

## SELECTMEN'S REPORT 2019

First, I would like to start with the Town and DOT road crews and a big thanks for all their efforts this calendar year. As we remember, last winter brought some unusual snow totals and as a result our crews had all they could do to keep our roads passable. I often receive compliments from our visitors and other locals alike regarding the ease of driving our roads after a storm.

This winter has been quite a change (so far) but these nuisance storms ("Nor-inchers") are just as costly as the bigger ones sometimes in time and materials used to make them safe. The new sidewalk snow remover has been a nice improvement over winters past, and I hope the road crew are taking turns operating it.

This summer the paving crews and DOT did a fine job on the center of town (Rt. 16A) and the old 5 Mile Circuit Rd (Rt. 16B). As we move forward with yearly paving, I am hopeful that we can prioritize roads which are in dire need to be fixed. Over my tenure, we have put a substantial amount of money to get "caught up" on a maintenance schedule and I am confident that we can try to control some spending in this area with a more need based schedule for road repair and better planning.

The Valley Crossroad Bridge is up for replacement this spring/summer. As previously discussed, the state will pay for 80% of the cost to replace the current bridge. However, the state will not pay for trusses which are purely aesthetic. The people will be asked to vote for \$45,000 to rehab the existing trusses at the Town meeting. The state estimates our cost to be \$211,540. Presently, we have \$143,560 in the Capital Reserve Fund.

The transfer station is 99.97% complete except for placement of new storage containers. Stripping has been completed for the parking spaces for unloading at both the compactor and recycle center. With the video expertise of Hank Benesh, we made a short video for the present recycling process. We continue to make money on items like cardboard, tin, aluminum and paper. Everyone can help the process by careful sorting. Presently, the Transfer Station crew spend an exceptional amount of time and effort removing unwanted plastics prior to baling. We are currently only accepting plastic bottles such as soda, laundry detergent and milk bottles. Hopefully the market will improve and will be in a position profit more from our recycling efforts in the future. If we remove our bottles from the regular compactor waste, we will be spending less money shipping it north. I have to say we do a great job with most of the other recyclables, but the plastic bottles require the most effort to make nice clean bales. Reduce, Re-use, Recycle helps our planet and saves money.

I would like to end by saying it is an honor to serve as selectman for the town of Jackson that has such a hardworking and giving spirit. The dedication that the people who live, work and volunteer here are what makes Jackson a one of a kind place to live. One person that I would like to thank is Bob Thompson for his 7 years of service for the town. I appreciated his

leadership and guidance through some tenuous issues, and I thank him for his service. Also, a big shout out to the usual folks who serve to protect us: the fire, police and ambulance people. Having this fine group of dedicated people (who for the most part are on call all the time!!) working for the Town of Jackson is very reassuring and I thank them. Unfortunately, this was a year that we saw the passing of many Jackson dignitaries and lifelong residents too numerous to mention here. We lost many who have served as trailblazers and who were instrumental in formulating our current ordinances we have today. I wish their families well as they try to move forward.

I hope the new decade will be fortuitous for us all, and may all your quadratic functions be factorable.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Board of Selectmen  
John D. Allen, Chair

