

Once again we thank all department heads, employees and volunteers for a job well done. Thanks for keeping the town running efficiently and smoothly. Thanks also to Barbara Milkovits, our faithful Administrative Assistant, for her superb work on the revaluation process, requiring many additional hours of work, while simultaneously managing the daily tasks at the Selectmen's Office. Many thanks, Barb, for a job well done.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Richards, Wolfgang Millbrandt, C. Christopher Guiry D.M.D.

Withdrawal Report

Withdrawal from the Mascenic School District was voted on and passed at the 2003 Mason Town meeting. Committees were formed and three avenues were explored. The first was to investigate the feasibility of a charter school. Second was to investigate the possibility of affiliating with another district in the surrounding area. Third was to tuition grades nine through twelve to the North Middlesex Regional High School and keep Kindergarten through grade 8 in town after a Mason School District was formed. The charter school option would not allow the exclusive enrollment of Mason students and kept the town within the Mascenic Regional School district. After lengthy study affiliation with a neighboring district was also deemed not possible. Available resources in the adjoining towns are being stretched and building programs are already being contemplated. Tuitioning to North Middlesex continues to be the only feasible option at this time. A robust operating budget with proven scholastic achievement, a firm focus on post secondary education, and available space all point to the goals the town is interested in. Further there are two large vocational schools affiliated with North Middlesex. Research revealed tuitioning of grades six through eight would allow earlier exposure to algebra and foreign languages. Meetings were held for the purpose of disseminating information as it was developed. Two surveys were also conducted. Both supported the withdrawal process as well as enlarging the Mason Elementary School. Currently negotiations are on going to produce a memorandum of understanding that would satisfy the New Hampshire Board of Education's requirements governing cross-boarder affiliations. Another vote to withdraw from the Mascenic district will be required to complete the research process and submit a more detailed plan to the New Hampshire Board of Education. It is the unanimous opinion of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Mason that the withdrawal process should continue.

Respectfully submitted,

Selectman C. Christopher Quiry D.M.D.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS AND MEETINGS

SELECTMEN

Office Hours: Mann House, 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Meetings: Mann House, 7:30 P.M.
Second and Fourth Tuesday of the month.

Telephone: 878-2070

TOWN CLERK

Office Hours: Mann House, Tuesday 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Thursday 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon
Thursday Evening 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Telephone: 878-2070

PLANNING BOARD

Meetings: Mann House, 7:30 P.M.
Last Wednesday of the month

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Office Hours: Mann House, 7:00 P.M.
Tuesday, by appointment only

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Meetings: Mann House, 7:30 P.M.
Third Monday of the month

WILTON RECYCLING CENTER HOURS

Hours: Tuesday 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Thursday 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Saturday 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Sunday 8:00 A.M. to Noon



ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

Catherine Schwenk	MODERATOR 2 yr term	March 2004
Charlotte N. Hastings	TOWN CLERK 3 yr term	March 2005
Carolyn L. Place, Appointed	DEPUTY TOWN CLERK	March 2005
Susan Wagoner	TREASURER 3 yr term	March 2005
Maria Eaton, Appointed	DEPUTY TREASURER	March 2005
Anne Richards, Chairman Wolfgang Millbrandt C. Christopher Guiry D.M.D.	SELECTMEN 3 yr term	March 2005 March 2004 March 2006
Charlotte N. Hastings	TAX COLLECTOR 3 yr term	March 2005
Carolyn Place, Appointed	DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR	March 2005
	AUDITOR 1 yr term	
Joan Losee, Chairman Karen Chemello Sandra LeClair	SUPERVISORS OF CHECK LIST 6 yr term	March 2008 March 2004 March 2006
Jenny Scholl Lynn McCann Judith Forty, Appointed	LIBRARY TRUSTEES 3 yr term	March 2004 March 2006 March 2004
Robert Larochelle Wallace A. Brown Arthur Rafter	TRUSTEES OF CEMETERIES 3 yr term	March 2006 March 2004 March 2005
George Schwenk	TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS 3 yr term	March 2003 2006

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Irene Cook, Chairman	March 2005
Robert Larochelle	March 2005
Gretchen West	March 2006
David Profit	March 2005

PLANNING BOARD

Mark McDonald, Chairman	March 2005
Dorothy Millbrandt	March 2006
Bruce Mann	March 2004
Pamela Lassen	March 2006
William Downs, Alternate	March 2005
Joseph McGuire, Alternate	March 2006
C. Christopher Guiry, Ex-officio	

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Mary McDonald, Chairman	March 2004
Michael Davieau	March 2004
Robert Bergeron	March 2004
Michael Dulong	March 2006
Ulysses Shields, Alternate	March 2006
Harry Harper, Alternate	March 2006
Anne Richards, Ex-officio	

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Board of Selectmen

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Robert Larochelle, Chairman	March 2006
Robert Dillberger	March 2005
Anna Faiello	March 2005
Elizabeth Fletcher	March 2005
Charles Lanni	March 2006
Marcia Osborn	March 2006
Florence Roberts	March 2005
Stuart Sherman	March 2006

FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Curtis Dunn	March 2006
Florence Roberts	March 2005
Eric Anderson	March 2005
William Downs, Town Forester	
C. Christopher Guiry, Ex officio	

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Paula Babel, Chairman	March 2006
Wallace A. Brown	March 2004
Elena Kolbenon	March 2006
Lynn McCann	March 2006
Robin Smith	March 2006

	BALLOT CLERKS	
Pauline Bergeron		March 2006
Rachel Petersen		March 2005
Teri Parker		March 2006
Florence Wilson		March 2004

	POLICE OFFICERS	
Barry G. Hutchins		Police Chief
Evelyn Mitchell		Patrolman
John Wagner		Patrolman
John LeBlanc, Sr.		Part Time Police Officer
Christopher Follomon		Part Time Police Officer

EMERGENCY SERVICES

David P. Cook	Fire Chief/Warden/EMT-D
David Baker	1 ST Asst. Chief/Deputy Warden/First Responder
Robert A. Bergeron	2nd Asst. Chief/Deputy Warden
Fredrick W. Greenwood	Captain/Deputy Warden/First Responder
Rodney Stedman	1 ST Lieutenant/Deputy Warden/First Responder
Roland Theriault	2 nd Lieutenant/Deputy Warden
Philip Phalon Jr.	2 nd Lieutenant/Deputy Warden/First Responder
Donna Richardson	Firefighter/EMS Coordinator/EMT-D
Anne Richards	Firefighter
Wallace Brown	Firefighter/Deputy Warden
Mark Richardson	Firefighter
Christopher Greenwood	Firefighter
Steve Tamulonis	Firefighter
Kerri Greenwood	Firefighter
Rick Griffith	Firefighter
Stephen Hoffman	Firefighter/EMT-I
Evelyn F. Ellis	Firefighter
Robert G. Lipin	Firefighter
Steve Warshauer	Firefighter
Andrew Milkovits	Firefighter
Charles Williams	Firefighter
Jonathan Lavoie	Firefighter
Benjamin Harrington	Firefighter
James Deffely	Firefighter
Christopher Perry	Firefighter
John LeBlanc Sr.	EMT-D
Cindy Tibbetts	EMT-I
Jeff Partridge	EMT-D
Stuart Sherman	EMT-D
Jeannine Phalon	First Responder
Kathy Chapman	First Responder

David P. Cook	* * *	ROAD AGENT
Kenneth B. Wilson	BUILDING INSPECTOR/DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER	

Lynn McCann
Kenneth B. Wilson
William Downs
Wallace Brown

HEALTH OFFICER
HOUSE NUMBERING AGENT
TOWN FORESTER
SEXTON

MASON TOWN WARRANT
The State of New Hampshire

The polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM at: Mason Town Hall.

To the inhabitants of the Town of Mason, in the County of Hillsborough, in said State, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to come to the polling place at the Town Hall in Mason at 7:00 AM on Tuesday, the 9th day of March, 2004 for the election of Town officers pursuant to Article 1 of this Warrant, bringing in your ballots for the following:

Selectman	3 years
Moderator	2 years
Auditor	1 year
Library Trustee	3 years
Supervisor of the Checklist	6 years
Trustee of Cemeteries	3 years
Trustee of Trust Funds	3 years
Trustee of the Trust Funds	1 year

And to cast your ballots pursuant to Articles 2, 3 and 4 regarding amending Article III, Section C (Article 2) and Fire and General Information (Article 3) increasing fees and adding subsection G to Article III (Article 4).

The polls will be open continuously until 8:00 PM when they shall close. You are hereby notified also to meet at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, the 10th day of March, 2004, and at the same place to act upon Articles of this Warrant.

1. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing terms.

Articles 2, 3 and 4 were reviewed at a public hearing on December 3, 2003, 7:45 PM in the Mann House.

- Yes 2. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance, **Article III, Section C** to increase the minimum fee from \$9.00 to \$30.00, or take any other action relative thereto.
- Yes 3. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance, under **Fire and General Information**, to increase the Oil Burner Permit inspection fee from \$6.00 per inspection to \$30.00, with \$20.00 allocated to the inspector and \$10.00 to the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.
- Yes 4. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance, **Article III** by adding a new subsection **G. Section Title: "Requirements for a building**

permit on a lot without an existing dwelling". Paragraph: "Prerequisites for Building Permit: permanent boundary markers on lot; proof of ownership of lot; state septic approval; driveway permit from NH Department of Transportation or Town Road Agent; building plans; copy of New Hampshire Plumber's License; and copy of New Hampshire Electrician's License", or take any other action relative thereto.

These amendments to the Planning and Zoning Ordinance were submitted by the Mason Planning Board for approval by the town.

- Y 5. To see if the Town will vote to ratify and affirm the authority of the Selectmen to enter into that seven year lease agreement, for the purpose of leasing a fire tanker truck with equipment for the Fire Department, total cost of the new tanker will be One hundred ninety-two thousand five hundred seventy dollars (\$192,570) and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-seven thousand five hundred ten dollars (\$27,510) for the first year's payment of the lease, or take any other action relative thereto. This lease agreement contains a fiscal funding escape clause. Recommended by Selectmen majority.
- Y 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine hundred seventy-one thousand four hundred forty-four dollars (\$971,444) which represents the operating budget. Said sum is exclusive of all Special or Individual Articles addressed.
- Y 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-one thousand eight hundred thirty-six dollars (\$21,836) for the second year's payment of the lease for the Highway Department's dump truck as voted for at Town Meeting, March 2003, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen majority.
- Y 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirteen thousand seven hundred dollars (\$13,700) for the balance of the cost of the revaluation of the town, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen majority.
- Y 9. To see if the Town will vote to ratify and affirm the authority of the Selectmen to enter into that three year lease agreement for the purpose of leasing and equipping a new four wheel drive vehicle for the Police Department, total cost of the new vehicle will be Twenty-eight thousand six hundred dollars (\$28,600) and to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine thousand six hundred dollars (\$9,600) for the first year's payment of the lease, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen majority. (2/3 vote required.)
- Y 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine thousand five hundred dollars (\$9,500) to re-side the fire station, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen majority.
- Y 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Highway Construction Capital Reserve Fund previously established, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen majority.
- Y 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five hundred thirty-three dollars and thirty-four cents (\$533.34) to be added to the Cemetery Land Improvement Trust Fund previously established and to authorize the use/transfer from December 31, 2003 Fund balance of that amount received from the 2003 sale of cemetery lots for this purpose. Recommended by Selectmen.

- Y 13. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Town Reevaluation Capital Reserve Fund created in 1982. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. Recommended by Selectmen. ^{\$90}
- Y 14. To see if the Town will vote to designate Darling Hill Road, Cascade Road and Old Ashby Road as Scenic Roads under the provisions of RSA 231:157 and 158 for the purpose of protecting the scenic beauty of these roads, or take any other action relative thereto. By petition of the Conservation Commission. ^{Part of} *See with committee by Selectmen*
- Y 15. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue absolutely Mitchell Hill Road as a public highway from the intersection with Black Brook Road to the power line crossing, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by the Conservation Commission. *Memo Hill 123 -> Carter*
- Y 16. To see if the Town will adopt the provisions of RSA 72:35, I-a, II and III for an optional tax credit for taxes due on residential property for service-connected total disability (total disability is defined as someone who has a permanent service-connected disability, or who is a double amputee or paraplegic because of a service-connected injury). The yearly amount of the optional tax credit for service-connected total disability for 2004 shall be \$1,700. ³⁹
- Y 17. To see if the Town will adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28, II, III, IV and V for an optional veterans' tax credit for taxes due on residential property. The yearly amount of the optional veterans' tax credit for 2004 shall be \$300. ²²
- Y 18. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen and the Road Agent to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Highway Department, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen.
- Y 19. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen and the Fire Chief to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Fire Department, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen.
- Y 20. To see if the Town will vote to withdraw from the Mascenic Regional School District in accordance with RSA 195:25, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen. ¹⁴ *Prohibit*
- Y 21. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to negotiate with the ~~North Middlesex Regional School District~~ ^{North Middlesex Regional School District} and enter into an agreement enabling the tuitioning and transportation of Mason students in the grades of six through twelve to schools in said district. Recommended by Selectmen. *or 8*
- Y 22. To see if there is a consensus in the Town of Mason for the following:
- ◆ to raise and appropriate sufficient funds to cover the withdrawal costs from the Mascenic Regional School District, approximately \$700,000
 - ◆ to enlarge and modify the existing Mason Elementary School to accommodate kindergarten through grade five, approximately \$380,000, (half to be funded from state new construction aid) ¹²⁷ ³⁴
 - ◆ to tuition Mason students, grades six through twelve, to North Middlesex Regional School District at approximately \$680,000, including transportation. ^{NOT}
- Recommended by Selectmen.

2/23/2004	2002	2002	2003	2003	2004	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	04/03
Town Officers' Salaries						
Selectmen	2,925	2,925	2,925	2,688	2,925	
Town Clerk	550	550	550	550	550	
Treasurer	550	550	550	550	550	
Auditor	300	300	300	300	300	
Moderator	400	400	200	200	500	
	4,725	4,725	4,525	4,288	4,825	7%
Fees in Lieu of Salaries						
Tax Collector	7,250	6,629	7,250	6,945	7,250	
Town Clerk	7,000	7,763	7,000	8,025	7,000	
	14,250	14,392	14,250	14,970	14,250	0%
Administration						
Administrative Ass't	24,440	24,438	26,124	26,124	26,550	
Part-time Assistant	2,000	0	2,000	839	2,000	
Payroll taxes	3,875	3,265	3,860	3,576	4,053	
Workers comp.	350	164	71	71	79	
Advertising	125	274	200	267	200	
Bank service charges	100	-59	100	129	100	
Association dues	55	40	55	40	55	
State Dog Fees	0	883	0	927	0	
Conferences	600	84	600	132	600	
Computer services	2,300	2,452	2,300	3,063	3,000	
Mileage	200	24	200	95	200	
Contingency	200	242	200	-42	200	
Postage	1,200	1,172	1,200	1,238	1,300	
Registry fees	250	350	350	363	350	
Repairs & maintenance	250	75	360	360	360	
Retirement ins	1,210	1,196	1,271	1,250	1,335	
Office supplies	1,700	2,126	1,750	1,980	1,750	
Office equipment					2,000	
Telephone	700	748	725	953	950	
Town reports	1,191	1,008	1,191	1,329	1,325	
	40,546	38,482	42,557	42,691	46,407	9%
Cemetery Expenses						
Cemetery maintenance	1,500	3,628	1,500	1,017	1,500	
Cemetery salaries	9,000	5,446	9,000	7,252	9,000	
Payroll taxes	700	417	700	555	700	
Workers comp.	700	493	261	260	261	
	11,900	9,984	11,461	9,084	11,461	0%
Reappraisal of Property						
Assessing	2,750	2,783	2,750	154	2,750	
Tax map update	550	550	600	600	675	
	3,300	3,333	3,350	754	3,425	2%
Town Building Expenses						
Custodian salaries	6,630	6,630	6,630	6,630	6,630	
Supplies	100	169	150	184	200	
Heat	4,000	2,936	4,000	4,717	4,200	
Electricity	2,100	1,738	2,000	2,020	2,100	
Repairs & maintenance	4,000	3,027	6,500	6,285	6,500	
	16,830	14,500	19,280	19,836	19,630	2%

2/23/2004	2002	2002	2003	2003	2004	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	04/03
Employment/Insurance Expenses						
Accident insurance	4,200	3,267	4,200	3,295	4,200	
Health & Dental Insurance	83,150	76,728	82,778	78,165	85,055	
Unemployment taxes	375	288	273	273	227	
Liability insurance	19,000	17,630	19,000	19,025	19,000	
	106,725	97,913	106,251	100,758	108,482	2%
*Health & Dental Insurance now includes all health insurance for employees.						
Planning & Zoning						
Salaries	0	0	0	0	0	
Payroll taxes	0	0	0	0	0	
Advertising	600	458	600	454	600	
Training	80	110	80	0	80	
Board of Adjustment	945	197	945	355	765	
Historic District Commission	110	76	110	79	110	
SW Reg. Planning/Consulting	3,662	3,662	3,696	2,996	3,718	
Supplies	50	0	50	75	50	
Postage	400	467	400	274	400	
	5,847	4,970	5,881	4,233	5,723	-3%
Building Inspection						
Bldg inspector-fees	2,500	3,443	2,500	5,763	2,500	
Payroll taxes	192	246	192	441	192	
Expenses	300	307	300	301	400	
	2,992	3,996	2,992	6,505	3,092	3%
Health & Welfare						
Health officer	25	0	25	0	25	
Animal control	1,000	95	1,000	458	1,000	
Town poor	2,000	0	2,000	0	2,000	
Visiting nurse	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	
	4,525	1,595	4,525	1,958	4,525	0%
Ambulance						
Ambulance Service Fee	3,859	3,859	4,052	4,050	7,300	
Supplies	1,200	916	1,200	922	1,200	
Training	1,400	793	1,400	1,481	1,400	
	6,459	5,568	6,652	6,453	9,900	49%
Library						
Library salaries	22,490	22,457	25,325	25,105	26,389	
Payroll taxes	1,720	1,718	1,937	1,921	2,019	
Worker's Comp.	70	60	36	36	40	
Dues, fees & educ	1,150	585	1,150	455	1,150	
Postage	200	200	200	153	200	
Programming	140	139	150	143	200	
Supplies	400	407	400	416	450	
Telephone	1,250	1,216	1,250	1,735	850	
Technology					500	
Travel	250	260	250	250	250	
Books	2,800	2,799	2,900	2,896	2,900	
	30,470	29,841	33,598	33,111	34,948	4%

2/23/2004	2002	2002	2003	2003	2004	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	04/03
Parks & Recreation						
Parks maintenance	1,715	1,437	1,715	1,918	2,165	
Toilet facilities	350	200	350	250	350	
Activities/Rec day	527	525	527	492	600	
Patriotic purposes	300	349	300	274	300	
Electricity	120	165	120	63	120	
	3,012	2,676	3,012	2,997	3,535	17%
Street lighting	1,000	799	1,000	808	1,000	0%
Town Common						
Town common maintenance	4,500	2,942	4,500	4,436	4,500	
Payroll taxes	345	194	345	268	345	
Worker's Comp	600	493	270	237	270	
	5,445	3,629	5,115	4,942	5,115	0%
Water Hole						
Water hole & dry hyd	500	0	500	0	500	0%
House & water hole #'s	150	150	150	150	175	17%
	650	150	650	150	675	4%
New Hampshire Municipal Asso	755	721	780	780	783	0%
Wilton Recycling Center	36,419	36,354	45,214	45,214	43,302	-4%
Communication Expenses	19,500	19,349	19,500	13,284	19,500	0%
Legal Expenses	3,000	3,589	4,000	8,906	4,000	0%
Civil Defense	100	0	100	0	100	0%
Conservation Commission	2,000	29,923	2,000	15,099	2,000	0%
Includes Current Use Penalties paid to CC						
Election Expenses	700	1,049	500	619	1,000	100%
Town Forestry Committee	1	0	1,000	0	1	-100%
Highway Town Maintenance						
Road agent salary	40,000	39,230	43,740	43,849	44,795	
Asst road agent salary	32,729	32,749	34,370	33,189	34,670	
Equipment operator	31,263	31,539	32,817	33,119	33,175	
Equipment operator	22,230	21,053	29,260	28,259	29,570	
Other salaries	39,933	35,591	45,133	46,135	43,638	
FEMA Reimb. Other Salaries				-1,957		
Overtime wages	13,699	8,134	14,199	15,370	14,199	
Payroll taxes	13,720	12,960	15,016	14,065	15,320	
FEMA Reimb. Payroll Taxes						
Severance Pay						
Alcohol and drug testing	350	300	350	413	400	
Workers comp.	14,122	12,363	9,200	9,061	10,148	
FEMA Reimb. Workers' Comp.						
Retirement	6,875	6,107	7,758	7,420	7,850	
Consulting engineer	300	195	300	1,020	300	
Reimbrs. For Consulting Engineer				-740		
Mileage	1,500	969	1,500	1,098	1,200	
Fire equipment rental	200	0	200	0	200	
Calcium chloride	11,500	11,807	12,500	10,919	14,500	

2/23/2004	2002	2002	2003	2003	2004	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	04/03
Crusher *	5,000	4,871	5,000	2,855	0	
Culverts	1,000	846	1,200	1,144	1,200	
Ins. Settle work				7,378		
Oil - pug mill	12,000	12,949	13,000	21,577	0	
Oil - sealing	19,000	16,214	20,000	10,268	0	
Paved road restoration					35,000	
Patch	2,000	444	2,000	1,368	2,000	
Salt	5,500	8,840	6,500	5,941	6,500	
Tractor rental	0	0	0	0	0	
Truck rentals	0	0	0	0	0	
Plowing	12,000	5,688	12,000	12,800	12,000	
FEMA Reimb. Plowing				-1,369		
Signs & Rewards	1,000	1,139	1,200	999	1,200	
	285,921	263,988	307,243	304,179	307,866	0%
Highway Dept. Expenses						
Building maintenance	5,500	4,454	5,500	6,087	5,500	
Chains	500	316	1,000	1,295	500	
Chainsaw repairs	600	391	600	501	600	
Dues, education and misc	1,200	572	1,400	738	1,400	
Edges for plows & graders	2,500	1,852	2,500	2,487	2,500	
Electricity	2,200	1,788	2,200	2,232	2,200	
Equipment maintenance	24,000	24,408	30,000	35,303	26,000	
FEMA Reimb. Equip. Maint.				-2,618		
Fuel	18,000	15,689	19,000	19,434	19,000	
Radios	1,200	1,687	1,400	1,252	1,400	
Telephone	1,200	1,053	1,200	1,157	1,200	
Tires	2,500	1,834	2,500	1,175	2,500	
Safety equipment	1,700	846	1,700	1,218	1,700	
Tools	1,500	1,249	1,500	834	1,500	
Welding supplies	750	806	850	538	850	
Subtotal	63,350	56,945	71,350	71,632	66,850	-6%
Total Highway Expenses	349,271	320,933	378,593	375,810	374,715	-1%
Police Department						
Fulltime Salaries	104,250	103,761	111,428	107,171	109,250	
Part Time Officers	19,096	13,935	19,096	19,952	21,720	
Prosecutor					5,000	
Overtime	6,400	8,503	7,400	8,442	8,400	
Payroll taxes	3,090	2,778	3,184	3,020	3,248	
Detail Expense	300	540	1	579	1	
Reimb. Detail Expense						
OHRV Grant Detail				257		
OHRV Fines-Expense				1,056		
Workers comp.	2,575	2,507	2,063	2,063	2,310	
Retirement	6,127	4,970	7,730	7,786	9,260	
Conventions & dues	300	100	300	100	150	
Cruiser Lease	8,760	8,744	15,702	15,701	8,414	
Cruiser fuel	4,500	4,839	4,500	4,439	3,500	
Cruiser maintenance	4,000	3,595	4,000	3,001	4,000	
Office expenses	3,250	3,831	3,500	4,521	4,000	

2/23/2004	2002	2002	2003	2003	2004	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	04/03
Training	2,500	2,024	2,500	686	2,000	
Uniforms	2,000	1,181	2,000	1,540	2,000	
Equipment & maintenance	2,000	1,827	2,000	1,957	2,750	
Film Development	500	500	500	13	0	
Total Police Department	169,848	163,635	185,904	182,284	188,001	0%
Fire Department						
Fire Chief's salary	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	
Other Stipends	6,550	6,550	6,550	6,550	6,550	
Workers comp.	600	635	357	356	399	
Utilities	3,000	2,193	3,000	2,537	3,000	
Telephone	1,200	945	1,200	990	1,200	
Radio repair	1,200	1,323	1,400	1,000	1,400	
Fuel	850	636	850	545	850	
Code books	200	186	200	201	200	
Training	2,000	1,328	2,000	1,115	2,000	
Equipment & Maint	4,700	4,599	5,000	4,557	5,200	
Ins. Settle work				1,631		
Bld maintenance	2,000	1,736	2,400	2,092	3,000	
Officers expenses/Dues	1,400	1,276	1,400	1,498	1,400	
Insurance	250	0	250	0	250	
Vehicle maintenance	4,000	3,597	4,000	4,207	4,000	
Expendables	350	392	500	375	750	
Hepatitis Vaccine Program	300	508	300	121	300	
Subtotal	30,100	27,404	30,907	29,273	31,999	4%
Fire truck bond principal	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	
Fire truck bond interest	8,050	8,050	7,050	7,050	6,050	
Total Fire Dept.	58,150	55,454	57,957	56,323	58,049	0%
Interest Tax Notes	14,000	13,294	14,000	3,603	5,000	-64%
Abatements & Refunds				37364		
Total Appropriations	912,220	880,854	974,647	992,832	971,444	0%
Increase over prior year	4.49%		6.84%		-0.33%	
Total Budget Proposed	923,020		966,047		971,444	1%
Total Budget Voted	912,220		974,647			

2/23/2004	2002	2002	2003	2003	2004	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	04/03
Warrant Articles '03						
03#4 Dump Truck Lease			21,836	21,835		
03#5 Little League Field			33,000	33,000		
03#6 Revaluation			30,500	30,500		
03#7 Conservation Easement			57,000	57,000		
03#8 Turnout Gear Fire Department			10,000	10,000		
03#11 Dump Body			6,000	6,000		
03#12 Municipal Bldg. Fees			5,000	0		
03#13 Library Cap. Reserve			5,000	5,000		
03#14 RR Trail Maint, etc.			3,500	3,500		
03#15 Cub Cadet Mower			2,500	2,500		
03#16 Paint Town Hall			2,500	2,500		
03#18 Police Database			950	934		
03#19 Cemetery Lot Sales Fund Balance			333	0		
Total			178,119	172,770		
Warrant Articles '04						
04#05 Fire Tanker Lease					27,510	
04#7 Hwy Dump Truck Lease					21,836	
04#08 Reval Balance					13,700	
04#09 Police Cruiser Lease					9,600	
04#10 Re-side Fire Station					9,500	
04#11 Hwy Construction Cap.Res.					5,000	
04#12 Cem. Lot Sale Fund Bal.					533	
Total					87,679	
SUMMARY						
Town Assessments						
Total Appropriations	912,220	884,854	974,647	983,824	971,443	0%
Total Warrants	118,382	93,392	178,119	172,770	87,679	-51%
Less Revenues	294,882	462,949	439,250	425,643	403,933	-8%
Expenses less Revenues	735,730	515,297	713,516	730,951	655,189	-8%
Other Assessments						
School District Assessment	893,688	998,211	998,211	1,288,326	1,288,326	29%
Hillsborough County	146,893	146,893	146,893	129,586	129,586	-12%
Total Taxation	1,778,311	1,860,401	1,868,620	2,148,863	2,073,101	12%
Valuation(total - exempts)	48,922,774	50,383,057	50,383,057	134,066,874	134,066,874	166%

TOWN OF MASON
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balance
For the year ended December 31, 2003

REVENUES:	2003	2002	2001
Highway Block Grant	60,403	58,198	58,613
Shared revenue	12,078	12,006	12,078
Other state grants	514	583	613
Property taxes	2,121,752	1,747,122	1,620,105
Yield taxes	28,602	6,145	26,709
Excavating taxes	0	0	0
Land use change taxes	0	22,297	13,800
Motor vehicle fees	200,773	203,720	189,888
Penalties and interest	7,978	13,517	9,754
Licenses and permits	11,140	8,884	9,172
Interest income	3,343	13,149	29,338
Dog licenses	2,887	3,135	2,761
Court ordered restitution, fines & fees	2,536	740	0
Detail Payments	1,413	518	1,814
Rooms & Meals Tax	35,405	33,578	29,885
Conservation Commission	12,117	7,087	501
Forestry Committee	2,610	1,689	0
FEMA Funds	5,944	717	4,473
Donations (Memorial & Other)	0	505	150
Other	36,323	10,899	34,194
Total revenues	2,545,817	2,144,487	2,043,848
EXPENDITURES:			
General government	274,747	190,985	117,335
Cemeteries	9,084	9,983	11,180
Public safety	235,935	232,848	224,871
Highways	411,137	387,733	416,224
Sanitation	45,214	36,354	45,932
Health & Welfare	8,411	7,163	2,908
Education	1,288,326	998,211	893,688
Culture and recreation	157,148	71,068	61,612
Debt service	30,653	41,344	59,928
County taxes	129,586	146,893	141,165
Total expenditures	2,590,241	2,122,582	1,974,843
Excess (deficit) of revenues over expenditures	(44,424)	21,905	69,005
Other financing sources:			
Interfund transfers	10,300	1,500	1,500
Unexpended encumbrances	4,588	7,227	0
	14,888	8,727	1,500
Excess (deficit) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing	(29,536)	30,632	70,505
Fund balance beginning	428,956	398,324	327,819
Fund balance ending	399,420	428,956	398,324

TOWN OF MASON
Combined Balance Sheet
At December 31, 2003

ASSETS	General Fund	Capital Reserves	Trust Funds	Consrv Comm	Forestry Comittee	All Funds
Cash	\$846,270	\$83,402	\$167,341	\$32,147	\$63,819	\$1,192,979
Debit Memo	0					\$0
Deeded property	31,642					\$31,642
Unredeemed taxes	26,719					\$26,719
Uncollected taxes	215,635					\$215,635
Total assets	\$1,120,266	\$83,402	\$167,341	\$32,147	\$63,819	\$1,466,975
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES						
Accounts Payable	\$0					0
Escrow funds	0					0
Encumbrances	82,142					82,142
Payroll taxes payat	5					5
Due to schools	638,699					638,699
Total liabilities	720,846	0	0	0	0	720,846
Fund balances	399,420	83,402	167,341	32,147	63,819	746,129
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$1,120,266	\$83,402	\$167,341	\$32,147	\$63,819	\$1,466,975

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cash on hand, January 1, 2003	780,016
Cash receipts:	
Town Clerk	204,173
Tax Collector	2,031,555
Selectmen	219,501
Interest income Bank of NH	1,499
Interest income Fleet	24
Interest income NHPDIP	192
Interest income Bank of NH PoolPlus	1,628
Tax Anticipation Loans	750,000
Total cash available	3,988,588
Selectmen's orders paid	1,963,120
Payroll disbursements	425,595
Tax anticipation loans repaid	750,000
Interest on tax anticipation loan	3,603
Total monies paid out	3,142,318
Cash on hand, December 31, 2003	846,270

Susan Wagoner Treasurer

TOWN OF MASON BONDS

Principal Muni Bond Period	Outstanding	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Total Debt Service	Fiscal Debt Service
15-Feb-00			4.50%	5458.21	5458.21	
15-Aug-00	196,213	16,213	4.50%	4,839.70	21,052.79	26,511.00
15-Feb-01			4.50%	4,475.00	4,475.00	
15-Aug-01	180,000	20,000	4.50%	4,475.00	24,475.00	28,950.00
15-Feb-02			5.00%	4,025.00	4,025.00	
15-Aug-02	160,000	20,000	5.00%	4,025.00	24,025.00	28,050.00
15-Feb-03			5.00%	3,525.00	3,525.00	
15-Aug-03	140,000	20,000	5.00%	3,525.00	23,525.00	27,050.00
15-Feb-04			5.00%	3,025.00	3,025.00	
15-Aug-04	120,000	20,000	5.00%	3,025.00	23,025.00	26,050.00
15-Feb-05			5.00%	2,525.00	2,525.00	
15-Aug-05	100,000	20,000	5.00%	2,525.00	25,525.00	25,050.00
15-Feb-06			5.00%	2,025.00	2,025.00	
15-Aug-06	80,000	20,000	5.00%	2,025.00	22,525.00	24,050.00
15-Feb-07			5.00%	1,525.00	1,525.00	
15-Aug-07	60,000	20,000	5.00%	1,525.00	21,525.00	23,050.00
15-Feb-08			5.00%	1,025.00	1,025.00	
15-Aug-08	40,000	20,000	5.00%	1,025.00	21,025.00	22,050.00
15-Feb-09			5.00%	525	525	
15-Aug-09	20,000	20,000	5.25%	525	20,525.00	21,050.00
Totals	196,213			55,648.00	251,861.00	251,861.00

SUMMARY OF VALUATION

Improved & Unimproved Land	42,019,600
Assessed Value of Current Use Land	942,813
Conservation Restriction Assessment	7,681
Buildings (Mobile Homes Included)	89,853,200
Public Utilities (PSNH)	1,300,000
Valuations Before Exemptions	134,123,274
EXEMPTIONS	
Elderly Exemptions	50,000
Solar Exemptions	6,400
	56,400
NET VALUE FOR TAX RATE	134,066,874

NET VALUE FOR STATE EDUCATION TAX RATE (LESS UTILITIES) 132,766,874

WAR SERVICE TAX CREDIT

	Limit	No.	Credits
Totally and permanently disabled veterans, their spouses or widows, and the widows of veterans who died or were killed in action.....	\$1,400	2	\$2,800
All Other Qualified Persons.....	\$100	54	\$5,400

2002 TAX RATE

2003

Town	\$5.40
County	0.96
State Education	3.68
School	5.96
Total Rate	\$16.00

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**SUMMARY OF TAX ACCOUNTS**

For the year ended December 31, 2003

	Levies of:	
	2003	Prior

Uncollected Taxes, Jan. 1, 2003		
Property Taxes		\$107,700.92
Land Use Change Taxes		216.80
Yield Taxes		
Taxes Committed to Collector:		
Property Taxes	\$2,121,752.00	
Land Use Change Taxes		
Yield Taxes	28,602.45	
Interest & fees		504.32
Returned Check Fees	50.00	50.00
Overpayments:		
Property Taxes	7,809.00	
Yield Taxes		
Interest & fees	62.05	4,396.88
Interest Collected On		
Delinquent Taxes		
Costs Collected On		
Delinquent Taxes		
TOTAL DEBITS	\$2,158,275.50	\$112,868.92
Remitted To Treasurer During Year:		
Property Taxes	\$1,883,465.62	\$87,000.23
Land Use Change Taxes		216.80
Yield Taxes	27,299.03	
Interest On Taxes	62.05	4,368.35
Costs		487.00
Overpayments - Taxes	7,809.00	
Overpayments - Interest		45.85
Conversion to Liens		20,700.69
Returned Check Fees	50.00	50.00
Abatements Allowed:		
Property and Land Use Taxes	23,954.64	
Yield Taxes		
Uncollected Taxes, Dec. 31, 2003		
Property Taxes	214,331.74	
Land Use Change Taxes		
Yield Taxes	1,303.42	
TOTAL CREDITS	\$2,158,275.50	\$112,868.92

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**SUMMARY OF TAX SALES ACCOUNTS**

For the year ended December 31, 2003

	Tax Sale on Account of Levies of:		
	2002	2001	Prior

Balance of Unredeemed Taxes		\$12,459.85	\$4,030.18
Taxes Sold to Town	\$22,436.11		
Interest & Costs Coll	88.83	1,254.29	1,624.61
Overpayment			
TOTAL DEBITS	\$22,524.94	\$13,714.14	\$5,654.79
Remittances to Treasurer:			
Redemptions	\$1,446.99	\$6,730.05	\$4,030.18
Interest & Cost	88.83	1,254.29	1,624.61
Overpayment			
Abatements of Unredeemed Tax			
Deeded to Town			
Unredeemed Taxes	20,989.12	5,729.80	0.00
TOTAL CREDITS	\$22,524.94	\$13,714.14	\$5,654.79

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Cash on hand January 1, 2003	\$50
Cash received:	
Dog licenses	\$2,170
Automobile registrations	\$196,220
Title fees	\$618
Filing fees	\$3
Returned checks	\$197
Misc. fees	\$85
State dog fees	\$718
Marriage licenses	\$180
Overpay	\$48
Municipal agent fees	\$3,935
Total cash received	\$204,173
Cash remitted to Treasurer	\$204,173
Cash on hand, December 31, 2003	\$50

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Hastings

Town Clerk and Tax Collector

REPORT OF THE MASON TRUST FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

	PRINCIPAL		INTEREST		TOTAL Fund Balance
	Beginning Balance	Fnds Created (Expended)	Beginning Balance	Interest Earned	
TRUST FUNDS					
Boynton School	\$11,063.07		\$11,063.07	\$253.27	\$12,986.84
Stearns School	\$10,469.36		\$10,469.36	\$268.26	\$14,494.09
Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$23,445.33	\$1,066.67	\$24,512.00	\$633.18	\$27,502.77
Cemetery Land Improvement	\$3,143.21	\$533.33	\$3,676.54	\$123.74	\$6,005.00
Ellen Augusta Worcester Wilson	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00	\$910.76	\$20,620.07
Whitaker-Locke Library	\$10,808.07		\$10,808.07	\$145.25	\$11,006.30
Ephraim & Martha Lucindy Hildr	\$9,966.62		\$9,966.62	\$165.70	\$5,869.19
Bassett Communications	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00	\$100.98	\$907.70
Steinberg/Budrewicz Recreation	\$1,407.00		\$1,407.00	\$19.98	\$42.71
TOTAL TRUST FUNDS	\$105,302.66	\$1,600.00	\$106,902.66	\$2,621.12	\$167,340.72
CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS					
Highway Capital Equipment	\$2,051.00		\$0.00	\$32.18	\$541.29
Town Reevaluation		(\$2,501.00)		\$77.69	\$91.07
Fire Equipment				\$27.67	\$2,790.93
Library Building	\$27,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$32,000.00	\$687.19	\$12,497.82
Highway Construction	\$35,000.00		\$35,000.00	\$462.43	\$35,481.00
TOTAL CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS	\$64,051.00	\$2,949.00	\$67,000.00	\$1,287.16	\$83,402.11
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$169,353.66	\$4,549.00	\$173,902.66	\$3,908.28	\$250,742.83

This is to certify that the information contained in this report is complete and correct, to the best of our knowledge and belief.

mg

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

George Schwandt



Center School in Mason 1910
Photo courtesy of Mason Historical Society

MASON HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

The winter season of 2002/2003 took a severe toll on the Highway Department trucks and equipment. Besides the normal wear and tear, during a snowstorm in February 2003, the rear end in our 1987 Ford sander truck jumped into neutral, making the driver lose control and go off the road and hit a tree. The driver was treated for injuries to his arm, and is back to work. Our insurance company considered the truck a total loss. We were able to find a "new" used truck that we could afford to buy, with the insurance money, to replace the totaled truck.

One of the pieces of equipment that has been a continuing problem, has been the two cylinder gas engines that ran our sanders. During the summer we were able to convert all of our sanders to run off of the truck hydraulic system. This will make them more reliable and easier to operate, as well as cheaper to maintain.

Spring 2003 brought a mud season like we haven't seen for many years. We had all the snow that had fallen during the winter, melt within about a week. This turned some of the poorly drained dirt roads into impassable bogs. We hauled most of our stockpile of crushed gravel to try to improve these roads and finally Mother Nature allowed the roads to dry out and become passable again.

During the winter of 2003, we were able to get public service to assist us in removing some trees on Hurricane Hill Road near the intersection of Briggs Road. When spring arrived we removed the stumps and created a ditch line that should improve drainage and give us more room to plow snow. This project also improved the safe sight distance in the area of the intersection. Another ongoing project has been on Depot Road to remove a dirt and rock berm that was right on the edge of the road. This berm blocked most of the drainage and hampered snow removal. As it is removed, the area is graded and leveled so water will run off the edge of the road.

Our paved road restoration project for this year was 6300 feet of Greenville Road from the Greenville line towards the center of town. This portion of the road had the brush trimmed and was ditched, shimmed and chip sealed. We plan to continue this project in 2004.

During the summer we also were able to complete the new fuel tank project at the Highway yard. This included a roof over the pumps as required by the D.E.S. We were awaiting the delivery of the new dump truck/ sander that was approved at Town meeting in March. It was delivered in late November and was pressed into service in early December for the first snowstorms of the season. The truck has performed well and should serve the Town into the future.

The Mason Highway Department relies on part-time along with the full-time workers for plowing and sanding in the winter and hauling and raking etc. in the summer. I would like to thank them for their dedication and hard work in 2003. Also we must thank their families for their support especially during the long hours during the winter season. We would not be able to serve the town as well without them. Thanks also to the Towns people who assisted us during the year. Thanks also to the other Town departments who helped during the year.

Respectfully submitted,
David P. Cook
Road Agent

AUDITOR'S REPORT - 2002

I have audited all Town departments, budgeted or assigned financial responsibilities in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and their financial statements reflect an accurate assessment of the Town's financial position.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia A. Greene
Town Auditor

MASON POLICE DEPARTMENT

During 2003 the Mason Police Department implemented the use of a Records Management System database named Crimestar. Crimestar was designed specifically for smaller police departments and has worked exceptionally well for the department as expected. All officers have been properly trained in the use of the database and we are now able to correctly account for all department records relative to calls and investigations.

In 2003 the number of minor motor vehicle accidents increased slightly due mostly in part to what I consider to be weather related conditions. However we were fortunate enough not to have a single fatal motor vehicle accident in Mason this year. I attribute this to driver's being more attentive and a more direct proactive approach to enforcement of traffic laws. DWI and drug related arrests continue to rise and we are attempting to address this issue through advanced training in impaired driver detection. The department also has one officer that is near the completion of a one-year certification process as a Drug Recognition Expert. This will allow the department to apprehend drivers who are under the influence of drugs as well as alcohol, which will result in a safer community through safer streets.

In 2003 we had four residential burglaries that resulted in a significant monetary loss to the victims. Through a joint investigation with the town of Townsend, MA we were able to identify two suspects that were responsible for all four burglaries within Mason and we are currently in the process of prosecuting both of these individuals. The department's newest member, Attorney Martha Jacques who serves in the capacity of the department prosecutor, is heading the prosecution of these individuals.

In closing I would like to thank all members of the department for their continued dedication to both the department and the Town of Mason. Also thank you to the citizens of Mason for your support and suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,
Barry G. Hutchins
Police Chief

MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

This year we replaced most of our old personal protective equipment. The old gear was almost twenty years old and was well used and worn out. We have an aggressive maintenance program for this expensive equipment so we can get the maximum life from this gear.

We have been fortunate enough to acquire a mobile home that can be used for training. This has been set up behind the fire station for convenient access.

This year the sign on the front of the fire station came home after being refurbished and repainted. The original sign was made and donated by James Rowse. The sign was changed to reflect the department's role in EMS. I would like to thank Flip and Jeannine Phalon for their work on the sign.

The members of the Mason Fire Department have again this year made many small repairs and modifications on the equipment and apparatus, saving the some expense. I would like to thank the members for their hard work.

2003 Calls

Auto Accidents	15	CO Detector	2
Brush Fire	1	Alarm Activation	2
Smoke investigation	2	Smell of Gas	3
Chimney Fires	4	Car Fires	2
Oil Burner Misfire	2	Tree on Wires	2
A/C Fire	1	Station Standby	1
Mutual Aid Given	18	Mutual Aid Received	11

Total call man-hours 730

Training

Total Number of Drills	27
Total Training Man-hours	1053

Respectfully submitted

David P. Cook
Fire Chief

MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRST RESPONDERS

We enter into our eleventh year with the Brookline Ambulance service in 2004. The first ten-year contract ran out at the end of 2003 and the Selectmen have renewed the contract with Brookline for future service. This relationship has worked well for the citizens of Mason, and should continue to do so.

We worked with our medical resource hospital to obtain the latest protocols (the guidelines that we work under) last spring. We were also able to add equipment to be carried on the fire truck that enables us to treat allergic reactions. With donated money, we also purchased some additional oxygen administration equipment.

We regretfully accepted a letter of resignation from Cheryl Greenwood our First Responder coordinator/EMT-D. She served the Town of Mason for ten years as an EMT and nine years as the coordinator. I would like to thank Cheryl for her service to the Town!

Respectfully submitted,
David P. Cook
Fire Chief

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Income from land use change tax.....	\$217
2003 Budget.....	\$2,000
Expenses.....	\$16,767 (\$1,673 RR Trail maint.)
Interest.....	\$323
Funds on hand 12/31/03.....	\$4,783 (Remaining from 1995 timber cut)
Railroad Trail Maintenance Fund 12/31/03.....	\$133
Land Protection Fund 12/31/03.....	\$25,216

January/February: Due to increasing ATV traffic and complaints from Railroad Trail abutters the Commission worked with Chief Barry Hutchins to create a RR Trail OHRV Ordinance that set speed limits, hours of operation, residency limitations and fines. The Ordinance was submitted to the Board of Selectmen, and accepted at a public hearing on February 18th. The commission received positive comments during the year attesting to the success of the ordinance in reducing the noise and traffic. However, in September the State of N.H. Division of Parks and Recreation informed the Commission that because the town received a \$20,000 N.H. Land and Water Conservation grant to help purchase the railroad property, we could not discriminate against non-resident ATVs. This left the Commission with the choice of reverting to the former policy of unrestricted ATV use, or prohibiting ATV use entirely. As of this writing the Commission is still discussing this issue with the Board of Selectmen.

The Commission has been working with landowners who are making major contributions to protecting Mason's rural character, granting conservation easements so that their land can never be subdivided and development is very strictly limited forever. In February the town was awarded a \$57,000 grant from the N.H. Land and Community Heritage Program (LCHIP) for the Fifield Tree Farm conservation easement. The state was attracted to this project by the size of Woodie Fifield's easement gift and the natural quality of his land. The Fifield Tree Farm conservation easement was appraised at \$482,000. This is a great deal of protected land value for the town's investment of approximately \$25,000 (for a survey)! Woodie Fifield is permanently conserving more than 500 acres with over 6 miles of trails available for public non-motorized use -- a very generous gift!

Another generous family is the d'Arbeloff's of Massachusetts, who used to spend their summers on Darling Hill Road. During this year, Nick d'Arbeloff worked with the Commission to place conservation easements on his family's three Darling Hill Road parcels. The d'Arbeloff's goal is to protect forever the rural character of this pleasant country road. Each parcel is limited forever to one building lot only, a huge reduction in development potential because these 3 parcels have frontage for 19 possible lots. The total acreage of the d'Arbeloff parcels is 138, of which 111 acres will be permanently protected by conservation easements. In June the conservation easement on the 81-acre parcel was signed creating 66 acres of protected land and a 15-acre building envelope. The easement on the 43-acre parcel is almost complete. The Commission is paying for surveying these easements from the Land Use Change Tax fund. In recognition of the d'Arbeloff's significant contribution to protecting forever the rural quality of Darling Hill Road, the Commission is proposing that this road be designated a Scenic Road.

May: The Commission discussed with Chris Guiry and Woodie Fifield the option of discontinuing Mitchell Hill Road from the power line south to Black Brook Road. The Conservation Commission and Woodie Fifield are the only owners on this stretch and this step would thus create a contiguous 640+ acre protected area including the 90 acre town parcel (D-9) and Woodie Fifield's conservation easement (D-10).

June: Marcia Osborn adapted Pat LeTourneau's Mason Conservation logo design for a sign, and the Commission purchased 500 small conservation signs to help identify protected lands and prevent trespassing. The Commission will install these signs over the next few years during easement monitoring.

September: The commission received invoices from Meridian Land services indicating the survey of D-10 is in full swing. Also, Bob Laroche investigated a trespass on B-17-1 and a wetland violation on B-2-2.

October: The Commission worked on warrant articles and gathered petitions to assign Scenic Road status to Darling Hill, Cascade and part of Old Ashby roads. Also, Bob Laroche met with Joe McGuire and Public Service to look at a minimum impact wetland permit application to install a new transmission line on the south side of the existing easement.

December: The Commission reviewed copies of Woodie Fifield's survey, a revised restoration plan for the Dancause wetland, and various proposed subdivision plans.

Respectfully submitted,

Conservation Commission

MASON FORESTRY COMMITTEE

The forestry committee has committed funds to the maintenance of the railroad bed and the removal of hazardous trees in Mason center. There has been no revenue-generating cutting this year as the result of depressed timber prices. Towards the end of 2003 timber prices have firmed and this appears to be an upward trend. Anticipating favorable yields from selective cutting, the committee has decided to survey the timber yield of a few parcels to determine the feasibility of harvesting. Selective cutting primarily is a mechanism that stimulates the remaining trees to grow faster. Cover and forage for wildlife is a secondary benefit of this process. The community is invited to investigate areas selectively cut to see the benefits to Mason uplands and its wildlife.

Respectfully submitted,

Forestry Committee

HOME HEALTHCARE and COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

Report to the Town of Mason
January 1, 2003- December 31, 2003
Annual Report

In 2003, HCS - Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services continued to provide home care and community services to the residents of Mason. The following information represents a projection of HCS's activities in your community in 2003.

SERVICE REPORT

Services Offered

Services Provided

Nursing	34 Visits
Physical Therapy	17 Visits
Occupational Therapy	11 Visits
Medical Social Worker	1 Visit
Home Health Aide	18 Visits

Prenatal care, hospice services and regularly scheduled wellness clinics and child health clinics are also available to residents. Town funding partially supports these services.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The actual cost of all services provided in 2003 with all funding sources is projected to be \$8,345.00.

These services have been supported to the greatest extent possible by Medicare, Medicaid, other insurances, grants, and patient fees. Services that were not covered by other funding have been supported by your town.

For 2004, we request an appropriation of \$1,500.00 to continue to meet the home care needs of Mason residents. Thank you for your consideration.



**Mason Public
Library**
16 Darling Hill Rd.
Mason NH 03048
878-3867 Telephone
878-6146 FAX
masonlib@monad.net

Hours
Tuesday 1-8P
Wednesday 9A-5P
Thursday 10A-8P
Saturday 1-4P

<http://www.personal.monad.net/~masonlib>
Annual Report

The Mason Public Library strives to meet the changing needs of our community. This is apparent in the rejuvenated circulation room, the plethora of new books, our new public access computer, and the ongoing programs for all ages. This year, the town installed a new DirecWay Satellite Dish and wireless internet access throughout the Mann House. Please be patient while the library becomes acclimated to this new technology!

Our 10th Annual Poetry Contest invited two new categories of contestant, the Young Poet (ages 6-12) and Teen Poet (ages 13-17) to our existing Adult Poet groups. In celebration of their work a Pizza Party was held for the youngsters and the annual Poetry Tea for the adults.

Adult Craft Night and the Book Club continue to have a faithful following. We continued our successful PreSchool Storytimes and Summer Reading Program. A grant for programming from the NH Kids Books & the Arts enabled us to sponsor the performance of Storyteller Shawn Middleton, at the Town Hall. More than 80 people were in attendance at this June event. In October, the "Rock Lady" Barbara Medlyn of Milford presented an exciting geology program that included cracking open a geode. In December, several hardy townsfolk braved the storm and attended our "Holiday Program" before Santa's visit to town.

We are very proud of the children's collection, for such a small library, it is reportedly one of the best in the region. We regularly enhance our collection of adult fiction and non-fiction titles. Our overall collection is augmented by the generous donations of videos, audio books and other materials from the community.

We base the success of the Mason Public Library on the dedicated employees and many volunteers that work diligently to keep our library a place to learn and have fun. We continue to appreciate the donations of time, materials, and money that allow us to work within a small budget while providing a vital community resource.

Respectfully,

Lynn McCann
Judy Forty
Jenny Scholl
Library Trustees

Mason Public Library Financial Report for 2003

Receipts

Town Budget – total amount budgeted to library for 2003	33598.00
Donations and Grants (includes \$175 KBA grant from State of NH for SRP)	295.00
Fundraising (Book Sales, Bake Sale, Poetry Contest)	594.18
Whitaker-Locke Trust Fund Interest	284.00
Fees and Fines (overdue books, copies from printer, FAX, lost books)	407.62
Checking Account Interest	6.52
TOTAL	35165.32

Expenditures

Salaries	25105.17
Payroll Tax	1920.68
Workers Comp	35.98
Dues and Fees	120.00
Continuing Education	335.00
Postage	152.75
Programming (\$143.16 from Town Budget + \$687.59 from Library Checking Account)	830.75
Supplies (\$416.34 from Town Budget + \$268.08 from Library Checking Account)	684.42
Telephone	1735.24
Travel	250.00
Technology (new computer \$699.00 + Internet \$48 for 3 months from Library Checking Account)	747.00
Books, Magazines and Software (\$2896.48 from Town Budget + \$368.19 from Donations, Whitaker-Locke Interest, and Fines/Fees)	3264.67
TOTAL	35181.66
Return to Town General Fund – appropriations not used	(487.20)

Library Checking Account

Granite Bank - Beginning Balance - January 1, 2003	4973.06
Granite Bank - Ending Balance - December 31, 2003	4469.52

Other Accounts held by the Library

Barclay Investment (Technology) – December 31, 2003 value of fund	5493.78
Granite Bank – CD – In Memory of Pam Steinberg – (\$1000.00 principle) – Dec. 31, 2003	1073.41

Library Statistics 2002/2003	Catalogued Books	Paperbacks	Audios	Videos
	2002/2003	2002/2003	2002/2003	2002/2003
Added to Collection	487 / 561	187 / 115	8 / 19	34 / 88
Added by Donation	194 / 326	142 / 39	8 / 19	34 / 86
Added by Purchase	293 / 234	25 / 76	0 / 0	0/0
Lost or Withdrawn	297 / 709	267 / 455	8 / 17	15 / 4
Total Collection	10045	1107	282	548

Total Patrons	795 / 831	Total Items Borrowed	8795 / 10199
Programs	107 / 101	Inter Library Loan: Borrowed	340 / 334
Program Participants	946 / 1150	Inter Library Loan: Lent	74 / 137
Computer Use (patron hours)	360 / 416		

REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

There have been fifty-nine (59) Building Permits issued during 2003. They were issued for the following (and the total valuation is also listed):

20	Permanent Dwelling	\$2,179,974
13	Additions to Home	393,507
5	Porch /Deck Additions to Home	30,706
1	Garage Addition to Home	25,390
5	Garages	74,123
1	Finish Garage Attic	9,385
7	Barns	103,149
1	Barn Additions	11,119
1	Shed	2,292
2	Airplane Hangars	127,332
2	Electrical Service	6,000
1	Septic Repair	3,000
		<u>\$2,965,977</u>

Of the twenty permanent dwellings, two were renewal permits. Of the thirteen additions to homes, one was a renewal permit. Of the two airplane hangars, one was a renewal permit. There have been fourteen Oil Burner Permits issued. A permit is required for installing and operating oil-burning equipment that includes replacement oil burners and/or oil tanks.

Some residents do not understand when a Building Permit is required. Please refer to the Town of Mason Planning Ordinance, Article VII. I will be happy to help with any questions.

The House and Waterhole Numbering System is continually being updated and new numbers issued. It would be beneficial if all residents would use their correct house numbers and post your numbers using three-inch high reflective numbers, facing both directions.

I hold Office Hours at the Mann House on Tuesday evenings by appointment only. Please call 878-2894 for your appointment.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth B. Wilson
Building Inspector

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY TRUSTEES

The year 2003 started off with the cleanup of leaves from the fall of 2002, which was not done at that time because of the early snow in November. The regular cemetery maintenance of fertilizing, mowing, and trimming made a busy year because of all the rain.

The new mower, voted by the town at the 2003 town meeting has worked out very well. We shall be looking into a new fence at the old Founders' Cemetery on Meetinghouse Hill Road, in the near future.

Residents of Mason interested in purchasing cemetery lots at Prospect Hill Cemetery may contact
Wallace Brown, Sexton, at 878-1481 for details.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Rafter
Wallace Brown
Robert Larochelle
Cemetery Trustees



DEATHS and/or BURIALS in the TOWN of MASON for the year ending December 31, 2003

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Place of Death</u>	<u>Parents' Names</u>
Jan. 10	Irving M. Spear	Nashua	Harry Spear Katherine
Feb. 16	Charles Leland Barnes	Winter Haven, FL	
June 22	Lewis Whitaker	Burlington, MA	
Aug. 1	Mark A. Maserik	Candia	
Nov. 21	Phyllis L. Dorrington	Mason	Warren True Elizabeth Chamberlain

MARRIAGES REGISTERED in the TOWN of MASON
for the year ending December 31, 2003

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Sept. 6	Peter D. Giove Jennifer J. Nathan	Fall River, MA Fall River, MA
Oct. 4	Nickie L. Grugnale Linda A. Kelly	Mason Mason
Oct. 11	Wallace A. Brown M. Gretchen West	Mason Mason
Oct. 30	William A. Jordan Linda J. Bravo	Mason Mason
Dec. 5	Hector J. Romero Linda D. Salisbury	Mason Mont Vernon
Dec. 29	Dominic J. Pace Julie A. Fitzgerald	Mason Mason

BIRTHS in the TOWN of MASON
for the year ending December 31, 2003

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Parents</u>
Jan. 18	Joseph Michael Greig	Exeter	Wesley Greig Donna Greig
Jan. 21	Sabrina Alexandra Smith	Nashua	Kirk Smith Robin Smith
Mar. 4	Jack James Lavin	Nashua	Patrick Lavin Christina Lavin
Apr. 22	Daniel William Schongar	Peterborough	William Schongar Jennifer Schongar
Apr. 23	Heather Angela Hager	Leominster, MA	Mark Hager Stephanie Syre-Hager
Apr. 24	Robilyn Minor	Nashua	Chad Minor Jennifer Minor
Apr. 25	Ella Louise Williams	Peterborough	Keith Williams Rebecca Williams
May 11	Noah John Couture	Nashua	Walter Couture Karen Couture
Aug. 28	Tyler Jeffrey Thibodeau	Nashua	Jeffrey Thibodeau Melissa Thibodeau
Sept. 16	Liam James Lavery	Nashua	William Lavery Jennifer Lavery
Sept. 16	Alexander Lee Addonizio	Nashua	Richard Addonizio

Nov. 12	William Harmon Kolbenson	Nashua
Dec. 31	Vernon Edward LeClair	Gardner, MA

Lynda Addonizio
Jason Kolbenson
Elena Kolbenson
Matthew LeClair
Beth LeClair



TOWN ELECTION MARCH 11, 2003
TOWN MEETING MARCH 12, 2003

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk. Polls were declared open at 7:00 A.M. Checklist total was 711. Polls were closed at 8:05 P.M. after 746 had voted. This included 43 absentee voters. Checklist total was now 832.

Results of the election were as follows:

Selectman for 3 years:	C. Christopher Guiry 414 Tamara A. Huston 173 Mark D. Hager 93
------------------------	--

Auditor for 1 year:	No one elected
Library Trustee for 1 year:	Jenny Scholl 609
Library Trustee for 3 years:	Lynn McCann 625
Trustee of Cemeteries for 3 years:	Robert B. Larochele 620
Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years:	George S. Schwenk 613
Trustee of Trust Funds for 1 year:	No one elected

The Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk at 7:30 P.M. She reviewed the procedure we would follow. Note was made of the fire and emergency exits. Thanks were expressed to all whom were involved in the election process. She introduced those who were sitting at the head table. Selectman Anne Richards expressed thanks to those whose work brought out a record number of voters for the 50/50 Warrant Article on the school ballot. She acknowledged 20 years of service to the Town of Mason for Charlotte N. Hastings as Town Clerk and as Tax Collector, 35 years of service for Kenneth B. Wilson as Building Inspector. She then presented Kenneth Greene with a plaque for his service as a selectman.

Corrections to the Town Report were as follows: On page 42, the total for Benson should be 298 and for Sununu 79.

Boy Scout Troop 264 presented the colors. Steve Dunn led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the Warrant.

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine hundred sixty-six thousand forty-seven dollars (\$966,047) which represents the operating budget. Said sum is exclusive of all Special or Individual Articles addressed.

A motion was made seconded and passed to increase the Moderator's fees from \$100 to \$200. Under Highway Town Maintenance, increased Other Salaries by \$4001. Highway Dept expenses: Increased chains by \$500, equipment by \$4000.

Article 2. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine hundred seventy-four thousand six hundred forty eight dollars (\$974,648) which represents the operating budget. Said sum is exclusive of all Special or Individual Articles addressed. This included the changes noted above. The vote was unanimous.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for reconstructing Meetinghouse Hill Road and authorize the withdrawal of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) from the Capital Reserve created for that purpose of reconstructing paved roads. The balance of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) is to come from general taxation.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to vote on this after Article 6.

Article 4. The Town voted to ratify and affirm the authority of the Selectmen to enter into that five year lease agreement, for the purpose of leasing a dump truck equipped with combination sander/dump body and front plow and wing for the Highway Department, total cost of the new truck will be One hundred nine thousand one hundred seventy-seven dollars (\$109,177), and to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-one thousand eight hundred thirty-six dollars (\$21,836) for the first year's payment of the lease, or take any other action relative thereto. This lease agreement contains a fiscal funding escape clause.

Article 5. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-three thousand dollars (\$33,000) to begin the site work for adding a Little League field at the Mason Recreation Field, or take any other action relative thereto. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the fieldwork is completed or by December 31, 2004.

By a count of hands, the vote was yes 84, no 75.

Article 6. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty thousand five hundred dollars (\$30,500) for the purpose of a complete revaluation of the town and the purchase of assessing software and to authorize the withdrawal of three thousand three hundred dollars (\$3,300) from the Capital Reserve created for that purpose. The balance of Twenty-seven thousand two hundred dollars (\$27,200) is to come from general taxation.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for reconstructing Meetinghouse Hill Road and authorize the withdrawal of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) from the Capital Reserve created for that purpose of reconstructing paved roads. The balance of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) is to come from general taxation.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to postpone this article indefinitely.

Article 7. The Town voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept on behalf of the Town of Mason, a Conservation Easement from Charles W. Fifield, III on 539 acres of his land in Mason, included in parcels D-8, D-10 and D-37; and further to authorize the Town of Mason to accept funding from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) in the amount of Fifty-seven thousand dollars (\$57,000) and to authorize the Town of Mason to grant Executory Interest in said Conservation Easement to the State of New Hampshire, acting through LCHIP authority.
The vote was unanimous.

Article 8. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to purchase new turnout gear for the Fire Department.
The vote was unanimous.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) to re-side the fire station, or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to postpone this article indefinitely.

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight thousand five hundred dollars (\$8,500) for the purchase of an OHRV, equipment and training for the Police Department, to be partially funded by the Conservation Commission fund for two thousand dollars (\$2,000) and by the Forestry Fund for two thousand dollars (\$2,000). The balance of Four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500) is to come from general taxation.

This article failed to pass. The standing vote was Yes 56, No 98.

Article 11. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Six thousand dollars (\$6,000) for the purchase of a new dump body for the old fire truck for the Highway Department and authorize the withdrawal of Six thousand dollars (\$6,000) from the Highway Capital Reserve Equipment Fund created for that purpose.

The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to advance Article 24.

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to withdraw from the Mascenic Regional School District in accordance with RSA 195:25, or take any other action relative thereto.

A long discussion was held, many questions asked, problems explored and opinions expressed. A motion was made and seconded to amend the article "to see if the Town will vote to study withdrawal from the Mascenic School District". In accordance with RSA 195:25. This motion failed to pass.

Article 24. The Town voted to withdraw from the Mascenic Regional School District in accordance with RSA 195:25.

Article 12. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for the purpose of engineering fees and test pits for a proposed new municipal building.

Article 13. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Library Building Capital Reserve Fund previously established.

Article 14. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) for the following purposes: \$1,500 for the maintenance of the Mason Railroad Trail for recreation and forest fire protection purposes, \$1,000 for the planting and maintenance of trees on town property, and \$1,000 for the additional clearing work on the field area on town owned Lot L-36. Such funds will come from the Forest Maintenance Fund, previously established for that purpose.

The vote was unanimous.

Article 15. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for the purchase of a new Cub Cadet mower for the maintenance of the Town's cemeteries and common.

Article 16. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for the purpose of painting the Town Hall.

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for the purpose of a personnel classification study to be conducted by the New Hampshire Municipal Association, or take any other action relative thereto.

This article failed to pass.

Article 18. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine hundred fifty dollars (\$950) for the purchase of a database for the Police Department.
The vote was unanimous.

Article 19. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Three hundred thirty-three dollars and thirty-four cents (\$333.34) to be added to the Cemetery Land Improvement Trust Fund previously established and to authorize the use/transfer from December 31, 2002 Fund balance of that amount received from the 2002 sale of cemetery lots for this purpose.
The vote was unanimous.

Article 20. The Town wished to amend the existing agreement under Section 218 of the Social Security Act by excluding the services performed by election workers for a calendar year in which the remuneration paid for such service is less than \$1,200. The \$1,200 limit on the excludable amount of remuneration paid in a calendar year for the services specified in this modification will be subject to adjustment for calendar years after 2002 to reflect changes in wages in the economy without any further modification of the agreement, with respect to such services performed during such calendar years, in accordance with Section 218 ©(8)(B) of the Social Security Act.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to consider **The Health Care for New Hampshire Resolution** to ensure that:

Everyone, including the self-employed, unemployed, un-and underinsured, and small business owners has access to an affordable basic health plan similar to what federal employees receive;

Everyone, including employers, consumers, and the state, local and federal government makes a responsible and fair contribution to finance the health care system;

Everyone receives high quality care that is cost efficient and medically effective; and

That these efforts help control the skyrocketing cost of health care.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to postpone this article indefinitely.

Article 22. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Road Agent to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Highway Department.
The vote was unanimous.

Article 23. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Fire Chief to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Fire Department.
The vote was unanimous.

The Meeting was adjourned Sine Dai at 10:50 P.M.
Charlotte N Hastings, Town Clerk

Report of Forest Fire Warden and State Forest Ranger

Your local Forest Fire Warden, Fire Department, and the State of New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands cooperate to reduce the risk of wildland fires in New Hampshire. To help us assist you, contact your local Forest Fire Warden or Fire Department to find out if a permit is required before doing **ANY** outside burning. Fire permits are mandatory for all outside burning unless the ground where the burning is to be done (and surrounding area) is completely covered with snow. Violations of the fire permit law and the other burning laws of the State of New Hampshire are misdemeanors punishable by fines up to \$2,000 and/or a year in jail, in addition to the cost of suppressing the fire.

A new law effective January 1, 2003 prohibits residential trash burning (RSA 125-N). Contact New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services at (800) 498-6868 or www.des.state.nh.us for more information

Help us to protect you and our forest resources. Most New Hampshire wildfires are human caused. Homeowners can help protect their homes by maintaining adequate green space around the house and make sure that the house number is correct and visible. Contact your fire department or the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands at www.nhdfi.org or 271-2217 for wildland fire safety information.

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRES

(All fires reported through November 3, 2003)

	<u># of Fires</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Hillsborough	60	11.34



Some members of the Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission gather to express appreciation for Woodie Fifield, who is making a major contribution to protecting Mason's rural character. From the left: Barbara Milkovits, Bob LaRochelle, Nancy Richards, Woodie Fifield, Liz Fletcher and Dr. Chris Guiry. Woodie is granting a conservation easement on more than 500 acres of his tree farm so that this land will never be subdivided and can always remain as a forest, with over 6 miles of trails available for non-motorized recreational use by the public. Spaulding Brook, a beautiful trout stream, winds across the land for nearly 2 miles with its waterfalls and beaver ponds. Recognizing the outstanding natural qualities of this land and the generosity of its landowner, the NH Land and Community Heritage Program (LCHIP) approved the town's request for a \$57,000 grant for the Fifield Tree farm conservation easement. This was the most the Conservation Commission could ask for under the LCHIP rules. This is only a small part of the conservation easement's value, which was appraised at \$482,000. This figure represents the value of the land's development potential that will never be realized. Woodie plans to use some of the grant for improving access to the trails, with a footbridge across Spaulding Brook. By permanently protecting his Tree Farm with a conservation easement, Woodie Fifield is ensuring that his land will be a forest forever, remaining in private hands but open for people to enjoy – a great benefit for the Town of Mason.

Photo courtesy Garth Fletcher