

# Letters & Opinion

## Fran Harrow Expresses Her Gratitude to the Community

To the Community Members of Amherst and Mont Vernon (submitted posthumously):

I have had to, very regretfully, resign from the Souhegan Cooperative School board due to health issues. Before I did, I wanted to thank the community for allowing me the honor of serving them, the students, and the staff these past 5 years as a member of the board. As a founding member of the Souhegan Community, Souhegan High School has been an integral part of my life for a long time, and there is so much I love about the high school. I love its philosophy of learning, the respect shown for students during their learning process, and the outreach of our teachers toward their students. I love Advisory and what it does to connect students to the school and to each other. I respect the concept of applied learning such as our Senior Project.

I love Community Council, and I have loved watching the democratic process and the intense listening that happens in those meetings. The youngest member is treated with the same respect as is shown to the most senior adult present. I have loved the respect shown by this Board towards this special place. I have admired the team spirit of our Board, and the mutual respect we have demonstrated towards each other. I have tremendous respect for the tensions and the challenges we have faced together as I have watched us grapple with very difficult dilemmas. I have seen us gather the community together in times of great celebration, and in times of great loss.

One thing that I have not always loved is the budget process each year, but I respect that we approach these conversations with the best interests of the students in mind. Our towns want the best for their children, and our Board has respected their goals. My biggest fear is that the tension that accompanies economic interests will cause us to lose our foundation of respectful discourse. We are best when we listen and respond, rather than talk and react. We need to stay true to our Mission Statement, as it one that will stand the test of time. This is the legacy I beg you all to uphold.

Letting go of this essential work is one of the greatest challenges I have faced during my illness. I trust that caring, educational minded, forward thinking individuals will be there to carry it on.

All My Best,  
Fran Harrow

## A Pipeline Concern from the Other Side of Amherst...

To the editor:

I am new to Amherst. Buying a home in May. I am a transplant from Pepperell; a town that fought the pipeline as a united community. They managed to successfully reveal that the Kinder Morgan pipeline proposal is a wolf in sheep's clothing. The pipeline was pushed into New Hampshire because Gov Patrick was not in favor of it. New Hampshire does not benefit from the disruption the pipeline installation will create.

I live on the other side of 101A, closer to Hollis. I can't help but feel that if the proposed pipeline were being considered closer to the coveted "Historic District" of Amherst, there would be a lot more noise and opposition to the pipeline. To the individual that is requesting a "rational debate", please ask yourself, "Is the pipeline running through my neighborhood?"

There is no place for ego and self interest in solving this energy issue. Let's work on this as an undivided community. The pipeline will negatively effect all sections of our town! This pipeline brings no benefit to New Hampshire.

To those politicians that see this as a monetary benefit; the benefit is short lived, the damage long term. I ask you, "Is the pipeline running through your back yard?"

A respectful reminder... we vote on this side of the track as well!

Deeply concerned,  
Linda Sutherland  
Amherst

## Thank You to the Souhegan Cooperative School Board

To the editor:

I would like to publicly thank the Souhegan Cooperative School Board for the opportunity to interview for the recent unfortunate and unexpected open school board position.

As we all know, Souhegan operates as a Coalition of Essential School. Long-term successful operation of an intensely student-centered school is not easy. The practical implication of Coalition benchmarks takes strong and diligent guidance to ensure that the school's policies and budget support the founding principles. It is my professional opinion that restoring and maintaining Souhegan's founding principles can improve both the quality and cost of educating our children.

I applied for the position because as an educational psychologist, with a 30-year career in the field of secondary education, I feel I can offer a great deal of experience and knowledge of high school pedagogy, particularly of Coalition philosophies, to help guide the school through their current rough waters.

While I appreciate the willingness of the Board to interview both applicants and deliberate publicly, I was disappointed that they chose to forego a fresh perspective at this time and simply took comfort in the familiar by reinstating a long-term past board member.

Below is an excerpt from my letter of application to Mary Lou Mullins, chair of the SHS Board. I share it with the citizens of the towns as it is my hope to pursue another open position on the board in the future.

"I am sending this letter of application for the unexpected and current vacancy on the Souhegan School Board. I feel strongly that, with my qualifications, and my passion for student-centered education, I can be of significant service to the Board. And for this reason, I ask that I be considered for the interim open position.

Given the recent discussions, debates, and voter voice, this is an exciting and critical time for Souhegan to strongly embrace and maintain its focus on all its founding principles. And in doing so, ensure a continued high quality education for its students, while balancing the costs to the taxpayers. I am eager to help with that journey. My qualifications include:

- I have been a resident of Amherst for 12 years.
- I have four children, 3 of whom have gone through Souhegan High School.
- I have been a Souhegan parent for 12 continuous years, and have personally experienced their curriculum, athletics, music department, the video production program, and special education.
- I served on the school's principal search committee for 2 years.
- I served on the school's Finance Advisory committee for 3 years.
- I was a high school teacher (Biology, AP Biology, AP Psychology) for 15 years.
- I have a doctorate in Education (Child and Youth Studies: Curriculum Development & Systemic Change)
- I have consulted hundreds of high schools and conducted teacher trainings in nearly every US state, Canadian province and territory, including Coalition schools.
- I have done extensive primary and secondary research on the adolescent brain.
- I have consulted ministries of education around the globe on Inclusive education.
- I have authored 8 books in the field of learning, education, inclusion and adolescent brains and am a contributing author for 3 other education textbooks.
- My book, "Differentiating the High School Classroom" is a best selling education title and used as a graduate text for teacher education programs at universities across the US.
- My work, writing and philosophy align with the founding principles of Souhegan.

Again, I am confident that I can offer the board a wealth of personal and professional expertise to help ensure that Souhegan High School continues to serve as an excellent model for progressive schools in serving the needs of students via embracing the founding principals of the Coalition, while balancing the needs of taxpayers in both communities."

Please consider me for the open Board position. I look forward to discussing my candidacy and qualifications further.

Dr. Kathie F Nunley  
Amherst

## A Black Sheep

To the editor:

Or, maybe I should say, "A Skunk in the Woodpile". Or, all of the above. I do take a position on energy issues that could be contrary to what some environmentally-oriented folks might expect of me. I have written on the symbiosis of energy suppliers and conservation organizations before. These are my thoughts here and not those of the Conservation Commission although some others may share them. First, a reminder of where I come from.

The woods and natural history education centers have been a factor in shaping my life-long learnings and actions, so far. The New Canaan Audubon Center and its naturalist, Mr. Bartow was the first. Years later, as a project engineer with Yankee Atomic Electric Company, Sharon and I became directors of the Mass. Audubon Society's Moose Hill Wildlife Center and camp. We have seen some of our students grow into environmental careers.

Three nuclear plants later, as Seabrook Station grew out of the embryonic stage, PSNH management was easily convinced to include the only seacoast environmental center north of Boston in the project plans. In the intervening 35 years, thousands have visited to learn about the ecology of the saltmarsh and ocean.

Today New Hampshire businesses and our neighbors face the effects of serious energy shortages. Not many of us would depend on using a 50-year old car for family travels. Fifty-year old turbine-generators are being depended on for lighting homes and keeping NH industry viable in the competitive marketplace. Replacements will be necessary.

The economically chilling effect energy shortages portend may not jump out to Amherst residents where the median household income in 2013 was \$115,405 – only second to the highest, Bedford. When energy costs cause mills to go south or overseas and leave the North Country, it's another story. In Colebrook the median household income was \$32,288.

Conservation organizations depend on generosity – gifts made after the food, light and commuting bills are paid. When there is no "after", conservation organizations, churches, and other non-profits get the short end. As the cost of energy goes up, charitable giving goes down. Without new energy sources - hydroelectricity and natural gas – the cost of living will rise and employment fall. New transmission lines and pipelines, unpopular as they are, are needed or NH industries, skilled workers, and professionals will move on. We all will be the worse if that happens.

It would be nice if we didn't need and depend on new energy sources. However, NIMBY is not a viable option. New families want lights and heat. Industry must have energy to be competitive. The state needs skilled employees and employers and higher education. All the threads come back to the availability of reliable energy.

Conservation organizations and environmentally dedicated citizens have worked together to benefit all residents, human and natural. It will happen again,

Bruce B. Beckley  
Amherst

## Amherst Junior Women's Club Thanks Event Sponsors, Donors

To the editor:

The Amherst Junior Women's Club (AJWC) would like to thank everyone who supported our recent Night of Comedy fundraiser at the Crowne Plaza in Nashua. So many businesses and volunteers contributed to our success.

Our corporate sponsors were: Pnutek, Inc. (Hudson, NH), Tracey Hanlon Photography (Amherst, NH), Orange Leaf (Amherst NH), and GT Northeast/Global Tranz (Amherst, NH)

Silent auction donors included: Katelyn Fedas, Amherst Country Club, Neil Stone's Karate Studio, Texas Road House, Style Salon, Patio Barn, Stephen Marx Salon, Shoe Box, Michael Kors Outlet/Merrimack, Thirty One, Graffiti Pain Bar, Tamarack Landscaping, Chunky's Nashua, Tilted Kilt-Nashua, Mickey Larivee, BreAnna Scalley, Thrive Wellness, TC Cuts, DoveTail Dental, Julie Koitzch, True Beauty Salon, Maison De L'Art Gallery, Nashua Electrolysis, Jeffrey Scott Jewelers, Souhegan Septic, Amherst Karate, Elements Massage, Amherst Earth Products, Adria Bagshaw, Nancy Wilkes, Aquatic Specialties, Lynn Fedas, Fishercats, Jackie O'Dowd, People's Bank, Homestead-Amherst, Amherst Recreation Dept., PJ Mac Williams Bon Bon, Mike's Auto, DAR, Casabella, Mystic Images, Al Bourgoin, Sports Memorabilia Donations-Anonymous.

We are grateful to iHeartRADIO and Rock 101 of Manchester, NH for generously providing a public service announcement (PSA) to help promote our event to the community.

We would also like to thank the numerous volunteers within our club who donated their time, talent, money and services toward the event. We appreciate everyone who attended.

The Amherst Junior Women's Club is a non-profit organization. It focuses its efforts on civic needs, educational advancement and the less fortunate. Proceeds from the event will benefit local schools and area charities. For more information, please visit our website at www.ajwcnh.org.

Karen Tuthill  
Vice President, AJWC

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Published 22 times a year on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each Month, on the last Tuesday July and August, and the 1st and 3rd Tuesday in December. (Dates may vary near Holidays or elections.)

Subscriptions: \$17.50 per year (prepaid)  
P.O. Box 291, Amherst, NH 03031-0291  
Phone: 672-9444 Fax: 672-8153 e-Mail: news@amherstcitizen.com

THE AMHERST CITIZEN Schedule of Issues	
— 2015 —	
January 13	April 28
January 27	May 12
February 10	May 26
February 24	June 9
March 5	June 23
March 24	July 28
April 14	August 25

Issue dates may be subject to change.  
Watch future issues for schedule updates.  
Phone: 672-9444 Fax: 672-8153  
e-Mail: news@amherstcitizen.com

**NEXT ISSUE:**  
Tues., May 26, 2015  
Deadline: 5 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 20

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