



Princeton Public Library

2 Town Hall Drive
Princeton, MA 01541
(978) 464-2115 Phone
(978) 464-2116 FAX
library@town.princeton.ma.us

It was a busy year at the Princeton Public Library. Princeton residents, like their counterparts across the country, have been flocking to their libraries. As personal budgets tighten, more and more people are seeking the services of the local library. The town library is an integral part of our community, offering free movies, books, audios, newspapers, programs, internet service, and in some cases, a place to meet and greet.

We have worked hard to present the community with an attractive and informative website. www.princetonpubliclibrary.org Visitors may log on to find the full schedule of activities at the library, and do all their searching, ordering, renewing, and fine payments on-line. Patrons may download audios and videos, and access e-books. We also encourage you to check out our Facebook page and ask you to become our friend!

When you visit us in person you will notice that we offer wireless internet for those with laptops, and free internet access for all on our patron computers. We have increased our media collection to include Playaways and MP3-CD books, as well as the ever popular DVD's and books on CD.

Children's Programming continues to be a large draw. Mother Goose on the Loose fills the Children's Room each week. It is a busy time with rhymes, music and movement. The Lunch Bunch, an activity for morning Kindergarten students, is filled to capacity. The Afternoon Story and Craft for school age children continues to be active, and our juvenile book discussion group, Pizza and Pages, grew to where we had to order more pizza! The Summer Reading Program was very successful with activities, programs, and prizes.

For the adults in the community we offered Tea on Tuesday, a never empty coffee pot, and two book discussion groups. People continue to enter the building to browse, check out, use the computers, or meet friends. We also opened our doors for a meeting space for many groups in town.

The Friends of the Princeton Public Library provide not only volunteer support at library programs, but have made significant financial contributions for special projects. This support is possible because of the money collected during the annual Membership Drive,

and other events scattered throughout the year. The Friends have paid for programs, equipment, materials, repairs to the building, and museum passes.

The Board of Trustees of the Princeton Public Library continually works behind the scenes as overseers of our fine building. They accepted monetary donations from generous patrons during the Annual Appeal. Proceeds from established funds continue to greatly benefit the operation of the library and also allow the purchase of equipment, books, and other media in specific categories. The library not only appreciates the financial gains from these bequests, but also the honor of having the memories of past members of the Princeton community perpetuated at the Princeton Public Library.

Holdings and Circulation - July 2008 through June 2009

Holdings		Circulation	
Books	16,953	Books	17,315
Periodical Subscriptions	55	Periodical Subscriptions	1,714
Books on Tape and CD	1,038	Books on Tape and CD	2,063
Videos and DVD's	1,947	Videos and DVD's	9,453
Interlibrary loans received	5,053	Interlibrary loans provided	2,161
# of children's programs held	78	#Adult programs held	51
Attendance	2,237	Attendance	537
Number of registered borrowers	2,062		
Number of users on public computers during a typical week	38		

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy F. Pape
Director

Staff:

Betsy Beth	Library Clerk/Circulation
Sara Gardner	Youth Services Librarian
Annie MacLeod	Library Clerk/ DVD's and Periodicals
Lori Rabeler	Library Clerk
Susan Schlaikjer	Library Clerk/ Evening Book Group
Sharon Soucy	Pre-School Children's Coordinator
Karen Specht	CWMARS Coordinator/Tech Services

Trustees:

Craig Bovaird	Jane Morrisson
Jennifer Dexter	Brian Specht, Treasurer
Kyle Dube	Jane Weisman, Chair
Walter Gowey, Vice Chair	Victoria Whiting, Secretary

TRUSTEES OF THE GOODNOW MEMORIAL BUILDING
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2009 and 2008

	YEAR ENDING 6/30/2009	YEAR ENDING 6/30/2008	Fav/(Unf) Vs Prior \$
REVENUES COLLECTED			
Donations, annual appeal	\$ 8,040	\$ 9,540	\$ (1,500)
Donations, permanently restricted	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donations, in memorial	\$ 500	\$ 2,265	\$ (1,765)
Donations, other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Investment income	\$ (3,687)	\$ 1,777	\$ (5,464)
	<u>\$ 4,853</u>	<u>\$ 13,582</u>	<u>\$ (8,729)</u>
EXPENDITURES PAID			
Books and tapes	\$ 1,169	\$ 1,107	\$ (62)
Building maintenance	\$ 14,885	\$ 16,224	\$ 1,339
Dues and conferences	\$ 115	\$ 105	\$ (10)
Printing and postage	\$ 526	\$ 535	\$ 9
Supplies and other	\$ 144	\$ 59	\$ (85)
Tax filing fee	\$ 35	\$ -	\$ (35)
	<u>\$ 16,875</u>	<u>\$ 18,030</u>	<u>\$ 1,155</u>
CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	<u>\$ (12,022)</u>	<u>\$ (4,448)</u>	<u>\$ (7,574)</u>
FUND BALANCES			
Beginning of period	\$ 69,516	\$ 73,964	\$ (4,448)
End of period	<u>\$ 57,494</u>	<u>\$ 69,516</u>	<u>\$ (12,022)</u>
FUNDS ARE INVESTED AS FOLLOWS:			
Cash, checking	\$ 5,519	\$ 371	\$ 5,148
Cash, money market	\$ 30,173	\$ 42,576	\$ (12,403)
Mutual funds	\$ 21,802	\$ 26,569	\$ (4,767)
Total	<u>\$ 57,494</u>	<u>\$ 69,516</u>	<u>\$ (12,022)</u>
FUNDS ARE RESTRICTED AS FOLLOWS:			
Permanently Restricted:			
Bisk	\$ 12,339	\$ 11,100	\$ 1,239
Ruth Webster	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -
Perry-Daingerfield	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ -
Robin Whitney	\$ 15,500	\$ 15,500	\$ -
Total Perm. Rest.	<u>\$ 38,839</u>	<u>\$ 37,600</u>	<u>\$ 1,239</u>
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 10,466	\$ 12,325	\$ (1,859)
Unrestricted	\$ 8,189	\$ 19,591	\$ (11,402)
Total	<u>\$ 57,494</u>	<u>\$ 69,516</u>	<u>\$ (12,022)</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Brian P. Specht, Treasurer

TRUSTEES OF THE GOODNOW MEMORIAL BUILDING
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESTRICTED FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

		AS OF			AS OF
		Beginning of year	INCREASE	DECREASE	End of Year
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED					
Chandler & Mabel Bullock		1			1
Annual appeal	books	1,125		980	145
Annual appeal	videos	960			960
Exterior renovations		25			25
Ferguson		200			200
IMO	Ruth Webster	410			410
IMO	Katherine Poor	1,554			1,554
IMO	Mary Hilla	125			125
IMO	Nancy Flanders	500			500
Income earned from Permanent Funds:					
	Bisk	1,522		1,165	357
	Webster	368	286		654
	Perry/Daingerfield	1,635			1,635
	Whitney	3,900			3,900
		12,325	286	2,145	10,466
PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED					
Bisk Children's Enrich Fd		11,100	1,239		12,339
The Ruth Webster Fund		4,000			4,000
Perry/Daingerfield Fund <i>note 1 (Domini)</i>		7,000			7,000
Robin D. Whitney Fund <i>note 2 (Vanguard)</i>		15,500			15,500
		37,600	1,239	-	38,839
Mutual Fund investments					
<i>note 1</i>	Domini Social Equity Fund				
	Market value of mutual fund	7,169		1,858	5,311
	Donor restriction	7,000			7,000
	Difference	169	-	1,858	(1,689)
<i>note 2</i>	Vanguard Wellington Fund				
	Market value of mutual fund	19,400		2,909	16,491
	Donor restriction	15,500			15,500
	Difference	3,900	-	2,909	991
	Total market value	26,569	-	4,767	21,802

PRINCETON CENTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

18 Boylston Ave.
978 464 5977

January , 2010

The Princeton Center Management Committee still meets every third Thursday of each month to discuss matters of concern relating to operation of our facility on Boylston avenue. Public, please attend. We welcome your input. The first of our committees was appointed in July of 1991. This means that the committee has now been overseeing operations going on 19 years. For this entire time Gaile Rollins has served faithfully as the on site manager arranging the business of leasing, contacting repair vendors and dealing with the financial aspects. She is and has been the contact between the people leasing space and their needs and problems.

As part of the 250th anniversary celebration of the town, the Center hosted an event entitled Princeton Center School Day. This was very well attended by former students going back many years. Many attendees of the past submitted memorabilia and photos which were on display in the gym.

Much or most of our revenue again has been spent on heating fuel and repairs with very little to spare. We are also limited in this capacity due to space not leased and rental fees not coming in. A major project completed this year has been the application of a new roof to the 1941 addition or former science lab.

At the urging of the Art and Historical Societies we have taken into consideration the possibility of installing a chair lift or elevator to the second floor so that the elderly can attend activities therein.

The farmers market held at our location during their season has been a topic of discussion at times, in view of the fact that some feel it should be held at the town common. Since our committee has jurisdiction only on the interior of the building we are not in a position to be involved other than restroom facilities use which requires someone to be responsible.

Thank you Bill Johnson for keeping our building in such fine repair. And thank you Lillian Twarog for volunteering your time and keeping such fine minutes of our meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Dix , Carl Lapoint , Terry Thompson

2009 Report of the Princeton Parks and Recreation Commission

The Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to report that 2009 was another successful year with the following highlights:

- Expanded program offerings for youth and families in the Princeton community
- Improved and expanded communications on Parks and Recreation program activities through usage of the town website and email subscription service.
- Expanded 3-season utilization of the Everett Needham Field house in support of youth sports programs, community events, and private rentals. Ongoing maintenance of field house facility.
- Management of and growth in playing fields usage through working agreements with local youth soccer, baseball, softball, basketball, football organizations, as well as leasing arrangements with outside private organizations. Organizations include: Princeton Little League, Princeton Softball, Princeton Babe Ruth, Princeton Youth Soccer, Mountain Club Soccer, Wachusett Pop Warner Football and Cheering, Princeton Parks and Recreation Basketball programs, FC United Soccer Organization, Real Wachusett Soccer Organization, Summer High School soccer, SAC Soccer Club.
- Maintenance and improvement of field conditions through careful scheduling, and through planning of field usage and rotation strategies. Includes maintenance and vigilance in managing field irrigation systems.
- Worked with local sports organizations to ensure needs of all town organizations are met in equitably.
- Worked with local school department on cooperative utilization of school facilities for recreation programs and activities.
- Continued to foster relationships with other regional recreation programs for information sharing, collaboration on activities, and joint programming.
- Worked in joint effort with Princeton Center, council on Aging and Highway Department to refurbish and improve walking track – including handicapped accessibility – behind Center School.
- Met with local Frisbee golf community and explored interest in refurbishing the Goodnow Park Frisbee Golf Course.
- Filled commission vacancies by seating two new alternate members: Barbara Clark and Ed Sweeney. Commission now stands with members Kevin Heman, Chris Alsdorf – co-chairs; Kelton Burbank, Kevin McGahey, Ron Milenski, and alternate members: Barbara Clark, Ed Sweeney.

Sponsored and Supported:

- After school enrichment programs for youth held at Thomas Prince School: art, music, storytelling, nature, sports.
- Red Cross Babysitting course
- Summer Programs: theater, horsemanship, soccer camps, track/fun and games
- Summer Basketball

- Joint programming with town of Rutland – summer camps and pool passes/swim lessons
- Sponsored or co-sponsored adult and family programs: Bus Trip, crafts class
- Winter Youth in-house and travel basketball programs
- Adult basketball program
- Summer adult pickup soccer program
- Community Events: Scarecrow Festival, Winter Carnival, Snow Day, Summer Kickoff Celebration
- Support of Princeton 250th community programs and events, including Summer Town Fair
- Support of Longsjo bicycle race
- Support Halloween Howler and TPS 8th grade
- Support Wachusett Pop Warner August Training program
- Support Soccer program through collaborative field management, equipment usage, field care

Parks and Recreation Commission Goals for 2010 include:

- Continued offering of seasonal community events such as Winter Carnival and Summer Celebration. Expand to include additional offerings such as movie nights.
- Continued expansion of utilization of the Everett Needham Field house, including support and usage during sports programs and activities, special events, town resident rentals of fields/facilities, social gathering events and activities. Also continue to pursue necessary improvements for expanded utilization of meeting areas, completion of walkway and improved accessibility to the building.
- Provide opportunities to work with scouts and local groups on community service projects which can mutually benefit those groups and assist the town's parks, facilities and programs.
- Explore possibilities for refurbishment of the Frisbee golf park at Goodnow Park.
- Continue to pursue opportunities for playground installations/improvements at select locations in town.
- Continue to pursue goal of improving usage and accessibility of Sawyer Field.
- Continue to assist in ongoing development of a town trail network.
- Develop and provide recreational activities and opportunities for all Princeton residents – both children and adults. Continue working to develop closer linkage with the senior community and explore opportunities for offering additional recreational programming for adults.
- Continue to foster joint working relationships in coordination of all recreational activities in Princeton and with neighboring towns.
- Continue to maintain fields, staffing, and support of recreational activities

- Maintain vigilance in managing all playing areas to minimize over wear and maximize playability – keeping them in excellent condition for our local community and also as a desirable option for those who may express interest in leasing field space.

Contact Information:

Princeton Parks and Recreation Director, Susan Shanahan: recreation@town.princeton.ma.us (978)868-8055. Parks and Recreation Commission may be reached by contacting Princeton Town Hall (978)464-2100. Also please visit the Recreation page on the town website: www.town.princeton.ma.us, from the town homepage, you may also subscribe to “Recreation News and Updates”. Follow the link on the left side of the page.

Thank you for all your help and contributions!

The Parks and Recreation Commission could not achieve its goals without the help of numerous individuals and groups. We appreciate the support and donations of local community members and businesses that generously support our programs and efforts. Additionally we appreciate the invaluable dedication and service from the following individuals and groups:

- Brenda Savoie, Parks and Recreation Secretary, for keeping the commission organized and on track.
- Town Administrator: Mr. John Lebeaux, for taking over the reins and providing welcome assistance in your leadership, knowledge and general support of the commission. We are also ever grateful for the support of your predecessor, Mr. Dennis Rindone, whose support of our commission was strong and invaluable and who is greatly missed in our Princeton community.
- Princeton Highway Department staff and Mr. Glen Lyons, Manager – for your continued support of our programs and requests, and for the outstanding maintenance and service to our fields and facilities.
- Princeton Municipal Light Dept staff, and Mr. Jon Fitch, Manager – for continued assistance and support
- Ms. Mary Cringan and Thomas Prince School staff for your support and encouragement of the Princeton Parks and Recreation director and our programs and activities.
- Mr. Tom Lynch for keeping a watch over and caring for our young trees recently planted at Parks locations and Krashes Fields.
- All officers, coaches, and volunteers of Princeton’s youth athletic and recreation programs for your mentorship and kindness to our children – There are too many individuals to mention!
- All Princeton residents and businesses that contributed time, effort, facilities, or financial support.
- Our local government and political leaders who support and help us to achieve our goals and serve our community in the best ways possible.

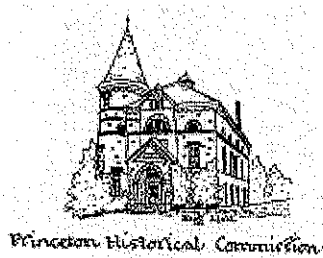
We are proud of the accomplishments that we were able to achieve in 2009. We look forward to 2010 with great enthusiasm and the opportunity of offering recreation activities to everyone in Princeton.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Parks and Recreation Commission,

Chris Alsdorf/Kevin Heman, co-chairs

Members: Kelton Burbank, Kevin McGahey, Ron Milenski. Alternates: Barbara Clark, Ed Sweeney



2009 Princeton Historical Commission Annual Report

The year 2009 was a very productive one for the Princeton Historical Commission (PHC). We were happy to participate in the 250th Anniversary Celebration and accomplished several objectives.

This year, we placed markers and dedicated the Russell Corner and the Expanded Princeton Center (including Meetinghouse Cemetery) National Register Districts. The dedications of these newly accepted districts were part of the 250th celebration.

The area known as "West Village" has been accepted as a National Register District. We have secured permission from a resident to place a plaque honoring West Village as a National Register District.

Last year, The PHC was awarded \$8,000 by the DCR Partnerships Matching Funds Program to prepare a nomination of Wachusett Mountain for the Nation Register of Historic Places. The nomination has been completed and sent to Massachusetts Historical Commission where it will await approval.

The Meeting House Cemetery Restoration project is in its third year. We have repaired eight broken stones and improved the gate (with special thanks to Bill Johnson, Bruce Rollins, Dick Wheeler and the Cemetery Commission).

We have continued the successful Historic House Plaque Program we began in 2007. In its current phase, we have used the services of a professional title examiner to research the more cryptic 18th and 19th century records to ensure accuracy. The cost of this assistance was borne by the homeowners whose property required such attention. No town funds were expended.

Members of the PHC wrote a book, called "Princeton: A History of its Villages". This book documents the four Districts that the PHC has placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Proceeds of the local sales of this commercially published book have benefited the PHC and no town funds were expended.

Our Goals for next year are to:

- Continue the restoration of Meeting House Cemetery.
- Install an historic marker and dedicate the newly accepted West Village National Register District.
- Begin the process of National Register nominations for The Four Corners and for the Village of Everettville.
- Develop our town website pages to make the resources we've discovered readily available to all Princeton residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dubman



2009 Princeton Cultural Council Annual Report

Each year the Princeton Cultural Council awards funds allocated by the Massachusetts Cultural Council to promote cultural activities in the community. These activities serve not only to enrich the lives of residents of all ages, but to provide employment opportunities for Princeton's artists.

Princeton's allocation from the state for FY10 was \$4,000. This amount, combined with unencumbered funds and a cancelled grant in the amount of \$1,500 allowed the Council to award a total of \$5,676.

Programs accepted for 2010

"Act Up"	Princeton Youth Arts Collaborative
"Playing with Shadows"	Firefly Shadow Theatre
"Shakespeare" featuring Richard Clark	Princeton Public Library
"Help Save our Native Turtles"	Wachusett Meadow
"Vic and Sticks' Recycled Rhythms"	Princeton Public Library
"Creature Teachers - Rainforest Program"	Princeton Public Library
"Earth Rhythms: Stories and Songs"	Princeton Public Library
"Music is Love" featuring Dawn Kelly	Princeton Senior Citizens Club
Student book project at Thomas Prince School	Susan Roney-O'Brien
Concert featuring Ruth Harcovitz	Princeton Senior Luncheon Club
Art studio demonstrations	Princeton Arts Society
"Our Towns" radio program	Audio Journal, Inc.
"Meet Mrs. Mary Rowlandson"	Katie Green
75th Regional Exhibition of Art and Craft	Fitchburg Art Museum
Concert at Wachusett Inn	Wachusett Valley Folk Festival
Concert/fundraiser at Wachusett Regional High School	Tall Heights

Respectfully submitted,
Alexandra Fiandaca

Wachusett Greenways Annual Report 2009

Colleen Abrams, Chair
Steven Dubrule
Margaret Lock
Kenneth McDonnell

Stanley Miller
Christine Nichols
Ida Nystrom
Edward P. Yaglou

Celebrating 15 Years

The year 2009 marks the completion of 15 years of Wachusett Greenways' efforts to connect our communities with trails and greenways. Greenways works in grateful partnership with the Commonwealth, Wachusett Towns, local foundations, businesses and nonprofit groups. Since 1995 more than 2,200 generous donors and members have supported Greenways. Each year more than 200 volunteers help carry out our mission. This partnership has built and today maintains more than 15 miles of the Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT), including seven bridges, a 70-foot tunnel and several major culverts. Greenways has built and maintains the 4-mile White Oak Trail in Holden. Greenways offer opportunities for year-round recreation and nature exploration.

ICE, ICE, ICE

The major ice storm of December '08 left countless trees down or damaged on the MCRT and White Oak Trail. Greenways volunteers and many good neighbors immediately helped cut through the downed trees to reopen the trails. Throughout 2009 teams continued clearing piles of brush, removing branches from drainage ditches and chipping or dragging brush away from the trail. As the year ended the rail trail and White Oak Trail were nearly back to normal after hundreds of hours of clearing by our dedicated network of volunteers.

Extending the Rail Trail

Greenways managed construction of the MCRT in Oakham from Muddy Pond Culvert west one mile to the Route 122 crossing. Volunteers contributed many hours of planning, and they removed the trees from the old rail bed. Greenways contracted Mark Sadowski, East Hill Enterprises, Rutland to remove stumps and organics from the trail and drainage area and to install gravel base. Mr. Sadowski also expertly completed two Parker Brook crossings including rebuilding a large concrete-capped culvert, which was badly damaged by a 1990s beaver dam washout, and building abutments and placing a bridge where the 1938 hurricane washout occurred. The bridge was constructed from one of the "Big Dig" bridges that WG received. New decking and railings were added by Peter Scott of Gardner. The MCRT Task Force, led by Greenways Director Ed Yaglou, managed the project, and engineer Bruce Pennino donated his services. A DCR Recreational Trails Grant and donations from Greenways members helped finance the construction. The section of trail will receive a stone-dust paved surface in 2010.

Restoring the Trail in West Boylston

The spring 2009 washout of the rail trail in West Boylston led to a partnership to repair and improve the trail between the washout and the Oakdale parking lot. Wachusett Greenways donors, the Town of West Boylston and the DCR all contributed funds and services. Greenways contracted the restoration with Bob Salvadore, of Salvadore

Excavating, Barre. Mr. Salvadore, along with Jim Ryan and Randy Southwick ably handled the construction. Trail users offered rave reviews and streamed back to enjoy the trail.

Rail Trail Maintenance

The Towns, Wachusett Greenways and the DCR carried out trail maintenance. The Town DPWs mowed the rail trail shoulders. Greenways volunteers trimmed brush, cleared drainage, raked leaves, and planted and cared for flowers at the trailheads. Trail patrollers, who have adopted each trail section, provide regular care for the trail by removing downed limbs and the minimal litter at parking lots or along the trail.

In 2009, Wachusett residents especially appreciated the Town DPWs and DCR, who plowed the trail entrance parking areas. With wonderful snow, many enthusiastic neighbors were happy to hike, snow shoe or cross-country ski.

Refreshing Youth!

Several enthusiastic youth teams helped during the year, and they were especially welcomed to help with the ice storm clean-up. Middle-school students from Bancroft School, of Worcester, continued their tradition of community service by helping on the trail for three days during the school year. A powerful team of WPI students from the Alpha Phi Omega coed service fraternity helped on several trail days. Boy Scout groups in Rutland cleared sections of the rail trail. Cub Scouts from West Boylston helped on the White Oak Trail. The Holden YAHOO team helped clear the trail in Rutland.

Boy Scouts Phil Blake, Zach Kent, Mike Kent and Cameron Horton completed their Eagle projects. Brian Walsh initiated his project, which will be completed in 2010. Four scouts were from Holden troops and Phil Blake is a Sterling Scout. Zach cleared and improved a Trout Brook trail and painted new blazes on the trail across Trout Brook in Holden. Mike cleared and improved a low-lying section of the White Oak Trail near North Street, Holden. Cameron measured the five miles of the Mass Central Rail Trail in West Boylston and Holden and installed aluminum mile markers every 0.2 miles. Cameron also provided the GPS coordinates to the fire and police departments. Phil installed a split-rail fence and a shelter for a bulletin board at the rail trail parking at Miles Road in Rutland. Brian will install interpretive signage at the Rutland station water tower on the rail trail near Miles Road.

Trail Re-dedication, Family Fun Day, Springdale Mill Celebration

On the last Saturday of September Wachusett Greenways held a triple celebration including re-dedication of the restored rail trail washout, the annual Family Fun Day, and the Springdale Mill Celebration.

Representatives of Wachusett Greenways, the Town of West Boylston, the DCR, the Town of Holden, our legislators and Salvadore Excavating united for the ribbon-cutting as an enthusiastic crowd welcomed the reopening of the trail connecting West Boylston and Holden. Everyone was invited to share a delicious cake followed by the day's festivities.

The Family Fun Day event included a nature scavenger hunt, bugs-in-a-bucket, old fashioned games and storytelling. Each child was greeted and received a gift bag. The Springdale Mill Celebration at the historic mill site in Holden offered live music with

Chas and Deb, tasty food, wool carding and spinning, and information about the Asian long horned beetle and other threats to the forest. A Sam's Club Foundation grant helped support Family Fun Day and the Springdale Mill Celebration

StoryWalk™

Greenways continued its installation of StoryWalk™, an interactive project, originally developed in Vermont that combines wonderful children's books with the pleasure of walking. An actual storybook is posted page-by-page along the trail for all to enjoy. This year we placed *The Mitten* in Sterling during the snowy months. *Danny and the Dinosaur* was placed along the rail trail in West Boylston in time for the September Family Fun Day and Springdale Mill Celebration. Many enthusiastic readers left notes in the guest book expressing their delight with the stories.

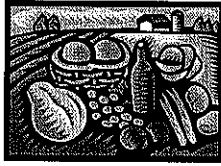
Year Round Events

Outdoor events included hikes, interpretive walks, bicycling, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, canoeing and moonlight adventures designed to offer fun and improved health.

Saying Goodbye

Pauline Cloutier (July 20, 1930-November 18, 2009) was a stalwart Greenways supporter who served in many roles throughout more than a dozen years. She served as a Greenways director, managed the annual meeting, and helped with mailings, hospitality, trail clearing, patrolling, painting blazes, the *Greenways Cookbook*, the 2005 auction and much more. She enjoyed walking many miles outdoors and especially appreciated the "over-the-hill" connector for the rail trail. Pauline was still helping out on the trail and with hospitality until her death in November. She will be greatly missed.

We close 2009 with a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed during the first 15 years to help connect the Wachusett communities with trails and greenways. Onward together....



**Princeton Agricultural Commission
Annual Report 2009**

Members: Jennifer Caswell (chair), Charlie Stimson, Jim Hillis, Walter Gowey, Nancy Ackerman, and
Alternate: Jane Fife

The Agricultural Commission began the year mourning the loss of our founder and chair, Lisa Dawson. She will be greatly missed by both the AgCom as well as the Princeton Community. Among her many contributions to the Princeton Community was the founding of the AgCom, passing the Right to Farm bylaw, and the inspiration behind the Princeton Farmers' Market.

Not long after that we were stunned to hear of the sudden death of Dennis Rindone. His steadfast support of the AgCom was another great loss. He was well loved and respected by the entire town.

Walter Gowey was nominated by AgCom to replace the vacant position on AgCom. He is great addition to the AgCom team and we are all delighted to have him serve on the board!

A survey was sent to vendors who participated in the 2008 Princeton Farmers' Market. After a careful review of the replies it was decided that the market should be changed from Friday to Thursday. For consistency, and in the best interest of the vendors and the town, the location and time will remain the same.

In the spirit of getting the town to think early about gardening, AgCom sponsored a lecture/slideshow by nationally acclaimed author and gardener Edward C. Smith, on May 2nd. His presentation was inspirational and he was also available after the show for book-signing.

This year AgCom again sponsored the Princeton Farmers' Market. Despite the rainy start of the season we began on June 18th with six vendors selling homegrown and homemade items. By the end of the season the market had over 17 registered vendors. Lisa Bennie and Kim Johnson offered free blood pressure screenings at the market as a public service to the community. Senior citizens were able to use their coupons at the market to purchase fresh homegrown fruits and vegetables.

We are pleased to announce that Nancy Hubbard, a long time resident of Princeton, and registered Farmers' Market vendor, has agreed to head a new sub-committee to organize and run next year's Princeton Farmers' Market.

On September 26, AgCom assisted the Massachusetts Audubon with Hey Day at Wachusett Meadow. Several vendors from the Farmers' Market also participated and sold their homemade, homegrown items.

The AgCom has already begun work on the Princeton Agricultural Brochure which will highlight the farming community in Princeton. A flyer will be sent out in February's PMLD mailing with hopes that the information will be collected and assemble in the first part of 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Ackerman

2009 Annual Report Princeton Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission consists of seven appointed members and two associates. The Commission enforces the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) on behalf of the Town. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month unless circumstances dictate an alternate time.

During 2009, the Commission acted upon six Notices of Intent (formal filings under the WPA). Projects were approved with varying degrees of restriction in order to be compliant with the WPA (through issuance of project-specific Orders of Conditions). One additional Notice is being carried forward into 2010.

Also during 2009 there were six Requests for Determination of Applicability (a filing whereby the Commission determines if a project is outright jurisdictional or in the 100-ft buffer zone to wetlands). Determinations of Applicability issued by the Commission carry conditions to protect the resources in question.

Three Forest Cutting Plans were reviewed.

Lastly, one Certificate of Compliance was issued.

In addition to hearings and meetings associated with the WPA, the Commission hosted a meeting with Jennifer Gensel of DEP to discuss the DEP's recently adopted Storm water Management regulations.

The last significant item in 2009 was the development of an RFP for the operation and maintenance of the Four Corners hayfields acquired by the Town for agriculture/recreation. Review of proposals lead to the selection of a local party signing on to a 10-year lease, with the Commission overseeing enactment of the agreement on behalf of the Town.

Respectfully submitted,
F. Paul Richards
Chair

2009 OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT

Current Members:

Kelton Burbank, Chair
Deb Cary
Martha Fortier
Phil Grzyb
Kim Houde
Jim Samdahl
Doug Williams

Served and resigned
Dominic Golding,
Jeff Richards
Paul Schlaikjer

The Princeton Open Space Committee was first established in the year 2000 in order to develop an Open Space and Recreation Plan which would then make the town eligible for state funds. This process was embraced by town officials and residents and in 2006 the plan was updated. The plan reflects the strong commitment by Princeton residents to maintaining the rural character of the Town and preserving its environmental integrity, while accommodating the need for passive and active recreational activities. The 2000 Open Space and Recreation Plan focused on the expansion of playing fields, especially for organized youth soccer and baseball. Thanks to state, town and private funding, the development of Princeton Park/Krashes Fields is celebrated as a success in achieving this 2000 goal of improving the Town's recreational fields and facilities.

Now the goals include the expansion of public and private walking and hiking trails, along roadways and through wooded off-road areas, the maintenance of areas for hunting and fishing, the education of residents about land use and conservation options and the crafting of criteria in order to set open space protection priorities.

Two years ago, the Town of Princeton completed a Town Wide Plan. The preservation of rural character was reaffirmed as essential to Princeton residents. When they describe their Town's most cherished qualities, they speak of its natural resources and open space.

The Open Space Committee is charged with implement the following goals now based on these recent planning efforts:

*The protection and enhancement of the natural environment;

- *The protection/conservation of scenic landscapes, open meadows, and agricultural fields which preserve the community character;
- *Implementation of various programs and outreach activities both to educate residents about the ways to preserve rural character and to celebrate the beauty of our Town
- *The planning and development of a town-wide and regional connected trail network
- *The need for quality recreational facilities and recreational opportunities for all Town residents; and makes

Specific projects that are of high priority, including:

The continued preservation of key open fields, meadows, and agricultural lands, including the Smith Farm and Hall properties;

The identification and creation of **trail corridors and greenways**, such as the greenway between Whittaker Lane and Route 31, and the corridor comprising the Four Corners Area, Trust, McDonald, Krashes, Dept of Conservation and Recreation, Fish & Wildlife properties.

2009 Activities

This past year, the primary focus of the Princeton Open Space Committee has been the Mid-State Trail re-route between Hubbardston and the Savage Hill Wildlife Management Area, through the newly protected Four Corners Conservation Area, Mass Audubon's Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary, and on to Wachusett Mountain State Reservation. The Committee is working with the Mid-State Trail Committee of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), The Princeton Land Trust, Mass Audubon, the Princeton Conservation Commission, and the state Dept of Conservation and Recreation.

The Trail is being re-routed in order for it to pass more through conservation areas and park lands rather than on roads as it presently does. The key link to this trail re-route is the need for a pedestrian bridge over the East Branch of the Ware River. At this point, the trail will be able to continue east across the river at the point where there once was a bridge along Old Colony Road. Once across the river, the trail will go back into the woods on to Princeton Land Trust Land (formerly known as "Scout Land" and continue onto the Four Corners Conservation Land. From there the trail can cross Gates Road and down the discontinued section of Goodnow Road and on through Mass Audubon's Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary and re-connect with its former path.

Committee members have met with Mid-State Trail Committee members, consulted Wachusett Greenways members, as well as DCR officials for advice about bridge design and crossings. Committee members also met with Highway Director, Glenn Lyons to review bridge design requirements. A design has been selected and cost of construction is now being determined.

Report of the 250th Anniversary Steering Committee

Celebration of the 250th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Princeton (as a District) was observed during 2009 by several special events and in conjunction with many events scheduled annually by Princeton organizations. The Select Board appointed a Steering Committee to plan and conduct the observance and Town Meeting appropriated a total of \$25,000 for the purpose (over several Annual Town Meetings). By all accounts, the first quarter-millennium of Princeton's presence as a most special place to live, work and raise families was observed in fine and satisfying fashion.

In the early fall of 2006, an Ad Hoc planning group, with the encouragement of Town Administrator Dennis Rindone, met to frame an approach to observing the semi-quincentennial. A Steering Committee (SC) was appointed (originally five; settling later at four determined and dedicated men of the town) and began meeting in early 2007.

The SC early on embraced the principle that the 250th anniversary should involve as many townspeople, friends and former residents as possible; providing events with broad appeal. The approach adopted by the four-member SC was to promote the use of active subcommittees to run individual events rather than maintain a large "doing" committee throughout. Likewise, the SC attempted to "co-opt" as many annual events routinely scheduled by town organizations and encourage a 250th spin.

Activities in 2007 included establishing a website (www.princeton250.org) and mailing list, initiating design of a logo and branding approach, gathering information on centennial celebrations in other Massachusetts towns, meeting with our sister committee in Westminster and conducting a Community Planning Forum in October. This event laid the groundwork for setting the schedule of events and event planning during 2008.

Early in 2008, a logo design was accepted and a Memorabilia Committee was charged with assembling an offering of appropriate items for purchase and use during the celebration. Event proposals were formally solicited with a planning form, a second planning forum for town organizations added to the event schedule, progress was reviewed with the Select Board and publicity needs were identified.

Inevitably, questions of "policy" arose and working rules were established to deal fairly and consistently; primarily money matters. Accordingly, the first event, a New Year's Eve Kick-Off Party at Wachusett Mountain was priced nominally at \$5 with the balance of costs subsidized from 250th appropriations. This model was followed for the other "unique" events later in the year in order to encourage wide participation.

As the school year began, a contest was arranged to solicit design ideas for a Town Flag. Princeton has not been represented with the almost 300 towns having flags displayed in the State House. The pace of SC meetings went bi-weekly as the big year loomed. Mailings were prepared, signs erected for use during the year, calendar published and memorabilia sales began at the Light Department; moving to the Library.

Co-sponsored with Westminster, the New Year's Eve Kick-Off Party was an overwhelming success. With modest expectations, 500 entry buttons were purchased. Over 1,000 happy souls gathered in the Granite Room (and outside!) to launch the

observances in Westminster and Princeton. Cake and speeches, good food and cheer filled the evening. Midnight fireworks and a torchlight slalom parade welcomed 2009. An "eternal flame" made it to the Annex and Library and "burned" throughout the year.

Mid-January brought unveiling of the new Town Flag and a ceremony at the State House with dozens of students from Thomas Prince School hearing a select few deliver essays. A formal sponsorship program was launched; ultimately ensuring that all activities could be completed and the year-long observance accomplished within amounts appropriated.

A Winter Carnival and Skating Party at the Norco Club honored our snowy hill town. Reprising events from 1959's Bi-centennial, the Brothers-of-the-Brush challenged Westminster to a bearded tug-o-war across the skimming pond on the last day of skiing. After Princeton trounced Westminster, several, tired of hirsute adornment, were shorn on the spot. Our Town Treasurer donated her Locks for Love ensuring gender equality.

The Rev. Thos. Prince made an appearance at the Princeton Arts Society Chorale event combining music and photos to recount Princeton's 250 year history. The Memorial Day was much enhanced and honored all veterans with vintage automobile livery service. Historical District markers dedicated during the year, a book about Princeton's villages, Russell's Corner family reunion and the traditional talk by a Peck kept history alive.

Dozens of Center School alums gathered there in May for "Princeton Center Day"; sharing memories of those formative school years, square-danced in the yard and concluded with a fine meal at Harrington Farm.

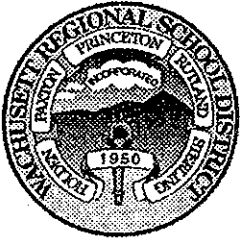
A festive Town Fair attracted Princetonians of all ages to Krashes Fields in August for rides, games, a hot air balloon and fireworks. Earlier, the Princeton Fire Department hosted a regional "Muster" in the Center; impressing all with contests involving ladders and hoses and lots of water.

The Salisbury Singers presented an evening of "100Years of Broadway" on the actual anniversary date: October 20th. This gala concert saw hundreds of Princeton and Westminster residents gather at Montachusett VocTech for music and the presentation of proclamations from the Commonwealth.

Formal observances concluded in early November with the Grand Finale Moon Dance at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area. Fine dining, dancing and wonderful camaraderie filled the evening.

None of this would have been possible without the initiative and enthusiastic involvement of many Princetonians. Those names alone would fill the two pages allotted for this report. The Town can be justly proud of the spirit its citizens bring to every challenge!

These events and more kept Princeton's long heritage in the public consciousness and were a welcome respite from the Great Ice Storm and its clean-up. A more complete and detailed account of the preparations and the actual events, along with photos and other artifacts, has been entrusted to the care of the Princeton Historical Society. If not instructive, perhaps this collection can provide entertainment to the committee charged with Princeton's Tri-centennial observance in 2059.



Wachusett Regional School District

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

February 2010

Dear Residents:

As we begin the annual process of budget planning and deliberation, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the support that citizens have shown for our schools. Because of your support, the Wachusett District has made considerable progress during the last few years. While not without incident and consequence, we have built a high school that provides our students with a facility that matches the strength and complexity of our school's comprehensive program. As taxpayers you can certainly be proud of the school that you have provided to our high school students. And it is as if they want to thank you with good performance! Last year, we saw the best testing results in our school's history. For example, seventy-two percent of our tenth grade students scored in the advanced category in math on the most recent MCAS. This result on a very challenging test is testimony to the strength of our teachers and our programs, and we owe our residents thanks for helping us to maintain the conditions that we need in order to educate students in a safe and productive environment.

The latter has certainly been a challenge in this economic climate. We realize that budgets are strained and we will make every effort to mitigate cost, but the simple fact is that our costs are currently very low. While providing quality programs in all of our schools, Wachusett has consistently spent at a very low rate. Our per pupil expense rate is among the lowest in the entire state. It is against this backdrop that one must consider our current economic crisis. Last year, Wachusett lost approximately 2.3 million dollars of revenue over the course of the state budget process. In order to meet this fiscal challenge, the District was forced to reduce forty-four staff members. We simply cannot continue to make such cuts and maintain the quality programs to which residents have grown accustomed. With this admonition over, let me renew my annual pledge to work with the Member Towns to solve our funding problem in a manner that serves our mutual interest.

Once again, thank you for your continued support of our schools. With your help and support we will continue to make every effort to develop our nation's most valuable resource.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

TGP:rlp