

## More Letters

### Heaton Supports Peterman Candidacy

To the editor:

I am writing in support of Marilyn Peterman's candidacy for Selectmen for the Town of Amherst. I served as a Selectman with Marilyn for six years and gained a great respect for her integrity and honest desire to serve the citizens of Amherst. She is not afraid to tell you how she feels and at the same time listen to other points of view. If elected she will bring back an open dialog of the important issues facing the town and work hard to resolve them in the best interest of our citizens.

Bob Heaton  
Amherst

### Supporting Brew for Selectman

To the editor:

As a member of the Amherst Town Recreation Commission, I have worked with Dwight Brew on several occasions - both in his role as the Chairman of the Amherst School Board and also as school board liaison to the recreation commission. On every occasion, Dwight has looked to see what was in the best interest of Amherst, and then worked diligently to make it happen.

When approached about a potential partnership between the Town of Amherst and the Amherst School District to place playing fields on the Bean Property, Dwight immediately saw that this was a win-win situation for everyone. Dwight got the approval from the school board, made sure that all of the legal requirements were satisfied to protect our interests, and then made sure that everything was in place for the town and schools to work together to complete this project on time and under budget.

I also had the pleasure to work with Dwight on the Recreation Lease Agreement between the Town of Amherst, the Amherst School District and the Souhegan School District. Dwight clearly understands that if you are on a school board, a selectman, or are on any other Amherst board or commission, you need to understand and meet the needs of all Amherst citizens. We came out with an agreement that all parties are happy with and that maximizes the availability of all of our fields for both school and town use.

I am supporting Dwight for Selectman because we need leaders like Dwight.

Dana Redmond  
Amherst

### Support Souhegan Valley Rides, Article #43

To the editor:

Voting "Yes" on Article #43 on March 9th will add \$1.50 to your Town of Amherst car registration fee. This will allow Amherst residents to continue being served by a low cost, door-to-door, wheel-chair-accessible bus system now available to residents of Amherst, Brookline, Hollis and Milford. The bus serves destinations within these towns and downtown Nashua for non-emergency medical and other transportation needs. About 1,500 rides have been provided by this service since its inception in October of 2008, and utilization is expected to grow 40% this year.

The knee-jerk reaction of many will be, "What? Another tax? Shouldn't some charity provide this service?" The Board of Selectmen and the Town Ways and Means Committee recommended a "no" vote. Why? Do they think Amherst residents and Amherst destinations should not be a part of this regional network?

My response is this: We don't have to look for "some charity." Our community is charitable in many ways, and should be in this. For the elderly or handicapped, those in a wheel chair or who do not drive, this bus service means independence for essential transportation needs. Aren't those who can afford to put a car on the road willing to pay \$1.50 a year to help provide a minimal level of transportation for those who do not have it? Other funding models are possible, such as paying Amherst's share of this service out of Town property taxes. But this vehicle-related fee seems fair and quite painless to me.

Please join me in voting "Yes" on Article #43.

John G. David  
Amherst

### 9.8% Spending Increase. Where Do I Start?

To the editor:

On the ballot is a \$15 million road bond but we have seen no published plan. We have a 2 page list of roads needing repair, but no information on what will happen, when it will happen or when it will be done. Oh yes, we have the Road Surface Management Plan. I've seen it. It is a list of roads and a catalog of what happens when you do things to them like ditching, chip sealing, crack sealing, etc. It does not say Mack Hill Road will be torn up, the base material taken out and replaced and the road repaved and this will happen in year 2 of the plan. Anybody who knows road building will tell you that the mud under Mack Hill will still be mud. Mack Hill will heave and crack like it always has. That's the nature of mud underpinnings.

There is also an article asking for \$2.25 million for open space, but you don't get a say in how the money is spent. Remember the Martin land? We were told the Town must purchase now because the developers were lined up to carve up this last pristine piece. We could buy it for just \$1.9 million if we hurried. When the sentiment turned against that the seller came back with an alternative \$1.3 million for the land, but hurry or we'll be forced to sell to the developers. Here we are a year later and the land is still for sale. One could point to the future home of what has become known as "The Wet Rock Elementary School." The same story was told about the desirability of this piece and the need to hurry before the developers snapped it up. On that one the voters bit and we are still stuck with the property at the intersection of 101 and Baboosic Lake Road. It has done nothing but cost us money and lawsuits.

\$625,000 for the Brewster land for playing fields? The neighbor says it's a good place to fish in the spring; 4 feet of water and the horn pout are biting. Maybe we should put that money towards fixing the roads? Or maybe we should simply stop overpaying for pieces of land.

A new scale at the dump? Let's think this one through. Why a new scale? Because in the planning for the new layout someone forgot that water ran down hill where it would drain into the hole under the scale. This sounds a lot like the salt shed where someone forgot the need for site preparation and foundation before construction could begin. The scale exists to make the citizens of Amherst pay to dispose of demolition material. How about this? Anyone who applies for a building permit must show they have rented a dumpster prior to receiving the permit. Other visits are at no charge, providing the vehicle has a dump sticker. If the employees think there is abuse they can report it and a follow up visit could occur.

Where to end? I don't know. I know there are good things in the spending like the Capital Reserve funds for Fire and EMS, and I applaud them and the planning that goes into them. I also know I didn't get an extra 9.8% in my pay envelope. As one Selectman said at the beginning of this process, "I know times are tough, but the people will just have to bite the bullet on this." Great! Pass the ammunition because I'm all out.

Tedd Landon  
Amherst

### Rowe Is Candidate for ZBA

To the editor:

I ask for you to support my candidacy as an elected member of the Amherst Zoning Board of Adjustment. The Zoning Board of Adjustment is an important element in New Hampshire town government. It is a judicial body, established by state law, with the sole function of providing citizens who have a dispute with town zoning or administrative appeals a means for a local hearing and resolution. This function saves citizens the time and expense of litigating their disputes in New Hampshire Superior Court. I feel that my background as a retired attorney and former judge qualifies me for the post. In the past as a member of the board and as vice-chair I believe I have acted properly under the law and with the courtesy and respect that our citizens are due.

Please, may I have your vote this March.

Thank you,  
Robert H. Rowe  
Amherst

### Lucienne Foulks Is Write-In Candidate for School Board

To the editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting. My name is Lucienne Foulks and I am a write-in candidate for an uncontested seat on the Amherst School board. I have lived in Amherst for 30 years and am a product of the Amherst School System. I grew up in this town and for many reasons, most importantly the school system, my husband and I chose Amherst as the town to raise our children. For as long as I have lived here, the one constant has been the dedication of the citizens of Amherst to providing our children with the best education possible. Amherst has enjoyed a long standing reputation for recognizing the value of education and finding the best way to achieve that level of excellence. I believe that now more than ever before, continuing this quest for excellence is absolutely essential. Times are hard and we are all feeling the tightening of our wallets. There are things that we must sacrifice while we wait for better times to come. Education for our children can never be on that itemized list of things to be compromised until easier days return.

We, as a community of concerned and caring parents and citizens, have our work cut out for us. I believe in the potential of our schools and our students. In times of financial difficulty, it calls for the 3 C's...creativity, commitment and common sense. I don't believe that achieving and maintaining a high quality of education translates into irresponsible or superfluous spending. Giving our children an education that they can be proud of is not an unreasonable expectation. When times are tough, we don't abandon the goal. We just try harder and we make sure that we put people in places where they can be the most effective.

I have an M.Ed in counseling from the University of NH and have held a license in guidance counseling for ten years. I have worked within and alongside our schools over the past ten years as a counseling intern, special ed. associate, parent and volunteer. I have many years of experience working on both sides of the education equation and I believe that I have something to offer. I have children ranging in age from 6 years to 14 years and I am also a taxpayer. It is in my own best interest as well as yours to provide our children with every opportunity to develop their highest potentials as learners without completely emptying our pockets. I have high expectations for our schools and the educators within them and I believe that we can achieve this excellence with the partnership and commitment of all of our citizens. I don't believe in making promises that sound good but don't have a plan and I don't believe in telling people what they want to hear.

The bottom line is that our schools need the support of the taxpayers. It is in all of our best interests to have a quality school district. I won't pretend that I have all the answers, but I will commit myself to learning as much as I can to arrive at the best solution for our children and our schools. I believe that everyone has a voice and that voice can best be heard in the voting booth. It's time for our town to become solution and action oriented, to join together and put the education of our children back on the top of that list of priorities and I think that I can be a strong contributor in getting it there.


I appreciate your support and your vote for me as a write-in candidate on March 9. lucienne.foulks@gmail.com

Sincerely,  
Lucienne Foulks  
Amherst

### LOOKING TO MAKE A CAREER CHANGE! NH Real Estate Licensing Course or Candidates wanting to upgrade to Broker's License

John Doran, Instructor \$299 includes materials  
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### Cemetery Trustees Ask For Your Support on March 9

To the editor:

On March 9, The Amherst Cemetery Trustees ask voters to approve Article 38 to authorize \$15,000.00 to be put into the Forestview Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund. The Cemetery Trustees operate under RSA 289.2 which is shown below.

RSA 289:2 Municipality to Provide. – Every municipality shall provide one or more suitable cemeteries for the interment of deceased persons within its boundaries, which shall be subject to such regulations as the municipality may establish. In the absence of regulations established by vote of the legislative body, the cemetery trustees may establish such regulations pursuant to RSA 289:7, I(a). The operation and maintenance of all cemeteries owned and maintained by the municipality shall be in the charge of the cemetery trustees.

The Cemetery Trustees estimate Meadowview Cemetery and Cricket Corner Cemetery will be filled to capacity by 2014, which is only five years away. In order to be ready for this, the Cemetery Trustees must plan now for the construction of Forest View Cemetery which will be located on the land now known as Cemetery Fields on Merrimack Road.

Currently, the Trustees have completed 60% of the planning project which was to survey the land, do a topography map and hire a landscape architect. The \$15,000.00 in the warrant article will be used to have the landscape architect develop a final design which will be put out to bid. In addition, the final plan will give the Trustees an estimated cost on the project. In order to arrange the new cemetery, the trustees must adhere to the RSA below.

RSA 289:9 Use of Trust Funds – Cemetery corporations and the trust fund trustees of municipalities may take and hold funds in trust, and may apply the income of the trust to the improvement, watering, or embellishment of the cemetery, or to the care, preservation, or embellishment of any lot or its appurtenances.

The Cemetery Trust Fund income from 1986 to 2006 paid for cemetery maintenance out of the interest accrued in the Trust Fund. This saved the town over \$500,000.00. In 2005, the Trustees and the Board of Selectmen reviewed the town's future need for burials. They agreed that the town would need to develop Forest View Cemetery in 2014. In order to finance the layout, it was decided that the town would start paying for 67% of cemetery maintenance with 33 % still coming out of the Cemetery Trust for maintenance. This would enable the cemetery trust fund to accumulate interest income for the construction of the new cemetery. The trustees are asking for the fifteen thousand dollars to complete the design, so that work can commence on the layout plans.

The Trustees ask for your support on March 9.

Sincerely,  
Peter Bergin, Marie Grella, and Bill Belvin  
Amherst Cemetery Trustees

### We All Live Downstream!

To the editor:

OK, what am I missing here? The recreation dept. needs new playing fields and now the Brewster property is again available and the Selectmen support its purchase for playing fields. There must be some real short term memories in this town!!

For those of us who recall the battles and possible lawsuits that occurred over Brewster trying to make playing fields on that land that frequently floods – the concerns over pesticides and fertilizers and leaking cars and floating port-a-pots polluting the watershed – what has changed??? Brewster was certainly regulated and watched in his use and applications, but who will watch the Town? While I don't live near this spot, the health of the watershed affects us all. We all "live downstream", so to speak!!

For years and years the ACC, the Amherst Land Trust, and the newer OSAC group have all been interested in purchasing that parcel of land for conservation, river protection, and passive recreation (birdwatching, river access for boats & fishermen, hiking) without much luck, due to the BOS. Most recently, when OSAC brought a deal to purchase this land to the BOS for a less expensive price, they refused it. Now they support the purchase? Again...what am I missing here?

I certainly support the Town purchasing the Brewster parcel, but not for playing fields. Logic is not prevailing here!

Past ACC and ALT board member...  
Jan Woodbury  
Amherst



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