

Amherst Ways and Means Presents Report to Board of Selectmen

The town Ways and Means Committee made a two part report to the Board of Selectmen in December. The report included fiscal year 2014 budget analysis and recommendations. Broad recommendations at the end of the report are included below:

1. The town should better integrate strategic and operational planning with budgeting -- Planning to identify where the town should go, and Budgeting to identify the ways and means to get there. Without both, the process is flawed.

2. The Amherst Master Plan offers only aspirational direction and no specific goals, but could become a framework for building specific, measurable, achievable, and challenging strategic goals. The BoS should work with the Planning Board on this.

3. BoS should ensure that town departments align their respective strategic plans with the town's strategic plan. Their annual operating plans and budgets should reflect how they will advance the broader strategic goals.

4. We recommend that the BoS take the lead in seeing that these plans are created and used as the ongoing bases for all decision making. A current Capital Improvement Plan should be an integral part of this process.

5. We also recommend that BoS take the lead in communicating with and educating the electorate about:

- the strategic context for all BoS and departmental decisions, and
- Why town government should be supported in its efforts to provide high-quality services.

6. Town employees – especially those who put their lives on the line and/or provide life-saving services – should receive the

equipment and training required to help them succeed in their jobs.

7. Most departments need updated computers. The town should replenish and draw on the computer system capital reserve fund to provide adequate technology to departments.

8. Investigate the cost/benefits of using centralized/ integrated purchasing – not only across town departments, but in combined purchasing with the schools.

9. There is some duplication of effort and equipment between Amherst Recreation and the schools regarding maintenance of fields and administration of programs. We recommend exploratory discussions between the two to see if there any ways to more cost effectively manage and fund these efforts.

10. There has been some talk about the merits/drawbacks of combining Fire and EMS while retaining the volunteer/on-call nature and economic benefits of the current model. Some NH towns our size have successfully combined these groups.

We recommend a best-practices review of Fire and EMS covering: organizational options (FT, on call, hybrid) + personnel staffing levels and skill sets + vehicles and equipment + operational processes (numbers of people, trucks, etc. deployed) + space utilization + economic tradeoffs.

11. Explore ways to reconcile space issues for Fire, EMS, Police and Communications should be part of this broader analysis.

The full report is posted on *The Amherst Citizen* website.

Maggie Paul, Dick Lefebvre, Robert Brewster Mike Akillian, Russ Thomas, Jay Dinkel Paula Troie, Coleen Lynch, Ken Miller

► Widow Rachel Batchelder

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owner. After some head-scratching, I concluded this is where Rachel (aged 57) and Timothy (55), a “laborer” (so not yet an established carpenter), were located during the 1850 census. Oddly, they were listed after the other occupants (a shoemaker’s small family) of the same house, as if they were the boarders rather than vice versa, but only Rachel is shown owning real estate.

Six years later, in May 1852, Mrs. B. sold the house, still with 13 rods and 11 links of frontage but with a substantially smaller lot, for \$1500 to Charles B. Tuttle, a local merchant. That certainly was a tidy profit. (Tuttle would turn an even better profit when he sold the place after a mere two years to Capt. Daniel Fletcher, the former tavern-keeper, for \$2300. Perhaps Tuttle updated the kitchen or put in the 19th-century version of a jacuzzi?)

144 Amherst Street

1852: In February, Mrs. B. sold 144 Amherst Street – split off from 117 BPR parcel – to widow Mary Jane (McAlvin) Davis for \$550, presumably with a small house. Daniel Ferrill, wheelwright, had quitclaimed the same premises on the same day to Rachel Batchelder, for \$338.97; this was puzzling because Rachel owned the land, so perhaps Ferrill had paid for a shop or small house there or held a mortgage. (Ferrill owned no real estate, but loaned mortgages, and amassed plenty of cash – which was taxed. At her death, Mrs. B.’s estate paid off a mortgage note with interest of \$124.13 to Ferrill.)

9 Carriage Road

1852-1855: Mrs. B. swapped houses with Tuttle, downsizing to 9 Carriage Road, which had been built for Tuttle c.1845. She sold it in Dec. 1855 for \$1150 to Daniel Wheeler (1789-1867), a yeoman.

18 Main Street

1855: In March, Mrs. B. bought a corner lot of about half an acre opposite the steam mill for \$130 from Robert E. Benden, a tailor. Nine days later, she sold [18 Main Street] for \$850 to Mrs. Sophronia B. Hutchinson, a widow, who must have bought a dwelling, judging by her purchase price. (In the tax invoices of 1856-1859, the land was valued at \$75 and the buildings at \$475.) A week isn’t enough time to build a house, so I suspect construction started, based on verbal agreement, before Mrs. B.’s purchase deed was inked. If Rachel and Timothy were residing across the road, it sure was a convenient location for him to work and her to keep an eye on.

10 Cross Street

[1855]-1863: Mrs. B.’s final residence was at 10 Cross Street on land she had bought in 1846. She again shared her home with her brother, and even though she was the owner, it is labeled with his name on the map of 1858 and thus has been known as the Timothy Jones (Jr.) House – but really ought to be called the Rachel Batchelder House! I believe Timothy constructed this one from scratch for themselves – which could explain why it was not in the popular Greek Revival “sunliner” style of the day, but does have chimneys along exterior walls in Federal style. Valued at \$900 in Mrs. B.’s probate record, it was sold out of the family in 1868 for \$1000.

11 Cross Street

1856-1863: When the land across the street from her home was being auctioned off by license from the probate court (the owner having been committed to the insane asylum), Rachel Batchelder’s bid of \$200 won the 11 Cross Street lot extending all the way to the corner with Middle Street, no buildings mentioned in the deed. When she made

out her last will in 1861, it included the “cottage house” at 11 Cross Street, which was valued at \$500 when she died, and sold by her daughter, Elizabeth F. Blaisdell, in 1872 for that amount.

26 Middle Street

1859-1913: Timothy Jones in May 1859 bought a newly-created lot with 69 feet of frontage on the east side of Middle Street, being the back portion of the lot of the Joseph Leavitt House which stood at “15” Courthouse Road, for \$50. In April 1861, his sister Rachel loaned him \$300 in the form of a mortgage on this same lot, now “with buildings.” I’ll bet that Tim built the Greek Revival front of the house now standing at 26 Middle Street at this time. A few months after the death of his house-keeping sister, he was remarried at age 70, to a woman from Mont Vernon aged 37, and settled with her in this house. He died just short of 89 years; and his widow Hannah Jane lived out her last years here, dying in 1912 aged 86.

Rachel died in Amherst in January 1863, aged 76. In her will, written in 1861, she gave to her brother Timothy “during his natural life all the rent, use and occupation” of her two house properties as long as he pay taxes and upkeep, but her only child, a divorced daughter keeping a boarding house in San Francisco, inherited them if she pay Uncle Tim \$50 annually. It was unusual, but not unheard of, for a woman in those days to be a real estate investor – but they were likely to be wealthy. It sure seems to me that Rachel was “self-made.” She had enough money saved to leave a legacy of \$50 each to her two nieces and two granddaughters by her late son. (All personal property went to her daughter, who had three daughters.) Well, does Rachel (Jones) Batchelder (1786-1863) qualify as a real estate developer?

Souhegan High School

Winter 2013 Evening Enrichment Courses & Workshops

General Information:

Check <http://www.sprise.com/shs> for a detailed schedule and courses descriptions.

To register:

Call 673-9940 ext “5317” during school hours or email mpaul@sprise.com to register. Course size is limited to space available. The courses will be filled with the first registered and payments before the first class will secure your seat. The cost of the course is based on the number of weeks the course meets and residence in the SHS School District.

All courses and workshops meet at Souhegan High School – 412 Boston Post Rd. Amherst, NH 03031.

***Please check the start date!

Monday

Yoga: Moving Into Peace

Teacher: John Silva
Dates: Monday 6 weeks January 28, February 4, 11, 18, March 4 & 11
Times: 7:00 – 8:30pm
Cost: \$50.00 for residents, \$60.00 for non-residents

We will focus primarily on yoga postures and breath work, working toward engaging body, mind, and spirit in our practice. Classes will last 90 minutes, the last part of which will be a relaxation period. The course is appropriate for all levels of experience, especially beginners. Participants should bring a yoga mat and block and optionally a throw or blanket for relaxation. The instructor has over 15 years of yoga experience, including 5 years as a certified Kripalu Yoga Teacher.

Feeling Saucy?

Teacher: Elizabeth Skipper
Dates: Monday 6 weeks January 28, February 4, 11, 18, March 4 & 11
Time: 6:00 – 9:00pm.
Cost: \$100.00 for residents, \$110.00 for non-residents plus a lab fee for ingredients.

Looking to add a little pizzazz to your meals? Turning a good dish into a great dish can be as simple as adding the right sauce. From classic sauces like béchamel, hollandaise and béarnaise, pasta sauces like alfredo and puttanesca, lively salsas and satays, to dessert sauces like chocolate, butterscotch, and raspberry, there are endless ways to dress up your dishes! In this class you’ll learn how to make some of

the most popular, plus lots of variations so you’ll never run out of ideas.

As always, you’ll learn plenty of expert tips and tricks that apply not only to your sauces, but to all your cooking needs and questions.

The instructor is Elizabeth Skipper, an accomplished personal chef and culinary teacher, of The Everyday Epicure LLC in Amherst. www.theeverydayepicure.com.

Tuesday

House History Research

Teacher: Jackie Marshall
Dates: Tuesday 6 weeks January 29, February 5, 12, 19, March 3 & 12
Time: 7:00 - 9:00pm
Cost: \$70.00 for residents and \$80.00 for non-residents

Amherst genealogist Jackie Marshall will present a class on how to research land and probate records in Hillsborough County. This class is of interest to the beginning House Historian and Family Genealogist. How old is your home, who lived in it and what were their lives like? Or are you interested in tracing the history of a specific public building or tract of land in Amherst? Even if your house isn’t old, the land it sits on is - find out how it was used and by whom. We will have one daytime field-trip to the Hillsborough County Deed Registry, time to be determined.

Hypnosis for Life Enhancement

Programming Your Mind for Success
Teacher: Lois Scheffler, CH
Dates: Tuesday 6 weeks January 29, February 5, 12, 19, March 3 & 12
Time: 6:30 – 8:00pm
Cost: \$77.00 for all participants

Struggling to lose weight? Feeling tired or unhealthy? Overwhelmed with your To-Do list? Are you hard on yourself, or others? Are you frustrated with family, kids, or your spouse? Would you like an escape from the madness? Here’s your opportunity to take charge of your life through this amazingly fun, relaxing and empowering course!

Register now to become part of this fun-filled and insightful class where you will learn life skills that improve the way you respond to daily challenges. Discover how to use the power of your mind to enhance your personal, social, and

professional skills. Transform your thoughts to create a life of health, wealth and happiness.

This class is designed to help YOU achieve the goals you desire. Depending on the class interests, we will focus on a variety of topics during the six weeks, including: lowering stress, losing weight, building incredible confidence, generating financial abundance, enjoying improved health, and creating more passion in your relationships. If you want to feel unbelievably good this fall, register today. Come, participate, and enjoy the beginning of a new chapter in your life.

Lois Scheffler is a Certified Hypnotist through the National Guild of Hypnotists and has extensive training in Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP), Reiki, and Feng Shui. She also has forty years as a multi-registered medical professional. Because of her extensive background in medicine, education, corporate leadership, and diverse cultures, Lois’s clients receive tailor-made programs that address their specific needs. This “Life Enhancement” program is designed to help you jumpstart your success.

Watercolor Painting

Teacher: Kevin Dadoly
Dates: Tuesday 6 weeks January 29, February 5, 12, 19, March 3 & 12
Time: 7:00 - 9:00pm
Cost: \$70.00 for residents and \$80.00 for non-residents

Join Kevin Dadoly as he instructs this popular studio course designed to enhance and challenge all levels of watercolor artists from the beginner to the exhibiting artist! Expect to explore all types of painting techniques, and subject matter, in an enjoyable and positive environment.

Make your own Dairy Products at Home

Teacher: Kathie Nunley
Dates: Tuesday 4 weeks January 29, February 5, 12, 19
Time: 7:00 - 9:00pm
Cost: \$50.00 for residents and \$60.00 for non-residents Lab fee: \$18.00

This class will cover the dairy processes our great grandmothers all knew. It’s not hard to make your own dairy products - but the information has been lost over the past few generations. You will learn how to handle and process unpasteurized milk to make sweet-cream

butter, cultured butter, buttermilk, sour cream, yogurt, Greek yogurt, whey, mozzarella cheese, ricotta cheese, cottage cheese, feta, farmers cheese and clabber.

Creating Stained Glass 3-D Objects and 2-D Panels

Teacher: Susanna Ries
Dates: Tuesday 6 weeks January 29, February 5, 12, 19, March 3 & 12
Time: 6:00-8:30pm
Cost: \$80.00 for residents and \$90.00 for non-residents

Think outside the flat panel - and let’s make some creative boxes, lampshades and lanterns using 3-D construction.

This class is for beginners and advanced students. Most tools will be supplied, and there will be some glass available but each student should buy a starter kit which will cost around \$50.00. Come join the fun!

Susanna Ries has been creating original stained glass for 21 years. Her passion for glass began when she took classes at Renaissance Glassworks in Nashua NH. She has been showing her artwork at two local galleries, East Colony Fine Art in Manchester and the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Store in Concord. Susanna’s background is in Fine Art - she earned a BA Degree in Art from Colby-Sawyer College in New London, New Hampshire.

Wednesday

Beginning Hoopdance

Teacher: Kate Walsh
Day: Wednesday 6 weeks January 30, February 6, 13, 20, March 6 & 13
Time: 6:30-7:30pm
Place: Clark Elementary School Gym
Cost: \$50.00 for residents and \$60.00 for non-residents

Catch the fun and fitness of the hoopdance craze. Beyond the hula hooping of the past, hoopdance combines a great core workout with moving around to get your heart-rate up. Learn waist and hip hooping, halos, corkscrews, and the sloop in this level 1 class. Practice hoops will be provided. Join us in your comfortable exercise clothes ready to have fun.

Creative Writing

Teacher: Alex Jay Dubberly
Day: Wednesday 6 weeks January 30, February 6, 13, 20, March 6

& 13
Time: 7:00-9:00 pm
Cost: \$50.00 for residents and \$60.00 for non-residents

MFA student Alex Jay Dubberly will be teaching an eight-week Creative Writing course open to writers of all abilities, open to adults, and juniors and seniors in High School. All genres are welcome though, due to time constraints, the focus of the class will be on poetry, prose poetry, short fiction and dramatic treatments. The class will help writers form better writing habits, revise their own work, as well as challenge writers with new and innovative cross-genre prompts. Prepare to produce new work, revise old work, and gain a better understanding of creative writing in general.

Alex Jay will be teaching the class as part of his Teaching Practicum requirement for his MFA in Creative Writing from Goddard College in Vermont. He has guest lectured at Keene State College and has published a handful of poems, both in print and online. Requirements for the course are simple: pen and paper. All reading is suggested and handouts will be provided throughout the course. For more information feel free to contact: alex.dubberly@goddard.edu.

Learn the Art of Needle Felting

Teacher: Sharon Spivak
Dates: Wednesday 6 weeks January 30, February 6, 13, 20, March 6 & 13
Times: 7:00-9:00pm.
Cost: \$70.00 for residents and \$80.00 for non-residents

Needle felting is a dry felting process using special needles and wool fiber to create tapestries, animal sculptures, embellishments and other interesting items. During this course, we will design and create a small tapestry suitable for framing. You will be amazed at what you can do with colorful fiber, needles and a little creative imagination.

Course cost includes supplies students will need.

Sharon, a resident of Amherst, has been an artist for many years working in a variety of mediums. She became fascinated with fiber art many years ago and learned how to spin her own yarn. Sharon has been needle felting for the past 10 and is noted for her uniquely detailed abstract needle felted tapestries. When not indulging in her artistic passions, Sharon works part time at Temple Beth Abraham

in Nashua as a Hebrew Resource Specialist. Sharon holds a degree in Jewish Studies and enjoyed a long career as a registered nurse prior to earning her degree.

Conversational German for beginners

Teacher: Susi Ehrenstein
Dates: Wednesday 6 weeks January 30, February 6, 13, 20, March 6 & 13
Times: 6:00 – 7:30pm.
Cost: \$50.00 for residents and \$60.00 for non-residents
6-week-introductory course. New improved curriculum with latest state-of-the-art college texts !!

Are you planning on going on a vacation to Deutschland, are you frequently traveling there on business or are you simply interested in this beautiful and strange language?

Lesson content will cover: Expressing greetings and farewells, Getting acquainted, inquiring about somebody’s well-being, Spelling in German, Numbers, Useful classroom expressions, Giving personal information, Describing yourself, Inquiring about others, Hobbies and interests.

Introduction to Quilting

Teacher: Jean Cannon
Dates: Wednesday 6 weeks January 30, February 6, 13, 20, March 6 & 13
Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm
Cost: \$70.00 for residents and \$80.00 for non-residents

Come learn the basics of quilting including design, color theory, cutting/piecing techniques, and finishing a small quilted project. This will be a hands on class with homework (sewing) each week. You will need a portable sewing machine in good repair.

Fabric requirements, other tools and supplies will be discussed at the first class.

Pottery Studio

Teacher: Mary Salmon
Dates: Wednesday 6 weeks January 30, February 6, 13, 20, March 6 & 13
Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm
Cost: \$70.00 for residents and \$80.00 for non-residents \$20.00 lab fee for supplies.

6 Weeks of studio experience creating with clay. Pinch, coil, and slab construction as well as wheel throwing. Decorative glaze and texturing techniques will be explored.



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