

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Curtis Plante, Chairman .....2012  
David Lindsay .....2013  
Stanley Wysocki .....2014



**David Lindsay, Stanley Wysocki and Curtis Plante, Chairman**

The winter season of 2010/2011 continues to fall hard on our small New England town. Snow banks are at their highest in written history amounting to a steady 3 feet average depth on lawns, and roadways not ever seen before by most of us. Our recent major capital projects, the Library and Public Safety Building, are now fully occupied and are now being tested for their mechanics, snow loads and design for use. As we take shelter from the winter elements, local government continues to ready themselves for the next budget season and Annual Town Meeting.

On the advice of the Space Needs Committee, citizen input and collaboration amongst boards and committees, the decision was made to move the treasurer and accountant from the Emerson School to the first floor of Town Hall. This discussion started with our past Town Administrator Jodi Ross and was finally put into action and completed with the cooperative efforts of our Town Administrator Don Lowe and DPW Director Harold Brown. This move will make management easier for our administrator by having his financial department under one roof. However, physics have proved that for every action there will be a reaction, therefore we lose a large meeting room.

The Space Needs Committee complimented the above change by suggesting BatCo renovate and move into the Houghton Building, recently vacated by the Police Department. A new meeting room will have seating capacity for approximately 40 people and have live broadcast capabilities. Friends of the Library and the Bolton Conservation Trust will also be able to share in the newly renovated building. Additionally, these changes will also allow the Nashoba Regional School District to further expand classroom options in the vacated space of the Emerson School. Occupancy for BatCo is expected in early March of 2012.

Our Town Clerk Pamela Powell was also affected at the Town Hall by the recent change. A new polling location was needed for local, state, and federal elections. A sub-committee was formed to investigate options to include the need for handicap access, easy vehicular movement, and the least amount of disturbance to others. It was decided to move the new polling location to the Nashoba Regional High School Auditorium.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) continued to press forward on the Fyfeshire Dam removal and reconstruction issue. There has been a strong contingency of citizen opposition on the Conservation Commissions vote to remove said Dam. Fortunately, this project has been placed on hold until the state approves a mechanism for financing the dam removal option. Dam replacement can be bonded but removal cannot. It seems at this point, this could come before the voters at the 2012 May Town Meeting.

Other changes have continued to occur throughout our community because of the ever changing financial climate. The International requested a change in their liquor license to go from private to public. This allows them to open their private club to the general public. For the first time in the club's history, the residents of Bolton are now able to enjoy the benefits of this exclusive facility.

The early spring brought on the request for the approval of a Local Historic District Study Committee. This committee was formed to help preserve the local National Historic District and to expand its borders. With the "Smith Property" and the unknown opportunities that exist, it was decided that in order to help protect the historical character of Bolton, it would be necessary to have this designation. This proposal is planned to be presented at the 2012 May Town Meeting.

April brought on a few house cleaning chores. At the request of the Library Building Committee, the Board of Selectmen voted to disband said committee and congratulated them for a job well done. The Department of Transportation (aka Mass Highway) refused to make any adjustments on the traffic lights at Route 117 and Sugar Road for fear that it would negatively impact traffic on the 495 Northbound off ramp. The developers of Oak Trail completed their punch list to the satisfaction of our DPW Director and recommended final acceptance of the road.

The Annual Town Meeting resulted in the acquisition of a "conservation restriction" on the Weatherbee Farm. This purchase allows an extension of land use next to Bower Springs. The Annual Town Meeting (ATM) also approved continued funding of the oil leak clean-up at the fire station which was discovered during construction. The ATM also denied participation in the Central Mass. Mosquito Control Project and voted down acceptance of the optional Stretch Energy Code. At the Annual Election, incumbent Stan Wysocki who ran unopposed won his third term as a selectman.

Fire Chief John Stephenson retired from the Fire Department after 36 years of being Chief. Although, he also served many years as a firefighter, we owe him a great deal of appreciation for all he has done with the Fire Department to help save the lives and protect the property of the citizens of Bolton. This timing also started the search for a new Fire Chief.

The summer meetings of the Board of Selectmen were few and far between but none-the-less were still necessary. The new owners of the Salt Box came in with a proposal to raise the existing buildings and proposed multiple buildings on the property. Although our current zoning doesn't allow for such use, the owners were hoping a new proposed overlay district will be approved including the Salt Box property allowing them to do so and asked for our support. Due to increased complaints and safety concerns, the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator developed new policies regarding animals in town buildings and vehicles. After several continued meetings with National Grid, abutters and Historical Commission members, the Board of Selectmen approved the application of a utility pole placement on Wattaquodock Hill Road. The summer ended in late

August with Hurricane Irene. This storm activated the Emergency Operation Center at the Public Safety Building. Our Emergency Management Coordinators Tom Moses and Andrew Bagdonas directed swift response to the many calls that were taken in response to the storm. Downed trees and limbs on power lines caused widespread power outages.

In September, the citizens of Bolton gathered on 9/11 to remember the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the tragic day to pay respect to the loved ones lost and to thank all of our Emergency Services for their continued dedication to our community. The call firefighters also formed a new union and signed a contract with the Town of Bolton.

In the summer and early fall, a community group called Partners for Planning rallied together to bring awareness to local boards and committees and established forums to inform and demonstrate the potential re-use of the “Smith Property” (aka Smith Mobil). This led the initiative for the Board of Selectmen to call for a special Town Meeting to vote on the purchase of said property. Along with opposition and costs of the Highway gas spill mounting to over \$1,000,000.00, the voters clearly defeated this article as well as a “No” vote on removing the “Strong Fire Chief” position.

Bolton and Berlin came together in mid-October to share the new Veterans Agent James Cabral. Michele Marino was thanked for her time of service as she went on to continue her career serving our veterans.

Additionally, Bolton and eight other communities opened the Regional Hazardous Waste facility at Devens as a cooperative effort for a regional cost-saving measure.

All of New England on October 30<sup>th</sup> had to brace themselves for yet another storm-related disaster. The Emergency Operations Center was activated for the second time in just over two months. Heavy wet snow piled up on trees with all of their foliage. Trees once again littered our streets and downed our utility lines causing at least a five day power outage. Lancaster assisted Bolton by opening up their shelter at the Atlantic Union College where some residents took advantage of their warm offerings. The DPW and our Emergency Services once again came to our rescue in full force, opening up roadways to make them passable for utility crews to restore power. With the delayed power activation, tree trimming policies and response of the utility companies were reviewed and later determined that appropriate measures were in place.

The end of the year brought on the appointment of John Mentzer as our new Fire Chief. It also brings on the beginning of our new budget season. There is increased revenue this next fiscal season because of the Pond Side Development nearing completion on the site of the old Crystal Springs Campground. Although this helps ease our financial responsibilities, strong fiscal management will still need to be present in order to maintain a balanced budget.

The year in review continues to remind us of what a small community we are and that we rely heavily on the dedication and the support of all our volunteers and employees of the town. The Board of Selectmen also wants to thank you, the people, who give us guidance and support to make Bolton a better place to live.

**Financial Statement**  
**July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011**

**Salary**

Appropriated	\$ 900.00
Expended	<u>\$ 600.00</u>
Unexpended balance returned to general fund	\$ 300.00

**Expenses**

Appropriated			\$20,550.00
Transfer (snow & ice)			<u>(5,000.00)</u>
			\$15,550.00
Expended	Purchase of Services	\$ 4,810.00	
	Engineering Services	147.03	
	WHEAT membership	5,000.00	
	Miscellaneous	107.39	
	Meeting Expenses	10.15	<u>\$10,074.57</u>
Unexpended balance returned to general fund			\$ 5,475.43