

## “Did You Know.....?”

SUBMITTED BY AMHERST TOWN WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE



The Town of Amherst owns 14 bridges that fit the statutory definition of a “bridge” for the purpose of qualifying for State aid for rehabilitation or replacement. The town may request that a project to rehabilitate or replace a bridge be scheduled for funding assistance through the NH State Bridge Aid program.

Bridge safety is determined by NH Dept. of Transportation (DOT) inspections. DOT inspects all of bridges in the State at least every two years, assigns a safety rating for each bridge, and issues recommendations for load restrictions. Bridges that are determined after inspection to be structurally deficient or functionally obsolete may be recommended for reduced load restrictions or closure until corrective action is taken.

Municipalities are responsible for the repair and maintenance of local bridges. A municipality is not required to comply with DOT closure recommendations, but failure to do so carries the penalty of losing other State aid reimbursements and the town would be liable for personal injury and property damages caused by the structural insufficiencies identified by the DOT (RSA 231:91). Accordingly, it is in a municipality’s interest to comply with DOT recommendations.

Amherst’s fourteen qualified bridges are listed below, showing the year each bridge was last rebuilt and the current DOT inspection rating:

<b>A.</b>	<b>Caesar’s Brook at:</b>		
1.	Mont Vernon Rd	(1956)	Fair
<b>B.</b>	<b>Baboosic Brook at:</b>		
2.	Camp Road	(1951)	Good
<b>B.</b>	<b>Beaver Brook at:</b>		
3.	Boston Post Rd – north	(1970)	Satisfactory
4.	Boston Post Rd – middle	(1969)	Very Good
5.	Boston Post Rd – south	(1984)	Good
6.	Manchester Rd, closed	(1980)	Failed
7.	New Boston Rd – north	(1996)	Poor
8.	New Boston Rd – south	(2006)	Good
9.	Merrimack Rd	(1986)	Very good
10.	Thornton’s Ferry Rd #1	(1970)	Fair
<b>B.</b>	<b>Joe English Brook at:</b>		
11.	Brook Rd	(1985)	Fair
12.	Horace Greeley Rd	(1989)	Good
<b>B.</b>	<b>Pulpit Brook at:</b>		
13.	Horace Greeley Rd	(1992)	Critical
<b>B.</b>	<b>Souhegan River at:</b>		
14.	Boston Post Rd	(1977)	Satisfactory

### “Critical” and “Failed”:

- The Manchester Road bridge is currently closed. It is on track to be replaced in 2015;
- The Horace Greeley Road bridge over Pulpit Brook is scheduled to be replaced in 2020;
- The New Boston Road bridge (north) remains on the DOT replacement list. However, substantial town-funded repairs were done in 2010, and with some \$50,000 worth of additional repair work it will not need to be replaced for the foreseeable future. That additional work has not yet been funded, engineered, scheduled.

### “Fair”:

- The Thornton’s Ferry Road #1 and the Mont Vernon Road bridges are both expected to fail within 10 years. If the town acts this year to raise and appropriate 20% of the anticipated cost of replacement, the DOT will add them to its list of bridges eligible for the State Bridge Aid for 2024 (the earliest anticipated date).

None of the remaining nine bridges are expected to require replacement in the foreseeable future.

### Funding of bridge rehabilitation and replacement:

The NH Bridge Aid program, administered by the DOT, is the source for funding assistance for rehabilitation or replacement of local bridges. If an application for funding a rehabilitation or replacement project is accepted, Bridge Aid will reimburse the municipality for 80% of the costs of design and construction.

- Because the program’s funds are limited, it has historically been able to fund only about 10 projects per year.
- The list of accepted projects is currently filled through 2023 and newly accepted projects are currently being scheduled for funding in 2024.
- Applications are accepted on a “first come, first served” basis.
- A bridge project is only accepted for aid and added to the list after the municipality has appropriated its 20% share of the estimated cost of the project.

The Manchester Road and Horace Greeley Road bridge projects are being funded in part by the Bridge Aid program, so the town will receive reimbursement of 80% of the project costs. The town’s share is being covered by the sale of municipal bonds approved by the voters in 2011.

### Looming bridge replacement projects:

As noted above, the bridges on Thornton’s Ferry Road and Mt. Vernon road will have to be replaced in 2024. In order to get funding assistance through the Bridge Aid program, planning for those projects must begin now. The first step is to appropriate the town’s 20% share of the project costs.

The selectmen have proposed that a warrant article be placed before the voters this March which would authorize raising funds for the entire cost of the projects through the sale of bonds. The purpose is three-fold:

- first, it will allow Amherst to appropriate its 20% share of project costs in order to get those two projects on the DOT’s list now so that the availability of Bridge Aid funds will coincide with the date the bridges are expected reach “Failed” status in 2024;
- second, it will give the selectmen the authority to raise the entire cost of the projects if, when the time comes, the Bridge Aid program has lost its funding;
- third, by having the full funding available and the engineering work completed and approved, if a ‘slot’ in the bridge repair schedule opens up early—i.e. if another town is not ready to go—then one of our bridges can move ahead on the DOT list and be repaired sooner than 2024, and for a lower cost, since bridge repair work increases in cost by about 5% for every year it is delayed

www.amherstcitizen.com

## Town News

### Nipmugs Questers Donate Framed Historic Photos to Amherst Library



AMHERST – Recent interior changes have left some blank walls at Amherst Town Library in the newly cleared-out original entry and in the repurposed former archives room. So the Nipmugs group funded and donated framed enlargements of five historic images of the library, showing how it looked originally in 1892 and after its 1910/11 renovation when the roof was raised and the ornate stained-glass canopy was added over the entrance. This project was implemented by Nipmugs member Anne Krantz, who is also long-time chair of the suncatcher fundraiser.

Thanks go to Bill Veillette for digitizing and custom-sizing the old images from the collection of the Historical Society of Amherst, several of them from antique postcards.

Library director Amy Lapointe (on right) accepts gift to the Amherst Town Library of framed historic photographs from Anne Krantz (center), project chair, and Katrina Holman, president of Nipmugs chapter of Questers.

## Obituaries

### James B. Nahass

AMHERST – James B. Nahass, 67, longtime resident of Amherst, NH, died on January 7, 2015 at his home. He was born in Natick, MA on September 21, 1947, a son of Mae C. (Hardie) Nahass of Lynchburg, VA and the late Paul T. Nahass.

Mr. Nahass was a graduate of Wellesley High School, Class of 1965, and studied at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Mr. Nahass worked for Honeywell Corporation for many years and was subsequently self-employed as a painter and restoration contractor. He enjoyed golfing, gardening, inventing, and music. He particularly enjoyed spending time with his friends and family, especially his young grandchildren.

In addition to his mother, family members include his partner of 20 years, Susan Teeple of Amherst; a

son, Zachary Nahass and his wife, Reid Walsh of York, PA; two stepsons, Jeffrey Teeple and his wife Abby Logan, and Michael Teeple, all of Nashua, NH; four grandchildren, Sadie, Henry, James and Lucas; three brothers, Edward R. Nahass and his wife, Kathleen of New Boston, NH, Paul W. Nahass of Cape Coral, FL, Peter T. Nahass and his wife, Pamela of Amherst, NH; a sister, Patricia Gleason and her husband, Bill Van Dyke of Lynchburg, VA; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial visiting hours were on Saturday, January 10th in the Smith & Heald Funeral Home, 63 Elm Street, Milford.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, One Bedford Farms Drive, Suite 105, Bedford, NH 03110.

NEW CASTLE - Sally Gilbert McGuckin, 68, formerly of New Boston and Amherst, passed away on Jan. 1, 2015, surrounded by her loving family, at the Portsmouth Regional Hospital after a lengthy illness. She was born in Portsmouth on Dec. 31, 1946, and was the daughter of Sayward and Ester Gilbert.

She attended schools in the United Kingdom and received an associate’s degree from Franconia College. She had recently retired as a general manager at the Gap.

Her passion was collecting and displaying sea glass. She was a friend to many and always stopped to engage people in conversation, especially if they had a dog. She loved to spend time at the New Castle Public Library and was a supporter of the NH SPCA in Stratham.

She is survived by her husband of 47 years, David B. McGuckin, of New Castle; her sons, David H. McGuckin of Greenland, his wife, Liza and grandsons, Colin and Griffin and Carter G. McGuckin of Darien, Conn., his wife Lindsay and granddaughter Molly and grandson Briggs; and her two sisters, Sayre Cooke of Oakville, Ontario and Susan Kozub of South Hampton, MA.

A service was held at the New Castle Congregational Church on Friday, January 9.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to be made to the New Castle Public Library, Box 329, New Castle, 03854; or to the NH SPCA, P.O. Box 196, Stratham, 03885.

Please visit [www.jvwoodfuneral-home.com](http://www.jvwoodfuneral-home.com) to sign the online guest book or to share a memory. The J. Verne Wood Funeral Home - Buckminster Chapel, assisted with arrangements.

### Sally Gilbert McGuckin

### Amherst Recreation Programs and Events

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When: February 23-27, 2015;  
8:30am-4pm  
Extended care available from  
7:30am-5:30pm  
Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center  
Early Bird Fee (before 1/15/15):  
Res: \$35 per day, or \$150 for the week; NonRes: \$45/\$160  
Late Fee (after 1/15/15):  
Res: \$45 per day, or \$175 for the week; NonRes: \$50/\$185  
Extended care Fee: \$10 extended care fee per child, per day

#### Big news for Thursday Night Lights

Have a pass to Crotched but need a ride? The cost of the bus has dropped by \$25.00 because of our registration numbers! Students will be picked up from Amherst Middle School & Wilkins Elementary School and driven to Crotched Mountain Ski and Ride in Bennington NH. Students will have the opportunity to rent equipment, take a lesson and have some free skiing time before heading back to Wilkins School by 8:30pm.

#### Yoga for Kids

Encourage children to turn off their devices and tune in to themselves with yoga. Yoga can help children develop a healthy mind-body connection that improves self-awareness, confidence and concentration. This class will include yoga poses, games, meditation and relaxation.

Who: 1st-4th Graders  
When: Tuesdays 1/13-2/10  
Where: Wilkins School  
Fee: \$45Res/\$50Non-Res

#### Yoga for Middle Schoolers

This yoga class is suitable for males and females who are experienced with yoga and those who are new to yoga. It’s ideal for athletes who want to improve conditioning and for those students who are interested in becoming more active. Each student will be challenged according to his/her ability.

Who: 5th-8th graders  
When: Wednesdays 1/14-2/11  
2:45-3:45  
Where: AMS Chorus Room  
Fee: \$45 Res/ \$50 Non-Res

#### NEW Start Smart Basketball for ages 3-6

This once a week program is an opportunity for children to be introduced to the game of basketball with the support and presence of a parent. Sessions will last one hour for six weeks. Skills will build with every session and exercises will become more challenging as the program progresses.

Who: General Public  
When: Tuesdays @ 10am  
Fee: Free  
Schedule: 1/13 Joe English trail meet at Peabody Mill Environmental Center

3pm-4pm  
Season runs from 1/17/15-2/21/15

Who: Children ages 3-6  
What: Start Smart Basketball  
Where: TBD  
Fee: \$40R; \$50NR

#### Adult Programming

Who: Grades 1-8  
When: Thursdays, 1/15 – 2/19  
Transportation: \$55 (includes transportation to and from Crotched Mountain)

#### Weekly Walks in Amherst

Let’s get out and explore some of Amherst’s best kept secrets. The Amherst Parks and Recreation Staff will meet you at the selected trailhead on Tuesdays at 10am. Once the snow flies we will bring snow shoes for hikers. Please wear orange during hunting season. If it is raining...please call the Recreation office for cancellations after 9am.

Who: General Public  
When: Tuesdays @ 10am  
Fee: Free  
Schedule: 1/13 Joe English trail meet at Peabody Mill Environmental Center

#### Adult Basketball and Adult Volleyball

Pick up games at AMS have begun. The registration fee covers the entire school year. See our website for details and to register.

#### Game Days

Amherst Recreation offers a fun afternoon of table or card games for adults.  
Thursdays 1:00-3:30pm @ the Amherst Fire Department Training Room.  
No registration required, It’s free!

#### Family Programming

#### Birthday Parties at PMEC!

Create amazing birthday memories this year with a Birthday Party for your child age 3-12 at the Peabody Mill Environment Center!

We have several themes to choose from or we can work together to tailor one just for your Birthday Girl or Boy. Please visit [www.amherstrec.org](http://www.amherstrec.org) for more details.

#### Adult & Youth Horseback Riding Lessons

In conjunction with Walnut Hollow Farm of Amherst, horseback riding lessons for kids & adults are

and Bacon  
• Lamb Tagine with Couscous  
• Traditional Bread and Butter Pudding

Who: adults 18+  
What: Cooking demonstration  
Where: Amherst Middle School- Life Skills room  
When: 2/11/15; 7-8:30pm  
Fee: \$20R; \$25NR

#### Knitting for Adults

Do you love crafting, color and creativity? Knitting is a life-long skill that can be practiced whether you have 3 hours or fifteen minutes, in a group or by yourself.

Our instructor is Sandy Zielie, local knitting and fiber enthusiast and co-owner of Twill, a Nashua fabric and yarn store. Good quality yarn and needles are included in the cost of this program, and the needles are yours to keep.

Who: knitting for adults  
Where: Amherst Recreation Department Office  
When: Starting 1/14/15  
Fee: \$72R; \$82NR

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#### Adult & Youth Horseback Riding Lessons

In conjunction with Walnut Hollow Farm of Amherst, horseback riding lessons for kids & adults are

back. Students will learn the anatomy of a horse, barn management, tack, grooming and ride in their outdoor or indoor ring. See more information on our website.

(Please be sure to call before registering. Day/Time must be verified with the farm.)

#### NEW Snowshoeing at PMEC

The snow is here! Head on up to PMEC for a fun-filled afternoon of snowshoeing. Snow shoe rentals will be available Saturdays, starting December 6, 2014 from Noon to 4pm.

Fee: \$6R; \$8NR

#### Trips

##### Irish Cabaret

Join Best of Times in 2015 for one of our hallmark programs...our St. Patrick’s day celebration program. A show not to be missed!

Who: Adults 18+  
What: Tony Kenny’s Irish Cabaret day trip

When: Wednesday, March 11, 2015. Arrival time 11:30am; departure time TBA  
Where: Venus De Milo Swansea, MA. Pickup location TBA  
Fee: \$85 per person (includes transportation, show, and luncheon)

##### NEW Cherry Blossom Festival & Washington D.C. Sightseeing Trip (April 9-12)

Join the Amherst, Merrimack, and Milford Recreation Departments for a trip of a lifetime! Experience the history and attractions of this great American City.

##### Trip Includes:

5 meals  
Coach Bus transportation  
Native Washington D.C. tour guide  
Overnight stay at the embassy Suites

Who: Amherst, Merrimack, & Milford Residents

What: Sightseeing Trip  
Where: Washington D.C.  
When: April 9-12, 2015  
Fee: \$559 pp Double  
\$549 pp Triple  
\$689 pp Single  
\$459 Child w/ 2 Adults

We add programs weekly, so check our website often...

And make time in your life for Recreation!