

Town of Frankestown

Annual Report Addendum- 2022

Unabridged and Unedited

During the publishing of the 2022 Town Report, some departmental and committee reports were edited without final approval from the authors of those reports.

Here we have printed the unabridged and unedited versions of these reports to present them as the official record of the Town.

We apologize to any affected departments, committees, their staff and membership that this oversight in the publishing process occurred, and want to assure to all that this will not occur in the future.

3-17-2023

Police Department

Chief Frederick Douglas

The following report is being submitted on behalf the Francestown Police Department that covers the period from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. This report will attempt to outline most activities of our organization and departmental changes that have taken place throughout the year. We continue to be committed to our primary mission to provide a responsive, professional law enforcement service to the community of Francestown. We will continue to work in concert with the citizens of Francestown as a "team" in order to maintain and build upon this objective which is to provide a safe and positive quality of life for all.

Personnel: During 2022 the following staff adjustments occurred. Congratulations to Officer Juliane Wigsten who attended the 188th Full-Time Law Enforcement Academy in Concord, commencing on February 7th and graduated on May 27th. Both Officer Richard Booker and McAllister still maintain their part-time officers' status with this agency.

Training: Throughout the course of 2022 our officers attended various training sessions in order to stay up to date with changes and proficient within this profession. These training sessions include both mandatory and in-service subject matters such as recertification with Firearms, Use of Force, both classroom and practical. Again, there were in-service training pertaining to various subject matters including De-escalation, Ethics and Implicit Bias to name a few. All officers were also certified in the application of Tasers.

Calls-For-Service: 1,166 Hillsborough County Dispatch Logs

Note: There were 268 Calls for Service related to non-criminal activity in various categories that are not related to the below non-criminal activity category.

It should be noted that the surrounding agencies of Greenfield, Lyndeborough, New Boston, Deering, Hancock and Bennington and Francestown have mutual aid agreement with each other. These towns work in concert with one another to assist each other with emergency coverage throughout the year when needed. There were twenty-six (26) complaints reported to the New Hampshire State Police in 2022.

<u>Non-Criminal</u>			
Abandoned/911	5	Disabled Motor Vehicles	2
Abandoned Motor Vehicles	1	Disturbances	4
Alarms/Residential-Business	30	Juvenile Matters	4
Animal Complaints	26	Medical Emergencies	16
Assist Citizen	23	Missing Persons	2
Assist other Agencies	26	Veh. Collisions (Reportable)	6
Building/Property Checks	187	Veh. Collisions (Non-Reportable)	5
Civil Issue/Stand By	3	Motor Vehicle Complaints	4
		Motor Vehicle Lock-outs	3

Motor Vehicle Stops	379	<u>Criminal</u>	
Noise Complaints	1	Arrests	2
Road Hazard/Obstructions	23	Burglaries	0
Suicidal/Attempted Issues	2	Conduct After Accident	1
Suspicious Activity	9	Criminal Mischief	2
Suspicious Person	3	Criminal Threatening	2
Suspicious Vehicles	9	Criminal Trespass	3
Well Being Checks	5	Domestic Disturbance	1
Parking Complaints	6	Fraud	8
VIN Verifications	10	Harassment	2
		Indecent Exposure	0
		Illegal Dumping	5
		OHRV Complaint	2
		Resisting Arrest/Detention	0
		Stalking Complaint	1

Closing Remarks: It is extremely important for all of us to recognize that we as law enforcement officers answer to the citizens of this community, especially in these trying times we have all seen over the last few years. History and tradition dictate this reality. Law enforcement officers carry out sworn duties and are members of the public who are an extension of the citizens. We, as law enforcement officers cannot hope to accomplish our goals and objectives without the support of the citizens of Francestown. Law enforcement's effectiveness depends on public support. A well-informed citizenship is essential to our democracy.

I would like to extend my appreciation to our employees for their dedication and commitment to the citizens of this community and the law enforcement profession. I would especially like to thank the citizens and businesses of our community for their continued support as we work in partnership with one another to improve the quality of life for everyone as it relates to public safety.

We wish to thank the citizens, Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, co-workers and all members of the specific Boards that serve our community for your support of this agency. Your dedication, commitment and support are truly appreciated and an honor to work with all of you.

Public Assistance Administrator

Thomas P Anderson, Jr.

During 2022 no new clients received assistance from the town. One potential client applied for assistance but moved from Francestown before any assistance was provided. Budget expenditures for 2022 were used to support current clients with the four basic needs - food, heat, light and housing. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic had no direct impact on the budget.

As discussed in last years report the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are available for the town to recoup expenses that are directly related to Covid-19, if that becomes necessary. I have partnered with other private and government agencies to provide unique forms of assistance not normally covered under the town's assistance guidelines such as, for example, necessary repairs to automobiles that allow potential clients to continue travel to work.

Solid Waste Committee

Becky Moul, Chair

The Transfer Station ran well in 2022. There were no recycling changes placed upon us by state ordinances or broker changes. Costs have increased for hauling and disposal fees as have all other aspects of our lives. Since 1972 Frankestown has had mandatory recycling. We went from a landfill to a Transfer Station. Environmental concerns were all around us, especially located right next to a stream. We are still surrounded by these concerns as well as cost issues. Recycling is important and we need to do our best at it. Because we reached outside of the box several years ago, we are able to recycle our plastic bags. Today we are still recycling plastic bags. A huge thank you goes out to our volunteers who drive these bags to Peterborough.

The asphalt at the TS was repaired this past summer with a new overlay. There were no plans for any other upgrades at the Transfer Station in 2022 above our normal maintenance responsibilities. We are hoping to be able to have a Compost Workshop this year. It would save hundreds of pounds of food trash going into the compactor, which equals lower costs. If residents participated in backyard composting The Board of Selectmen's office, the Waste Disposal Committee, and attendants work together for the best results in all TS business.

We would like to Welcome and Thank Henry Hardwick, Eddy Hardwick, Carl Hardwick and Emily Hardwick for their hard work at keeping the TS clean and safe. We would also like to thank Johnny Hardwick and Sam Giza for their efforts while working at the TS in 2022. We have Welcomed Kevin St. John to the committee and thank Mike Tartalis for his service with us over the years. Presently our committee consists of Becky Moul, Kelly Marshall and Kevin St. John. There are 2 openings available. If you have an interest in serving the town via this committee, please give the Selectmen's office a call at 603-547-3469.

The State of NH has a goal of a 40% recycling rate. In 2022 Frankestown is at a 42.8% recycling rate! This is a 2.8% increase in recycling, just shy of our 3% goal. Nice work Frankestown residents. In 2022 we transferred a total of 700.1 tons with 294.5 tons being recycled materials and 405.6 being compactor materials. Our recycling efforts keep us just ahead of the state goal. Let's all work together to increase our rate back up to 45% this year.

Revenues are generated two ways at the Transfer Station. One way is resident fees for E-Waste, CD & Bulky and Tires. Aluminum Cans and Metal (collected and sold) is the second way. There was \$20,530 put into the general fund in 2022 for all of these commodities sold. Of that, the residents generated \$13,207.66 for CD & Bulky, Tires & E-Waste.

Commodities	Tonnage
Compactor (MSW)	405.6
CD & Bulky	112.4
Paper	79.8
Glass	44.9
#1 & #2 Plastics	12.4
Metal	41.1
Total	700.1

Commodities	Revenues 2022
CD & Bulky	\$8,563.00
E Waste	\$4,020.80
Tires	\$623.86
Cans	\$2,094.00
Metal	\$5,228.34
Total	\$20,530.00

With our town growing it is important to try and keep everyone “in the know”. In an effort to help educate our residents we are sharing information concerning plastics. Remember we do recycle plastic bags, just not with regular plastics. There is a designated location to the right as you walk into the recycle room. Please be sure your bags are clean of any debris or food type leftovers.

The WDC and the Board of Selectmen are constantly looking for ways to improve our system and lower costs. The committee works together with the BOS and our vendors, trying to ensure we are recycling as much as we can at a reasonable cost.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle is the key to successful Transfer Station activities and budget.

Fire Department Chief Larry Kullgren

In 2022, the Francestown Volunteer Fire Department responded to 154 emergency calls, The Wardens also reviewed over 150 requests for burn permits, which can be obtained online through the Fire Department’s page on the Town’s website, www.francestownnh.org or by going to the State website, www.nhdf.org .

In addition to responding to all types of emergency calls, non-emergency calls for service, trainings, and meetings, the men and women that volunteer also supply hospital equipment to our community for those in need.

In 2022 the Fire Department with funds from the Mount Crotched Fire Fighter’s Association purchased tracks for Our Kabota ATV, these tracks help increase the capabilities for off road Search and Rescue in winter conditions.

In addition the Fire Department with funds from the Mount Crotched Fire Fighter’s Association Purchased a New Stokes Rescue Basket and Rescue Wheel that mounts under this basket to enable Rescue crews with carrying an injured subject out of the woods. These new tools are a great asset to improve our response to Wilderness Rescues.

The Fire Department has 911 address signs available for purchase, Please help us find you. Ensure that your house and driveway is well marked.

As a Volunteer Department, we pride ourselves on our ability to respond to requests for help as well as interact with the public in non-emergency situations. We are fortunate to have a strong core of volunteers that are readily able to serve our community with pride. In turn, our mission could not be completed without the continued support of our community, for which we are very thankful. As a Volunteer organization, we are always looking for new members; the Department will pay for required fire and/or EMS trainings. If you have questions or are interested please stop by the Fire Station on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., ask any member of our Department, or contact me directly at 603-620-3198 or fire.chief@francestownnh.org .

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Men and Women of the Francestown Fire Department for their devoted dedication to protecting our community through some challenging few years. I'm very proud to work with such a well trained and professional group of individuals! Thank you!

I also would like to thank Our community for all their support and generous contribution to our Annual Fund Raiser. The Mount Crotched FireFighter's Association will use these funds to offset taxes by contributing towards the purchase of specialized Fire Fighting Equipment.

Please be safe with fires, it only takes seconds. Check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors often, practice family evacuation plans, and do not hesitate to reach out with a question or concern – our Department is here for you.

Auxiliary of the Francestown Volunteer Fire Department

Karen St. Cyr, President

This has been a notable year for the Auxiliary of the Francestown Volunteer Fire Department. After a two-year hiatus from the customary meetings during the Covid-19 era, this year the Auxiliary held most of their meetings as usual. As always, we continued to support the Francestown Volunteer Fire Department.

This year the Auxiliary purchased an Apple iPad that allows EMS staff to communicate with the hospital and doctors while on-scene and records the patient's vital information.

Members of the Auxiliary assisted the fire department with the traditional corned beef dinner that is served prior to the Hillsborough County Fire Warden's Annual Meeting held at the Francestown fire station in March. The return of this long-standing event began a more typical year of activities.

In October the Fracestown Elementary School students and staff walked to the fire station to participate in the annual Fire Prevention and Safety Program presented by members of the Fracestown Fire Department. Apples and special “goody bags” were provided by the Auxiliary.

Refreshments were provided by the Auxiliary at the EMS Open House held in November by the Fracestown Rescue Squad. The event was an opportunity to meet EMS providers and learn and practice hands only CPR. The mannequins used for training were donated to the fire department by the Auxiliary.

It is an honor for the Auxiliary to participate in the Fracestown Veteran’s Day Service. After a well-attended, memorable service, participants enjoyed a lunch at the town hall hosted by Fracestown Elementary School staff and students. A long-time retired Army veteran who served numerous tours of duty was the elated winner of the drawing for the hand-made quilt by Fracestown’s “Quilt Angel”.

Fracestown semi-annual blood drives, sponsored by the Auxiliary, and always held at FES, are scheduled to resume in May 2023.

The highlight of the year was celebrating Fracestown’s 250th Celebration on Saturday, June 25th. A “Grand Buffet” – “Supper on the Common”, was hosted by the Auxiliary. And old-fashioned dinner that included home-made pies for 300 guests, served at two seatings – 5pm and 6pm, was planned. Tickets at \$5 per person over 12 years old sold out quickly. The support by many residents who contributed toward the success of the supper is much appreciated. The Auxiliary commends Bev Abbott, an active member of the organization, for her leadership of the memorable and successful celebration.

Donna Barbalato and Judi Miller, who recently “retired” from the Auxiliary after many years of service, volunteered to publish the 2023 Fracestown Directory. Thank you for the generosity of your time and expertise to publish this edition.

Conservation Commission

Betsy Hardwick, Chair

The Conservation Commission is the municipal agency responsible for seeing to the proper utilization of the town’s natural resources and the protection of its water resources. It is also responsible for the management of Fracestown’s Town Forests and other conservation lands acquired through the commission, and for the stewardship of conservation easement interests held by the town.

We welcomed two new members this year, Elizabeth Hunter Lavalley and Anna Jo Dingman, and were sad to see two long-term members leave, Pam Avery and Don Shuffleton.

This year was a busy one. We reviewed and commented on four subdivision proposals; three two-lot subdivisions (Map 2, Lot 11), (Map 3, Lot 34.1) and (Map 6, Lot 7.3) and one nine-lot subdivision on Woodward Hill Rd. (Map 3, Lots 11 & 41). We also reviewed a lot-line

adjustment application for property on Bible Hill Road (Map 9, Lots 22.1, 22.2 & 22.3), two Conditional Use Permit applications for short-term rentals, and three applications to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Representatives from Trout Unlimited and the Merrimack River Watershed Council presented information to the commission on the proposed removal of an old dam on Brennan Brook. The removal of the dam will restore natural stream flow and improve natural processes for aquatic organisms. It will be done in such a way as to minimize disturbance and maintain as much of the historic aspects of the dam structure as possible. Commission members were in support of the project. A letter stating such was provided to the Merrimack River Watershed Council to help secure grant funds and permit approval.

In celebration of Earth Day we gave tree seedlings from the State Forest Nursery to the Francestown Elementary School children and held a roadside clean-up event on April 23rd. A lot of trash bags were filled, thanks to the more than 30 people that showed up to help pick up litter! The “special” blue trash bags were also made available at the town offices, post office, and library for those that could not make it to the event.

Updated our short term action plan, the conservation page of the town website, and initiated discussions about updating the Conservation Plan section of the Master Plan. We reviewed a letter from NH DOT regarding a proposed culvert replacement project at Whiting Brook on New Boston Rd/State Rt. 136, sending a response to their questions about conservation concerns related to the project.

The Commission continues to work with and support the Francestown Land Trust. Currently we are working with them on a series of monthly “ads” in the Francestown News on “celebrating special places”. These will begin in January of 2023. We hope these ads help promote awareness of and appreciation for the many conserved natural areas in our community.

An afterschool hike was held in the Crotched Mountain Town Forest. It was attended by 21 children and 10 adults. A Full Moon Hike was held in early spring at the property of Scot and Lisa Heath on Candlewood Hill Road. About 20 people attended the moonlit walk through the forest. Afterward, all were generously welcomed into the Heath’s home for refreshments. A story book for children was installed along the Quarry Loop trail adjacent to the Farrington road trailhead parking area for our “Read & Ramble” program. This is done in collaboration with the town’s library. Two Joan Hanchett Nature Series programs were held, one on coyotes and one on reptiles and amphibians. This program is a cooperative effort of the commission, library, Francestown Land Trust and Francestown News.

Every year we monitor our fee-owned conservation properties and town-held conservation easements, making sure there are no issues or problems and that uses are consistent with any grant or easement terms. Every few years properties protected through state or federal grant programs are inspected by someone from that agency to ensure compliance with the respective program. This year members met with representatives from the state Conservation Land Stewardship Program to walk the properties protected through the LCIP program (Hill and

Varnum easements/part of Crotched Mountain Town Forest.) Monitoring reports for LCIP and LCHIP grant properties were submitted to the appropriate state agency.

Trail work in the town forests and other town owned-conservation areas is an ongoing responsibility. We are grateful for the volunteers who help with the maintenance of our many miles of hiking trails – we couldn’t do it without their help! Trails in the Crotched Mountain, Lord, Shattuck Pond, and Driscoll Hill Town Forests, and Dinsmore Brook Conservation Area were clipped back, cleared, and trail markers and signs replaced or refreshed as needed. New signs were purchased for the trails in the Fisher Hill Town Forest and for the trailhead parking spot off East Road. We approved a new trail in the Fisher Hill Town Forest - this trail will provide a connection to a trail on the adjacent property without needing to use the state road.

Members continued looking into a multi-generational trail, determining that the best location for such a trail is a section of Bullard Hill Road (a non-maintained town road) off from Farrington Road. Parking for that location needs further consideration. An unauthorized trail through an important wildlife habitat area in the westerly section of the Crotched Mountain Town Forest was brushed-in and ‘closed’ signs posted.

We established a Watershed Study Sub-Committee to look into issues that impact water quality in our ponds and streams. Members include Kelly Marshall and Elizabeth Lavalley from the con com, Brad Howell (Scoby Pond Association) and Cathy Eby (Pleasant Pond Association). The sub-committee met several times, and are looking into programs available to the town related to watersheds and water quality protection. There are plans underway to do a spring presentation through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services on rain gardens and other techniques that may be used to help prevent water pollution.

Our natural resources are critically important to our health and well-being; for safe drinking water and clean air, for wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation, for places to grow forest products and food, and to help support our local economy. We look forward to continuing our work to help conserve and protect these resources. We thank you for your support.

CONSERVATION FUND REPORT

Beginning Balance	\$58,042.28
<u>Income</u>	
Land Use Change Tax (50%)	13.00
Interest	221.14
Composting supplies sold	203.00
<u>LCHIP Stewardship</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 937.14

Expenses

Trail expense/signs	333.00
Joan Hanchett Program	250.00
Total Expenses	\$ 583.00
Ending Balance	\$ 58,396.42

SCHEDULE OF TOWN CONSERVATION LANDS

TOWN FORESTS (total 1492.238 acres)

1) Shattuck Pond Town Forest (Curren/McDonnell, LWCF/LCHIP Grants)	417.3 acres
2) Crotched Mountain Town Forest (King, Merrill, Schultz, Hardwick, Tamposi, East Rd. lots, former fire tower site, and Northfield Mt. Herman)	948.428 acres
3) Driscoll Hill Town Forest (Bowman Tract - off Driscoll Hill Road -1989)	53.6 acres
4) Lord Town Forest (Ferson Road -1974)	27.91 acres
5) Piscataquog River Town Forest (Behind/beside transfer station -1984)	6.0 acres
6) Fisher Hill Lot Town Forest (former Wharton lot, Rt. 47-2007)	39 acres

OTHER TOWN-OWNED CONSERVATION LAND (636.34 acres)

1) Cilley I – donated by Clyde Cilley, deed restrictions	3 acres
2) Cilley II – donated by Clyde Cilley, deed restrictions	7 acres
3) Old County Rd N. (former Kampe lot, FLT easement)	23.72 acres
4) Old County Rd N. (Fisher Mill site, FLT easement)	2.46 acres
5) Dinsmore Brook Conservation Area (2007 & 2010, FLT easement, LCHIP grant)	302.7 acres
6) Piscataquog/Rand Brook Confluence (Stewart, 2010, FLT easement/ARM grant)	52.83 acres
7) Crotched Mountain (2011- SPNHF-old ski area)	234.63 acres
8) Journey's End Black Gum Swamp (FLT easement)	10 acres

CONSERVATION EASEMENT/DEED RESTRICTION (429.07 acres total)

1) Pleasant Pond/Piscataquog River-Hill (Off Pleasant Pond Road, donated by Ellen M. Hill)	144.9 acres
2) Piscataquog River - Varnum (Poor Farm and Todd Roads, donated by Harry & Connie Varnum)	45.6 acres
3) Piscataquog River - Dunscombe (South New Boston Road, donated by Karen Dunscombe)	22.63 acres
4) Whiting Brook - (Off route 136, donated by Anthony Davis)	25.26 acres

5) Humphreys (Dodge Hill Road, donated by Keith & Maris Humphreys)	12.3 acres
6) Bicknell/PWA (2006 - Russell Station Rd & Cressy Hill))	75 acres
7) Murray- Piscataquog River - (2006 Donated by Patricia Murray)	2.5 acres
8) Avery - (Cr. Mt., donated by Pam Avery 2008)	20.1 acres
9) Fracestown Land Trust/Connard - (2019 - Cross Rd. Deed Restriction)	12.88 acres
10) Fracestown Land Trust/Moulton – (New 2021 – Journey’s End Rd)	67.9 acres

EXECUTORY INTEREST (Secondary Easement Holder – 585.65 acres)

1) Jones - (FLT, New Boston Road)	56 acres
2) Howe - (FLT, donated 2006 Red House Road)	29.26 acres
3) Neilley - (FLT, donated 2010 Old County Rd S)	9 acres
4) A. Arnold - (FLT, donated 2010, Old County Rd N)	6.46 acres
5) Lord - (FLT, modified 2010)	9.72 acres
6) King- (SPNHF, 1989, Candlewood Hill)	61.1 acres
7) FLT/Turner - (SPNHF, 2008 Russell Station Rd.)	86 acres
8) Kingsbury Hill Farm - (2012, Candlewood Hill Rd)	59 acres
9) Brennan Falls - FLT/Schott (2014)	149.46 acres
10) Collins Brook Headwaters – FLT (2017)	99.65 acres
11) Clarkville Rd – FLT (New 2020)	20 acres

More information on natural resources and protected lands in Fracestown is available in the Natural Resource Inventory available on the Conservation Commission page of the town website at: <https://www.fracestownnh.org/conservation-commission/pages/natural-resources-inventory>

Heritage Museum
William McAuley

As always, we start the annual report with a thank you to all our supporters, from the citizenry as a whole, to our enthusiastic supporters who have provided us with exhibit items and monetary donations.

We continued to try out new ideas aimed at offering a variety of events designed to bring folks in to visit the Museum and its artifacts.

Some new events in 2022 included:

- A continuation of our partnering with the Fracestown Community Market by being open on Friday afternoons concurrent with the hours of the market. Our count indicates that this does increase our number of visitors substantially.

- Our monthly newsletter continues to be popular and we now have over 300 recipients each month. If you would like to receive your own free monthly edition please send your e-mail address to wfm03043@comcast.net. You will then receive this monthly offering via e-mail BCC. We see this form of media as a way to provide a glimpse into the scope of our exhibits as well as some historical information and insight along with occasional bits of whimsy. We try to cover a broad spectrum and this past year's articles have ranged from the old Bixby Hotel smoke chamber to sheep tunnels, making felt hats to fire towers and what's its.
- We again presented our program on the Second New Hampshire Turnpike, most recently for the Hollis Historical Society.
- We supported the Town's 250th Sestercentennial celebration. A town wide scavenger hunt was sponsored by the Sestercentennial committee.
- We worked with the Children's Library program, holding a scavenger hunt. Chocolate prizes went to the best "scavengers" who found the most specific items in the museum.
- Anyone interested in becoming an active guide at the museum is encouraged to send an e-mail to wfm03043@comcast.net and they will be contacted with details.

In 2023 we plan to continue our efforts to encourage our younger residents to visit the museum. We are still in the planning stage with the Bixby Library Children's Program to put together a program that will both educate and entertain our younger residents. The principal of the Francestown Elementary School has expressed an interest in our providing a tour or program for the elementary students.

As always, we are glad to provide private tours of the museum. Just send an email to wfm03043@comcast.net.

The curators of the Francestown Heritage Museum would like to thank the Board of Selectmen for their support and all the volunteers whose countless hours have contributed to the success of the Heritage Museum. We are proud to be a participating member of the Town Common Historic District.

Patriotic Purposes Committee
Scott Carbee, Chair

The Patriotic Purposes Committee is happy to report that in 2022 our normal activities resumed, after a 3 year Covid hiatus.

We were able to resume the Memorial Day observance with the Francestown Elementary School participating in a parade from FES to Cemetery #3. With the Francestown Color Guard and members of the American Legion Post #50 leading the way, the students, faculty, staff & parents marched down the road. The short service included the students leading the Pledge of Allegiance, patriotic songs by the students, a prayer, wreath presentation, students presenting flowers at

the base of the G.A.R. monument and Taps. Each participant was given a small American flag upon exiting the cemetery. Thanks go to the Frankestown Volunteer Fire Department for providing safety guards for the parade with the elementary school children.

Later, wreaths were also placed on the gate at Cemetery #2 and at the Memorial Rock by the O.M.H.

On November 11, 2022 at 11 AM sharp the Color Guard, American Legion Post #50 of Antrim, followed by dozens Veterans, several area scout troops with their leaders, 4-Hers, led the short parade from the Town Hall walkway, around the watering trough and scale, to stop in front of Memorial Park for a quick service, as many residents, young and older, assembled on the lawn. Len Holmes of Frankestown played Taps at the end of the service and once over, all walked to the Town Hall for a great Veterans Day luncheon. Thanks to the FES PTO and faculty for a wonderful luncheon and the many students who so graciously served and assisted all in attendance. The 'Quilt Angel', in cooperation with the Auxiliary to the Frankestown Fire Dept, again crafted an exquisite quilt to be won at an raffle for Veterans only. This year's winner was Steve Roy of Bennington, the Commander of the American Legion Post #50, Antrim. His winning was most fitting as Steve has participated in all the Frankestown services since their initiation many years ago!

Supervisors of the Checklist

Thomas P Anderson, Barbara J Carbee, and Michael J Tartalis

The year 2022 was a very busy one for the three elected Supervisors of the Checklist. We did a '30 Day Letter' session in mid-January, removing voters from the Checklist that had moved out of town and were no longer eligible to vote in Frankestown.

The Supervisors are mandated by State law to have certain sessions during the calendar year to register new voters and make additions/corrections to the Checklist. Although many voters choose to complete an application to vote through the Town Clerk's office, the Supervisors must meet prior to an election to enable new voters to register.

Mandatory sessions are held prior to School District meeting, the annual Town Meeting, Primary elections, General elections. This year we held five mandatory sessions reflecting the heavy schedule of elections held in 2022.

As we've had a great tum-over in real estate over the past couple of years, the number of voters registering in NH and Frankestown was high this year. Unlike other states, New Hampshire does allow for 'same day registration' for voters, provided the voter shows the necessary documentation needed for registration. If an applicant does not have the necessary documentation, he/she still may vote by completing a Qualified Voter Affidavit and having their photograph taken. The ballot clerks do note on the checklist that this affidavit was required, This information is sent to the Secretary of State's office for follow-up.

We have not had to use any Qualified Voter Affidavits as all voters have presented the necessary documentation, according to state law.

The tum-out for the November, 2022 election broke previous records for a very high number for voters, voting and those registering for the 1st time.

Town Historian
Priscilla Putnam Martin

Total Registered Voters – 1,214
Democrats – 333
Republicans – 403
Undeclared – 478

Permits
Building Permits – 26, Electrical – 39, Mechanical – 46,
Plumbing – 9, Septic – 5, Zoning/Demo – 12,
Solar – 12. Total 149

Grade	Public School Enrolment	Home School
K	6	3
1	8	1
2	13	3
3	10	3
4	8	3
5	11	2
6	7	5
7	14	6
8	7	2
9	20	4
10	17	2
11	12	1
12	9	4
Total	142	39

Fracestown Land Trust

Founded in 1986, the Fracestown Land Trust (FLT) is dedicated to protecting the agricultural, conservation and recreational value of critical natural land areas in Fracestown, New

Hampshire, and nearby environs. A registered 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, FLT can hold and monitor conservation easements, help negotiate land transfers, and, with public support, purchase sensitive properties. FLT is a completely volunteer organization that relies on private donations for its work and is separate from, but coordinates with, the town Conservation Commission.

Currently, the organization owns properties totaling 1,259 acres, including the Rand Brook Forest and Schott Brennan Falls Reserve. All land owned by FLT is open for public use. In addition, FLT holds conservation easements on 35 privately owned properties, helping to protect an additional 1,812 acres. With one Executory Interest, FLT helps to protect a total area of 3096 acres. Trail maps for the Rand Brook Forest, Schott Brennan Falls Reserve, Crotched Mountain, and Miller/Dinsmore Brook Conservation Area can be downloaded from francestownlandtrust.org. All land owned by FLT is open for public use.

In 2022 FLT acquired one 12.18-acre parcel of land with help from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental services as the property lies within the well head protection area of a public water system. The property lies across the street from Francestown Elementary School and offers educational opportunities along with protecting wildlife habitat and a public water supply.

During the COVID pandemic we have cut back on our public events but we were able to present a program on coyotes, with Chris Schadler, as part of the Joan Hanchett Nature Series in cooperation with the George Holmes Bixby Library, the Francestown Conservation Commission, and the Francestown News and a series of walks in Rand Brook Forest with Rosemary Conroy.

Welcome and Christmas Baskets

Lori Hardwick-Way, 603-554-7265 put together and delivered 35 Welcome Baskets and 15 Christmas Baskets, with the help of family and friends. Donations for these baskets are gratefully accepted. Lori needs your help, if you know of someone who has moved to town, please let her know.

Military

Navy – Lt. Commander Liam Delahanty
Army National Guard – Staff Sergeant Daniel Taylor
Army National Guard – Specialist Shauna Myers
Army – Spec 4 Meghan Hardwick

Francestown Improvement and Historical Society

In June Francestown celebrated its 250th birthday with FIHS opening the Beehive, providing support and volunteers for activities. Over the summer the Beehive was open every Friday afternoon with Priscilla Martin and Pam Avery as principal docents. Additional openings were by appointment. This year's Labor Day, under the leadership of Gabrielle Paige, was held despite rain showers with the annual assortment of activities, food booths, juried arts and crafts, entertainment, and bargain booths. The Parade theme was "It Happened in

Francestown". Despite the weather, attendance was good and the weekend long festival raised over \$12,000 for FIHS. This year's annual meeting was once again held outside on November 12th on FIHS Park with twenty-two members in attendance. FIHS continued to sponsor flowers around the Town Common and the Police Station, U.S. flags on utility poles, the annual lighting of the Christmas Tree, and seasonal decorations on both private and public buildings. FIHS donated a new fir tree as a future replacement for the current Christmas tree. Finally, a bench was placed outside the Beehive in memory of long-time member and Labor Day aide extraordinaire. The Society currently has two-hundred members.

250th Celebration Soldiers

Many thanks to those who marched in the parade. I hope I didn't leave anyone out. Bob Carey, Paul St. Cyr, Joe Ludwig, George Whipple, Bart Hardwick, Kenny Wheeler, James Putnam, Dale Daigneault, Donnie Abbott, Michael Bedard, Jackie Curran, Herb Vadney, Bill McNeil, Dick Moody of New Boston on horseback. Revolutionary War re-enactors.

Old Meeting House

The past year has been another successful one for the Old Meetinghouse of Francestown, which continued to serve as both a cultural anchor and a beautiful visual representation of our community. A combination of continuing and returning program events served well both the people of town and the wider regional community.

The building itself did not require any major projects this year. A new high-tech oil tank was installed in the spring; no other building systems required attention. Cosmetically, the front of the building was painted, starting a systematic "one side at a time" approach to keeping up with exterior maintenance. The wood floor of the foyer and steps going up to the main room were refinished in late summer with an excellent job by Jen Noonan and Heirloom Painting.

On the music front, the summer "Sundays at 4" concert series built on the success of the prior year, offering a variety of musical styles each week during July and August (one event moved to September due to its July date having a dangerous heat index), featuring a mix of returning acts and newcomers. Performers included those with connections to Francestown and the region as well as those from further afield, and provided a summer of country, jazz, Americana, singer/songwriter, and "American Songbook" stylists. Electric Earth Concerts put on an additional summer show featuring a world-renowned violinist. The OMH Holiday Concert, which had been a fixture of years past and returned in 2021, continued this past December with wonderful performances by both the ConVal High School Select Choir and the Boston-based Renaissance Men vocal group.

Beginning with the December Holiday Concert and moving forward with the upcoming "Sundays at 4" series, the Old Meetinghouse Board has decided to offer free admission to OMH programs in order to better serve the people of this community and share in the experience of this beautiful structure. This decision was made possible through significant individual donations. The Board is examining ways to continue this policy in the future, both via a

“Program Fund” donation option on our annual membership appeal and possibly through sponsorship by local businesses.

The spring “Tour de Francestown” bike ride, which attracted over 100 registrants, returned this year after a COVID-induced absence. Unlike the prior road ride, it switched to a “gravel grinder,” which took adventurous riders on either a 25- or 50-mile loop along dirt and Class VI roads in Francestown, Greenfield, and Deering. Several riders indicated that this was one of the favorite rides they had done, due in great part to the tremendous job done by Melissa and Ed Dishong, who employed their experience and expertise to connect us with an online registration portal, plan and mark the routes, and provide us with sound advice. We could not have done it without them, and look forward to this event’s continuation and growth.

The Old Meetinghouse featured prominently in Labor Day activities. We provided the venue for the full house at the FIHS’s wonderfully creative and entertaining “Vespers” performance based on the parade’s theme, “It Happened in Francestown.” As in the past, the OMH also had ice cream treats available, but given the chilly and rainy weather this year, these were not as popular as they had been.

On the last day of 2022, we were also the setting for a wedding, the first in several years. Lorrie Deyelle and Bruno Mailhot of the Blue Bear Inn tied the knot with their families and friends. We wish them all the happiness in the world, and thank them for bringing weddings back to the building! Hopefully we can host more of them in the years ahead.

We also express our thanks to the people of Francestown for their support in the form of program attendance, donations, memberships, and appreciative comments. Specific thanks go to Ed and Melissa Dishong, Jen Noonan, Larry Kullgren, the Police and Fire Departments for their assistance, and in particular Rick and Steven Miller for always being there when we need them.

Finally, we want to recognize the contributions to our organization made by David Luther. After serving the last three years as President out of six years total on the Board, he decided to step down on January 1. Under his leadership, the summer concert series has become the successful program it is, the Holiday Concerts and Tour de Francestown have resumed, the building is in great shape, and the organization’s finances are solid. It is in no small part due to his vision, direction, organization, and attention to detail that the Old Meetinghouse has become, in the words of a Town resident after a concert last year, “a center of culture in Francestown.”

Francestown Academy Corporation

The Patrons and Proprietors of the Francestown Academy Corporation held their annual meeting on October 11 in the Academy Building, now known as the Town Hall. Randy Wheeler and Eleanor Kiblin have resigned from the Corporation after serving for many years and Lisa Stewart has been elected to join. Only two scholarship applications were received in 2022; both were awarded scholarships. The Academy also made donations to the Library and the Heritage Museum.

The Academy Corporation currently offers scholarship awards to Francestown youths who have completed one year of post-secondary education. Since 1929, when the Academy ceased providing education directly, the Corporation has provided more than \$100,000 in scholarship aid to hundreds of Francestown students. Applications are available by contacting the Academy at Post Office Box 57 in Francestown and are due back by September 1st each year.

Turnpike Trails

Turnpike Trails is a conservation and recreation initiative started in 2019 to protect a key “green corridor” off Route 47 in Francestown, generally sitting centrally among existing Crotched Mountain, Shattuck Pond, and Dinsmore Brook conserved lands. A key objective of this project is to develop a recreational trail system, oriented toward mountain biking but also suitable for walking, that will be available to the public as well as serve to connect these large conserved areas. A second objective is to protect and document the unique history of these properties in and around the discontinued portion of the 2nd NH Turnpike in Francestown, properties that in the late 1800s all belonged to Thomas E Fisher, a prominent early town resident. The project is a partnership involving the town Conservation Commission, the Francestown Land Trust, and Jim & Cindy St. Jean.

In 2022, the project reached a critical milestone with over 7 miles of trails completed. These involved hundreds of hours of hard work including three group trails days and many local volunteers as well as mountain bikers from Francestown and surrounding towns. In 2022, the following new trails were created: *Little Deuce Coupe, Bumpy Ride, Runnin Down a Dream, Little Red Corvette, Drivers Seat, 92 Subaru, Chasing Cars, and Road to Nowhere*. Most trail names are songs that follow a transportation or car theme in honor of the old turnpike. The plan is to complete at least 9 miles of trails before summer 2023 at which time an official launch event is anticipated. To learn more, get involved or browse the latest trail map visit www.turnpiketrails.org

Francestown Garden Club

The garden club had a quiet year. The only application from the community for garden club expenditures were for maintenance of the triangle garden. We were successful in fundraising at the labor day garden club. This money went to FIHS. The garden club is always looking for people to come forward with plans to beautify our lovely town.

Final Notes

The best part of being our historian is the wonderful people I get to meet.

Pam Avery helped keep the Beehive open during the hours that the Community Market and Heritage Museum were open. Other times the Beehive was open by appointment. Maybe if more FIHS members knew how rewarding it is to help folks, more would volunteer to help.

Ben Cook and I will be working on a program for children that includes genealogy

Mark Day came from Little Rock, Arkansas to look for his Dickey ancestors grave stone, which we found in Cemetery #2. He wants to have the stone cleaned.

Geoffrey Avery Clark came from Florida for the 250th Celebration. He used to work for The Golden Quill Press.

Bill and Deb Stewart came here after Bill read the article regarding Sylvester Roper in the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript. He is writing a book about New Hampshire gunmakers.

Kelse Petersen, Leadership Giving-American Ancestors-New England Historic Genealogical Society came to Francestown to search for her Holt, Dolliver and Wilson ancestors. Bart Hardwick and Charlie Pyle met her as well as Bill McAuley. Kelse was very impressed with Francestown. We took a walk up Main Street. She came back for a second visit and will be returning this year. I have a new friend as well as finding out our genealogical connection.

Patricia "Pat" Ostler McCarthy visited the Beehive on Labor Day. She explained her relationship to the Beehive. Over the years many folks have thought of it as a crumbling wreck, but to members of her family it was a "safe house." Family was always welcomed when they were in need, Pat was there as a newborn in 1945, her father was serving in the military, her mother Trudy was Esther Foote Smith's sister. Another day Pat came to my house, we looked over a box of papers and pictures that Heather Ayers had donated to FIHS after the the sale of the Beehive. Another new friend.

Some have said that the 250th Scavenger History Hunt was too hard. It was supposed to be challenging, but not impossible to find the answers. "Study and keen observation," that was the key. Deb, Bev and I were available to give hints, very few seekers asked as the deadline approached.

Does anyone remember the stencils in the Gibson Tavern? What room were they in? No one who works there now has heard about or seen them. An author is trying to find out more information about them. Does anyone know of or have stencils or murals that were done by Rufus Porter or Moses Eaton?

Obituaries

Elizabeth "Betsy" Keasbey Plummer Wiederhold
1 August 1928 – 4 January 2022 (93)

Patricia Anne (Pat) Place
6 July 1928 – 10 January 2022 (93)

Jeanne M. Tartalis
10 September – 23 January 2022 (83)

Sandra Louise Giza
24 April 1944 – 23 January 2022 (77)

Toby Reed Taylor
9 February 1959 – 2 February 2022 (63)

Pauline Marguerite Tower (101)
About 1921 – 19 March 2022

Warren Howard Kiblin
13 February 1960 – 25 March 2022 (62)

Elsie Elaine Mikula
28 April 1931 – 1 May 2022 (91)

Abigail Arnold
12 July 1944 – 26 May 2022 (77)

Shirley L Jones
30 August 1929 – 1 June 2022 (92)

Aaron James Williams (27)
11 February 1995 – 4 June 2022

Clarence E Paige
30 August 1934 – 7 June 2022 (87)

Barbara Scribner
-19 July 2022

Esther Moss Proctor
1924 – 5 September 2022

Caroline C Nord
-20 September 2022

Ronald E Baptiste
31 May 1938 – 14 October 2022 (84)

Raymond N Capes, Jr.
24 December 1934 – 3 December 2022 (86)

Other citizens passed away in 2023. They not listed here at their families request. It is confusing as to who should be listed as some families have posted obituaries.