

# **Town of Sugar Hill**

## **New Hampshire**



**62nd Annual Report**

**Year Ending  
December 31, 2023**

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# **TOWN OFFICERS**

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Margaret Connors, Chair (Term Expires 2025)  
Richard Bielefield (Term Expires 2024)  
Chris Ellms (Term Expires 2026)

### **TOWN OFFICE**

Telephone 603-823-8468

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Jennifer P. Gaudette

#### **TOWN CLERK**

Lissa Boissonneault  
Marie Snyder, Deputy

#### **TREASURER**

Amy Venezia

#### **TAX COLLECTOR**

Lissa Boissonneault  
Marie Snyder, Deputy

#### **CHIEF OF POLICE**

Michael Ho-Sing Loy

#### **FIRE CHIEF / FIRE WARDEN**

Allan R. Clark (Appointed)

#### **TO REPORT AN EMERGENCY**

**911**

**EMERGENCY ONLY**

#### **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

**1-800-564-6911**

**Non-Emergency 603-823-8123**

#### **HIGHWAY AGENT**

Douglas R. Glover

#### **OVERSEER OF PUBLIC WELFARE**

Board of Selectmen

#### **HEALTH OFFICER**

Deborah Corey  
Margo Connors, Deputy

#### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Chief Michael Ho-Sing-Loy (Appointed)

#### **MODERATOR**

James F. Snyder (2024)

#### **TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS**

Russ Gaitskill (2026)  
Michael Clafin (2024)  
Greg Connors (2025)

#### **SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST**

Jordan Applewhite (2024)  
John Colony (2026)  
Jae Kim (2028)  
Lisa Hjelm, Deputy

#### **LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

Alice Clafin (2025)  
Joanna Santilli (2026)  
Jason Tors (resigned) (2024)  
Iris Rhodes (2024)

**CEMETERY TRUSTEES**

	Kathleen Jablonski (2026)		
Elizabeth Warren	(2026)	Lyn Kenerson	(2024)
Larry Sawyer	(2025)	Annette Carbonneau	(2024)

**PLANNING BOARD**

	Robert Hayward, Jr., Chairman	(2024)	
James Keefe	(2024)	Mike Valentine	(2025)
David Thurston	(2024)	Margo Connors	(2025)
Steve Monsein	(2026)	Arthur Chase	(2026)
	Amy Venezia, Alt	(2025)	
	Patricia Robertson, Alt	(2026)	

**ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

	Michael Hern, Chairman	(2025)	
Carl Hjelm	(2026)	James Keefe	(2024)
Edward Cenerezio	(2026)	John Colony	(2024)
	Amy Venezia, Alt. & Secretary	(2025)	
	Sarah Pinney, Alt	(2024)	

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

	Larry Sawyer, Chair	(2024)	
Chris Ellms	(2024)	Timothy Burger	(2025)
Charles Wolcott	(2026)	Judy Sawyer	(2025)
Holly Hayward	(2024)	Claire Von Karls	(2026)
	Tim Williams, Alt	(2026)	

**RECREATION PROGRAM  
SUGAR HILL REPRESENTATIVES**

Matt Steele (2024)  
Ryan Carlaw (2025)

All 2023 reports from various agencies not printed in this Town Report are on file in the Selectmen’s Office and available upon request.

**TOWN OF SUGAR HILL  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES-RESULTS  
MARCH 14, 2023**

Moderator James F. Snyder declared the polls open at 12 noon for the voting by ballot on Article 1, the election of town officers. Polls will close at 6:30 PM unless the town votes to keep the polls open to a later hour. All articles to be presented, discussed and acted upon at 6 PM. Moderator Snyder went over his rules of conduct for the meeting. The Moderator asked that all newly elected officers stay after the meeting to get sworn in by the Town Clerk. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Article 1 to be passed over until ballots are counted at which time Moderator Snyder will read the results.

**ARTICLE 1:** To vote by nonpartisan ballot for the following Town Officers:

- One Selectman to serve for a term of three (3) years
- A Town Treasurer to serve for a term of one (1) year
- A Town Clerk to serve for a term of one (1) year
- A Tax Collector to serve for a term of one (1) year
- A Trustee of the Trust Fund to serve for a term of three (3) years
- A Library Trustee to serve for a term of three (3) years
- A Library Trustee to serve for a term of one (2) year
- Two Board of Adjustment member to serve for a term of three (3) years.
- Two Board of Cemetery Trustees to serve for a term of three (3) years
- And such other Town Officers as may be required by law

**RESULTS OF ARTICLE 1:**

<b>Selectman, Three Year Term</b>	<b>Christopher J. Ellms</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Town Clerk, One Year Term</b>	<b>Lissa Boissonneault</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Tax Collector, One Year Term</b>	<b>Lissa Boissonneault</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Town Treasurer, One Year Term</b>	<b>Amy Venezia</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Library Trustee, Three Year Term</b>	<b>Joanna Santilli</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Library Trustee, Two Year Term</b>	<b>Alice Claffin</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Trustee of Trust Funds, Three Year Term</b>	<b>Russell Gaitskill</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Zoning Board of Adjustment Three Year Term, vote for two:</b>		
	<b>Carl Hjelm</b>	<b>66</b>
	<b>Edward Cenerizio</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Cemetery Trustee, Three Year Term, vote for two:</b>		
	<b>Kathleen Jablonski</b>	<b>71</b>
	<b>Lynne Warren</b>	<b>69</b>

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town of Sugar Hill will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Six Hundred Ninety Thousand Forty-Three Dollars (\$1,690,043) to defray Town charges.

Executive .....	\$72,020.00
Election, Registration & Vital Statistics .....	26,000.00
Financial Administration .....	25,890.00
Property Revaluation .....	15,000.00

Legal Expenses .....	15,000.00
Payroll Taxes .....	36,000.00
Planning Board .....	3,000.00
Zoning Board of Adjustment .....	1,000.00
General Government Buildings .....	45,850.00
Buildings & Grounds .....	51,750.00
Cemetery .....	12,788.00
Insurance.....	161,967.00
Advertising & Regional Associations.....	7,100.00
North Country Council.....	1,100.00
Franconia Notch Chamber.....	6,000.00
Unemployment.....	100.00
Police Department.....	306,668.00
Ambulance .....	25,104.00
Fire Department .....	115,425.00
Building Inspections .....	12,000.00
Emergency Management .....	2,500.00
Airport.....	335.00
Town Maintenance .....	259,217.00
General Highway Department Expense .....	209,555.00
Street Lighting .....	2,500.00
Highway Block Grant .....	46,000.00
Solid Waste Disposal .....	75,000.00
Health, Hospitals.....	9,267.00
North Country Home Health .....	1,775.00
Grafton County Senior.....	1,250.00
White Mountain Mental Health .....	692.00
American Red Cross.....	300.00
Ammonoosuc Community Health .....	1,250.00
Above the Notch.....	500.00
Center for New Beginnings .....	500.00
Franconia Children's Center.....	500.00
Boys & Girls Club of the North Country.....	2,500.00
Welfare .....	6,000.00
Tri County Cap .....	1,150.00
Pantry .....	1,000.00
Parks and Recreation.....	28,000.00
Library .....	37,512.00
Patriotic Purposes .....	2,000.00
Conservation Commission .....	1,000.00
Interest Expense - Tax Anticipation.....	1,000.00
Long Term Notes .....	55,000.00
Interest Long Term Notes .....	5,000.00
Capital Expense .....	17,495.00
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS.....</b>	<b>\$1,690,043.00</b>

The Select Board recommends these Appropriations.

Moved by Richard Bielefield

Seconded by Nancy Martland

Explanation of budget items by Selectboard and Dept. Heads

Discussion

Gary Young moved to amend Article 2 to increase by \$15,000.00 with the recommendation that it be put towards an increase in the Road Dept. salaries. Moderator Snyder made it clear that it was up to the Selectboard to decide where the increase will be made.

Seconded by Michael Valentine.

Discussion

**All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the Ayes have it**

**Nick DeMavo made a motion to reconsider budget articles in Article 2**

**No second, Motion failed.**

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created in 1976.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Margo Connors

Seconded by Steve Monsein

Road Agent Doug Glover spoke on article.

**All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the Ayes have it**

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) to be used for Highway Department Roadwork improvement projects to be chosen at the discretion of the Road Agent and Selectmen. This will be a non-lapsing account per RSA 32:3, VI and will not lapse until the fund is expended or in 3 years, whichever is less. (Majority vote required)

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Margo Connors

Seconded by Howard Mitz

Road Agent Doug Glover spoke on article.

Discussion

**All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the Ayes have it**

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Fire Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created in 1993.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Chris Ellms

Seconded by Brenda Aldrich

Chief Allan Clark Spoke on article

Discussion

**All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the Ayes have it**

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Fire Department Building Capital Reserve Fund created in 2008.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation

Moved by Chris Ellms

Seconded by Steve Monsein

Chief Allan Clark Spoke on Article

**All in Favor, “Aye”, Opposed, “No”, the Ayes have it**

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Highway Department Bridge Capital Reserve Fund created in 2006.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Richard Beilefield

Seconded by Mark Desrocher

Richard Beilefield spoke on the article

Discussion

**All in Favor, “Aye”, Opposed, “No”, the Ayes have it**

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Highway Department Building Capital Reserve Fund created in 2009.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Chris Ellms

Seconded by Sarah Pinney

Road Agent Doug Glover spoke on the article

**All in Favor, “Aye”, Opposed, “No”, the Ayes have it**

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the Carolina Crapo Building Capital Reserve Fund created in 2004.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Margo Connors

Seconded by Kathleen Jablonski

Selectboard member Margo Connors spoke on article

**All in Favor, “Aye”, Opposed, “No”, the Ayes have it**

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the Police Department Capital Reserve Fund created in 1976.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Chris Ellms  
Seconded by Nancy Martland  
Police Chief Ho-Sing Loy spoke on article  
Discussion  
**All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the Ayes have it**

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum Seventy-Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) to be placed in the Building and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund created in 2012.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Margo Connors  
Seconded by Brenda Aldrich  
Selectboard Member Margo Connors spoke on article  
**All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the Ayes have it**

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the Meetinghouse Capital Reserve Fund created in 1991.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Margo Connors  
Seconded by Rose Ellms  
Selectboard Member Margo Connors spoke on article  
**All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the Ayes have it**

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000) for the purpose of Phase One of updating the Town of Sugar Hill Master Plan.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation

Moved by Margo Connors  
Seconded by Michael Valentine  
Selectboard Member Margo Connors spoke on the article  
Discussion  
**All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the Ayes have it.**

**Moderator James Snyder read the results of Article 1**

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand and One Hundred Thirty-Nine Dollars (\$123,139.00) To be returned to the Highway Bridge Capital Reserve Fund created in 2006 said sum shall come from unassigned fund balance.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Chris Ellms  
Seconded by Carl Martland

Selectboard Member Chris Ellms spoke on the article and made the amendment to reduce the article amount to \$80,807, a difference of \$42,332

Seconded by Steve Monsein

Discussion

**All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the Ayes have it**

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One thousand Four Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$1,415.00) To be returned to the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund created in2019 and said sum shall come from the unassigned fund balance.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Chris Ellms

Seconded by Doug Evelyn

Selectboard Members Chris Ellms and Margo Connors spoke on the article

**All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the Ayes have it**

**ARTICLE 16:** Shall the Town of Sugar Hill readopt the ALL VETERANS' TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property which shall be equal to the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town of Sugar Hill under RSA 72:28? (Majority vote required)

The Select Board recommends this Article.

Moved by Richard Bielefield

Seconded by Kathleen Jablonski

Selectboard Member Richard Bielefield spoke on the article

Discussion

**All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the Ayes have it**

**ARTICLE 17:** To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Nancy Martland read a letter from Rebecca Brown thanking the Sugar Hill Fire Department for their prompt and professional response to the fire at her home

Fire Chief Allan Clark remarked on the Fire Department for their well trained responses to the two major fires that Sugar Hill experienced in 2022. He also addressed the ongoing problems with the ambulance/EMS crisis in our immediate area and the fact that this is being worked on to come to a solution that works for Sugar Hill now and in the future. The SHFD now has a Medical Response team that will arrive at the scene, evaluate the situation, lend care until an ambulance arrives and then help with moving the patient to be transported to a hospital.

Brenda Aldrich spoke on the lack of affordable area housing for those that have jobs in and around Sugar Hill. There is a need to attract young families to our town for not only filling jobs that are needed but to join services such as the SHFD.

Margo Connors let the attendees know that information on Broadband and also the Community Power Coalition was available in the hall of the Meetinghouse.

Howard Mitz asked about the savings from Sugar Hill's solar panels. We had \$6000 in savings and a \$4000 credit from the installation. Carl Martland made note that this was more than was anticipated.

Nick DeMayo questioned the funds raised for outside charitable organizations and if the Selectboard came up with an amount or if the organization asked for the amount. The Selectboard stated that the organization requested the amount. Mr. DeMayo requested that the Selectboard research the way any organization that requested funds was run and how they benefited Sugar Hill, specifically the Boys and Girls Club. Kathie Cote stated that the only way that some of her employees could work was because their children could go the Boys and Girls Club for child care.

Lynne Warren stated that the Sugar Hill Fire Department now has a face book page that we can access to keep up on any situations affecting Sugar Hill residents.

Gary Young spoke on his experiences with ambulance service when he had a heart attack and a history of the life squad and ambulance service in our area.

Paula Wolcott made comment on Sugar Hill's great Christmas party and its tradition.

Richard Bielefield let it be known that the mortgage that Sugar Hill has on the Carolina Crapo building is paid off five years early and with great savings in interest. He thanked Kitty Bigelow for her great cover on the Town Report, one of the archival photos from the Sugar Hill Historical Museum. Thanks to Lissa and all the election workers for the smooth running of elections. Thanks to Dennis Cote for the sound system for the meeting. Thanks to Rose Ellms for her many years of chairing the Christmas party for the town. Thanks to the Sugar Hill Improvement Assn. for their ongoing support of repairs to the Meetinghouse and the new gazebo between the Museum and Carolina Crapo and other welcome improvements to our town.

Lissa Boissonneault spoke on the importance of residents attending the budget hearing held before Town Meeting so that they can make an informed vote on the various warrant articles. There is also a town newsletter that can be accessed to keep you informed of any meetings or other affairs important to our town. You may sign up for it at the town office. Lissa also spoke on the importance of our sidewalk long Rt. 117. It is used by both locals and the many tourists that like to walk up the street safely on the sidewalk and enjoy the scenery of our beautiful town.

Moderator Snyder asked that newly elected officials stay to get sworn in by the Town Clerk.

There being no further business to transact, Moderator Snyder adjourned the meeting at 7:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Lissa M. Boissonneault, Town Clerk

**BALANCE SHEET**  
(As of December 31, 2023)

**ASSETS**

Current Assets	
Unrestricted Checking	\$ 401,749.71
Money Market/Roll	3,104.34
Roll-Investment	1,283,621.29
ARPA	<u>53,377.79</u>
Total Checking/Savings	1,741,853.13
Other Current Assets:	
Due from State of NH	39,587.43
Due from other funds	50.00
Property Taxes Receivable Current Year	186,868.51
Tax Liens Receivable	<u>17,184.15</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>243,690.09</u>
Total Current Assets	1,985,543.22
Taxes Deeded Property	<u>17,183.34</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$2,002,726.66</u></u>

**LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY**

Accounts Owed by the Town:	
School District Tax Payable	1,265,895.00
Deferred Revenue	<u>53,314.01</u>
Total Liabilities	\$1,319,209.01
Equity	
Reserved for Tax Deeded Property	17,183.34
Restricted Fund Balance	29,906.99
Reserved for Article Carried Forward	60,065.35
Surplus	530,686.65
Net Income	<u>45,675.22</u>
Total Equity	<u>683,517.55</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity	\$2,002,726.66

**SCHEDULE OF LONG-TERM INDEBTEDNESS**

Crapo Building

Beginning Balance 1/1/23 Principal	\$ 54,888.50
2023 Payment with interest	<u>57,447.66</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/23	<u><u>\$0.00</u></u>

## SUMMARY INVENTORY OF ASSESSED VALUATION

Land Under Current Use (At Current Use Values)	\$ 317,717.00
Land	56,199,100.00
Buildings	110,801,500.00
Public Utilities	<u>3,000,600.00</u>
Total Valuation Before Exemptions	\$170,318,917.00
Elderly and Blind Exemptions	<u>30,000.00</u>
Net Valuation on Which Tax Rate Is Computed for Municipal, County and Local Education	\$170,288,917.00
Less Utilities	<u>\$ 3,000,600.00</u>
Net Valuation On Which Tax Rate For State Education Tax Is Computed	\$167,288,317.00

## STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS AND TAXES ASSESSED

	<u>Amount</u>		<u>Tax Rate</u>
Total Town Appropriations	\$2,090,765.00		
Less: Revenues	(351,161.00)		
Fund Balance Voted surplus	(82,222.00)		
Fund Balance to Reduce Taxes	(175,000.00)		
Add: Overlay	18,486.00		
War Service Credits	<u>13,500.00</u>		
Net Town Appropriations		\$1,514,368.00	
Municipal Tax Rate			\$ 8.90
Net Local School Budget	0.00		
Regional School Apportionment	2,044,028.00		
Less: Equitable Education Grant	(.00)		
State Education Taxes	<u>(384,994.00)</u>		
Approved School(s) Tax Effort		1,659,034.00	
Local Education Tax Rate			9.74
State Education Taxes	<u>384,994.00</u>	384,994.00	2.30
Due to County	<u>310,478.00</u>		
Net County Tax Assessment		310,478.00	
County Tax Rate			1.82
Combined Tax Rate			22.76
Total Property Taxes Assessed		3,868,874.00	
Less: War Service Credits		<u>(13,500.00)</u>	
Property Tax To Be Raised		\$3,855,374.00	

## SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY

	Land	Buildings	Equipment
Meetinghouse	\$ 89,500.00	\$231,300.00	\$ 80,000.00
Carolina Crapo	125,100.00	309,340.00	50,000.00
Library			25,000.00
Fire Department	98,300.00	91,400.00	1,407,658.00
Police Department			182,434.00
Highway Department		142,100.00	942,123.25
Building & Grounds			67,379.00
Parks & Commons			
Coffin Pond-SHCC	45,400.00		
Tennis Court	34,560.00		
Town Forest-SHCC	129,300.00		
Land:			
Cemeteries	171,900.00		
Nason Road	65,900.00		
Creamery Pond	27,600.00		
Creamery Pond-OD	40,700.00		
Route 117	3,000.00		
Route 93	4,400.00		
Creamery Pond Corner	42,900.00		
Pearl Lake Road	18,300.00		
	\$ 896,860.00	\$774,140.00	\$2,754,594.00
 TOTALS	 (1)	 (1)	

Note (1) Based on Assessed Valuation

## TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

To the Voters of the Town of Sugar Hill:

I herewith submit my report of the financial doings of my office for the year 2023:

Motor Vehicle Permits Issued:	\$193,529.00	
Dog Licenses Issued:	395.50	
Other Permits and Fees:	<u>6,927.00</u>	
 Total		 \$200,851.50
 Remittances to Treasurer:		
Motor Vehicle Permits Issued:	\$193,529.00	
Local Town Clerk Fees:	2,140.00	
State Town Clerk Fees:	3,273.00	
Title Application Fees:	342.00	
Dog Licenses Issued:	395.50	
Dog License Fees:	97.00	
Dog License Late Fees:	10.00	
Marriage Licenses Issued:	301.00	
Town Clerk Fees:	49.00	
Vital Statistics (First Copy):	120.00	
Town Clerk Fees:	105.00	
UCC Filing Fee:	90.00	
Sale of Checklist	<u>400.00</u>	
 Total		 \$200,851.50

Respectfully submitted,  
Lissa M. Boissonneault  
Town Clerk

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**  
**Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2023**

**DEBITS**

<b>Uncollected Taxes – Beginning of Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Levies of 2023</b>	<b>Levies of 2022</b>
Property Taxes	\$ 0.00	\$125,970.38
Land Use Change	0.00	0.00
Yield Taxes	0.00	0.00
Property Tax Credit Balance	(10,621.14)	0.00
<b>Taxes Committed This Year:</b>		
Property Taxes	3,853,837.59	0.00
Land Use Change	24,164.50	0.00
Yield Taxes	7,930.41	0.00
<b>Overpayment Refunds:</b>		
Property Taxes	4,507.00	0.00
Interest & Penalties	<u>690.07</u>	<u>2,239.87</u>
<b>Total Debits</b>	<b>\$3,880,508.43</b>	<b>\$128,210.25</b>

**CREDITS**

<b>Remittances to Treasurer During Fiscal Year:</b>		
Property Taxes	\$3,659,608.35	\$ 114,819.05
Land Use Change	11,124.50	0.00
Yield Taxes	6,221.72	0.00
Interest	690.07	2,067.87
Penalties	0.00	172.00
Conversion to Lien	0.00	11,151.33
<b>Abatements Made:</b>		
Property Taxes	1,246.59	
Land Use Change	13,040.00	
Yield Taxes	1,708.69	0.00
Current Levy Deeded	0.00	0.00
<b>Uncollected Taxes End of Year:</b>		
Property Taxes	199,887.99	0.00
Property Tax Credit Balance	(13,019.48)	0.00
Land Use Change Taxes	0.00	0.00
Yield Tax	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>\$3,880,508.43</b>	<b>\$128,210.25</b>

**SUMMARY OF LIEN ACCOUNTS**  
**Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2023**

**DEBITS**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Unredeemed Liens			
Balance Beginning			
of Fiscal Year	\$ 0.00	\$11,737.84	\$9,606.65
Liens Executed	11,656.98	0.00	0.00
Interest & Costs			
Collected After			
Lien Execution	<u>118.71</u>	<u>2,127.47</u>	<u>1,061.55</u>
Total Debits	<u>\$11,775.69</u>	<u>\$13,865.31</u>	<u>\$10,668.20</u>

**CREDITS**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Remittances to Treasurer:			
Redemptions	\$1,189.23	\$5,021.44	\$9,606.65
Interest & Cost	118.71	2,127.47	1,061.55
Abatements of Unredeemed Tax	0.00	0.00	0.00
Liens Deeded to Municipality	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unredeemed Liens			
Balance End of			
Fiscal Year	<u>10,467.75</u>	<u>6,716.40</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Credits	<u>\$11,775.69</u>	<u>\$13,865.31</u>	<u>\$10,668.20</u>

**UNREDEEMED PROPERTY TAXES FROM TAX LIEN**  
BY ORDER OF THE SELECTMEN THE FOLLOWING LIST IS  
INCLUDED PER 1997 TOWN MEETING

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Holland, Lizanne	\$4,126.30	0.00
Staffier, Paul D.	<u>7,366.95</u>	<u>6,809.14</u>
Totals	\$11,493.25	\$ 6,809.14

**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**Year Ending December 31, 2023**  
**Cash Basis**

Beginning Cash Balance Checking January 1, 2023		\$ 240,865.79
Beginning Balance Roll/Money Market January 1, 2023		<u>810,019.43</u>
	Total	\$1,050,885.22

**RECEIPTS**

Tax Collector	\$ 3,820,960.94	
Town Clerk	200,851.50	
Selectmen	34,671.84	
Transfers (Trust & Capital Reserve Funds)	317,213.28	
State & Federal Grants	238,966.81	
Interest on Money Market & NOW account	6,851.92	
Total Receipts		\$4,619,516.29

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Orders of Selectmen	\$3,981,926.17	
Loan Repayments		
Total Disbursements		\$3,981,926.17

Ending Cash Balance NOW checking, December 31, 2023		401,749.71
Ending Cash Balance Roll/Money Market, December 31, 2023		<u>1,286,725.63</u>
		\$1,688,475.34

**CHECKING AND SAVINGS ACCOUNTS**  
**POLICE PERMIT ACCOUNT**

Beginning Balance 1/1/23		\$ 379.04
Deposits		0.00
Withdrawals-Dormant Account Fee		<u>5.00</u>
Balance 12/31/23		\$ 374.04

**POLICE SPECIAL DUTY FUND**

Beginning Balance 1/1/23		\$ 9,125.39
Deposits		8,930.00
Withdrawals - Firearms		10,078.02
Interest Earned		<u>4.61</u>
Balance 12/31/23		\$ 7,981.98

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Beginning Balance 1/1/23	\$5,336.15
Deposit	0.00
Withdrawals	0.00
Interest Earned	<u>2.67</u>
Balance 12/31/23	\$5,338.82

**CONSERVATION LAND USE FUND**

Beginning Balance 1/1/23	\$96,992.30
Deposit Change Tax	8,112.25
Interest Earned	<u>5,079.68</u>
Balance 12/31/23	\$110,184.23

**RICHARDSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Beginning Balance 1/1/23	\$ 2,032.88
Deposit	0.00
Interest Earned	<u>1.03</u>
Balance 12/31/23	\$ 2,033.91

**RICHARSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Beginning Balance 1/1/23	\$3,153.41
Deposits	618.00
Service Charges	<u>36.00</u>
Balance 12/31/2023	\$3,735.41

**NORTHERN PASS DEFENSE FUND**

Beginning Balance 1/1/23	\$ 764.41
Interest Earned	<u>.37</u>
Balance 12/31/23	\$ 764.78

**ARPA**

Beginning Balance 1/1/23	\$60,432.14
Deposits- Cruiser Purchase	40,000.00
Withdrawals	47,091.92
Interest Earned	<u>37.57</u>
Balance 12/31/23	\$53,377.79

## SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS

### Cash Basis

#### Local Taxes:

Property Taxes, Current Year	\$ 3,659,053.49
Yield Taxes, Current Year	6,221.72
Current Use Change, Current Year	11,124.50
Property Taxes, Prior Year	122,510.38
Lien Redemptions, Prior Years	15,817.32
Interest & Costs	<u>6,233.53</u>

Total Taxes Collected \$3,820,960.94

#### From Local Sources and Miscellaneous, except Taxes:

Motor Vehicle Permits	193,529.00
Town Clerk Fees	2,140.00
State Fees	3,273.00
Title Application Fees	342.00
Dog Licenses, Fees, Penalty	502.50
Marriage Licenses	301.00
Vital Statistics	120.00
UCC Filing Fees	90.00
Town Clerk Fees	154.00
Checklist	<u>400.00</u>

Total Town Clerk \$200,851.50

Building Permits	9,506.60
Driveway Permits	245.00
Planning Board Fees	0.00
Zoning Board Fees	725.00
Selectmen	218.76
Highway	50.00
Police (\$10,000.00 from sale of cruiser)	12,765.00
Cemetery Burials/plot purchases (2,800)	4,250.00
Cable TV Permit	<u>1,882.18</u>

Total Miscellaneous \$29,642.54

From State:		
Highway Block	65,103.44	
Rooms and Meals	62,299.66	
State Bridge Aid,	107,503.86	
HOP Grant	4,059.85	
Total from State	<u>                    </u>	\$238,966.81
Interest on Checking & Savings Account	6,851.92	
Capital Reserve Funds	317,213.28	
Rent of Municipal Property	400.00	
Solar Return	<u>4,629.30</u>	
Total Receipts Other Than Current Revenue		<u>\$329,094.50</u>
Total Receipts From All Sources		\$4,619,516.29
Cash on Hand, January 1, 2023		1,283,401.39
Grand Total of Receipts		\$5,902,917.68

## SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS

General Government:

Executive	\$ 57,831.41	
Election, Registration & Vital Statistics	19,951.83	
Financial Administration	23,934.54	
Revaluation of Property	13,750.00	
Legal Expenses	8,819.06	
Payroll Taxes	37,304.51	
Planning Board	18,640.17	
Zoning Board of Adjustment	1,028.08	
General Government Buildings	46,485.36	
Buildings & Grounds	47,172.35	
Cemeteries	12,466.56	
Insurance	161,364.33	
Advertising & Regional Associations	7,100.00	
Unemployment	<u>0.00</u>	
Total General Government Expenses		455,848.20
Police Department	296,337.01	
Fire Department	113,316.36	
Ambulance	25,104.00	
Emergency Management	<u>4,524.15</u>	
Total Public Safety Expenses		439,281.52
Total Building Inspections		7,750.00
Total Airports		335.00
Highway, Streets and Bridges:		
Town Maintenance	263,731.66	
General Expenses of Highway Department	194,102.06	
Highway Block Grant	65,103.45	
Highway Roadwork Non – Lapsing Fund	60,000.00	
Street Lighting	<u>2,556.17</u>	
Total Highways, Streets and Bridges Expenses		585,493.34
Sanitation:		
Solid Waste Disposal	<u>75,828.20</u>	
Total Sanitation		75,828.20
Health:		
Health, Hospitals	<u>9,267.00</u>	
Total Health Expenses		9,267.00
Total Welfare Expenses		4,522.50
Recreation	25,402.00	
Library	28,509.33	
Patriotic	<u>1,972.56</u>	
Total Culture and Recreation Expenses		55,883.89
Conservation:		
Conservation Commission	680.00	
Land Use Change Fund	<u>8,112.25</u>	
Total Conservation Expenses		8,792.25

Debt Service:		
Principal Expense – Long Term Notes	55,015.27	
Interest Expense – Long Term Notes	2,432.39	
Interest Expense – TAN	0.00	
Total Debt Service Payments		57,447.66
Transfers to Capital Reserve Funds & Trusts:		
Cemetery Trust	2,800.00	
Article #3 Highway Equipment	50,000.00	
Article # 5 Fire Department HE	50,000.00	
Article #6 Fire Department Building	10,000.00	
Article #7 & 14 Bridge	130,807.00	
Article #8 Highway Dept. Building	10,000.00	
Article #9 Crapo Building	20,000.00	
Article #10 Police	20,000.00	
Article #11 Building & Grounds	7,500.00	
Article #12 Meetinghouse	5,000.00	
Article # 15 Transfer Station	1,415.00	
Total Capital Reserve Funds & Trusts		307,522.00
Capital Vehicles/Equipment/Buildings/Land:		
Bridges	179,453.23	
Energy – Highway Lights	5,000.00	
Crapo Building	19,277.90	
Police Dept	19,972.80	
Building & Grounds	14,320.00	
Fire Department Building	2,155.00	
Highway Equip	47,300.00	
Solar	17,495.13	
Total Capital Expense		304,974.06
Taxes Bought by Town	11,656.98	
Property Tax Refund	4,507.00	
MV Refund	76.00	
Correction	37.57	
Total Miscellaneous Expenses		16,277.55
Payments to Other Government Divisions:		
Taxes Paid to County	310,478.00	
Payments to School Districts	1,342,225.00	
Total Payments to Other Government Divisions		<u>1,652,703.00</u>
Grand Total of Expenditures		\$3,981,926.17

## DETAILED STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS

Executive:

Selectmen - Expense	\$	1,026.20
Administrative Asst - Gaudette		39,903.66
Office Asst- Amy Venezia		394.00
Moderator		300.00
Workshops		466.50
Telephone		1,400.52
Internet		1,329.97
Website		564.00
Program Support/Consulting		3,735.79
Mapping		2,450.00
Registry		87.92
Printing/Notices		1,925.00
NHMA Dues, Coalition, Dues		2,373.00
Office Supplies		1,218.26
Postage		638.59
Books		18.00

Total Executive Expenses		\$ 57,831.41
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Election, Registration & Vital Statistics:

Town Clerk - Boissonneault		6,480.48
Town MV Fees - Boissonneault		2,675.00
State MV Fees - Boissonneault		3,273.00
Title Fees - Boissonneault		342.00
Dog Fees - Boissonneault		96.00
Marriage Fees - Boissonneault		49.00
Vital Fees - Boissonneault		105.00
UCC Fees - Boissonneault		45.00
Supervisors of the Checklist		650.00
Ballot Clerks		332.50
Computer - Consulting		150.00
Computer - Program Support BMSI		3,062.54
Telephone		333.40
Supplies/dog tags		492.31
Office Supplies/copier		862.70
Postage		581.90
Vital Statistics		421.00
Dog Licenses		<u>180.00</u>

Total Election, Registration & Vital Statistics		19,951.83
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Financial Administration:

Tax Collector - Lissa Boissonneault		5,850.98
Elizabeth Andross -Trust		175.00

Lien Fees - Boissonneault	40.00	
Treasurer - Venezia	2,000.00	
Auditor	6,000.00	
Workshops	70.00	
Bank Fees	646.98	
Telephone	354.31	
Computer Program & Support-Avitar/QB	7,085.13	
Registry	19.18	
Research Lien	60.00	
Dues	115.00	
Office Supplies/copier, checks, tax bills	815.19	
Postage	572.30	
Misc Expense	<u>130.47</u>	
Total Financial Administration Expenses		23,934.54
Total Revaluation		13,750.00
Total Legal Expenses		8,819.06
Payroll Taxes:		
Sugar Hill FICA (Town Contribution)	28,348.96	
Sugar Hill Medicare (Town Contribution)	<u>8,955.55</u>	
Total Payroll Taxes Expense		37,304.51
Planning Board:		
Secretary - Salary Amy Venezia	1,972.00	
Registry	12.66	
Printing/Notices	216.00	
Books	60.00	
Master Plan	3,635.81	
HOP Grant	<u>12,743.70</u>	
Total Planning Board Expenses		18,640.17
Zoning Board:		
Secretary - Amy Venezia	608.00	
Printing/Notices	288.00	
Postage	114.08	
Books	<u>18.00</u>	
Total Zoning Board Expenses		1,028.08
Government Buildings:		
James Keefe	16,606.08	
Telephone (Elevator & Meetinghouse)	1,583.29	
Electricity (Crapo & Meetinghouse)	6,627.95	
Heating Oil (Meetinghouse)	2,598.53	
Propane (Crapo)	3,928.09	
Unifirst - Rugs	2,459.01	

Elevator Inspections	50.00	
Alarm Monitoring	324.00	
Tree Work Meetinghouse	2,450.00	
Tri State Extinguisher Inspections	1,659.50	
Presidential Pest	290.00	
NC Mechanical	1,856.61	
Up North Electric - PD, Crapo & MH	1,303.00	
Stevenson Services - Clock	1,824.00	
Supplies	2,925.30	
Total Government Buildings Expenses		46,485.36
Crapo Building Septic Pump	19,277.90	19,277.90
Grounds & Maintenance:		
Peter Carbonneau - Salary	31,980.57	
James Keefe	2,999.79	
Telephone	492.80	
Uniforms	169.69	
Supplies	299.99	
Maintenance & Repair	327.09	
Gasoline	1,819.05	
Diesel	1,286.18	
Grounds keeping - New Equipment	356.80	
Vehicle Repair	1,103.72	
Retirement	6,336.67	
Total Grounds & Maintenance Expenses		47,172.35
B&G CRF - New Mower	14,320.00	14,320.00
Cemeteries:		
Supplies - Flags	123.69	
WTS	6,000.00	
Foto Factory	89.85	
Supplies - Amazon	130.22	
Lowes - Mulch	42.80	
Tree Notch	2,000.00	
Gravel & Loam	4,080.00	
Total Cemeteries Expenses		12,466.56
Insurance:		
Health - Highway	80,151.60	
Police Includes Buy Out Chief	15,523.68	
Executive	25,047.36	
Building & Grounds	3,397.01	
Dental	6,681.96	
Property Liability	28,408.00	
Worker's Compensation	13,927.00	
Employee Reimbursed	(11,772.28)	
Total Insurance Expenses		161,364.33
Total Advertising & Regional Associations Expenses		7,100.00

Total Unemployment Expenses 0.00

Police Department:

Chief Mike Ho-Sing-Loy	100,247.20
Ho-Sing-Loy Special Detail	1,210.00
Corp. Sarah Donahue	62,716.35
Donahue Special Detail Pay	2,915.00
Officer Kerry Pomeroy	21,527.01
Officer Ryan Jarvis	215.00
Officer Cody MacKay	1,154.50
Special Detail MacKay	1,485.00
Police Retirement	53,385.13
Prosecutor - Town of Littleton	3,500.00
Training	440.00
8123 Line	250.00
Telephone Wireless	1,948.54
Telephone Office/Fax Line added	1,471.64
Body Camera Storage	5,257.17
Computer Equipment	2,375.00
Computer Consulting	1,187.13
Computer Program Support	1,434.39
Internet	240.00
Website	468.00
TMDE Calibration	202.50
Dispatch Service	9,099.66
Uniforms	1,726.72
Firearms	2,718.98
Dues	339.99
Supplies	928.59
Office Supplies	1,996.17
Postage/Box Rent	168.00
Maint & Repair	349.50
Gasoline	7,201.94
Vehicle Maintenance	2,331.27
New Equipment	<u>5,846.63</u>

Total Police Department Expenses		296,337.01
PD CRF - New Cruiser	19,972.80	19,972.80

Ambulance:

Littleton Fire	<u>25,104.00</u>	
Total Ambulance Expenses		25,104.00

Fire Department:

Salaries:	
Aldrich, Clifton	4,762.50

Amsbary, Douglas	775.00
Beaulieu, Brian	2,462.50
Burger, Timothy	2,475.00
Chase, Eric	1,662.50
Clark, Allan	19,090.65
Collins, Evelyn	500.00
Collins, Jeffrey	1,100.00
Crowe, Nelson	687.50
Dahill, David	600.00
Gagel, John	1,400.00
Glover, Douglas	1,925.00
Hodgdon, Jody	50.00
Ireland, Brinson	1,387.50
Johnk, Gordon	3,662.50
Johnk, Samuel	2,162.50
Kenerson, Danforth	2,200.00
Lax, Nathan	937.50
Quintal, Richard	762.50
Rasmussen, Eric	5,356.25
Snyder, James	5,181.25
Talbot, Rusty	1,225.00
Warren, Michael	275.00
Warren, Lynne	550.00
Wilson, Ned	3,487.50
Training	1,335.99
Mileage (Chief Clark)	2,414.99
Telephone	692.20
Information Line 8123	250.00
Internet Provider	900.10
Program Support	766.00
Dispatching Services	3,899.84
Medical Services	340.00
Fire Prevention	886.21
Electric	2,282.44
Building Maintenance	1,904.84
Uniforms & Protective Clothing	5,569.24
Dues	788.00
Supplies	2,341.99
Office Supplies	284.31
Postage	47.90
Medical Supplies	1,425.84
Gasoline	32.45
Diesel Fuel	913.06
Propane	2,887.47
Vehicle Maintenance	5,263.59
Equipment Maintenance	3,657.55
Radio Maintenance	1,068.00
Communication Equipment	2,572.95

New & Replacement Equipment	5,857.12	
Books/Miscellaneous	<u>256.13</u>	
Total Fire Department Expenses		113,316.36
Fire Department Building CRF		2,155.00
Total Building Inspections		7,750.00
Emergency Management		
Hazardous Mitigation Plan	3,500.00	
Training	199.00	
Signs/Posts	<u>825.15</u>	
Total Emergency Management		4,524.15
Total Airport		335.00
Town Maintenance:		
Douglas Glover - Salary	90,832.10	
Joshua Ashe	68,130.99	
Todd Nelson	60,341.24	
Peter Carbonneau	13,960.40	
Jim Keefe	213.90	
Retirement	<u>30,253.03</u>	
Total Town Maintenance		263,731.66
General Highway Department:		
Engineering - McCarthy	520.00	
Telephone	1,180.51	
Vehicle Reg DMV	16.00	
Computer Internet	949.49	
Computer Consulting	723.83	
Computer Support	29.99	
Computer Equipment	1,545.00	
Medical	359.00	
Electricity - Salt Shed	195.11	
Heating Oil	1,000.77	
Wood	4,200.00	
Building Maintenance	3,116.92	
Equipment Rental - Sweeper	3,423.75	
Uniforms	2,369.98	
Dues	80.00	
Supplies	1,292.35	
Shop Supplies	2,459.78	
Diesel Fuel	26,912.37	
Gasoline	137.58	
Propane	236.02	
Vehicle Maintenance	19,595.00	
Equipment Maintenance	5,679.33	
Loam	280.00	

Culverts	2,772.90	
Stone	1,664.64	
Cold Patch	2,586.84	
Calcium	4,200.00	
Asphalt	157,000.00	
Street Signs	588.00	
Tree Removal	3,000.00	
New Equipment	3,493.51	
Animal Control	375.00	
Crosswalk	<u>2,118.39</u>	
Total General Highway Department & Non-Lapsing		254,102.06
CRF Heavy Equipment New Backhoe		47,300.00
Energy CRF – New LED lighting		5,000.00
Bridge CRF – Hoyle & Tanner, William McCarthy		179,453.23
Solar Second Payment		17,495.13
Total Street Lighting Expenses		2,556.17
Total Highway Block Grant Expenses		65,103.45
Total Solid Waste Disposal Expenses		75,828.20
Total Health & Hospitals Agencies Expenses		9,267.00
Total Welfare Expenses		4,522.50
Total Parks & Recreation Expenses		25,402.00
Library:		
Librarian - Irene Amsbary	15,542.50	
Sara Daley	1,832.50	
Telephone/Internet	1,834.47	
Computer Consulting	877.50	
Program Support	216.00	
Computer - G Suite	168.00	
Automation	1,260.00	
Library Supplies	48.00	
Office Supplies	33.70	
Books/Movies/Audio	<u>6,696.66</u>	
Total Library Expenses		28,509.33
Patriotic:		
Town Party	<u>1,972.56</u>	
Total Patriotic Expenses		1,972.56

Conservation Commission:		
Dues River Adv	100.00	
Dues 2 Years NHCC	500.00	
Books	<u>80.00</u>	
Total Conservation Commission		680.00
Land Use Change Fund		8,112.25
Long Term Notes - Principal	55,015.27	
Long Term Notes - Interest	<u>2,432.39</u>	
Total Long Term Notes		57,447.66
Transfers - Capital Reserve Funds:		
Meetinghouse CRF	5,000.00	
Crapo Building CRF	20,000.00	
Highway Department HE	50,000.00	
Fire Department HE	50,000.00	
Fire Department Building	10,000.00	
Bridgework	130,807.00	
Police Department CRF	20,000.00	
Highway Building	10,000.00	
Building & Grounds CRF	7,500.00	
Transfer Station	<u>1,415.00</u>	
Total Transfers - Capital Reserve Funds		304,722.00
Total Transfer - Cemetery Trust		2,800.00
Total Taxes Paid - County		310,478.00
Total Taxes Paid - School District		1,342,225.00
Property Tax Refund		4,507.00
MV Refund		76.00
Payroll		37.57
Total Taxes Bought by the Town		<u>11,656.98</u>
Total Detailed Expenses		\$3,981,926.17



**CEMETERY TRUST FUNDS**  
**Report of the Trust Funds – December 31, 2023**

**PRINCIPAL INCOME**

Date Of Creation	NAME OF TRUST	Balance Beginning of Year	New Funds Created	Gains or (Losses) on Sale of Securities	Withdrawals	Balance End of Year		Income During Year		Expended During Year		Balance End of Year	Grand Total of Principal & Income at End of Year
						End of Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year		
10/09/1975	Sunnyside Care Fund (1)	12,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,000.00	2,208.36	743.59	0.00	2,951.95	0.00	2,951.95	14,951.95
09/21/1973	Louise Leazott Trust (1)	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	649.88	60.18	0.00	710.06	0.00	710.06	1,210.06
11/05/1943	Annie Bowles Trust (1)	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	159.02	16.18	0.00	175.20	0.00	175.20	325.20
11/03/1937	Frank E. Bowles Trust (1)	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	159.02	16.18	0.00	175.20	0.00	175.20	325.20
10/18/1956	J.L. & Gertrude Bowles Trust (1)	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	89.64	9.93	0.00	99.57	0.00	99.57	199.57
07/11/1984	Hersom Murray Trust (1)	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	111.07	13.67	0.00	124.74	0.00	124.74	274.74
10/09/1975	Anker Trust (2)	2,180.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,180.29	50.70	116.76	0.00	167.46	0.00	167.46	2,347.75
10/09/1975	Sunnyside Cemetery (3)	7,966.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	9,966.00	131.41	424.68	0.00	556.09	0.00	556.09	10,522.09
<b>TOTAL CEMETERY OF TRUST FUNDS</b>		\$23,196.29	2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,196.29	\$3,559.10	\$1,401.17	\$0.00	\$4,960.27	\$0.00	\$4,960.27	\$30,156.56

- (1) Interest only may be used for lot care.<sup>3</sup>
  - (2) Funds may be used at discretion of Cemetery Trustees.
  - (3) Funds may only be used for Sunnyside Maintenance.
- All Funds Invested 100%  
All Funds are deposited in PDIP.

Respectfully,  
Chairman Greg Connors, Russ Gaitskill, Mike Clafflin  
Trustees of the Trust Funds

**LIBRARY TRUST FUNDS**  
Report of the Trust Funds – December 31, 2023

**PRINCIPAL INCOME**

Date Of Creation	NAME OF TRUST	Balance Beginning of Year	New Funds Created	Gains or (Losses) on Sale of Securities	Withdrawals	Balance End of Year		Income During Year	Expended During Year	Balance End Year	Grand Total of Principal & Income at End of Year
						Beginning of Year	End of Year				
10/9/1975	Gladys Jesseman Memorial Trust	\$1,841.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,841.23	329.00	113.60	0.00	442.60	2,283.83
9/21/1973	Fredericka Harmes Fund	1,564.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,564.10	676.37	117.25	0.00	793.62	2,357.72
11/5/1943	Alice Smith Fund	903.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	903.50	389.51	67.66	0.00	457.17	1,360.67
1/22/2001	Richardson Memorial Trust	73,984.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	73,984.55	4,910.90	4,128.93	0.00	9,039.83	83,024.38
	TOTAL LIBRARY TRUST FUNDS	\$78,293.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$78,293.38	\$6,305.78	\$4,427.44	\$0.00	\$10,733.22	89,026.60

All Funds Invested 100%.

All Funds are deposited in PDIP or CD's.

**SUGAR HILL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION FUNDS**  
**PRINCIPAL INCOME**

Date Of Creation	NAME OF TRUST	Balance Beginning of Year	New Funds Created	Gains or (Losses) on Sale of Securities	Withdrawals	Balance End of Year		Income During Year	Expended During Year	Balance End Year	Grand Total of Principal & Income at End of Year
						Beginning of Year	End of Year				
06/01/2009	SHIA (community)	\$1,045,646.70	1,861.33	149,022.43	(107,525.56)	1,089,004.90	52,870.38	43,192.79	(26,928.73)	69,134.44	1,158,139.34
1948	CRAPO(education)	767,801.26	50,000.00	167,350.62	(37,382.01)	947,769.87	32,434.80	55,346.57	(20,066.29)	67,715.08	1,015,484.95
	TOTAL SHIA FUNDS	\$1,813,447.96	\$51,861.33	\$316,373.05	\$(144,907.57)	\$2,036,774.77	\$85,305.18	\$98,539.36	\$(46,995.02)	\$136,849.52	\$2,173,624.29

Respectfully,  
Chairman Greg Connors, Russ Gaitskill, Mike Claffin  
Trustees of Trust Funds

## SELECT BOARD'S REPORT

Our Town continues to grow! We now have 668 residents and 501 registered voters. 44 building permits were issued including 5 new homes and 6 solar installations. There were 12 intents to cut in 2023 and early 2024. There is one building permit change: Any shed or structure over 10 x 16 feet (160 square feet) without a foundation now requires a building permit. All new building permit applications require a \$25 filing fee to help cover the cost of the building inspector.

The New Hampshire Department of Revenue requires that communities reevaluate all properties every five years. The entire town of Sugar Hill will be reevaluated in 2024.

On December 4, 2023, the Board passed the following resolution: "The Sugar Hill Select Board recognizes, and will follow, NH RSA 354A the Law Against Discrimination which prevents discrimination in employment, places of public accommodation and housing because of age, sex, gender, gender identity, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, physical or mental disability or national origin. The Select Board is committed to promoting a secure, welcome, and safe environment for all. The Select Board is committed to modeling respectful dialogue."

There will be a warrant article at this year's Town Meeting asking voters to give the Select Board the authority to create Sugar Hill Community Power. Community Power would enable our Town to become the default electricity provider for the community. Community Power allows customers to save money and expand their energy choices through economies of scale. The program pools the electricity demand of participating customers across the town to increase buying power and expand local control. The program will only launch if it can offer the lowest rates. Electric distribution utilities (Eversource, NH Electric COOP) will continue to own and operate the electric grid, maintain the lines, and bill customers. The program is self-funded through electric bill payments. No taxpayer funds are used to cover program expenses. Many New Hampshire towns and cities have begun the process to launch their own programs in the coming months and years. More than 50 communities have joined the Community Power Coalition and are in the process of launching their own programs. Community members can opt out at any time. For more information [www.communitypowernh.org](http://www.communitypowernh.org)

Working with the North Country Council, the Board is looking at different options on ways to slow down traffic along NH route 117, particularly through the town center. We hope to create more of a village feeling around the Post Office, Harman's Cheese Store, the Town Hall, and Historical Museum so that drivers will recognize that they are entering a community and pedestrian area. The North Country Council received funds for an engineering study on ways to upgrade or replace the existing sidewalk with concrete and granite curbing from Sunnyside Cemetery to the Community Church in town. We invited residents who have property along the sidewalk for their input. The cost of replacing the sidewalk which must be five feet wide, ADA compliant, is prohibitive (\$2 million) and would require expensive year-round maintenance. Residents were not thrilled with the idea of a new sidewalk and had many suggestions for alternatives. The North Country Council will continue to work with the town to explore different options in the spring and summer of 2024. Community members will be asked for their opinions

throughout the process. New Hampshire DOT designed, and the town has already installed, a new safe crosswalk.

The Board is also looking at a plan to relocate the historical marker on Lover's Lane for the First Ski School to a new pull off area that the Town Road Crew could create across from Iris Farm. This would make viewing safer and more accessible.

The Board reviewed the setbacks for signs on Town and State roads. All signs must be 25 feet from the centerline of the road.

Eversource is rebuilding the transmission lines within the existing right-of-way through Sugar Hill, as well as Campton, Thornton, Woodstock, Lincoln, Easton, Bethlehem, Dalton, and Whitefield. Some of the current lines are 55 years old and need upgrades to meet current electrical standards. Due to weather, increasing demand for electricity through heat pumps, electric cars and increases to appliances coupled with the increase of renewable energy into the grid, Eversource believes that the system needs to be rebuilt to reliably serve customers, meet their demands, and withstand extreme weather.

The (2) two lines are the X178, which travels from Campton to Whitefield, and the U199, which travels from Sugar Hill to Littleton. Both rebuild projects are currently 115 kilovolt lines and will remain 115 kilovolts after the rebuild. In total, 470 wooden poles will be replaced with steel poles, and new conductors (power line) and a fiber optic communication wire (OPGW) will be installed to allow faster and more reliable communication between substations. The project also includes replacing poles along the Streeter Pond Tap, a 225-foot-long power line that connects the U199 transmission line to the X178 line in Sugar Hill. On average, the new steel poles will be about 12 feet taller than the wooden poles. There is no change in the crossarm height.

Town officials and abutters along the easement were notified of the project in the Spring of 2023. Public informational sessions were held in August and meetings before local conservation commissions to discuss Federal, State and Local permitting were held in November. The rebuild project is expected to start in the third quarter of 2024. More information can be found at [www.eversource.com/X178-Line-Project](http://www.eversource.com/X178-Line-Project) and [www.eversource.com/U199-line-project](http://www.eversource.com/U199-line-project). Questions or comments can be directed to: [NHProjectsInfo@eversource.com](mailto:NHProjectsInfo@eversource.com) or 888-926-5334.

Eversource representatives have been meeting with the Board about the roadways built while doing the project and how they will be left. The gates being left will be at the property owner's directive. In wetlands, timber mats will be used. They will utilize live line construction work pads that will be 100' x 100' and then reduced to 30' x 60'. Select Board member, Chris Ellms, met with Eversource representatives to walk the impacted areas of pole replacement in the Robertson Town Forest. The new pole heights will be 13 ½ feet due to steep topography. Eversource will loam and seed in the forest area after the gravel roads are utilized for the work. The line will not interconnect Center District Road to Blake Road. The Town will require driveway permits for any roads being constructed to access rights of way off a town road. In addition, the need for any concrete to be installed would require a permit.

Two cell tower companies have approached the Board to see if they could place a tower on Town property. We currently have no specifics on height or view shed impacts. More engineering would be required. This would also require a lease and town meeting approval to enter into a formal agreement.

On September 20, 2023, Sugar Hill hosted a Broadband Open House: Representatives from the NH Electric COOP, Spectrum, and Consolidated Communications (CCI) were there to give community members an opportunity to meet with the vendors to ask questions and glean information about broadband connections and installation to their homes. NH Electric Coop has started installation, CCI has not committed to a definitive build out schedule in Sugar Hill but should be finished by the third quarter of 2025.

On January 7, 2024, Sugar Hill hosted a Broadband Roundtable event with representatives from the White House. Grafton County will receive nearly \$12 million in federal funding to improve internet access. The money will go towards work on what is called "middle mile broadband," which connects major networks to local communities. Rural parts of New Hampshire have long struggled to get adequate internet access. The new money will go to build a 222-mile fiber optic cable in the county. The money is part of a broadband grant program funded by the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Act.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margon Connors, Chair  
Richard Bielefield  
Chris Ellms

## **CRANE HILL BRIDGE REPORT**

Streeter Pond Road Bridge The 3-sided concrete culvert bridge over Indian Stream will be replaced with a structure with a larger opening. The existing structure was damaged during a large storm event in July 2017. NHDOT has already replaced the bridge located upstream on Rte. 18 to accommodate heavier runoff from storms that we are experiencing. The new bridge will have an opening of 22'×5.5', like the Rte. 18 bridge and will be able to pass increased flows as required by the State of New Hampshire. Construction of the Streeter Pond Road Bridge was started in November of 2023 and is expected to be completed in 2024. Construction costs are estimated to be approximately \$350,000. FEMA will reimburse up to \$255,000 of that cost.

Crane Hill Road Bridge the Town entered a contract with Hoyle Tanner Associates in 2022 to design a new bridge to replace the DOT Red Listed Crane Hill Road Bridge. As of year-end 2023 preliminary design is 90% complete. The Right of Way process and final design will continue in early 2024. The new bridge will be located fifty feet upstream of the existing structure and will be a steel truss structure of the same length. The bridge will be 2 feet higher over the Gale River to accommodate ice floes and ice dams experienced on the river. A state endangered plants) has been found on one of the bridge approaches. Plans are to relocate the plants at an appropriate time next summer/fall.

The project will be advertised for bids in the fall of 2024, award a contract and begin construction in the spring of 2025 with anticipated completion in the 2026. Cost for the project including previous studies, preliminary and final design, and construction will be approximately \$4,551,000.00. Design cost are shared 80% State/20% Town. Construction cost will be 100% Federal. Approximate total cost to the Town will be \$92,000.

Respectfully submitted,  
William McCarthy  
Town Engineer

## CEMETERY TRUSTEES' REPORT

Thanks to the Town for supporting the upkeep of our two Cemetery properties- Sunnyside in town off Route 117 and Streeter District/Lucy Hannah on Streeter Pond Road.

It's been a busy year for Sexton Peter Carbonneau. He is to be commended for ALL the maintenance he has done, especially the continuous mowing between this summer's rainstorms.

Trustees Larry Sawyer and Lyn Kenerson along with volunteer Judy Sawyer, have been working diligently to update our records on Veterans interred in our Cemeteries. If you have knowledge of a Veteran's grave needing attention or a missing Veteran's marker, please contact the Select Board office and provide a message with your name and contact information so we can follow up with you, update and rectify our records.

Our big project for the 2023 year was beautification of the Streeter District/Lucy Hannah Cemetery. With the help of the Highway Department and a hired contractor, we were able to complete the removal of trees and brush, level the area and fence it in. This will allow the area to be usable space for interments in the future. Trustee Annette Carbonneau has been working with a landscaper and the Sexton to complete the landscaping plan.

Maintenance of headstones is ongoing. Several monuments were repaired, steps improved and repaired for safety at Sunnyside and fence repaired at Streeter District/Hannah. Unfortunately, due to illness, our contractor for stone cleaning was unable to fulfill our needs this past summer. We will work to assure cleaning continues. The Trustees are currently working on a policy for maintaining and replacing stones.

Trustees are researching, at the request of several residents, green burials - laws and the process including how other New Hampshire municipalities may be instituting the practice. Trustee Lyn Warren is continuing research on the topic with the help of all the Trustees.

An ongoing part of the Trustees' duties is to ensure we are following the laws and regulations regarding burials and cemeteries in the State of New Hampshire.

If you wish to learn more about Cemetery Policies and how they were crafted to follow the NH State laws, please visit the Town of Sugar Hill website. There you will find links to the following documents:

[Sugar Hill Cemetery Association Overview Pamphlet](#)

[SH Cemetery Rules and Regulations](#)

[Right to Inter Application](#)

[Interment Designations](#)

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the cemeteries, please contact me through the Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen E. Jablonski, Chair  
Lyn Kenerson,  
Larry Sawyer  
Annette Carbonneau  
Lyn Warren  
Cemetery Trustees

## **PLANNING BOARD**

The Planning Board is always open to constructive ways to improve and keep abreast of current changes. The Planning Board saw no activity for subdivisions or lot line adjustments in 2023.

The Planning Board began working with Tara Bamford, Consultant to start the process of updating our Master Plan which is done on a 10-year cycle. A survey was sent out in late summer to all Town residents and landowners. The results of this survey will be compiled and help us as we review the Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

In June, we were awarded a Housing Opportunity Program (HOP) grant. We shifted gears to begin reviewing and updating our current Zoning Ordinance. We began this year with a Public Hearing on seven amendments for our current Zoning Ordinance. At Town Meeting in March this year those seven amendments will be voted on to complete the process of this update.

The Planning Board will continue to work with Tara on updating the Master Plan throughout this year. Copies of the Planning Board minutes, and hearing information can be found on the Town website.

The Planning Board meets the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30PM at the Town Offices Building and is open to the public. Anyone interested in serving on the Planning Board should write a letter to the Select Board expressing their interest in serving on the Board.

Appreciation is due to all the members who generously volunteer their time and work to maintain the quality and beauty of our Town.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Venezia, Secretary

## **ROAD AGENT'S REPORT**

2023 started off much like the previous year, we had the huge windstorm at Christmas time which had us cleaning up wood and debris for months. With that taking us into spring cleanups with road sweeping and ditch work to get ready for paving. We were able to pave sections of Pearl Lake Road, Center District Road, and Dyke Road. We had multiple culvert changes along the way, and most of the paving resulted in the road being reclaimed prior to the new pavement being put down.

The roadside mower was kept busy with work on Nason Road, Crane Hill Road, Hadley Road, and parts of Birches Road. As fall came around, we continued ditch work on sections of most roads which paid off when fall rains came and we were able to keep the roads in place. Gravel was put down on Blake Road and Streeter Pond Drive Extension. Now that winter has arrived, we are back at snow removal.

Our twenty-year-old backhoe was replaced this year with a used but newer machine equipped with a hydraulic hammer so now we can deal with the rocks and ledge outcroppings that we have been going around for years. As always, I would like to thank the Police and Fire Departments for their help during storms and when needed. I would also like to thank the Select Board for their support and Jennifer for all she does to keep us up to date on paperwork and permits. A huge thanks to the Road Committee for all they do, especially Carl for all the work he puts in.

Respectfully submitted,  
Douglas Glover, Road Agent

## **SUGAR HILL ROADS COMMITTEE 2023 Annual Report**

Members of the Sugar Hill Road Committee work with Road Agent Doug Glover to identify places most in need of road work and make plans for surfacing and other rehabilitation projects. The Town has 22 miles of paved through roads, two miles of other paved roads, and three miles of gravel roads. In 2023, sections of Center District, Dyke and Pearl Lake Roads totaling approximately 1.1 miles were upgraded by grinding the old pavement to provide better subgrade support and then repaving the surface.

Pavement conditions on the Town's major paved roads are documented by analyzing photographs taken at 0.1-mile increments and noting the extent of cracking, pot holes and other problems. In 2023, the pavement on nearly two-thirds of the Town's major roads was found to be in excellent or good condition, while only 14% were in poor or very poor condition. Carpenter, Dyke, Easton, and Hadley Roads each had four 0.1-mile segments with very poor condition, and Jesseman Road had three. Pearl Lake Road had about a half-mile with poor or very poor condition. Six other roads had one or two such segments. Pavement conditions were about the same as in the prior year, as shown below in pie charts that summarize conditions in 2022 and 2021.

**TOWN OF SUGAR HILL  
TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Sugar Hill, in the County of Grafton, and the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified that the Annual Town Meeting Ballot Voting of the Town of Sugar Hill, New Hampshire, will be held at the Sugar Hill Meetinghouse on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 12:00pm am to act on the following subjects:

Polls will open at 12:00 pm. for voting by ballot on Articles 1 – 9 (the election of Town Officers, Selectboard number change and Zoning amendments). Polls will close at 6:30 p.m.

All Articles will be presented, discussed and acted upon starting at 6:00 p.m.

**ARTICLE 1:** To vote by nonpartisan ballot for the following Town Officers:

- One Selectman to serve for a term of three (3) years
- A Moderator to serve for a term of two (2) years
- A Town Treasurer to serve for a term of one (1) year
- A Town Clerk to serve for a term of one (1) year
- A Tax Collector to serve for a term of one (1) year
- A Trustee of the Trust Fund to serve for a term of three (3) years
- A Library Trustee to serve for a term of three (3) years
- A Supervisor of the Checklist to serve for a term of six (6) years.
- A Supervisor of the Checklist to serve for a term of four (4) years
- Two Board of Adjustment members to serve for a term of three (3) years.
- Two Board of Cemetery Trustees to serve for a term of three (3) years
- And such other Town Officers as may be required by law

**ARTICLE 2: (To Vote by Official Ballot)** Are you in favor of increasing the board of selectmen to 5 members? (Majority ballot vote required)

\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

Petition Warrant Article

**ARTICLE3:(To Vote by Official Ballot)**

**To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 15 Section 1504.1 of the existing Sugar Hill Zoning Ordinance relating to Schedule of Requirements. The official copy of the amendment is on file and available to the public at the Office of the Town Clerk and will be on display the day of the meeting. The following question is on the official Ballot:**

*Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Sugar Hill Zoning Ordinance as follows: to reduce the required width of a parking space from 12 ft. to 9 ft. which is a more typical standard (Sections 1506 and*

1602); make the requirement for all residential uses be 2 parking spaces per dwelling unit, except one space for accessory dwelling units; and provide the Planning Board with some flexibility in determining the required number of parking spaces for nonresidential uses (Section 1504)? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

**ARTICLE 4: (To Vote by Official Ballot)**

**To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 16 Section 1602 of the existing Sugar Hill Zoning Ordinance relating to Definitions. The official copy of the amendment is on file and available to the public at the Office of the Town Clerk and will be on display the day of the meeting. The following question is on the official Ballot:**

*Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Sugar Hill Zoning Ordinance as follows: to correct the terminology used in the Zoning Ordinance to differentiate between two-family dwellings and multifamily dwellings; eliminate the need for a two-family dwelling to have double the acreage of a single-family dwelling; and, in the General Residential (GR) and Rural Residential One (RR1) Districts, eliminate the requirement for a Special Exception from the Zoning Board of Adjustment in order to convert an existing single-family dwelling to a two-family dwelling (Articles 3, 4, 14, 15 and 16)?*  
\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

**ARTICLE 5: (To Vote by Official Ballot)**

**To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 3 of the existing Sugar Hill Zoning Ordinance relating to Districts and District Regulations. The official copy of the amendment is on file and available to the public at the Office of the Town Clerk and will be on display the day of the meeting. The following question is on the official Ballot:**

*Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Sugar Hill Zoning Ordinance as follows: to provide the opportunity for the owner of a two-family dwelling in the General Residential (GR) or Rural Residential One (RR1) Districts to apply for a Special Exception to add one accessory dwelling unit to a two-family dwelling, or for the owner of a single-family dwelling to add a second accessory dwelling unit under certain conditions (Article 3)?*  
\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

**ARTICLE 6: (To Vote by Official Ballot)**

**To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 3, 14A and 16 of the existing Sugar Hill Zoning Ordinance relating to Accessory Dwelling Units. The official copy of the amendment is on file and available to the public at the Office of the Town Clerk and will be on display the day of the meeting. The following question is on the official Ballot:**

*Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Sugar Hill Zoning Ordinance as follows: to make two changes to increase the opportunity to add an accessory dwelling unit; first, to remove the requirement that property with an accessory dwelling unit must be owner-occupied; and second, to allow a lot that does not meet the current minimum lot size to have an accessory dwelling unit in an existing accessory building if it is within the existing*

footprint and in compliance with setbacks; also remove provisions inconsistent with state law (Articles 3, 14A and 16)? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

**ARTICLE 7: (To Vote by Official Ballot)**

**To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 6 of the existing Sugar Hill Zoning Ordinance relating to Cluster Development. The official copy of the amendment is on file and available to the public at the Office of the Town Clerk and will be on display the day of the meeting. The following question is on the official Ballot:**

*Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Sugar Hill Zoning Ordinance as follows: to reduce the required minimum number of homes in a Cluster Development from 5 to 3; enable the Planning Board to reduce frontage and setbacks within a Cluster Development, provided there is at least a 50-foot separation distance between dwellings, and to increase setbacks and/or require screening from abutting properties and existing roads; and provide more guidance regarding use of the protected open space in a Cluster Development (Article 6)?*

\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

**ARTICLE 8: (To Vote by Official Ballot)**

**To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 16 of the existing Sugar Hill Zoning Ordinance relating to Definitions. The official copy of the amendment is on file and available to the public at the Office of the Town Clerk and will be on display the day of the meeting. The following question is on the official Ballot:**

*Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Sugar Hill Zoning Ordinance as follows: to establish Short-Term Rentals as a Permitted Use in any single-family dwelling (except those in a cluster development), and in one unit only in an owner-occupied two-family dwelling or owner-occupied single-family dwelling with an accessory dwelling unit (Articles 3 and 16); and require a Zoning Permit to ensure that some basic health and safety requirements are met (New Article and Section 1701)?*

\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

**ARTICLE 9: (To Vote by Official Ballot)**

**To see if the Town will vote to amend the existing Sugar Hill Zoning Ordinance. The official copy of the amendment is on file and available to the public at the Office of the Town Clerk and will be on display the day of the meeting. The following question is on the official Ballot:**

*Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Sugar Hill Zoning Ordinance as follows: to make revisions throughout the Zoning Ordinance to update references to state laws and agencies; make minor editorial corrections; eliminate redundancy and conflicts; clarify language; add elements in accord with state laws and court decisions regarding accessory dwelling units, signs, and Board of Adjustment powers; and update certain language to conform with the current application of the Ordinance?*

\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town of Sugar Hill will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Seven Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand, Five Hundred Fifty-One Dollars (\$1,735,551.00) to defray Town charges.

Executive .....	\$85,150.00
Election, Registration & Vital Statistics .....	38,120.00
Financial Administration .....	26,085.00
Property Revaluation .....	15,000.00
Legal Expenses .....	15,000.00
Payroll Taxes .....	40,000.00
Planning Board .....	36,000.00
Zoning Board of Adjustment .....	1,000.00
General Government Buildings .....	49,100.00
Buildings & Grounds .....	54,625.00
Cemetery .....	12,500.00
Insurance .....	182,757.00
Advertising & Regional Associations .....	9,155.00
North Country Council .....	1,155.00
Franconia Notch Chamber .....	8,000.00
Unemployment .....	100.00
Police Department .....	326,995.00
Ambulance .....	26,371.00
Fire Department .....	118,800.00
Building Inspections .....	12,000.00
Emergency Management .....	6,000.00
Airport .....	348.00
Town Maintenance .....	289,368.00
General Highway Department Expense .....	229,650.00
Street Lighting .....	2,700.00
Highway Block Grant .....	45,000.00
Solid Waste Disposal .....	15,458.00
Health, Hospitals .....	6,267.00
North Country Home Health .....	1,775.00
Grafton County Senior .....	1,250.00
White Mountain Mental Health .....	692.00
American Red Cross .....	300.00
Ammonoosuc Community Health .....	1,250.00
Center for New Beginnings .....	500.00
Franconia Children's Center .....	500.00
Welfare .....	6,000.00
Tri County Cap .....	1,294.00
Pantry .....	1,000.00
Parks and Recreation .....	28,420.00
Library .....	36,087.00
Patriotic Purposes .....	2,000.00
Conservation Commission .....	1,000.00
Interest Expense - Tax Anticipation .....	1,000.00
Capital Expense .....	17,495.00
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS .....</b>	<b>\$1,735,551.00</b>

The Select Board recommends these Appropriations.

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created in 1976.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) to be used for Highway Department Roadwork improvement projects to be chosen at the discretion of the Road Agent and Selectmen. This will be a non-lapsing account per RSA 32:3, VI and will not lapse until the fund is expended or in 3 years, whichever is less. (Majority vote required)

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Fire Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created in 1993.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Fire Department Building Capital Reserve Fund created in 2008.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Highway Department Building Capital Reserve Fund created in 2009.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Carolina Crapo Building Capital Reserve Fund created in 2004.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the Police Department Capital Reserve Fund created in 1976 with the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to come from the unassigned fund balance.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a Four-year lease agreement in the amount of Sixty-One Thousand Forty-Nine Dollars (\$61,049) for the purpose of leasing a Ford F250 Truck, and to raise and appropriate the

sum of Sixteen Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars and Fifty-Five Cents (\$16,987.55) for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote required.)

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One hundred Seven thousand, Five Hundred Three Dollars and Eighty-Six Cents (\$107,503.86) To be returned to the Highway Bridge Capital Reserve Fund created in 2006 said sum shall come from unassigned fund balance.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to establish the Fire Department Equipment Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:3 for the purpose of providing funds for the purchase of equipment and to raise and appropriate Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in said fund; and name the Select Board as agents to expend from said fund.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (\$15,742.00) purchasing a used bus for the Recreation Department.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) To be placed in the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund created in 2019.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

**ARTICLE 23:** Shall we modify the elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Sugar Hill, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$20,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, 30,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$40,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$45,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$65,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$75,000 excluding the value of the person's residence.

The Select Board recommends this article.

**ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) for support of the Boys & Girls Club of the North Country. The Boys and Girls Club is a fun, safe, positive place for all children of the North Country under the guidance of caring adults.

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Sugar Hill Community Power plan, to authorize the Select Board to implement the plan, and to take all action in furtherance thereof, pursuant to RSA 53-E. The Sugar Hill Community Power plan is an opt-out program that offers more flexible electricity procurement. The plan will initially provide lower electricity rates for residents, or it will not launch. Initial participation in the plan can be declined, after which enrollment becomes voluntary.”

The Select Board recommends this Article.

**ARTICLE 26:** We, the undersigned registered voters of the Town of Sugar Hill request the Board to insert the following article on the Warrant for the March 12, 2023, Town Meeting of Sugar Hill New Hampshire.

It is the sense of the voters that all are welcome in Sugar Hill. In keeping with NH law (RSA 354), people of every age, sex, sexual preference, gender identity, race, creed/religion, color, marital status, familial status, physical or mental disability or national origin are part of our vibrant community. Engaging with people of different backgrounds and experiences enhances the vitality and resilience of our town. Sugar Hill embraces these differences in all our residents and seeks to be a place where everyone feels they belong.

Petition Warrant Article

**ARTICLE 27:** To see if the Town of Sugar Hill will vote to require that the annual budget and all special warrant articles having a tax impact, as determined by the governing body shall contain a notation stating the estimated tax impact of the article. (Majority vote required)

Petition Warrant Article

**ARTICLE 28:** Are you in favor of the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to our American Flag be instituted as a ceremonial act during the opening of all official town meetings and town-sanctioned events? Audience participation is strictly voluntary. (Majority vote required)

(Petition Warrant Article)

**ARTICLE 29:** To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Given under our hands and seals this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February, Two Thousand and Twenty Four

SUGAR HILL SELECT BOARD

Chris Ellms  
Richard Bielefield  
Margaret Connors

RETURN OF POSTING

We hereby attest that the within Warrant is a true copy of the Warrant for the Town Meeting described therein, and further certify that we have caused to be posted an attested copy of this Warrant at the place of the Meeting and a like copy in one other public place in the Town of Sugar Hill, namely the Sugar Hill Post Office fourteen (14) days before the day of the Meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, not counting the day of posting or the day of the Meeting.

SUGAR HILL SELECT BOARD

Chris Ellms  
Richard Bielefield  
Margaret Connors

This Warrant and Return of Posting has been duly recorded in the Office of the Town Clerk of Sugar Hill, New Hampshire, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024.

**BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF SUGAR HILL – REVENUE**  
**(Modified Accrual Basis)**

<b>SOURCES OF REVENUE</b>	<b>Estimated 2023</b>	<b>Actual 2023</b>	<b>Estimated 2024</b>
Revised MS-4R			
Taxes:			
Yield Taxes	6,000.00	\$ 6,222.00	5,000.00
Interest & Penalties on Taxes	4,000.00	6,234.00	6,000.00
Land Use Change Tax	15,000.00	11,124.00	15,000.00
Intergovernmental Revenues - State:			
Highway Block Grant	50,000.00	65,103.00	45,000.00
Rooms & Meals	25,000.00	62,300.00	50,000.00
State Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00
HOP Grant	0.00	4,060.00	42,000.00
Licenses and Permits:			
Motor Vehicle Permit Fees	185,000.00	199,284.00	170,000.00
Other Licenses, Permits & Fees	1,100.00	1,568.00	1,000.00
Building, Driveway & Cable Permits	8,000.00	11,634.00	5,000.00
Business Licenses & Permits	0.00	90.00	0.00
From Federal & State Government:	0.00	111,564.00	0.00
Charges For Services:			
Income from Departments	3,700.00	15,209.00	2,500.00
Miscellaneous Revenue:			
Interest on Deposits	4,000.00	6,737.00	4,000.00
Sale of Municipal Property	0.00	0.00	0.00
Income from Trusts	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rent of Town Property	0.00	400.00	0.00
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Refunds & Insurance:			
Reimbursements	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sale of Municipal Property (Cemetery)	800.00	2,800.00	0.00
Solar Credit	4,629.00	4,629.00	4,000.00
From Capital Reserve Funds:	0.00	317,213.00	0.00
Amount Voted from Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	117,503.00
Fund Balance (unanticipated)	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Revenues and Credits</b>	<b><u>\$307,229.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$826,171.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$467,003.00</u></b>

**BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF SUGAR HILL EXPENDITURES**  
**(Modified Accrual Basis)**

<b>PURPOSES OF APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>Appropriation 2023</b>	<b>Actual 2023</b>	<b>Estimated 2024</b>
<b>General Government:</b>			
Executive	\$ 72,020.00	57,831.00	85,150.00
Election, Registration & Vital Statistics	26,000.00	19,952.00	38,120.00
Financial Administration	25,890.00	23,935.00	26,085.00
Revaluation of Property	15,000.00	13,750.00	15,000.00
Legal Expenses	15,000.00	8,819.00	15,000.00
Personnel Administration	36,000.00	37,305.00	40,000.00
Planning & Zoning*	10,000.00	19,668.00	37,000.00
Gen Gov Buildings & Grounds	97,600.00	93,658.00	103,725.00
Cemeteries	12,788.00	12,467.00	12,500.00
Insurance	161,967.00	161,364.00	182,757.00
Advertising & Regional Association	7,100.00	7,100.00	9,155.00
Unemployment Compensation	100.00	0.00	100.00
<b>Public Safety:</b>			
Police Department	306,668.00	296,337.00	326,995.00
Ambulance	25,104.00	25,104.00	26,371.00
Fire Department	115,425.00	113,316.00	118,800.00
Building Inspection	12,000.00	7,750.00	12,000.00
Emergency Management	2,500.00	4,524.00	6,000.00
<b>Airport:</b>			
Airport Operations	335.00	335.00	348.00
<b>Highways, Streets and Bridges:</b>			
Town Maintenance**	274,217.00	263,731.66	289,368.00
General Highway***	284,555.00	254,102.06	229,650.00
Street Lighting	2,500.00	2,556.00	2,700.00
Highway Block Grant	46,000.00	65,103.00	45,000.00
<b>Sanitation:</b>			
Solid Waste Disposal	75,000.00	75,828.20	15,458.00
<b>Health:</b>			
Health and Hospitals	9,267.00	9,267.00	6,267.00
<b>Welfare:</b>			
Assistance	6,000.00	4,523.00	6,000.00
<b>Culture and Recreation:</b>			
Parks and Recreation and YMCA	28,000.00	25,402.00	28,420.00
Library	37,512.00	28,509.33	36,087.00

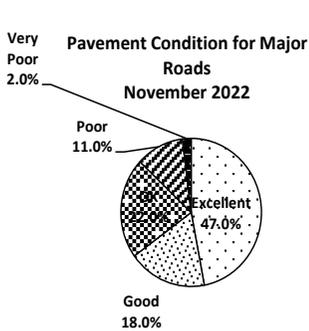
Patriotic Purposes	2,000.00	1,973.00	2,000.00
Conservation:			
Conservation Commission	1,000.00	680.00	1,000.00
Debt Service:			
Principal Long-Term Bonds	55,000.00	55,015.00	0.00
Interest Long Term Bonds	5,000.00	2,432.00	0.00
Interest Tax Anticipation Notes	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Solar Payment	17,495.00	17,495.00	17,495.00
Operating Transfers Out:			
Capital & Outlay	0.00	304,772.00	0.00
To Special Revenue Fund	0.00	8,112.25	0.00
To Fiduciary Funds	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,800.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Grand Total	<u>\$1,786,043.00</u>	<u>\$2,025,516.50</u>	<u>\$1,735,551.00</u>
Spec Warrant Articles Recommended	422,054.00	422,054.00	435,233.00
Individual Warrant Articles Recommended	6,000.00	6,000.00	2,500.00

Total Appropriations Recommended		\$2,173,284.00
Less Estimated Revenues and Credits		<u>467,003.00</u>
Amount of Taxes to Be Raised (Exclusive of School and County Taxes)		\$1,706,281.00

\*Warrant Article \$6,000  
HOP Grant  
\*\*Budget Amended \$15,000  
\*\*\*Non-Lapsing Offset \$60,000.00

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF  
APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES  
(Year Ending December 31, 2023)**

	<b>Appropriation 2023</b>	<b>Actual 2023</b>	<b>Unexpended or Overdrafts</b>
Executive	\$ 72,020.00	\$ 57,831.00	\$ 14,189.00
Elec, Reg and Vital Statistics	26,000.00	19,952.00	6,048.00
Financial Administration	25,890.00	23,935.00	1,955.00
Revaluation of Property	15,000.00	13,750.00	1,250.00
Legal Expenses	15,000.00	8,819.00	6,181.00
Payroll Taxes	36,000.00	37,305.00	(1,305.00)
Planning & Zoning**	10,000.00	19,668.00	(9,668.00)
Government Buildings & Grounds	97,600.00	93,658.00	3,942.00
Cemeteries	12,788.00	12,467.00	321.00
Insurance	161,967.00	161,364.00	603.00
Advertising and Regional Association	7,100.00	7,100.00	0.00
Unemployment	100.00	0	100.00
Police Department	306,668.00	296,337.00	10,331.00
Ambulance	25,104.00	25,104.00	0.00
Fire Department	115,425.00	113,316.00	2,109.00
Building Inspection	12,000.00	7,750.00	4,250.00
Emergency Management*	2,500.00	4,524.00	(2,024.00)
Airport	335.00	335.00	0.00
Town Maintenance	274,217.00	263,732.00	12,509.00
General Highway	284,555.00	254,102.00	30,453.00***
Street Lighting	2,500.00	2,556.17	(56.17)
Highway Block	46,000.00	65,103.00	(19,103.00)
Solid Waste Disposal	75,000.00	75,828.00	(828.00)
Health and Hospitals	9,267.00	9,267.00	0.00
Welfare	6,000.00	4,523.00	1,477.00
Parks & Recreation	28,000.00	25,402.00	2,598.00
Library	37,512.00	28,509.00	9,003.00
Patriotic Purposes	2,000.00	1,973.00	27.00
Conservation Commission	1,000.00	680.00	320.00
Interest Tax Anticipation Notes	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Long Term Notes & Interest	60,000.00	57,447.00	2,553.00
Solar Payment	17,495.00	17,495.00	.0
	<u>\$1,786,043.00</u>	<u>\$1,709,832.25</u>	<u>76,210.83</u>
Special Warrant Articles	422,054.00	422,054.00	0.00
Non-Lapsing HOP Grant**			
Hazaedous Mit*			
Grand Total	\$2,208,097.00	\$2,131,886.25	\$76,210.83



Average ride quality was about the same in November 2023 as in November 2022. It was possible to drive comfortably at the speed limit on nearly two thirds of the paved miles on major roads. Drivers would experience roughness on the remaining roads but would still be able to drive at the speed limit on most of them. To avoid excessive roughness, drivers would have to slow down on about 10% of our road segments, including four or more 0.1-mile segments on Carpenter and Easton Roads, three such segments on Dyke Road and Lover’s Lane, and two each on Hadley Road, South Street, and Peckett’s Crossing.

In 2024, the Committee will continue to work with the Highway Department and Select Board in setting priorities for road work and in examining long-term strategies for maintaining and improving our roads.

Sugar Hill Roads Committee  
 Brian Beaulieu  
 Carl Martland  
 Mark Mendelsohn  
 Rick Quintal

## **SUGAR HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

Our Annual Report contains a detailed outline of the service the Department provided this year. Although the type of call remains the same, the number of calls for service increased approximately thirty percent. Listed below are our calls for service:

### *1097 Calls for Service:*

<b>Burglary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Theft</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Fraud</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Malicious Mischief</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Narcotic Drug Laws</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Family Offense</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>DWI/DUI</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Disorderly Conduct</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>All Other Offenses</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Non-Criminal Incidents</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Fire Related</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Deaths/Suicide</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Lost Found Missing</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Missing Persons</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Animal Complaints</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Fish &amp; Game Activity Codes</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>MV Crash Investigations</b>	<b>28 (No Fatalities)</b>
<b>Traffic Enforcement</b>	<b>304</b>
<b>Parking Enforcement</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Traffic Related Service</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Public Service</b>	<b>333</b>
<b>Assisting Other Agency</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Warrant Tracking</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Administrative Duties</b>	<b>176</b>

Training in 2023 consisted of Taser certification with the new Taser T7, Glock Armorer's Course, Interview and Interrogation, First Aid CPR AED, Fitness Testing Instructor, Crisis Intervention (CIT) Mental Health Awareness & De-escalation Training for Police, Primex Supervisor Course, SPOTS User Certification, IS-100.C, Incident Command Systems for Schools, Emergency Operations Center Management & Setup, Reunification of Students with Parents, Incident Response Plan Creation, and CQB/Structure Clearing Methods.: We also completed our annual certification of required training Firearms, Use of Force, Ethics, Implicit Bias, De-escalation, and Prioritizing Officer Mental Health Wellness and Resilience,

This year we replaced the 2018 Cruiser thanks to a grant we received through ARPA Funds. The grant of \$40,000.00 and approximately \$19,000.00 from the Capitol Reserve

Fund was used to purchase a 2023 Ford Explorer Police Cruiser fully equipped. The 2018 Cruiser was sold for \$10,000.00 to a Police Department in the southern part of the state. The funds will be returned to the Capitol Reserve Account upon approval.

A special thanks to Jennifer Gaudette, Lissa Boissonneault, Doug Glover and the Highway Department, Chief Allan Clark and the Fire Department, and all the other Town Employees for all your assistance and support throughout the year. As a small Department, we have limited resources and personnel, your assistance and support make our jobs much easier and helped us to achieve more with less.

We look forward to serving the community in 2024. We will continue to foster positive community relations and will look for ways to improve, innovate, and develop best practice for crime reduction, employee wellness, and community engagement.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Michael Ho-Sing-Loy  
Corporal Sarah Donahue

Officer Kerry Pomeroy (Part-Time)  
Officer Zachary Bushway (Part-Time)  
Officer Cody MacKay (Part-Time)

## **SUGAR HILL FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Our emergency calls in 2023 were 112 as compared to 71 in 2022, but the 112 includes 43 medical calls. The number of Fire Calls was 69 which is typical for recent year Fire Calls. Sugar Hill had a significant structure fire in 2023 that was caused by a lightning strike. Fortunately, your Firefighters made an aggressive attack and were able to contain the fire to the room of origin.

Your Fire Department has been trained in CPR and the use of an AED for many years. Due to several reasons the Franconia Life Squad which for years provided first response to Sugar Hill (not transport) was dissolved by the Franconia Selectmen. To provide much needed first response on medical calls our Selectboard gave approval for the Fire Department to create a medical squad.

Three of your Firefighters worked hard to earn Emergency Medical Responder credentials in 2023. They join Ned Wilson-EMT who is the Captain responsible for the medical squad and Jeff Collins – AEMT, and myself who is an EMT. The Town is fortunate to have Evelyn Collins who is a Paramedic on the Medical Squad and can administer a large assortment of drugs prior to the ambulance arriving. Evelyn brings a wealth of knowledge and experience. All members of the Medical Squad have AED's and carry Narcan and Epi-Pens. The initial supplies and equipment were funded through donations.

The Medical Squad performs an initial assessment, determines if adequate resources are enroute, and provide initial life saving measures prior to Littleton Fire Department Ambulance arriving on the scene. In addition, they in moving and loading the patient, which often requires more than the two Firefighters who respond with the ambulance. Having the Medical Squad allows Littleton Fire to provide Ambulance service at less cost than Towns without medical squads as they do not have to send additional manpower. The Medical Squad has not missed responding to a medical call in 2023.

Your Fire Department is well equipped, adequately staffed and highly trained. The Department continues to have 22 dedicated Firefighters who are all very active. Although the Firefighters are part-time employees, they are committed to providing the Town with services usually found only in full time Departments.

The skill level of your firefighters is very high for a community our size. Training is extremely important and a high priority with training twice a month and Erik Rasmussen earned his Firefighter II certification and Ned Wilso has earned his certification as a State Instructor in 2023.

We are fortunate to have excellent Fire Apparatus and all four trucks have now been purchased during my tenure. The trucks are expected to have a 25-year life and due to the excellent maintenance program provided by our Highway Department and the care provided by the Firefighters we anticipate that the trucks will last at least 25 years. Our Rescue Truck which is now over 20 years old is likely to be the next truck replaced but remains in good condition.

It remains critical that we continue to place funds into our Capital Reserve Account to replace our apparatus and other expensive equipment. We ask that you fund our Capital Reserve Account in the amount of \$50,000 so that we have adequate funds to replace apparatus when scheduled and have funds that can be utilized in an emergency for unexpected significant repairs.

We are requesting the Town approve an equipment capital reserve and fund it the initial year in the amount of \$50,000 and subsequent years \$10,000. Our air-packs which allow your Firefighters to enter a burning structure are 20 years old and although in excellent condition will no longer be supported by the manufacturer. Replacing them will cost approximately \$100,000. It is anticipated that a grant of \$50,000 will be obtained to fund the balance of this critical acquisition. The next large equipment replacement will be our radios, which are also approximately 20 years old and likely will no longer be supported by the manufacturer.

Please do not hesitate to call our Dispatch at (603) 823-8123 if you require assistance even if it is not a true emergency. We are happy to serve our friends and neighbors any time of day or night. Should you desire to install a solid fuel heating appliance such as a wood stove or pellet stove, please contact us and we will gladly inspect at no cost to be certain it meets current codes.

The Fire Department responded to the following:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Alarm Activations	16	18	23	28	19
Brush/Grass Fires	0	1	0	2	1
Chimney Fires	0	0	0	2	1
Hazardous Conditions	14	9	9	9	2
Hazardous Materials	0	0	0	0	0
Medical/Assist Ambulance	43	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	2	2	5	5
Mutual Aid – Cover	1	2	1	0	1
Mutual Aid – Scene	15	19	17	12	11
Rescues	5	5	2	1	8
Service Calls	9	11	3	8	2
Smoke Investigations	2	1	0	5	1
Structure Fires	2	2	0	0	4
Vehicle Fires	0	1	2	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>55</b>

As of December 31, 2023, the following were members of the Fire Department:

Chief Allan R. Clark		Asst. Chief Doug Glover
Captain Gordie Johnk	Captain Brinson Ireland	Captain Ned Wilson
Lieutenant Jim Snyder	Lieutenant Cliff Aldrich	Lieutenant Jeffrey Collins
Lieutenant Sam Johnk	Engineer Tim Burger	Engineer Rick Quintal
Engineer Tim Burger	Engineer Erik Rasmussen	Doug Amsbary
Brian Beaulieu	Eric Chase	Nelson Crowe
David Dahill	John Gagel	Jody Hodgdon
Dan Kenerson	Nathan Lax	Rusty Talbot
Lynne Warren	Evelyn Collins - Paramedic	Michael Warren

Sugar Hill is fortunate to have 24 very active Firefighters during a period when many Departments are decreasing in size due to the inability to attract new Firefighters for a variety of reasons. We have the largest active contingent of Firefighters in the area. We added a new Firefighter this year, David Dahill who lives on Sunset Hill Road who has become an excellent member. The commitment in time to be a Firefighter is significant and Sugar Hill has an excellent complement of Firefighters willing to make that commitment. We have very little turnover and accordingly, you have a stable and well-trained Fire Department.

It is truly an honor to serve such a wonderful community as Sugar Hill as the Fire Chief. Hard to believe, but I have been with the Department now 23 years. I am working on making sure that there is a smooth transition when I retire in a few years. Thank you for your support, the support of the Selectmen, Police and Highway crew.

I especially thank the spouses of the Firefighters for tolerating the many disruptions to their family life for the good of the community, without their support we would not have the Department that we have.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan R. Clark

Allan R. Clark

Fire Chief

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

The responsibility of the Emergency Management Director “EMD” is to coordinate the efforts of the Town during an emergency towards a unified goal and to prepare the Town for major incidents. Emergency Management in Sugar Hill is a cooperative effort of the Highway Department, Fire Department, and Police Department working together toward a common goal.

Sugar Hill is fortunate to have had no major damage from Mother Nature for 2023. The December storm was by far the worst damage sustained this year. The combination of high winds and torrential rain contributed to numerous trees being blown over and some of them taking out electric lines causing power outages and road closures. The majority of the damage was to dirt roads which were overwhelmed with torrential rain turning them into mud holes making them impassable. There was minor flooding on Streeter Pond Road in the vicinity of Crane Hill Bridge and on the lower areas of Crane Hill Road. There was one house flooded due to its proximity to the Gale River along Route 18. The minimal damage we sustained was taken care of by our Highway Department.

It is a requirement that the Town update its Hazardous Mitigation plan every 5 years to be eligible for FEMA disaster reimbursement. A grant was obtained to hire the consultant that prepared the prior 4 plans. Throughout 2023 we conducted several meetings with the consultant and completed our review and updating of the plan and it is now with the consultant for final revision. It is unknown when our plan will be approved since FEMA has not approved any plans in New England since Spring of 2022 when their guidance changed. We are hopeful it will be completed this year.

Some of the past projects still being tracked are:

Reimbursement for damages from the July 1, 2017, storm in the amount of \$226,380.13. All documents have been submitted waiting for final payment. Indian Brook Bridge/Culvert on Streeter Pond Road. Work began last fall 2023. Diversion pipes were installed before the project was shut down due to weather and contractor availability. Project is scheduled to resume spring 2024. FEMA has awarded the Town \$255,714. for this project.

Crane Hill Bridge project was scheduled to start in 2024 now it is rescheduled for 2025.

A reminder that your 911 street address sign is a critical component for emergency responses. It is critical that it be able to be read from the road. Should you require a new sign or never received a sign, please contact the Town office.

I express sincere appreciation to the Selectmen, Jennifer Gaudette, the Fire Department, and the Highway Department for working together cooperatively in the best interest of the residents and visitors to the Town. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 603-728-5795 should you ever require any assistance.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chief Michael Ho-Sing-Loy  
Emergency Management Director

## REPORT OF FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER

This past year's wet weather kept wildland fire acreage to a minimum. Fires in Canada resulted in extended periods of smoke in the atmosphere. Despite the lower than normal fire danger in 2023, statewide 8 structures were threatened by wildfires and 3 structures were destroyed. Your Fire Department and the State Division of Forests & Lands worked throughout the year to protect homes and the forests. There were no wildland fires in Sugar Hill in 2023.

Every year New Hampshire sees fires which threaten or destroy structures, a constant reminder that wildfires burn more than just trees. Homeowners should take measures to prevent wildfire from spreading to their home. Precautions include keeping your roof and gutters clear of leaves and pine needles and maintaining adequate green space around your home free of flammable materials. Improper disposal of hot coals results in numerous fires each year. Additional information and homeowner recommendations are available at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org).

As we prepare for the 2024 fire season, remember to contact your Forest Fire Warden to determine if a fire permit is required before doing ANY outside burning. Under State law (RSA 227-L:17) a fire permit is required for all outside burning unless the ground is completely covered with snow. Fire permits are available online by visiting [www.NHfirepermit.com](http://www.NHfirepermit.com). The burning of household waste is prohibited by the Air Resources Division of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

**2023 WILDLAND FIRE STATISTICS**  
(All fires reported as of December 01, 2023)

Year	Number of Wildfires	Wildfire Acres Burned	Number of Unpermitted Fires*
2023	99	64.5	42
2022	66	217	52
2021	66	86	96
2020	113	89	165
2019	15	23.5	92

\*Unpermitted fires which escape control are considered Wildfires.

**State Forestry Director**  
**Patrick Hackley**  
**603-271-2214**

**Warden**  
**Allan R. Clark**  
**603-494-1491**

**State Forest Ranger**  
**Steven Sherman**  
**603-788-4157**

**Deputy Warden**  
**Brinson Ireland**  
**603-616-9095**

**Deputy Warden**  
**Doug Glover**  
**603-616-8467**

**Deputy Warden**  
**Jim Snyder**  
**603-348-7091**

## RICHARDSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

2023 was a tremendous year for the Richardson Memorial Library. We have had a lot of activities for families, adults, and early readers. We have had a Children's Christmas party gift book handout, a book sale, and a summer reading program.

In late winter, we ran a Toddler Story hour once a week. We took it outside to utilize the Gazebo, and we ended it with a Teddy Bear picnic.

Summer brought a new influx of readers who spend their summers here. We also participated in the Granite State reading program for children K-6 at the Lafayette Regional School during July and August.

Fall saw a change in programming to Friday afternoons. We have also instituted a "Read to Dogs" program, where children ages 6-14 visit the Library and take turns reading books to the visiting canine of the week. It has built fluency and stamina in the children and educated Sugar Hill canines on a variety of subjects!

The Library had a few minutes of fame when the New Hampshire Chronical Program came to Sugar Hill and filmed a segment of their informational program including the Sugar Hill Library. The Library has also hosted events for other interests, including the North County Breast Cancer Support group, which meets once a month at the Library.

Please remember that your Library is more than just books: it is your Community Center, the custodian of winter outdoor play events (we have sleds!) and a place to come enjoy books and magazines in a quiet and peaceful atmosphere.

I would like to commend the many patrons who came to the Library. Many of them returned with vintage pictures, book donations, and other items that make our Library the cozy haven that it is.

Please check in with us this spring for an update on a fascinating summer project which is suitable for all ages.

Thank you for the support you have given us in making the Library an oasis for all ages. Sugar Hill is a kind and generous community, and I am very fortunate to be your Librarian.

Hours : Tuesday 1-5, Thursday 10-1, Friday 1-5, and Saturday 10-1

Respectfully submitted,  
Irene Amsbary  
Librarian

Trustees:  
Alice Clafin  
Iris Rhodes  
Joanna Santilli

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

Several meetings this year were taken up by working on the Master Plan. This allows us to identify what the Commission feels are the important issues facing Sugar Hill from an environmental and conservation point of view. One of our members also attended Planning Board meetings when they were working on the Master Plan.

Commission members and volunteers added safety rails to the bridge at Coffin Pond. We are pleased by the number of people using the bridge and new trail and have heard many positive comments about the area. Twice in 2023 members and volunteers were required to remove a beaver dam near the new bridge. Both times we removed a substantial amount of material by hand and the Town Highway Department hauled it away. We have not observed any evidence suggesting the beaver is still around so hopefully they moved on.

This was our first year maintaining the water level at Coffin Pond and except for a slight learning curve we should be fine going forward.

Commission members completed the roadside cleanup of Route 117 four times this year with a total of 10 bags of trash picked up and more than 100 pounds of glass and hundreds of aluminum cans recycled. We also continue to keep Coffin Pond and the boat launch at Streeter Pond clean on a weekly basis.

We sponsored the Second Annual Town Roadside Cleanup in the month of April and May. More than twenty people participated and many town roads were cleaned. We thank everyone who participated, and we will see you in 2024!

Commission members met with a representative from NHDOT in April to voice our concerns with the Bowen Brook culvert replacement, our main concern being the disruption of the turtle egg laying area adjacent to the construction site. While the outcome for the turtles may have not been the best, the new aquatic creature friendly culvert will be a huge help.

For the second year the Commission continues to participate with the Franconia and Easton Conservation Commissions and students and faculty from Plymouth State University in student outdoor projects. This is proving to be a real asset for all three towns.

This year Commission members have been contacted several times about the amount of excess lighting that people are leaving on 24 hours a day throughout Sugar Hill. Several of the surrounding towns have passed ordinances to address these concerns. The Sugar Hill Conservation Commission feels that ordinances regulating outside lighting needs to be seriously considered. We will be working on drafting rules based on what local towns have done and hopefully holding a public meeting to give everyone a chance to join in the process. The three major concerns we have heard are: lights visible all night, lights shining on neighboring properties and lights causing glare into a public road. There have been several studies done that concluded leaving lighting on does not prevent crime and may in fact make it easier for the criminals.

A reminder to everyone that the rural landscape of Sugar Hill has repeatedly been one of the most important features of our Town and that includes dark skies. You may believe your lighting is beautiful but to your neighbors and wildlife it is an intrusion.

The Conservation Commission continues to assist property owners with issues relating to state permits by reviewing applications for wetlands permits and conducting site visits for Town residents seeking permits. We encourage people to contact the Commission with any questions they might have about completing any of the above applications.

The Commission can be reached via email at [conservationcommision@sugarhillnh.org](mailto:conservationcommision@sugarhillnh.org)  
The Sugar Hill Conservation Commission meets on the third Thursday of every month in the Crapo Building. Guests are always welcome. We are always looking for new ideas to help conserve the many environmental assets we have here in our community.

Larry Sawyer, Chairman  
Chris Ellms  
Charlie Wolcott  
Claire Von Karls  
Holly Hayward  
Judy Sawyer  
Tim Williams, Alternate  
Margo Connors, Alternate

## 2023 COOLEY-JERICHO COMMUNITY FOREST REPORT

The Cooley-Jericho Community Forest was created in 2013 and is a collaborative effort of the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust (ACT) and the towns of Easton, Franconia, Landaff, and Sugar Hill. ACT owns the 840-acre property on behalf of these communities.

CJCF offers a plethora of wonderful outdoor recreation opportunities including hiking, mountain biking, bird watching, hunting, snowmobiling, and glade skiing. In conjunction with ACT, the Granite Backcountry Alliance (GBA) and many enthusiastic volunteers worked hard over the years to create challenging and inspiring glades and associated trails which are attracting back-country skiing enthusiasts from across the region. In addition to the glades, the forest hosts 6 miles of trails to enjoy including a connection that links ACT's trail system to the WMNF Jericho trail.

In 2023, the draft Memorandum of Understanding that had been in the works for a few years was finalized and signed by the Selectboards of all four towns. Many thanks are due to each town for their diligence and willingness to be a part of the process. This document formalizes the roles and responsibilities of the four towns and ACT in managing the Community Forest.

In late 2022 ACT was awarded cost share funding for a non-commercial forestry project to improve long-term wildlife habitat, climate resiliency, and timber value. We will likely start laying this project out in 2024 in hopes of implementing the practice in 2025 or 2026. It should be noted that over the last couple of years, there has been extensive logging on some of the abutting properties, including WMNF. There has been no logging on the CJCF since it became a community forest. There are no plans for a commercial timber harvest in the current 10-year management planning cycle. The windstorm in 2023 impacted surrounding properties, but damage on the community forest was minimal.

The existing parking lot on Trumpet Round Road accommodates 10 vehicles and is well maintained by the Town of Sugar Hill. Plans have been prepared by a local civil engineer to build a new parking lot below the old log landing to replace the existing lot to better serve the community and be respectful of the neighbors. This design work was paid for by a grant from the Davis Foundation with support from GBA. ACT is now soliciting bids from site contractors and will be applying for grant funds for the parking lot construction. ACT also has a small grant to update the information kiosk which provides maps and other information for those coming to explore the community forest. ACT continues working with GBA to have a parking host on busy ski weekends to manage the parking lot, and ACT volunteers and staff are checking the site after weekends for trash and any other parking issues.

The Stewardship Plan was updated in 2020 and is now available online at [www.act-nh.org/stewardship-plan](http://www.act-nh.org/stewardship-plan). Hard copies can also be made available to the four towns.

The Stewardship Team met this year in Easton with representatives from all four towns to review the goals in the updated Stewardship Plan and discussed any steps that need to be taken in the next few years such as the improvements of the parking at Trumpet Round

Road, refreshing the marking on some of the boundary lines, combatting erosion and poor drainage on trails, and expanding our volunteer trails management crew. The latter was headed up by our Trails Program Manager who led several trail workdays and organized our wonderful team of volunteers. The two bridges across Salmon Brook were dedicated to Rebecca Brown, ACT's founding Executive Director, who was instrumental in the creation of the Community Forest. A new ski glade was cut in collaboration with volunteers from Granite Backcountry Alliance during the Graniteer Festival this fall.

ACT is honored to be involved with this wonderful example of people working together for a common long-term community benefit and is grateful to all four towns for sharing the vision of a community forest that is open to all. If anyone is interested in helping out with volunteer workdays, please send an email to us at [volunteer@act-nh.org](mailto:volunteer@act-nh.org).

Please feel free to contact ACT's Outreach & Member Services Director, Katrina Meserve at 603-823-7777 or [outreach@act-nh.org](mailto:outreach@act-nh.org) for information on other programs or check the website at [www.act-nh.org](http://www.act-nh.org).

Respectfully submitted,



**Kimberly Cartwright**  
Executive Director  
Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust

## TRI-TOWN TRANSFER STATION

We would like to thank all our customers for another great year recycling. After the notice of the large hike in rates from Casella, the tri-towns made the decision to contract with Normandeau Trucking for our hauling needs and change landfills from North Country Environmental Services (NCES) to Mt. Carberry Landfill, which secured us a position at Mt. Carberry prior to the pending closure of the NCES landfill. We also changed our plastic program from accepting all plastic containers to only accepting #1 and #2 plastics, which allowed us to begin baling and selling the recycled plastic. Thank you for all your efforts with the plastic program.

RECYCLABLE MATERIAL	2023 RECYCLED AMOUNTS	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT! Here is just one benefit of recycling materials, rather than manufacturing new products from virgin resources.
<b>PLASTICS</b>	<b>2,760 LBS</b>	 You saved <b>145</b> gallons of gasoline!
<b>GLASS</b>	<b>126,700 LBS</b>	 You saved about <b>759</b> trash bags from ending up in a landfill!
<b>SCRAP METAL</b>	<b>129,046 LBS</b>	 You saved <b>192,279</b> pounds of iron ore!
<b>PAPER &amp;/OR CARDBOARD</b>	<b>172,960 LBS</b>	 You saved <b>1,470</b> trees!
<b>STEEL CANS</b>	<b>11,632 LBS</b>	 You saved enough energy to swap <b>403</b> incandescent lightbulbs for LEDs!
<b>TIRES</b>	<b>7,295 LBS</b>	 You saved <b>174</b> gallons of oil!

### AVOIDED EMISSIONS



Recycling uses much less energy than making products from virgin resources, and using less energy means fewer greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere.

By recycling the materials above, you avoided about **1,331,106 lbs. of carbon dioxide emissions**. This is equivalent to removing **135 passenger cars** from the road for an entire year!

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Blake, Manager  
Kevin Dauphine  
Laurie Matthews

## ENERGY COMMITTEE

The following graph shows energy use in the Town of Sugar Hill for 2022

Dept.	Electric	Gas	Diesel	#2 Fuel	Propane	Total
MH	1,145.87			2,598.53		3,744.40
Crapo	5,482.08				3,928.09	9,410.17
Fire	2,282.44	32.45	913.06	0.00	2,887.47	6,115.42
Highway	195.11	137.58	26,912.37	5,200.77	236.02	32,681.85
Police		7,201.94				7,201.94
Grounds		1,819.05	1,286.18			3,105.23
Streetlight	2,556.17					2,556.17
Total	11,661.67	9,191.02	29,111.61	7,799.30	7,051.58	64,815.18

2022 Total \$69,975.82

## **PEMI-BAKER SOLID WASTE DISTRICT**

In 2023, the 19 member Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District continued its cooperative efforts to promote waste reduction, increase recycling, and provide residents with a means of properly disposing of their household hazardous waste (HHW).

The district held two (2) one-day HHW collections, one in Littleton on Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, and the other in Plymouth on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. A total of 284 households participated, representing every community in the district. 20,275 lbs. of material were collected, with nearly all (96%) of it being flammable materials. Total expenses for 2023 HHW programming, which includes advertising, setup & disposal, totaled \$30,476, a 7% increase from 2022. To help cover these expenses, the district received a \$10,000 donation from Casella Waste Management and NH Department of Environmental Services granted an additional \$4,990. Net expenditure for the program was \$15,486 which is less than \$0.50 per district resident. The district also coordinated two (2) fluorescent light bulb collections in the spring and fall, where all member towns were able to dispose of their bulbs and ballast. This year, fluorescent light bulb collections resulted in over 11,000 linear feet of fluorescent tubes being properly disposed of and 163 PCB containing light ballasts. Other materials collected were 47 fire/smoke detectors and an additional 396 specialty bulbs. The total cost for this effort was \$3,251.62.

The next two events in 2024 have been scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup> in Littleton at the Transfer station and September 21<sup>st</sup> at the Plymouth Recycling Center. Both events will run from 9AM to 12PM.

Citizens interested in participating in the development of the district's programs are welcome to attend the district meetings. Information regarding the place and time of the meetings is available at all municipal offices and recycling centers. If at any time an individual community needs assistance in regard to their solid waste/recycling program, please contact the district by email.

Respectively submitted,

Steve Bean, Chairman

## THE WILLING WORKERS SOCIETY

### 2023 Annual Report

The Willing Workers is a nonsectarian, nonprofit organization that was founded in 1920. Today, our organization is comprised of more than 65 women from Sugar Hill and surrounding towns. The mission of the organization is to foster a spirit of helpfulness.

Visit our website for more information. You will find tabs for our projects, our history, our online store, scholarship information, and our current events. <https://thewillingworkers.org/>

The year 2023 was quite successful for the Willing Workers and our ongoing support for the local communities. We raised funds through Cookies for a Cause, Grandma's Attic sales (online and in person), a yard sale, a handmade quilt raffle, three sales at the Meetinghouse and our newest initiative, a Cookie Walk and Christmas Greens sale. In fact, our fundraising efforts allowed us to make year-end allocations to deserving community organizations totaling over \$14,000. In addition, we provided fresh milk deliveries each week to two local food pantries.

The Willing Workers received a generous donation from Chef Joe and Nancy Peterson in 2023; they asked that the funds be used toward the milk program and the scholarship program. The milk program is ongoing and their donation is being put to good use.

We received no applications for scholarships this year. We are hopeful that 2024 will see deserving recipients of the Roger Aldrich Valedictorian Award and the Maxine Aldrich Education Merit Award. {Information is available at the website listed above.}

Sadly, we had to bid farewell to Sue Rysanek, a beloved member, who passed away this year. Together with her family, the Willing Workers organized a beautiful celebration of Sue's life. We are always prepared to offer to support to grieving families and to those who are ill or infirm, who may be in need of meals or other acts of caring. Please let us know of anyone who may need our help.

We welcomed seven new members in 2023 and hope to continue the trend in 2024. Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of most months and are usually held at the Crapo Building in Sugar Hill. We are an enthusiastic and dedicated group of women doing good works for the community. Please join us-we work hard but we enjoy ourselves while we're doing it. We put the "fun" in fundraising!

Grandma's Attic continues to need your gently used items, our Mitten committee can always use woolen sweaters and other garments to re-purpose or upcycle, and our crafts committee may be in need of specific supplies. Monitor the Town newsletter or the Willing Worker website for information.

Thank you to the Town of Sugar Hill employees and residents who help to make our public work a success.

And in closing, to quote one of our members, "Year in and year out (in spite of Covid) the Willing Workers meet the needs of the community with grace and generosity."

Respectfully submitted, the Board and Members of the Willing Workers  
Jody Flescher - President, Sally Beaulieu - Treasurer, Noreen Watts- Recording Secretary,  
Karen Bracken - Corresponding Secretary, Kathy Jablonski and Claire Von Karls -  
Members at Large

## SUGAR HILL HISTORICAL MUSEUM REPORT

Positive feedback about this year's wedding dresses show, *Lifting the Veil* traveled fast, with visitors encouraging family and friends to stop by. Many visitors said that they made repeat visits in order to see everything again! We counted 217 more visitors this year than in 2022 and thank all who have become new members. We so enjoy telling Sugar Hill's interesting stories to all who visit.

Our summer was very eventful. Many members responded to the Lisbon Area Historical Museum and the Littleton Area Historical Museum behind the scenes tour and graciousness to our group.

Popular spots in Sugar Hill were visited and filmed by Jean Mackin, News Anchor for WMUR TV of Manchester NH for the New Hampshire Chronicles show on October 5, 2023. Harman's Cheese & Country Store, Polly's Pancake Parlor, Sugar Hill town offices, the Sugar Hill Library and our own museum were included. It was a great experience for us all (it was fascinating to watch the camera man at work too). You can find a hyperlink to watch the episode on Polly's Facebook page, or type in: <https://www.wmur.com/article/nh-chronicle-checking-out-whats-so-sweet-about-the-town-of-sugar-hill/45512234>.

Our Northern Pass opposition archives came in very useful for Maddy Kroot, a PhD student from Clark University who spent two full days this past September studying them. There is a similar opposition project concerning those HVDC wires in the State of Maine, and Maddy was a happy camper with what she discovered in our archives..banners, t-shirts, a hot air balloon, CD's and clippings, nothing was missed.

Because we change our exhibits annually, we have to store artifacts that are not currently on exhibit in the small attic of our main building. We are in need of more storage space for our growing collections. The Red Barn Project Committee is working hard, making plans to build a gable roof barn to meet those needs. There was a fundraising mailing sent out asking for help in this project.

*Garden Lore*, our planned 2024 season exhibition celebrating the centennial anniversary of the White Mountain Garden Club.

Again, I must emphasize how important all our volunteers are and what a great team we have. We are 100% volunteers. And we have a good time at what we do!

Kitty H. Bigelow  
Director, Curator

## SUGAR HILL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION 2023

The Sugar Hill Improvement Association was first established in August of 1890 and after 133 years still remains an active and vital part of our community. The SHIA has a Board of Directors and a slate of officers but if you are a resident, you are automatically a member and are welcome to attend any of our meetings. We have two trust funds, one for educational purposes and one for monies to be expended for projects for the benefit of the residents of Sugar Hill. An application is available if you have an idea for a worthy project that the Association could consider for funding. We have legal guidelines for approval of any project.

Each spring, high school graduating seniors living in Sugar Hill (for two years or more) are sent a letter and asked to apply for the Carolina Crapo Memorial Book Award. This award is a gift made possible by funds donated by Mr. Henry Crapo in honor of his wife, Carolina, to seniors who are going on to further their education at a two or four institution. The application process is specific, has a time limit but is easy to follow by the student. Letters are sent out each May to qualifying Sugar Hill seniors. If you are an adult resident of Sugar Hill and are going back to school or taking classes that will result in a college/technical school degree at a two or four year institution, you may also apply for this gift. Any questions can be sent to the SHIA Board or specifically to Starcy Branch or Kathie Cote. We will send a letter and application to you.

We continue to maintain our flags in Sugar Hill, replacements being needed each year due to weather damage. As always, our thanks go to the Sugar Hill Road crew for the putting up and taking down of our flags. They fly from Memorial Day through Columbus Day. During this time, our flags lend a festive and patriotic flair to Sugar Hill. We have purchased new Sugar Hill banners to replace the flags during the colder months. Our Sugar Hill Road crew will install them in late fall, and they will certainly add a welcome to Sugar Hill to locals and visitors alike.

Our big project for this year in our ongoing care of the Sugar Hill Meetinghouse was to repair the clocks faces and repaint the building. Unfortunately, with this year's wet weather, our contractor ran out of time to do the job. We are on the list for next year. New lighting outside will be determined after the repair/paint project is completed.

We sponsored a program in September presented by author Ty Gagne on his book "The Last Traverse" about a courageous winter rescue in the Presidentials with many locals involved. This was held at Sunset Hill House and was a huge success, filling the room with Sugar Hill residents as well as other people from surrounding towns. We hope to continue to offer interesting programs in the future. We continue to maintain the tennis court and the playground behind the Carolina Crapo building. Both of these areas are well used. The Sugar Hill Improvement Association feels very fortunate to be able to fund projects that benefit our town and to also give out the book awards through our education fund. This is all possible through the generosity of our forebears and the ongoing careful management of our trust funds. We look forward to the new year of 2024 and new projects for the improvements we are able to fund for the Town of Sugar Hill.

Lissa Boissonneault, President

## **REPORT OF TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS SHIA EDUCATION FUND & COMMUNITY FUND**

In 2023 we undertook the process of reviewing and correcting postings and reversals going back to 2019 between the Crapo Education Fund and the Community Trust Fund. It is important to note that the amounts in these funds have not changed, only their allocations. After meeting with the Attorney General's office, we determined a course of adjustments in the Principal and Income Accounts for both accounts. All corrections, including reallocations, were made in 2023 and approved in summary by Amy Nichols, Assistant Attorney General. We have met with the Community Financial Services Group (CFSG) to ensure accurate accounting going forward.

The Trustees met with CFSG in February of 2024. We agreed to stay the course with our approach to lessen volatility with specific equities and move those proceeds into a Premium Income ETF and to extend the duration of Treasury Bills and Certificates of Deposit as they mature. Generally, we will focus more on income than on growth given that distributions to the SHIA Funds can only be made from income, not principal.

In January of 2024, we distributed \$10,000 to the Crapo Trust for scholarships and \$60,000 to The Community Trust for painting and other improvements to the Sugar Hill Meeting House which will take place this year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Greg Connors  
Russ Gaitskill  
Mike Claflin

## LAFAYETTE RECREATION COMMITTEE

Lafayette Recreation had a fantastic year, thanks to the great efforts and dedication of our team. We were thrilled to welcome our new Recreation Director, Katherine Raymond, who brought fresh ideas and energy to the organization. Our youth programs and community events were particularly successful, and we can't wait to continue building on this momentum in the year ahead.

The youth sports programming organized this year was an absolute blast! We had a fantastic turnout with enthusiastic participation across all sports. The baseball season was exciting, with the 5th and 6th grade teams joining forces with the Bethlehem team to form a full team. The younger grades also showcased great enthusiasm and spirit. To further spice things up, we added Track and Field and flag football to the spring program and introduced a Pre-K and Kindergarten Saturday program that garnered great interest and appreciation from both young athletes and their parents.

Soccer season was a sensational success, with a considerable number of athletes participating. The 5th and 6th grade teams had exceptional players and went on to win the Valley Cup. The 3rd and 4th grade team were highly competitive with around 20 athletes, while the 1st and 2nd grade team remained undefeated throughout the season.

Our Pre-K and Kindergarten program continued to run on Saturday mornings and received immense love and support from the community. Even the young athletes got to play a few games, and both parents and athletes had a great time.

Despite lower enrollment numbers compared to other sports, the basketball teams still managed to gather skilled and dedicated athletes to participate and compete in tournaments and games. The basketball teams put up a fantastic show, delivering some excellent performances in their league. However, we need more community members to fill the paid positions of referring and umpiring for all three sports seasons.

We had the privilege of being supported by our local community businesses in sponsoring our young athletes and teams. Thanks to their support, we were able to purchase new jerseys for our athletes, which they could keep. The businesses were enthusiastic about being a part of the local sports scene. The coaches, athletes, and parents were all delighted with the fresh new jerseys. Further, we were able to replace aging equipment with new ones, which is a significant boost to our teams. By providing new equipment for each sport, our coaches can now supply the entire team with proper equipment for practicing without relying on the athletes to bring their own.

Overall, this has been a fantastic year for our teams, and we are grateful for the support we have received from the community.

The yearly events organized by the Lafayette Recreation Department were a great success this year, drawing in a large number of participants and receiving positive feedback from the community. The town's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary Old Homes Day event was a highlight, featuring a parade, music, food trucks, and fireworks. Due to inclement weather, the fireworks display was postponed but still drew crowds on the rescheduled date.

The Top Notch Triathlon, organized by Matthew and Elizabeth Steele, continued to be a popular event, with a dedicated team ensuring its success. The Wobble 'n' Gobble Thanksgiving tradition was well-received, with over 400 participants, and was held in collaboration with Adaptive Sports for a good cause. Despite the rainy weather, the Halloween Cup was also a hit with a competitive tournament and teams from all over the North Country. The event was a great fundraiser for the Lafayette Recreation Department, with food trucks and a local concession stand, brought to you by Lafayette Regionals PTO, bringing in a significant amount of revenue. The sweatshirts sold out within the first hour, making it a highly successful fundraiser.

We want to give a big shoutout to all the amazing folks in our community who have made Lafayette Recreation such a fantastic place to be! From coaches to business owners to recreation committee members, you've all volunteered your time and resources to help us succeed. We couldn't have done it without you! We're excited for another year of fun and growth in 2024, and we're so grateful to have such a fantastic community behind us. Thanks for being a part of our journey!

Respectfully submitted,  
Lafayette Committee Members

Franconia: Adam Boyer, Haley Ireland, and Peter Gaudette  
Easton: Michael McKeever & Kent Butterfield  
Sugar Hill: Ryan Carlaw & Matthew Steele  
Lafayette Regional School: Amy Kopp  
Recreation Director: Katherine Raymond

## **FRANCONIA NOTCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2023 REPORT**

Please accept this letter as our request of inclusion for and disbursement of funds for the Town's Annual Appropriations Budget for the Franconia Notch Regional Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$8,000.00. The efforts of Chambers of Commerce throughout New Hampshire are instrumental in promoting a strong and vibrant tourism economy, which, in Sugar Hill, contributes greatly to our economy. Annually, millions of dollars flow into the region, supporting our economy, providing jobs, and enriching the quality of life for all. In 2023, the town of Sugar Hill received \$62,299 from the State of NH Rooms & Meals Tax.

The Chamber's website promotes our region with over eighteen thousand visitors seeking information. Our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram) have reached over five thousand users. Chamber membership has increased to one-hundred-twenty-five businesses and individuals, from twenty-one towns, representing non-profits, educational institutions, and churches; in addition to businesses. The Chamber continues growing with ten new members joining the ranks.

The Information Booth operated from the Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day. Over eighteen-hundred individuals visited the information booth with countless others stopping by to pick up information when the booth was closed. The Welcome Center is a focal point for folks seeking directions, suggestions on places to go and things to do. Numerous parties expressed gratitude over the availability of the public restrooms which the staff of the Chamber maintains throughout the year.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual town-wide yard sale returned with over a dozen Sugar Hill/Franconia families listing their locations on our social media platform. The Chamber played an important role in coordinating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the settling of Franconia. Bringing together multiple stakeholders in the planning and execution of the weekend celebration; feedback from residents, vendors, and participants indicated that the execution of the event was appreciated by the community.

The upcoming year, the Chamber will continue to focus on two major areas for economic development. First, the continuing popularity of on-and off-road cycling and the development of the areas biking resources (Parker Mt./Bethlehem Trail Association/Profile Trails/X-NH Rail Trail) has provided the Chamber with the opportunity to promote the region as a destination for the cycling community. The Chamber has been a primary distributor of a regional cycling map that has been met with significant popularity by visitors and local residents. Secondly, the Chamber will continue working with our cultural arts members represented by the three local theatre companies (Weathervane, Jean's Playhouse, and Theatre Up) and The Colonial Theatre in promoting the local performing arts community to visitors and residents of the region.

In the year ahead we will continue to maintain and grow our dedicated membership base; serve as a source of information and resources for the local and traveling communities; work to strengthen our regional economy; and welcome visitors to the region through dynamic campaign of promoting the very best the region has to offer. As ever, we are grateful for the support of Sugar Hill's residents and the Select Board.

Respectfully yours,

Kevin Johnson  
Executive Director

## **NORTHERN HUMAN SERVICES WHITE MOUNTAIN MENTAL HEALTH 2023 REPORT**

Northern Human Services-White Mountain Mental Health is one of ten community mental health centers in New Hampshire that provides an array of services to meet the mental health needs of all persons residing in lower Coos County and Northern Grafton County. As the safety net provider of mental health services for these geographic areas, White Mountain Mental Health strives to ensure that everyone in the community, regardless of income or insurance status, has access to high quality mental health services. These services include 24/7 emergency services, outpatient therapy for adults and children, psychiatric services for established clients, case management and functional support outreach services, Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) services, Supported Employment services, a 6-bed adult residential group home and three supported, short-term transitional beds available for clients in need of housing while awaiting a stable, permanent, affordable housing. For those that are uninsured or underinsured, Northern Human Services offers a sliding fee scale as well as affordable payment plan options so necessary services are still accessible to individuals regardless of their ability to pay.

We continue to see a huge demand for mental health services in our catchment area that is exceeding clinic capacity; individuals experiencing acute psychiatric crises are triaged via Mobile Crisis/Rapid Response through Northern Human Services and once stabilized, are prioritized for treatment at the closest NHS community mental health center. According to 2021 data from the National Institute of Mental Illness, it is estimated that more than one in five US adults live with a mental illness (approximately 57.8 million adults ages 18 years and older), with young adults aged 18-25 years having the highest prevalence compared to other age groups. Additionally, an estimated 49.5% of adolescents in the US have a mental illness with approximately 22.2% experiencing severe impairment and /or distress. The statistics for New Hampshire tell a similar story. 221,000 adults in New Hampshire have a mental health condition, of which 57,000 NH adults have a serious mental illness and 15,000 NH youth ages 12-17 years have depression. On average, one person in the United States dies by suicide every 11 minutes. In New Hampshire, 279 lives were lost to suicide in 2021. Providing emergency services is arguably our most important service and also the costliest and often not a reimbursable service for some commercial insurances. Every year we ask the towns that we serve for funding to help offset the costs of this incredibly important service so no one who is having an acute psychiatric emergency has to worry about cost while in crisis.

In 2023, 5 uninsured or underinsured residents of Sugar Hill received services from White Mountain Mental Health. Our cost for these services was **\$3,302.00** of which **\$540.00** were fees from Emergency Services. Despite the rising cost of care, we are requesting level funding from the town of Sugar Hill. All funds received from Sugar Hill go directly to Sugar Hill residents that are uninsured or underinsured and help us to provide needed services to the residents of Sugar Hill

We appreciate the support that we have received from the town of Sugar Hill over the years and are thankful to the voters for recognizing the importance of timely access to mental health services for all residents.

Warm Regards,  
Amy Finkle  
Director of Behavioral Health  
White Mountain Mental Health  
Northern Human Services

## AMMONOOSUC COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES, INC.

Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc. (ACHS) is requesting an appropriation of \$1250.00 from the **Town of Sugar Hill** for the year 2024. Your investment in our mission will enable us to continue our unwavering commitment to delivering top-notch, affordable healthcare to our **192 Sugar Hill patients**, as well as expanding our reach to assist more residents in need. Support from the **Town of Sugar Hill** is important to us as we strive to make affordable healthcare accessible to your residents, as well as those residing in the 26 rural towns within our service area.

ACHS has been providing essential services such as preventive care, follow-up treatments, vaccinations, screenings, and crucial behavioral health support for individuals of all ages. Your continued support for ACHS is instrumental in our ongoing efforts to provide comprehensive preventive healthcare to all, regardless of their financial situation. ACHS's sliding fee scale for payment ensures that individuals in need can access affordable healthcare promptly, a vital necessity in today's ever-changing healthcare landscape. For further details about our sliding fee scale program, please visit our website at [Ammonoosuc.org](http://Ammonoosuc.org).

### ACHS Services

- **Medical:** Patient-Centered Primary care for all ages
- **Behavioral Health:** Substance Use Disorder, Counseling, K-12 in school services.
- **Patient Support:** Assistance with financial, legal, social concerns
- **Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening Program**
- **340B Drug Pricing Program:** Helps reduce the price of prescription drugs
- **Financial Services – Sliding Fee Payment Scale, Low-Cost Vision Plan, Dental Voucher**

### ACHS Statistics Calendar Year - 2023

- **Number of Unduplicated Clients Served:** Medical 8,132, Behavioral Health 894, Enabling 37, Vision 142
- **Number of Visits:** Medical 24,628, Behavioral Health 6,422, Enabling 39, Vision 142
- **Client/Payor Mix:** Medicaid 18.03%, Medicare 35.71%, Uninsured 3.87%, Insured 42.39%
- **Value of discounts provided in our Prescription Assistance Program:** \$129,071
- **Value of discounted health care services (Sliding-Fee) provided to our patients:** \$336,186 total; Medical \$138,617 & Behavioral Health \$36,847, Dental \$448, Pharmacy \$160,274

### Town Statistics – Sugar Hill

- Total # of Patients -**192**
- Total # of Medicaid Patients - **4**
- Total # of Medicare Patients -**86**
- Total # of Self-Paying Patients – **8**
- Total # of Sliding Fee Scale Patients -**1**

We appreciate your continued support. Be mindful, be active, and be well.

## **GRAFTON COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL, INC.**

Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. is a private nonprofit organization that provides programs and services to support the health and well-being of our communities' older citizens as well as adults with disabilities. GCSCC's programs enable community members to remain independent in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

GCSCC operates eight senior centers located in Plymouth, Littleton, Canaan, Lebanon, Bristol, Orford, Haverhill, and Lincoln; and sponsors the Grafton County ServiceLink Resource Center and RSVP's Volunteer Center (an AmeriCorps Seniors project). Through GCSCC's network, older adults and their families take part in a range of community-based long-term services including home-delivered meals, community dining programs, transportation, outreach and counseling chore/home repair services, recreational and educational programs, and volunteer opportunities.

From October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, 39 older residents of Sugar Hill were served by one or more of GCSCC's programs offered through the Littleton Area Senior Center. In addition, 19 residents were served through ServiceLink:

- Older adults from Sugar Hill enjoyed 813 prepared by GCSCC.
- Sugar Hill residents received wellness calls, assistance with problems, crises, or issues of long-term care through 9 contacts with trained outreach workers and 65 contacts with ServiceLink.
- Sugar Hill's citizens participated in 215 health, educational, or social activities.
- 46 door-to-door, on-demand buss rides were provided for Sugar Hill residents.

The cost to provide Council services for Sugar Hill residents in 2022-2023 was \$18,144.09.

Such services can be critical for older adults and adults with disabilities who want to remain in their own homes and out of institutional care in spite of chronic health problems and increasing physical frailty. Doing so saves tax dollars that would otherwise be expended for nursing home care. GCSCC's programs also contribute to a higher quality of life for older friends and neighbors. As our population ages, supportive services such as those offered by GCSCC are becoming even more critical.

GCSCC would very much appreciate Sugar Hill's support for our programs that enhance the independence and dignity of older adults and adults with disabilities. GCSCC enables our community members to meet the challenges of aging, while remaining in the security and comfort of their own communities and homes.

Kathleen Vasconcelos,  
Executive Director

## 2023 Annual Report

The mission of **UNH Cooperative Extension** is to strengthen people and communities in New Hampshire by providing trusted knowledge, practical education and cooperative solutions, working in collaboration with county, state and federal government. Some examples of how Extension has been working towards this mission in Grafton County are summarized below.

The Grafton County **4-H** program continued to promote intergenerational activities and build a positive community of youth and older adults. In addition to the annual carved pumpkin display at the nursing home, 4-H members showcased their animals at the county complex in the Spring, giving nursing home residents the opportunity to see the animals up close and share past experiences with the youth.

Through the **Community & Economic Development** program over 150 participants from 60 NH communities in all 10 counties, including eight Grafton County communities, completed the Housing Academy training program as part of the InvestNH Municipal Planning and Zoning Grant program. Participating communities worked to assess needs, identify strategies that fit their own communities' goals and implement strategies to address the housing crisis in NH.

A 4-part twilight meeting series on high tunnel management was presented in Grafton County by the **Food & Agriculture** staff. Over 50 people attended and 17 earned two pesticide recertification credits each towards keeping their applicator licenses current. Several participants reported putting what they learned to work on their own farms.

The **Food Safety** program offered several Safety Awareness in the Food Environment classes for food service workers and NH Food Pantry workers. Workshops were also held for NH homestead food processors on how to produce homemade food in NH legally and safely. The NH Jumpstart program continued with 12 farm participants (3 in Grafton County) who made positive changes in their produce food safety activities.

**Natural Resources** staff developed and/or presented 20 workshops or trainings on forestry and wildlife topics. These workshops and trainings reached a total of 1,004 participants across Grafton County, including adult learners and elementary and high school students.

Several community gardens, that resulted in donations to food pantries, continued to be managed by **Master Gardeners**. Projects to promote beneficial pollinators flourished as did a project to reclaim a section of Lake Mascoma in Enfield for recreational use. A virtual Master Gardener training was also launched.

**Health and Well-Being** programming in Grafton County was expanded in 2023, to focus on reducing healthcare costs and boosting nutrition, physical activity, food access and mental health. New programs included Master Wellness Volunteers, Boost Your Brain and Memory for older adults, and food security screenings at OB/Gyn clinics. Positive outcomes included participants learning to save an average of \$16 more a day on food and acquiring skills to support others in crisis (including those considering suicide).

To learn more about programs and resources that are available, please visit [extension.unh.edu](https://extension.unh.edu).

Respectfully submitted by

Donna Lee

UNH Extension, Grafton County Office Administrator

## CENTER FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

Thirty-eight years ago, The Center for New Beginnings was founded in Littleton to provide services mainly to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Today our nonprofit organization is dedicated to improving the lives of people who struggle with depression, anxiety, grief, trauma, marital problems, and many other difficulties. The children and teenagers we see come with a myriad of challenges that reflect the social, cultural, and economic struggles of our time. *We are also working hard to answer the need of those suffering with addiction – a widespread problem.* Our service area covers the northern third of New Hampshire, from the Kancamagus Highway north to the Canadian border, and northwest to the neighboring Vermont counties – in local terms, the White Mountains, Great North Woods, and Northeast Kingdom regions. However, we do not exclude clients outside our area who wish to travel to receive services at the Center.

We are often asked “what makes you different from Northern Human Services?” We are not a federally funded community mental health center. We are an independent nonprofit. We provide short-term care for acute issues, rather than long-term care for more chronic cases. There is a significant need for both types of services. We both have substantial wait lists and are continuously looking to add more qualified providers.

We are asking for your help to meet the needs of your community. The ever-increasing costs of overhead versus stagnant insurance reimbursements result in a continuous budget tightrope.

In 2023, The Center for New Beginnings provided services to 449 individuals. We logged 5200 patient appointments. Six of our clients reside in Sugar Hill. We are requesting \$500 from the town for the upcoming year. When we do have extra funds available, such as these town donations, we have the flexibility to assist our clients who have difficulty meeting their high deductibles or co-pays or a loss of insurance coverage.

When people are mentally healthy, they are better employees, more conscientious parents, and are able to positively contribute to their communities. Healthy children do better in school, control behaviors that are disruptive in class, and grow up to be resilient adults. Individuals who are mentally stable are much less likely to commit crimes or wreak havoc among their families, coworkers, and communities. Everyone benefits from a population that is mentally healthy. Please contact us if you would like to learn more about the counseling services we provide for individuals and their families, or our Employee Assistance Program, a confidential counseling and referral resource program for employees and their family members to help them deal with personal and work-related issues.

Good works have always relied upon the generosity of good people. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Board of Directors  
The Center for New Beginnings

## NORTH COUNTRY COUNCIL

North Country Council Regional Planning Commission and Economic Development District is one of nine regional planning commissions in New Hampshire established by RSA 36:46. The Commission's region consists of serving 50 communities and 25 unincorporated places in the northern third of New Hampshire. The Council serves in an advisory role to local governments in order to promote coordinated planning, orderly growth, efficient land use, transportation access, and environmental protection. The Council's professional staff provides transportation, land use, economic development, community, and environmental planning services; geographic information services (GIS); data collection and analysis; grant writing; grant administration; facilitation; and project management.

In 2023, the North Country Council undertook the following activities in the region:

Launched the new website in June! Collaborated with other Regional Planning Commissions through the NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions and Director meetings in Concord. Supported efforts and attended regional planning and municipal conferences. Bulk ordered and distributed New Hampshire Planning and Land Use Regulation books to local land use boards (estimated savings of \$75.00 per book).

### **Transportation**

Staff completed over 160 traffic counts during the 2023 collection season. A major update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was approved by the North Country Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and Council Representatives. This update consisted of an expanded regional context, background, goals, objectives, corridor datasheets, and updated challenges & opportunities and maps section. Staff worked with communities throughout the year on noted transportation concerns and opportunities. These included different funding options, community projects for on-call engineering support services, and coordinating meetings with local officials and other agencies. Began the Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan process, including work by the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) to finalize the regional project priority rankings and the approval of the initial funding allocation. Two projects were submitted to the NHDOT on behalf of the region. Staff attended 4 Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) hearings during September 2023 and presented regional projects at 3 of these meetings.

### **Economic Development**

Coordinated 6 comprehensive Economic Development Committee (CEDS) meetings. Focusing on connecting resources in the region, learning about innovative strategies for improved economic prosperity, and sharing regional information as well as adopting the 2023-2028 CEDS update that was also adopted by the Council's Board of Directors. We welcomed the new EDA Maine and New Hampshire field representatives for a two-day tour of the region and various Economic Development projects and opportunities.

The Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) was updated and adopted by the Board of Directors. The new 5-year RHNA is complete with data, projections for the future, and, most importantly, tools! Visit our website to see more about this report!

9 communities in the region were awarded Housing Opportunity Planning (HOP) Grants for planning, demolition, and housing construction. This includes five (5) communities

that have partnered with the Council to complete Opportunity Planning Grants and make regulatory changes in an effort to reduce barriers to housing production. Staff reviewed and responded to 3 Developments of Regional Impact over the course of the year.

The Council continued to assist the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) & State of NH Bureau of Economic Affairs (BEA) in providing development assistance to potential and awarded grantees. In 2023, the Council provided pre-project development coaching assistance to over 25 NBRC applicants, assistance to 10 new NBRC grantees in getting NTP, and technical assistance to NHBEA Capacity Consultant ADG for statewide program support to over 30 NBRC active grantees.

Continued work with 3 regional employer groups to bring employer housing conversation toward action using the NH Employer Workforce Through NHFA funding.

Continued to assist Coos County with the Coos County Broadband Committee, as well as providing technical support to the Carroll County Broadband Committee

### **Environmental Planning**

North Country Council assisted in coordinating and staffing 2 Household Hazardous Waste events for the Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District (PBSWD). There were 289 participants that brought the equivalent of 4,000 gallons of hazardous materials that were removed from the waste stream.

The Council collaborated with Sace Headwaters Alliance, NH Fish & Game, NH Geological Survey of DES and Green Mountain Conservation Group, and NH Association of Conservation Commissions for the Saco River Watershed Stream Crossing Assessment project.

### **Resiliency & Emergency Planning**

Staff supported the development of a North Country Food and Agriculture Council made up of industry leaders, businesses and organizations who has formed a Steering Committee and hosted two annual food and agriculture summits.

Staff are facilitating the development of a North Country Climate Resiliency Resource Guide for businesses and communities through a collaborative effort the Council is providing for regional environmental, education, and outdoor organizations and businesses working on climate resiliency.

North Country Council is providing support and facilitation for the newly formed North Country Arts and Culture Collaborative that is bringing together leadership, businesses, and organizations within the Arts and Culture industry to develop a strategic plan to support the arts and the creative economy.

### **Mapping and Data Analysis**

North Country Council developed ArcGIS Online Hubs to be a resource for the region. The Hubs offer spaces to find grants, funding opportunities, and data resources that are applicable to the North Country. Users can find funding opportunities and data resources related to community & economic development, environmental, housing, transportation, business, arts & culture, and more!

Provided mapping and data services to communities throughout the region in support of project development and funding opportunities.

## NORTH COUNTRY HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE 2023

North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency provides quality services that include Hospice, Home Health, Palliative, and Long-term care. Within these services we also provide nursing, rehabilitation, social services, and homemaking in 51 towns, covering all of Coos County and northern Grafton County and we've expanded our territory south to Plymouth, NH. **In 2023, for the Town of Sugar Hill, we visited 1 patient on Long-Term Care and Palliative Care 1 times, provided Home Health services to 12 patients over 207 visits, and cared for 3 patients on Hospice Care over 106 visits.** Our providers visited your friends and neighbors in your community over 310 times in 2023 to provide vital care.

Hospice Care is centered on improving the quality of life for patients and supporting their caregivers in realizing goals and wishes. Our dedicated team, including physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, home health aides, spiritual counselors, and volunteers, collaborates with patients to manage pain, address emotional and spiritual needs, and provide necessary medications and equipment. Beyond end-of-life care, we offer family and caregiver education, short-term inpatient treatment for challenging symptoms, and bereavement counseling for surviving loved ones. Choosing hospice is not a surrender, but a decision to focus on quality of life, offering a unique, compassionate approach that diverges from the traditional medical model.

Home Health Care plays a pivotal role in addressing the growing healthcare needs of our community. Our proficient clinical team adeptly monitors health issues and delivers disease management within the familiar confines of patients' homes, mitigating the necessity for more expensive healthcare alternatives like hospitalization or long-term institutional care. With a primary focus on restoring patients to their baseline, our dedicated nursing team and therapists work collaboratively. Given the heightened strain on hospitals over the past year, we've operated at an elevated capacity to alleviate their burden, creating space for much-needed beds. This increased demand has introduced a higher acuity of Home Health patients, presenting a unique challenge that we're committed to addressing with unwavering dedication.

Long-Term Care is committed to delivering essential home health aide, homemaking, and companion services to individuals facing challenges in performing vital activities of daily living independently, including bathing, dressing, meal preparation, and household tasks. These services are particularly designed to assist those with physical, medical, or mental limitations, enabling them to maintain their independence. Our focus is to support the elderly and disabled, facilitating their ability to stay in the comfort of their homes while averting hospital readmissions and preventing the need for long-term institutionalization. By addressing these fundamental needs, we strive to enhance the quality of life for those we serve.

Our Palliative Care Program, launched as a pilot in 2019, has rapidly expanded from its initial 5 patients to now encompass 112 active patients. Distinguished by its primarily home-based approach, our Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and Social Workers engage with patients in their homes to delve into discussions about their serious illnesses, advanced care planning, code status, goals, wishes, and, most importantly, what

holds significance for them. While the program targets individuals with serious illnesses, it doesn't necessitate terminal conditions, as Hospice does. Recognizing the broad spectrum of patients in need, especially in our service territories, NCHHHA fills a crucial gap between Home Health services for recovery and Hospice services for terminal cases. Palliative Care acts as a vital bridge, offering support for those with serious illnesses who may not be ready for Hospice services yet.

The team at the North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency, along with our esteemed Board of Directors, expresses profound gratitude to the Town of Sugar Hill for their unwavering support of our agency. This steadfast commitment enables us to fulfill our mission of delivering services to individuals, irrespective of their ability to pay. Our dedication extends to providing essential services in the Town of Sugar Hill, ensuring that clients and their families can reside in the familiarity of their homes within a safe and supportive environment. By doing so, we aim to enhance overall health outcomes within the community and uphold our commitment to fostering well-being in the lives of those we serve.

Respectfully,  
Ren Anderson, Senior Manager  
of Philanthropy & Community  
Engagement

## BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE NORTH COUNTRY

In preparation for the annual Town Meeting, the Boys and Girls Club of the North Country (BGCNC) respectfully requests that the Board include a warrant article for **\$2,500** on the Town's ballot to help cover our operating budget for the services we provide to your community and the North Country.

BGCNC merged with the BGC of Central NH this year, giving us access to a full back office of administrative and support teams which will allow us to continue to grow and provide more services to our families. Of course, we must still raise the funds needed to operate our program. Our community's support is crucial in continuing to provide a fun, safe, positive place for all the children of the North Country. Our team continues to Thrive and adapt to the everchanging challenges the pandemic brought us, such as staffing issues and increased expenses, and to provide critical support to our members and their families that rely on us for academic support, mentoring, snacks, and being a safe place for kids.

In typical years, we have served over 250 children from Bethlehem, Littleton, Lisbon, Landaff, Lyman, Franconia, Easton, and Sugar Hill, as well as several other North Country communities. BGCNC's afterschool programs and vacation camps are, in many cases, the key to the development of these children and we strongly believe that we are both preparing them for a happy and productive future and, in some cases, literally saving their lives. **Of the 64 members in the afterschool program, 2 of them are from Sugar Hill. Summer camp 2023 saw 84 children, with no attendees from Sugar Hill.** We continue to only charge \$350 per year for the After School Program, including transportation. Vacation camps are \$135 per week and include field trips and summer swimming lessons. Financial aid is provided to all members that need assistance. **We invest over \$5,000/year to transport the Lafayette School members to the Club for the Afterschool program.**

As is the case with most organizations that rely on fundraising and donations, raising the approximately \$500,000 per year required to operate the Club has become increasingly difficult, with COVID having put an additional strain on this already enormous task. We recognize that many of your taxpayers are feeling the same pressures that the Club is. However, it is important to keep in mind that the current economic times have most affected those very people who need the services that BGCNC provides. These families need our help now more than ever. Over 40% of our families fall below a \$40,000 income level and over 38% qualify for free/reduced lunch. We are looking to our neighboring communities to help spread the cost of operations over the wider population, as the children we serve are the future of the North Country.

Your support on this issue will be greatly appreciated and, although it cannot be specifically quantified, we strongly believe that a commitment by the Town represents an investment in the healthy future of Sugar Hill and the North Country at large.

Sincerely,

**Sandy Brackett**  
Executive Director

**Tina Bedor**  
Board of Directors

## **MOUNT WASHINGTON REGIONAL AIRPORT COMMISSION**

As the main airport in the North Country, Mount Washington Regional continues to be well utilized in many ways that enhance and grow our local communities. Visiting pilots and their families use the airport as a gateway to all the breathtaking beauty and abundant outdoor recreational opportunities our area has to offer. More pilots have been moving to our area in recent years and as a result all the airport hangar space stays full and there is growing private interest in building more. And more people are learning to fly since covid. The airport continues to be a base for Civil Air Patrol flights used for search and rescue, forest fire patrol and flight training. It is available 24x7x365 for emergency evacuation of trauma and medical patients and local pilots provide free, non-emergency medical transportation flights to patients in need through organizations such Patient Airlift Services and Angel Flight.

The Airport Commission continues with its mission to attract more private flyers to our region, leveraging this important piece of local infrastructure to help grow the local economy. A pilot moving to the area or purchasing a second home contributes directly to our local tax base. A family of four visiting by even a small airplane can easily spend \$1500 over a weekend at our local businesses. Passengers arriving on a business jet might spend five to ten times that amount. In addition to the direct benefits to local businesses, the Rooms and Meals Taxes paid by visitors are returned by the state to local town governments, generating substantial revenue that offsets property taxes for our citizens. Visiting aircraft fund the majority of airport operations through fuel sales, transient aircraft parking fees, and landing fees for commercial aircraft.

The number one challenge to attracting even more aircraft to visit our airport is the lack of ground transportation when they arrive. Most visitors will want to rent a car to get out and visit our towns and trails, yet right now they have to settle for taking a taxi. This could be a business opportunity for anyone in the local community who wants to provide a rental car or make a car available through a car-sharing service such as Turo. Please contact us if you want more information: [mtwashingtonregionalairport@gmail.com](mailto:mtwashingtonregionalairport@gmail.com).

The airport is in the early stages of two projects aimed at preserving valuable infrastructure and ensuring safety. The first project will survey obstructions in the aircraft approach areas to determine where tree cutting may be necessary. The other will replace old and failing pavement on two key taxiways. Both projects will be 95% funded by the FAA from aircraft fuel tax revenues, with the remainder from airport capital improvement funds. The Airport Commission extends its gratitude to our member towns for their ongoing support as we strive to maximize the airport's utilization for the benefit of our local economy.

## **REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE COUNCILOR CINDE WARMINGTON**

I have been honored to serve the people of your community and the 81 cities & towns across District 2 since being sworn in for my second term on January 5, 2023. The Executive Council has been hard at work throughout the last year, actively administering the affairs of the State of New Hampshire. We held 22 meetings of the Governor & Council to vote on over 3,000 contracts and have approved billions of dollars intended to spur economic growth, support public education, protect the health and well-being of Granite Staters, and more.

In addition to the regularly scheduled meetings of the Council, we held 13 public hearings to conduct interviews with nominees and hear testimony from members of the public regarding 2 agency nominations, 6 circuit court nominations, 4 superior court nominations, and 1 Supreme Court nomination. The Executive Council, as members of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation, also hosted 24 in-person hearings on the 2025-2034 Ten Year Transportation Plan (including hearings in Bethlehem, Claremont, Concord, Keene, Lebanon, and Plymouth) and recommended a plan to the governor and legislature on November 29, 2023.

Results delivered in 2023 that affect District 2 include, but are not limited to:

- Distributed millions of dollars to communities across the state through the InvestNH Housing Program to address the affordable housing crisis, including projects in Claremont, Franconia, Haverhill, Hinsdale, Holderness, Keene, Lebanon, Littleton, and Winchester.
- Awarded tens of millions of dollars to the Community Action Partnership (CAP) agencies Southwestern Community Services, Tri-County Community Action Program, and Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties to aid Granite Staters in need of rental assistance, emergency food, energy cost assistance, weatherization, affordable childcare, and much more;
- Coordinated with Homeland Security and Emergency Management to expedite the reimbursement of disaster-related expenses to District 2 communities following the widespread flood damage last summer.

The Executive Council also confirmed hundreds of volunteers to serve on various New Hampshire boards and commissions. These are critical to the operation of our state, and I encourage anyone who may be interested in serving to visit [sos.nh.gov/administration/miscellaneous/governor-executive-council](https://sos.nh.gov/administration/miscellaneous/governor-executive-council) and click on "Red Book" to find vacancies.

As we head into 2024, I look forward to continuing to serve the people and communities of District 2. If you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me ([Cinde.Warmington@nh.gov](mailto:Cinde.Warmington@nh.gov)).

Sincerely,  
Cinde Warmington  
Executive Councilor, District 2

**VALUATION OF TOWN EQUIPMENT  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Equipment	Purchase Price	Book Value	Life in Years	Depreciation For Year
2005 Motorola Radios Mobile (7)	\$ 28,000.00	\$ -0-	15	\$800.00
2006 Motorola Radios Portable (18)	54,000.00	-0-	15	-0-
2007 Motorola Base Radio (1)	8,000.00	-0-	15	-0-
2022 Kenwood Radios	8,762.00	7,594.00	15	584.00
1939 Ford Antique Truck	1,000.00	-0-	10	-0-
2004 Ford Light Rescue Truck	105,000.00	25,200.00	20	4,200.00
2006 Sterling Fire Engine	175,000.00	56,000.00	25	7,000.00
2013 International – Fire Engine	254,000.00	152,400.00	25	10,160.00
2018 International – Fire Engine	375,000.00	285,000.00	25	15,000.00
Utility Box Trailer	3,700.00	-0-	20	-0-
4,000 ft. 4” Hose	20,000.00	-0-	15	-0-
Stationary SCBA Air Compressor	20,000.00	-0-	20	-0-
24 Sets of PPE	72,000.00	-0-	10	-0-
12 Sets PPE	36,834.00	29,468.00	10	3,683.00
10 SCBA with Spare Cylinders	50,000.00	-0-	10	-0-
Mobile SCBA Fill Station	10,000.00	-0-	20	-0-
SCBA Cylinders	26,760.00	21,408.00	15	1,784.00
Camera	2,800.00	1,120.00	5	560.00
30 Pagers	11,450.00	-0-	10	-0-
Portable Pump	4,000.00	-0-	15	-0-
Floating Portable Pump	2,500.00	-0-	15	-0-
Honda 6kw Generator	5,000.00	-0-	15	-0-
Light Tower – Rescue Truck	6,000.00	1,600.00	15	400.00
Fire Hose 2.5 – 400’	1,200.00	320.00	15	80.00
Rescue Chain Saw	2,195.00	629.00	10	219.50
Lockers	10,157.00	9,141.30	20	507.85
Miscellaneous Equipment	<u>114,300.00</u>	<u>-0-</u>	15	<u>-0-</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,407,658.00</b>	<b>\$589,880.30</b>		<b>\$44,978.35</b>

**POLICE EQUIPMENT**

Equipment	Purchase Price	Book Value	Life in Years	Depreciation For Year
2023 Ford Explorer	\$59,277.90	47,422.32	5	11,855.58
2019 Ford Police Responder	28,187.35	5,074.00	5	5,637.47
Misc. Patrol Vehicle Equipment	3,000.00	-0-	5	-0-
Motorola Radio – Patrol Vehicle (2)	2,800.00	-0-	6	-0-
Motorola Radios – Portables (4)	10,496.88	6,997.92	6	1,749.48
Motorola Consolette (1)	6,972.15	4,648.09	6	1,162.03
MPH Python 2 (2)	3,200.00	-0-	5	-0-
Radar Trailer	1,000.00	-0-	6	-0-
Axon Body Cameras (3)	2,625.00	-0-	5	-0-

Axon Body Cameras (3)	16,025.90	12,820.72	5	3,205.18
Zoll AED (1)	1,269.70	423.30	3	846.47
Office Equipment	5,684.00	-0-	3	-0-
Glock Handguns w/lights (4)	2,036.00	-0-	6	339.00
Benelli Shotgun (2)	900.00	450.00	10	90.00
Card Access System	4,000.00	1,200.00	10	400.00
Taser (X2) (3)	4,200.00	-0-	5	-0-
Taser (T7) (3)	10,260.00	8,208.00	5	2,052.00
Ruger AR 15 (2)	1,000.00	260.00	8	100.00
Sig Sauer MCX 300 (3)	12,600.00	12,600.00	8	-0-
Solar Traffic Lights	6,463.00	5,170.40	10	646.30
Base Radio Antenna System	<u>3,337.00</u>	<u>3,003.30</u>	10	<u>333.70</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$182,433.88</b>	<b>\$108,278.05</b>		<b>\$28,417.21</b>

### HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT

Equipment	Purchase Price	Book Value	Life in Years	Depreciation For Year
1995 Brush Bandit Chipper	15,000.00	-0-	20	-0-
1996 Motorola Mobile Radio	600.00	-0-	20	-0-
Miscellaneous Mobile Equipment	45,000.00	-0-	20	-0-
2019 Sakai TW330 Roller	29,000.00	24,165.00	30	967.00
York Rake	3,000.00	-0-	20	-0-
Cold Patch Trailer	24,000.00	20,160.00	20	480.00
Culvert Thawer w/Trailer	4,500.00	-0-	10	-0-
2003 Sweepster Brom for 416 Cat	8,500.00	-0-	15	-0-
2004 Hudson Trailer 10 ton	8,900.00	400.00	20	445.00
2007 Komatsu Excavator	93,500.00	14,050.00	20	4,675.00
1985 Cat 130 Motor Grader	65,000.00	8,671.00	15	4,333.00
2012 John Deere Loader	106,400.00	47,880.00	20	5,320.00
2014 John Deere 310 SK Backhoe	67,500.00	60,750.00	10	6,750.00
2021 International Dump Truck	140,000.00	112,001.00	15	9,333.00
2022 Ford F350 Pickup/sander	72,000.00	45,000.00	8	9,000.00
2017 Chevrolet Dump Truck	50,423.25	6,302.95	5	6,302.90
2018 Inter HV 10 Wheel Dump	180,000.00	108,000.00	15	12,000.00
2016 Fischer Sander	4,500.00	900.00	10	450.00
2017 Fischer Sander	4,500.00	1,350.00	10	450.00
2018 Atlas Copco Hammer	11,300.00	9,040.00	10	1,130.00
2023 Bomag Gas Compactor	<u>8,500.00</u>	<u>6,885.00</u>	10	<u>765.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$942,123.25</b>	<b>\$465,554.95</b>		<b>\$62,400.90</b>

### BUILDING & GROUNDS

2011 Ford F350 Pickup	\$43,000.00	\$ -0-	8	\$ 0.00
2023 JD Z930R ZTrak/Bag System	19,020.00	15,216.00	5	3,804.00
2000 PAS 65x14 Trailer	2,750.00	-0-	20	0.00
2020 Ariens 28 Snowblower	1,299.00	559.00	7	185.00
2016 Honda 21" Commercial Mower	660.00	-0-	5	0.00
202 Honda 21" Commercial Mower	<u>650.00</u>	<u>130.00</u>	5	<u>130.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$67,379.00</b>	<b>\$15,905.00</b>		<b>\$4,119.00</b>

**BIRTHS REGISTERED  
IN THE TOWN OF SUGAR HILL, NH  
For the Year Ending December 31, 2023**

Date of Birth	Name of Child	Name of Father & Name of Mother
None Reported		

**DEATHS REGISTERED  
IN THE TOWN OF SUGAR HILL, NH  
For the Year Ending December 31, 2023**

Date Of Death	Name Of Deceased	Name & Surname Of Father	Maiden Name Of Mother
01-12-2023	William Andrew Norton	William Norton	Sybil Spencer
02-14-2023	Alice M. Rossell	Henry Schink	Amy Donalson
08-17-2023	Edward J. Galligan	Joseph Galligan	Anna Unknown

**MARRIAGES REGISTERED  
IN THE TOWN OF SUGAR HILL, NH  
For the Year Ending December 31, 2023**

Date of Marriage	Name and Surname Of Groom & Bride	Residence of Each At Time Of Marriage
02-19-2023	Grant L. Ruggles	Sugar Hill
	Mary W. Cushing	Sugar Hill
06-17-2023	Christopher G. Cote	Sugar Hill
	Hallie R. Waitkus	Sugar Hill
09-18-2023	Thomas J. Blennerhassett	Australia
	Deanne M. Beaulieu	Australia
10-11-2023	Nathan H. Lax	Sugar Hill
	Allyson L. Roberts	Sugar Hill
12-18-2023	Jon P. Dahlborg, Jr.	Sugar Hill
	Sheryl K. Knauth	Sugar Hill

I hereby certify the above information is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Lissa Boissonneault,  
Town Clerk

**TOWN HOURS  
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE  
823-8468**

**Website:** [www.sugarhillnh.org](http://www.sugarhillnh.org)    **E-mail:** [selectmen@sugarhillnh.org](mailto:selectmen@sugarhillnh.org)  
Monday ..... 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
Tuesday and Thursday ..... 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
823-8516**

Monday ..... 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
Tuesday and Thursday ..... 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**PLANNING BOARD**

First Wednesday of each month ..... 5:30 PM

**ZONING BOARD**

As needed ..... 5:30 PM

**TRANSFER STATION  
823-5311**

(Closed on legal Holidays)

Sunday ..... 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Monday ..... 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday ..... CLOSED  
Friday ..... 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Saturday ..... 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**RICHARDSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
823-7001**

Tuesday ..... 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
Thursday ..... 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Friday (Family Day) ..... 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
Saturday ..... 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**SUGAR HILL HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
823-5336**

Friday ..... 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Saturday ..... 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

TENTATIVE SEASON: May 24, 2024 – October 14, 2024  
Opening to be Announced

**FIRE, POLICE, LIFE SQUAD — EMERGENCY ONLY 911**

**Non-Emergency Police**  
**823-8725** - Office  
**823-8123** - Dispatch

**Non-Emergency Fire Department**  
**823-8415** - Station  
**823-8123** - Dispatch

**Highway Department**  
**823-8788**  
**616-8467**

**Meetinghouse**  
**823-7011**