

⌘ CEMETERY REPORT ⌘

Once again 2004 was a busy year at the cemetery with 93 burials as of December 1, 2004. As always we did our best to help and assist bereaved families during this most difficult time. This has always been and remains our top priority. We make it a point to try and get to know these people on a personal level. We do this in the hope that they will feel comfortable coming to us when they have questions, concerns or when they just feel the need to have someone to talk with.

As far as maintaining our cemeteries, we do the best we can. Unfortunately, with the budget being what it is we are unable to give all the care we would like. Of the twenty largest cemeteries in the State, Hampton remains the only one operating on a budget of less than \$100,000 a year. This has been the case for the past nine years. We are also the only cemetery our size that has only one full time employee. Do we take pride in this? Yes, but as the Town grows larger, unfortunately so must the cemetery.

I would like to thank all of our part-time staff. Without their hard work and unselfish dedication none of what we are able to accomplish would be possible. On behalf of all we wish everyone a happy and healthy 2005.

*A man hears what he wants to hear
and disregards the rest. - Paul Simon*

Respectfully submitted
Danny J. Kenney
Cemetery Director



The Town Seal

The seal of the Town of Hampton is on every Town Report, and is often seen by residents, but few know its history. In 1934, as a result of action by the General Court, New Hampshire's legislative body, all previous Town Charters were revoked, and new Charters were drawn by towns throughout the State with many communities adopting or re-adopting seals and flags. Hampton was about to celebrate its 300 year anniversary in 1938, and the town Selectmen authorized a seal, which was designed and drawn by Hazel Leavitt Smith.

The circular seal says "Town of Hampton, N.H." around the inside top, and around the inside bottom of the circle: "Settled 1638, Incorporated 1639."

In the center of the circle is a shield with three rosettes. This shield with rosettes was taken from the seal of South Hampton, England and represents, for our Hampton, the fact that the early forbears came from South Hampton, England. Resting on top of the shield is the Hampton Academy. The Hampton Academy School is in the seal to commemorate the fact that Hampton established a free school system only two years after the first public school was established in America. On March 21, 1649, John Legat was hired to teach "both male and female. . . to read and write and cast accounts." Education played a large part in the life of Hampton's early settlers.

To the left of the center is a representation of Great Boar's Head, which is shown on many early maps of the coast. Opposite, on the other side of the shield, is shown the marsh and the haycocks with their supportive frames which were called staddles. The farming of hay on the marsh is Hampton's oldest industry. The Hampton River winds through the marsh. Below the shield, across the lower part of the seal is the work "Winnacunnet" on a scroll. The name Winnacunnet means "Beautiful Place of the Pines" and was the Indian name for the area. The original name for Hampton was Winnacunnet Plantations. (John M. Holman)

⌘ CONSERVATION COMMISSION ⌘

Being a member of the Conservation Commission certainly has not been a boring experience this year. We have been a very busy group. The Commission has reviewed approximately 32 special permit applications for the Planning Board for work within the Town Wetlands Conservation District and 19 Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit Applications for the State Wetlands Bureau. We have also signed off on too many demolition permits to count. As a Commission we investigated numerous wetlands violations which included outright filling of wetlands to small infractions which were immediately corrected. The Commission would like to thank the building department for keeping on top of the wetland laws and asking for our input with projects. We have been trying to work through the violations with the land owners and our town Attorney and many of the violations are in the process of being corrected without court action. Our goal is to keep the public informed about the need to protect the wetlands and how best to utilize their property without damaging the fragile wetland environment.

In addition to our Monthly duties we have also been working diligently with the Town Manager and the Trust for Public Land to finalize the project with the Hurd family to purchase the development rights to the Hurd Dairy Farm. We are also in process of finalizing the purchase of a piece of property off of Barbour Road which will connect to the Town Conservation Land at Whites Lane. We have been actively looking for more land around the 12 Shares area to increase the protection of this area in town.

The Commission has been working together with the Town of Hampton Falls on a grant from the State to determine if there are any areas of the Taylor River watershed which meet the State criteria for Prime Wetlands. This grant will be finalized before the first of the year and a second grant has been secured to finish Prime Wetlands delineation for the rest of both Communities in 2005. The first grant was matched almost entirely with volunteer hours from the members of the Conservation Commission.

The State of New Hampshire Wetlands Bureau is doing a study in the Salt Marsh near Mill Pond to determine the effectiveness of several different methods of *Phragmites* control. *Phragmites* is the tall plant with a frilly head which grows at the edges of wetlands where there is not a free flow of salt water; it is an invasive species which forces out native plants and animal habitat and can be a fire hazard. For the most part, it grows where man has somehow impeded the flow of the water by building roads, houses, etc. We are very anxious to see the results of their study to determine the best way to approach the problem of *Phragmites* in the town. We have also contracted with the Rockingham County Conservation District to study our salt marshes and develop a Salt Marsh Restoration Prioritization List. This list will allow us to come to Town Meeting next year with a project in mind and a set cost.

This year was an excellent one for both the Elm tree project and the Victory Garden and we would like to thank Bonnie Thimble who has headed up both of these projects for longer than she likes to admit. Bonnie works tirelessly at the Victory Garden on a daily basis from the time the ground thaws in the spring until the beds are put to sleep for the winter. The Town owes her a deep thanks for her commitment. The victory garden is maintained entirely with volunteers and the Commission would like to thank every one of the numerous people who have worked so hard to keep the Victory Garden going throughout the year. There are 40 gardens and all are full. To be added to the waiting list you may contact Bonnie or call the Conservation number at Town Hall.

Bonnie is also responsible for the 6 Elm trees which were planted throughout the town in 2000. These trees are all healthy and doing well. The trees are American Liberty Elm's, a disease resistant species and were provided by a grant from the Elm Research Institute. They are located at Eaton Park, the playground near the ball fields at Tuck Field, Marston School, Centre School, The park at Five Corners and the park at Locke Road and Winnacunnet Rd.

As a commission we would also like to thank our Secretary, Sue Launi, for her tireless work. We would like to thank the Townspeople for their continued commitment to the environment and open space in the Town of Hampton. If you have any questions for the Commission please leave a message on our answering machine at Town Hall 929-5808.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ellen Goethel (Chairman), Peter Tilton, Jr., Bonnie Thimble, Daniel Gangai, Dr. Ralph Falk, Jay Diener, Charlie Preston, Peter McKinnon (alt), Fred Palazzolo (alt), Heather Day (alt), Nathan Page (alt), Sue Launi (Secretary)

The Hurd Farm



Bonnie Thimble and Vivianne Marcotte inspecting the Elm Tree at the Marston School



❧REPORT OF THE HERITAGE COMMISSION❧

The Heritage Commission, appointed by the Selectmen, is charged to address the proper recognition, use, and protection of historical and cultural resources, both natural and man-made. As part of this process, the Commission reviews all applications for demolition permits in Hampton and requires documentation of the buildings to be removed. In 2004 the Commission reviewed fifteen applications. One of the applications was for an eighteenth-century barn at 234 Lafayette Road. The Commission felt that this building was too important to the heritage of the town to be destroyed and worked with the Historical Society and the new owners of the property to save the building. In the end, the barn was disassembled by a crew of volunteers led by Chet Riley and will be re-erected on the Green at the Historical Society.

In its role as advisors to the Planning Board, the Commission was represented on the Future Land Use Subcommittee of the Board. We were able to have some input on some of the areas in the town which are of considerable historical and cultural interest. The Commission also cooperated with the Rockingham Planning Commission in their effort to create a driving tour of several towns with historical sites marked. The brochure for the American Independence Byway was published this year.

In 2005 the Commission plans to expand its survey of significant resources in the town and to increase the recognition of cultural and historical sites by a publication or a web site.



Volunteers disassembled the barn at 234 Lafayette Road and will re-erect it on the Green at the Tuck Museum.

Members:

Elizabeth Aykroyd, Chairman
Bonnie McMahon, Secretary
Cliff Pratt, Selectmen's Representative
Patrick Collins
Maryanne McAden
Fred Rice
Roger Syphers
June Bean, Alternate
Hollis Blake, Alternate
Daniel Nersesian, Alternate
Richard Reniere, Alternate
Arleen Andreozzi, Town Clerk
Bonnie Thimble, Liaison with the Conservation Commission

⌘ HAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY ⌘

The Hampton Historical Society is a non-profit volunteer organization whose mission is to promote and honor the history and heritage of the Town of Hampton, NH and its founders and inhabitants; and to preserve such history for future generations. Along with this mission HHS owns and operates the Tuck Museum complex, which includes buildings housing the Fire Museum, Early Industry, a one room school house, and the main museum building which has artifacts from Hampton and the Seacoast from our earliest days to the present. The museum is open year round on Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons from 1 – 4 pm. We also open by appointment as necessary. We are funded through membership dues and private donations.

HHS offers many programs throughout the year, which are open to the public, school programs, scouts and other group programs. People interested in genealogy and other types of research, or just an interesting visit are also welcome! If you are looking for something specific or just in general, please call or stop in and we would be happy to help you.

The Society was quite busy this year. We updated the museum's look with new exhibits, fresh paint, new lighting, and an interior ramp from the lower level to the upper level, just to name a few things. To go along with this new look, we also installed two new bathrooms and a new heat and air conditioning system to make the Tuck Museum more "user friendly". We had two Eagle Scout Candidates, Chris Larivee and Jonathan Coulp-Yu, from Troop 177 complete projects updating the Fire Museum inside and out. This was quite an undertaking for these two young men, who enlisted volunteer help from their troop members and adults in the community. All of the changes made to the museum and grounds will make it easier and more comfortable for the public to come and enjoy a bit of Hampton history!

In June we acquired a barn that originated c.1795 from the property at 234 Lafayette Road. The barn was dismantled and the pieces moved to the Tuck Museum grounds. This took a major effort of volunteer time, as well as donation of equipment and money. It is our fervent hope that we will be able to rebuild the barn in 2005. To do this will mean we must raise funds of approximately \$60,000. We encourage the community to donate to this cause. Upon completion of the barn being raised we will use the building for exhibit space, community programs, and events.

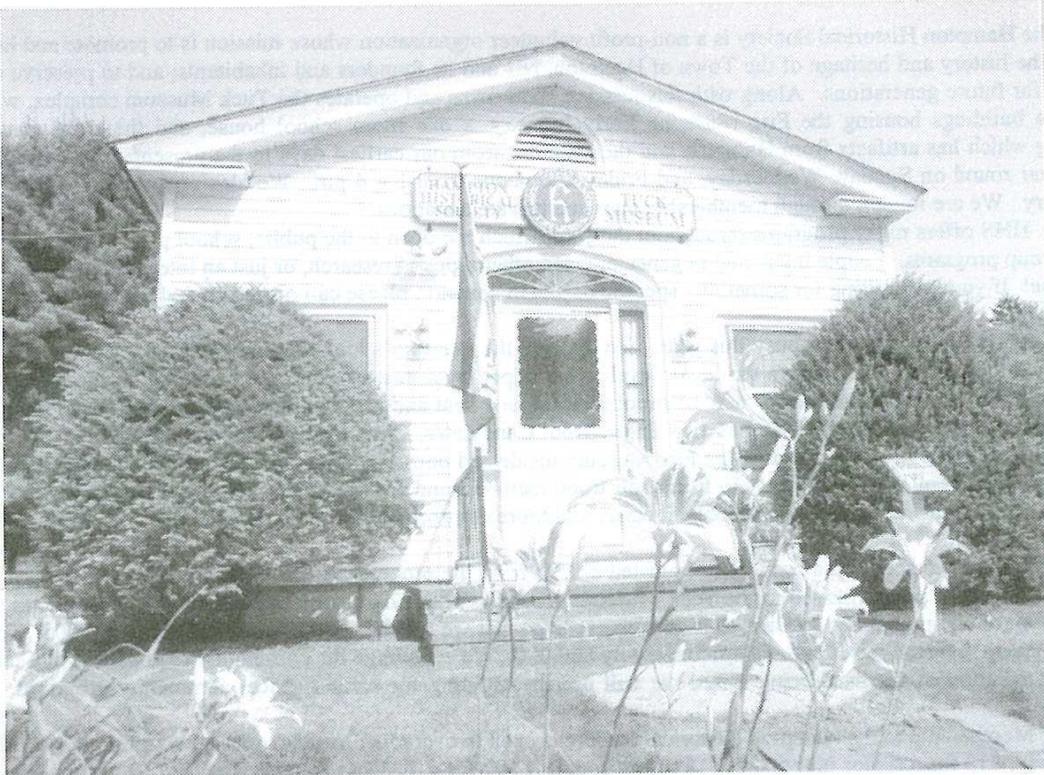
Membership to the Hampton Historical Society is open to everyone. Annual dues are \$15 for an individual, \$25 family, \$10 for a senior individual, \$15 senior couple, \$100 for a business membership, and \$250 for a lifetime membership. Please visit our website at www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org. The Tuck Museum is located at 40 Park Avenue, and our mailing address is P.O. Box 1601, Hampton, NH 03843-1601. Our phone number is (603) 929-0781. We hope to see you there!

Respectfully,
Sammi Moe, President



Residents of all ages enjoy the museum!

The Tuck Museum is a treasure for our residents and visitors, inside and out! The Town of Hampton appreciates all of the efforts of the Hampton Historical Society.



⌘ LANE MEMORIAL LIBRARY ⌘

2004 was the year of THE FLOOD. January 15, 2004 will be long remembered as the day the cleaning service found broken pipes flooding the Children's Room during one of the coldest spells of the winter. Two separate overhead heating units, independent of each other and for different reasons, had pipes burst on the same night. Thanks to the incredibly quick response of the Fire Department who shut off the water, it was not as bad as it might have been. It truly was a fortuitous disaster.

From the calamity, we ended up with a better than ever Children's Room. The entire Children's Room collection and furniture was crowded into the meeting room and area libraries opened their doors and their collections to Hampton's children. An inventory was done to find out what had to be replaced and residents opened their personal collections to help fill the void caused when wet books had to be discarded. Because the carpeting downstairs was all installed at the same time in 1985, we were able to replace the entire downstairs floor with a mildew resistant carpet, something long needed. The Children's Room was painted a bright cheery yellow. The Friends of the Library donated primary color seating to coordinate with the new carpet. The Circulation Desk was replaced, as was some shelving and computer tables. Many volunteers freely gave of their time to help move the books and equipment back into the room and the Children's Room reopened for business in March.

During 2004 the Lane Memorial Library continued a busy year, circulating 175,769 items, in over 138,604 visits by residents and visitors to the library. We loaned 986 items out to other NH libraries and borrowed 538 items for Hampton residents. We registered 1,125 new patrons. Computer use hit a new high with 28,285 uses.

Adult Services noticed the correlation between extreme cold weather and lower circulation last winter. Jeanne Gamage's programming throughout the year included a monthly book discussion group, a writing group, a diabetes support group, two programs in collaboration with the Hampton Historical Society on Celia Thaxter and the Isles of Shoals, outreach programs at the Dearborn House, and a movie series. Through a local connection we were able to host Dr. Eric White, Bridwell Library Curator at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, for a well attended talk on the historical art perspective of Dan Brown's *DaVinci Code*. Staff Barbara Chapman, Sandra Kent, Elli Cyr, Claudia Cyrus, and Mary Twomey were assisted in the summer by Diane Karpman, our seasonal library aide, in dealing with over 3,000 plus customers each summer month. During the year we partnered, at no cost, with AARP in a program that has AARP paying minimum wage to adults moving back into the work force. Beverly Parker, our first participant, has participated in weeding and other bibliographic tasks that assist people to have access to the resources they need for recreation and life long learning.

Children's Services coped magnificently with the flood and aftermath. Cindy Stosse, Joanne Mulready and Shelby Edwards worked long, hard, uncomfortable hours in the crowded Wheaton Lane Room from January into March, inventorying and assessing the flood damaged books and finding replacements, either through ordering new copies, finding gently used copies, or from the generosity of patrons who donated their own books to replenish the collection. They were ably assisted by the Mormon Elders who volunteer regularly in the Children's Room and who mustered a team of local elders to assist in painting the room. The summer reading program, Check Out a Hero, was popular and included heroes from animal rescue, the State Police, and local heroes. Scholastic Book Fairs, managed by Joanne Mulready, earned new books for the Children's Room and provided parents and relatives with an inexpensive way to encourage their children's love of books. The excitement about the annual Polar Express party was helped with all the publicity for the debut of the Tom Hanks movie. The staff looks forward to an uneventful and hopefully warmer winter.

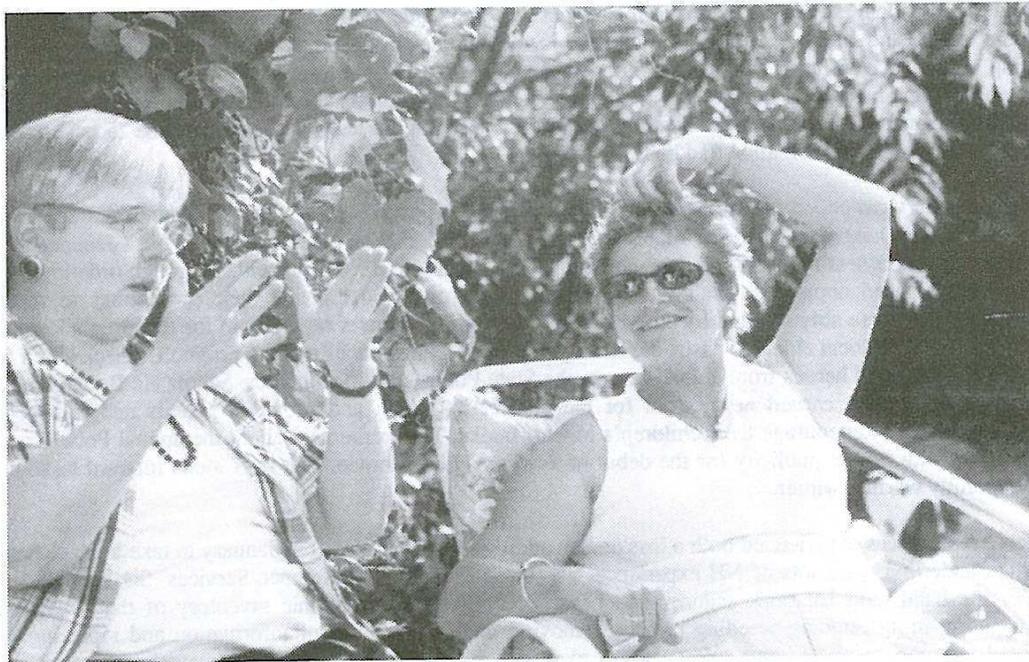
Reference Services experienced both a loss and an addition. Stan Olson left in January to take a job closer to home. Marija Sanderling, with lots of NH experience, was hired as Head of Reference Services. She quickly learned the use of the hand held bar code scanner and began a long needed electronic inventory of the collection. She is participating in an ongoing weeding project, removing outdated sources of information and replacing them with updated and more accurate items. You can find examples of Marija's expertise in the many brochures she assembles for patrons, from how the electoral college works to how to help prevent the spread of flu. Alice Alford continues to add her expertise to the Reference Department and oversees the acquisition of all of the newspapers and magazines.

Technical Services with Bill Teschek and Jean Keefe continued maintaining and upgrading the library's computers, improving the library website and cataloging all the new materials. We changed our Internet Service Provider in March to G4 Communications. The website has been revamped and made more accessible to the public. Bill added a public hub for people bringing in their laptops and it has seen up to three people at a time working from it. Computer use broke new records in June, a month earlier than the usual records. The Lane Memorial Library's web site was listed as one of the top thirteen genealogical web sites in the United States, being included with sites such as the Genealogical Society of Utah – Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Library of Congress!

The Friends of the Library have truly established themselves as a working support for the library this year. They volunteered many hours in getting the Children's Room back to functioning, as well as buying furniture to replace what was destroyed in the flood. They held a book and bake sale and inaugurated a wreath sale at the holidays. Their popular book bags sold out and a new stock is now in. They're close to achieving their 501C3 status after hours of paperwork and membership keeps growing. Thank you everyone!

Trustees Report The Lane Memorial Library Board of Trustees is very grateful to the community this year for the support they showed in the wake of the flood in the Children's Room. Board members Lenore Patton, Sara Casassa, Judy Geller, May Lou O'Connor, Barbara Rallis, and alternates Dot Gooby and May Lou Heran all worked with the Friends of the Library in their fundraising book sales and bake sales. The trustees continue to move forward with plans for a library renovation based on a survey of the needs of the community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Catherine Redden,
Director



Library Director, Catherine Redden enjoys sharing information about Hampton with Australian visitors on a Parks and Recreation Group Study Exchange.

⌘LEASED LAND REAL ESTATE COMMISSION⌘

During 2004, the Commission met five times to consider the approval of the sale of five residential lots at the beach that were leased by the Town for private use. The five approved sales at fair market value were:

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|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 12 M Street | 5,000 sq. ft. | Business Seasonal Zoning | \$110,000 |
| 173 Kings Highway | 4,968 sq. ft. | Residence A Zoning | \$173,000 |
| 23 M Street | 5,000 sq. ft. | Business Seasonal Zoning | \$117,000 |
| 6 James Street | 5,000 sq. ft. | Residence A Zoning | \$269,000 |
| 11 Epping Avenue | 5,000 sq. ft. | Residence B Zoning | \$161,500 |

Those sales were completed and the \$830,500 proceeds were transferred to the Real Estate Trust Fund managed by the Town Trustees. The investment income from that trust reduces the property tax rate each year.

In 1982 the Town voted to sell about 700 lots of traditional leased land. The initial incentive was a sales price of thirty percent of fair market value (it is now sold at 100 percent of fair market value per a subsequent vote of Town Meeting). Currently, there are only 41 of those lots in the sales program which continue to be Town-leased (fifteen in the original direct-lease area and twenty-six in the former H.B.I.C. 99-year lease area from A Street south to Q Street).

The Commission, established under a law passed by the State Legislature in 1983 at the request of the 1982 Town Meeting (and amended in Concord during 2003 without a Town Meeting request or ratification) has a number of duties in the sales program. Included are: implementing and monitoring the program; adjudicating such matters as boundary disputes and duration of leases. None of those latter responsibilities were petitioned to the Commission in 2004 (as of December 12).

The Commission appreciates the staff support of the Deputy Assessor, Angela Boucher.

Glyn P. Eastman, Chairman
Arthur J. Moody, Clerk
Raymond E. Alie
Hollis W. Blake
John F. Woodburn

⌘MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION⌘

The year 2004 saw the resignation of long-time commission member and chairman John Skumin. We were sorry to see John go, and wish to publicly acknowledge and thank him for his many years of service to the Town. Just before John resigned, he signed a contract with a new pest control service: Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc., which has had some very positive results for the Town of Hampton.

In August, 2003, when the contractor then doing the mosquito control for the Town submitted a proposal of \$103,970 (an increase of \$11,420 over the 2003 budget), Chairman Skumin and the Commission felt it was time to investigate other contractors. The figure given by Dragon Mosquito Control was \$95,500, and they were hired. Sarah MacGregor, the owner of Dragon, has a degree in entomology from UNH, 24 years of mosquito control experience, and was employed by the University as an assistant extension entomologist where she wrote the NH State Pesticide Applicator Training Manual for mosquitoes and black flies.

In the spirit of "doing more for less", Dragon has certainly done its part. More than 80 mosquito breeding sites have been treated throughout the summer with over 7000 pounds of VectoBac, approximately 2000 catch basins were treated as a preventive measure, and 64 hours were spent spraying the adult mosquitoes. With money still left in the budget, the Commission authorized the building of 100 more Greenhead traps, which should please those people living and/or working near the marshes. Total spent in 2004 was \$89,813, versus the 2003 expenditure of \$92,550.

Complaints from residents have been fewer this year, but one of the big issues is always the treatment of "private" roads. The Commission has adopted the policy that if rubbish is picked up by the DPW on such a road, it is permissible for the adulticide spray truck to also treat that area. However, some of those areas are too close to open water, such as a river or the ocean, and therefore cannot be sprayed.

The 2004 Town Meeting approved a Warrant Article for the purpose of continuing marsh restoration to reduce the numbers of salt-marsh mosquitoes. Further investigation has shown that the State is doing much of that restoration, using different methods in an attempt to determine which works best. With that in mind, the Commission felt it best to wait for the results of the State's work before submitting a request for proposals on any work that we may want done.

Please feel free to contact any of the members of the Commission with any questions or concerns that you may have regarding Mosquito Control. Also, if you do not want your property sprayed, please notify, in writing, Dragon Mosquito Control Inc., P O Box 46, Stratham, NH, 03885, so they can update their records.

Respectfully,

Ann Kaiser, Chairman
Russ Bernstein
Richard Reniere



The Taylor River (Photo by James S. Barrington)