



Sullivan Community Newsletter

Vol. 33 No. 4

Sullivan, NH

January – February 2014

PREPARATIONS FOR TOWN ELECTIONS 2014

TOWN OFFICES OPEN FOR ELECTION

Town Election Day is March 11 and as always several town offices are up for election in 2014. They are: Selectman – 3 years; Moderator – 2 years; Town Clerk/Tax Collector – 3 years; Supervisor of the Checklist – 6 years; Trustee of Trust Funds – 3 years; Trustee of Cemeteries – 3 years; Library Trustee – 3 years; Overseer of the Poor – 1 year.

You must file with the town clerk to be put on the ballot. The filing period is between January 22 and January 31. Cost is \$1.

There are also **many positions available by appointment**. They include the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Energy Committee and the Fire Dept. Please consider getting involved in your community.

If you would like more information on any of these positions, speak to Mary Hull, Town Clerk.

OPENINGS AVAILABLE ON SCHOOL BOARD

If you are thinking of running for the School Board this year there are two positions opening up. These positions require that you to file with the town clerk to be put on the ballot. The time to file is between January 22nd and January 31st. Cost is \$1.00 per position.

SUPERVISORS OF CHECKLIST

The Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session at the Town Hall on Tuesday, January 21 from 7 – 7:30 pm. This will be for new registrations, change in party and additions & corrections. Checklists are posted inside and outside the Town Hall as well as outside at the Fire Station if you would like to view your party. You may also register on Election Day but not at the Town or School Meeting.

WINTER HIKE

Saturday, February 22. Explore on snowshoes or on bare ground this beautiful land in Gilsum newly gifted to the Monadnock Conservancy by the Calhoun family. The trail begins near White Brook and climbs modestly to Porcupine Falls. Although the waterfall will not be as impressive until there is significant snow melt, the terrain, which rises and falls, offers good opportunities to see wildlife tracks. At 9:30 a.m., meet leaders Roger and Ann Sweet and Rick Brackett on Route 10 at the parking lot of **Bear Den's Natural Area**. From there we will car pool to the end of White Brook Road to begin the hike. Bring snow shoes (if needed) and a lunch for a moderately strenuous outing that will end before 2 p.m. **If snow is likely to make parking at Bear's Den difficult, call Roger Sweet @847-3463 for information on where to meet.** The hike is jointly sponsored by the Harris Center for Conservation Education and the Monadnock Conservancy.

Deadline for March Newsletter articles is Feb. 15 because of the March Town Meeting & Elections. Mark your calendars and please try to get items in on time.

“LIBRARY FOOTNOTES”

Happy winter! I hope everyone is enjoying the change of seasons. We're fortunate to live in a place where each of the seasons brings such dramatic changes.

Have you received a new **eReader** as a holiday gift? Congratulations! The library belongs to a consortium and your library card allows you to borrow eBooks and audio books from home 24/7. Our [web page](#) has helpful links to get you started. Log in at [NH Downloadable Books](#) using Sullivan Public Library and your card number with a prefix. If you don't know that information, call 847-3458 or e-mail spl@ci.sullivan.nh.us the library and I will be happy to look it up for you. New eBooks and audiobooks are added weekly. If you don't follow the library on [Facebook](#), you can keep up with these new additions at the [NH Downloadable Books Blog](#).

The **Friends of the Library** usually meet the first Thursday of the month at 7:15. They do not meet in January; the next meeting will be February 6. This is when the Friends usually plan their activities for the coming year. New members are always welcome and there are no dues or membership fees, just other people like you who want to support the library.

The **Library Trustees** meet the second Thursday of the month at 7. This meeting is open to the public and you are invited to attend. The next meetings are scheduled for January 9 and February 13.

Peter and Jeanne Jeffries of the Walpole Historical Society have been conducting **genealogy workshops** for us this past year. The next one is scheduled for Monday, January 27, 2-4 p.m. The Jeffries are experienced researchers and are able to help people at all stages of their research, from beginners to more experienced searchers. They will show you how to fill out pedigree charts, family group records, etc. They encourage people to do this so they can share their family heritage with their grandchildren.

The **Third Thursday Book Group** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. Members take turns selecting titles and the group has discussed a variety of fiction and non-fiction works. Copies are available to borrow from the library and when available, in different formats. This is a public group and all are welcome to join us monthly or when a particular book catches your interest. There are always enough copies available for those who are interested in the book but who are unable to attend the group. Just ask the librarian. On January 16, we will discuss *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. Copies are available in audio and print formats; this title is also available at [NH Downloadable Books](#) in audio format.

The library will be closed February 17 in observance of President's Day.

Every now and again I come across a thought provoking library related article. The Pew Research Group released a study called [How Americans Value Public Libraries in Their Communities](#) on December 11, 2013. What do you think about the findings? Come in and discuss them sometime.

I'd like to thank the following people for their recent gifts of books, gently used DVD's and magazines, money and time: Becky Cummings, Cliff Dempster, Gail Hummel, Nancy Jakway, Dorothy Miles, Mary Parker, Stephen Parker, Chris and Gaynelle Pratt and Ginny Yawarski. Thank you to every one of you who make this such a nice community in which to work.

I wish you all the best in 2014.

Denise McFarland

Librarian

Public Notice

The Sullivan Public Library Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meetings on January 9, February 13 and March 13, 2014 at 7 PM at the library. The purpose of the meetings will be to formally receive any donations, hear reports and conduct any business related to the administration of the library. As always, the public is welcome.

From the Archives

by Chris Pratt

One of our regular readers suggested that I write a Christmas story for this issue. I have resisted the notion. Firstly, there aren't many Christmas stories associated with our town. In the 18th & 19th centuries, our solidly Congregationalist community would have considered our modern celebrations to be completely against scripture and unreligious. By the 20th century, Christmas had become something celebrated among families and close friends except for shopping, school pageants and church caroling. These are interesting, but not the stuff of good stories. Secondly, I really don't like Christmas stories. They are always too saccharine and completely devoid of reality. As the sickie-sweet narrative progresses, I find myself cheering for the Grinch, Scrooge, and Old Man Potter. Still, there is one Sullivan story.

Robert Carpenter was born in Marlow. In 1946, he married Pearl Wiswall whose roots were deep in our town—especially on her mother's side. They rented the old store which was across the street from her parent's house on Valley Road. The store had been constructed in the 1920s. When Jack Hammond bought the business in 1931, he built the "new" store (now the Little Country Store) when the state highway was shifted to its current location. The old store was converted into a cozy 5 room house. There the Carpenters settled in and soon had a daughter who was named Kandace.

On the day after Christmas, 1951, the Carpenter family left their house and went to Keene. Not long after they left, Jack Hammond noticed smoke pouring out of the house. He sounded the alarm and neighbors rushed to the scene to save what they could. They managed to save what was in the garage, but upon opening the door to the house they realized that the fire had progressed too far. Only the family dog and some cats were saved. The fire department arrived, but the hose plugged up with ice. The Keene pumper arrived, but by then the house was fully engulfed. The firefighters turned to making sure the buildings across the street didn't catch fire as well. The Carpenter's house burned to the ground. They lost their furniture, clothing and all of the Christmas toys. They moved across the street to Pearl's parent's house.

Two days later Kandace was in the barn helping her grandfather with his chores. She looked up to find Santa Claus standing in the driveway. It was no delusion on the part of a five-year-old. It really was Santa; and he and his helpers brought toys, new dresses, boots and overcoats—replacing her losses many times over. Two *Keene Sentinel* reporters, touched by the story of the fire, had canvassed local merchants in Keene to see if they would donate items to "save a little girl's Christmas." The stores had responded overwhelmingly.

The average Christmas story would stop at this point. The generosity of strangers came through to save Christmas again—roll the credits. However, I believe that this story does not stop here.

Kandace Carpenter, of course, grew up. I'm sure that many of the toys were gradually discarded or given away. I am certain that she outgrew the clothes and boots. She went on to high school where she participated in sports, several clubs, the student council and the school newspaper. She was active in the Sullivan Church where she taught Sunday school and sang in the choir. She graduated with honors and won several scholarships. In 1966, she graduated with an R.N. from Mary Hitchcock Memorial School of Nursing. Nursing is one of those professions where a person must show compassion and kindness for others. It's the sort of thing where people give every day and not just once—and not just in response to a single tragedy.

Undoubtedly, there were many influences on Kandace's choice of careers, but perhaps the seed was planted on that December day. Now, you can roll the credits.

SULLIVAN SEW & SEWS

The Sullivan quilting group invites you to join them for anything you might like to do: learn to quilt, sew or knit, work on clothing alterations, work on a craft or just visit. Sewing machines are always available. They meet Mondays from 6:30 pm to 8 pm in the lower level of the Sullivan Church (entrance at rear). In case of inclement weather, it could be called off. Call Mary Hull at 847-9718 or see her at the town hall with any questions you might have. It really is fun!

**NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN...
Police Department Options**

On Tuesday, December 17th, eighteen brave townspeople battled the weather to join the Board of Selectmen for a discussion on police options.

Chairman Gary Patnode began the discussion by explaining the Selectmen had received the resignation of longtime Chief Karl Wheeler in September. Finding the Town with no certified police official, the Selectmen entered into a short-term agreement with the Cheshire County Sheriff's Department to provide interim services. This period of time allowed the Selectmen to develop a list of options, identify what services the Town needs, estimate costs and take public comment.

The Chairman then explained the following four options and provided pros and cons for each:

OPTION #1 - Contract with Cheshire County Sheriff's Dept.

Services to be provided: Patrol, criminal investigations, pistol permits, prosecution, special events and associated administrative services Monday - Friday, 8 am to 4 pm, and occasional evenings, on average of 17.5 hours per week.

Cost: \$35,000 annually (maximum)

OPTION #2 - Contract with the Town of Nelson (if agreement can be reached with Nelson)

Services to be provided: Patrol, criminal investigation, assist with prosecution, pistol permits and associated administrative services, on average 8 hours per week (includes callout costs, mileage, gas, legal, phone)

Cost: \$42,672 annual estimated minimal cost

OPTION #3 – Reactivate Sullivan Police Department

Services to be provided: all inclusive

Cost:	\$43,920	(operating budget)
	<u>2,909</u>	(insurances)
Total:	\$46,829	
	<u>5,000</u>	(presumes capital reserve)
Grand Total:	\$51,829	

OPTION #4 –Utilize the State Police

Some municipalities pay other communities to perform minor administrative services, like pistol permits and then utilize the State Police for emergencies. Some communities rely solely on the State Police for all services.

Cost: unknown but estimated to be \$5,000 annually (includes phone, insurance, as needed services and possible vehicle storage)

Good questions and comments were received from those present. Following a straw poll, the most favorable option was contracting with the Cheshire County Sheriff's Department for the coming calendar year.

The Board of Selectmen, in the midst of formulating the Town's 2014 operating budget, will consider the options at their December 23rd meeting and will include funding for one of the options.

FROM THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Hunting and Fishing Licenses:

Due to the changes at the NH Fish & Game Department, we will no longer be selling hunting and fishing licenses. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Don't forget your furry friends:

As of January 1, you will be able to renew your dog's license. Why wait for the last minute and those nasty letters we have to send you in May. Let's get that favorite family member legal right from day one. Show them you care!
Town Clerk - Mary Hull

PREVIEW OF BALLOT QUESTIONS FOR MARCH TOWN MEETING

At the request of the Board of Selectmen, the Sullivan Planning Board has worked with the selectmen's representatives to the planning board to clarify the language in several parts of the **Community Planning Ordinance** which have seemed inconsistent or inadequate. The following is a listing of the proposed changes with reasons given for those changes. The planning board carefully considered these changes at three of its recent meetings and at the December 19 public hearing.

The planning board offers them as an opportunity for voters to consider them before voting. The proposed changes will also be reprinted (without reasons but as they will appear on the ballot) in the March issue of the newsletter. A copy of the Community Planning Ordinance can be read on the town's website:

<http://ci.sullivan.nh.us/> .

Proposed changes to the Sullivan Community Planning Ordinance

1. Article III, A, 5, Use Application, refers to a seasonal dwelling unit as a permitted use. Add the following definition to Section XI, Definitions.

Seasonal Dwelling Unit: Any structure intended for shelter or housing, meant for casual and intermittent occupancy (not greater than nine (9) consecutive months); not the principal place of abode for owner, tenant or occupant. Any seasonal dwelling may be converted to a permanent dwelling unit provided that local and State sewage disposal regulations and all other local regulations are met. Applicants should also consult Article III. C for the property dimensions, setbacks, and density requirement; and Article V. A for building permit requirements.

Reason: Housekeeping. Seasonal dwelling units are permitted uses, just like dwelling units but the Section XI of the CPO does not include a definition. The language following the first sentence is similar to what is already used in the section pertaining to "Additional Dwelling Units". Article V, Building Permits, A, When Required, **amend as follows:**

2. Article V., Building Permits, A, When Required, **amend as follows:**

A building permit shall be required for all dwelling units, seasonal or permanent. A building permit shall also be required to erect or place any type of building or other structure which will be over 700 square feet.

Reason: Housekeeping. Present language is often misinterpreted by applicants and administration. It has been suggested by the Town's legal representative that simplification of the language would help clarify the Town's regulation.

3. Article V., Building Permits, F, Temporary Permits (last sentence), **amend as follows:**

The temporary permit may be renewed by the Board of Selectmen or their agents for additional incremental periods if the applicant demonstrates satisfactory progress toward compliance.

Reason: Housekeeping. Present language could be interpreted that subsequent temporary permits can only be granted in increments of six (6) months even though that may not be necessary. This amended language allows selectmen some flexibility in cases where a 6 month extension is not necessary or warranted. The initial temporary permit life remains at six (6) months and only amends the time frame for extensions.

4. Article V, Building Permits, **add "I" Expiration**

Building Permits expire one (1) year from the date of issuance. If construction is not complete within the stated time frame, a temporary permit may be applied for. In cases where building permits have expired and no temporary permit has been given, it will be necessary to reapply.

Reason: New. This language promotes the timely completion of building projects while allowing for extensions where necessary

5. Article V, Building Permits. **Amend B.8 to read:**

Proposed location of the well, septic system or alternative waste disposal system.

Reason: Expand present requirement. This additional language allows for installation of an approved alternative waste disposal system

5. Article V, Building Permits, **add to "E", Issuance of a Building Permit**

Building permits are valid only to the owner at the time the permit is issued: the permit is not transferable.

Reason: New. This language would prohibit a building permit from passing from one owner to another owner. (Add to page 4)

6. Article V, Building Permits, **add to “H”, Revocation of a Permit**

(for example): violation of setbacks)

Reason: Housekeeping. This language provides an example of when a permit revocation may be necessary.

7. Article XI, Definitions, **replace the definition of dwelling units as follows:**

A building or part thereof designed for residential occupancy providing complete independent living facilities for one or more persons that includes permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.

Reason: Housekeeping. Expands and clarifies definition of a dwelling unit and utilizes language from State law, RSA 153)

8. **Article V. J. New Section, Occupancy Permits – New Construction**

Before any newly constructed dwelling or structure intended for human habitation can be occupied or utilized, an occupancy permit shall be approved by the Board of Selectmen or their designee. The occupancy permit is not to be construed as an expressed or implied legal warranty that the applicant has complied with all applicable requirements of building codes. Its purpose is to confirm safe and adequate disposal of sewage, well installation, minimum setbacks, driveway and apron installation meet the town’s regulation.

Reason: New. This language assists in ensuring adequate, basic systems are in place and functioning before occupancy. There have been instances where individuals have constructed and occupied dwellings without proper installation of a septic system or other alternate waste disposal system and the process to address these inadequacies can be long and expensive. This language is intended to prevent pollution of public and private water supplies and to promote a safe environment.

SCHOOL NEWS

NELSON SCHOOL:

- Jan. 10 Progress Reports sent home to students in grades 3-6
- Jan. 20 No School in observance of Martin Luther King
- Jan 24 No School, teacher workshop day in SAU 29
- Jan. 29 Winter Concert at Town Hall in Nelson, time to be determined
- Feb. 7 Early Release Day
- Week of Feb. 17 Children's Stage Adventures Theatre Residency
- Feb. 21 Children's Stage Adventures performance at KHS, time to be determined

SCHOOL BOARD:

On the 18th the school board met and we had one parent attend to ask questions. We wanted to thank that person for participating and for speaking with us during our meeting and invite all of you to address your concerns, comments or questions at our next meeting Jan. 15, 2014 in the lower town hall at 6:30 pm or through a survey you will be receiving from us next month.

The school board, combined with KMS, KHS, MRHS, Gilsum and Nelson Elementary all benefit from your input so we wanted to give you an opportunity to provide it. We look forward to hearing your responses.

We also wanted to share that we will begin to create the school district budget for next year in January. When comparing apples to apples (district and SAU costs), the education costs again appear to be less next year than they were when we were a part of the Monadnock District. What you are going to see this year is the effect of the withdrawal costs to Monadnock. The district clerk, Mary Hull alongside the school board, treasurer, budget committee and business manager for the district have worked very hard to reduce costs for the Sullivan School District. One of the things we have all put great effort into recently to reduce tax impact is going after a surplus

MRSD is receiving that Sullivan should also receive from MRSD. The amount is substantial and believe it or not, it does help buffer tax impact.

We also obtained a loan to pay MRSD for the school facility so that we wouldn't have to raise taxes to pay for the building all at once. We are reducing the price again to sell the building and continuing efforts to find a suitable buyer. If you know of anyone, please encourage them to speak with George Foskett of BHG Masiello Group to make an offer. The district, supported by the Sullivan budget committee, is open to offers-of course. The building will remain protected against freezing this winter so as to preserve its integrity.

ATTENTION: All families with children in the Sullivan District can help, YES HELP reduce costs to Sullivan from Keene and Nelson. HOW? By completing and submitting the form recently sent to you to see if you can qualify the school to receive money for qualifying students for free/reduced lunch. It is anonymous and the board, nor anyone other than yourself will know who applied and who qualified for free and reduced school lunches. THE STUDENTS don't even have to eat the free/reduced school lunch if they don't want it BUT the schools will receive a substantial amount of money, thereby aiding in reducing costs to tuitions. PLEASE LOOK THIS FORM OVER AND SEND IT TO KEENE FOOD SERVICES, 77 ARCH ST. KEENE 03431 even if you don't think you qualify. If you have not received this form, contact school board clerk, Mary Hull. We all have concerns over taxes and this is a little you can all do to try and help.

If you plan to move out of town the school board needs to know your new address. Please let our clerk, Mary Hull at the town hall, or school board chair, Stephanie Kleine (209-4151) know of your change as you move out.

You can find monthly updates on school district information on Facebook by joining us under "Sullivan School District" or by reading the minutes posted on the town website. <http://ci.sullivan.nh.us/>

Does anybody have bookkeeping experience? We may be looking for some help on a monthly basis. Please email stephaniejacques@masiello.com with your contact info' along with your experience and interest.

We look forward to seeing you at town meeting in 2014. If you have further questions, please email me at this address.

For the School Board,
Stephanie Jacques

YogaWeekend to Benefit Hospice at HCS

YogaDay is expanding to YogaWeekend in 2014. The two day event is set for Saturday, January 25 and Sunday, January 26. YogaWeekend is an opportunity for those new to yoga, as well as the more experienced student, to try a variety of yoga styles first-hand instructed by many local instructors. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. each day. Classes will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the last class will start at 3:00 p.m.

Massage and Reiki will be available throughout each day. Breakfast and lunch are sponsored by the Works Bakery and Café. A raffle with many items donated from area businesses will be available both days.

All classes, massage, Reiki and breakfast & lunch are by donation, with proceeds benefiting Hospice at HCS, the non-profit hospice serving Sullivan and surrounding communities. Hospice at HCS provides end of life care to people at home, in assisted living facilities and in long term care facilities in southwestern New Hampshire.

YogaWeekend 2014 will be held at Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services, 312 Marlboro Street in Keene. Marquee sponsors of YogaWeekend are Markem Imaje, Keene Sentinel and Monadnock Radio Group. For more information call HCS at 352-2253 or register on line at HCSservices.org.

SULLIVAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NEWS

The Sullivan Church is continuing its search for a new pastor and we invite you to join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for worship services. We welcome folks from any faith background and are currently hosting many new guest ministers as we are in a time of change. New people are always welcome and what a good way to meet Sullivan neighbors.

Guest pastors for January & February:

Jan. 5 – Revs. Eric & Sara Marean
Jan. 12 – Revs. Eric & Sara Marean
Jan. 19 – Lay Service with John Hoffman
Jan. 26 – Rev. Don Hashem
Feb. 2 – Steve Toegel & Chester
Feb. 9 – Revs. Eric & Sara Marean
Feb. 16 – Rev. Don Hashem
Feb. 23 - Open

Worship services are being held in Friendship Hall during the winter months.

SULLIVAN FOOD PANTRY

We extend our appreciation to all who contributed to our local food pantry in 2013 – your donations of food items have helped greatly.

The food pantry is an on-going effort by those who attend the Sullivan Church and interested residents. Baskets of non-perishable food are given out to folks in need throughout the year on a timely basis. If you know of any family or anyone in need, please call Barbara Livengood (352-7449) or Libby Beede (847-3269). Donations can also be left at the Town Hall or Library.

Thank you to all who have been helping us support this!

SULLIVAN WEBSITES

<http://ci.sullivan.nh.us/>

Be sure to check out the **Sullivan web page** for coming events, department and School District minutes, times of meetings, town & School District officers and how to contact them as well as much more. Keep informed!

The **Sullivan Newsletter is also on line** via a link on the Sullivan web page. Don't want to type in the websites mentioned in the newsletter? Go to the town website, then newsletter and just click on them.

FACEBOOK FOR SULLIVAN

Memories of Sullivan? Join a group of all ages who are participating in the "I'm from Sullivan and I Remember" page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ImFromSullivan/> Unfortunately, Facebook recently changed their rules and you now have to be a member of Facebook to participate or even read it.

The library is on Facebook. Librarian, Denise McFarland has created a wonderful Facebook page with all sorts of information about the library as well as many interesting tidbits in general.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sullivan-Public-Library/77424404019>

Sullivan School District has a Facebook page to keep you informed about many things that are happening at the schools the Sullivan students attend and school board meeting information.

<https://www.facebook.com/SullivanSchoolDistrict>

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SULLIVAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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Deacon – Libby Beede 847-3269
Church rentals - Chip & Kathy Woodbury 357-3445

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NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The Sullivan Newsletter is published 6 times a year. It is mailed free of charge to Sullivan residents and interested landowners/taxpayers. Subscriptions are \$5 a year for non-taxpayers. Classifieds are \$10 a year, \$2.50 per issue or \$45 per page. Mail to PO Box 110; Sullivan, NH 03445 or drop it off at the town hall with town clerk Mary Hull or administrative assistant.

Deadline for the next newsletter is 15 February. News items may be left in the Sullivan Library Book Box, mailed to PO Box 110 Sullivan 03445 (labeled Newsletter) or e-mailed (preferred method) to: bcummings@myfairpoint.net.

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SULLIVAN NEWSLETTER

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