

ANNUAL TOWN REPORT 1997

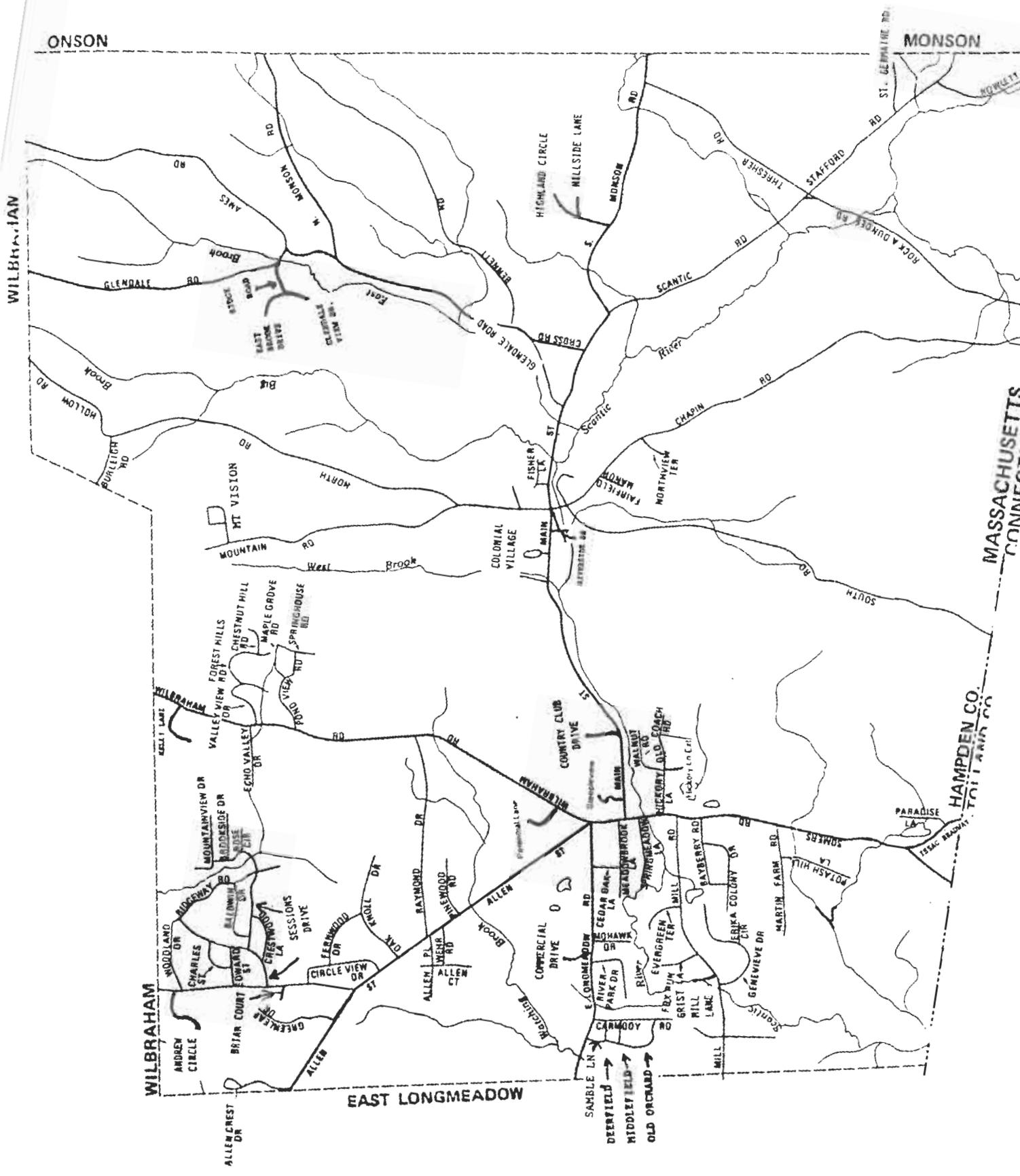


HAMPDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

INDEX

ACCOUNTANT.....	69
ADVISORY COMMITTEE.....	see pink pages in back of book
ANIMAL INSPECTOR.....	29
APPEALS, BOARD OF.....	20
ASSESSORS, BOARD OF.....	58
BUDGET FOR FY98.....	see pink pages in back of book
BUILDING COMMISSIONER.....	19
BUILDING PROCEDURE.....	11
CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS.....	36
CENTENNIAL COMMONS--TENANTS.....	25
COMPUTER STUDY COMMITTEE.....	19
CONSERVATION COMMISSION.....	26
COUNCIL ON AGING.....	22
DOG OFFICER.....	28
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS.....	see back inside cover
FEE SCHEDULE.....	12
FIRE DEPARTMENT.....	39
FOREST FIRE WARDEN.....	39
GREATER SPRINGFIELD SENIOR SERVICES, INC.(GSSSI).....	24
HAMPDEN CULTURAL COUNCIL.....	30
HAMPDEN LAND PROJECT.....	27
HEALTH, BOARD OF.....	15
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT.....	40
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.....	18
HOUSING AUTHORITY.....	25
INFORMATION, GENERAL.....	4
LIBRARY.....	37
LAUGHING BROOK.....	42
MAP.....	2
MEMORIAM.....	3
MODERATOR.....	18
PARKS & RECREATION.....	33
PLANNING BOARD.....	21
POLICE DEPARTMENT.....	44
RECOGNITION OF SERVICE.....	10
RECREATION ASSOCIATION OF HAMPDEN (RAH).....	34
RECYCLING.....	17
REGISTRARS, BOARD OF.....	31
RIDGELINE AND HILLSIDE COMMITTEE.....	21
HAMPDEN-WILBRAHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT.....	47
SELECTMEN, BOARD OF.....	13
TAXES, COLLECTOR OF.....	60
TOWN CLERK.....	61
TOWN TREASURER.....	55
TOWN MEETING --- ANNUAL.....	62
SPECIAL.....	68
TOWN OFFICERS --- COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT SCHEDULES.....	5
ELECTED.....	6
APPOINTED.....	7
TOWN WARRANT.....	see yellow pages in back of book
TREE WARDEN.....	41
VETERANS' SERVICES.....	31

cover photo of **Mill Pond** taken by Girl Scout Troop #657, Felicia Rizzolo, Kelly Joy, Charlotte Bearse.



MASSACHUSETTS
CONNECTICUT

HAMPDEN CO.
TOLLAND CO.

IN MEMORIAM

Alexander Bandoski
Historical Society

Richard Connors
Volunteer Fire Department

Hilliard Clarkson
School Committee

Donald E. Dickinson
Regional School Committee
Slaughtering Inspector

Henry C. Dickinson
Historical Society

Daniel M. Flynn
School Committee
School Building Committee
Advisory Committee

Carl M. Kibbe
Scantic Senior Citizens Club

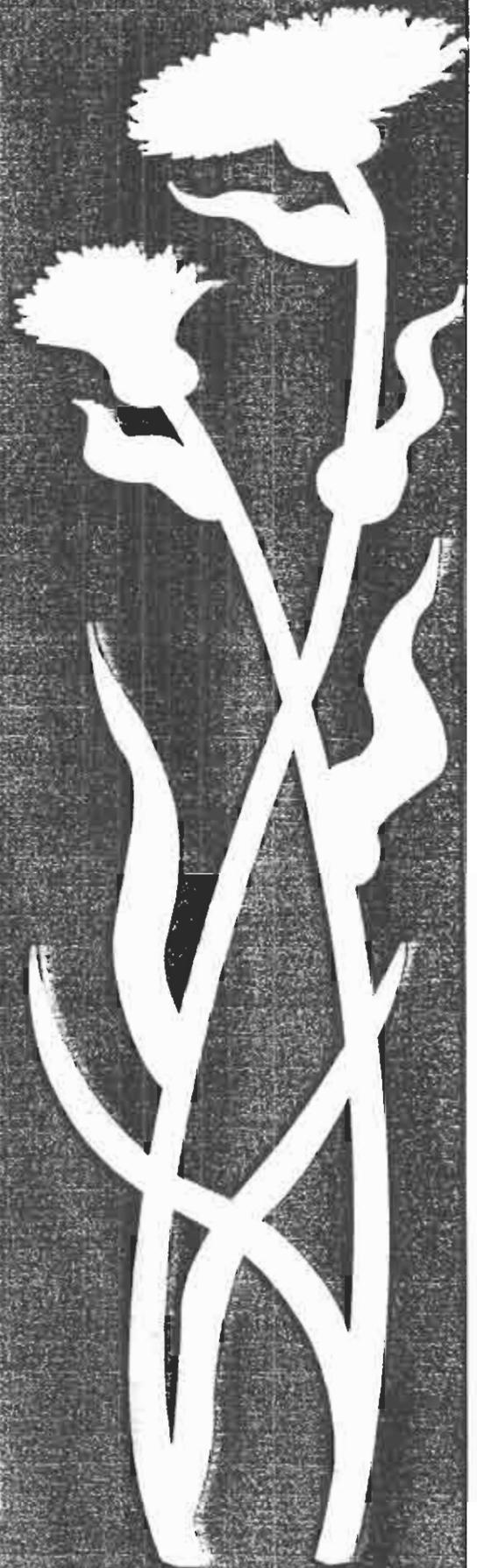
Edith I. Maher
Historical Society

Jane G. McCarthy
School Nurse

Lucille McGuill Mulcahy
Town Treasurer
Advisory Board
RAH

Robert A. Newton
Police Officer

Claire A. Zykoski
Historical society
Scantic Senior Citizens Club
COA



INFORMATION FOR NEW RESIDENTS

POPULATION OF HAMPDEN

Federal Census	1/1/91	4,709
State Census	1/1/85	4,762
Town Census	1/1/97	4,995

GEOGRAPHIC AREA

19.64 square miles

COUNTY

Hampden County

TAX RATE

\$17.52 for Fiscal Year 1998

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Last Monday in April at 8:00 p.m.

ANNUAL ELECTION TOWN OFFICERS

First Monday in May, 8am-8pm

GOVERNOR

William F. Weld
Office of the Governor
Boston, MA 02133
Phone: 617-727-3600

CONGRESSMAN

Richard E. Neal
437 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-5601

OR

District Office:
Federal Building, Room 309
1550 Main Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Phone: 413-785-0325

U.S. SENATORS

Edward M. Kennedy
U.S. Senate
Russell Senate Office Bldg. Room 315
Washington DC
Phone: 202-224-4543

OR

2400 JFK Building, Room 409
Boston, MA 02203
Phone: 617-565-3170

John F. Kerry
U.S. Senate
Russell Senate Bldg. Room 421
Washington DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-2742

OR

145 State Street, Room 504
Springfield, MA 01103
Phone: 413-785-4610

STATE SENATOR

Brian Lees, Hampden District
State House, Room 308
Boston, MA 02133
Phone: 617-722-1014

OR

District Office: 10 Parker Street
Indian Orchard, MA 01151
Phone: 413-543-2167

REPRESENTATIVE

Mary Rogeness, 2nd Hampden District
State House, Room 43
Boston, MA 02133
Phone: 617-722-2305

OR

Residence: 22 Warren Ter, Longmeadow
Phone: 413-567-5480

INFORMATION FOR HAMPDEN RESIDENTS
BUSINESS HOURS OF TOWN OFFICES & COMMITTEES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm

Meet every Monday at 7:00pm

Phone: 566-2151,2152

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meet 1st & 3rd Wednesday each month, 7:30pm

TOWN CLERK - Rita A. Vail

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm

Phone: 566-3214

TOWN TREASURER - Donna Easton-Vicalvi

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm

Phone: 566-2401

TAX COLLECTOR - Rita A. Vail

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm

Phone: 566-2206

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-2:30pm

Meet 2nd Tuesday 7:30pm to 9:00pm

Phone: 566-3223

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meet 2nd Monday at 7:00pm

Phone: 566-2206

PLANNING BOARD

Meet 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 7:00pm

Phone: 566-2403

566-8591 for appointment

RIDGELINE & HILLSIDE COMMITTEE

Meet 2nd Wednesday each month at 7:00pm

PARK COMMISSION

Meet 2nd & 4th Thursday at 7:30pm

Park Hours 8am-9pm, Apr. 1-Oct.31

Pool Hours July 1-Labor Day, 10am-6pm

BOARD OF APPEALS

Meet 4th Tuesday at 7:30pm

Applications available from Town Clerk

VETERANS' SERVICES -- Marilyn Bolaske

Office: 200 Main Street, Monson

Phone: 267-4140

HAMPDEN-WILBRAHAM

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meet 2nd Monday at TWB

Meet 4th Monday at Minnechaug

Phone: 596-3884

CEMETERY COMMISSION

Meet 2nd Tuesday of January, April, July & October at 7:30pm

Phone: 566-3304, 3357, 3963

COUNCIL ON AGING

Office Hours: Mon-Friday, 8:30am-4:00pm

Meet 2nd Monday of month at 9:00am

Phone: 566-5588

HAMPDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY

Meet 3rd Wednesday each month, 9am at Centennial Commons

Phone: 566-8157

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Office Hours: Every Wed 4:30pm-6pm

Phone: 566-2204

HAMPDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Meet 3rd Wednesday each month

Phone: 566-3047

HAMPDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS

Monday: 11:00am -- 8:00 pm

Tuesday: 11:00am -- 5:00 pm

Wednesday: 11:00am -- 8:00 pm

Thursday: 11:00am -- 5:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00am -- 3:00 pm

Library **CLOSED** Saturdays from June 15th thru September 15th

SANITARY LANDFILL HOURS

Saturday: 7:00am -- 5:00pm

RECYCLE; 2nd & 4th Sat each month

LAUGHING BROOK HOURS

Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00am --5:00pm

Phone: 566-8034, 566-8035

HAMPDEN CULTURAL COUNCIL

Meet as Posted

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS -- 1997

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/HEALTH

Arthur A. Booth, Jr., Chairman	1998
Richard R. Green, Chairman Health	1999
James D. Smith	2000

Administrative Assistant to
Board of Selectmen/Health
Katharine D. Ashe

Secretary to Board of Selectmen/Health
Doreen M. Rauch

MODERATOR

Richard Patullo	1998
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TOWN CLERK

Rita A. Vail	1998
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TOWN TREASURER

Donna Easton-Vicalvi	1998
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COLLECTOR OF TAXES

Rita A. Vail	1998
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BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Richard A. Jalbert, Chairman	1999
Henry P. Baush	2000
Stanley W. Witkop	1998

Clerk to Assessors
Diane Hildreth

HAMPDEN-WILBRAHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Douglas F. Boyd	1999
Ronald Thomson	2000

TRUSTEES, HAMPDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Beth E. Burger, Chairman	1999
Kathleen Hutchinson	2000
Elaine Kingsbury	1998

HAMPDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY

William G. Joy, Chairman	2001
Dalton Philpott, Vice Chairman, and State Appointee	
Mildred E. (Betsy) Grant	1998
Aline Burt	2000
Miles Hapgood	1999

CONSTABLES

Paul A. Bouchard	1998
Miles M. Hapgood, Jr.	1998
George K. Stone, Jr.	1998

CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS

Henry W. Dunwoody, Chairman	1998
Robert F. Sazama, Jr.	1999
Renate Oliver	2000

PLANNING BOARD

Joseph A. Dolben, Chairman	1998
John D. Flynn	1999
Mark Casey	2002
Joseph Kruzel	2000
Duane Mosier	2001

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Representative, Duane Mosier
Alternate-Joe Kruzel
Clerk to Planning Board
Judith M. Jackson

PARK COMMISSIONERS

Glennice Flynn, Chairman	1999
David Kingsbury	1999
Kathleen Duquette	2000
Robert Majkut	1998
James Morris	1998

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS -- 1997

TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Clifford Bombard 1998

DOG OFFICERS

Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control 1998

FIRE CHIEF/FOREST FIRE WARDEN

Lawrence Hatch 1998

INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS

Margie Bergeron 1998

SUPT. OF INSECT PEST CONTROL

Dana Pixley 1998

BOARD OF HEALTH AGENT

Donald G. Kipetz 1998

VETERANS' GRAVE OFFICER

Richard Wiencek 1998

VETERANS' BENEFITS AGENT

Marilyn Bolaske 1998

ACTING CIVIL DEFENSE DIRECTOR

Arthur A. Booth, Jr. 1998

SUPT. OF STREETS

Dana Pixley 1998

TREE WARDEN

Dana Pixley 1998

FENCE VIEWERS

John H. Field, II 1998

William H. Patric 1998

TOWN COUNSEL

Bruce D. Clarkin 1998

PARKING CLERK

Rita A. Vail 1998

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Patricia Smith 1998

COMPUTER STUDY COMMITTEE

John D. Flynn 1998

Richard Rediker 1998

James Moriarty 1998

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Mark Feeney 1998

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

Robert Lague 1998

PLUMBING INSPECTOR

Michael Ford 1998

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Richard Jones, Chairman 1999

Richard J. Fadus 1998

Richard Moriarty 2000

Yorke P. Phillips 2000

Elizabeth DeSousa 1999

Evelyn Schmidt, Clerk

BOARD OF APPEALS

L. Jed Berliner, Chairman 2000

Richard Patullo, Vice Chairman 1998

Kenneth Lefebvre 1999

Dalton Philpott 1999

Mary C. Cesan 1999

Judith Jackson, Clerk

BOARD OF APPEALS ALTERNATES

David Scott 1998

James E. Stone 1998

Frank Kotomski 1998

HAMPDEN CULTURAL COUNCIL

Carol Smith, Chairman 1998

Aline Burt 1998

Reginald Johnson 1998

Doris Ouimet 1998

Heather Beattie 1998

Virginia Blake 1998

Carolyn Siano 1998

Diane Knecht 1998

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

John Bethel 1998

Robert L. Burger 1998

Samuel Hanmer 1998

RIDGELINE & HILLSIDE COMMITTEE

Samuel Hanmer, Chairman 1998

Jim Moriarty 1998

John D. Flynn 1998

Robin Warner 1998

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS -- 1997

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Bonnie Geromini, Chairman	2000
Camilla J. Desmarais	1999
Richard Gouvan	1999
Jack Matthews	1998
Wayne Meisner	1999
Michael Raimer	1999
Arthur Thiboutot	2000
Patricia Smith, Clerk	

CONSERVATION, ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Patricia Smith	2000
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COUNCIL ON AGING

William T. Olmstead, Chairman	2000
Dalton Philpott, Vice Chairman	1998
Albert L. Ouimet, Treasurer	2000
Larry Blake	1998
Brian MacLeod	1999
Patricia Clark	1998
George Lavallee	2000
Virginia Schneider	1998
Rita Vail	1999

George Ingle, Hampden Rep to Board
of Directors, Greater Springfield
Senior Services Inc.

COUNCIL ON AGING DIRECTOR

Carolyn Brennan	1999
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ELECTRIC COMMITTEE

George K. Stone, Jr.	1998
Richard Hatch	1998
Raymond Shankel	1998
Guy Bartolucci	1998

ENERGY COMMISSION

George Audren	2000
Walter Johnson	1998
Brian McQuillan	1998
Frank Krzanik	2000
Toi Graham	2000
Al Perusse	1998

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Arthur A. Booth, Jr.	2000
Elizabeth M. Wells	1998
Janet M. Redin	1999
Rita A. Vail, Clerk	

POLICE DEPARTMENT, CHIEF

Philip J. Adams	1999
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SERGEANTS

Mark Reisner	1998
James Collins	1998
Jeff Farnsworth	1998

POLICE OFFICERS

Anna Joubert	1998
Scott Trombley	
Michael J. Cooney	1998
William Joy	1998
Todd Ely	1998
Joseph Henry	1998

DISPATCHERS (full-time)

Linda J. Ely	1998
Laurie Ryder	1998
Radcliffe Kenison	1998
Verna Caney	1998

DISPATCHERS (part-time)

John DiMaio	1998
Christopher Boyle	1998
Michael Gralinski	1998
Stephen Hill	1998
Kristen Marciniac	1998
Thomas Messier	1998
Matthew Roman	1998
Meghan Whitney	1998
Michael Woodard	1998

RESERVE OFFICERS

Fred Lewenczuk	1998
Harlan Cross	1998
Laurie Ryder	1998
Robert Robinson	1998
Michael Gralinski	1998
John DiMaio	1998
Kristen Marciniac	1998
Christopher Doyle	1998
Michael Woodard	1998
Thomas Messier	1998
Matthew Roman	1998
Meghan Whitney	1998
Stephen Hill	1998

POLICE MATRON

Linda Ely	1998
Laurie Ryder	1998
Verna Caney	1998

SECRETARY TO POLICE DEPT.

Kathy Zannetti

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS -- 1997

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Thomas Poulin, Chief	1998
Peter Hatch, Assistant Chief	1998
David Markham, Deputy Chief	1998
Michael Gorski, Captain	1998
Keith Isham, Lieutenant,	1998
William Brown, Jr.	1998
James Burns, Sr.	1998
James Burns, Jr.	1998
Gordon Casey	1998
Howard Cutting	1998
Donald Dickinson	1998
Edwin Dunlea	1998
Joseph Grant	1998
Richard Harris	1998
Lawrence Hatch	1998
Richard Hatch	1998
Harold House	1998
Daniel Isham Sr.	1998
Albert Jones	1998
William Levakis	1998
Matthew Loveling	1998
Henry Managre	1998
Michael Mauer	1998
Arthur McCarthy	1998
Wayne Meisner	1998
William Patric	1998
Scott Rumprik	1998
Robert Sazama	1998
Todd Schneider	1998
Robert Short	1998
Michael Sicbaldi	1998
Thomas Smith	1998
David Sutcliffe	1998
Charles Thans	1998
Richard Thayer	1998
Irving Witkop	1998

Auxiliary Firemen

Garrett Brant
James Brant
Timothy Evans
Daniel Isham, Jr.

**IN RECOGNITION FOR THEIR YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE
TO THE TOWN OF HAMPDEN THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR APPRECIATION TO THE
FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS**

John M. Flynn, Board of Selectmen, Planning Board

William Patullo, Plumbing Inspector

Mary Ellen Glover, School Committee

Charles T. Schmitt, Hampden Housing Authority

Elizabeth Wells, Cemetery Commissioner

Dennis Herchel, Park Commissioner

Mary Zamorski, Park Commissioner

Lorraine Aloisio, Clerk, Park Commission

Helena Kullberg, Board of Appeals, Election Warden

Dorothy Fritts, Hampden Cultural Council

Marilyn Abbott, Hampden Cultural Council

William Wilson, Conservation Commission

Sandra Gregoire, Police Dispatcher

Margaret Rochford, Librarian

PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING A BUILDING PERMIT

The following is an outline of the steps that must be taken in order to secure a building permit, including the necessary supplementary permits or approvals, as may be required. The Board of Selectmen hopes that this procedure will eliminate confusion which might otherwise arise. Specific questions or a more in-depth review of a particular department's requirements may be discussed with each inspector.

1. Application to Building Department: Complete the building permit application and submit to the Building Inspector with 2 sets of site plans prepared by a professional engineer or Registered Land Surveyor, along with the application fee, in accordance with Zoning Bylaw 8.1.3. If you have questions, contact: Mark Feeney 566-2204

2. Planning Board: The application and plot plan will be submitted to the Planning Board. Petitioner will verify that this is a registered lot, with the proposed building meeting all zoning requirements (which may include application to the Ridgeline & Hillside Committee, Zoning Bylaw 7.12). Contact the clerk to be placed on the agenda of the next meeting: Judy Jackson: 566-8591. (HomePhone).

3. Highway Department: If the driveway requires the crossing of an open ditch, contact the Highway Superintendent for sizing and proper installation of the culvert. When any new driveway is installed (entering off of a paved roadway), the builder will be required to pave an apron from the edge of the pavement back to the front property line (usually 7-10 feet) at the driveway entrance. If you have questions, contact Dana Pixley at 566-8842.

4. Conservation Commission: Verify with this Board if you are near or part of your property is in or near the Wetlands Area. If you have questions contact the clerk, Pat Smith 566-2206.

5. Percolation Test: Perc season is April 1st thru May 31st and September 15 thru November 15. The owner/engineer arranges appointment for percolation with the Board of Health Agenda and pays fee. Percolation test is valid for two (2) years from date of issue.

6. Well Permit: Well installer submits to the Board of Health a permit and plan of property with well, septic system and house shown, at the time of application and with the permit fee.

7. Well Installation: After the well is installed the installer must file a Well Water completion report with the Board of Health. Property owner must then

have the water tested with results sent to the Board of Health before a building permit will be issued.

8. Septic Application: Engineer must submit septic design application to the Board of Health, signed stamped and with the fee paid. A septic permit which is approved shall expire three years from the date of issue unless construction of the approved system is before the expiration date.

9. Septic Installation: Septic Installer must be licensed by the Town of Hampden and must advise Board of Health before installation starts. Installation must be inspected by Board of Health Agent and Design Engineer before system is covered.

10. Septic Compliance: Engineer and installer must sign Certificate of Compliance after the final inspection.

11. Building Department: Building plans must be submitted for review by the Building Inspector. A building permit will not be issued until all prior steps have been successfully gone through. The permit is valid for three (3) years from date of issue. Construction work must begin within six months of receiving building permit and work must be finished within three years. If you have questions contact: Mark Feeney-566-2204.

12. Electrical, Plumbing, Gas, Oil Burner, Smoke Detector, and Wood Stove Permits: Requests for the above permits are to be submitted to the Building Department, with the necessary Building Permit fee. The applicant contacts the appropriate inspector with the inspection request. An Occupancy permit will be issued only after the Building Inspector checks with other inspectors to make sure all the above procedures have been completed as well as insuring that the house number is permanently found on the property and easily readable from the street.

If you have questions or if the Board of Selectmen may be of service, please contact us at the Town House 566-2151. ALL FEES ARE PAYABLE TO THE TOWN OF HAMPDEN

**TOWN OF HAMPDEN
FEES FOR BUILDING, ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING, GAS, FIRE & HEALTH PERMITS**

BUILDING PERMITS--MARK FEENEY --566-2204--566-8315 (H)	\$10	GAS PERMITS – MICHAEL FORD – 566-5578	\$20
Application for Building Permit		All Gas Permits	
Commercial/Industrial Building(\$100 minimum)	10 cents/sq. ft.	In the event of multiple occupancy or multi-unit dwelling, the charge will be \$20 per meter up to five fixtures;above that the fee will be \$2 per fixture.	
New House (\$60 minimum)	10 cents/aq. ft.		
In the event of more than one unit per building, an additional fee of \$4 per unit will be charged in addition to normal fee for new house.		SOLAR PERMIT	
Alterations/Additions/Accessory Buildings (\$25/min)	10 cents/sq. ft.	Permits for solar installations will be based on the categories.	
Swimming Pool	\$20	Contained in the columns for Building,Electrical & Plumbing.	
Solid Fuel Stoves	\$15		
ELECTRICAL PERMITS – Robert Lague-566-8472		FIRE PERMITS – THOMAS POULIN – 566-3314	
Commercial/Industrial Building Additions	\$60	Smoke Detector Inspection(NewHouse)	\$15
New House	\$40	Smoke Detector Inspection(Real Estate transfer)	\$15
In the event of more than one unit per building, an additional fee of \$4 per unit will be charged, in addition to normal fee for new house		Oil Burner Inspections	\$10
Alterations, Re-wiring Existing Structure	\$40	Blasting Permit- Fire Chief	\$5
Alterations, Change of Service, Temporary Service	\$20	Renewal of Smokeless Powder(FireChief)	\$15
Additions-added rooms, breezeway, garage, etc.	\$20	LP Gas Storage Permits(FireChief)	\$10
Swimming Pool, appliance	\$20	Underground Storage Tank Installation (FireChief)	\$40
		Underground Storage Tank Removal(Fire Chief)	\$15
PLUMBING PERMITS –MICHAEL FORD-566-5578		CALL-BACK FEES	
Commercial/Industrial Building	\$75	Call-back fees for Electrical,Plumbing,Building and Fire Inspectors	\$15
New House	\$50		
An additional fee of \$2 per fixture over 10 fixtures will be Charged, in addition to the normal fee of \$50 per building.		BOARD OF HEALTH- DONALD KIPETZ-566-2151	
Additions-additional charges as above	\$30	Well Permit	\$20
Swimming Pool	\$20	Percolation test Permit	\$100
Any swimming pool with a permanent plumbing Connection is subject to a permit fee		Septic Tank Installation Permit(new or repair)	\$100
		includes one revision, each additional revision	\$50

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The activities of the Board of Selectmen over the past year have been varied and increasing in technical, legal and business content.

As a result, more and more of the towns resources were required to respond to and or act on the myriad of requests and needs of our ever expanding community. Our sincere thanks go out to all our citizens who have offered support, constructive criticism of our efforts and provided welcomed input to assist the Board of Selectmen. Our continued appreciation goes out to all the Town's committees, elected and appointed officials, fire and police for their dedication and support in making Hampden the close knit community we have all come to enjoy. We continue to be primarily a community of volunteers without whose efforts and support many programs and activities would not be available to us. To our volunteers we give a hearty and well-deserved "Thank You". Communication and outreach is now and always has been, an important ingredient in successfully meeting our daily challenges. Our commitment is to continue our practice of candid openness between the Board of Selectmen and our community.

The high pressure gas pipeline proposed by MMWEC continues to be a source of major concern to the Town of Hampden. MMWEC has filed their plans with the Energy Facilities Siting Board and we have teamed with the Town of Wilbraham in a show of support opposing the proposed project. The Board of Selectmen went on record stating that, "any impact to our environment or infrastructure is taken very seriously". Our concerns have been reduced to writing as an intervenor and those objections filed with the appropriate officials noting our concerns. Hearings are expected in February 1998 starting the process that hopefully results in denial of the project due to non-demonstrated need. We will continue to fight the good fight on behalf of our community and provide legal support when necessary.

Your Board of Selectmen is committed to maintaining the town's infrastructure while being ever vigilant to taxpayer impacts. Our five-year plan for roadway re-paving and reconstruction is on target, going well and again this coming year we will request approval of the taxpayers to continue the support of this project. The Highway Department is to be congratulated for their diligence and hard work in ensuring the success of our road maintenance program. Somers Road bridge, built after the ravages of the "55" flood is scheduled for upgrade due to the state re-rating its load capacity downward. Monies have been secured both from the State and Town Meeting vote and reconstruction will start in early 1998. Provisions have been made to assure emergency access to residents south of the bridge.

Mill Pond reclamation has been completed to the extent town and grant monies could accomplish. Any time a natural resource faces extinction your Board of Selectmen is committed to its preservation and ultimate protection to the extent monies can provide.

Nineteen ninety-seven saw the first calendar year performance of your Police Department under the direction of Chief Philip Adams. The Board of Selectmen action as Police Commissioners supports Phil during this transition period and look forward to moving into the twenty first century with the best tools a well educated, well-informed and well-equipped police department could have.

Our Fire Chief, Larry Hatch has resigned after ten years of dedicated professional service. The Town of Hampden was fortunate to have Larry for those ten years and our thanks and gratitude are extended to him. The Hampden Volunteer Fire Department, one of the few left in the Commonwealth has been an asset to the Town both financially and professionally and we applaud them for their service and dedication. The Officers of the HVFD have elected Thomas Poulin as their new Fire Chief. We look forward to working closely with Tom in the coming years and know that his dedication and experience as a long time volunteer fire fighter will be a benefit to our department and our residents.

The Town of Hampden takes great pride in its culture and heritage and our annual Memorial Day Parade reflects those sentiments and the importance placed on this event. After the ceremonies everyone was invited to our third annual Hot Dog Roast and social at the Fire House. In 1997, over 1000 residents and guests attended the

event making this an obvious success. Bringing townspeople together at functions such as this exemplify the essence of what our town represents. Our thanks go out to the Fire Department, Police Department, food service contributions and all the volunteers that made this event a success.

Our spring Adopt-A-Road Program was again a success this year and indicates the pride in which our town residents, business and social organizations take in Hampden.

Notwithstanding the challenges of the day to day activities of the Board of Selectmen, from time to time plans come together to the benefit of the town. For many years the Friends of the Seniors, the Council On Aging and other volunteers have been working on eventually providing the seniors with their own Senior Center. Steps have been taken, and predicated on a positive Town Meeting vote, the Board of Selectmen will dedicate approximately 5.5 acres of Town owned land specifically for that purpose. Dedication of the property is one of the prerequisites for receipt of the grant. Once the land is dedicated, a grant will be prepared for construction of the actual facility. We look forward to an exciting period that will be shared by the many volunteers who have worked so long and so hard to bring this to fruition.

During the 1997 Special Town Meeting in October, we were successful in lowering the tax rate minimally, however we are faced with challenges in 1998 that portend to have serious legal and financial consequences for our town. We are caught between providing for the health and well being of some of our citizens while assuring we are doing the best we can in representing all of the taxpayers of our community. Your board is dedicated to do its utmost to assure fair and equitable treatment for all its residents and we appreciate the suggestions, comments and advice from everyone in the process. Thanks to all for the help and support.

Respectfully,

Arthur A. Booth Jr., Chairman,
Richard R. Green
James D. Smith

Selectmen/Board of Health fees, licenses, permits, etc.	\$101,559.49
Building Department fees	\$18,339.36
Police Department permits, reports, etc.	\$ 1,874.50
Fire Department smoke alarm inspections, oil burner permits, etc.	\$ 2,095.00
Town Clerk Fees	\$ 12,393.82

BOARD OF HEALTH

The current year has been challenging for the Board of Health. As you know, the Town has continued its process of closing the landfill. We are proud of our work in this process. Our closure was one of the first to begin in the state and has been recognized as a model for other towns. The expense has been, as you know, enormous.

Our financial resources are now becoming challenged by a lawsuit from a group of homeowners adjacent to the landfill. It has been alleged that their wells have been adversely effected by the landfill. Accordingly, we have undertaken steps recommended by our Town engineer and the DEP. Highly expensive filtration systems were installed at the expense of the Town. Despite our efforts a lawsuit was filed against the Town by the group of residents.

The lawsuit alleges that the Town is responsible for the difficulties they allege they are experiencing with their wells. We, believing at all times we have acted properly, have defended the suit. Our expert environment lawyer has been highly competent but also extremely expensive. Our efforts to resolve the matter without litigation have not been successful. Despite having spent \$2,300,000 on closing the landfill, the litigation continues unresolved.

In September a second percolation season was introduced. This was done to ease the burden on staff and to accommodate the multitude of requests we receive each year. It should be noted this only relates to percs for new construction, repair requests are done on as needed basis.

The Title V loan Program Administered by the Town and The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission continues to work well with tens of thousands of low interest funds disbursed. We encourage those interested or in need of Septic system repair to contact our office for eligibility information.

The rabies clinic, flu clinic and Water Testing Program were all once again unqualified successes and we thank the volunteers who so unselfishly offer their time and efforts to make these days happen.

The recycling program is a major bright spot for the town. The addition of a second recycling day as well as a second bulk collection date have eased the storage concerns and caused greater participation by residents in this endeavor. These factors combined with our ability to accept "glossy paper" and successful grant applications for recycling containers have enabled Hampden to receive it's third straight grade of "A" for our recycling effort as awarded by the State. The ever expanding list of recycleable items will soon include rechargeable batteries as well. The Board of Health welcomes advice from any and all who feel they can help us improve and expand the recycling center.

The coming years won't be easy, but based on our Town's past effort we're sure that Hampden is more than up to the task(s).

Respectfully submitted,

Richard R. Green
Arthur A. Booth Jr.
James D. Smith

Annual Activities provided by the Board of Health

Activity	1996	1997
Annual Flu Clinic (11-6-97)	247	250
Pneumonia Clinic	NA	150
Annual Rabies Clinic (Dog & Cat)	65	60
Water Tests Taken (10/22/97)	83	60
Percolation Tests Taken	80	88
Septic Systems Installed and/or repaired	37	79
Installer Permits Granted	20	29
Septic Removal Permits Granted	7	8
Well Permits	21	26
Health Complaints	26	20
Court Actions	5	2
Food Service Permits	33	21
Public Swimming Pool Permits	1	2
Food Establishment Inspections	-	twice yearly for established businesses

Recycled during 1997 under the volunteer program

	1996	1997	
Newspaper	95 tons		
Combined cardboard, plastic, tin cans, glass bottles & jars, metal and white goods	173 tons		
Bulk item Collection	19 tons		
Hazardous Collection	130 gallons		
Total tons			320 total

Board of Health Telephone Number: 566-2151

Board of Health Hours: 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

LANDFILL	PERCOLATION TESTS
Hours are Saturday, 7AM to 5PM Recycling is the second and fourth Saturday of each month.	Perc Season for 1998 March 15 thru May 31, Fall season September 15 thru November 15. Percolation tests require an appointment with the Board of Health agent and the property owner's engineer performing the test.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MODERATOR 1997

This is the tenth year it has been my responsibility to report to you the voters as Moderator. The actions of the Town Meeting over which the Moderator presides are detailed elsewhere in this Town Report so I am often unsure what should be included here.

This year however something extraordinary has occurred. Property taxes have gone down. Now I admit it was not a huge decrease, but the fact that it was a decrease at all means they did not go up. This really is pretty remarkable. Quite a few years ago I was explaining to the Town Meeting the implications of a debt exclusion by saying that during the years that the fire truck or school roof or whatever was being paid for taxes would be higher by such and such amount, and at the end of that period taxes would go down. The entire room laughed, the biggest laugh I ever got, including time spent as a Shrine Clown. Everybody knows taxes never go down. But they have this one-year. Why?

Certainly there are a number of reasons, the State is solvent and helping towns with state aid, the regionalizing of the schools, hard work on the part of the Assessors and Selectmen and restraint on the part of department heads all help make this miracle happen. I however place a large share of the credit with the Advisory Committee. Now I know that this is somewhat self-serving as the Moderator appoints the Advisory Committee but they really work for you the taxpayer.

The committee looks at every dollar that flows in and out of the town and its only real power is to recommend at Town Meeting what should be approved. If the committee is respected as it is in Hampden every request for funding must be substantiated, for if the committee recommends against, the Town Meeting rarely approves. The Advisory Committee is our watchdog and we owe them our thanks.

Respectfully,

Richard E. Patullo,
Moderator

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The past year was quite eventful for the Historical Society. The very uncomfortable wooden chairs have been replaced by new chairs with padded seats and backs!

Also, an exterminator has treated the farm museum in the basement of Academy Hall, followed by a thorough cleaning.

The society conducted a walking tour of the village for a local school class, and we are pleased to report that our post card books are still selling and have been quite successful.

Please feel free to attend any of our meetings or visit the research center upstairs in the museum. We welcome new members and the support of the community is always appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Krawiec, President

REPORT OF THE COMPUTER STUDY COMMITTEE

The Computer Study Committee is an ongoing task committee organized by the Board of Selectmen in 1986. Since that time, it has assisted the Town departments in purchasing, installing, and maintaining their computer systems. We have stressed a practical and consistent approach to implementing these systems with an emphasis on productivity and good value.

In the past year, we have taken advantage of the continued drop in computer prices, coupled with the increase in computer power, to bring more Town offices "online" with computer resources. The addition of a second, public-access workstation in the Assessors office, new computers in the Treasurer's and Selectmen's office, a computer system in the Council on Aging's Director's office, a computer station in the Highway department, and a common workstation for the Building Inspector, Advisory and Parks department – all of this was accomplished for less than \$3000.

We would also like to remind the residents that the Town continues to expand its public communications through the Town's Web page at <http://www.hampden.org>. We would like to thank Springfield Public Access (www.the-spa.com) for their generous donation of unlimited Internet access for all Town departments. We would also like to extend our gratitude to those individuals in Town who have donated computer hardware.

The Committee has a master plan that we feel represents a prudent, fiscally responsible path for the Town to follow. In these tough economic times, it is sometimes difficult to recognize the advantages of capital investment in computers and software. We are always available to respond to any questions or inquiries that residents may have. We wholeheartedly welcome any suggestions and advice.

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Flynn, Chair
Jim Moriarty
Richard Rediker

REPORT OF THE BUILDING COMMISSIONER

BUILDING PERMITS & INSPECTIONS

Signs:	1
Dwelling	10
Additions:	21
Garage:	8
Sheds:	6
Alterations	7
Barns:	5
Pools:	12
Stove permits:	9
Demolition:	2
Decks	7
TOTAL:	76
DEMOLITIONS:	2

TOTAL PERMITS & INSPECTIONS

Building	88
Electrical	127
Plumbing & Gas	75

Respectfully submitted

Mark J. Feeney, Building Commissioner

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS

Case -1	Special Permit, Section 4.3 to allow an addition to a non-conforming house with less than the required rear setback.	Granted
Case - 2	Special Permit, Section 4.3 to allow the enlargement of a non-conforming house built in 1964 in the R-4 District	Permit Not Required
Case - 3	Special Permit, Section 6.5 to allow the use of a building in the Commercial District as a custom woodworking shop and show room.	Granted
Case - 4	Special Permit, Section 4.3 to provide relief from site requirements of R-4 District to structurally alter non-conforming house.	Permit Not Required
Case – 5	Special Permit, Section 7.8 to allow the removal of earth to improve the land for agriculture.	Granted
Case – 6	Special Permit, Section 4.3 to alter a pre-existing non-conforming structure by adding a second story.	Withdrawn
Case –7	Special Permit, Section 7.8.3 to remove excess gravel from a sub-division road to be placed on adjoining land owned by the petitioner.	Granted
Case –8	Variance, Section 4.5 to build an accessory building with a side setback that conformed to the setback in effect pre-1967.	Variance Not Required
Case –9	Variance, Section 7.2 to allow installation of inground pool with less than the required rear setback in the R-4 District.	Granted
Case-10	Variance, Section 7.2 to allow the building of a residential home in the R-6 District having less than 50' frontage on a public way.	Denied
Case-11	Variance, Section 7.2 to position an addition to a building in the Commercial District using 60' front setback which is less than the required 75'.	Denied
Case –12	Special Permit, Section 6.5 to build an addition to a building in the Commercial District to be used for sales and service of used cars.	Granted

Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF APPEALS

L. Jed Berliner, Chair
 Richard E. Patullo, Vice Chair
 Helena Kullberg, Clerk
 Kenneth E. Lefebvre
 Dalton E. Philpott

Alternates:
 M. Chris Cesan
 David R. Scott
 James E. Stone
 Judith M. Jackson, Clerk

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

The composition and officers of the Board remained the same as last year. Members are: Charlie Dolben, Chair; John Flynn, Vice Chair; Duane Mosier, representative to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; Joe Kruzel; and Mark Casey. Mark Casey was re-elected to a five-year term.

The Town has three active sub-divisions in progress comprising approximately 35 lots. So growth continues in the Town at a comfortable pace.

Recent changes to the Zoning By-Law, a modest expansion of the Business District on Somers Road and adjustment of parking requirements, have led to plans for construction this spring of a much-needed banking facility at the Somers Road site. And although the Planned Unit Residential Development option was not taken for the parcel for which it was initially designed, the developer is proposing a new project on Stony Hill Road under these provisions for consideration by Town Meeting.

The Board has worked to anticipate future needs and issues for the Town with this year's offering of proposed zoning amendments. Duane Mosier has drafted a proposed amendment to deal with radio towers. Sherry Himmelstein chaired a sub-committee of the Board, which has drafted an amendment to create flexible development opportunities in return for preserving open space. We hope the Town will view the proposals favorably.

The Board meets every second and fourth Wednesday of each month and welcomes the input of Town residents.

Respectfully submitted

Joseph A. Dolben
John D. Flynn
Joseph Kruzel
Mark Casey
Duane Mosier

REPORT OF THE RIDGELINE AND HILLSIDE COMMITTEE

The Ridgeline and Hillside Committee provide an advisory function to the Planning Board. Applications for development in this overlay district are reviewed by the members; site visits and progress reviews are held; and a recommendation is then passed to the Building Inspector.

We would like to thank Sam Hanmer for his service to the Committee. All residents are welcome at any meeting and any volunteer help is greatly appreciated. We encourage all residents to make suggestions and comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Hanmer, Chair
Robin Warner
John D. Flynn
Jim Moriarty

HAMPDEN COUNCIL ON AGING

"The old are getting older and there are increasingly more of them." This statement may seem ridiculously obvious yet the impact on our society is powerful. According to the U.S. Census the number of Americans 65 or older will increase from 31 million in 1990 to 40 million by 2010. The largest segment of the population – the Baby Boomers – those born between the years of 1946 and 1963 are **turning 50 at a rate of one every 7.5 seconds.**

How do we meet the needs of this growing population?

This question is at the heart of the mission statement of the Council on Aging: To identify the needs of Hampden elders and provide services and programs to meet those needs.

A recent study showed that there are four factors that contribute to **Successful Aging:**

Factor one - *The ability to remain physically active.*

- The Council on Aging sponsors a low impact exercise classes every Tuesday and Thursday in the Town House Auditorium.
- The Hampden Travel Club is a program coordinated by Hampden elder, Lorna Cox. Lorna plans and serves as a tour guide for monthly over-night and day trips.
- The Scantic Senior Bowling Club is another group coordinated by Hampden elders who meet every Monday at the Shaker Bowl in East Longmeadow.
- The Council on Aging encourages local athletes who participate in the Massachusetts Senior Games.

Factor two – *Having an Active Social Life.*

- The Congregate Meal site provides a place for socialization and a nutritious noontime meal. The meal site is managed by Janis DeGranpre and funded by Greater Springfield Senior Services. Home delivered meals are also provided to homebound elders.
- The Scantic Senior Citizen's Club meets every third Wednesday in the Town House Auditorium. The Club enjoyed a successful year of diverse programming and entertainment.

Factor three – *The ability to bounce back after a loss.*

- Many of our volunteers begin their involvement with the Council on Aging and the meal site after a recent loss or major change in their lives. Serving others provides a way of dealing with their grief and building up their social support system.
- Participants also have commented that being involved and taking part in outside activities helped alleviate the loneliness that can be paralyzing after a loss.

Factor four – *A feeling of control over their lives.*

- Through programs like SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Elders) individuals are able to make informed decisions on their health care options. The Executive Office of Elder Affairs trains elders to counsel and inform their peers about Medicare, Medigap policies and HMO's.
- The Council on Aging also ran a "sold-out" two day workshop entitled 55-Alive which takes into consideration the physical changes of the maturing driver and identifies ways the older driver may compensate for those changes.
- The Scantic Scribe continues to provide up-to-date information on many areas of interest to local seniors. Consumer awareness, health care, life long learning, the arts and using the internet are just a few of the topics that are focused on throughout the year.

The Council on Aging began mailing the Scantic Scribe to every household in Hampden in the Fall. The response from the Community was extremely positive and we have now added a page entitled "Community News" which invites local departments and groups to submit newsworthy articles and notices. As the COA encourages and promotes services and programs that support "Successful Aging" it is our hope that all residents in the town of Hampden will benefit. Intergenerational programs are a part of the COA's vision. This year included the second Annual Hampden Fall Festival, which is co-sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation. A special thanks is extended to Glennice Flynn, Chairperson, whose creativity and energy are the backbone for this very successful event.

Hampden SHARE (now called SERVE) is a program, which benefits volunteers of all ages in all areas in the community. SERVE promotes volunteer action for community development through a cooperative food distribution. Distribution takes place at the Town House Auditorium every 4th Saturday of the month.

Meet the Candidates Night The COA is once again hosting Candidates night, which provides a forum for local candidates to meet residents and answer questions that they may have.

Programs such as **File of Life, the Senior Pharmacy Program, Health Screenings, Mittens for Missions** and the **Flu Clinic/Health Fair** are ongoing services and activities provided by the Council on Aging.

The COA office operates with one professional, our Executive Director, and some part-time help. Keeping pace with the growing population has resulted in the director's time becoming constricted, to the extent that she spends an inordinate amount of time performing clerical tasks. Without additional administrative assistance, her ability to do the necessary functions of the office will be severely jeopardized.

Where are these services taking place? The Council on Aging functions primarily as a "Senior Center without Walls" The meal site and other social activities take place at the Centennial Commons Community Room. Other programs are held in the Town House Auditorium and Melville Room.

For the past 20 years, **The Friends of Hampden Seniors Inc.** have been raising funds to help support the building of a Senior Center. This year, with the opportunity of a construction grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development, their dream may be realized. The Council on Aging will be asking the residents of Hampden to support this endeavor at the Annual Town Meeting by voting favorably to dedicate a parcel of land for the building of a Senior Center.

History has shown that Hampden supports its older population. In 1997, it is estimated that older volunteers saved the town of Hampden over \$55,000.00. This is what it would cost at fair market value if the town were to pay for the services provided by these generous and vital individuals.

The board members of the Council on Aging are confident that as we progress into the future, we will also invest in the quality of life of Hampden seniors.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Brennan, Executive Director
Bill Olmstead, Chairman
Dalton Philpott, Vice Chairman
Al Quimet, Treasurer
Virginia Schneider, Secretary
Larry Blake
Patricia Clark
George Lavallee
Brian MacLeod
Rita Vail

GREATER SPRINGFIELD SENIOR SERVICES, INC. (GSSSI)

In the past year, Hampden's share of the social services provided by GSSSI, in response to seniors' need, increased slightly, with the usual range of year-to-year fluctuation. From the '95 and '96 levels of \$80,000 the '97 value was \$81,347, with evident variation from prior years' individual services:

<u>Service</u>	<u>95 – '96 Levels</u>	<u>'97</u>
State Funded (1)		
Adult Health Care	\$ 1,500	\$2,703
Homemaker assistance	19,000	25,673
Personal Care	15,000	8,412
Social Day Care	3,200	1,577
Transportation	2,500	1,350
Federally Funded (2)		
Home Meals	12,000	11,833
Congregate Meals	26,000	26,302
COA Health Fair	<u>1,000</u>	<u>3,497</u>
Totals	<u>\$80,200</u>	<u>\$81,347</u>

(1) Home Care Regulations of the Massachusetts Office of Elder Affairs

(2) Federal Older Americans Act, Title III (reauthorized)

For the Greater Springfield area, these costs, which reflect requests by elders and increased vendors' costs, have increased somewhat. While State and Federal funding has not increased, these costs have been met by better cost control, public and private contributions and some increase in the number of towns and cities paying their "matching fund" shares, as specified in the Federal law. As a result, Hampden's "match fund", \$302, is the same as in '97.

GSSSI continues its successful focus on case management of services to the frailer elders, to help maintain them safely in their own homes, to avoid or postpone, wherever possible, dependence on nursing homes. The congregate meal program, at centennial commons, continues its popularity.

Hampden's elders and those responsible for their care are urged to contact our Council on Aging for information on and access to available services from GSSSI. About three-fourths of these originate with a call to our COA office, at the rate of three inquiries each week.

Respectfully submitted,

George W. Ingle
Hampden's Representative to the GSSSI Board of Directors.

HAMPDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY

At present, the elected members of the Hampden Housing Authority are Dalton E. Philpott, Vice Chairperson and William G. Joy, Chairperson, Miles Hapgood, Treasurer, Mildred E. Grant, Assistant Treasurer and Aline Burt, Secretary. The staff is composed of Carole A. Robert, Executive Director, Gary Depace, Fee Accountant, Frank Hull, Maintenance Supervisor and Reginald Temple, Maintenance Aide.

The Authority meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:15 A.M. in the Centennial Commons Community Building and holds meetings as warranted. Regulations require meeting dates and times to be posted 24 hours in advance with the Town Clerk.

Tenants Organization- This group has its own officers and budget and plans its own meetings and programs throughout the year.

Department of Housing and Commiunity Development – The Authority is under direct supervision of this unit in conjunction with our contract for 40 years, entered into in 1976 with HUD in Washington, D.C. we are also in contract for the Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan. Centennial Commons is financed and subsidized through HUD and DHCD. Our goal is to provide safe and sanitary housing to all moderate income categories. All utilities except telephone and cable are included in the rent. The water is tested monthly by the DEQE Lab and our water is safe through the monthly monitoring.

The Authority is always in the process of finding new sites for housing and as of this time no new grants have been issued.

The Authority would also like to graciously thank the Police, Fire and Highway Departments for their efforts in keeping our safety at all times.

The Authority may be reached at the office at 26 Springmeadow Lane, Monday – Friday, 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 noon at 566-8157.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carole A. Robert
Executive Director

TENANTS ORGANIZATION

1998 begins our twentieth year here at Centennial Commons and there are still a few of us left who came here early in the Spring of 1978.

The Tenant's Organization was off and running in 1979 and has been active ever since. Our agenda hasn't changed. We meet quarterly to enact old and new business with a well rounded group of tenants.

Our community is a very safe and pleasant place to live, as attested by those who live here and many a happy occasion takes place in the dining room of the Community Room. Tenants have enjoyed birthday parties, card games, bingo and a host of other activities, last but not least the Christmas Party and dinners.

Respectfully submitted,

Pauline Booth, Secretary

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission is comprised of seven appointed members and one associate member. Our responsibilities include enforcing the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, the River Protection Act and the Town of Hampden Wetland By-Law and Regulations. Our regular meetings are the second Monday of each month. We also have special meetings when necessary.

This year we held twelve regular meetings and three special meetings. We voted upon six notices of intent and four requests for determination. We also issued two emergency certificates, three violation notices and one extension permit.

The Commission is also involved with two projects affecting the Town of Hampden. The Mill River Watershed Project includes the towns of Hampden, Wilbraham, Springfield and East Longmeadow. The four towns are working collaboratively on a comprehensive management plan for the Mill River Watershed. Volunteers are needed to help represent the town of Hampden.

The other project involving the Commission is the proposed MMWEC pipeline. The Commission has been working closely with our consultant at Tighe & Bond. We recently reviewed the Environmental Impact Report. We sent three pages of ten concerns to Trudy Cox at the Executive Office of Environment Affairs. We urge all citizens to become proactive and support the Pipeline Action Committee.

The Rivers Protection Act is the newest regulation overseen by the Commission. The resource area is called the "river front area" and extends 200 feet on each side of perennial rivers and streams. The purpose of the Rivers Protection Act is to preserve the natural integrity of rivers, streams and adjacent land for the important values these areas provide to all citizens of the Commonwealth. Applicants proposing work in the river front area must obtain a permit, called an Order of Conditions, from the Commission. Applicants must demonstrate that projects meet two performance standards prescribed in the statute; that there are not significant adverse impacts on the river front area to protect public and private water supplies, wildlife habitat, fisheries, shellfish, ground water, and to prevent flooding, storm damage and pollution and there are not practical and substantially equivalent economical alternatives to the proposed work with less adverse effects on these public interests.

If you are interested in joining the Conservation Commission please contact Pat Smith, our clerk, at 566-2206

Respectfully submitted

Bonnie L Geromini: Chairperson
Camilla Desmarais
Richard Gouvan
Jack Matthews
Wayne Meisner
Michael Raimer
Arthur Thiboutot
Patricia Smith, Clerk

HAMPDEN LAND PROJECT

Hampden Land Project (HLP), a local non-profit land trust, works to promote the preservation of open space. The open spaces of Hampden – its wetland marshes, open fields, forest, and mountain vistas- contributes to its scenic beauty and rural atmosphere. By balancing new development with conservation, we protect our air, our water, our wildlife, and we leave a legacy for future generations.

Through its affiliations with regional and statewide land trust organizations, HLP has access to experts in the fields of land management and estate planning, and liaisons to state agencies to find funding for local projects.

One goal of HLP is to inform landowners about conservation easements, which permanently protect open space, and offer the landowner significant state, local and federal tax advantages, as well as shelter from inheritance taxes.

This past year, HLP worked closely with the Planning Board to draft flexible residential/open space development (FROSD) zoning, which preserves open space in new developments through creative design at a higher density on buildable land.

In 1998, HLP is in line for funding for open space mapping and identification of those areas most critical for permanent protection.

Please direct any inquiries to: HLP, Box 455, Hampden, MA

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Himmelstein

**HAMPDEN COUNTY REGIONAL DOG CONTROL PROGRAM
TOWN OF HAMPDEN**

The Town of Hampden has a Canine Service contract with Hampden County, as a participating member of the Hampden County Regional Dog Control Program (Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control Center). The H.C.R.D.C.P., represents Hampden in licensing and keeping of dogs, and provides a regional shelter for stray and abandoned dogs. The Center has a contractual veterinarian, Richard Vincunas, D.V.M., who is responsible for the general health of all impounded dogs, including administering Rabies vaccinations. Additionally, we employ a Veterinarian Technician who is responsible for monitoring the health and nutrition of impounded dogs on a daily basis.

The H.C.R.D.C.P. represents Hampden in matters arising out of enforcement of Dog Control Ordinances and Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140, Sections 137A –175, (including amendments through 12/31/78).

During this period, the following list indicates duties conducted by Dog Officers on duty:

Loose dog complaints	87
Barking dog complaints	9
Strays impounded	20
Dog bites	4
Vicious/loose	8
Stray dog complaints	20
Sick/injured	2
After hours emergencies	22
Impounded	20
Returned to owners	15
Adoptions	5
Euthanasia	0
Transported to Rowley Animal Hospital	2
Licensed	9
Dog complaint hearings attended	6
Compliance follow-up calls	32

The H.C.R.D.C.P. has the capacity for formal quarantine of possible rabid dogs and is a team member for immediate laboratory testing, if required. The Center held Rabies clinics during 1997, providing reduced cost rabies vaccine for dogs and cats and offering some vaccines free to financially needy owners. Additional preventive vaccines are administered to dogs impounded at the shelter. The Center is computerized and is able to track repeated violations. We also participate in micro chip scanning to facilitate quick owner identification.

Dog Officers respond to public complaints and service requests by interacting with Local Police, Town Officials, State Animals Inspectors, Board of Health and State agencies to ensure public safety.

Our staff appreciates Hampden's concern in canine matters and cooperation in canine law enforcement.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta M. Panuccio
Executive Director

ANIMAL INSPECTOR

As the animal inspector for the Town of Hampden, I would like to report the following for 1997.

	<u>Total</u>
Number of Dairy Cows over two years	1
Number of Dairy Heifers, one to two years	1
Number of Dairy Calves under one year	6
Number of Dairy Bulls	1
Number of Dairy Steers	0
Number of Dairy Herd (one animal constitutes a herd)	3
Number of Beef Cows over two years	62
Number of Beef Calves under one year	12
Number of Beef Heifers one to two years	13
Number of Beef Bulls	2
Number of Beef Steers	8
Number of Beef Herds (one animal constitutes a herd)	7
Number of Oxen	2
Number of Horses (work & saddle)	162
Number of Ponies	45
Number of Goats	29
Number of Sheep	21
Number of Llama	0
Number of Swine	6
Number of Swine Herd (one animal constitutes a herd)	3
Number of Poultry (farms consisting of 25 birds or more)	2
Number of Poultry Flocks	12
Number of Turkeys	5
Number of Gamebirds	6
Number of Waterfowl	10
Number of Rabbits	35

There was 1 dog bite and 1 cat bite reported.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie J. Bergeron
Animal Inspector

HAMPDEN CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Hampden Cultural Council is responsible for distributing funds allocated by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Applications for funds are submitted to the local council in October of each year. The council then meets to consider these requests. The applications that are rejected are given time to appeal, then the council reconvenes in December to finalize the awards. These must be submitted to the Massachusetts Cultural Council by December 15 for review, final approval and release of funds. When the results are received in March or April, the local awards are confirmed and the grant money is made available for distribution. Local groups or individuals who would like to request funds can get more information and grant applications from the Selectman's office. It should be noted that the council gives preference to projects sponsored by town organizations or residents. Due to our limited funds, requests are rarely granted in full.

In the spring of 1997 the Hampden Cultural Council participated in the Matching Fund Incentive program sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Area businessmen were contacted as were all residents in town. Council members collected donations at the town meeting and on election day, at the Memorial Day parade, at the PTO Carnival, and at the Garden Club's first band concert at the Gazebo. Many donations were received through the mail. Contributors were given a "Hampden Loves the Arts" bumper sticker. We were very pleased to announce that a total of \$2277.05 was collected.

Due to our successful fund raising endeavor, the chairperson has been asked to participate in a fund raising workshop intended to inform other local cultural councils about the positive response received in Hampden. The Hampden Cultural Council thanks the over 150 individual contributors for their generosity. We would like to also note the generosity of the following businesses or business people:

VFM, Inc. (Village Food Mart)	Dr. Richard Hersman
Hampden Engineering	Spruce Hill Veterinary Clinic
Hampden Performing Arts Centre	Orr Cadillac-Pontiac
Hampden Lioness Club	New England Harp Repair
W. F. Young, Inc.	

After expenses were deducted, \$1844.37 remained to be added to the council's budget for 1998. The Massachusetts Cultural Council matched \$1308 as well as contributed the usual \$3150. There were \$352 of unexpended funds left over from 1997. Therefore, the council had a total of \$6654.37 to award for 1998. We received requests for \$12,215.

Projects and activities that have been tentatively awarded grants for 1998 include:

- the "Kids on the Block" program sponsored by the PTO at Green Meadows School
- trips to the Springfield Symphony Orchestra for Green Meadows students in first, second, and third grade
- Tai Chi classes for third graders at Green Meadows
- a joint presentation for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts on the Civil War
- several musical programs at Minnechaug Regional High School
- the summer reading program at the Hampden Public Library
- the men's woodworking shop sponsored by the Council on Aging
- a swing dance co-sponsored by the Council on Aging and the Friends of the Library (scheduled Spring 1998)
- artifact preservation for the Hampden Historical Society
- several musicians for entertainment at the Fall Festival in October (sponsored by COA, RAH, and HCC)
- BRAVO newspaper distribution (free to town residents)
- the children's bedtime stories offered by the Radio Reading Service of Western New England

In 1998 the Cultural Council will also sponsor a summer concert series to be held on a regular basis at the Gazebo. We hope to continue to support the cultural education and enjoyment of town residents of all ages.

Respectfully submitted,	
Carol Winters Smith, Chairperson	Diane Knecht
Aline Burt	Heather Beattie
Doris Ouimet	Virginia Blake
Reginald Johnson	Carolyn Siano

VETERANS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT FOR TOWN OF HAMPDEN

Chapter 115 of the Massachusetts General Laws established many years ago the Massachusetts Veterans' Services Program. The focus of this law and the actions of the State in aiding Veterans date back to 1861. It is a law that places Massachusetts far above all other states in offering aid to those who served their country. Massachusetts is the only state in this country that has a Veterans' Agent in each and every city and town.

The veterans and their families should realize above all else that the programs they are entitled to are not a form of welfare or public assistance but entitlement that they have earned through service to their country.

In 1997 there were three families aided by the Veterans' Service Department.

The total amount expended was \$8,230.00 of which 75% is reimbursed by the State; the town's share being, \$2,057.50

As a result of the VA service work performed by the area office, veterans and their dependents in Hampden received \$454,221 in Federal Benefits.

Not only does the Veterans' Services Office process applications for financial assistance but also assists in filing applications for all VA Benefits which can result in bringing thousands of dollars in Federal funds to applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn F. Bolaske
Veterans' Agent

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REGISTRARS

In 1997, our election warden Helena Kullberg resigned after eleven years of service as warden and many years as deputy warden. She will be missed because of her constancy and professionalism. We will think of you Helena when we are counting and tallying ballots into the wee hours of the mornings. We thank you for the hundreds of hours you have given to the Town.

Signatures of some voters who signed petitions in the fall of 1997 were challenged and Town Clerks from across the state were subpoenaed to a hearing in Boston, with evidence proving the persons were in fact voters at the time in question. We had to take originals and copies of voters' signatures, which were examined by a handwriting expert. Some town clerks were further called into a judge's chambers and questioned by lawyers but I was spared that experience. We have yet to hear the final outcome of these hearings.

The number of registered voters on January 1, 1997 was 3090. On December 31, 1997 the number was 3164.

Voter attendance during the year 1997:

Republican Party Caucus, March 27, 1997	30
Democratic Party Caucus, March 28, 1997	64
Special Town Meeting, April 28, 1997	194
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 1997	194
Special Town Meeting, October 27, 1997	337

Board of Registrars, Page 2

Poll Workers for 1997:

WARDEN
DEPUTY WARDEN
CLERK
DEPUTY CLERK

Helena Kullberg
Henry Dunwoody
Helen Lavallee
Virginia Schneider

INSPECTORS AND TELLERS

Republican

Mary Berrett
Beth Burger
Edith Casey
Andree Crowley
Irene Cutting
Beryl Doten
Mary Dunklee
Barbara Dunwoody
Kathleen Duquette
Rebecca Gibb
Miles Hapgood
Marion Joyce
Joyce Libby
David Kingsbury
Elaine Kingsbury
Chesley Metcalf
Nancy Salerno
Philip Schneider Jr
Sheila Slawiak
Thomas Slawiak
Patricia Smith
Sharleen Thayer
Elizabeth Wells
Robert Wells
Carolyn Whipple
Richard Willis

Democratic

Brenda Ahlberg
Marilyn Blizard
Ann Burian
Mary Cesan
Carol Collins
Sophie Davenport
Nancy Downey
Gloria Fabbri
Sheila Flynn
Sandra Gray
Judith Jackson
Sally Kealy
George Lavallee
Ronald Lech
Gail Lefebvre
Janet Redin
Kathleen Rochford
Margaret Rochford
Evelyn Schmidt
Rita Southworth
George Walsh

Unenrolled

Jeffrey Barnes
Mary Lou Black
Carolyn Brennan
Aline Burt
Mildred Davis
Catherine Herchel
Diane Hildreth
Nancy Joy
Duane Mosier
Deborah O'Brien
Doris Ouimet
Doreen Rauch
Donna Easton-Vicalvi
Lynn Zanolli
William Zanolli

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Registrars
Arthur Booth Jr
Janet Redin
Elizabeth Wells
Rita Vail, Clerk

REPORT OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Last year brought some changes to the Park and Recreation Department. In an effort to respond to increased requests for new and varied programs, we decided to reinstate the position of a part-time year-round director. Renee Caverly came on board just before camp began. We plan to expand our programs for the community and provide a more consistent level of information

A new level of competition was brought to our RAH-sponsored soccer program with the inclusion of the Pioneer Valley Soccer League for the Fall of 1997. Now parents have the option of having their children in a more competitive travelling league or in the Recreation league which plays games locally and in which all resident children may participate.

Once again, our summer program went very smoothly thanks to our dedicated staff. We encourage all residents to enjoy our terrific facilities at Memorial Park. We offer free swimming, a 5-week camp, periodic night swim parties and special events.

The second Fall Festival was held on a glorious Saturday in October. It was wonderful to see people of all ages enjoying the craft fair, food vendors, apple pie contests, children's games and entertainment. We thank everyone who came to the festival and all the volunteers who helped make the day a success. We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with the Council on Aging to develop programs for all ages (and Carolyn and staff are great fun to work with).

We would like to thank the RAH Board for all its work in making the sports programs run smoothly. Without volunteers, our sports would not exist and we want them to know that we appreciate them.

Dana Pixley and the Highway Department also deserve our thanks. They keep the baseball fields mowed and help in many other ways. We would like to thank Mary Zamorski, Dennis Herchel, and Loraine Aloisio for their years of service to the Board.

We have had a good year and accomplished quite a bit, but there is more to be done. We have been making repairs to various facilities to maintain them, but soon that will not be enough. There are increased numbers of children using our ball fields and as a result of it, the fields are in need of increased maintenance. We ask for the community's support in funding for increased maintenance monies.

Thank You

Park and Recreation Commission
Glennice Flynn
Dave Kingsbury
Kathy Duquette
Jim Morris
Bob Majkut

RECREATION ASSOCIATION OF HAMPDEN

The Recreation Association of Hampden served 926 youth athletes in the 1997 fiscal year (Fall 96/Spring 97) with its primary focus to provide youth sports programs and activities which foster participation, skills development, teamwork, and most importantly fun for the youth of Hampden. The specific sports currently offered in the RAH program, and their respective operating budgets are summarized below for reflection and consideration.

SOCCER: The fall program, coordinated by Alan Walder, registered a total of 305 participants, with 65 children enrolled at the instructional level. Seventeen teams competed in the Springfield Youth Soccer league in age groups from Under-8 to the Under-14 age group. The spring program, coordinated by Jim Morris, fielded fifteen teams in identical age brackets, with a total enrollment of 190 children. Competing against surrounding towns of considerably larger size and demographics, a number of these teams achieved championship status in their respective age groups.

To facilitate practice availability and home field opportunity, RAH purchased an additional two sets of JayPro Portable Aluminum Goals. This capital expense enables RAH to provide a total of two full size, and two modified sized soccer fields as deemed necessary. This year twenty percent of league games played were scheduled on Hampden fields minimizing travel and addressing safety concerns.

BASKETBALL: Competing in the Wilbraham Youth Basketball League, and Pioneer Valley Suburban Basketball League, RAH registered 175 youth for league play. An additional 45 children participated at the instructional level. The basketball program coordinated by Gary Weiner was challenged to address league requirements. To compliment the 3-point shot line installed the previous season, RAH purchased a 30 second Shot Timer System to comply with Suburban mandated requirements. To further press the resources of basketball, the scoreboard at Green Meadows necessitated retirement, and in response RAH purchased a new Fair-Play Solid State Basketball Scoreboard for Thornton Burgess, and moved the scoreboard at TWB to Green Meadows to resolve the dilemma.

A positive experience was the ultimate reward!!

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL: In his first year as program director/baseball coordinator, Peter Fatse registered a total of 211 baseball/softball youth. Energized by the "drive" of Peter and his baseball committee, the baseball/softball programs competed in the Wilbraham Baseball League. Forty-two Kindergartners formed the Co-Ed T-Ball division, and 46 children formed the Coaches Pitch division. The Eastern, Bronco, and Pony divisions amassed 74 boys. Coordinated by Mary Kay Theoharides, the softball program grew from previous years and happily enrolled 49 girls. With support and sponsorships, baseballs primary focus this year was to outfit the teams with new uniforms, and safer equipment.

A significant community highlight was an "Opening Day" on April 24th, 1997. With our elected town officials, and a first pitch thrown by Mr. Niccum, the ceremony dedicated to our town youth offered opportunities for many children to showcase their abilities in addition to athletics. Our National Anthem, the Stars for Education program endorsed by Noel Pixley and Jeff Sullivan, flag and patch designing, all symbolized and fostered a deeper significance to the youth sports program. So impressive was the day that network TV (Real to Reel), and local television WTV-46 aired coverage.

Recreation Association of Hampden, Page 2

OPERATING BUDGET:

	General	Soccer	Basketball	Baseball/Softball	Total
Income	2213.04	17455.00	10002.00	11804.80	41474.84
Debits	849.65	16215.18	11693.68	12022.41	40780.92
Total	1363.39	1239.82	-1691.68	-217.61	693.92

RAH experienced a significant increase in the operating budget. With support from the Parks and Recreation Department, your participation fees, town line items, and contributors, the challenges of financing our youth sports program were achieved.

A great deal of appreciation is extended to those volunteers, such as coaches, coordinators, and RAH board members who give of themselves, and for what better reason than THE YOUTH OF OUR TOWN!!

Respectfully submitted

The RAH Board

CEMETERY COMMISSION

This year Elizabeth Wells retired as a member of the Commission after fulfilling her term as an active and efficient manner. Thank you Betty. Elected in her place was Renate Oliver.

The Commissioners have been active in overseeing the maintenance of Prospect Hill and Old Cemeteries. In this capacity, arrangements were made for the excavation and refilling of the graves at time of interment and the installation of foundations for markers in cooperation with the various monument vendors. Nineteen interments were made during the year. Several lots were sold in Old Cemetery and while lots are still available there, in a few years all of the available lots will have been sold. The State mandates that any new cemetery must be at least five acres in size. Expansion of an existing cemetery does not have this limitation. We are still working with the selectmen to overcome this problem.

Lots in Prospect Hill Cemetery are unavailable at the present time. The present maps of Prospect Hill do not reflect reality and over the years have been inadequately maintained. Because of this we are in need of a review of the cemetery and updating of the records of this cemetery. We have attempted to do this ourselves but have been unable to do this adequately due to time and personal constraints.

In addition to the regular maintenance duties this year, the stone marker at the entrance to Old Cemetery was lettered and a new fence installed along the front. Some of the stones used for the footing of the fence were provided by David and Joanne Gernux on North Road. We appreciate their contribution in helping to beautify the town. In Prospect Hill Cemetery the roadway was repaved with the cooperation of Dana Pixley and the Highway Department. The Highway Department has been helpful throughout the years. Without them we would have been unable to maintain the cemeteries adequately.

Once again we are requesting that all winter decorations are removed by April 15 in preparation for the redecoration of the graves for Memorial Day. We would also request that old decorations and trimmings from shrubs be placed in or by the barrel provided for that purpose at each cemetery. Rubbish thrown into the woods or over the fence has to be picked up by someone else to avoid an obnoxious mess on the property of others.

Please be reminded that any plantings put in to decorate the graves must be kept within the bounds of the plot described in the deed and are the responsibility of the owner for maintenance. Any decorations violating this rule will be removed.

Quarterly meetings for the Cemetery Commissioners are held at the Town House the second Tuesday of January, April, July and October at 7:30 PM. Commissioners may be contacted at this time or at the telephone numbers listed below to conduct cemetery business.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Sazama, Jr.	566-3304
Henry Dunwoody	566-3357
Renate Oliver	566-8684

1997 REPORT OF THE LIBRARY

The mission of the Hampden Public Library is to provide materials of popular interest to our adult and juvenile patrons, and to provide materials and services to help local residents satisfy their informational and educational needs.

The 1997 Report of the Library is dedicated to Children's Librarian, Margaret (Peg) Rochford who retired on 12/31/97 after 25 years at the library. The patrons, staff and trustees of the library wish her health and happiness in her retirement. We'll miss you, Peg!



We would like to thank the members of the Friends of the Library; the library staff and volunteers; our library patrons; the Lions and Lioness Clubs; and all others who contributed time and effort to the library in 1997.

Report of the Library P2

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday 11AM - 8PM
Tuesday 11AM - 5PM
Wednesday 11AM - 8PM
Thursday 11AM - 5PM
Saturday 10AM - 3PM
(The library is closed Saturday from June 15 to Labor Day.)

LIBRARY STATISTICS

General Services

Circulation:

Print Material - Adult	13,700	Volumes Added	1026
Print Material - Juvenile	18,080	Volumes Discard	1533
Non-print Materials	10,311	Total Collection	20,454
Inter-library Loan	642	Magazine Subscriptions	65
TOTAL	42,733		

Finances FY96

Receipts

Municipal appropriation	\$63,974
State Aid	2,333
TOTAL	\$66,307

Expenditures

Wages	\$49,898
Books & Materials	13,040
Supplies	3,369
TOTAL	\$66,307

(Note: The status of the library's trust funds is listed in the Treasurer's Report)

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Hutchison, Trustee chair
Beth Burger, Trustee
Elaine Kingsbury, Trustee
Marta Willey, Library Director

HAMPDEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department responded to the following calls during 1997: house fires 2, chimney fires 2, carbon monoxide detectors 14, Housing for the Elderly 25, brush fires 14, down electric lines 1, car fires 4, car accidents 4, mutual aid calls to other towns 5, propane leaks 4, oil burner 2, automatic alarms 11, grease fires 1, shed fire 1, and rubbish fire 1, for a total of 95 calls. This is a 15 call increase over 1996. Most of the increase calls was for carbon monoxide detectors. All of these calls were defective detectors.

When you sell or refinance your home, you must have your smoke detectors inspected before the closing. Please make sure they are properly installed and in working order before you call for inspection.

This past year, we awarded six scholarships to children of firemen who are furthering their education. We would like to thank everyone for your continued support of our flower sales and raffle, whose profit goes into the scholarship fund.

Anyone who is 19 years old, a Hampden resident and can pass a physical exam and wants to help the town is eligible to join the fire department, just give us a call at 566-3314.

This past year I turned in \$2,095.00 to the Town Treasurer for inspections and permits.

1997 was my 10th and final year as Chief of the Hampden Fire Department. I would like to thank the Board of Selectmen and their assistants, Retired Chief George Stone, Chief Phillip Adams and their department and Highway Superintendant Dana Pixley and his men for their support and cooperation over the past ten years.

Remember, every October change your clock and change your smoke detector batteries.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence W. Hatch
Fire Chief

Report of the Forest Fire Warden

As in the past, outdoor burning is permitted from January 15th through April 30th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM daily, for the burning of brush only. There is NO burning of grass, hay, leaves, stumps or construction materials. Burning permits are issued on a daily basis, depending on weather conditions. You may obtain a permit by calling 566-3314 after 9:00AM on the day that you wish to burn.

Last year 1,515 burning permits were issued during burning season. In 1997 we responded to 14 brush fires.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence W. Hatch
Forest Fire Warden