

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

This past year (2004) was filled with many changes and challenges to the town. We saw the completion of the Green Meadows renovations/expansion in the fall. Many thanks go out to the people that gave so much to see this project completed on time and under budget. We also unfortunately saw the passing of Rick Moriarty, who was such a driving force in this project.

In May a general override vote failed to aid the FY2005 budget. This resulted in many town departments facing continued decreases in hours and staffing to assist the residents. Hampden did receive a one time revenue boost from the state of \$67,000.00 in the fall. If this had not happened many cuts would have been necessary at the fall special town meeting to balance FY05's budget.

Hampden sadly saw the loss of one its more prominent landmarks. The Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary was destroyed by fire in September. We were all distressed by the circumstances surrounding this event and the loss to all.

The privately owned cell tower at the Transfer Station inches towards completion. The tower is now in place and we all anxiously await a carrier to sign on to bring it into service.

This past year also saw many new faces to Town government. We want to thank all the volunteer members of the many boards and commissions that give so much of their time to the town to help make Hampden what it is.

The town is always in need of energetic and motivated people to serve. For information on appointed positions please contact the Selectmen's office at 566-2151. For elected positions contact one the town's political parties or the Town Clerk.

Respectfully submitted:

Mark R. Barba, Chairman
James D. Smith
Duane E. Mosier