

Report from page 8

Our new air-based heat pumps are typically three to four times as efficient as conventional heating and air conditioning and are designed to heat at full efficiency down to the frigid temperatures we get in New Hampshire. The Town used a hybrid approach, installing five heating/cooling pumps and keeping the oil burner for extra cold days and power outages.

The system cost was less than \$10,000, taking into account a further efficiency rebate from NHEC, and the system should pay for itself in seven to nine years and save \$1,000 per year for the Town after that.

In the meantime, Town Office staff report that they are far more comfortable in cold weather and hot. You can visit and see for yourself: the heat pumps are whisper-quiet, inside and out.

Finally, solar was added to generate electricity equal to the amount the building will now consume after improvements.

For the Town Offices, to minimize up-front cash outlay and to maximize the use of incentives, including tax incentives, the Town opted for a financing arrangement, called a Power Purchase Agreement, with the ability to buy the system at a steeply discounted price after the sixth year of operation. The bottom line for the Town Offices is that the price of electricity will now be locked in at a low cost for many years to come, with the Town expected to save, under conservative assumptions, \$50,000 over the 25+ year life of the panels.

Town Office

Residents and others interested in our town can look forward to a new municipal Web site. The Town has contracted with Virtual Towns and Schools, a company used by many New Hampshire towns and cities. A representative met with the Select Board to present their product and showed us several of their Web sites for towns in our area. We will receive a better product, better service, and better security for a lower cost than we currently have.

A new metal roof was installed on the building, which was our biggest maintenance expense. The interior of the building was repainted with some help from the Merrimack County Jail Work Program.

In the Andover Library section of the building, the emergency exit in the children's room needed to be replaced, and extensive rotting was discovered in the sill, which was also repaired. A leak was discovered in the foundation near the front entrance which required excavation work to repair it.

Still to be done is a new handicap ramp for the library, replacement of the main door to the Town Offices, and a window in the record room for Planning and Zoning.

Because the funds for building maintenance were depleted due to the amount of work done in 2017, the Select Board will be asking the town to vote

on increasing funds available for maintenance both in the operating budget and in the CRF.

A new full-time position has been created by consolidating work in several departments. The Police Department Administrative Assistant, the Zoning Enforcement Administrator, the Planning and Zoning Coordinator, and the Recording Secretary for the Select Board will be rolled into one position. The interconnection and cross-referencing from one job to another will increase efficiency and communication.

Transfer Station

The Select Board conducted a "dump sticker" check this summer. We found that most folks indeed had stickers, but at least 15 did not, and we found a few who had come in from out of town.

We also found that some residents are using one sticker for more than one vehicle. These stickers, which presently cost \$5 for the lifetime of the vehicle, pay for some of the maintenance costs at the Transfer Station and the Town Beach. The buildings in both areas are aging and need repairs, and the beach needs new sand (with New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services approval).

Therefore, the Select Board is requiring, beginning May 1, a \$2.50 charge on each passenger vehicle and truck registration annually. The Transfer Station/Beach sticker will be good for one vehicle for one year and will be paid for at the time of your annual vehicle registration.

Costs for disposal of construction and demolition debris and other recyclables are going up. Residents can expect to see these disposal fees increasing to cover the costs.

The tipping fee for solid waste remains stable at \$68 per ton. Glass, which is collected separately, costs the town \$30 per ton for disposal, and we encourage everyone to separate glass from their garbage. It saves the Town money, and keeping glass out of the incinerator in Penacook helps it burn more efficiently.

We enjoyed a low cost for single-stream recycling (SSR) most of the year at \$42 per ton. The SSR market, however, remains volatile, and the cost has more than doubled for January, 2018. This is mostly due to China banning the import of recyclables. There are other markets, including India, Southeast Asia, and domestic markets, that could take these materials, so it's a waiting game to see what will happen in the months to come. The current costs for solid waste and recycling are posted at the Transfer Station office window near the hopper.

As always, the Select Board appreciates all of the people who volunteer and/or participate in town affairs, whether it's coming to Town Meeting, donating time or materials, picking up roadside trash after the winter snows have gone, contacting us to let us know how we're doing, or being thoughtful and caring citizens in your own way. We all do our best to make this town one we can be proud of.



Events Calendar

February 1

First Thursday Hike at the Fells: 11 AM, www.TheFells.org

February 3

Danbury Winter Farmers Market: Blazing Star Grange, Danbury, 9 AM–1 PM, www.BlazingStarGrange.org

Recent Discoveries About our Solar System: 1:30 PM at Hopkington Town Library, Contoocook, www.LittleNature-Museum.org

February 4

New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell: 2 PM Wilmot Historical Society, at WCA Red Barn, Wilmot, www.WilmothHistoricalSociety.org

February 6

Meet Steve Marchand, Candidate for governor: 5:30 to 7 PM at the Salisbury Town Hall.

February 9

LRGHealthcare Red Dress Gala: Church Landing, Meredith, philanthropy@lrg.org, (603) 527-7063

Valentine's Day Happy Hour: 3:30–6:30 PM at South Danbury Church, Danbury

February 10

Murder Mystery Dessert Theater: 7 p.m. at Franklin Opera House

Open Mic Night with Kathy Lowe: 6 PM Performers sign up, 7 PM Show begins, Whipple Hall, New London.

Proctor Academy Ski Area Celebration: 3:30–8:30 PM, RSVP to events@proctoracademy.org, (603) 735-6215

February 15

Star Wars LEGO Challenge: 4 to 8 PM at Batchelder Library

February 16

Andrew Merzi at Andover Coffeehouse: 7 PM at the Grange Hall in East Andover, andover-coffeehouse.org

February 17

Freeway Revival Concert: at Stone Hearth Bar at Ragged Mountain Ski Resort

Kindness and Cruelty, Willa Cather in Jaffery: A new musical, 7 PM at Whipple Hall, New London, www.CenterForTheArtsNH.org

Danbury Winter Farmers Market: Blazing Star Grange, Danbury, 9 AM–1 PM, www.BlazingStarGrange.org

February 27

Story Hour and Snowman STEM Challenge: 10:30 AM at Batchelder Library

Out and About at the Fells: 11 AM, www.TheFells.org

March 1

First Thursday Hike at the Fells: 11 AM, www.TheFells.org

March 2

Colby-Sawyer Dance Company: 7 PM at Whipple Hall

March 4

John Hodgson talk and book signing: 12:30 PM at Portsmouth Music Hall, www.Black-HeritageTrailNH.org

March 10

Kearsarge Conservatory of Performing Arts: 7 PM at Whipple Hall, New London, www.CenterForTheArtsNH.org

March 16

Cougar program at the Fells: 7 PM, www.TheFells.org

March 17

Tracking Animals Hike at the Fells: 9 AM, www.TheFells.org

March 24

Revels Spring Sing: 7 PM at Whipple Hall, New London, www.CenterForTheArtsNH.org

March 27

Out and About at the Fells: 11 AM, www.TheFells.org

Life Long Care
A Family Medical Practice - Pediatrics to Geriatrics A Medical Home

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