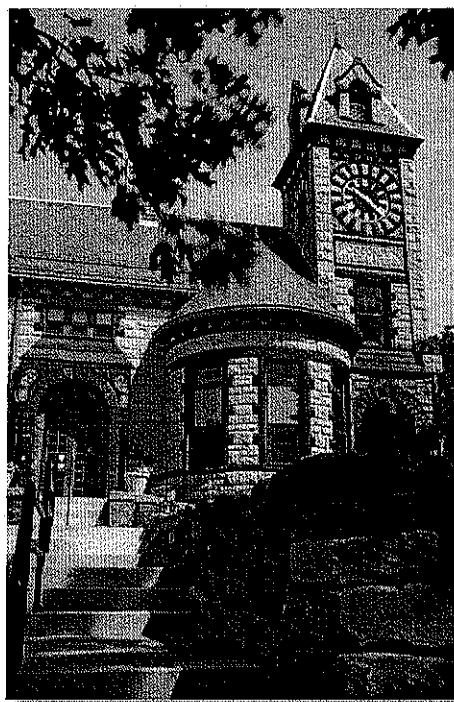


## **Annual Report 2010**

### **Princeton Public Library**

The Library continues to be a thriving centerpiece in the community. History shows that when the economy is struggling, library usage increases. We have seen more people walking through our doors this year than in previous years.

The library today is much more than books. Of course we still pack the shelves with books, DVDs, CDs, and much more. We also serve as a meeting place. We offer more activities; such as book groups for young and old, a film discussion group, story times for preschoolers and kindergarteners, afternoon crafts for school age children, storytellers, music performances, lectures, workshops, therapy dogs for reluctant readers, summer reading activities, and more. Check out our calendar at [www.princetonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.princetonpubliclibrary.org)



We have four public access computers with printing capability and full internet for our patrons. For audio enjoyment we offer books on CD and MP3 format, as well as Playaway audio book devices (pre-loaded digital audio books). Through the CWMARS digital catalog patrons can download audio books and eBooks onto many mobile devices. Thanks to a gift from The Friends of the PPL we own a Sony E-Reader, an Amazon Kindle, and a Barnes and Noble Nook. These are available for patrons to borrow.

Through our website patrons can access many databases for reference as well as newspapers and periodical articles. From the comfort of your home you can browse our collection, a specific library's collection, or over 300 libraries collections in the state. You can order materials, renew, and pay fines. We offer Wi-Fi 24/7. We also have available a copy machine and fax machine (on 24/7). Coffee is available daily, and on Thursday we offer "tea and confections".

Thanks to the Friends of the Princeton Library and the Princeton Cultural Council we have hosted many inspiring programs for the public. From Shakespeare to a Russian countertenor, to Indian cooking and Tussie-Mussie workshops, candy making and poetry readings.

The Trustees of the Goodnow Memorial Building are the backbone of the Library. They are the support system for the staff, the policy makers, and overseers of the building. Through their expert tutelage the building has been renovated both inside and out.

**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	Brian Specht, Treasurer
Kyle Dube	Jane Weisman, Chair
Walter Gowey, Vice Chair	Victoria Whiting, Secretary
Jane Morrisson	
Brian Specht, Treasurer	

**Holdings and Circulation - July 2009 through June 2010**

Holdings		Circulation	
Books	16,978	19,722	
Periodical Subscriptions	68	1,863	
Books on Tape and CD	1,209	2,664	
E-books	1,145	21	
Downloadable audio	1,848	242	
Videos and DVD's	1,853	12,112	
Downloadable video	249	1	
Interlibrary loans received	5,219	Interlibrary loans provided	2,520
# of children's programs held	141	#Adult programs held	49
Attendance	2,346	Attendance	329

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy F. Pape  
Director

The Princeton Center Management Committee  
Annual Report for 2010

Here it is January again and time to do the annual report. To encourage public input and participation we remind readers that the Princeton Center Management Committee meets every third Thursday of each month at 10 A.M.. Location: Princeton Center in the Seniors room. These meetings are devoid of contention and are often times quite entertaining. Like all official town committees, the P.C.M.C, is required to submit agendas and meeting minutes to the Town Clerk to be placed on file. These become public documents available to all and could prove most enlightening. All exchanged gossip is deleted from the printed minutes.

The most important matter dealt with this year was the need to again replace the nonrepairable boiler at a time when urgency dictated the haste to do so. The rusted out unit quit in mid November. John Lebeau managed to advertise and receive bids within a short period of time. The selected bidder had our heating system operating by the second week of December. Thank you John. This was the fourth time the furnace has been replaced since the conversion from a coal burning system back in the early 1950s

Another major undertaking this year was a refurbishing of the kitchen. This was prompted by a project of the Council on Aging who arranged to bring to Princeton a program for congregate meals for senior citizens. To have this happen, a kitchen meeting certain health codes, was necessary and had to be approved by the board of health. A new floor was needed. A new drain pipe had to be installed along with three sinks. The primary expense for this change to the kitchen was assumed by the C.O.A.. Beginning in January of 2011, meals will be served to our seniors every Tuesday at noon.

Two of our tenants have given notice that they will not longer be with us as of the beginning of the new year. We will miss them for they had been with us a long time and were trouble free and always paid their rent on time, unlike a few others. We are fortunate that one of these newly available spaces is going to be leased right away and the other has had some promising inquiries about it.

As a committee we want to publicly express our thanks to Lillian Twarog and Bill Johnson for their extra effort and abilities applied to making the Princeton Center the accomplishment that it is.

If you have a need to contact us, please do so though the site manager, Gaile Rollins, who maintains an office at the center.

Respectfully submitted,  
Louise Dix, Carl Lapoint, Terry Thompson

# **Report of the Parks and Recreation Department**

## **1. Maintain and maximize utilization of our town parks and facilities:**

- This past year began a well-thought out plan of field rotations to manage wear and playability of fields. Detailed cad drawings have been drawn of all field areas so we can move fields around as needed within the guidelines of field size and layout requirements.
- Ongoing Field maintenance plans - fertilization, over seeding, etc. Also area maintenance - fencing, walkways, lighting etc.
- Thank you to Glenn Lyons and Princeton Highway Department for assistance and support of Parks and Recreation maintenance and activities.
- Utilization of Everett Needham Fieldhouse in support of community and sports activities.
  - Brick Walkway completed
  - New Bleachers installed
  - Wireless Access available: password: KRASHESFIELD
- Collaborated with HW Dept. and Council on Aging to redo the walking track at Center school, including handicapped accessibility improvements and planning for ongoing care and maintenance.
- Worked with town on irrigation and subsequent well/pump issue at Thomas Prince School. Repaired, more cost-efficient, resized pump installed, and reconnection of emergency fire hydrant access.
- Supported volunteers and are excited to have the Frisbee golf course at Goodnow Park refurbished and ready for play this coming spring.
- Maintain close relationships with all local sports leagues and organizations for field maintenance, usage, scheduling and accessibility of all fields for community play.
- Schedule and market fields/facilities to generate revenue through field leases and rentals to outside leagues and clubs and special events.
- Work with local groups and scouts to continue to advertise and promote hiking areas and trails.
- Fields and park facilities are in use all seasons of the year.

## **2. Recreation Programs**

- Promote and schedule a variety of programs throughout the year to meet community interests. In addition to classes and programs, we promote seasonal events for the community.
- Children's and After school programs -- we have brought in a variety of children's programming, and are grateful for the cooperation of the Thomas Prince School in providing us program space as well as support in "paperwork management" - providing a mailbox for registration drop-offs

and correspondence, allowing parks and rec. flyers to be distributed to families through backpacks, and allowing children to be dismissed from classroom to programs.

- Some programs this past year have included: Art classes, FAST Athletics programs, Yoga, Zumba, Tennis Lessons, Audubon nature programs, Computer programming classes, and Theater/drama programs.
- In addition to after school programs, we offer recreational basketball -- summer, winter in-house, and travel leagues. Also a variety of summer camps and programs.
- Adult programs -- craft classes, fitness programs, basketball, tennis leagues and bus trips have been offered. We are seeking feedback on the types of programs that may be of interest in the community and are not already met through other groups in town. Any and all feedback and recommendations are welcome.
- Collaboration with other regional towns -- we continue to work closely with the other area towns in offering joint programming, and sharing ideas for programs and activities.

### 3. Community Events

Princeton Parks and Recreation has supported an annual Summer Kickoff Celebration, which included a very popular movie night at Krashes this past summer. We have also expanded upon our Winter Carnival tradition.

This year the Winter Carnival was held over the weekend of February 4th. Weekend events included: snow sculpting, food, and fireworks, bands, movie, ice fishing derby, snowshoeing and cross country skiing, skiing/races, a themed dinner dance, sledding, warming fire, and a cardboard sled races. Lots of fun and a successful winter weekend.

We look forward to ongoing pursuit of ideas and programs for community activities and to provide recreational gathering opportunities for members of the community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Shanahan  
Director, Princeton Parks and Recreation  
On behalf of the Princeton Parks and Recreation Commission



## **2010 Princeton Historical Commission Annual Report**

2010 was another productive year for the Princeton Historical Commission (PHC). We accomplished several objectives:

- The West Village National Register commemorative plaque was installed near the former 'Pratt's Corner' in August. We thank the Highway Dept. and PMLD for their help.
- Our National Register District nomination for Four Corners is progressing. With the support of the Audubon Society, a combined National Register District has recently been defined for Four Corners and Wachusett Meadow, which are linked in their significance by the original Boston-Barre turnpike.
- The Wachusett Mountain National Register nomination is in process. The Massachusetts Historical Commission is scheduled to make a decision in the near future.
- The Meetinghouse Cemetery conservation project was in its fourth year. Approximately 30 gravestones have been reset and/or repaired to date. We thank the Cemetery Commission for their support and enthusiasm.
- Our primary focus in 2010 was on crafting a means by which we can protect historically significant structures from demolition and ensure public review.

Our Goals for next year are to:

- Develop a strategy to protect historically significant structures.
- Continue the restoration of Meeting House Cemetery.
- Begin the process of National Register nomination for the Village of Everettville.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dubman



## **2010 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 for FY2011 was \$3,870. The following programs were accepted:

Summer Reading Program Kick-Off Event with Scott Jameson at the Princeton Public Library,  
Princeton Arts Society 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Regional Art Exhibit/Celebration,  
Storyteller Odds Bodkin at Thomas Prince School,  
Kathy Packard of Kathy's Flowers and Gifts,  
"Two Old Friends" featuring Mac McHale and Emery Hutchins at the Princeton Public Library,  
76<sup>th</sup> Regional Exhibition of Art and Craft at the Fitchburg Art Museum,  
Tall Heights in Concert at Wachusett Regional High School to benefit the "Be Like Brit" Foundation,  
Papua New Guinea Artists presented by Pamela Rosi at the Princeton Center,  
"Music is Love" - Music, Magic and Comedy featuring Dawn Kelley and  
Study Guide for "Meet Mrs. Mary Rowlandson" by Katie Green.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alexandra Fiandaca

## **Wachusett Greenways Annual Report 2010**

Colleen Abrams, Chair  
Karl Barry  
Steven Dubrule  
Gordon Elliot

Stanley Miller  
Christine Nichols  
Ida Nystrom  
John Rives

Edward P. Yaglou

### **Longest Bridge as Rail Trail Extends West**

In 2010 Wachusett Greenways installed the eighth bridge on the Mass Central Rail Trail and extended the trail to the west. The new 110' bridge, located in Oakham just west of the Route 122 crossing, spans Parker Brook and is the longest to date. The bridge replaced one washed out in the 1938 hurricane. Construction of the Rail Trail continued west in Oakham from the Route 122 crossing to Coldbrook Road. East Hill Enterprises, Mark Sadowski and R. D. Salvatore Excavating, Bob Salvatore were construction contractors.

In March, 2010, torrential rains caused high water in Parker Brook. Water made its way behind the hundred year old walls supporting the slab bridge (behind the highway rest area on Route 122 in Oakham). Water washed behind the old and newly repaired walls causing the collapse of several stones. In December Greenways contracted Bob Salvatore to replace the slab with a new culvert. Salvatore removed the slab before winter for safety, and the new repair will be completed in 2011.

Greenways will apply the stone dust surface from Muddy Pond outlet west to Coldbrook Road in 2011. Greenways donor funds, Recreational Trails Grants through the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, and MA Department of Conservation and Recreation Partnership Grants all help fund the bridge installation, trail extension and final surfacing.

The Pommogussett Tunnel under Route 56 in Rutland is the major project for 2011. This long-awaited project to connect the Mass Central Rail Trail in the heart of the Commonwealth will be completed between mid July and mid August.

The westward extension of the MCRT to the bridge across the Ware River at the MWRA garage in Barre is planned for 2012. Wachusett Greenways volunteers will do trail clearing during 2011 in preparation for construction.

### **Partners for Rail Trail Maintenance**

The Towns and the MA DCR carried out trail maintenance including mowing rail trail shoulders, plowing parking lots and removing leaves. Greenways volunteers trimmed



brush, cleared drainage, raked leaves, removed downed or leaning trees, and planted and cared for flowers at the trailheads. Trail patrollers, who have adopted each trail section, provide regular care for the trail by clearing brush and removing any litter at parking lots or along the trail.

In 2010 volunteers completed clearing damage from the December 2008 ice storm and cleared trees as the trail was extended. Hundreds of hours by dozens of volunteers and trail neighbors got the job done.

Beginning in December 2010 an abundance of snow began falling and continued into 2011. Trail enthusiasts were grateful for the Town DPWs and Massachusetts DCR, who plowed the trail entrance parking areas. With wonderful snow, many enthusiastic neighbors were happy to hike, snow shoe or cross-country ski.

### **Families and Friends Give a Day!**

"Give a Day, Get a Disney Day" resulted in many families participating in trail clearing. Enthusiastic young people and their parents took on the challenge of cutting small trees and brush and planting seedlings for trail entrance gardens. Bancroft middle-school students and WPI students from the Alpha Phi Omega coed service fraternity helped on several trail days and special events. First Baptist Church community service volunteers also helped clear the trail. Vertex Pharmaceuticals provided a strong team of volunteers on their community service day to help repair the stonework and fence at the Quag bridge in Sterling.

Brian Walsh, Adam Mayer and Jonathan Staruk carried out Eagle projects. Brian installed interpretive signage and a marker for the location of the water tower on rail trail in Rutland. Jonathan and Adam improved the White Oak/Trout Brook trails and trailheads.

### **Springdale Mill Celebration**

On the last Saturday of September, Wachusett Greenways held the annual Family Fun Day and the Springdale Mill Celebration. The day was cosponsored by Wachusett Fitness and included a walk in memory of Dylan Seymour.

### **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.

### **Memorial**

Robert Price and Stanton Whitman, two enthusiastic outdoorsmen who were steadfast encouragers of Greenways and other conservation groups, died in 2010. Robert Price performed the incorporation for Wachusett Greenways in 1998.

### **Greenways Planning for Future**

Nearly 50 dedicated Greenways volunteers met in March to review progress and turned their eyes to the future. Plans underway include improved trail signage and more fun outreach to the community.

**Welcome Center!**

In December, Greenways took a big step by purchasing property at 21 Miles Road in Rutland. The house will become Greenways' new Welcome Center and administration center. In addition 15 acres will be preserved and an important rail trail connection will be made along Miles Road.

**Pommogussett Tunnel and Trail Campaign**

In 2010 Greenways initiated the campaign to raise \$500,000 for the Pommogussett Tunnel and the Welcome Center purchase. Nearly half of the campaign goal was met by individual donors, foundations in central Massachusetts and the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation Partnership Grant. Greenways will seek contributions from friends, members and grantors to complete the capital campaign in 2011.

**Onward!**

Wachusett Greenways presses on to connect our communities with trails and greenways in partnership with the Commonwealth, Wachusett Towns, local foundations, businesses and nonprofit groups. Since 1995 more than 2,300 generous donors and members have supported Greenways. In 2010 582 members joined Wachusett 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 eight bridges, a 70-foot tunnel and several major culverts. Greenways has built and maintains the 4-mile White Oak Trail in Holden.

# **Princeton Agricultural Commission**

## **Annual Report 2010**

Members: Walter Gowey (chair), Charlie Stimson, Jane Fife, John Mirick, and Janet Sandstom

We, as a Board, would like to take a moment to thank Jim Hillis, Jen Caswell, and Nancy Ackerman for all their years of service for the Agricultural Commission.

Producing the Farm brochure was a large part of our efforts in 2010. We were very pleased with the results. If you haven't seen the brochure they are available at the following locations: Town Hall, Princeton Library, Mountainside Market, Wachusett Meadow Sanctuary, Wooly Fox Farm, or from any member of the AgCommission.

The AgCommission is excited to have John Mirick and Janet Sandstom join us as members. Their combined expertise will be a great benefit to the board.

The Princeton Farmers' Market moved to the Town Common this year under the direction of Market Coordinator Nancy Hubbard. We wish to thank Nancy for all her hard work, and look forward to the return of Princeton Farmers' Market Thursdays, Town Common, in 2011, under the tutelage of Nancy as Market Coordinator.

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row we were involved with Hey Day/ Farm Day in October at Wachusett Meadow Sanctuary. It was a beautiful day and an excellent event. AgCommission is looking forward to being a part of the festivities in 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Gowey

## **2010 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 2010, the Commission acted upon three 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).

Also during 2010 there were five 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.

One Extension was issued for an Order of Conditions.

Two Certificates of Compliance were issued (which indicate that a project was completed in accordance with the Order of Conditions that was issued).

The Commission also reviewed a variety of projects and responded to inquiries about activities near wetlands that were not formal filings.

The Commission also monitored the Wachusett Mountain State Park Road Project. Member Tom Lynch conducted weekly inspections with project personnel and brought specific issues to the Commission for resolution.

Respectfully submitted,  
Holly Palmgren  
Chair