

CHAPTER ONE

PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Reports of the Town Clerk, Board
of Selectmen, Finance Warrant &
Advisory Committee, Library
Trustees, Housing Authority

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Greetings!

This is the first of what I hope will be many annual reports during my tenure as your Town Manager.

Early in 2014, following the departure of former town manager Michael Szlosek, Board of Selectmen Chairman Steve Raymond and Administrative Assistant Heather Brisette collaborated to ensure consistent administration of Town operations until mid-August when I began my duties.

Mr. Raymond and Selectman Lee Chauvette also worked closely with Ken Duffy and Ben Feldman of the Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee to develop the Town's FY15 operating budget in a difficult economic climate. The Town owes each of these individuals a debt of gratitude for a job well done.

Upon my arrival in Athol, the Board of Selectmen charted several short-term goals primarily centered on financial issues raised in a 2014 report by the Mass. Dept. of Revenue (DOR).

During my first three months of employment, I focused heavily on the report and formalized routine meetings of the Town's top financial officers, namely, Town Accountant Christine Mailloux, Treasurer-Collector Eileen Bristol and Principal Assessor Lisa Aldrich. Known as the "Finance Team" we worked collaboratively to assess the DOR report, implement recommendations and to complete a key goal; establishment of the first written set of financial policies for the Town.

In October 2014, the Board of Selectmen formally adopted the "Fiscal Management Policies" which will now inform the Town's budgeting, free cash, borrowing, capital and reserve fund processes. In addition, at the recommendation of the Finance Team, the fall Town Meeting endorsed creation of an Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Fund to begin planning for future unfunded liabilities.

These policies and the establishment of the OPEB trust fund helped the Town to improve its bond rating from the "single A" level to "double A" (AA- Standard & Poor's) in November 2014. The improved rating helped the Town achieve a competitive interest rate for its initial borrowing for the new school project.

Later in the year, the Finance Team prepared its final draft response to the DOR report that will be distributed to the Board of Selectmen in early 2015.

With the Town's financial house in order, I will next begin working to manage the continued escalation of health care costs, seek greater efficiencies within municipal government (eg. regional dispatch services; blanket service contracts; renegotiated fee agreements) and provide direction to ensure Town departments are aligned to foster an environment that stimulates economic growth in the community.

It's been a whirlwind first six months, but, I would not have it any other way.

I am very fortunate to hold the position of Town Manager, and you can be assured that I will give the people of Athol my best effort. You deserve no less.

Sincerely,

Shaun A. Suhoski
Town Manager

FACTS ABOUT ATHOL

HISTORY April 20, 1733, General Court of Massachusetts laid out the township of Pequage. September 17, 1735, the first five families settled here. March 6, 1762, the township was incorporated and the name changed to Athol.

LOCATION North central Massachusetts, 38 miles north of Worcester, and 71 miles west of Boston.

AREA

Land	32.34 square miles
Water	.73 square miles
Total	33.07 square miles

POPULATION 11,584

REGISTERED VOTERS 6,327

POLLING PLACES

Precinct 1:	Congregational Church 1225 Chestnut Street
Precinct 2:	Liberty Hall, Town Hall 584 Main Street
Precinct 3:	Liberty Hall, Town Hall 584 Main Street

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION First Monday in April

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING Second Monday in June

FALL TOWN MEETING Third Monday in October

TOWN GOV'T

Open Town Meeting
Five Member Board of Selectmen
Town Manager

TAX RATE \$18.43

TOWN HALL OFFICE HOURS

Mon, Wed., Thurs.	8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Friday	CLOSED

**COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICERS**

UNITED STATES SENATORS

Edward J. Markey
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-2742 Washington DC
(617) 565-8159 Boston

Elizabeth Warren
2400 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston MA 02203
(617)565-3179 Boston
(202) 224-4543 Washington DC

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, Second Congressional District

James McGovern
438 Cannon HOB
Washington DC 20515
(202) 225-6101 Washington DC
(978) 466-3552 Leominster

GOVERNOR

Deval Patrick
State House, Room 360
Boston MA 02133
(617) 725-4005

COUNCILLOR, Seventh District

Jennie L. Caissie
State House, Room 184
Boston MA 02133

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT, Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, & Middlesex District

Stephen Brewer
State House, Room 109B
Boston MA 02133
(617) 722-1540

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT, Second Franklin District

Denise Andrews
State House, Room B1
Boston MA 02133
(617) 722-2425

ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

MODERATOR

Lawrence P. McLaughlin, 2015

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Lee E. Chauvette, 2015
Susannah M. Lee, 2016
Stephen R. Raymond, 2016
Anthony A. Brighenti, 2017
Alan D. Dodge, 2017

ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

From Athol:

Joao Baptista, 2015
Deborah Kuzmeskas, 2015
Dale H. Lougee, 2016
Joseph F. Maga, 2016
Amber Parker, 2016
Lee E. Chauvette, 2017
Mitchell Grosky, 2017

From Royalston:

Angelica Favreau, 2015
Mary Barclay, 2015
Nancy D. Melbourne, 2017

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Carol A. Ambrozy, 2015
Francis W. Foster, 2015
Sharon A. Brighenti, 2016
Margaret Feldman, 2016
John R. Greene, 2017
Margaret L. Young, 2017

ATHOL HOUSING AUTHORITY

Edward C. Sawin, 2015
Cathy Muzzy, 2016
Cathy Savoy, 2017
Edward Ledgard, 2019
Charles Winn, 2011 (State Appointee)

CONSTABLES

Kenneth A. Vaidulas, 2015
Leon A. Lozier, 2016
Randy Mitchell, 2017

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS

Admin. Asst., Board of Selectmen/Town Manager	Heather Brissette
Alternate Inspector of Buildings/Zoning Agent	Brian Gale
Animal Control Officer	Jennifer Arsenault
Assessor	Lisa Aldrich
Asst. Agent Board of Health	Lori A. Wiita
Assistant Collector	Susan M. Sargent
Assistant Gas Inspector	Robert Mallet
Assistant Municipal Coordinator	John Duguay
Assistant Plumbing Inspector	Rick Geyster
Assistant Superintendent of Public Works	Duane Truehart
Assistant Town Accountant	Kala Fisher
Assistant Town Clerk	Carol Forand
Assistant Treasurer	Bridget Jowder
Assistant Wire Inspector	Gordon Dickie
Board of Health Agent	Deborah Karan
Civil Defense Director	Thomas Lozier
Collector/Treasurer	Eileen Bristol
Deputy Fire Chief	John Duguay
Director, Council on Aging	Cathy Savoy
Director of Veterans' Benefits & Services	Neil McGuirk
Emergency Management Director	Thomas Lozier
Fire Chief	Thomas Lozier
Inspector of Animals	Jennifer Arsenault
Inspector of Buildings/Zoning Agent	Brianna Skowyra
Inspector of Gas Piping & Appliances	Daniel Joly
Inspector of Wires	Gary Terroy
Library Director	Debra Blanchard
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School Committee	Toni L. Phillips
Municipal Coordinator	Thomas Lozier
Parking Meter Attendant	Ronny Cote
Plumbing Inspector	Daniel Joly
Police Chief	Timothy Anderson
Police Lieutenant	Kevin Heath
Sealer of Weights & Measures	John R. Greene
Superintendent of Public Works	Douglas Walsh
Superintendent of Schools	Anthony Polito
Town Accountant	Christine Mailloux
Town Clerk	Nancy E. Burnham
Town Counsel	Mark Goldstein
Town Manager	Michael Szlosek
Town Planner	Andrea Buglione

TOWN BOARDS/COMMITTEES

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITES ACT COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Vacant, 2015
Vacant, 2015
Vacant, 2015
Vacant, 2015
Vacant, 2015

ATHOL CULTURAL COUNCIL

Robin Brzowski, 2016
Brenda Buck, 2016
Anne Cutler-Russo, 2016
Joann Deacon, 2016
Tabitha DeHays, 2016
Melinda Jack, 2015
Marie Lehmann, 2016
Kelsey Matthews, 2014
Jean Shaughnessy, 2016

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Heather Brissette, 2015
Kenneth A. Vaidulas, 2017
Lisa Aldrich, indefinite

BOARD OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Steve Wills, 2015
Kathy Norton, 2016
Andrea Buglione, 2018
David Small, 2019
Jacqueline Doherty, 2019
Vacant, 2015
Vacant, 2017

BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

Timothy Anderson, 2015
Nancy Burnham, 2015
Kala Fisher, 2015
Toni Phillips, 2015
Jean Robinson, 2015
Vacant, 2015
Vacant, 2015

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Daniel Carey, 2015
Mark Wright, 2015

CAPITAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

John Lambert, 2015
James Smith, 2015
Erik Euvard, 2016
Dennis Killay, 2016
Michael Butler, 2017

Linda Oldach, 2017
Robert Muzzy, 2018

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Heather Brissette, 2015
Nancy Burnham, 2015
Lee Chauvette, 2015
Joan Gross
Philip King, 2015
Susannah Lee, 2015
Lawrence McLaughin, 2015
Elizabeth Peterson, 2015
Keith Williams, 2015

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Walter Lehmann, 2015
Robert Muzzy, 2015
Katheryn Harrow, 2016
Dennis Killay, 2016
James Smith, 2016
John R. Greene, 2017
Laura Smith, 2017

Associate Members:

Elwin Bacon, 2015
Jamie Briggs, 2015

CONTRIBUTORY RETIREMENT BOARD

Timothy Anderson
Anthony Belloli
Brian Stoddard
Joseph Wojtkowski
Christine Mailloux (ex officio)
Lynne Barilone, Administrator

COUNCIL ON AGING

Lillian Bachelder, 2015
Walter Lehman, 2015
Jean Ryder, 2015
Karen Lachance, 2016
Stephen Larry, 2016
Margaret Young, 2016
Beatrice Bowers, 2017
Ruth Black, 2017
Kathy Cygan, 2017
Cathy Savoy, Director

DOWNTOWN VITALITY COMMITTEE

Carol Ambrozy, 2015
Diana Beland, 2015
Richard Godin, 2015
Kristin Grenier, 2015
Ranee LaPointe, 2015
Stephen Raymond, 2015

Associate Members:

David Maroni, 2015
Paula Robinson, 2015
David Small, 2015
Shelly Small, 2015

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION (EDIC)

Clinton Sykes, 2015
Calvin Taylor, 2015
Richard Plotkin, 2016
Martin Robichaud, 2016
James W. Meehan, Jr., 2017
Keith McGuirk, 2017
Vacant, 2017

Associate Members:

Vacant, 2015
Vacant, 2015

FINANCE AND WARRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Cynthia Caldwell, 2015
Gary Deyo, 2015
Ben Feldman, 2016
Paul Nelson, 2016
Kenneth Duffy, 2017
Erik Euvrard, 2017
Vacant, 2017

BOARD OF HEALTH

Norma Purple, 2015
Joan Hamlett, 2016
Earle Baldwin, 2017

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Mark Killay, 2015
Carolyn Brouillet, 2016
John R. Greene, 2016
Shelly Small, 2017
Jean Shaughnessy, 2017

HOLIDAY DECORATING COMMITTEE

Anthony Brighenti, 2015
Karen Rathburn, 2015
Stephen Raymond, 2015
Charles Shatos, 2015
Roger Watts, 2015
Herbert Wheeler, 2015

INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lisa Aldrich, 2015
David Boutall, 2015
Ben Feldman, 2015
Kevin Heath, 2015
Robert Hughes, 2015
Doug Kaczmarczyk, 2015

Paul Landry, 2015

MEMORIAL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Anthony Brighenti, 2015
Nancy E. Burnham, 2015
Lee E. Chauvette, 2015
Paul Dubey, 2015
Ben J. Feldman, 2015
John R. Greene, 2015
Vacant, 2015

MEMORIAL HALL REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

Bonnie Benjamin, 2015
Rene Lake-Gagliardi, 2015
Joanne Rich, 2015
Ethan Stone, 2015
Vacant, 2015

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Earle Baldwin, 2015
Robert Curley, 2015
Erik Euvrard, 2015
Joshua Feldman, 2015
Brian Hall, 2015
David Small, 2015

Associate Members:

Richard D. Godin, 2015
Robert Muzzy, 2015

PERSONNEL BOARD

Richard Donovan, 2016
Vacant, 2015
Vacant, 2015
Vacant, 2016
Vacant, 2017

PLANNING BOARD

Calvin Taylor, 2015
Lynn Harper, 2016
Ann Taylor, 2017
John Lambert, 2018
David Maroni, 2019

RECREATION COMMISSION

Kim Carasquillo, 2015
Kevin Colo, 2015
Sandra King, 2015
Becky Lanoue, 2015
Joni Paulino, 2015

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Elizabeth Whipps, 2015
Gerard Lozier, 2016
Hugh A. Horrigan, 2017
Nancy E. Burnham, Town Clerk

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Anthony Brighenti, 2015
Sharon Brighenti, 2015
Andrea Buglione, 2015
Margaret Feldman, 2015
Travis Knechtel, 2015
Gregory McGuane, 2015
David Small, 2015

TAX INCREMENTAL FINANCING COMMITTEE

Lisa Aldrich, 2015
Ken Duffy, 2015
Christine Mailloux, 2015
Vacant, 2015
Vacant, 2015

TOWN ENERGY COMMITTEE

Andrea Buglione, 2015
Aimee Hanson, 2015
David Maroni, 2015
James Maxwell, 2015
Vacant, 2015

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Timothy Anderson
Douglas Walsh
Thomas Lozier
Alfred Blanchard, 2015
Kevin Heath, 2015
Walter Lehman, 2015
Cathy Savoy, 2015
Erwin Merrifield, 2015
Vacant, 2015

VACANT & UNOCCUPIED BUILDING COMMITTEE

Anthony Brighenti, 2015
John Duguay, 2015
Harry Haldt, 2015
Deborah Karan, 2015
Susannah Lee, 2015
Robert Matthews, 2015
Brianna Skowyra, 2015
Calvin Taylor, 2015
Bruce Winters, 2015

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Robert Mallet, 2015
Richard Coburn, 2016
Susan Mondy Sykes, 2017
Elvin R. Chartrand, 2018
Henry D'Orto, Jr., 2019

Associate Members:

Kala Fisher, 2015
Richard Godin, 2015

ZONING BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

William Aucoin, 2015
Pam Browning, 2015
Richard Godin, 2015
Vacant, 2015
Vacant, 2015

WHEN BOARDS & COMMITTEES MEET

DATE OF MEETING	TIME OF MEETING	PLACE OF MEETING
ATHOL HOUSING AUTHORITY		
1st Wednesday	9:15 AM	21 Morton Meadows
ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE		
3rd Wednesday	6:30 PM	Middle School
BOARD OF ASSESSORS		
Tuesday	As posted	Room 15
BOARD OF HEALTH		
4th Tuesday	4:00 PM	Room 1
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES (no meeting July & August)		
3rd Wednesday	6:00 PM	Library
BOARD OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT		
1 st Wednesday	7:00 PM	Liberty Hall
BOARD OF SELECTMEN		
1 st & 3rd Tuesday	7:00 PM	Room 21
CONSERVATION COMMISSION		
4th Tuesday	7:00 PM	Liberty Hall
CONTRIBUTORY RETIREMENT BOARD		
4 th Wednesday	9:00 AM	Room 3
COUNCIL ON AGING		
3rd Tuesday	1:00 PM	Room 21
EDIC		
2 nd Wednesday	7:00 PM	Liberty Hall
FINANCE AND WARRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE		
1 st & 3 rd Wednesday	7:00 PM	Liberty Hall
PLANNING BOARD		
1st Monday	7:00 PM	Room 21
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS		
4th Wednesday	7:00 PM	Room 21

ZONING BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE
2nd Monday 7:00 PM Room 21

All meetings are held in Memorial Building unless otherwise noted.
Meeting notices and agendas are available on the Town of Athol website at www.athol-ma.gov

VITAL RECORDS

	7/1/12 - 6/30/13	7/1/13 - 6/30/14
Births	92	103
Marriages	52	58
Deaths	157	178

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORT

In FY 13 the Town of Athol created a Vacant and Abandoned Building Committee that included the Board of Health, the Board of Selectmen, the Building Department and the fire department. There was a partnership created with MRPC and the MA Attorney General's Office to work on the issue.

The Library moved out of the old library, with the help of a "shopping cart brigade", and reopened at the Senior Center on June 30th.

There was a lot of work done on the possibility of a new elementary school. The Athol/Royalston Regional School District requested a feasibility study that was done. An agreement was signed in the fall which began the school building process and set up a debt exclusion ballot question for the fall of 2013.

At the Annual Town meeting Dr. Howard Adams received the Margaret Grazis Employee of the Year Award. The Board accepted the resignation of Dr. Adams as the Animal Inspector after 50 years of service.

David Ames retired as Town Manager after nine years of service. Michael Szlosek was hired as the new Town Manager and he started in Athol on September 12th.

There was the good news concerning the North Quabbin Business Park, and the ground breaking occurred for Market Basket in May of 2013.

The construction of the new parking lot was completed on Traverse Street.

The office of the Board of Selectmen and the Treasurer/Collectors office switched their locations.

Steve Raymond was elected Chairman of the BOS replacing outgoing Chairman Susie Lee in April.

The Annual Report of the Chairman of the FWAC – June 10, 2013

The members of the Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee are appointed by the Town Moderator to be an independent advisory committee, representing our fellow citizens and taxpayers of the Town of Athol in the process of local town government.

The committee, comprised of seven members, reviews all warrant articles including the town budget and advises the citizens attending the town meeting what we feel is the best course of action to take on a given article.

The committee holds bi-weekly meetings throughout the year, meeting with the Town Manager along with various boards, committees and department heads as needed – reviewing any matter of importance that may come up during the year. We also review the current fiscal year budget on a monthly basis – assisting the Town Manager in oversight of the town's finances.

Lastly, the committee is responsible for the administration of the town's Reserve Account. This account contains an amount of money that has been set aside annually to provide an immediate funding source for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures, without the need of a special town meeting. The committee reviews all requests made concerning this fund and allocates funding based on the merit of each issue. At the end of each fiscal year – any unused funding is returned as "free cash" for future town use.

I would to take a few minutes to explain to the assembly the review process that takes place on the proposed operational budget and the articles that appear before you this evening. I think it is important for the assembly to understand how the committee arrives at the various recommendations to help you make the decisions that will be coming before you at this town meeting.

Concerning the budget review process – the Committee begins this task in January once all departments, committees and boards have submitted their operational requests to the Town Manager.

We meet with all department heads and most committees and boards, reviewing their requests and asking various questions to help us understand their needs and requirements for the next fiscal year. This process takes three months – or about six to eight meetings.

During this time – the Town Manager is beginning his process of molding the budget to fit the revenue projections for the upcoming fiscal year.

In early April as required by the Town Charter, the Town Manager presents his projected budget to a joint meeting of the Selectmen and Finance Committee.

Following this public presentation, the Finance Committee begins its review of the Town Managers budget. This process takes about two months – or another 3-5 meetings. It is at this point we make suggestions or express concerns about the proposed budget.

This year, due to a difficult budget situation – we asked the Town Manager for various budget options to review. We reviewed three budget options – which offered various operational scenarios for the coming fiscal year.

Finally - three weeks before the Town Meeting, the Committee reviews and votes its recommendations on all articles you have before you this evening. At this meeting, we call in the various sponsors of the articles presented for your consideration and ask any questions that we feel are needed for us to make an informed recommendation.

As you can see – we take our responsibility very seriously. This is not simply a “rubber stamp” committee. We realize that most of you along with our friends and neighbors do not have the time needed to attend various meetings to get detailed information about a particular issue or subject. We act as your eyes and ears within the workings of town government.

Along with these charges and responsibilities – we also take time between the summer months and the first of the year to review a given subject that we believe is important – not only to the function of town government and services– but also to help educate ourselves as Finance Committee members.

Over the past few years the FWAC has reviewed the municipal ambulance operation and last year we conducted a full review of the Police Department and its staffing needs.

This fall we will be meeting jointly with the Capital Planning Committee to study the long-term capital planning needs for the town and hopefully develop a stable funding source for those needs.

Over the recent past – funding for capital planning has come largely from unspent previous year appropriations – also known as “free cash” and town land sales. The issue with this type of funding is the volatility of this funding source from year to year and the likelihood that due to tighter operational budgets this “free cash” funding source will see a reduced availability going forward.

In fact, the capital planning budget for FY14 has been reduced by over 50% from previous levels due to a reduced level of available “free cash” – which is being used in part to fund operations. This year’s capital budget contains no use of “free cash”. It is apparent we will need to come up with a stable base-line funding source for capital expenses for the future.

Also, going forward the Committee has discussed looking into the Town Hall operations and the staffing needs of the DPW.

On behalf of the entire Committee I would like to thank all department heads, committees and boards for their cooperation during the past year. Your help and support is greatly appreciated.

Submitted,

Ken Duffy
Chairman, FWAC

The Athol Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee:
Ken Duffy, Chairman, Ben Feldman, Vice Chairman
Members: Cynthia Caldwell, Gary Deyo, Alan Dodge, Erik Euvrard and Paul Nelson

Athol Public Library

Report of the Board of Library Trustees 2013-2014

To: The Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Athol

The newly renovated Athol Public Library reopened for business on December 30th, 2013. The general contractor D.A.Sullivan & Sons continued work in the building for three months after that putting on finishing touches and correcting any issues. Thanks go to both the workmen and the library staff for their cheerful and helpful cooperation to keep the library open and functioning despite some inconveniences and interruptions. The public enjoyed watching what the workers were doing many days. While waiting for the large wood wall at the staircase to be installed, staff put out markers and invited the public to write a good wish or memory on the wall.

Perhaps the other very exciting news this year was the announcement that our library received LEED Platinum certification for energy efficiency and design, the FIRST historic library in the country to do so.

During the year of construction, the Construction Committee made many thoughtful recommendations to the Trustees and the Board wishes to publicly thank them for their diligence and hard work. Change orders were under one percent which is virtually unheard of. This committee logged many, many hours in meetings and site visits to bring this project to a successful conclusion. The names of these individuals are listed in the Director's report. Special thanks go to Chairman Dr. Carol Ambrozy and the weekly job meeting team of Dr. Ambrozy, Ken Vaidulas and Director Deb Blanchard.

The unfortunate side of the project was the late delivery by the general contractor. They were three months late and the library was forced to stay at the Senior Center longer incurring three additional months of rent. The contractor agreed to the full amount of liquidated damages which paid for all the unexpected bills associated with a delay and for the additional months of rent to the Senior Center. All in all, the library gave over \$100,000 to the COA for rent, utilities, and improvements to their building.

The library building shakeout continued throughout the year and has been a real learning experience for everyone. The new and larger building is wonderful for both the staff and the public.

Early on, the Trustees decided not to reopen the Main Street entrance. There were several reasons for this, chief among them was security. With business more than doubling, the staff was so busy that they could not maintain visual control of that door. They need to be able to see who is in the building and that could only happen if everyone came up the inside stairs or the elevator. Additionally that entrance is not heated as is the new entrance, so it was an added area for heat to escape the building, driving up heating or cooling costs. And after seeing how much dirt gets tracked into the new entrance (which is equipped to handle it with grates and walk off mats), there was concern for the new wood floor in the Carnegie and the cost to have to refinish that yearly. By not allowing people to come in the front door, the floor still looks as good as new after a year.

There were some issues with the water pressure coming into the building which affected the fire suppression system. The Trustees met with the Selectmen and the DPW on a couple of occasions to determine the problem and find a solution. Water pressure had gone up over 200 on one instance when the GC and engineers were here for a meeting about the issue. The end result was that the library paid to

have an additional check valve installed in front of the fire suppression system and the DPW paid to have a pressure recorder device installed at the library. There have been no further occurrences.

The Trustees met with Selectmen again to discuss the solar panels and the PPA. As a result a new agreement was signed and the solar company is going to give the library the panels once they are installed on the roof. This gift is valued at \$100,000.

For three months in the spring the Friends paid for the library to be open on Saturdays and also Tuesdays and Thursdays until 8 p.m. to determine best hours for the public. Results indicated that between 400-600 people come in during week days and a little over 100 on Saturdays. Staff said that 75 percent of those in on Saturday also came in during the week. The funding request to the town to open Saturdays was turned down by the Finance Committee and Town Manager.

Policies that were revised or instituted this year included: Computer Policy, Group Study Rooms Policy, Art Gift Acceptance, Art Exhibit, Bulletin Board, Integrated Pest Management Plan, Sustainable Purchasing and Green Cleaning.

In staff news this year, Tom Deam resigned for health reasons. Rheba Gagne was promoted from substitute to part time technician to take Tom's place. We welcomed Sean Tomlinson who was hired as a temporary substitute to take Rheba's position as a sub.

In December, the Trustees received notice that Mildred Geneva Foster Mann left the library \$5,000 in her will. The Trustees were very appreciative of this bequest and put it into an interest bearing account with her name and the stipulation that only the accrued interest be spent. There are no other restrictions on the money.

Special thanks are due to local resident Lee Legassy for fixing our beautiful antique grandfather clock free of charge. Everyone enjoys seeing it in the restored Carnegie library.

The PARC grant obtained through an application written by Carol Ambrozy began in the spring. Design work by Devellis Zrein and land transfer was completed by Town Counsel Mark Goldstein and Scott Burns in June. The contracts with D.A.Sullivan & Sons, Tappe and BHA were amended by change order to finish this work which will start in July.

We thank everyone for their continued support of the library during our first year back in our new building. It should be highlighted here however, that an enlarged facility brings with it new or increased costs. Our budget last year did not even cover the cost of contractual raises. To make the budget work, because we were under a warranty year, many service contracts were funded at zero as there was no charge this past year. These costs will return after the warranty period and should be planned for in a new fiscal year. The public would also like the library to be open more hours and when economic times improve, hopefully the town will find a way to add more staff to accomplish this.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret L. Young, Chairman
Margaret 'Susie' Feldman, Clerk
Carol Ambrozy
Sharon Brighenti
Frank Foster
J.R. Greene

ATHOL HOUSING AUTHORITY
ANNUAL REPORT
7/1/14 – 6/30/15

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

The Athol Housing Authority provides affordable housing to low and moderate income families, as well as to the elderly and disabled. Housing is available based on Federal and State Program Regulations.

The Authority owns 78 Elderly/Handicapped units under the Massachusetts Chapter 667 Housing Program as well as 16 units of Family units under the Massachusetts Chapter 705 Housing Program.

Additionally, the Authority administers housing subsidies for 45 families under the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program and 58 families under the Federal Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Effective January 5, 2015, the Orange Housing Authority (OHA) shares office space with the Athol Housing Authority (AHA). The combined staff is made up of the following:

Christi Martin, Executive Director/Secretary to the Board (AHA)
Bridget Sullivan, Program Administrator (AHA)
Connie Parmenter, MRVP Administrator (AHA)
Linda Lefebvre, Receptionist (OHA)
Lynn Price, Receptionist (OHA)
Stephen Larry, Maintenance Supervisor (AHA)
Steven Belanger, Maintenance Supervisor (OHA)
Arthur Provencher, Maintenance Staff (AHA)

The Authority is overseen by the Board of Commissioners, which meet on a monthly basis. The Board is made up of the following:

Cathy Savoy, Chairperson
Edward Sawin, Vice-Chairperson
Ted Ledgard, Treasurer
Cathy Muzzy, Commissioner

The office of the Athol Housing Authority is located at 21 Morton Meadows and is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Phone 978-249-4848. Fax 978-249-9604.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christi Martin
Executive Director
Athol Housing Authority