

CHAPTER

EIGHT

COMMITTEES

Report of the Boards &
Committees of the Town

**Athol Historical Commission
Annual Report
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015**

The Athol Historical Commission held one meeting during the year. On April 21, 2015, the commission met to discuss the development of an historic district downtown, working with the Downtown Revitalization Committee and Town Planner, Andrea Buglione.

A letter was sent in support of a MA Historical Rehabilitation Tax Credit for the UTD complex at the request of Cindy and Chuck Hartwell.

Mark Killay resigned from the Commission.

Members and Officers continued in their positions from the previous year.

Chair – J.R. Greene

Clerk – Jean Shaughnessy

Carolyn Brouillet

Shelley Small

Athol Orange Joint Cable Advisory Committee
Annual Report FY 2015

The Athol Orange Joint Cable Advisory Committee (CAC) continued its work throughout fiscal year 2015 towards the final goal of submitting a suggested License Agreement between the Town of Athol Board of Selectmen (the Franchise *or Licensing* Authority) and Time Warner Cable Corporation (the Franchisee *or cable operator*.) An identical license was presented to the town of Orange. 2015 was the third and final year of the three-year license renewal process outlined by the informal process under FCC guidelines. Having held public hearings and opened an ascertainment record in year one (2012) collection of data and ongoing negotiations ensued throughout the entire process with the CAC meeting monthly until the process was complete. The CAC recognizes the work of special cable counsel William August of Epstein and August LLP of Boston.

During the license renewal process, Comcast Cable Corporation sought congressional approval to merge and purchase Time Warner Cable. The CAC spent considerable time researching the possible impacts that such a merger would have on the town's final position and recommended, after consultation with special counsel, that the Board of Selectmen take no action on Comcast's requests for signed approval. This strategy would allow the towns to not endorse the takeover, but would not deny federally mandated license transfer under current protocol of FCC regulations. After several months of consideration, FCC regulators and the U.S. Congress called for testimony on the subject. Comcast eventually rescinded its request and the merger deal fell apart. As of the writing of this report, a similar process of merger is nearing completion, this time with Charter Communications as the buyer. Charter intends to keep the system in the Athol Orange area as its own once the transfer is complete.

Lengthy negotiations between CAC members, Time Warner executives and special counsel continued from December 2014 right up to just four weeks before the existing Franchise License was due to expire in June of 2015. Ultimately an agreement was reached and after formulation and composition by the CAC and special counsel, a final recommendation was delivered to the Board of Selectmen and town counsel. The Board of Selectmen reviewed, discussed in open session and approved the recommended license. The license is filed with the state of Massachusetts and the FCC. A copy is available for reading at Athol Memorial Hall, Office of the Selectmen. This License to Operate a Cable Franchise (a form of contract) is likely valued at approximately \$80-100 million over its ten-year term.

After acceptance of the new Cable Franchise License(s), the role of the CAC turns from an advisory role to one of compliance review. The Franchisee must submit periodic reports that show metrics related to customer service (Form 100) as well as annual reports. The CAC meets periodically to review these forms and helps address relations between the Franchise Authority (the Board of Selectmen) and the Franchisee (currently Time Warner Cable.) Complaints concerning resident's cable service, quality or billing

must be addressed to Time Warner Cable. Complaints regarding negligence or the inability to reach or be responded to in a reasonable time frame or manner by the cable operator may be made in writing to the Licensing Authority of the town in which the subscriber lives.

The CAC would like to thank the Board of Selectman for its attention, assistance, and diligence concerning the license renewal process and looks forward to continuing its compliance role.

Respectfully submitted:

Mark Wright, Chairman
Nancy Blackmer, Secretary
Daniel Carey
Walter Owens
Carolyn Salls
Robert Schwein
Marie MacDonald, ex officio
Carol Courville-Brigley, ex officio

**BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

The Bylaw Review Committee is appointed annually by the Town Manager. They review and make recommendations on the Town Bylaws to be voted on at Town Meeting. They meet as needed.

In Fiscal year 2015, The Bylaw Review Committee met with members of the Agriculture Committee and supported their “Right to Farm” Bylaw. The Board of Selectmen asked the Bylaw Review Committee to look at the “Snow Removal Bylaw”. The Committee voted to leave as currently worded and have the Police Chief work with the Town Manager for a policy on “extreme hardship”.

The Bylaw Review Committee submitted the following articles to the Board of Selectmen for the Fall Town Meeting.

Amendment #1

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter IV Town Buildings and Property, Section 1(b) of the Town Bylaws by deleting the following language:

Section 1(b). The care, custody and control of the entire Memorial Building shall be with a Memorial Hall Committee consisting of three Selectmen, and four voters to be appointed by the Town Manager each year in April to serve for one year from May first. This Committee with the aide of the Town Manager shall employ necessary janitors and caretakers, and attend to the lighting, heating, care and repair of the building, and make reasonable rules and regulations not inconsistent with these bylaws for the use and occupancy of said building. All town officers and boards shall, as far as possible, be provided necessary and adequate office and vault space in the building, and in the use of the building's facilities the carrying out of the town's business shall be given first consideration.

and replacing it with the following:

Section 1(b). The care, custody and control of the entire Memorial Building shall be with a Memorial Hall Committee consisting of **two** Selectmen, and **five** voters to be appointed by the Town Manager each year in April to serve for one year from May first. This Committee with the aide of the Town Manager shall employ necessary janitors and caretakers, and attend to the lighting, heating, care and repair of the building, and make reasonable rules and regulations not inconsistent with these bylaws for the use and occupancy of said building. All town officers and boards shall, as far as possible, be provided necessary and adequate office and vault space in the building, and in the use of the building's facilities the carrying out of the town's business shall be given first consideration.

; or act in relation thereto.

Amendment #2

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter IV Town Buildings and Property, Section 1(c) of the Town Bylaws by deleting the following language:

The Committee shall grant the Edward H. Phillips Post No. 102, American Legion, the use of Memorial hall on Armistice Day, and the Roy L. Boyce, Post No. 650, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and Athol Chapter No. 46, Disabled American Veterans, each the use of Memorial Hall one night each year without charge. To each of said organizations and to the Athol High School Alumni Association for the rentable portions of Memorial Building on one other date each year, without charge, provided said use shall not be for the purposes of revenue or gain.

and replacing it with the following:

The Committee shall grant the Athol Veterans Council (consisting of the American Veterans [Am Vets] Post 793, Edward H. Phillips American Legion Post No. 102, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 40, Pequoig Detachment 1168 Marine Corps League, Roy L. Boyce Post 650 Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 340 the use of Memorial Hall and Liberty Hall on Armistice (Veterans) Day and the use of Memorial Hall on Memorial Day in the event of rain and each of the afore mentioned organizations the use of Memorial Hall one night each year without charge. To each of said organizations and to the Athol High School Alumni Association for the rentable portions of Memorial Building on one other date each year, without charge, provided said use shall not be for the purposes of revenue or gain.

; or act in relation thereto.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Anderson, Chairman
Nancy Burnham, Clerk
Kala Fisher
Toni Phillips
Jean Robinson

CAPITAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen & the Citizens of the Town Athol;

The Charter for the Town of Athol states the Capital Program Committee shall study proposed capital outlays involving the acquisition of land or an expenditure of twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) or more having a useful life of at least three years. The Committee is further charged with studying the need, timing and cost projection of these projects and the effect each will have on the financial position of the Town.

The budget is typically funded from a combination of taxation, free cash and occasionally from unspent balances in prior year Capital Planning accounts. It is the committee's practice to meet with each department head to review the department's current status and future needs. After all of these assessments the Committee meets again to deliberate and form its annual budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The Capital Program Committee meets jointly with the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Warrant Advisory Committee each April to present its annual budget in preparation of the June Annual Town Meeting.

Lastly, the Capital Program Committee will meet to make recommendations on other projects as they relate to the overall infrastructure of the Town of Athol, for example the renovation to the Athol Public Library and the Town of Athol Five-Year Energy Use Reduction Plan. Members serve five year terms and include representatives from both the Planning Board & the Finance & Warrant Advisory Committee. Current members are Chairman Robert Muzzy, Vice Chairman James Smith, Michael Butler, Dennis Killay, Linda Oldach, Planning Board representative John Lambert and FWAC representative Erik Euvrard.

The Capital Planning Committee presented the FY16 Budget to the Board of Selectmen, per Charter, in April 2015. This year the Capital Planning Committee only had enough money to purchase a new police cruiser for \$38,000 and provide \$30,000 for infrastructure improvements by the Department of Public Works.

Respectfully Submitted;

Robert Muzzy

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

The Charter Review Committee is appointed annually by the Board of Selectmen. The Committee is made up of the following: The Moderator, Town Clerk, a member of the Board of Selectmen, a member of the Charter Commission and 4 citizens.

The Charter Review Committee reviews the Town of Athol's Charter and makes recommended changes to the Board of Selectmen and to the voters in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 43B.

Upon the request of a citizen, the Charter Review Committee discussed the pros and cons of changing the Board of Health from appointed to elected. The Charter Review Committee requested the Board of Selectmen to place the following non-binding question on the Annual Town Election ballot - "Shall the Town Charter require the members of the Board of Health to be elected instead of appointed by the Town Manager?"

The Charter Review Committee began the review of the entire Town Charter and will bring any recommended changes to the Board of Selectmen when the review is complete.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Williams, Chairman
Heather Brissette
Nancy Burnham
Lee Chauvette
Ben Feldman
Joan Gross
Susannah Lee
Lawrence McLaughlin
Elizabeth Peterson

ATHOL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

To: The Honorable Board of Selectpersons and the Citizens of Athol,

The Athol Conservation Commission is responsible for well over 1,000 acres of property in Athol and is charged with the duty of protecting these areas, as well as the environment and working with citizens who apply for Requests for Determination of Applicability (RDA) and Notices of Intent (NOI). These hearings are in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and 310 CMR 10.05 (5). Our meetings are regularly held on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in Liberty Hall in the Memorial Building.

We have a board of seven Voting Members, two Associate Members, one Constable, Elwin Bacon, who is dedicated to the overall care and maintenance of Bearsden and Newton Reservoir areas. (Elwin gave us a year notice of his intentions to retire on June 30, 2016.) We also have our valued Wetlands Agent, Ward Smith. He keeps the board well informed on the laws and regulations of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

We only had 9 RDA's and 1 NOI this year but we were able to bring in funds to the Town with timber cuts from Town owned lands.

Michael Mauri, Forester, has continued to implement our Forest Plan. He has marked and put out for bid a couple of cuts in the Bearsden area, bringing in funds that were added to the General Fund.

The Town also hired Forester's, Richard Valcourt & Son, for additional Forest Management cuts on our land in Phillipston, and Cobb Road, and on land formerly known as the Bidwell property.

Jaimee Briggs and David Small worked on the application and (received), a Mass Wildlife Habitat Management Grant for work to be done in Bearsden. This grant will cover the removal of invasive vegetation and the planting of native species to restore it to its natural state.

Bob Curley, with the North Quabbin Trails Association, has continued to promote the Bearsden Area through many media outlets. This is making our wonderful hiking trails and wildlife resources available to many visitors.

With the help of Sarah Wells, Mount Grace Land Trust, the Town was able to acquire the White Pond Road property (107 acres) from the Stoddard family and the abutting South Athol Road property (91 acres) from the LeBlanc family. The Con. Com. has been working with the LeBlanc's to create a parking area off of the main road to reduce encroachment on their remaining property. When it's completed a sign will be erected at the entrance to designate the parking area.

The Con. Com. and Mount Grace Land Trust co-hold a Conservation Restriction on Feldman's (322 acres) and Blakley's (144 acres). A Conservation Restriction prohibits the land from being developed but may be used for logging and agriculture purposes by the land owners.

We are continuing to work with the advancement of the Market Basket property and EDIC to facilitate new businesses on Templeton Road.

The new elementary school is progressing with detention ponds, ground water management and drainage concerns.

We are sad to say that one of our long time members passed away, John Bisbee. We had a dedication ceremony at the main gate in the Bearsden parking lot. It is now know as the "Bisbee Barway."

We have been very blessed to have a great working board of dedicated people who care about our environment and working with people to help them make the best use of their property.

Our board members are:

Robert Muzzy, Chairman James Smith, Vice-Chairman J.R. Greene, Walter Lehmann, Dennis Killay,
M. Katheryn Harrow, and Laura Smith, are all Voting Members

Elwin Bacon, Constable Jaimee Briggs and Bill Wheeler are New Associate Members

Cathy Muzzy, Secretary

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert A. Muzzy, Chairman



James Meehan, Jr., Chairman
Email: jmeehanj@mass.rr.com

Shaun A. Suhoski, Town Manager
Email: ssuhoski@townofathol.org

Sunday, March 27, 2016

To: Select Board
From: Jim Meehan
Subject: Annual Report for FY15

EDIC member for the FY15 were Calvin Taylor, Clint Sykes, Keith McGuirk, Mark Wright, Dick Plotkin, Marty Robichaud and Jim Meehan. We met our quorum requirements for 11 of the 12 months.

During FY15 we continued our activities at the North Quabbin Business Park. Construction of the water and sewer project (DIF) was completed. Athol LLC purchased or has Purchase and Sale Agreements with 116 acres. RMD (Market Basket) purchased 70 acres and opened their supermarket in February after extensive site work and road work.

Athol LLC by previous agreement with RMD did not start construction in FY15. The EDIC has worked with Steve Goodman, one of the owners of Athol LLC, to position a gas station and convenience store just outside of the Business Park. After objections from the local residents the EDIC has hired a local civil engineer to do work on some town owned property to evaluate the possibility of a second location.

The EDIC are members of and has attended meetings with North Quabbin Economic Development Committee, Mass Development Council, International Conference of Shopping Centers, Mass Econ as well as North Central Worcester County Chamber of Commerce Economic Development committee.

EDIC has worked with North Quabbin Coalition and the Athol Credit Union on methods to improve our low to moderate income housing and the vacant housing problem. Attended meetings with Boston Home Loan Bank as to financing methods. ACU is now a CDFI (special program for training and loaning monies) which will be advantageous to our community.

We met with potential developers of a hotel through Athol LLC on the EDIC land that Athol LLC has a purchase and sale agreement.

As chairman I am on the board of the North Quabbin Loan Fund. We worked closely with Home Town Bank and Michelle Labell to open the restaurant Bon Appetit on South Street.

We have done preliminary work on moving the school buildings when they are turned over to the town in June of GY16.

Sincerely,

Jim Meehan

MEMORIAL BUILDING COMMITTEE

To Board of Selectmen & Citizens of the Town of Athol:

The Memorial Building Committee oversees improvements and changes to the Memorial Building and its grounds. They meet as needed.

In fiscal year 2015 the Memorial Building Committee worked with the Town Manager, the Finance & Warrant Advisory Committee and the Capital Planning Committee to fix the west entrance exterior stairs and the cupola structure on the building's roof.

Both items had been flagged by the Town's Property & Casualty Insurer as hazards and the west entrance, in fact, had to be taped off to pedestrians.

The Town hired architect Paul Lieneck of Haynes, Lieneck & Smith to complete the design and bid documents. Build Max, Inc. of Dudley was the low bidder and contracts were signed in May.

The cost of the repairs to the west entrance was \$34,500 and the cupola was \$36,000. Both projects were completed just under budget and money saved was used to make repairs to the ceiling in the Accountant's Office which had been damaged by water leaking in from the cupola.

Other issues addressed by the Memorial Building Committee included the re-use of the former retirement office in the basement level. The Committee recommended that space be turned into a small meeting room and asked the Town Manager to facilitate.

Plans to renovate the kitchen in Liberty Hall continue to be discussed but are financially unobtainable at this time.

Sincerely,

Ben Feldman, Chairman
JR Greene
Nancy Burnham
Anthony A. Brighenti
Lee Chauvette

Town of Athol
Planning Board
Annual Report
July 1,2014 to June 30, 2015

The Planning Board meets on the First (1st) Monday of every Month unless a holiday or election comes into play then we meet the second (2nd) Monday of the Month.

Over the past year we had held two (2) public hearings, one (1) on Zoning Bylaw changes and one (1) for a flag lot for Christopher Stoddard for property located on Old Keene Road.

We have had two (2) ANRS (Approval not required) come before the board. One was for Bachelder Automotive on Marble Street and the other was for Town of Athol for an Out lot on the corner of Main Street and Lake Ellis Road.

Over the course of our meetings we have worked with and continued discussion about the Vegetation Planting at the Adams Farm/ Soltas Energy located on Bearsden Road in Athol Mass. The Board finally signed off on this as all conditions we met. We also had many discussions and work hard on zoning issues brought to us by Richard Godin.

In August we took on Garrett Knapik as an associate member of the board so he could learn what the board is about and he became a full member in January. We were so glad to have him join us. We also lost a wonderful member of the board David Maroni due to a death. And in June we said goodbye to Lynn Harper as she retired from the board after many years with us. We will sure miss her but wish her well.

Our Planning board Members are Calvin Taylor, Chairman
Ann Taylor
Lynn Harper
John Lambert
Garrett Knapik

ATHOL RECREATION COMMISSION

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SELECTMEN &
THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN OF ATHOL:

THE ATHOL RECREATION COMMISSION HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM AND STAFF THE TWO TOWN BEACHES.

THE SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM IS HELD AT THE ATHOL HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE CHILDREN OF ATHOL AGES 6 TO 14. THE PROGRAM IS A FIVE WEEK PROGRAM THAT WAS SUPERVISED BY JEFFREY JOBST. THE STAFF INCLUDED SEVERAL COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ALSO RESIDE IN THE TOWN OF ATHOL. THE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO INCLUDE PHYSICAL EXERCISE, ARTS, DRAMA, NON COMPETITIVE GAMES, AND FIELD TRIPS.

IN THE PAST THE PROGRAM HAD BEEN A MINIMAL REGISTRATION FEE BUT DUE TO FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES THE TOWN MANAGER AND FINANCE COMMITTEE ENCOURAGED THE REGISTRATION FEE BE CHARGED TO CHILDREN THAT WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM. THIS WAS THE SECOND YEAR AFTER THIS FEE WAS ADDED TO THE PROGRAM. THE FEES WERE DECREASED AND THE NUMBERS DID RECOVER SOME BUT DID REMAIN WELL BELOW THOSE OF PREVIOUS YEARS. THOSE CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN A FUN AND ADVENTUROUS PROGRAM BUT MANY CHILDREN WERE NOT ABLE TO PARTICIPATE DUE TO THE CHANGES. THE PLAYGROUND PROGRAM CO-ORDINATED WITH THE FEDERAL SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM USING ATHOL HIGH SCHOOL AS THE FACILITY THAT PROVIDED BREAKFAST AND LUNCH FOR THE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES DURING THE WEEKS OF THE SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM.

THE BEACHES WERE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF BENJAMIN KING. THE BEACHES AT LAKE ELLIS AND SILVER LAKE WERE OPEN IN MID-JUNE THROUGH AUGUST. THE BEACHES WERE OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK FROM 11 AM TO 7PM. EACH BEACH WAS STAFFED WITH TWO LIFEGUARDS. EACH LIFEGUARD MUST MAINTAIN CURRENT CERTIFICATIONS IN LIFEGUARDING, WATERFRONT CERTIFICATION, FIRST AID, FIRST RESPONDERS, AND CPR.

SINCERELY,

SANDRA KING

ATHOL SHADE TREE COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

2015

The Athol Shade Tree Commission is currently in our sixth year. We planted one large Maple on Spring St. and two Grand Rhoderdendrums on Pinedale Rd., as well as a large Maple at Fish Park. Travis Knechtel, Tree Warden for Athol and a member of our Commission, requested financial assistance in this effort. He reports that most of the large pines around Fish Park are dying and will eventually need to be removed. He expresses a desire to restore Hardwoods in the area around the park and neighborhood which the ASTC completely supports. Susie Feldman, member and resident artist has provided us with a new logo for our Commission which can be viewed on the Town's Web page soon.

We lost two members this year, Andrea Buglione, Associate member, has relocated and Audrey Pagnotto resigned. A new member will be appointed in the new year.

Current Member are; Greg McGuane - Chairman, Anthony Brighenti, Sharon Brighenti - Secretary, Susie Feldman, Travis Knechtel - Tree Warden, and Dave Small.

Currently the Commissions" efforts are supported by the Town Of Athol, fundraising, and the generosity of private donors.

Submitted by,

Sharon Brighenti, Secretary ASTC

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Brighenti". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name of the secretary.



Town of Athol

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Vacant and Abandoned Building Committee

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of the Town of Athol:

Vacant and Abandoned Building Committee Report:

The Vacant and Abandoned Building Committee meets once per month to address the ongoing problem of vacant and abandoned, derelict properties. This is at times a tedious task, but progress is being made.

2015 saw the resignation of Susannah Whipps Lee from the Vacant and Abandoned Building Committee. Ms. Lee left our committee to become State Representative and we wish her well in her endeavors.

We finalized the \$150,000.00 grant from the Attorney General's Office completing a number of receivership properties, and recapturing \$32,884.38 from MEC, one of our receivers, to replenish the grant money to be able to continue with our receivership and demolition efforts.

A Special Revenue Account is in process of being created to allow us to reutilize the funds that are brought in as both receivership and demolition funds are returned to the town through property sales and liens.

A top ten demolition list has been created and the committee hopes to seek more funding to aid with our efforts. The committee meets on the third Tuesday of every month, and we greatly appreciate public input.

Respectfully Submitted,

Members of the Vacant and Abandoned Building Committee:

Chair, Fire Chief John Duguay

Vice-Chair Tony Brighenti

Recording Secretary Brianna Skowyra

Alan Dodge

Calvin Taylor

Bruce Winters

Deb Vondal, Health Agent

Alternate Harry Haldt

Alternate Bob Matthews

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen;

The Zoning Board of Appeals met the fourth Wednesday of each month in FY15. The ZBA provides under MGL Chapter 40A an appeals process for property owners denied building / zoning permits by the Inspector of Buildings / Zoning Agent.

Between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 the ZBA granted:

- 3 Special Permits
- 0 Variances

Respectfully Submitted
Elvin Chartrand, Chairman
Susan Sykes, Clerk
Richard Coburn
Robert Mallet
Henry D'Orto
Richard Godin, Alternate
Kala Fisher, Alternate

ZONING BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen &
The Citizens of the Town of Athol:

As a result of concerns expressed by residents regarding the proliferation of yard sales throughout the town, and particularly locations that held yard sales several days each week during most of the year, the Board of Selectmen implemented a yard sale policy during January, 2015. However, the Select board voided the policy in May because it was deemed unenforceable. In an effort to create a policy that could be enforced, the Board of Selectmen requested that the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee (ZBRC) draft a zoning bylaw to regulate yard sales.

The ZBRC worked with members of the town's Planning Department, the Town Manager's Office, the Building Department and the Town Clerk's office to draft a definition for "Yard Sale" to be included in the zoning bylaws. The definition defined what constituted a yard sale and outline conditions that must be followed when yard sales are held in the town of Athol.

This definition was presented at the October town meeting and received a majority vote in favor of adopting it for inclusion to the town's zoning bylaws. However, the majority vote did not meet the 2/3rd requirement for passage and as a result, the warrant article failed.

The ZBRC also presented at the October town meeting a second warrant article to change the "Animal Kennel or Hospital" use in the Use Regulation Schedule by adding a footnote that referenced Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140, Section 136A. In addition to changing the definition for Kennel, the Massachusetts Legislature created definitions for "Commercial boarding or training kennel", "Commercial breeder kennel", "Domestic charitable corporation kennel", "Personal kennel", "Shelter", and "Veterinary kennel". The footnote incorporated these definitions into the town's zoning bylaws. This warrant article was overwhelmingly passed by the resident in attendance.

Respectfully,

Richard D. Godin
Chairman, Zoning Bylaw Review Committee