

MEREDITH 2023 Annual Report



MEREDITH
NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO
ANSWERED OUR NATION'S
CALL TO ARMS

REVOLUTIONARY WAR
1776 - 1783

WAR OF 1812
1812 - 1815

MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR
1846 - 1848

CIVIL WAR
1861 - 1865

CIVIL WAR
1861 - 1865

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR
1898

WORLD WAR I
1917 - 1918

WORLD WAR II
1941 - 1945

WORLD WAR II
1941 - 1945

KOREA
1950 - 1953

VIETNAM
1964 - 1973

VIETNAM
1964 - 1973

**POST VIETNAM CONFLICTS
& GULF WAR**
1982 - 1990

GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR



VETERANS MEMORIAL

Eight short years after the founding of Meredith, historical records show that forty-two citizens of this new town took up arms to fight for our independence. A generation later, twenty residents joined the fight to re-affirm that independence during the War of 1812. And so, throughout history, Meredith citizens have answered the call to arms to support our country. Prior memorials have graced the library lawn throughout Meredith's history, but none recognized all eight hundred and seventy-five unselfish heroes who put country first as they left Meredith for unknown assignments.

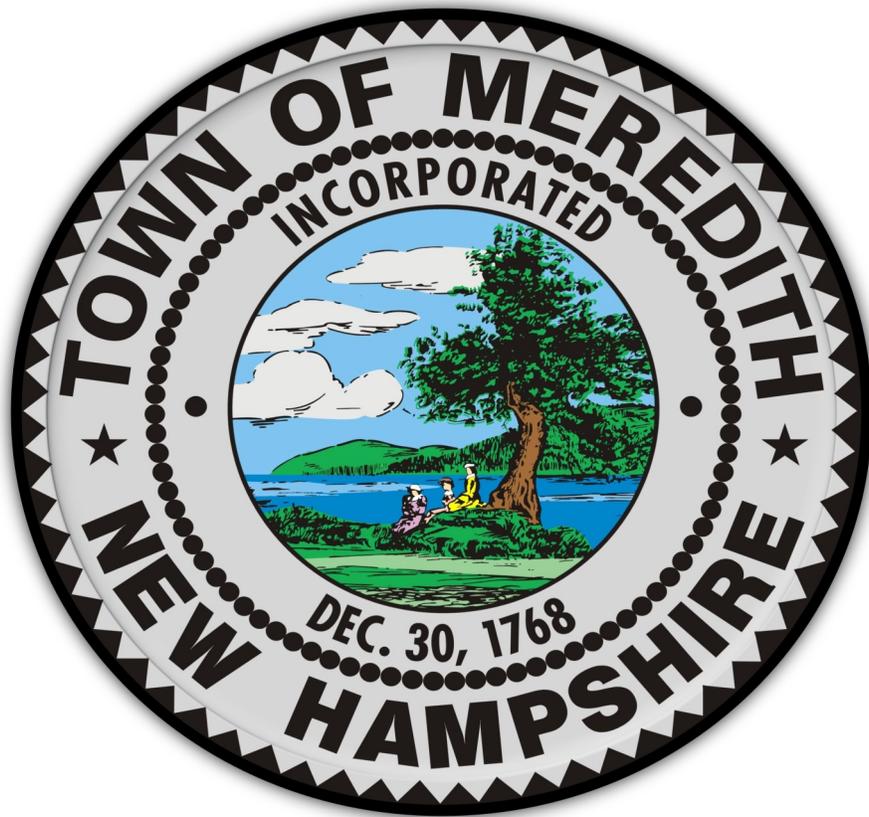
In 2022, the town voted to support the building of a new memorial to those from Meredith who served during our Nation's conflicts, from the Revolutionary War to the recent Global War on Terror. That support, plus the generous donations of many businesses and individuals, made this project possible. Norman Larson, of Chris Williams, Architects, designed the semi-circle of granite tablets, surrounding bronze plaques engraved with the names of the Meredith residents who answered that call to duty. The old memorials, state records, our local library, names submitted by the community, and extensive research from local historians assisted in identifying veterans to be included on the memorial, with options and space for additional names to be added in the future.

Another exciting feature of this project is the engraved granite pavers on the Walk of Honor that allowed friends, family and comrades-in-arms to recognize the veterans in their lives, no matter where they were from, or when they served. This walkway also makes the Memorial accessible from Main St. and links to the library's new front ramp and accessible entrance into the building. A new larger flagpole and flag were also part of the project and the site will host Memorial Day and Veteran's Day programs for decades to come. The dedication on November 11th was well attended, and showed the pride our community has in honoring its veterans. Humble Grunt Work, who is dedicated to recognizing and helping veterans every day, was our committed partner in this project.

Meredith has a history of supporting its veterans and this impressive memorial should stand for generations to come.

~The Meredith Veterans Memorial Committee

The Town of
Meredith
New Hampshire



2023

Annual Report

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2023

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What is this Town Report all about?

This Annual Town Report contains...

Information gathered from Town Departments, Supported Outside Agencies and gives results of the 2023 Town Meeting. You can view the Vital Statistics, Town Financial Statements, Tax Rate, Ten Year Tax Rate Comparison, and a Summary of Town Owned Property.

Following in the yellow section is our current Budget and Warrant Articles.

Town Elections (Please Vote)

Tuesday, March 12, 2024
Location: Community Center
1 Circle Drive
Time: 7am to 7pm

Please bring this book to Town Meeting on...

Wednesday, March 13, 2024
Location: Inter-Lakes High School
1 Laker Lane
Time: 7pm

Recognition

Written Reports are provided by:

- Town Manager
- Selectman Board
- Department Heads
- Outside Agencies

Financial Statements are prepared by:

- Robert Carpenter, Administrative Services Director
- Linda Labraney, Staff Accountant
- Linda Sherman, Deputy Tax Collector

The cover, layout, graphs and preparation of the Annual Report are completed by:

- Emily Harker, Finance Clerk

Thank you to all who contributed to this report.

Meetings of Town Boards, Committees and Commissions

Select Board

Community Center Workshop / Meeting 4:30pm, 2nd and 4th Monday

Conservation Commission

Community Center, 7:00pm, 1st Thursday

Library Trustees

Meredith Public Library, 6:00pm, 2nd Tuesday

Planning Board

Community Center, 7:00pm, 4th Tuesday

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Community Center, 7:00pm, 2nd Thursday

Area Resources Contact Information

Emergency and Health Information

Community Action Program.....1-603-279-4096
Emergency Management Director.....1-603-279-4561
Concord Hospital-Laconia1-603-524-3211
Lakes Region VNA & Hospice.....1-603-279-6611
Poison Control Center1-800-222-1222

Legal Services

Belknap County Registry of Deeds.....1-603-527-5420
Belknap County Superior Court1-855-212-1234
Laconia District Court1-855-212-1234
New Hampshire Legal Assistance.....1-800-639-5290

County and State Police

Belknap County Sheriff Department.....1-603-527-5454
State Police - Tamworth.....1-603-323-3333
State Police - Concord.....1-603-223-8778

Permits to Kindle Fires

Central Fire Station1-603-279-6061
Town Hall1-603-279-4538
Y-Landing Marina1-603-279-5050

Also online at WWW.NHDFL.ORG

Town Report Dedication

This Town Report is Dedicated to:

John C. Edgar



John C. Edgar

John Edgar's career in local government has spanned 40 years of public service.

John began as Assistant Town Administrator in NJ, where he was introduced to many facets of local government including union negotiations, loss prevention, recycling, public health and land conservation.

He moved to Concord, NH in 1985. Shortly after in 1986, he was hired as Gilford's Town Administrator, where he focused on personnel, town facilities and budgeting.

John became Meredith's first Town Planner in 1988, shifting his career path from town management to town planning. He was accredited by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) in 1995. Nearly 20 years later in 2007 John was appointed Meredith's Community Development Director.

Throughout his career John has been recognized with the Nelson B. Robinson Rising Star Award from the Jordan Institute, Professional Planner from NHPA, and for his conservation efforts by the Trust for Public Land.

After 34 years of service, John retired in the Spring of 2023. During John's career there have been many highlights most notably the transformation of Meredith Village. However, John is quick to point out that "whatever successes may be associated with his service, there were countless volunteers, co-workers and others without whom success would not have been achieved." John's role in guiding growth in the community has varied...sometimes taking the lead, inspiring change, collaborating and forming enduring partnerships. While in other instances he has played a supportive role by facilitating, advising, mentoring, educating and helping to navigate the challenges of a political environment.

Some of those highlights include:

- Establishing a Capital Improvement Program
- Fostering the town's Water Supply Protection and Management Plan
- Writing the 2002 Master Plan
- Serving on LRPC Transportation Advisory Committee since its inception
- Having an active role in the town's Open Space Conservation

Congratulations to John Edgar on receiving the well deserved Jeffrey H. Taylor Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the NH Planners Association.

On behalf of the Meredith Select Board, Town Manager, Department Heads, Boards/Committee members and the residents of Meredith... a sincere "Thank you" for over 34 years of dedicated service to the Town of Meredith!

John C. Edgar

In Special Memoriam and Community Recognition

In Special Memoriam



Captain Michael Taggett

Captain Michael Taggett passed away unexpectedly on December 29, 2023.

Captain Taggett joined the Meredith Fire Department in November of 1987, accepting the responsibilities of Engineer in 1990 and promotion to Captain in 2001, serving for 36 plus years in the Town of Meredith. He was instrumental in the coordination of the recent exterior painting scheme of Center Station.

Michael will always be remembered for his love of his wife, family and friends and his professionalism, leadership and knowledge will be missed by all.

Community Recognition for Volunteerism

Phyliss “Tuffy” Hamblet, is one of Meredith’s most valued treasures.

A long-standing member of the community, she has served on many volunteer organizations through the years including Altrusa, Lakes Region Visiting Nurse Association, Town election worker, GMP Sculpture Walk, founding member of Heart and Hands Gift Shop, and Teachers’ Aid at Interlakes Elementary School (35 years +!).

Beyond her volunteerism, is the generosity shared with the Town by allowing the Town fire boat to dock at her home (next to the family marina, Y Landing) for over 30 years free of charge to the community!

On behalf of the residents of Meredith, we say “Thank You!” to Tuffy for all her contributions to our community—we are better for the spirit and enthusiasm that you continue to share with us!



Phyliss “TUFFY” Hamblet

Town Officials

Select Board

Jeanie Forrester, Chairperson, 2024

Lynn Leighton, Vice Chairperson, 2024

Steven Aiken, 2025

Michael J. Pelczar, 2026

Jonathan D. James, 2025

Elected Officials

Stephen Nedeau, Moderator, 2024

Kerri A. Parker, CMC, CTC, CDTC,
Town Clerk, 2026

Martha Fairbrother, Treasurer, 2026

Town Department Officials

Town Manager & Tax Collector

Troy Brown

Administrative Services Director

Robert Carpenter

Community Development Director

John C. Edgar (retired May 2024)

Town Planner

Angela LaBrecque, AICP

Code Enforcement Officer

Jim Findlay

Public Works Director

Michael Faller

Water & Sewer Superintendent

Jason Bordeau

Assessor

James Commerford, CNHA

Parks & Recreation Director

Vint M. Choiniere, CPRP

Library Director

Erin Apostolos

Police Officials

Mike Harper, Chief

Phil McLaughlin, Lieutenant

Fire Officials

Jay Haines, Deputy Chief

Ken Jones, Chief & Forest Fire Warden

Andre Kloetz, Deputy Chief

Emergency Management

Mike Harper, Director

Ken Jones, Assistant Director

Trustee of Trust Funds

Mark Weston, 2024

James Gregoire, 2026

Anita Springer, 2025

Supervisors of the Checklist

Bruce Jones, 2029

Lindsey Weiner, 2028

Debra Swingle, 2024

Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Advisory Committee

Mark Billings, Chairperson/ILSD Rep

Richard Gerken, Vice Chairperson/PB Rep

Jeanie Forrester, BOS Rep

Lynn Leighton, BOS Rep (Alternate)

Ray Moritz, PB Rep

Dave Thorpe

David Douglas

Lakes Region Planning Commission

Stephanie Maltais, 2026

Town Officials

Library Trustees

Vivien Mitchell, 2024
Margaret Croes, 2025

Sarah Johnson, Chairperson, 2025
Paul Eldridge, 2024

Lisa Garcia, 2026
Jonathan James, 2024

Planning Board

Richard Gerken, Secretary, 2024
Cortland Findlay, 2026
Locke Hamill, Alternate, 2026

Ann Butler, Chairperson, 2024
Jamie Irving, Vice Chairperson, 2025
Ray Moritz, Alternate, 2026
Jonathan James, BOS Rep

Stephen Nedeau, 2025
Daniel Whitney, 2026
Richard Lovering, 2025

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Thomas Girard, Vice-Chair, 2024
Jack Northcott, Alternate, 2026

Robb Jutton, Chairperson, 2024
John W Dever III, 2026
Mike Pelczar, BOS Rep

Matthew Slomcheck, Alternate, 2026
David Thorpe, 2024

Conservation Commission

Paul Dillon, Vice-Chair, 2026
Ralph Pisapia, 2026
Mark Billings, 2026
John Sherman, Alternate, 2024

Scott Powell, Chairperson, 2024
James Gregoire, Treasurer, 2024
Tony Sabutis, Alternate, 2023

Paula Wanzer, Secretary, 2025
Janet Sanguedolce, 2025
Don MacFarlane, Alternate, 2024
Ed Twaddell, Alternate, 2026

Waukegan Watershed Advisory Committee

Tony Sabutis
Tim Whiting
Bronwen Donnelly
Bruce Bond (inactive)

Donna VanNess Murphy, Chair
Jamie Irving
Cheryl Van Veghten
Richard Kosinski
Andrew Akers

Frank Murphy, Vice Chair
Elisabeth Cody
Steve Aiken, BOS Rep
Ray Moritz

Energy Committee

Rick DeMark
Jonathan James - BOS Rep.

Bill Haley, Chairperson

Ann Butler, PB Rep.
Mark Billings, ILSD Rep.

Village Pathways Committee

Lissa Goodby, Secretary
Andrea Bourn
Abigail Mercer
Janice Roberts

Liz Lapham, Co-Chairperson
Cheryl Wilson, Co-Chairperson
Jane Bowie

Linda Smith
Sandy Sabutis
Barbara Brann
Rod Wilson

Short Term Rental Committee

Robb Jutton, Vice-Chair
Jeanie Forrester

Richard Gerken, Chairperson
David Thorpe
Jamie Irving

Michael Pelczar
Ann Butler

Executive Summary

Report from the Town Manager

2023 was a busy year with many challenges and accomplishments.

After years of discussions and planning, the new DPW Facility was completed. The Department of Public Works held an open house for residents, families, and friends to tour the new facility located at 11 Jenness Hill Road on Saturday, February 25, 2023. The facility has a heated wash bay, heavy duty maintenance bays with a remote-controlled crane that is used to remove plow equipment, transmissions, sanders, and other heavy-duty equipment and parts. The facility contains other specialized areas for welding, tire storage and repair, and safe secure storage for fuel, lubricants, and parts. The administrative area allows for male and female locker space and bathrooms, a lunchroom, and general office space. The facility was designed to reduce energy and heating costs by utilizing a geothermal system, efficient windows and doors, and LED lighting systems. The staff have already seen less down time to repair and service equipment and the overall efficiency of departmental operations has increased tremendously.

Almost every year employees leave or retire and 2023 was no different. After 34 years of service, John Edgar retired in May 2023. John was hired as Town Planner in 1988 and promoted to Community Development Director in 2007. He will be remembered for all his dedicated work establishing a Capital Improvement Plan, writing and updating land use ordinances, and actively working with boards and committees to protect the town's water quality, conservation lands, and for making Meredith a wonderful place to live and visit.

After 36 years working at the Solid Waste and Recycling Facility, Dale Sargent retired in November 2023. Probably one of the most important positions in the town, yet one of the least appreciated, Dale performed his duties with unbelievable dedication and attention to detail. Family, friends, and co-workers attended his farewell party at Guissepe's to celebrate his retirement.

The town also experienced a period of grief when Fire Chief Jones announced the passing of Captain Michael T. Taggett. Captain Taggett served more than 36 years with the Meredith Fire Department. His years of dedicated service, knowledge, and experience will never be forgotten.

Meredith has not updated its Community Plan since 2002. Knowing that the town is facing so many current and future challenges, the Select Board approved my recommendation to contract with Resilience Planning and Design to prepare a new community "Master Plan". The Master Planning process will take about 18 months to collect existing conditions and data, conduct community outreach, and work with town departments, boards, and committees to identify future needs. The final plan will be a road map identifying actions that can be taken to achieve long term land use planning initiatives and community goals.

The Select Board also approved my recommendation to establish a committee to begin planning and designing future improvements to Prescott Park. The committee is represented by key stakeholders that utilize the park for various recreational purposes. In 2024, a professional engineering or architecture firm will be selected to begin planning the park's future.

For the past few years, email and internet service have been unreliable and sometimes unavailable for several workdays. In general, the town's technology has been deteriorating due to many factors. I decided to eliminate the full-time IT Director position in 2023 and an outside IT vendor was hired. This company now handles all tech support issues and they're working to rebuild and modernize our technology systems. The town migrated to Office 365 providing a totally secure, cloud-based system where employees can conveniently share and co-author documents with each other and gain access anywhere in the world.

Executive Summary

Report from the Town Manager *continued...*

To meet the ever-increasing demands of technology, town buildings were interconnected with high-speed fiber and equipped with new hardware. In addition, the Select Board supported the purchase of a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system to move the town forward in all aspects of modern municipal operations. The implementation has started and should be completed by the end of 2024.

To meet the increasing demand for employee retention and recruitment I worked closely with my assistant and HR Generalist, Chris Janosa. The Town partnered with HealthTrust to offer new and expanded benefits for health, dental, life, and disability coverages. These benefits are now competitive with not only other communities, but also the private sector. Benefits are now offered at the same cost for all employees regardless of when they were hired. I look forward to revising the pay structure for both union and non-union employees in 2024 in an effort to ensure Meredith employees have competitive wages as well.

In closing, I want to thank members of the Select Board, Department Heads, and Staff for their continued commitment and dedication to the Town of Meredith and to our fantastic volunteers that dedicate their time and knowledge to make Meredith such a wonderful place to live, work, and play.



Troy Brown

Respectfully Submitted by
Troy R. Brown
Town Manager

Executive Summary

Report from the Select Board

2023 was a busy year, with a multitude of issues that impacted our community including short term rentals, parking, department audits, and a goals workshop.

The Town has been fortunate to have a strong Capital Improvements Program Committee that annually looks at capital projects and makes recommendations to the Selectmen for the budget. The Selectmen felt it was time for a broader vision and initiated a goals workshop facilitated by Primex. The outcome of the workshop included a focus on infrastructure and water quality, implementing an updated Master Plan, becoming a premium employer in order to retain and attract the best and brightest employees, and upgrading our communications and technology. (For more information about the goals, please visit the website for a copy of the Goal Setting Summary.)

Also in 2023, the Town conducted audits of two departments; Community Development and Fire. Various recommendations were made for both departments, which included personnel and best practices to guide the Town into the future. Importantly, on this year's warrant there is an article asking for full-time paid fire professionals. (Those reports can also be accessed on our website and I encourage residents to read the reports.)

Two issues that received significant attention included parking and short term rentals. After many robust meetings with residents, the Selectmen agreed to create a parking committee that includes various stakeholders. This committee will begin meeting on a regular basis and report back to the Selectmen with recommendations. The other issue that received a great deal of attention this past year was the impact of short term rentals on our community. The Selectmen joined with the Planning and Zoning boards to make recommendations for an updated ordinance that will provide clearer direction on this issue.

I am fortunate to live in Meredith. We are a community rich in spirit, optimism, volunteerism and talent and I would be remiss in not highlighting a very notable effort this past year that epitomizes our community culture. With the leadership, hard work, and financial support of many, the Meredith Veterans Memorial was created to honor Meredith veterans. Many thanks to all those who played a part in this amazing tribute to our veterans.

In closing, it's been an honor to serve as Chair of the Selectboard this past year and work alongside Vice Chair Lynn Leighton, Jonathan James, Mike Pelczar, and Steve Aiken. We are a diverse group of people with varied perspectives and at times we will disagree, but I have appreciated that we can do it in a way that respects the other person's opinion and are able to come together for the greater good of the community. In these days of negative civil discourse, I am proud to live in a community like Meredith where we set a standard of excellence.

Jeanie Forrester
Chair, Meredith Selectboard



Executive Summary

Town Meeting 2023

DELIBERATIVE SESSION

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Board of Selectmen

Inter-lakes Junior/High School Gymnasium

Michael J. Pelczar, Chairperson

Town Moderator: Stephen Nedeau

Jeanie Forrester, Vice Chairperson

Jonathan D. James, Selectperson

Lynn Leighton, Selectperson

Town Manager: Troy Brown

Steven Aiken, Selectperson

Moderator Nedeau, open the meeting at 7:02 pm with a greeting and the Pledge of Allegiance. After the pledge Moderator Nedeau read the results from the Elections held the day before.

For Library Trustee

Lisa Garcia 191

Zoning Amendment Articles

For Selectman

Michael J. Pelczar 188

ARTICLE 2

For Supervisor of the Checklist

Bruce Jones 14

Are you in favor of adopting the amendment as proposed by the Planning Board for the Meredith Zoning Ordinance as follows:

For Town Clerk

Kerri A. Parker 193

Amend Article VIII-Definitions to include a new definition for Island Lot and amend definitions of Lot and Lot Frontage to exempt lots on islands without a road system and which are served only by boat from the town's 50-foot road frontage requirement and to allow those lots to receive building permits under the "island exception" of the state statute that requires building permits only be issued to lots having street access.

For Treasurer

Martha Fairbrother 184

For Trustee of the Trust Funds

James Gregoire 188

Yes 153 No 37

For Trustee of the Trust Funds

Anita Springer 182

Moderator

Pat Kelly
M = 745 CH = 147 S = 332
TOTAL = 31

Moderator Nedeau asked for a vote to allow the nonresidents in attendance to speak if necessary with a show of voter cards, the motion to allow passes.

Resident of Sandwich

Nancy O. Starmer
M = 151 CH = 58 S = 170
TOTAL = 379

Member at Large

Siobahn E. Balazs
M = 173 CH = 52 S = 143
TOTAL = 368

2023 Town Meeting Deliberative Session

ARTICLE 3 MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,076,880 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Recommended by the Select Board 4-0) (Majority vote required)

Mike Pelczar motioned to approve seconded by Lynn Leighton

Roy Moritz asked why the fund balance was not used to help to offset the horrendous tax rate. Going on to state that the balance is now higher than the highest allowed max for the fund balance set by the DRA for NH.

Manager Troy Brown spoke to that stating that when you use the unassigned fund balance it could become a problem when it is not at a manageable level for running the town. The balance is utilized to keep the town from having to borrow money which costs more and is very limited. That fund also allows for us to complete projects that have grant money that is not issued until the project is done and allows for us to do the project without having to go out to the banks to pay interest.

Ray added that he feels that the amount in the fund is over the allowable limit and that the board should be reducing the taxes and the amount in the fund.

Louann Sheppard what the percentage is of fund balance and how it is calculated.

Troy explained that the percentage is set by the DRA and that the revenues is the unknown until the end of the year. Many factors come into play and the process of reducing the fund balance is done in Sept when the rate is set.

With a show of Vote cards Article 3 passes

ARTICLE 4 FIRE VEHICLE REPLACEMENT ETF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$325,000 to be added to the Fire Department Vehicle Replacement ETF previously established. The Meredith Select Board are agents to expend. (Recommended by the Select Board 4-0) (Majority vote required)

Jonathan James moved to approve seconded by Steven Aiken

With a show of voter cards, Article 4 passes

Executive Summary

ARTICLE 5 WATERFRONT INFRASTRUCTURE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,000 to be added to the Waterfront Infrastructure ETF previously established. The Meredith Select Board are agents to expend. (Recommended by the Select Board 4-0) (Majority vote required)

Lynn Leighton moved to approve, seconded by Mike Pelczar
Louann Sheppard asked if these articles are a part of the whole budget and what the tax impact would be.

Robert Carpenter answered that it would be difficult to determine that at this point due to all the factors involved when the rate is set in Sept. ED Twadell asked what the current funds are being used for and what this extra money would be going to.

Troy answered that the funds are being utilized for the Shep Browns project and possibly be asking for more as the project estimates have costs more. Ray Moritz stated that the article amounts are in fact included in what is being proposed by the overall budget. He went further to state that he agrees with Troy that when the project was started the costs for it was significantly lower.

Edward Twadell asked that the board looks at a solid plan instead of possibly coming back to the body again and again asking for more and more money for these projects.

Troy explained that the project does have specific plans as well as many others that may come before this body. The CIP committee does a great job with the 10 year plan and if he wishes to see it then he is free to stop by his office and he will share it all with him.

With a show of voter cards Article 5 passes

ARTICLE 6 MAIN STREET REHABILITATION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Main Street Rehabilitation ETF previously established. The Meredith Select Board are agents to expend. (Recommended by the Select Board 4-0) (Majority vote required)

Jeanie Forester motioned to approve, seconded by Jonathan James.

With a show of voter cards Article 6 passes

ARTICLE 7 ESTABLISH A POLICE SPECIAL DETAIL REVOLVING FUND

To see if the town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of police special detail wages, benefits, administrative costs, supplies, equipment and police cruiser fuel, repair and purchase. All revenues received for police special details will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year and shall not be considered part of the town's general fund balance. And, further, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to said fund with this amount to come from the unassigned fund balance. The town treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the Board of Selectmen and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. No amount to be raised from taxation. Recommended by the Select Board 4-0 (Majority vote required)

Steven Aiken motioned to approve seconded by Jeanie Forester.

With a show of voter cards Article 7 passes

Executive Summary

ARTICLE 8

ESTABLISH A BUILDING and FACILITIES MAINTENANCE EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the town will vote to establish a Building and Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a for the maintenance, repair and improvements to town buildings and facilities and to raise and appropriate \$100,000 to put in the fund with this amount to come from the unassigned fund balance; further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. No amount to be raised from taxation. Recommended by the Select Board (4-0) (Majority vote required)

Mike Pelczar motioned to approve seconded by Lynn Leighton
With a show of voter cards Article 8 passes

ARTICLE 9 OPTIONAL VETERANS TAX CREDIT READOPTION

To see if the town will vote to approve the readoption of the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit RSA 72:28-II to allow for the expansion of the criteria needed to qualify for the optional veterans' tax credit to now include those service members that are currently serving and have not yet been formerly discharged from the armed services. Readoption of the optional veterans' tax credit, if approved, would continue to offer a five hundred dollar (\$500) tax credit to all honorably discharged veterans that qualify under the current requirements, but as of April 1, 2023, it would expand the eligibility requirements to now include those individuals that have not been discharged from active service. If this article does not pass, the optional veterans' tax credit will revert to the standard veterans' tax credit under RSA 72:28-I and as of April 1, 2023 the standard veteran tax credit would be in place to reduce the tax credit from five hundred dollars (\$500) to fifty dollars (\$50) per year. Recommended by the Select Board 4-0 (Majority vote required)

Jonathan James motioned to approve, seconded by Steven Aiken
With a show of voter cards Article 9 passes

ARTICLE 10 ALL VETERANS TAX CREDIT READOPTION

To see if the town will vote to approve the readoption of the All Veterans' Tax Credit RSA 72:28-b to allow for the expansion of the criteria needed to qualify for the all veterans' tax credit to now include those service members which are currently serving and have not yet been honorably discharged from the armed services. The readoption of the all veterans' tax credit, if approved, would continue to offer a five hundred dollar credit (\$500) to all honorably discharged veterans that qualify under the current requirements of RSA 72:28-b, but as of April 1, 2023, it would expand the eligibility requirements to now include those individuals who have not yet been discharged from active service. If this article does not pass, the all veterans' tax credit will revert to the standard veterans' tax credit under RSA 72:28-I and as of April 1, 2023 the standard veterans' tax credit would be in place and reduce the veterans' tax credit from five hundred dollars (\$500) to fifty dollars (\$50) per year. Recommended by the Select Board 4-0 (Majority vote required)

Lynn Leighton motioned to approve, seconded by Jonathan James
Andy Lane asked what is the difference between the this and the last article.
Jim Commerford explained the difference is regular or war time.
Ed Twaddell asked what the transition time frame is
Jim Commerford explained that for either of those two and the DD2 is required and it must show honorable discharge.
With a show of voter cards Article 10 passes

Executive Summary

ARTICLE 11 MODIFY INCOME LIMITS FOR ELDERLY EXEMPTION

To see if the Town will vote to modify the previously adopted provisions of RSA 72:39-b II, the Elderly Exemption, to increase the income limits for individuals from \$25,000 to \$28,000 and married couples from \$37,000 to \$40,000. Recommended by the Select Board 4-0 (Majority vote required)

Jeanie Forester motioned to approve, seconded by Mike Pelczar.
With a show of voter cards Article 11 passes

ARTICLE 12 MODIFY INCOME LIMITS FOR DISABLED EXEMPTION

To see if the Town will vote to modify the previously adopted provisions of RSA 72:37-b III, the Disabled Exemption, to increase the income limits for individuals from \$25,000 to \$28,000 and married couples from \$37,000 to \$40,000. Recommended by the Select Board 4-0 (Majority vote required)

Steven Aiken motioned to approve seconded by Jeanie Forester.
With a show of voter cards Article 12 passes

Mike Pelczar stated that the 4-0 was only due to a noticed absent.

Rick Demark asked that the town research and develop a new website to be more user friendly.

Troy Brown answered that the town will be looking into that currently.

Jack Carty spoke as a 40 year veteran of the town and acknowledged that this is the best selectboard he has seen in his time.

Fred Strader spoke about the Meredith veterans memorial committee and if anyone has a town veteran that lived here needs to be added please reach out.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted

Kerri A Parker
Town Clerk – Meredith

General Government

Administrative Services

Robert Carpenter, Director
Linda Labraney, Staff Accountant
Emily Harker, Finance Clerk
Linda Sherman, Deputy Tax Collector

Mission: The mission of Administrative Services is to provide support for all Town Departments, providing accounting, procurement, billing, contract, grant, fixed asset and cash management services for the Town. Working with our Federal and State partners, Administrative Services keeps up to date on reporting and compliance requirements and changes in rules and laws that directly impact the organization. As a resource for the Town Manager, Board of Selectmen and other Town committees and groups, Administrative Services provides accurate and timely data used in making informed decisions, policy development, and planning and forecasting analysis.

Administrative Services also oversees the General Assistance program for the Town, assisting those in the community who are in temporary need of help. The General Assistance program is also networked with other community and regional support groups, ensuring that those in temporary need of assistance are helped and supported as they work toward self-sufficiency.

Having a diverse group of clientele, Administrative Services provides a professional and service-oriented approach in responding to both internal and external customer needs. Providing information, guidance and solutions, the Administrative Services team uses its diverse and extensive knowledge and experiences to support the Town.

In 2023 we began the transition from our legacy business system, Munismart, to a new platform in Munis. This path started in 2019 and, through a lot of hard work from all of the Departments and with the support of the Select Board, we were able to make this a reality in 2023. I thank you in advance for your patience as this is a huge undertaking for the organization as a whole. Throughout 2023 and 2024, we will slowly be transitioning our systems so, over time, you will notice new formats in billing and receipts and in payment processing. As we get closer to any of the changes, we will work to communicate with them well in advance so you are aware of what is coming in the near future.

As always, strong teamwork made this year a success for those within the office and the partnerships and support that we receive from the community to fulfill our mission.

Looking forward to continued success!

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Carpenter
Director of Administrative Services

General Government

Assessing

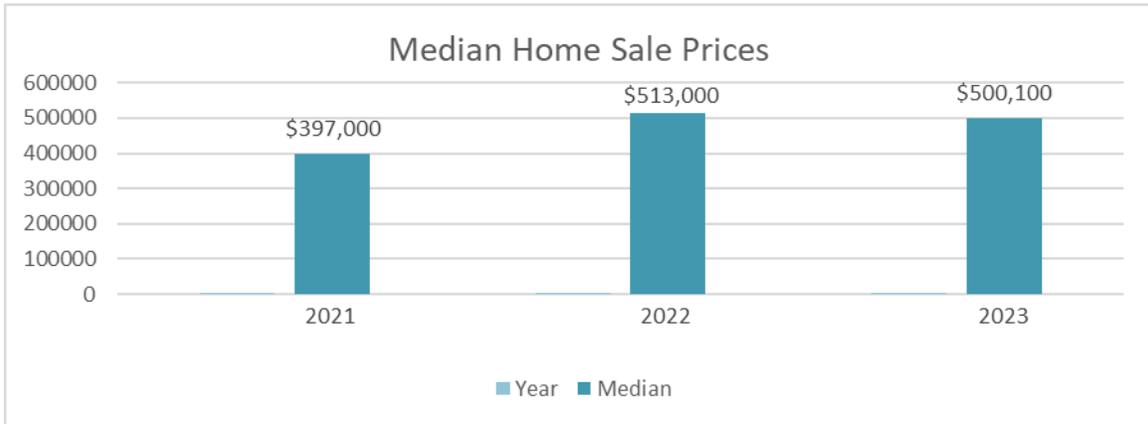
James Commerford, CNHA, Assessor
Suzanne Bryant, Assessing Office Manager
Bettina Ford, Field Data Collector

Department's Mission

The primary mission of the Assessing Department is to ensure that all property within the town is assessed fairly and in accordance with the New Hampshire laws governing taxation. Toward that end, the department conducts various practices to ensure the equitable distribution of the tax burden.

The Town completed an update of values effective April 1, 2023. The Town's overall taxable value increased 63.3% from \$2,359,682,530 to \$3,854,265,726. The Town last updated values in 2020. The real estate market in Meredith has seen unprecedented value increases over the past 3 years. We are constantly evaluating market conditions and while we have been updating values every 3 years we may need to adjust this if the market changes.

Information regarding the update can be found on the Assessing page of the town's website.



I want to remind all resident taxpayers that there are tax exemptions available for the elderly and disabled, as well as, tax credits for Veterans. Contact our office or visit the Assessing page of the town's website to see if you may qualify.

The Assessing Office is here to assist the property owners of Meredith through the assessing process. Please visit the Assessing Department link on the Town's website www.meredithnh.org for information regarding tax abatements, credits and exemptions, access to tax maps, tax rate history, request to change address form and a link to the online assessment database. If you have any questions, please call us at 603-677-4213.

Respectfully submitted,

James Commerford, CNHA
Tax Assessor

General Government

Community Development

John Edgar, Community Development Director (Retired June)
Angela LaBrecque, AICP, Town Planner
Jim Findlay, Code Enforcement Officer
Stephanie Maltais, Administrative Assistant
Genie Smith, Office Clerk

2023 was a year of transition for the Community Development Department.

In June of 2023, John Edgar retired after 34 years of service to the Town of Meredith. In 1995, John became Meredith's first Town Planner and subsequently, the Community Development Director in 2007. John made valuable contributions to our community earning him recognition and professional awards. John played many roles over the years, from guiding growth as a community leader to being a land conservation advocate leading to successful conservation efforts. He worked with countless volunteers over the years and always expressed his appreciation for the outstanding volunteerism we are so fortunate to have. We are all going to miss learning from John's depth of knowledge, but we wish him well in his retirement.

Jim Findlay joined the Community Development Department in March, after John Greenwood's departure at the end of 2022. He has settled well into his new position as Code Enforcement Officer. Jim is a resident of Meredith and welcomed his first child in June of 2023.

In 2023, the Community Development Department continued to receive a high volume of applications. The Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) received a total of 82 appeals to consider. This is an unprecedented number of applications processed by the staff and considered by the ZBA. I'd like to thank the volunteers of this board for their time and consideration given to each application.

In 2024 the Planning Board will continue to work on the Master Planning effort, where public outreach will take place. We look forward to hearing from our community on several topics. Lastly, our Department's objective is to continue to deliver customer service to our residents, business owners, contractors, volunteers and co-workers. If you have any land use question or are considering a construction project, feel free to contact our office for assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angela LaBrecque, AICP
Town Planner



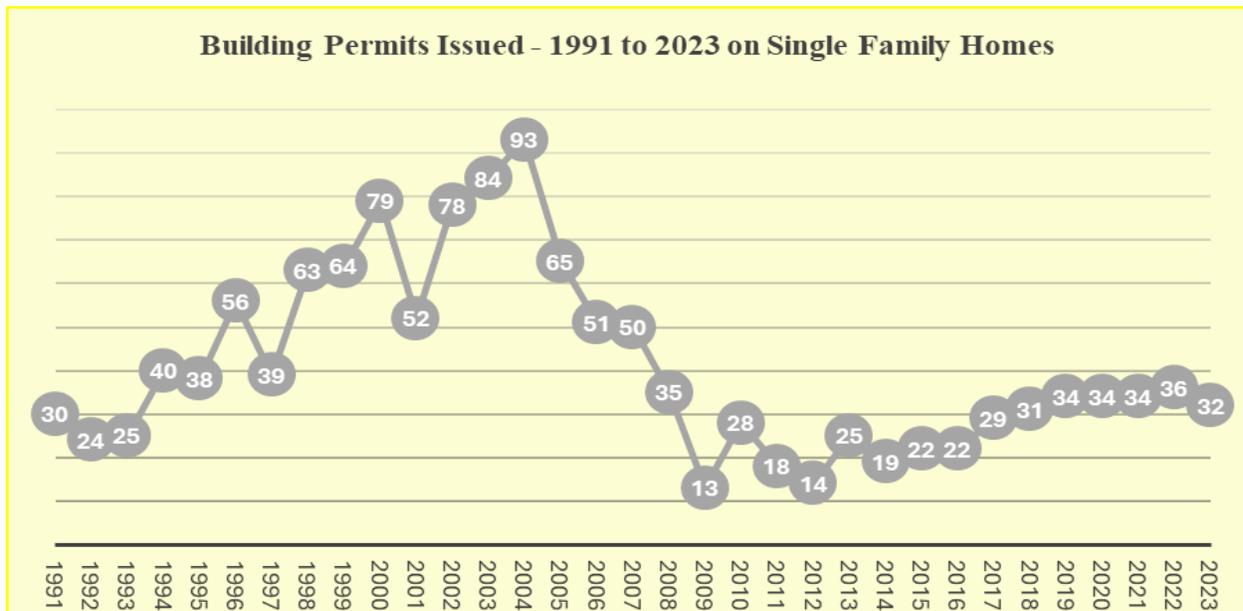
General Government

Community Development continued...

Building Permits Summary 2023

New Single-Family Homes	32	Garages/Storage Buildings	51
New Two-Family Homes	2	Oil (burners, tanks)	24
New Multi-Family Units	19	Gas (burners, piping, tanks)	422
New Commercial Buildings	12	Commercial Renovations/Repairs	14
Special Use Permits	10	Residential Renovations/Repairs	110
Mobile Homes Replacements	11	Fences/Signs	23
Docks/Boathouse/Pools	8	Electrical	251
Demolition	47	Plumbing	137

Building Permits Issued - 1991 to 2023 on Single Family Homes



Planning Board Application Summary 2023

Comm./Indus. Site Plan Approvals	12	Pre-application Consultations	3
Home Occ. Site Plan Approvals	2	Architectural Design Reviews	5
Subdivision Approvals	7	Revocation and/or Disapprovals	1

Zoning Board of Adjustment Application Summary 2023

Variance Applications	36	Appeal of Administrative Decision	1
Variations Granted	32	Equitable Waivers Granted	1
Variations Denied	4	Rehearing Requests Received	4
Special Exception Applications	40	Rehearing Requests Granted	2
Special Exceptions Granted	38	Rehearing Requests Denied	2
Special Exceptions Denied	1	Administrative Decisions Denied	0

General Government

Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Advisory Committee

Mark Billings, Chair

SUMMARY

Annually, the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Advisory Committee reviews, updates and recommends a stable program of capital improvements for the community. The CIP is a non-binding planning tool intended to aid the Select Board in their consideration of their annual budget in the context of a six-year forward view of future capital needs. As a preface to the specific recommendations that follow, it is important to note:

- In 2023, Town Meeting approved recommendations of the CIP Advisory Committee including \$500,000 towards current Expendable Trust Funds (ETF). Additionally, upon recommendation from the Select Board, Town Meeting approved the creation of a new Buildings and Facilities Maintenance ETF to be funded through the use of unassigned fund balance.
- The recommended Capital Improvement Program for 2024 is \$1,997,525. This amount consists of: (A) \$1,257,525 of long-term debt; and (B) \$740,000 total allocations towards three Expendable Trust Funds. This represents an increase of \$200,946 or 11.18 % over 2023 funding levels. The recommendations that follow are also contained in a companion document; “Capital Improvement Program 2022-2031” dated October 7, 2022 prepared by the Administrative Services Department.
- The recommended programs in 2024, 2025 and 2026 exceed the \$1.8 mil program capacity benchmark. The decision by the CIP Committee this year was to incrementally raise the program capacity to \$2.0 mil as it continues to establish a new threshold over the next couple of years. The \$1.8 mil threshold was established in the early 2000’s and has not been adjusted to reflect either a percentage of overall budget or inflation. This discussion will take into account the rising costs of the equipment and special projects that have been addressed at the CIP Committee level.
- Although authorized debt service is a fixed cost included within the annual operating budget, it is included in the committee’s analysis and recommendations. In 2025 the final payment on the Community Center debt will be made (\$182,350.) Additional debt will also be retired in 2027 (\$88,538.).
- There are several on-going efforts that may generate capital projects for future Committee and Town Meeting consideration. These include: (1) further review and prioritization of waterfront infrastructure needs, (2) potential improvements to Main Street, (3) potential improvements to Prescott Park and (4) inclusion of a capital asset management program.
- There are several areas of infrastructure that are going to need to be addressed in a comprehensive, long-term asset management plan. Studies have been completed for our waterfront infrastructure, but similar studies, or at least internal plans and documentation, are needed for parks, roads, sidewalks, stream crossings, etc. that round out the other areas of our community. With proper planning and inclusion, improvement needs can be captured and planned for accordingly.
- Trend data is provided online under Boards and Committees, Capital Improvements Program Advisory Committee: Appendix A: Debt Service and ETF Funding, 2013-2023; Appendix B: CIP Funding as a Percent of Municipal Appropriations, 2013-2023; and Appendix C: Tax Rates and Net Valuation Information, 2013-2023.

General Government

Capital Improvements Program *continued...*

RECOMMENDATIONS

Administration

Main Street:

Recommendation: No additional allocations to the to the Main Street Rehabilitation Expendable Trust Fund.

Rationale: Funding for this program is sufficient at this time as Phase 1 is complete and no determinations have been made on the extent of any specific improvements. In April, 2021 the Select Board unanimously supported GMP's efforts to develop a plan for Main Street that may address public safety, lighting, utilities, handicap accessibility, streetscape, and funding sources. In 2022 the town contracted with an engineering firm to develop a detailed, existing conditions base plan (Phase 1), which is complete. Specific improvements have not yet been identified or designed (Phase 2).

The estimated Main Street Rehabilitation ETF balance at 12/31/23 is \$165,297.

Waterfront Infrastructure:

Recommendation: No additional allocations for the Waterfront Infrastructure ETF.

Rationale: While the Town of Meredith owns and maintains a significant amount of waterfront infrastructure, Reference: Waterfront Infrastructure Analysis- Conceptual Design Options Update, September 16, 2019, there is no definitive path forward for any improvements at this time as costs and citizens concerns over improvements at Lovejoy Landing have put a temporary hold on progress at that site. Future improvements for any of the waterfront infrastructure have not been designated at this time.

The estimated Waterfront Infrastructure ETF balance at 12/31/23 is \$886,202.

Fire Department

Fire Department EQUIPMENT Replacement

Recommendation: No additional allocations to the Fire Department **EQUIPMENT** Replacement Expendable Trust Fund at this time.

Rationale: Funding for this ETF is planned sufficiently to meet the long-term needs of the organization. Allocations in 2027 will meet the goal of replacement of the NFPA turnout gear.

The estimated Fire Department **Equipment** Replacement ETF balance at 12/31/23 is \$21,062.

Fire Department VEHICLE Replacement

Recommendation: Allocate \$320,000 in 2024, \$350,000 in 2025, \$300,000 in 2026, and \$350,000 in 2027, 2028, and 2029 to the Fire Department **VEHICLE** Replacement Expendable Trust Fund.

Rationale: Engine 3 was ordered ahead of schedule due to a savings opportunity and a scheduling opportunity. By ordering it in 2023 and not 2024, savings of \$110,000 were realized by not having to go with a new diesel engine design which would have been mandatory for all new trucks. This kept our financial planning on track for future purchases. The Fire Boat is planned for purchase in 2024 (\$350,000) and Engine 1 (\$1.1 mil) is scheduled for ordering in 2027 with an anticipated delivery date of 2029/30. The proposed allocations are intended to meet the capital needs of the Fire Department while maintaining overall program stability.

The estimated Fire Department **Vehicle** Replacement ETF balance at 12/31/23 is \$118,673.

General Government

Capital Improvements Program *continued...*

Parks and Recreation Department

Recommendation: Allocate \$100,000 in 2024 through 2029.

Rationale: Parks & Recreation are in the process of choosing a designer for Prescott Park design services. Over the course of 2024 and 2025, funds from this ETF will be used towards those design services. It is anticipated that additional funding beyond the current recommendations will be needed for any construction needed to implement the final re-design of the park.

Swasey Park is going through preliminary design work for improvements to parking spaces and pathways within the “postage stamp” park.

There are several improvements being considered for Leavitt Beach to include a new bathhouse, a playground, and significant site and facility improvements. Currently, the adaptive launch project is moving forward with the Select Board approval of the use of ETF funding in the amount of \$34,500. This will be the down payment for the final design and engineering services for the dock system and that are needed to finalize the overall cost requirements for the project. Fundraising efforts will help offset the overall cost of this project.

The estimated Parks and Recreation Facilities Improvements ETF balance at 12/31/23 is \$89,373.

Department of Public Works

Solid Waste Equipment

Recommendation: No additional allocations to the Solid Waste Trailer Replacement Expendable Trust Fund are recommended at this time.

Rationale: The town owns several trailers that are used to transport solid waste from our transfer station to the disposal site.

The estimated Solid Waste Trailer Replacement ETF balance at 12/31/23 is \$118,569.

A yard tractor is scheduled for replacement in 2025 (\$100,000) and a skid steer loader is scheduled for replacement in 2026 (\$90,000).

Public Works Equipment:

Recommendation: Allocate \$320,000 in 2024 and \$350,000 in 2025 through 2029 to the DPW Equipment Replacement Expendable Trust Fund.

Rationale: There is a significant amount of capital equipment scheduled for replacement in the coming years as illustrated below.

<u>Replacement Year</u>	<u>Equipment Being Replaced</u>	<u>Replacement Estimate</u>
2024	2004 Volvo Grader	\$450,000
2025	1999 Dresser Loader	\$250,000
2025	2015 F550	\$175,000
2026	2005 Volvo Excavator	\$275,000
2026	2015 F550	\$175,000
2027	2013 F550 Dump w/sander	\$200,000
2027	2004 Kenworth Dump w/sander	\$305,000
		\$1,830,000

The estimated DPW Equipment Replacement ETF at 12/31/23 is \$233,697.

General Government

Capital Improvements Program continued...

Water and Sewer Department

Recommendation: No additional funding is recommended at this time.

Rationale: Jason Bordeau, Water and Sewer Supt., was hired in 2023. Jason is currently working to identify and assess the capital needs of both the Water and Sewer Departments. The Water Department was awarded an Asset Management grant through the Department of Environmental Services (DES) that will help them identify the future needs of the department as well as the financial requirements for improvements, to include any updates rate structure. Jason has applied for an Asset Management grant for the sewer and wastewater management programs as well and anticipates a notice of award in spring 2024, if selected. These programs will help the Town identify the necessary maintenance and improvement schedules for the infrastructure that comprises these systems.

As of 10/7/23 Water Reserves total \$896,150. As of 10/7/23 Sewer Reserves (Capital Recovery and Access Fees) total \$760,159.

Conservation

Recommendation: No additional allocation to the Open Space Conservation Expendable Trust Fund is recommended at this time.

Rationale: No significant projects have been brought forward at this however, there are discussions around the purchase of additional property on Meredith Neck.

The estimated Open Space Conservation ETF balance at 12/31/23 is \$34,9752.

Debt Service/ Debt Retirement

Long Term debt payments in 2024 total \$1,257,525 which includes the borrowing for the Library Renovation and Expansion Project and the DPW Facility Project.

Long term debt related to the following projects will be retired as summarized below:

<u>Retirement Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Project</u>
2025	\$182,350	Community Center
2027	\$88,538	Bundled Project
2035	\$668,755	Library & DPW Projects

Inter-Lakes School District

Meredith is one of three communities that comprise the Inter-Lakes School District (Meredith, Center Harbor and Sandwich). Meredith taxpayers are responsible for approximately 75% of the district's costs including capital projects. Reference: Inter-Lakes School District Capital Improvement Plan and Facilities Budget Plan, January 2022. The District's participation with the Meredith CIP process is for informational purposes.

This year the sidewalk and stairs were replaced at the south entrance using funds from the existing Facilities Expendable Trust Fund. Near term future improvements include HVAC upgrades at the middle high school, continuation of the roof replacement program (thru 2026), parking lot and sidewalk repairs and restoration of the upper utility ball field.

The District's School Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund balance is estimated at \$344,711.

General Government

Capital Improvements Program *continued...*

Summary: 2023 Municipal Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Recommendations

\$100,000	Recreation Facility Improvement ETF
\$320,000	Fire Department Vehicle Replacement ETF
<u>\$320,000</u>	DPW Equipment Replacement ETF
\$740,000	Subtotal- Recommended ETF Allocations (37%)
<u>\$1,257,525</u>	Existing Debt Service- Principle & Interest (63%)
<u>\$1,997,525</u>	Total (100%)

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Billings, Chairman

Capital Improvements Program *continued...*

Frequently asked questions.

Why create a Capital Improvements Program (CIP)? Many significant community benefits may be derived from preparing and maintaining a Capital Improvements program.

- CIP is a tool available to the Select Board as they prepare their annual budget.
- CIP puts near-term capital needs in context as it identifies and forecasts capital needs for a period of approximately 6 years.
- CIP makes voters aware of proposed capital improvements that may be of particular interest and about major proposals that will likely come before Town meeting.
- CIP contributes towards a stable tax rate by avoiding untimely capital expenditures and unnecessary long term borrowing.
- CIP provides linkage between planning for our future needs and appropriations on specific community improvements.
- Cooperative project planning can result in cost savings and duplication of expenditures.
- Communities demonstrating sound fiscal health together with quality facilities and services are attractive to investors of all kinds; homeowners, businesses and lending institutions.
- Capital improvement programming supports and complements broader community economic development objectives.

What are the limitations of the CIP?

- The CIP is not a budget. It is a tool to aid in the budget development process.
- CIP recommendations are non-binding and advisory only.
- The CIP process cannot fully anticipate unusual changes in growth, the political process, emergencies, economic conditions, etc.
- The CIP process does not guarantee an overall level tax rate. Capital expenditures constitute approximately 12% of total annual municipal appropriations.

What is a “Capital Improvement”? For purposes of this CIP, “Capital improvements” are defined as meeting the following general criteria:

1. projects or improvements that are typically non-recurring in nature; and
2. projects or improvements that have a useful life of at least 5 years; and
3. projects or improvements that cost or commit approximately \$90,000 or more.

Examples of projects or improvements that meet this criterion may include:

- ⇒ the construction or reconstruction of public *infrastructure* (roads, sewer lines, water mains, etc.),
- ⇒ the purchase lease, construction or replacement of *public buildings and facilities*,
- ⇒ the purchase or lease of major *heavy equipment* such as fire trucks, dump trucks, etc.,
- ⇒ the acquisition or lease of *land* or interest in land for public purposes.

How does the CIP process work?

- A volunteer, CIP Advisory Committee is appointed by the Planning Board.
- The Committee includes representation from the Planning Board, Select Board, School Board and the public.
- The Committee meets regularly in the Spring and late Summer/early Fall to review updates on any previous submitted capital needs or to receive information on new projects or improvements.
- The Committee formulates its recommendations.
- The recommended CIP is presented to the Planning Board at a public hearing.
- The approved CIP is transmitted to the Town Manager and Select Board for consideration during their budget process.
- All Committee meetings are conducted in accordance with NH RSA 91-A (aka the Right-to-Know Law).

Capital Improvements Program continued....

Does the Inter-Lakes School District participate in the Meredith CIP process?

Yes, but for informational purposes only. Meredith is one of three towns that comprise the Inter-Lakes School District (Meredith, Center Harbor and Sandwich). Capital expenditures are approved at the three-town District Meeting in March. The District has developed and periodically updates the Inter-Lakes School District Capital Improvements Plan and Facilities Budget Plan. Meredith is responsible for approximately 75 % of district costs including capital expenditures.

What is the enabling statutory authority?

The enabling authority is NH RSA 674:5-8. Highlights include:

- The sole purpose of the CIP is to aid the consideration of annual budgets
- Capital Improvement Projects are projected over a period of at least 6 years
- The CIP encompasses major projects being currently undertaken and future projects
- The CIP Recommends a time sequence for implementation
- The CIP estimates project and probable operating and maintenance costs
- The CIP takes into account needs identified in the Master Plan

What is an “Expendable Trust Fund (ETF)”?

Expendable Trust Funds are enabled pursuant to NH RSA 31:19a. The Capital Improvement Program continues to make significant use of Expendable Trust Funds (ETF’s) as a means to fund identified capital needs. Expendable Trust Funds are under the custodial care of the Trustees of Trust Funds. The Select Board is designated as the “Agents-to-Expend”. All ETF’s are created by a vote of Town Meeting for specified purposes. All appropriations to these trust funds are also approved by a vote of Town Meeting. The use of ETF’s: (A) lessens the need for long term borrowing thereby avoiding borrowing costs; (B) allows the town to negotiate favorable pricing; (C) contributes to overall program visibility; and (D) contributes to overall program stability.

What is an “Unassigned Fund Balance”?

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 54 defines four fund categories that have some form of restriction; i.e. non-spendable, restricted, committed and assigned. Unassigned Fund Balance is the residual, spendable fund balance after subtracting the four fund categories mentioned above. The town maintains adequate levels of unassigned fund balance to mitigate financial risks that can occur from unforeseen revenue fluctuations, unanticipated expenditures and similar circumstances. The unassigned fund balance also provides cash flow liquidity for the town’s general operations. The Select Board may utilize excess unassigned fund balance to offset property taxes and subject to town meeting approval, use unassigned fund balance to fund capital improvements. Pursuant to the Town of Meredith’s Fund Balance Policy (reference Administrative Regulation No. 36, dated 4/1/12), allocation of unassigned fund balance shall be made after a review of all available information including the town’s planning tools such as the Capital Improvement Program.

How can I learn more or participate in the process?

- a. Attend meetings of the CIP Advisory Committee. All meetings are open to the public.
- b. Stay current with the work of the Committee. All approved meeting minutes are posted on the town web site.
- c. Participate in the budget process. The Select Board’s budget process includes both operating and capital expenses.
- d. Attend Town Meeting. All votes on the budget are taken at the Town Meeting deliberative session including votes on capital improvements.
- e. See appointment to serve on the volunteer Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Advisory Committee.
- f. Ask questions. Become informed. Contact the Community Development Department at 677-4215 for more information.

Conservation Commission

“To conserve and protect land, forests, and farmland for wildlife, water quality, and recreation for the people of Meredith and its visitors.”

Your Conservation Commission had a busy year stewarding Meredith’s natural resources for environmental and recreational benefits as we worked with town and state land-use regulatory entities to minimize wildlife habitat loss and fragmentation resulting from accelerating development. All of Meredith’s recreational trails again had high levels of use for hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, observing nature, and simply relaxing. Hunting on the town forests was also active this year, especially the fall deer season at Page Pond. Remember to wear orange during hunting season!

A significant milestone was reached when an accessible trail was constructed at the Page Pond Town Forest. The trail runs from the Quarry Road Trailhead for approximately 1/3 of a mile to a new accessible viewing platform that looks out over the Quarry Pond. The trail and viewing platform were made possible through a collaborative effort with the Meredith Rotary Club which provided the labor and construction skills required. Several local business also donated time, materials, and equipment toward the effort, including Ambrose Brothers, Moulton Farm, and LaValley-Middleton Lumber. The trail is now open, though finishing touches will be completed in 2024 with an opening celebration planned for spring.

An ongoing project on all town properties is the management of invasive species, including Oriental bittersweet, Japanese knotweed, and autumn olive, among others. Mechanical removal of invasive species has been successful for some species, but others, particularly the extensive Oriental bittersweet infestation in the fields at Page Pond, cannot be managed mechanically. Based on recommendations from an expert assessment done in 2022, a focused chemical treatment was performed this fall. The results from this action will be assessed in 2024 to determine if further treatments will be undertaken.

An important responsibility of the Meredith Conservation Commission is to provide recommendations to State and local land-use regulatory entities whose actions affect the natural resources of the Town of Meredith. Proposed land-use changes requiring regulatory action were abundant in 2023. Increasing land use changes are negatively affecting water quality and wildlife habitat for resident and migratory species. Many thanks go to Commission members for reviewing over 70 State and Town applications related to wetland and other habitat modifications, and for preparing recommendations to minimize impacts to natural resources including water quality, wildlife, wetlands, and wetland buffers. Ultimately, the changes to area wildlife negatively affect the quality of life we have come to expect as an important benefit of living in the town of Meredith.

Town Forests

Hamlin-Eames Town Forest

Hamlin-Eames Town Forest is our largest Town Forest and has the most extensive network of trails. With more than 800 acres, Hamlin-Eames offers something for everyone: spectacular vistas, numerous species habitats, and trails for all levels of hikers. Your commission, along with volunteers, spent many hours brushing and re-blazing trails, removing blow-downs, brushing out the log landing areas and building water-bars to prevent erosion. A large bridge over a stream on the Four Ponds Loop has reached its end of life and we are preparing to replace it next summer.

Meredith Community Forest

Community Forest is conveniently located close to Meredith’s Village District and a short, five minute walk from the Community Center. With roughly 200 acres, the trail network provides different choices every time you enter the forest. This year commission members and volunteers cleared trees that fell across trails, painted boundaries, repaired water bars, and brushed trails where overgrown.

Page Pond Community Forest

Page Pond Community Forest’s 765 acres contain many natural and cultural features including the mill dam, the Bickford homestead, and a wide range of habitats from fields to wetlands. A well-marked trail network allows exploring all of these areas. Ongoing work addressing invasive species has reduced the amount of invasive plants to the point where portions of the field can be allowed to grow naturally, with native plants, wildflowers, and animals

General Government

Conservation Commission *continued...*

returning to the property. Attention has now turned to addressing the large infestation of invasive Oriental bittersweet that crowds out native plants and kills full grown trees. The recently discovered apple orchard on the property is being rejuvenated by pruning the overgrown trees, removing bittersweet, and opening space around them to allow sun and air to reach the trees. There were apples on the trees this fall!

Public Outreach and Education

The Commission invites residents and visitors to learn more about Meredith's natural resources through guided tours led by experts in forestry, wildlife, ecology, and habitats. In 2023 a public work day at Page Pond provided an opportunity for residents to contribute to the stewarding of the town's public lands as well as learn about their history, as the day focused on preserving the historic Bickford homestead and a large agricultural well. The Commission continues to promote our forests through social media and print media; you can follow our activities on our Facebook page.

Invasive Species

The Commission continues its work on public outreach and education regarding the growing problem we have with invasive species, especially Japanese Knotweed. We continue to work with the town, State officials, and private property owners to fight this long-term battle. The Commission offers assistance to residents looking to address invasive plants on their property.

Easement Monitoring Volunteers

Each year, the commission, with help from volunteers, monitors 28 parcels with over 40 miles of boundaries. In 2022, under the leadership of commission members Paul Dillon and John Sherman, volunteers marked 12 miles of these boundaries. The Commission is always looking for volunteers that would consider helping with our annual monitoring. This is a great way to view our beautiful open spaces from a different perspective than one gets walking the trails. If you are interested, contact the Meredith Conservation Commission.

2023 Highlights

In addition to the new accessible trail at Page Pond, other highlights include initiating a new forest management plan for Community Forest, and updating the 25 year old forest management plan for Hamlin. These will guide future stewardship of these public lands. The Commission also joined with Belknap County Conservation District and Trout Unlimited to undertake a stream restoration project on Stoney Brook, an important tributary in Meredith that feeds the northern portion of Lake Winnisquam. The work will improve both water quality and fish habitat for our native brook trout.

Meanwhile your Conservation Commission continued to fulfill its other obligations. In addition to our scheduled meetings, commission members, alternates and other volunteers spent many hours in the field monitoring and caring for your town forests. The commission stewards parcels ranging from Bear Island in the east to Hermit Woods Forest in the west. This year the commission gained a new commissioner, Ed Twaddell – welcome aboard!

Finally, the commission thanks all the volunteers who show up whenever we send out the word. In 2023 the commission hosted 23 "Tuesday Trailwork" days where volunteers collectively put in over 500 hours of work. The Commission thanks you all, as well as commission member Don MacFarlane for planning and leading the work days. We are always in need of volunteers to help with Meredith's public lands – contact us via our website if you would like to get involved. It's important work, and we have a good time!



Respectfully Submitted,
Scott Powell, Chair
Paul Dillon, Vice Chair
Paula Wanzer, Secretary
Jim Gregoire, Treasurer

Members: Ralph Pisapia, Janet Sanguedolce, Mark Billings
Alternates: John Sherman, Don MacFarlane, Tony Sabutis, Ed Twaddell

Conservation Commission Continued...



Public Works



Dale Sargent

Solid Waste Division: *Solid Waste Coordinator, Mike Tarling*

Our friend and co-worker, Dale Sargent, retired after 36 plus years working at the Solid Waste Facility. Dale has seen the facility change greatly over the years. We wish Dale and his wife, Janet, an enjoyable retirement!

The use of the Solid Waste & Recycling Facility remains at an all-time high. The Solid Waste decal used for accessing the facility is also now issued to use the Town beach at Leavitt Park and the boat launch at Hesky Park. With the influx of people moving into town, the sale of decals and the use of our SW facility has increased dramatically. The Annual Household Hazardous Waste Day was a great success with many people bringing in items.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR BEING SUCH ACTIVE RECYCLERS!

Recycling isn't just good for your wallet, it's great for the environment, saving energy and resources. The Northeast Resource Recovery Association – your recycling nonprofit – helped market the recyclable materials listed below to be processed into raw materials, ready to be remanufactured into new products:

PLASTICS	50,980 lbs.	<i>You saved 2,679 gallons of gasonline!</i>
ELECTRONICS	41,449 lbs.	<i>You saved enough energy to power 1,165 homes for 1 day!</i>
PAPER & CARDBOARD	404,070 lbs.	<i>You saved 3,435 trees!</i>
TIRES	30,800 lbs.	<i>You saved 733 gallons of oil!</i>

By recycling the materials above, you avoided about 1,593,253 lbs. of carbon dioxide emissions. This is equivalent to removing 161 passenger cars from the road for an entire year!



Leaf & Brush Pile at Solid Waste

Also recycled as of end of November 2023:

ALUMINUM CANS	12.6 TONS	TRASH	2,524.51 TONS
PLASTIC	28.02 TONS	LIGHT IRON	252.91 TONS
DEMOLITION	1261.8 TONS	SCRAP ALUMINUM	7.67 TONS
#1 STEEL	14.06 TONS	NEWSPAPER	20.1 TONS
CARDBOARD	103.5 TONS	ALUMINUM CANS	14.1 TONS
MIXED METALS	5.5 TONS		

Cemetery Division: *Cemetery Sexton, Robert O'Neill*

Full Burials 5, Cremations 20. Total of 25 for fees totaling \$5,950.00. Monument Installations: Bases-10; Ground Level Markers – 5 (1 Military) – installed for \$650.00 total; Grave Sales - 8 Full burial Grave Lots for fees totaling \$4,000. Additionally, 6 monuments were repaired, 12 were cleaned. Our Cemetery crew kept busy mowing, weed whacking and picking up branches, debris and keeping our two main in-town cemeteries and the 89 outlying cemeteries clean and beautiful.

Buildings and Grounds Division: *Operations Manager, Paul Ristaino*

A new drinking fountain with a special feature was installed at Hesky Park. It includes a doggie drinking bowl with faucet! Our crew painted town flag poles as well as both foot bridges and the bandstand at Hesky Park. We installed new banners around town. We were kept busy trying to mow and keep the grounds in shape working around the constant rainstorms this past year! We moved our equipment to the new Highway garage which will be our new headquarters along with the highway crews.

General Government

Public Works *continued...*

Public Works Office: *Public Works Director, Michael Faller—Administrative Assistant, Monica Bennett*

This past year the town saw more people in and around the waterfront parks and Main Street Community Park as well as many more community events. Our office issued a record number of facility use permits for these events in our parks. We saw an increase in the number of calls, e-mails and visits to our office. Due to the high volume of real estate sales and new construction of homes in town, we issued a very large number of driveway permits, trenching and logging permits.



The new Highway garage at 11 Jenness Hill Road now houses all our Highway, Cemetery and Buildings & Grounds crews and equipment. Our DPW offices will remain in the building at 347 Daniel Webster Highway, next to Family Dollar.

Highway Division: *Assistance Public Works Director, Craig Hale*

In 2023, we were finally able to move into our new highway facility after a long build. We are very thankful for this new building as the old one built in 1965 was deteriorating quickly. We are still working on getting everything set up within the building for operations, but we are fully functional at this time. This is a maintenance and mechanic facility only. Our crews use this as a home base and store all their equipment and gear here. It is also the maintenance department for all other town departments vehicles and equipment as well, (cruisers, fire trucks, lawn mowers, etc.) for inspections, maintenance and repairs.



Overlays and rubber coated chip sealing was completed this year on Chemung Road, Camp Waldron Road, Weed Road, True Road, Ridge Road, Birch Ledge Road, Wagon Wheel (paved portion), as well as Neal Shore, Anntom, Cozy Cove, and the beginning of Old Center Harbor Road. We were able to transition Old Follet road from gravel to pavement this year as well. In 2024, we will be finishing Old Follet with its final overlay to complete the project. We continue to maintain all our drainage pipes, basins, and ditches as needed. The work pays off as we had very minor damage in the many torrential downpours that we had this summer season. Grading was done throughout the spring, summer, and fall as the rains and traffic continue to put a lot of wear and tear on the gravel road surfaces.

Annual roadside cutting and tree pruning are done to keep line of site and safety of travel on the town roads. We have removed many trees that have died within the right of ways and will continue to do so.

Many sign replacements and new installations of signage throughout the town was done as needed. The signs are designed and created in our own sign shop.

Thank you to everyone for the positive support and feedback that we receive throughout the year!

General Government

Parks and Recreation

Vint M. Choiniere, Parks and Recreation Director, CPRP
Tom Branagan, Maintenance
Sarah Perkins, Program Director
Tammy Licki, Front Desk Associate
Andy Campney, Maintenance Crew Chief

THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF

I would like to thank all our dedicated staff members, both full time and part time, for their outstanding efforts throughout the year to bring quality service, programs, and facilities to our community and our visitors. We could not possibly provide the year-round 7-days-per-week service that we do, if it were not for their efforts. Staff shortages made 2023 especially challenging at times, however everyone pitched in together to maintain our full level of services. Thank you very much to all of them!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

The events and programs listed below would not be possible without our generous volunteers. We appreciate the valuable and critical role our volunteers play in so many of our program offerings and special events.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Santa Calling	Matt Tremblay
Holiday Open House Santa	Matt Tremblay
Holiday Open House	Altrusa
Easter Egg Hunt Bunny	Matt Tremblay
Special Events Baking & Food Prep	Lisa Tremblay
Easter Egg Hunt	Holderness Private School, ILHS Varsity Baseball Team, Altrusa
North Pole Calling	Matt Tremblay
Halloween Bash	ILHS Girls & Boys Varsity Soccer Teams/Altrusa
Youth Tennis Lessons & Yoga	Advantage Tennis & Yoga Organization
Adult Volleyball Coordinator	Maria Aboujaouda
Craft Fair Baked Goods	Many After School Program Families
Arts & Crafts Donations	Sara Dubois
Senior Adult Computer Class	Meredith Public Library
Swasey Park Volunteer Day	Swasey Park Committee
Childs Park Flowers	Julie Choiniere
Beach & Playground Clean Up	Julie Choiniere
Counselors-In-Training	Caleb Theriault, Summer Hamill, Wogene Webber, Athena Burr, Kylee Maltais
Equipment & Operators	Meredith Water, DPW, & Fire Departments
Community Center Gardens	Nancy Lavigne & Team of Volunteer Helpers
Summer Open Mic Music Series	Kevin & Kitty Boyle
Tee Ball Coaches	Jon Morgan, Mara Miller, Jennifer Weeks, William Vanasse, Dan Ingram, James Thompson, Chris Curran, Tim Gerry
Youth Soccer Coaches	Dustin Moriarty, Corina Locke, Whitney Biederman, Chris Curran, Dan Ingram, Alec Morrill, Tim Gerry, Trisha Griffin, Mike Griffin, Chelsea Crowder, Liz Evans
Mae Hart Thanksgiving Dinner	24 Volunteers

General Government

Parks and Recreation *continued...*

COVID RECOVERY CONTINUES

Activity levels within the Parks and Recreation Department continued to increase in 2023. Prior to the impact of COVID in 2020, the Parks and Recreation Department generated increased revenues for 5 consecutive years, culminating with an all-time high, at the time, in 2019. Activity levels steadily increased in 2021 and 2022 as we all tried our best to recover from COVID. I am happy to report that the total revenue generated in 2023 was \$246,629, setting a new all-time high. We are very hopeful that this very positive trend will continue in 2024.

Program	Participants	Program	Participants
After School Program	92	Adult Intermediate Pickle Ball	95
Summer Camp	189	Adult Advanced Pickle Ball	78
Youth Tennis Lessons	30	Evening Pickle Ball Program	67
Counselors In Training	5	Adult Men's P/U Basketball	154
February Vacation Camp	39	Safe Sitter Program	5
April Vacation Camp	51	Birthday Parties	81
December Vacation Camp	36	Mother & Son Game Night	19
Full Day Camp March 17	29	Father & Daughter Dance	48
Full Day Camp November 17	28	Community Center Drop-Ins Daily Avg	30
Full Day Camp November 22	30	North Pole Calling	14
Full Day Camp November 27	33	Senior Drop-Ins Daily	10
Early School Release Camp June 23	30	Senior Computer Class	8
Early School Release Camp Dec 22	28	Senior Morning Walking Class	10
Adult Coed Volleyball	66	Senior Knitting Group	8
Youth Soccer (pre K-Gr 2)	60	Craft Fair Vendors	31
Youth Tee Ball (Ages 4 & 5-Gr K)	38	Craft Fair Attendees	500
Senior Strength & Balance Program	78	Halloween Family Bash	100
Senior Exercise	20	Holiday Open House	200
Senior Yoga	44	Holiday Tree Lighting	100
Cabin Fever Family Movie Night	20	East Egg Hunt	300
Climbing Wall Program	64	Mae Hart Thanksgiving Meal & Delivery	120
Adult Novice Pickle Ball	51	Barber Shop Harmony Music Jamboree	150

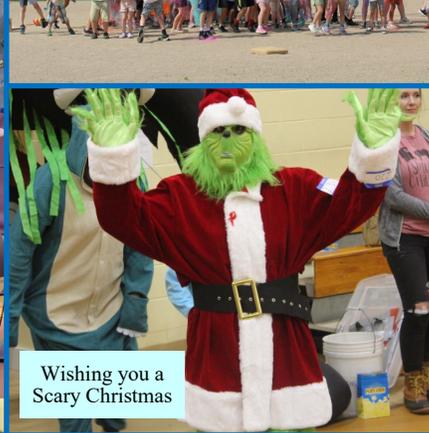
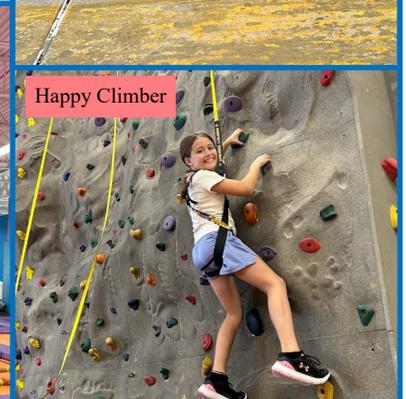
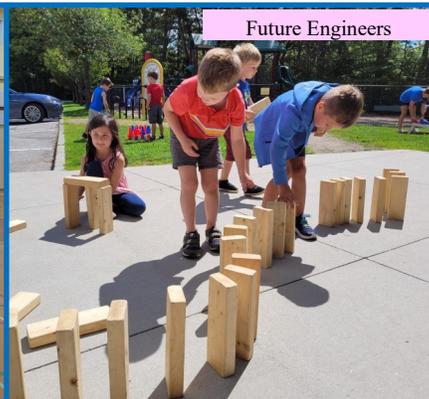
As always, I encourage you to get involved by sharing your thoughts and ideas with us and I look forward to working together as a community to provide quality recreational opportunities for all to enjoy now and into the future. Have a safe and healthy year in 2024.

Sincerely,

Vint M. Choiniere, CPRP
Meredith Parks and Recreation Director

General Government

Parks and Recreation continued...



General Government

Town Clerk

Kerri A Parker, Town Clerk CTCTC, CMC
 Jennifer Hurd, Assistant Town Clerk

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| * Motor Vehicle | * Vital Records (Birth, Death & Marriage Certificates) | * Dog Licensing |
| * Fire Permits | * Marriage Licensing | * Refuse Permits |
| * Elections | * Voter Registration | * Wetland Applications |
| * Aquatherm Permitting | * Notary Public & Justice of the Peace Services | * |

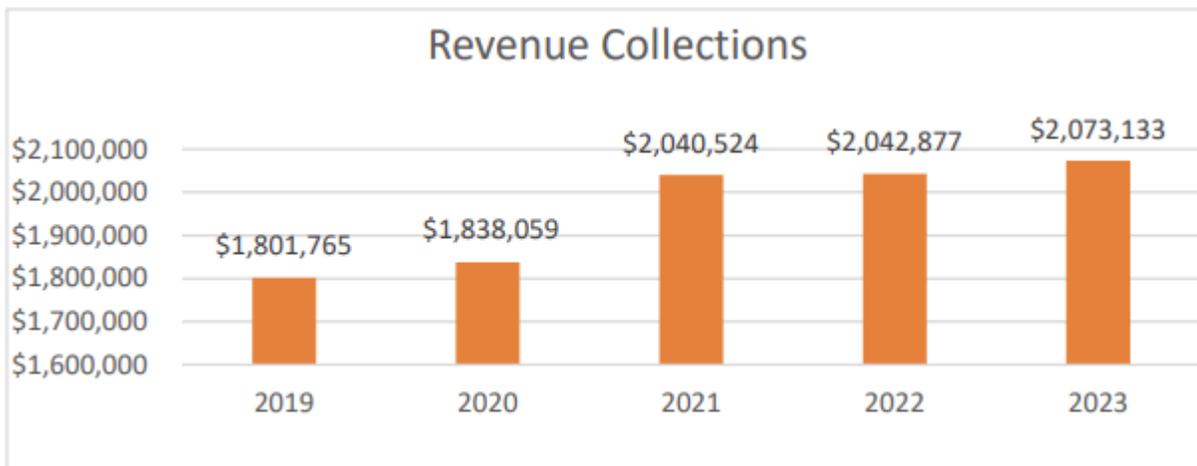
Generally, the town sees an average of 5 new people moving into town per month. In 2023 the average jumped up to 5-6 families moving in per week.

We are continuing our education to better serve all our residents and look forward to many changes this year as well.

Stay Tuned!

Respectfully Submitted
 Kerri A Parker, CMC, CTCTC
 Town Clerk

Town Clerk Services	Total Distributed	Revenue Collected
MV Registrations: (10,795 Auto) & (843 Boat)	11,638	\$ 2,073,133
Dogs	1,272	7,327
Vital Records	1,592	18,149
Marriage Licenses	76	3,800
Refuse Permits	246	19,759
Miscellaneous...		
UCC filings - Aquatherm permits(140) - Copies		4,568
Mailings - Notary and Justice Fees		



General Government

Meredith Public Library

The Meredith Public Library's mission is to be the cultural heart of Meredith; a gathering place where community members can acquire and share knowledge. During 2023 we worked to build connections in the community, develop classes and workshops that align with our mission, and to provide opportunities for our staff to develop their skills and teamwork to better serve our patrons.

One of our goals when we completed our building project was to build more partnerships in the community. This year we collaborated with the Winnepesaukee Playhouse to bring "An Evening of Song, Film and Discussion" to Meredith which ended in a panel discussion with experts on the Holocaust. The Playhouse also teams with us for our weekly Shakespeare Group. The library assisted Humble Grunt Work and volunteers from the community to erect the Meredith Veterans Memorial now on our front lawn. Our new teen librarian Liz Rohdenberg partnered with Inter-Lakes Schools to get a bus stop in front of the library and she now provides students with afterschool activities. The library also offers its meeting rooms to non-profits. Lakes Region Camera Club, Altrusa Club, Lakes Region Planning Commission and many other groups are frequent visitors and appreciate our hybrid meeting room that allows for in-person and Zoom capabilities at the same time.



The library was very happy to win the New Hampshire Library Card Challenge. Each year libraries across NH compete to add the most new patrons per capita and we were thrilled to win this year. Thank you to all of our staff and patrons for making this happen but in particular to Liz and another new member of staff Samantha Tullis, Adult Services Librarian, for visiting the Inter-Lakes Schools open house and signing up many new users.

Samantha has also added new weekly workshops in the Maker Space focused on the arts, a new classics book group and ideas for contests and incentives to entice readers. Joyce manages our new program called "BingeBundles" where patrons can sign up each month to receive surprise items to check out tailored to their interests and some fun library swag to go along with it. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Meredith Library and is very popular. Matthew Buteau, another new face at the library, assists Liz in the teen room but also hosts a monthly Writer's Group. Cherie Gable, a long-time staff member manages our Homebound program in conjunction with the Altrusa Club. Do you know someone who would like to receive library services but can't get out of the house much anymore? We deliver. Just call us to set it up.

Assistant Director Chris Leland continues his bi-monthly Tech Help visits for seniors at the Community Center and is available by appointment at the library to assist with your devices or to help with the equipment in the Maker Space. We have equipment to convert old films, VHS, photos, books, slides and even LPs. We have a large scale printer, sewing and embroidery machines, a Cricut, a 3D printer and a Glowforge Laser Engraver. Again, just call us to set up an appointment.

Miss Karen continues to make the Children's Room the warm and welcoming heart of our library. Providing story times and activities for our youngest patrons, she also provides opportunities for parents and grandparents to gather, share a cup of coffee and make connections. With assistance from Anna Greenwood who has many years of afterschool program experience, the Children's Room continues to thrive. Liz and Matthew are the Teen Room's dynamic duo. Liz's creativity blossoms in this space providing activities like Escape Rooms, Cupcake Wars, Bad Art Club, Harry Potter Club and the ever popular Jackbox Games Fridays, just to name a few. Teens enthusiastically rush in every day after school to see what surprises she has in store.

Thank you to Steve Nedeau for maintaining our building and to our newest staff member MaryBeth King for joining us.

None of our workshops or activities would be available without the hard work of The Friends of the Meredith Library. They provide the funding through volunteer work running the book store in the library's lower level, managing three book sales per year, selling books online and at local antique shops and higher end books in our historic reading room.

General Government

Meredith Public Library *continued...*

The Friends also plant and maintain our gardens and planters. Much of what we do at the library would not be possible without them. Please consider joining the Friends. Even if you don't have time to volunteer, your membership fees help sponsor our events.

Thank you to our patrons once again for your continuing support and love for your library. We appreciate all that you do for us and for helping to create a friendly, family atmosphere. Thank you to our amazing staff who are always highly praised to me when I'm out in the community. Thank you to the Library Trustees for all of your support over the past year and to the taxpayers of Meredith for 142 years of supporting your public library.

Erin M. Apostolos, Library Director

Circulation...

Adult Media	7,917
Adult Books	16,571
Youth Materials	17,161
Magazines	1,055
Interlibrary Loans	1,655
eBooks, Mags, Video, Audio	16,503
Museum Passes	134
Telescope	7
Kindle	12

Total Circulation 61,015

Statistics...

Reference Questions Answered	1,302
Annual Visits	49,475
Number of Registered Patrons	5,388
Internet Usage	8,738
Acquisitions...	
Media	316
Books	4,173
Magazines	306
Lost/Discarded	4,078
Donated Items	297

Total Inventory 38,462

Report of the Library Trustees of Trust Funds - *Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)*

Library Trust & Improvement Funds		Balance	Income	(Withdrawn)	Gain/Loss	YE-Balance
<u>Trust Fund</u>	<u>Purpose</u>					
Nichiporuk Fund	Library	\$ 859,045	\$86,727	\$ (105,676)	\$ 57,289	\$ 897,385
Improvement Fund	Library	\$ 46,421	\$ 5,209	\$ (5,497)	\$ 4,572	\$ 50,705
Total Trust Funds		\$ 905,466	\$91,936	\$ (111,173)	\$ 61,861	\$ 948,090

Note this info is incomplete due to printer deadlines for Town Report. YE Balance is as of Third Quarter.



General Government

Police

“The Mission of the Meredith Police Department is to prevent crime, preserve order and to protect the rights, lives and property of all people. We will work in partnership with our Community to identify and effectively respond to the diverse, ever-changing social neighborhood problems and needs. We will do this with respect, fairness and compassion.”



With the start of 2024 upon us, our department is refreshed, focused and ready to write our next chapter. In 2023 we experienced many changes, obstacles and celebrations.

We said our farewells, we filled vacancies, with thought and careful consideration. Leadership roles were carefully selected as each person brought forth different abilities, talents, and experiences along with new ideas. Though daunting at times. This sort of “changing of the guard” is something that the department was very excited for at the same time.

By the end of 2023, we added Officer Jennifer Bello, Officer Anna Doherty, Officer Trevor MacAloney, and Officer Alex Machado to the department. I couldn’t be prouder of all these individuals and have high expectations for all of them. In December of 2023, we added a School Resource Officer to the Inter-Lakes Elementary School with collaboration from the Superintendent of Schools, Mary Moriarity, Chief Mark Chase of the Center Harbor Police Department and Chief Shawn Varney of the Sandwich Police Department. We believe with this addition, Officer Robert Nedeau, will make our schools safer and build relationships with students and faculty at ILES.

We are currently working on important projects to include a much-needed Dispatch upgrade and the IT build is an ever-evolving project. We are preparing as we are still seeing a *noticeable increase* in housing construction and population in town and know that the need for services and safety for all residents is paramount. Like most, we experienced staffing shortages and found ways to fill those vacancies.

My goal as the Chief of Police is to continue to build upon our already strong foundation and the steady leadership, we have experienced over my 28 years of service to the Town of Meredith. I will promote professionalism, humility, learnedness, camaraderie, and growth among our staff. As always, we will put our community's needs and safety at the forefront and continue to foster healthy relationships between our officers, residents and community leaders.

In Closing, 2023 was a year of assessing and addressing our department needs and rebuilding our depleted patrol division due to retirements and promotions. When I look at the personnel, we now have in place I am confident that we selected some of the finest individuals to keep our streets safe and can confidently say that the residents of the Town of Meredith are in great hands. And finally, I would like to thank our select board members, and Town Manager Troy Brown for their support over this past year. While we were faced with many challenges and staff shortages, they were steadfast in making sure the department was able to move forward efficiently and effectively.

Chief Michael J. Harper



General Government

Fire

As we have concluded 2023, I would like to thank My Officers, Department Members, Town Staff and Board of Selectman for another year.

In 2023 the department responded to a total of **510 various incidents**. This is 3 shy of 2022 total and record. Since 2009 it's had a **62% increase in department total call volume**.

In early August we were officially notified that we were selected as recipients of the 2022 Assistants to Firefighters Grant Program, (AFG). We applied to replace our current 20 plus year-old self-contained breathing apparatus air compressor and filling containment. The total grant award of \$78,047.00 includes a five percent match of \$3,716.52 equaling funds received from FEMA of \$74,330.48. Currently the compressor and filling containment are on order and due to ship in two to three months. The total cost of the project is \$95,237.00 with the additional funding being supported within the 2023 budget.



We also completed the project of updating/replacing the Central Station back-up generator to meet the load requirements of the 2009 station upgrade/addition. Monies used to support this project were awarded through an Emergency Management Performance Grant back in 2019. Due to the manufacture availability of a generator associated with covid-19 time frame, this project was just recently completed. Total project cost of \$65,735 with a grant of a 50% match totaling \$32,867.50.

With the department's 10-year plan and funding from the Capital Improvement Plan, (CIP), we were able to secure a contract to replace the current 1993 Eng 3 prior to a \$100,000 plus increase forth coming within the next year. We used the Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program to save \$109,694.00 from the initial price of \$954,795.00. With a 90% prepayment it reduces the total replacement cost of Eng-3 to 847,101.00. I wish to thank the Staff and CIP members for their support, without this long-term planning, purchases of this nature would be a struggle.

Recruitment and Retention of department members remain high priority and we continue to strive to maintain a level of service in which the citizens of Meredith are accustomed to receiving. As with other numerous professions, including the Fire Service as well, especially Call/Volunteer Departments, reduction in membership/work force continue to plague us all. With the call volume continually rising on an annual basis, along with the majority of the call force aging, this has reduced the Firefighter per call rate drastically. We currently try to staff (4) certified Firefighters on the day shift but struggle to routinely fill the shifts, leaving us with inadequate coverage during the daytime hours.

Two significant items we are requesting in the upcoming 2024 budget are funding to replace the current 14B1 and six full-time staff to assist with the daytime coverage. Funding for 14B1 is being requested through CIP. 14B1 has not met the department's needs for the past few years and has been scheduled for replacement in recent years. Full-time day staffing will assist with filling the required firefighters needed for the department service during the daytime hours. Members of this department ask for your continued support with both requests.

A reminder that **all outside burning** requires a burning permit if the ground is not adequately covered with snow 100 ft. around the burn pile. If required snow cover is prevalent, then no permit is required and you may burn during the day time hours as well. All other burning requires a burn permit even during wet rainy days. There are restrictions on what exactly may be burned as well as different categories pertaining to permits and times you may burn. Any questions please call MFD at (603) 279-6061 or obtain a permit at; Central Fire Station, Town Hall, Y-Landing or on line at www.NHfirepermit.com.

General Government

Fire continued...

As you see below with the yearly stats, False Alarms routinely continue to be the highest request for call volume. To assist in reducing such calls, all fire alarm systems should be service annually and residential homes must replace batteries in the smoke/CO detectors, **“(change your clocks, change your batteries)”**. Remember smoke/CO detectors need to be replaced per manufacture recommendations, which usually is between 7 to 10 years.

Listed below are the calls associated for the year 2021 through 2023.

Calls Associated for the years...	2021		2022		2023	
Fire Related (structure, vehicle and brush)	49	9.74%	47	9.16%	60	11.76%
Rescue (motor vehicle accidents, medical)	127	25.25%	113	22.03%	123	24.12%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	64	12.72%	81	15.79%	51	10.00%
Service Call	49	9.74%	48	9.36%	79	15.49%
Good Intent Call	52	10.34%	69	13.45%	51	10.00%
False Alarms & False Calls	<u>162</u>	32.21%	<u>155</u>	30.21%	<u>146</u>	28.63%
Total Number of Calls	503		513		510	

In closing, as always, the Officers, Members and I look forward to the challenges in 2024, working with the citizens of Meredith and thank all for your continued support. Finally, remember **early detection in the form of smoke detectors save lives, be sure to check yours! In new modern construction homes, you now have 3 to 4 minutes to escape! Ensure you have an escape plan and practice it!**

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth G. Jones, Fire Chief

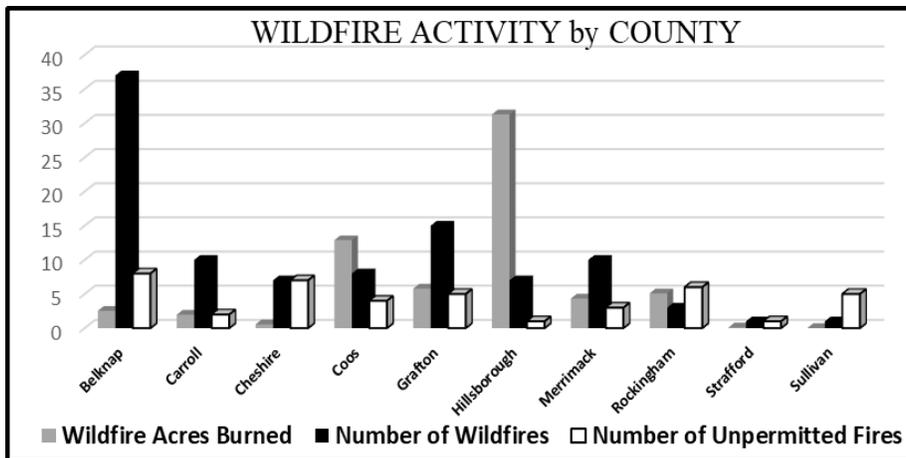
General Government

Forest Fire Warden and State Forest Ranger

This past year we observed wet weather in late spring and throughout the summer. This led to reduced wildfire activity throughout the state and allowed many of our state firefighting resources to respond to Nova Scotia and Quebec to assist our Canadian neighbors with their record wildfire season. We were also able to team up with local fire departments and provide many wildfire trainings throughout the state.

This time of year, we see fires caused by the careless disposal of woodstove ashes. Before dumping your woodstove ashes, you should place them in a covered metal container until they are cold. Many homes in Meredith are in the wildland urban interface, which is the area where homes and flammable wildland fuels intermix. Every year New Hampshire sees fires which threaten or destroy structures, a constant reminder that wildfires burn more than just trees. Even with the lower wildfire threat in New Hampshire in 2023, properties within the Wildland Urban Interface were still impacted, with 8 structures threatened and 3 destroyed by wildfires. Homeowners should take measures to prevent wildfires from spreading to their home. Precautions include keeping your roof and gutters clear of leaves and pine needles and maintaining adequate green space around your home free of flammable materials. Additional information and homeowner recommendations are available at www.firewise.org. Please help Smokey Bear, Meredith Fire, and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe! We ask everyone to remember Smokey's message about personal responsibility and follow his ABC's: Always **B**e Careful with fire. If you start a fire, put it out when you are done. **"Remember, Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!"**

As we prepare for the 2024 fire season, please remember to contact Chief Jones Forest Warden or Meredith Fire to determine if a fire permit is required before doing ANY outside burning. Under State law (RSA 227-L:17) a fire permit is required for all outside burning unless the ground is completely covered with snow. Fire permits are also available online in most towns and may be obtained by visiting www.NHfirepermit.com. The burning of household waste is prohibited by the Air Resources Division of the Department of Environmental Services. You are encouraged to contact Meredith Fire for more information. Safe open burning requires your diligence and responsibility. Thank you for helping us to protect New Hampshire's Forest resources. For more information, please contact the Division of Forests & Lands at (603) 271-2214, online at www.nh.gov/nhdfl/ or Meredith Fire (603 279-6061) for up-to-date information, follow us on X and Instagram: [@NHForestRangers](https://twitter.com/NHForestRangers) and [Meredith Fire.com](https://www.instagram.com/MeredithFire.com)



Year	Number of Wildfires	Wildfire Acres Burned	Number of Unpermitted Fires*
2023	99	64.5	42
2022	59	203	48
2021	66	86	96
2020	113	89	165
2019	15	23.5	92

*Unpermitted fires which escape control are considered Wildfires.

CAUSES of FIRES REPORTED											
Railroad operations & maintenance	Firearm & explosives use	Undetermined	Recreation & ceremony	Debris & open burning	Natural	Other causes	Power generation, transmission, distribution	Smoking	Arson	Misuse of fire by a minor	Equipment & vehicle use
0	0	22	3	80	4	4	10	1	2	0	4

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth G Jones, Fire Chief/Forest Fire Warden

General Government

Energy Committee

The Meredith Energy Committee is a volunteer advisory committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Its purpose is to encourage and promote energy efficiency and renewable energy for Meredith's municipal operations, businesses, and residents.

The Energy Committee put forward a warrant article for the March 2022 Town Meeting to allow the Selectboard to enter into a Power Purchase Agreement for the installation of solar panels on town owned buildings that provided the proper roof orientation was completed in 2023. Photovoltaic panels have been installed on the roofs of the Transfer Station, Community Center, Skate Park, and the Meredith Center Fire Station. All installations have been activated in 2023 with the exception of the Transfer Station which is awaiting a transformer from NH Electric Coop. The estimated annual electricity produced by the solar panels will be 321,000 kWh or roughly 25% of the electricity consumed by the town's municipal facilities. In 2024 the Transfer Station will also come online, and the Energy Committee will monitor the production of electricity at each site and determine the savings achieved. We will also work with Barrington Power to determine additional solar installation locations for consideration by the Selectboard.

The Energy Committee is looking at the energy efficiency of the town facilities and will propose steps to reduce energy consumption.

The Energy Committee has started to investigate the feasibility of installing electric vehicle charging stations at the new municipal parking lot on Plymouth Street.

The Energy Committee will continue to serve as a resource on energy efficiency for Meredith's municipal operations, businesses, and residents. Anyone with an interest in the Energy Committee or its work can direct inquiries or questions to Angela LaBrecque at 677-4228.

Submitted by,

Bill Haley, Chairman
Meredith Energy Committee



General Government

Village Pathways Committee

The Meredith Village Pathways Committee is an advisory committee appointed by the Meredith Board of Selectmen. The broadly stated purpose of the Committee is to develop a pedestrian plan and to promote pedestrian activity in the community. Pedestrian planning takes the form of enhancing and expanding pathways, as well as linking together recreational, civic and community destinations throughout Meredith Village and the community.

2023 marked the fourth year of opening the Laverack Nature Trail at Hawkins Brook. The Laverack Trail continues to be a large part of the committee's work. The Laverack Nature Trail is very popular with visitors and is used regularly by residents, teachers, and students. In order to gauge the amount of trail users in 2023, our committee installed an Eco-Counter. From April to November there were a total of 38,405 visitors on the trail. On each of those days there was at least one person using a wheelchair, walker, or stroller. The accessibility of the trail has been one of its major benefits.

Educational walks were held on the Laverack Nature Trail this year, including bird walks with Iain MacLeod, Executive Director of the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center and tree Identification walks with experts Tom Foster and Mary Doyle, Environmental Educators from the Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center.

Committee members and Friends of the Laverack Nature Trail continue to monitor the Laverack Nature Trail several times each week. If you would like to help with monitoring, we welcome new members. Those willing to help with trail maintenance on an "as needed basis" are also welcome. Please contact the committee chairpersons for more information or visit our website <https://www.laveracknt.org/> or on Facebook, at Laverack Nature Trail at Hawkins Brook.

Thank you to all who assisted with trail monitoring and maintenance this year. The Committee would like to thank Donovan Tree Service and the Meredith Public Works Department. We also thank Meredith Town Planner Angela LaBrecque, Community Development Director John Edgar, Stephanie Maltais and Genie Smith for their time, effort, and guidance given to our committee.

For a number of years, we have worked to eradicate knotweed at the trail entrance to the boardwalk behind Meredith Village Savings Bank. It has been a success and for future planning we intend to landscape that area. More educational walks are also scheduled.

Walking is good for you! Please use the Laverack Nature Trail at Hawkins Brook if you have not discovered it. For those of you who have, thank you for being such good stewards of our wonderful trail in the heart of the village.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Wilson and Liz Lapham, Co-Chairs



General Government

Water and Sewer

2023 has been a year of change, not only for me personally, accepting the position as Water/Sewer Superintendent for the Town of Meredith, but also a change in the department's direction. Spending the past 31 years as Chief Operator for a Trident/Micro Floc Water Treatment Plant, I looked forward to bringing that knowledge to the Town of Meredith Water/Sewer Department and moving the department in a forward direction. Upgrading infrastructure, tracking energy efficiency, building a solid maintenance program, as well as keeping the town in compliance with the ever-changing federal and state water/sewer regulations will be top priority.

The Water Treatment facility (1988) is showing its age. We applied for and received a \$150k grant through the State of NH for an in-depth study of the Water treatment facility as well as the infrastructure of buildings and distribution system. The grant will also provide us with the equipment, software, and training to build a solid GIS (Geographic information system) program for mapping the town's utilities. This asset management study is expected to take 12-18 months and will give us a clear picture for prioritizing our needs in the future.

2023 also saw critical filter process changes at the Treatment Facility, along with several upgrades, as well as challenges. In July, the Treatment facility filter process was reprogrammed resulting in a large reduction of the amount of wastewater discharged to the Winnepesaukee River Basin. The re-programming saw an immediate savings of 500,000 gallons of water a month that was being produced and wasted. The number of backwash/flush events (cleaning of the filter media) in January (lowest flow month) of 2023 was 298. After re-programming in July 2023 (highest flow month) we had 132 Backwash/flush events. This is a 55% decrease in backwash/Flush events. These events on average use 4000 gallons per event.



Throughout 2023 the team at water/sewer worked together upgrading and refurbishing the control room and office areas as well as re-organization of inventory and equipment. An Algae tracker unit was purchased and deployed in a strategic location on Lake Waukegan. This device tracks algae on the surface water of Lake with the ability to provide early detection of Algae blooms. The tracking device reports back to a dashboard on the Treatment plant computer every 15 minutes. This device will also send notification to the on-call operators should it reach the set limits.



General Government

Water and Sewer *continued...*

The year also saw the replacement of the Backwash pump, Surface wash pump and the installation of a secondary backwash port to be utilized in the event of a backwash pump failure.

Our 1985 skid steer loader was replaced with a new Kubota utility tractor, which will better assist the crew in the daily operations.

As we close out 2023 and begin 2024, we have several projects planned to include upgrades to Chemical feed area, Laboratory, Pump Stations, and lead service line inventory, which is part of the “Get the Lead out” program that the EPA has initiated for 2024. We shall also continue the annual cleaning and inspections of sewer lines.

One of the more exciting projects we will embark on in 2024 is a fixed meter read system. Our current mobile meter read system is outdated and will no longer be supported after 6/24. This new system will allow immediate access to customers’ meter readings without having to leave the office. The new system will also allow us to set notifications on customer usage that if exceeded can flag the account and bring a possible water leak to our attention immediately. Our current system is read quarterly allowing a leak to go undetected for weeks or months resulting in a high bill to the customer or water loss to the town. A water audit was completed by the state in July of 2023 (for year 2022). 123 million gallons of water were produced at the water treatment facility in 2022, with only 82 million gallons of water being registered through customer meters. The results show a large amount of revenue not being collected.



This new fixed meter read system along with changes made in the treatment process and a town wide leak detection program being implemented in 2024 will help close the gap for unaccounted for water.

As we look to the near future, we will begin the planning process for Rte. 25 water & sewer line replacement, Treatment facility replacement/upgrade, Pump station maintenance as well as improving the town’s distribution infrastructure.

We would like to wish all a safe and Happy New Year from the team at Meredith Water & Sewer.

Sincerely,

Jason Bordeau
Water & Sewer Superintendent

Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee

The Water Watershed Advisory Committee is a volunteer advisory committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The committee provides an organizational structure for citizens and local officials from the five (5) watershed communities to facilitate implementation of the Management Plan for the Waukewan Watershed.

A principle responsibility of the committee is to enhance public awareness and facilitate education regarding water quality conservation issues throughout the watershed. While maintaining a diverse geographical and stakeholder structure, the committee works collaboratively with local watershed communities, state agencies, local associations, citizens and other partners in the implementation of the Plan.

In April, WWAC hosted Part 2 of its on going outreach program. Department policy and decision makers from the 5 Watershed towns were invited to interact with an expert panel on water quality.

The well received program resulted in sediment testing of the lake bottom, the first ever for Lake Waukewan.

At this outreach, WWAC also helped lay ground work for 2 DES grants that FBE applied for on behalf of Lake Waukewan.

In June, our town liaison and Director of Community Development retired. John Edgar was a great mentor and supporter of the watershed. While we will miss his wisdom, we wish him well in his new adventure.

September Boat Ramp Clean Up which was sponsored by Windy Waters Conservancy and supported by WWAC found 20 volunteers cleaning up the lake between the boat ramp and beach. Boaters, football players, divers and lake lovers removed a dump truck load of garbage from the lake bottom. Thanks to Meredith DPW for suppling the truck and thanks to all the volunteers.

WWAC presented Part 3 of its continuing outreach for the Meredith Rotary. The program was well received with extensive questions and answers. WWAC will continue this program in 2024.

December brought great news for Waukewan. One of our grants was selected for funding by NHDES. Our project is moving forward to the contract stage. Once the paperwork is finalized, the contract needs to go through Governor and Council review before the project can start (6-8 week process). We will be working with Forest Bell Environmental, Lake Winnepesaukee Association, NHDES, the Town of Meredith, the Meredith Water Department and Waukewan volunteers through the summer. This grant encompasses Cyanobacteria monitoring for the town water supply.

2023 was a busy and productive year for WWAC, we were looking forward to a busy and productive 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna VanNess Murphy - Chair



Ramp Clean Up



Sediment Testing

Supported Outside Agencies

Chamber of Commerce

The mission of the Meredith Area Chamber of Commerce is to advance and promote the commercial, industrial, service, professional, tourism and retail interests of the greater Meredith and Inter-Lakes area. We proudly serve over 230 businesses and non-profit organizations in and around Ashland, Bristol, Center Harbor, Holderness, Laconia, Moultonborough, New Hampton, Plymouth, Sandwich, Tamworth, and Meredith.

Our Visitor Center, located at 272 Daniel Webster Highway in Meredith, provides a wide array of promotional literature, maps, guides, and useful resources about the Inter-Lakes and greater Lakes Regions. We continue to offer a welcome center in Moultonborough at the intersection of Route 25 and Bean Road.

Cross-collaboration, a “shop local” initiative, and Chamber Connections continue to be our top priorities. In 2023, with Chambers across the State of NH, we continued bi-weekly correspondence with Commissioner Taylor Caswell of the NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA). The calls have been an invaluable resource to Chambers, giving us a voice at the state level as well as an opportunity to keep up with the direction of the state. Additionally, the MACC and the Business and Industry Association (BIA) collaborated to offer our “small business” members a variety of benefits and constant communication. Additionally, the Small Business Development Center continues to be a positive resource to our community.

In 2023, The MACC worked closely with the Career Partnership Program, a long standing collaborative project between the Greater Meredith Program and the Inter-Lakes School District. Student interns from I-L are able to connect with MACC business members, using the Career Partnership Program as a bridge from school-to-work in the greater Meredith and Inter-Lakes Region.

The Chamber hosted eight Chamber Connection events in 2023, along with several “Coffee & Commerce” meet-ups and Business After Hours (BAH) events. Additionally, the MACC hosted six ribbon cuttings for new and incoming area businesses. The December 2023 seasonally festive BAH event at Meredith Landing Real Estate was once again very well-attended. A major focus in 2024 will be to bring our business community together in a variety of ways to continue to strengthen and grow the voice of local business owners.

The 43rd Annual Lakes Region Fine Arts & Craft Festival was a major success for the Chamber in August of 2023. Under the direction of Mike Griffin, Executive Director and Andrea Harper, Festival Coordinator, the event hosted 80 vendors, along with welcoming entertainment and introducing food trucks. Major sponsors for the event included Meredith Village Savings Bank, Ambrose Bros. Construction, and Overhead Door Options of Meredith. Additionally, the MACC saw support from seven local businesses as “Community Sponsors”. Those businesses included 48 Main Café & Creperie, Lakes Region Visiting Nurses Association, Boutin Lowman Law, Scott Compton Builders, Miracle Farms, Meredith Landing Real Estate, King Insurance, and Lakes Region Dental Implant & Oral Surgery Center. In like manner, the MACC also collaborated with Rise on Main Street in Meredith in September of 2023 for the first annual “Boho Bazaar” – a shabby, chic & funky open market event. Sponsors for this event included Meredith Landing Real Estate, HallKeen (Meredith Senior Housing), Surfside Swag, and Meredith Whole Living Center.

The Chamber held its 2023 annual meeting at Waukegan Golf Club on Thursday, November 2. We’d like to recognize our lead sponsor, Northway Bank, for their generosity and support. The program for the evening included recognition of past and current MACC Board Members, a transparent financial report of the 2023 fiscal year, and welcomed presentations from Scott Thimann, Chief Banking Officer at Northway Bank and special guest speaker Jodie Gallant, MACC business member and owner of WORK Lakes Region, located in the bustling center of Lakeport. Gallant spoke about the importance of cross-collaboration and networking opportunities in the Lakes Region in addition to sharing her vision for co-working to amplify productivity.



Supported Outside Agencies

Chamber of Commerce *continued...*

The Annual Meeting continued as Wendy Bagley (King Insurance), now past president of the MACC passed the presidential torch to John Stephens, co-owner of Stephens Landscaping Professionals. In addition to Stephens stepping up as president, Bagley announced Nick Leighton (Overhead Door Options, Inc.), as MACC's incoming Vice President, Jonathan Boutin (Boutin Lowman, PLLC) as MACC's incoming Secretary, and Travis P. Cole (RE/MAX Innovative Bayside) remaining as MACC's Treasurer in 2024. In addition to the executive leadership team, the MACC Board of Directors includes Adam McKinney (MVSBS), Andrea Harper (Jenness Hill Storage), Barbara Jenkins (Oak Hill Golf Course), Merron Treadwell (Northway Bank), Teddy Willey (Hart's & Frog Rock Tavern), Thomas Sawyer, Jr. (Lakes Region Computer), and Wendy Bagley, past president (King Insurance). The MACC also welcomed four wonderful additions to the already energetic Board of Directors for the 2024 FY, including Barbara Beckwith (Mill Falls at the Lake), Cody Gray (Goodhue Boat Company), Corina Locke (SnapRoot Digital Marketing), and Natalie Taylor (Stonedam Design). Bagley also recognized and thanked three directors with terms ending in 2023, including Julie Hayward (Hayward & Company), Barbara Laros (Franklin Savings Bank) and Rob Ambrose (Ambrose Bros., Inc.) for their dedication to the organization over the years. The MACC also thanked Stan and Kathy Slowick, Chamber Ambassadors, for their volunteer efforts and promotion of the MACC. The Chamber staff includes Mike Griffin, Executive Director, and Stephanie Whiting, Office Administrator.

The annual meeting ended with the presentation of the MACC's Community Awards with five groups receiving recognition. The Chamber awarded the 2023 Community Pride Award to Kathy Sorell of Restoration Acres Farm. The 2023 Civic Project Award was presented to Speare Memorial Hospital for the new MedCheck Urgent Care of Meredith. The 2023 Citizenship Award was presented to Chris Kelly, RE/MAX Innovative Bayside, longtime Meredith resident and "all-around good guy". Two special recognition awards were presented to area non-profit organizations including Lakes Region Visiting Nurse Association for marking a 100-year milestone of serving Meredith and greater Lakes Region communities as well as the Heart & Hands Thrift Shop for hitting over one million dollars in sales, donating over \$541,000 to Lake Region charities and their continual support of the arts in Meredith, which includes an annual donation to the Greater Meredith Program's Meredith Sculpture Walk (MSW).

Much of the 2023 FY was about transparency with members, networking at every possible opportunity, cross-collaborating with other local Chambers, relationship-building and relationship re-building. As a community-minded, collaborative Chamber, the MACC will strive in 2024 to expand beyond what has been traditionally known as the greater Meredith area, working more closely with business owners outside of the town of Meredith and connecting with them on a more personal level. The MACC's desire is that members see the value in their membership. The MACC welcomes communication, input, feedback, and authenticity from all members. Now is the time to work together collaboratively to better maximize shared strengths and leverage the area's best assets. The Chamber's membership growth in 2023 averaged four new members per month and member retention remained strong. The 2023 FY saw a record number of Business After Hours events, ribbon-cuttings, and an increase in all-industry networking opportunities. The end of the 2023 FY really marked a beginning for the new and improved Meredith Area Chamber of Commerce – a Chamber that looks to become a community collaborative in 2024 and moving forward.

Already in progress for the MACC in 2024 are three fundraising events with opportunities for member sponsorship and networking. Additionally, a modern, user-friendly new and improved website will allow easier access to all members to edit and post at their convenience. The five standing committees of the MACC are hard at work for you, the members, who ARE the Meredith Area Chamber of Commerce.

MACC's Standing Committees:

- Lakes Region Fine Arts & Crafts Festival
- Governance & Compliance (with Onboarding & Orientation sub-committees)
- Marketing & Events (with Fundraising sub-committees)
- Membership & Engagement (with MACC's NEW Chamber Ambassador sub-committee)



Respectfully Submitted by Mike Griffin

Supported Outside Agencies

Chamber of Commerce continued...



Supported Outside Agencies

Meredith Historical Society

The mission of the Meredith Historical Society is to collect and preserve the history of Meredith. This includes safeguarding valuable books, manuscripts, prints, textiles, relics and other articles related to the history of Meredith. The funds to maintain these artifacts and our two historic buildings are provided by donations, membership fees and the generous support of the Town.

Although closed during the winter months, there was plenty of activity at the Main St. museum with board members and volunteers working in the “attic” to identify and develop new displays under the guidance of Vice President of Preservation Bonnie Edwards. As a result of this effort several important citizens from Meredith’s more recent past were featured in the 2023 displays: Bob Montana, Charles Roberts, Brad Sprague, and Anatole Paquette of *Annie & the Orphans* band. We appreciate the individual family members who also loaned personal items for each of these exhibits.



An exhibit of the homespun clothing worn by late 1800s Bear Island farmers amazed visitors accustomed to our sleek 21st century fabrics. Adjacent to these garments is the spinning wheel which made them, underpinning the labor required to clothe a family back then.

“*Meredith in the 1970*”s included a light-hearted exhibit of a rogues’ gallery of photos and clothing worn by local people, as well as acknowledging Scott King and George Hormel’s Walk Across America during the nation’s 1976 Bicentennial, and photographer Chet Brickett.

Meredith soldiers’ World War II letters continued to be typed by Jane Rice during the winter season. The tedious job of transcribing these letters ensures that the originals are preserved, and allows for easier reading and appreciation of Meredith men during war time.

In the spring we replaced our ancient and slow desktop computer with a new Lenovo ThinkPad laptop as well as a new wi-fi printer. Directors have also approved plans to upgrade our existing version of the PastPerfect museum collections management software to a multiuser cloud version.



The monthly Speakers Series continued to have wonderful community support with attendance at the Community Center averaging 70 attendees. Topics included:

- *April: *Land of Lucknow: Ossipee Mountain Park to Castle in the Clouds* by Robin Sherman
- *May: *Votes for Women: A History of the Suffrage Movement*, by Liz Tentarelli
- *June: *History of Agriculture as told by Barns* by John Porter
- *July: *Was the naming of Meredith a Precursor to Revolution?* By Rudy VanVeghten
- *August: *Youth Camps on Bear Island: The Histories of Camp Lawrence & Camp Nokomis*, by Charlie & Gretchen Seifert
- *October: *NH Through the Lens of Music: Historical Tidbits*, by Phil & Janet Sanguedolce
- *November: *The Mill Yard at Meredith Village*, by John Hopper

Programs planned for 2024 include such topics as the Wicwas House of Meredith Center, Robert Frost’s New Hampshire poetry, rural electrification, and country estates, as well as programs by Society historians on Meredith founding father Ebenezer Smith and Meredith Bay history.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, enthusiastic shoppers and the use of Annalee Dolls parking lot, the May Yard Sale was a great success and helped cushion preservation expenses. In June tender rose cuttings from the antique yellow rose bush beside the museum were sold. Seeing this plant bloom throughout the town is a unique way to honor Meredith’s history.

Supported Outside Agencies

Meredith Historical Society *continued...*

At the Memorial Day parade, Rudy VanVeghten read Fred Sanborn's remembrance of witnessing Meredith men leaving to fight in the Civil War, taken from the book *Reminiscences of Meredith*. The Historical Society also arranged for an Inter-Lakes student to read a WWII letter from our collection. Additionally, in recognition of Memorial Day, actors from the Winnepesaukee Playhouse read several of the World War II letters at the Meredith Library.

In June John Hopper presided over a ceremony at the Farm Museum, recognizing the building's inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. We are actively pursuing grants to ensure that both of our aging buildings will be preserved for future generations.

Our ongoing effort to digitize historic resources continued during the year with the scanning of old Meredith town records as well as a ledger book of 19th-century developer John Bond Swasey that was acquired by the society thanks to donations from our membership. These and other digitized resources are accessible from the Links and Resources page on our website: <https://meredithhistoricalsocietynh.org>.

September's Open House attracted local guests enjoying free hot dogs grilled under the portico and ice cream donated by Ben & Jerry's. Inside the museum board members offered expanded information on the exhibits.

Participants on the two Historical Boat Tours were treated to excellent fall weather along a new cruising route of Meredith Bay's Lake Winnepesaukee shoreline. Jane Rice, John Hopper and Rudy VanVeghten described how the Bay and its shorelines and islands contributed to the town's settlement. We thank Camp Lawrence for the use of *The Bear* boat, Kevin Boyle for the loan of high-quality microphones and Chuck Thorndike for his sound system.



This summer the Historical Society received the donation of the Pease grandfather clock, a significant contribution made by Woodrow (Woody) Thompson of Wayne, Maine and Holderness. The Pease family settled in Meredith in about 1779, on the Old Province Road, today's Pease Road. Mr. Thompson made this donation in memory of his father, George A. Thompson (1905-1983). On display at the Main Street museum, it reinforces the Historical Society's mission to preserve and promote awareness of Meredith's past.

On Halloween morning Inter-Lakes third graders toured Main Street historic sites where docents described the significance of each stop. The following volunteers helped bring history to life: Bonnie Edwards, Pat Fish, Lissa Goodby, Linda Hopper, Sue Witham, George Berman and Rudy VanVeghten. The Historical Society was open that evening to participate in the town-wide Halloween activities.

As Inter-Lakes fourth graders study NH history each spring, they are able to touch and feel items of Meredith's farming days with our "Traveling Trunk" filled with historical items selected from the Farm Museum's collection of 20th century household necessities.



Supported Outside Agencies

Meredith Historical Society *continued...*

A November visit to the NH Veterans Home in Tilton by board members Bonnie Edwards, Jackie Roy and Ceil Andrews led to the Historical Society featuring a Veterans Day exhibit of artwork created by residents of the Veterans home. Following the dedication of the Veterans Memorial at the Library, many local residents also toured the Museum.

Among the many features of the Main Street museum, the retail area sells locally made pottery, woodenware as well as our own growing collection of exclusive publications about Meredith history. *Morsels of Meredith History*, a book released in December, is a collection of stories from Meredith's past compiled by John Hopper and Rudy VanVeghten. The expectation is that this will become an annual sampling of historic vignettes about the town. Also published by the Society during the summer was *'These Sons of Liberty': Meredith in the American Revolution* by Rudy VanVeghten. In addition, readers of the Meredith News this year have had the opportunity to learn about our town from John Hopper's weekly articles on "The History of Meredith Village." Various other activities helped to increase community interest in Meredith's history. Opening the museum during Greater Meredith Program's June Street Dance attracted visitors eager to view *Annie & the Orphans* memorabilia. Creating a scarecrow of an actual Meredith personality (Anatole Paquette) reinforced the town's uniqueness. Participating in Main Street holiday lighting and Open House has helped strengthen the Historical Society's recognition.



An analysis of our guest book by Corresponding Secretary Tom Witham revealed that more than 1800 guests visited the Main Street Museum during 2023, proving its value as a Main Street anchor.

Three new members joined the Board of Directors during 2023: Susi Huesing, Jonathan James and George Berman. Stepping down from the board at the end of the year after many years of dedicated involvement were President Karen Thorndike, Recording Secretary John Edgar, Jackie Roy and Gwen Bronson. Karen Thorndike was honored during our annual meeting in December for her past seven years as society president. John Hopper was elected in December as president and Ceil Andrews as recording secretary.

The increased interest in the Museum and Meredith's history was only possible thanks to the involvement of individuals and businesses who help catalog memorabilia, donate or purchase items at the Yard Sale, attend the Speakers Series, volunteer as docents, or enjoy a history boat cruise. These community connections aid the Historical Society's efforts to preserve Meredith's history as it returns value to the community.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Thorndike, President

2023 Officers:

Bonnie Edwards, VP of Preservation
Tom Witham, Corresponding Secretary
John Edgar, Recording Secretary
George Jewell, Treasurer
John Hopper, Assistant Treasurer

Directors:

Ceil Andrews, George Berman,
Gwen Bronson, Susi Huesing,
Jonathan James, Jackie Roy,
Don MacFarlane, Rudy
VanVeghten



Community Action Program



The Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties is a New Hampshire based private, nonprofit organization that has been serving Meredith residents since 1965. Our primary mission is to work with low-income families, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities to assist in efforts to become or remain financially independent. The agency provides a broad array of services that are locally defined, planned, and managed.

The agency operates a resource center open to Meredith residents right in Meredith, NH, as well as a center in Laconia. The Meredith CAP Area Resource Center is funded primarily from three main sources: local tax dollars in conjunction with funding from the Electric Assistance Program (via the state utility companies) and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (a federal program also known as Fuel Assistance Program). The Center is the local service delivery network for agency programs in your community. The local support of our Center is vital for us to continue intake, referral, contact, and support with residents of your community. We thank the town of Meredith for your continued support of our work at the resource center. We will continue to work closely with your town to ensure the maximum availability of resources from our programs, as well as continue to mobilize any resources other than local tax dollars that become available to help serve residents of your community.

While the Meredith Center provides referrals and information for a variety of needs, there are two major areas of direct support provided to community members – energy assistance and food assistance. Below are the specific data from Meredith residents served during our last program year. In total, our agency was able to provide \$506,234.20 in energy and food assistance to the residents in Meredith.

Thank you so much for your support. If you’d like to learn more about our agency, please visit us at www.capbm.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Heyward
 Director of Strategy and Planning

Energy Assistance Provided

Program	Description	Units of Service	Value
Fuel Assistance Program	Assists income eligible households with cost of energy during prime heating season. This year, benefits were also given to assist with cooling costs.	Enrolled: 196 households 403 people	\$360,214.42— heat
Electric Assistance Program	Assists income eligible households by providing a specific tier of discount ranging from 8% to 76% off electric bills	180 households	\$122,036.12 Amount of discount
Weatherization	Improves the energy efficiency of income eligible households	3 households	\$19,080.00
Other—Smaller program, agency funds)	Smaller programs with funds assisting with urgent energy needs (shut offs, disconnects, etc)	7 households	\$3,674.72
Emergency Food Assistance Program	This program provides USDA food to the Meredith Food Pantry at no cost	Cases of food allocated to pantry	\$1,228.96

Supported Outside Agencies

The Greater Meredith Program



The Greater Meredith Program (GMP) is a non-profit 501(c)3, community development organization dedicated to promoting community events, enhancing economic vitality, preserving historic and cultural heritage, as well as town-wide beautification. GMP pursues such goals through direct advocacy and action. GMP strives to capture and extend the vision, energy, and inter-organizational collaboration that makes Meredith an idyllic New England location to live, work, and play. GMP’s vision for the town of Meredith and surrounding communities is to be a bustling year-round business, service, and recreational hub for residents, the workforce, and visitors to the Lakes Region.

Over the last twenty years, through its many initiatives, the GMP has created and enhanced many community assets with the support of countless in-kind donations and volunteer time and talents. The GMP engages a diverse group of dedicated community stakeholders. Under the leadership of GMP President, Lynn Leighton and the Board of Directors, the organization had a very successful year. The five standing GMP committees and two sub-committees successfully carried out all approved 2023 workplans and saw an increase in volunteer efforts. Additionally in 2023, the GMP benefited from cross-organizational collaboration with several Lakes Region non-profits, including the Meredith Area Chamber of Commerce, and other charitable organizations around the State of New Hampshire, including ExcellenceNorth Alliance, The Sunshine Initiative, Plymouth State University, and Project Happy – an initiative to engage I-L students with local volunteer efforts.

Ongoing projects which the GMP continued to support in 2023 included the Meredith Street Dance series, the highly trafficked Meredith Sculpture Walk, an expanding Career Partnership Program, promotion of Meredith’s business district, and a collaboration with students from PSU, introducing educational elements in Swasey Park. The GMP Design & Beautification Committees continue to work with the Community Garden Club of Meredith and a number of landscape professionals to enhance town-wide beautification efforts. The GMP continues to manage the online requests and maintenance of the “Welcome To Meredith” signboard at the intersection of Routes 104 and the DW Highway, reserved for Lakes Region non-profit groups. As previously noted, the GMP’s committee chairs and volunteers carried out all 2023 workplan initiatives with great success and look forward to expanding these projects further in 2024.

GMP Board of Directors and Committees:

The Greater Meredith Program’s Board of Directors is comprised of community leaders and town officials who volunteer their time and expertise to advance the organization’s mission. The GMP operates with the following standing committees and a variety of subgroups: Design (Beautification sub-committee), Meredith Sculpture Walk, Fundraising & Finance, Community & Economic Development (Career Partnerships sub-committee), and Business & Community Event Promotions. Each committee is comprised of board members and dedicated community volunteers. The GMP ongoingly welcomes volunteers for all committees.



ExcellenceNorth Alliance Presents the
Dupuis Award

GMP Officers and Board Members:

2023 GMP Officers and Board Members: Lynn Leighton; President, Katheryn Rolfe; Vice-President, Dick Pendergast; Treasurer, Ted Fodero; Secretary, and Board Members: Jeanie Forrester, Bill Gartner, Ron Jonash, Chris Kelly, Andrew Lane, Bev Lapham, Nancy Lavigne, Bob Manley, Rusty McLear, Wendell Rizzo, Cathy Sleeper, Natalie Taylor, and Chris Williams. GMP Board Alternates: Kelly Chapman and Janet Sanguedolce. Executive Director: Michael Griffin.

Supported Outside Agencies

The Greater Meredith Program *continued...*

GMP Design & Beautification Committees:

The Design & Beautification Committees provide design and landscape advice, as well as develop beautification projects community-wide. In 2023, these groups focused on the following: In cooperation with the Meredith Parks and Recreation Department, they continued their work in Swasey Park. Spring and Fall clean-up days were implemented and volunteers continued to maintain the trails throughout the year. The Design Committee, in collaboration with students from Plymouth State University, introduced to the public *NEW* historical and educational elements to the park via QR codes, as well as continuing efforts to bring handicap-accessible parking to the entrance of Swasey Park. Additionally, committee members worked with outside agencies to finance and install permanent lighting at the “Welcome to Meredith” signboard near McDonald’s. The committees also added two non-profit group signs to the Route 3 signboard, including *Altrusa International of Meredith* and the *Meredith Area Chamber of Commerce*. The committee will continue their efforts with the Façade & Site Improvement Grant Program for qualifying Meredith businesses in 2024.



The Beautification Committee and volunteers continued to plant and maintain flower boxes and planting beds along Route 3, including Canal Bridge. The committee was supported by the Community Garden Club of Meredith in planting and maintaining over 500 plantings, including “the ledge” across from Church Landing and continued maintenance of the Routes 3 & 106 rotary as well as maintaining flower boxes at the Meredith Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center at 272 DW Highway.

Meredith Sculpture Walk Committee:

The award-winning and highly trafficked Meredith Sculpture Walk (MSW) continued with much success in 2023, celebrating its 10th Anniversary. The installation crew and trained docent tour guides were quite busy showcasing sculptures meticulously placed in high visibility areas along Routes 3 & 25, Main Street, Hesky Park, Scenic Park, as well as throughout the Mill Falls Marketplace and the Courtyard on Main. MSW Brochures for the year-round exhibition can be found at informational kiosks on the corner of Main and Dover Streets, the Courtyard on Main, Scenic Park, and Hesky Park. The MSW was excited to introduce a celebratory mural in the Courtyard on Main (sidewall of 44 Main Street). The mural was painted by the *Veggie Art Girl* herself, Stacey Lucas. To celebrate ten years of success, the committee hosted a white tent lakeside gala at Church Landing in September, welcoming community members as well as sculptors and artists (past and present) to speak about their work. The event even included a “*moving sculpture*” demonstration – a fun, expressive display of visual and human art.

The MSW, as a year-round, outdoor juried exhibition, fosters awareness and enjoyment of public art. Popular tours, led by trained volunteer docents, are offered during the spring and summer months. The locations for the sculptures are made possible by the support of both public and private owners. A sculpture brochure and map continue to be produced for self-guided tours, providing sculpture and artist information. The Meredith Sculpture Walk has been featured on NH Chronicle, a highly acclaimed nightly magazine program about the people and places that make New Hampshire special. The committee has excitedly begun planning their 11th season for 2024, starting with a call to artists in January.

Community & Economic Development Committee:

The Community & Economic Development Committee had four major areas of focus in 2023, including short, mid, and long-term goals. The focus was primarily on revitalization efforts to Main Street, from the Routes 3 & 25 intersection to the Winnepesaukee Railroad. In 2023, the committee, with the support of town officials, continued working with a designated engineering firm to develop and conceptualize engineering services for future potential utility, streetscape, and road safety improvements in historic Meredith village. The committee will continue efforts in developing plans for the WOW Trail extension from Weirs Beach in Laconia to the Meredith railway station, working with community members each step of the way. A sub-committee has actively begun working with the WOW Trail Committee out of Laconia on a feasibility study for this long-range project.

Supported Outside Agencies

The Greater Meredith Program continued...

Career Partnership Program:

The Career Partnership Program (CPP), a collaborative initiative co-sponsored by the GMP and the Inter-Lakes School District, provides middle/high school students the opportunity to explore future careers through job shadows, internships, and hands-on work experience. While the CPP collaborates with businesses across the State of New Hampshire, students have exclusive access to the full membership/business directory of the Meredith Area Chamber of Commerce (MACC). In 2023, five students signed on for long-term internships with MACC members, with two of those students being hired by their host-business and completing certification programs in that field. In addition to supporting students by helping them discover potential career paths for future employment through its in-school guest speaker series, job fairs, career assessment e-Book, and encouraging volunteer opportunities, experiential field trips, introduced in 2022, continue to expand and were popular with students in 2023. The CPP is very excited to be collaborating with Project Happy, a NH-based non-profit which looks to encourage and engage students with volunteer groups via a mobile social media application where students can search, find, and sign-up for volunteer activities in the Inter-Lakes region and beyond.

Promotions Committee:

The GMP Promotions Committee works hard to promote the Main Street village district by creating image campaigns, retail promotions, seasonally spirited, and special community events to attract residents and visitors to the village area. In 2023, the committee continued to produce the “*Do the Loop*” and “*Beyond the Loop*” map and brochures, highlighting Meredith area businesses and services, with the 2023-2024 brochure being the largest one to date! The committee was excited to add an additional “*DTL*” map/guide signboard to the parking lot behind Bootlegger’s Footwear Center near the Plymouth Street entrance. The committee hosted its first “*Main Street Mixer*” at Hermit Woods Winery in May. The committee, with great success, brought back the block-party style Street Dance in June. In October, the committee again ran the “*Scarecrow Stroll*” contest with a new record of 36 businesses and organizations in Meredith putting their most creative business-themed scarecrows on display for the annual business competition. In December, the committee, with the support of Stephens Landscaping Professionals of Moultonborough, continued to work with Main Street and area business owners to “light up” Main Street during the holiday season. The project, which included extensive white lighting in Community Park, McLearn’s Fountain, the Courtyard on Main, and trees along Main Street, was funded by GMP’s Beautification Committee, while the Promotions Committee provided white lights to individual Main Street businesses. In addition, the GMP Facebook and Instagram social media pages grew exponentially in 2023, and the Promotions Committee worked with the Meredith News and the Laconia Daily Sun newspapers to advertise open-to-the-public events. The committee was also very happy to work in conjunction with *Meredith on Canvas*, a plein air art series with artists and their easels painting scenic spaces in various locations around town. The committee will continue this collaboration in 2024. Lastly, if you are on Main Street or Route 3 – **look up!** The committee designed and funded *NEW* community banners to help promote the historic village district. The GMP thanks the Town of Meredith for their assistance in securing the brackets and placing the banners around the village.

Fundraising Committee:

GMP’s Fundraising Committee works throughout the year with community donors and sponsors through seasonal fundraising campaigns. Between the months of August and October, GMP’s Annual Appeal is sent to over 1,000 residents and businesses across the state while also being promoted through GMP’s social media pages. Each February/March, registrations from the “*Do the Loop*” campaign are added to GMP’s general funds. Every spring, the committee hosts a themed community event. In April 2023, guests enjoyed a dress-up trivia event “*Kentucky Derby at the Lake – Churchill Downs comes to Church Landing*” at Church Landing in Meredith. In 2024, the committee will work in conjunction with The Winnepesaukee Playhouse on a jukebox musical event – stay tuned for those details! In the month of June, GMP takes part in the NH Center for Non-Profits 24-hours of Giving, where online donations can be made to help the GMP advance its mission. Donations can be made any time via the GMP website or by check. For more information, visit www.greatermeredith.org.



Supported Outside Agencies

The Greater Meredith Program *continued...*

Annual Meeting:

The Greater Meredith Program hosted the 2023 Annual Meeting at Church Landing during the month of January 2024. Historically, the Annual Meeting has been a time when the GMP recognizes and highlights the hard work and dedication of GMP committee members, volunteers, and contributors. The organization happily welcomed guest speaker Commissioner, Taylor Caswell, NH Dept. of Business & Economic Affairs (BEA). Commissioner Caswell spoke about community collaboration and the impact on New Hampshire communities. The GMP Board of Directors also recognized and presented Community Awards for GMP's 2023 Board Member of the Year, which was awarded to Bill Gartner, GMP Design Committee co-chair. The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Carol Gerken, Fundraising Committee member. The Outstanding Business Support Award was presented this year to The Inn at Mill Falls for their continued support and generous donations to GMP's beautification efforts. The 2023 Community Spirit Award was presented to the Meredith Veterans Memorial Committee. The GMP also gave Special Recognition Awards to three phenomenal community members and directors who stepped down from the GMP Board in 2023. Lynn Leighton presented awards to Andy Lane (10 years), Ted Fodero (15 years), and Jeanie Forrester (20 years). The GMP also wishes to extend thanks and gratitude to Kelly Chapman, who has served as a board alternate for many years and has given so generously through monetary donations and volunteer time and efforts. Thank you!

The GMP is happy to announce that four new directors have been unanimously voted in for the start of the 2024 fiscal year (January 1, 2024), each for a 3-year term. We welcome Becky Fuller, *Maxfield Real Estate*, Lindsay Weiner, *Alliance for a Healthier Generation*, Michelle Brown, *Meredith Bay Corporation*, and Tracy Johnson, *Cascade Spa at Mill Falls*.

On behalf of its Board of Directors and volunteers, the Greater Meredith Program thanks the Town of Meredith, the Inter-Lakes School District, The Inn at Mill Falls, the Meredith Area Chamber of Commerce, and our many residents, sponsors, and business owners for their continued support in helping us make Meredith a great place to live, work, and play. For more information about the GMP, you can visit the freshly redesigned website (*NEW in 2023!*) brought to you by Stonedam Design Website Development in Meredith.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Griffin, Executive Director | Director of Career Partnerships
Greater Meredith Program
www.greatermeredith.org



Supported Outside Agencies

The Greater Meredith Program continued...



Supported Outside Agencies

Inter-Lakes Day Care Center & Nursery School

Inter-Lakes Day Care Center and Nursery School is a non-profit, licensed, community childcare and education agency that provides exceptional and affordable early care and education. It is the mission of ILDCC to promote child development and family support through operation of a group childcare center and nursery school, and through collaboration with other agencies, local businesses, and civic groups. ILDCC's variety of programs and services include: full and part-time child care, before and after school programs for school age children, summer day camp, healthy meals, field trips, and enrichment programs.

Our programs offer a welcoming environment that encourages the development of the whole child while fostering a sense of independence, responsibility, and self-control. Classroom routine is built around a predictable schedule that provides security and stability for children. Every day ILDCC provides free breakfast, lunch, and snacks for all children through the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). We are very proud that for more than 52 years, thousands of families and children, many second generation, have been educated and cared for at Inter-Lakes Day Care Center.

ILDCC continues to cooperate with a number of other local agencies and programs to enhance services, including the Altrusa Club of Meredith, Meredith Public Library, Early Learning NH, Child Care Aware of NH, and the NH Child Care Advisory Council.

ILDCC strives to provide affordable childcare to the families it serves. Through the Department of Health and Human Services, childcare scholarship tuition assistance is available to families with income up to 85% of the State Median Income. This means a family of 4 will qualify for reduced tuition with household income of up to \$106,167 per year. This helps parents who are employed, enrolled in degree or certificate programs, or who are temporarily disabled. With parents employed, the economy and community are strengthened – both financially and socially.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and families of Inter-Lakes Day Care Center, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Town of Meredith. We greatly appreciate the continued support for our families and the growing local community.

Sincerely,

Connie Pelletier
Executive Director



Supported Outside Agencies

Kidworks Learning Center

Kidworks Learning Center is a non-profit Licensed Plus childcare center for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years. Licensed Plus is a quality rating system that recognizes NH child care programs for efforts to improve the quality of care for young children and rewards programs that strive to improve their practices and staff qualifications. It also allows families to identify programs with higher quality. Kidworks offers a before and after school program, as well as vacation and summer programs. The center has part time and full time care options for families in the area. The center typically provides services for over seventy five families in the Lakes Region, a majority of the families living or working in Meredith. Kidworks provides the families with not only quality care and education, but with USDA approved breakfasts and snacks. In conjunction with the New Hampshire State Scholarship Program and Town of Meredith, we are able to provide reduced tuition rates for families in need of assistance.

Our philosophy is to provide a stimulating environment for children to learn and express themselves with an emphasis on self-esteem. A variety of activities are provided that gives each child an opportunity to progress at his or her own pace in the major areas of development. We try to implement community outreach programs in our curriculum to instill the importance of helping others and our community. These are valuable life lessons and just as important as letters and numbers.

Our preschoolers enjoy their visits to Meredith Bay Colony Club. They love interacting with the residents and were very excited to show off their vocal talents while caroling through the building this past Christmas.

We have also started to have student volunteers back at the center. We were fortunate to have two high school students volunteer this summer. They helped do activities with our infant and toddlers as well as assisted with the daily routine.

We will also begin hosting college students this year. We are very excited to welcome students of all ages back into the program. We know how important early care and education is and we are thrilled to see so many amazing young adults choosing the education field.

The center would like to thank the families past and present, staff, board members, local businesses, community agencies and the Town of Meredith for all of their support the past 27 years.

Jennifer Weeks
Director



Supported Outside Agencies

Lakes Region Planning Commission

103 Main Street, Suite 3
 Meredith, NH 03253
 603-279-8171 | www.lakesrpc.org



The Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) is a voluntary association of 30 communities in Belknap, Carroll, Grafton, and Merrimack counties enabled under RSA 36:45. The LRPC plans at the local, regional, and statewide levels and is an essential conduit for federal funding. The LRPC employs a highly trained, professional staff to provide a wide variety of cost-saving local services such as presented below, and coordinates transportation, land use, economic development, and environmental planning at the regional level. A twelve-member Executive Board, together with Commissioners, governs the LRPC. Operations are overseen by an Executive Director.

The LRPC provides a forum for communities to share information and services from model ordinances and joint purchasing to solid waste districts and watershed management plans, and serves as a resource to support and enhance local planning and regional collaboration. The LRPC recognizes that the foundation of regional decision-making lies within local communities. Membership provides access to a wide range of services and resources including:

*Transportation, land use, and watershed management planning *Technical assistance with Master Plans, Capital Improvement Plans, Hazard Mitigation Plans, Zoning and Site Plan Regulations, Developments of Regional Impact, and Circuit Rider assistance *Economic development assistance *Grant writing and administration *GIS mapping *Data Collection & Analysis

The following are highlights of our FY23 activities. For our full FY23 Annual Report, please visit the *About LRPC* page on our website at www.lakesrpc.nh.gov.

Highlighted Local and Regional Planning Services Provided for FY23

Award Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Award of Excellence was presented to the Meredith Energy Committee at the LRPC Annual Meeting in June in recognition of its efforts in facilitating the installation of solar panels on 5 municipal buildings generating approximately 23% of the town's electricity demand. Bill Haley accepted the award on its behalf.
General & Technical Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answered a request for development activity report. Answered an inquiry regarding a possible Determination of Regional Impact (DRI) report. Discussed NH Route 25 traffic and pedestrian safety issues at Inter-Lakes school campus with Meredith Community Development Director. Assisted Town in developing Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant application for Route 25 project. Created multiple maps for Inter-Lakes School District to use for bus route planning. Attended public hearing for stone culvert project. Worked with Town Officials to fill vacancies and/or maintain Commissioner and TAC membership. As a member of the LRPC, Town Officials are encouraged to contact the LRPC regarding our services or any other regional planning related issues.
GIS Mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LRPC is a great resource for community maps. Give us a call if your town needs updated zoning, town roads, or community facility maps for instance.
Grant Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LRPC provides a wide variety of grant writing and administration assistance to towns as needed.
Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated our 37th Annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collections in the Summer & Fall of 2023, and widely promoted this event to reach the maximum number of households. This event provides a safe disposal option for residents in our participating communities. Meredith Household Participation: 124 Thank you to the Town of Meredith and the DPW Garage for serving as one of our regional collection sites. <i>Please go to our website (lakesrpc.nh.gov) if you missed this year's collection for alternative disposal options.</i>

Supported Outside Agencies

Lakes Region Planning Commission *continued..*

Newsletters & Articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LRPC helps coordinate information from many different sources and is a great resource for keeping towns up to date on planning issues and resources through both our website and direct contact.
Planning & Land Use Regulation Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated the purchase and delivery of 335 copies of the annual <i>NH Planning and Land Use Regulation</i> books as part of a regional bulk purchase at a savings of \$96.25 for each book and \$88.50 for each book with e-book. Meredith purchased one book. Total saved: \$96.25.
Solid Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performed site visit with Tradebe (toxic waste removal vendor) to identify issues with traffic flow, entrance/exit sites, and pull off areas for HHW collection event. The LRPC provides a wide range of services to solid waste operators throughout the region including information, training, signage, roundtable events, regional purchase opportunities, and much more.
Technical Land Use Planning Assistance (TGB-A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LRPC employs a professional land use planner to assist towns with technical land use issues which require a knowledge of land use law, NH RSA's, as well as state and local regulations on either a short or long-term basis.
Transportation Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted traffic counts at 2 locations within Meredith as requested by the NH Department of Transportation. Contracted with LRPC's on-call engineering firm to estimate Ten Year Plan (TYP) Rt. 25 project costs. Compiled TAC scoring of Ten Year Plan project proposals which included Meredith's existing intersections project to receive an additional \$2.4 million. Respond to DPW regarding traffic counters set on private roads. Assisted Meredith in developing cost estimates and submitting a project application for Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funding.

Commission Meetings

- Convened 6 regular Commission Meetings with guest speakers covering topics including Regional Housing Needs Assessment/Housing Affordability Trends/InvestNH Funding, Solid Waste Management Grant, Household Hazardous Waste, Transportation Program Overview & Data Collection, Geographic Information System Programs, NH Broadband Planning Update, Electric Vehicle Infrastructure & Asset Management.

Regional Services & Activities of Benefit to Multiple Communities

- 2023 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection
BY THE NUMBERS: 37 years of regional collections | 24 participating communities | 7 summer & 1 fall collection sites | 4 HHW Coordinator meetings | 80 workers & volunteers contributing more than 500 hours | a dozen new local HHW Coordinators, including 3 new Site Coordinators | 1,564 households served | approximately 60,000 pounds (30 tons) of household hazardous waste safely removed and disposed, preventing negative effects on human health and mitigating potential illegal dumping and disposal throughout the Lakes Region.
- Bulk ordered and distributed 335 *NH Planning and Land Use Regulation* books for a group discount of \$96.25 per book and \$88.50 per book with e-book. TOTAL SPENT by 27 Member Communities = \$4,028.75 | TOTAL SAVED by 27 Members = \$31,719.25.
- Reviewed 15 Intergovernmental Review Process (IRP) notices from the state planning office as public notification to regional planning commissions of all projects in the region intended to receive federal financial support.
- Updated Regional Housing Needs Assessment: LRPC is contracted with the NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) to address the RSA requirement that regional planning commissions complete a housing needs assessment every 5 years. This update was completed for 2023 and a draft was posted to our website together with a downloadable toolbox to assist communities with housing planning. Discussions have begun relative to adoption.

Solid Waste Management Accomplishments

- Worked with solid waste operators around the region to address solid waste issues through grant writing and research.
- Utilized Geographic Informational System (GIS) mapping tools to identify potential solid waste solar sites in the Lakes Region.

Supported Outside Agencies

Lakes Region Planning Commission *continued...*

- Conducted a plastics disposal and municipal solid waste study for Lakes Region transfer stations with summer intern.
- Ran two roundtables for solid waste operators concerning *Food Waste Composting in NH* and *Glass Management – Efficiencies and Uses*.
- Conducted outreach at various transfer stations, providing information to a number of residents concerning the annual Household Hazardous Waste collection event.

Economic Development

- **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).** Drafted update using innovative story map formatting approach which is posted on LRPC’s website.
- **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).** Administered CDBG Microenterprise funding for Grafton County which assists businesses and economic development organizations in Grafton, Belknap & Carroll counties.
- **Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) Grant Administration.** Provided grant writing and grant administration assistance to several successful NBRC grantees as the designated local development district for our region, including:

NEW:

- Town of Gilford - Foam Recycling Project
- GALA Makers Space - Phase II
- Granite State Adaptive - Equine Therapeutic Center
- Lakes Region Model Railroad Museum (Wolfeboro)

ONGOING:

- City of Laconia| WOW - Opechee Loop
- Town of Hebron - Fiber Optic Network
- Town of Sandwich - Fiber Optic Network

Transportation

- **LRPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).** Provided administrative support for meetings and facilitated communications. The TAC met 6 times involving city/town appointed representatives in order to engage community participation and local involvement in regional transportation planning and project development. Topics (some with guest speakers) included Ten Year Plan (TYP) Project Planning for 2025 – 2034, Road Safety Audits, NH Route 11 Alton-Gilford Planning Study Update, Scoring of Proposed TYP Projects, Update on the Regional Plan and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Application Process, Regional Bicycle Group Update, 2022 Traffic Count Summary, Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program, and Processed Glass Aggregate.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning.** Updated draft of state-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.
- **Regional Transportation Plan.** Drafted Regional Transportation Plan. Included additional crash data information so Plan now can be used for more grant opportunities (Safe Streets For All).
- **Ten Year Plan (TYP) Funding and Project Prioritization (TYP 2025 – 2034):** Worked with towns, NH DOT and GACIT to develop project scopes and cost estimates.
 - **Meredith** – NH Route 25 intersection improvements at Laker Lane, True Road, Quarry Road, and Patrician Shores (additional funding).
 - **Laconia** – Union Avenue improvements.
- **Data Collection & Analysis.** Collected traffic count data at 148 assigned locations throughout the region for NHDOT along with 17 municipal requested counts. Worked on updating Road Surface Management System (RSMS) assessment for one community.

The LRPC is a participation-based organization where Commissioners have the final say on the annual budget and can determine what services the organization provides. · Meredith representatives to the LRPC during FY23 were:

Commissioner	Term Expiration	TAC Member	Term Expiration
Stephanie Maltais	11/07/26	John Edgar	Resigned June 2023
Alternate	Term Expiration	TAC Alternate	Term Expiration
Vacant		Angela LaBrecque	09/21/24

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey R. Hayes
 Executive Director

Supported Outside Agencies

New Hampshire Humane Society



As has been the case every year, the 2023 partnership between the Town of Meredith and New Hampshire Humane Society has been a beneficial and successful collaboration. This community partnership is not only cost-effective but is also a signal from the Town's administration that the community espouses compassion. A love for animals is such an integral part of the New England region. Thank you for your part in that.

This important contractual arrangement between us means animals in need within the Meredith town limits receive the care that need and deserve. Whether the issue is stray dogs or cats, unwanted litters, or residents needing help caring for pets; we try to be a solution and we are honored to be part of the lives of Meredith citizens and the important work on behalf of the town.

New Hampshire Humane Society maintains a staff of 19 animal care professionals, including on-site veterinarians. Within our capacity to do so, our team provides comfort, medical care, as well as emotional or behavioral rehabilitation to every animal. Animal Control and Law Enforcement personnel may access our facility 24 hours a day, every day, for strays or abandoned animals from the Town. While observing our capacity limitations, residents who can no longer care for their pets may surrender them to us by appointment.

New Hampshire Humane Society is a registered 501(c)3 organization relying solely on public support to carry out our mission. As an independent agency, we receive funds through donations, grants, fundraising events, and service contracts with our local communities. Since our inception in 1900, we have been an advocate for animals and have blossomed into a full-service adoption agency and care facility. We also offer many community programs, including:

- A Seasonal no-cost spay/neuter program made available seasonally to your municipality (Visit nhhumane.org for info.)
- Pet Visitation programs for the senior facilities and children's hospitals throughout the region
- Educational outreach and enrichment programs
- Volunteer opportunities throughout the year
- Community Response Initiatives to help families who are experiencing financial difficulties obtain pet food and supplies they need to keep their animals at home
- We own and operate the MY BEST FRIEND Community Pet Care Program offering affordable pet care services. While we do not have geographic restrictions, we prioritize citizens from contracting towns.
- And we facilitate public rabies, microchip, and vaccine clinics that are accessible to our municipalities



In 2023, **344 services were provided to the town of Meredith** including public and police strays, pet housing and care in support of police investigations, pet surrenders, reclaimed pets, adoptions by residents, spay/neuter surgeries, and/or vaccines for municipal pets. Thank you for your compassion for animals as reflected in this partnership.



Submitted with sincere thanks,
Charles Stanton, Executive Director
Charles@NHHumane.org

Supported Outside Agencies

New Beginnings - Without Violence and Abuse

On behalf of New Beginnings – Without Violence and Abuse, I would like to thank the citizens of the town of Meredith for their ongoing support. Your 2022-2023 allocation has enabled our agency to continue to provide services to those whose lives have been affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking in Meredith and all of Belknap County.

New Beginnings is dedicated to ending sexual, domestic, and stalking violence through the provision of safe and effective services, including emergency refuge and support, and works toward social change by promoting an effective community response to violence.

New Beginnings is the only domestic and sexual violence crisis center serving Belknap County, providing services to 63 residents of Meredith in FY23. Advocates provided 131 services to Meredith residents, including counseling, hospital accompaniment, accompaniment to court and the Child Advocacy Center, parental support, support groups, safety planning, financial assistance, and transitional housing. Trained advocates provide 24-hour crisis intervention, accompaniment, safe shelter for victims and their children, weekly support groups for all ages, transitional housing, financial empowerment programming, and systems advocacy. All services are confidential, non-judgmental, and free of charge.

New Beginnings works closely with many social service agencies and multidisciplinary partners. Advocates respond 24-7 to Concord Hospital-Laonia, Laonia Family Court, Laonia District Court, and Belknap County Superior Court. Advocates partner with Meredith Police on the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), which is designed to immediately connect a survivor with an advocate on-scene after a domestic disturbance with the goal of reducing domestic violence homicides. Advocates accompany non-offending caregivers to forensic interviews at the Child Advocacy Center. The New Beginnings Family Violence Prevention Specialist has office hours at the Laonia DCYF district office and partners with Child Protective Service Workers on cases of co-occurring domestic violence and child abuse or neglect. The Executive Director is a member of the steering committee of the Adverse Childhood Experiences Response Team. The agency also facilitates the Belknap County Sexual Assault Response Team.

New Beginnings is the service provider for Sadie’s Place, a five-unit transitional housing facility in Meredith serving families impacted by domestic and sexual violence. Sadie’s Place opened its doors in September 2021 and is currently serving five families. Advocates work with each family to give them the tools they need to establish safe, permanent housing free from violence and abuse.

We are one of twelve member programs of the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NHCADSV), promoting statewide networking and resource sharing among domestic violence and sexual assault programs. The Coalition is the evaluating body and administrator of state and federal grants and contracts that provide federal and state funding for member programs.

Community support has always been our greatest asset. We look forward to continuing to work with you to end domestic violence and sexual assault in our community.

With gratitude,

Shauna Foster
Executive Director



Supported Outside Agencies

Lakes Region Visiting Nurse Association

Since July of 1923, Lakes Region VNA has been dedicated to providing compassionate care in Meredith. Now in our 101st year, we're delighted to share our ongoing growth. Our staff has expanded to 90, supporting our presence in over 40 service towns. In the 2023 fiscal year, we conducted 7,900 visits to Meredith residents, providing \$232,379 in free and subsidized care to ensure no one is overlooked.

We offer Skilled Nursing, Licensed Aides, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Social Workers, Speech Therapists, Spiritual Care, and Bereavement Counselors to Meredith residents. Your contribution helps offset the continued reduction in Federal Medicare program reimbursement rates and unreimbursed care for Meredith residents attending free clinics or lacking insurance.

Lakes Region VNA remains steadfast in our commitment to delivering quality home care and hospice services to clients, regardless of their ability to pay. We appreciate your consideration and the confidence you place in us to provide the very best care for your residents. Your ongoing support ensures that Lakes Region VNA continues to positively impact community well-being.

Sincerely,
Mary Elliard, Finance Director



Lakes Region Mental Health

Request for Meredith Allocation in Fiscal Year 2023: \$13,500

Founded in 1966, Lakes Region Mental Health Center (LRMHC) is designated by the state as the community mental health center (CMHC) serving 24 towns in Region 3 (Belknap and southern Grafton Counties).

LRMHC's **mission** is to provide integrated mental and physical health care for people with mental illness while creating wellness and understanding, in our communities. The organization's **vision** is to be the community leader providing quality, accessible and integrated mental and physical health services, delivered with dedication and compassion.

A CMHC serves the most vulnerable people that require the highest levels of care, are the furthest from socio-economic opportunity, and therefore are dependent on Medicaid to access needed services. Because of the nature of this work, LRMHC's annual budget is comprised of up to 70% Medicaid reimbursements. The resulting loss of Medicaid reimbursement revenue due to the expiration of the public health emergency (COVID), known as "unwinding", combined with increased case management efforts to re-engage this population and help those that are eligible to access benefits, has resulted in an unprecedented, extremely challenging 2024 Fiscal Budget year for LRMHC, as well as other community health agencies. The support of the towns we serve is more important than ever so that we can maintain services.

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) "Mission Zero" plan to eliminate hospital emergency department psychiatric boarding by 2025 is a top focus of NH's 10-year Mental Health Plan. Because of the central location in the state, LRMHC has agreed to be a leader of this initiative and will dedicate part of the Plymouth office location as a crisis center called "**A Place to Go**", expected to open in 2024. A Place to Go will offer people in crisis with acute psychiatric needs access to care and supports to address their immediate psychological needs.

Every dollar the town of Meredith contributes is invested in care for people in Meredith. It is leveraged with funds from other towns to offset the tremendous cost of high-quality access to care.

From July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023, LRMHC served **3,622** patients, and provided over **\$319,000** in charity care. **220 residents of Meredith** accessed LRMHC services: 65 children (0-17), 146 adults (18-61), and 44 elders (62+). Meredith residents represent over 7% of the LRMHC catchment area.

Similar to the police or fire department, Mental Health Care is a municipal service and a safety net for *all* residents of your town, not just those utilizing the service. Your appropriation ensures the provision of this essential service for the residents of your community and reduces the burden on your town.

Supported Outside Agencies



Interlakes Community Caregivers

Center Harbor • Meredith • Moultonborough • Sandwich

Formed in 1998, Interlakes Community Caregivers, Inc. (ICCI) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit volunteer organization that provides nonmedical supportive services and community resource information to assist our Neighbors in their daily lives. Caring and trained volunteers provide assistance that allow our Neighbors to remain living at home with dignity and independence. ICCI offers transportation for medical appointments, grocery shopping, picking up prescriptions, and other errands. These services are provided free of charge by volunteers and are available to residents of Meredith, Center Harbor, Moultonborough, and Sandwich.

Rides to medical appointments comprise 90% of our service requests. These rides are in volunteers' own vehicles and are primarily to doctors, specialists, physical therapists, and labs in Laconia, Meredith, Gilford, and Concord. We also provide long distance rides to medical facilities in Boston, West Lebanon, Manchester, North Conway, and White River Junction, VT.

In 2023, ICCI volunteer provided 2,469 services, donated 3,371 hours, and drove 46,700 miles helping those in need. Meredith residents accounted for 57% of the residents we serve, resulting in over \$62,000 of free services last year to the Meredith community. We also continued our "birthday brigade" program, where a volunteer delivers a birthday bag to each Neighbor in recognition of their birthday.



Our Neighbors receive services free of charge, and we do not receive any federal or state funding. We rely solely on charitable giving through donations from individuals, businesses, civic organizations, churches, town funding, fundraisers, and grants. We receive support from each of the four towns we serve, totaling about 6% of our annual budget. The program is run by three part-time employees and governed by a Board of Directors. Currently, we also have 59 volunteers.

If you would like to learn more about ICCI, please visit our website at www.interlakescares.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Holt
Executive Director

Supported Outside Agencies

Waypoint

Established in 1850, Waypoint (formerly Child and Family Services) is an independent, 501(c)(3) non-profit with a mission to empower people of all ages through an array of human services and advocacy. Each year Waypoint serves an average of 7,500 individuals, children, and families across New Hampshire through the care areas of Early Childhood and Family Support, Family Preservation and Strengthening, Homeless Youth Services, and Home Care. Waypoint's goal is to improve family functioning, improve quality of life for family and children and provide a safety net for families.

Waypoint is dedicated to bolstering families, enhancing resilience, and ensuring all household members flourish. The continuum of services utilized by clients in Meredith include:

- **Family Support Services:** Aimed to assist pregnant and parenting women, along with families having children up to the age of 21. Our focus is on promoting family wellness, alleviating stress, and preventing child abuse, neglect, and juvenile complications. This is achieved through a mix of education and dedicated support.
- **Family Resource Center (FRC):** The FRC stands as a principal access point for a variety of programs. This includes home visits, child development education, playgroups, and community referrals. Our belief rests on the foundation that when families receive the support they need, children thrive. Our track record is a testament to our commitment, with Waypoint being renowned for delivering comprehensive, trauma-informed services that work towards enhancing family health and minimizing instances of child abuse.
- **Health Care Coordination:** This is a vital component that offers specialized support to families whose children face health challenges. The collaboration between families and the Health Care Coordination team fosters the creation and execution of a support plan. This encompasses self-advocacy, medical system navigation, and support in accessing public funds. Comprehensive care includes post-hospital support, school planning, parenting education, transportation, housing, and tangible aids like gas gift cards for medical visits and school lunch support.
- **Family Preservation and Strengthening:** This is an intensive home-based initiative that aims to reinstate positive family functioning, especially for those intertwined with the NH Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) in realms of child protection and juvenile justice. We also support families perceived to be at risk, intending to preclude any prospective interactions with DCYF.

The average cost of services is \$105/hour, but does range based on the program and services – with services ranging from \$60/hour for family support and more intensive services being \$112/hr., with an average of 11 hours of family support and for our intensive services and an average range from 50 hrs. to as many as 150 hrs. Most services are offered at no direct cost to residents, though insurance may be billed as applicable. Many of our clients are uninsured, underinsured, or do not qualify for Medicaid. It is through charitable revenue and Town support that we can offer the services at no cost to residents in need. Town funding is used to offset the cost of services and leverage further charitable funding to cover the gaps in cost and client fees.

While the number of families who access our services may vary from year to year, Waypoint is an important part of the social service safety net in your community for families when they need help. Over the past 5 years, Waypoint has served an average of 10 clients and family members per year.

For more information on services and programs offered in your area, please visit www.waypointnh.org

Meredith Families Testimonials

“CBVS (Community-based Voluntary Services- Family Strengthening and Preservation) has been a blessing to me and my family, we wish it was longer than 6 months.”

"I am so blessed to have Waypoint in our lives, we have grown as a family with the support of our worker and CBVS."

“Thank you to everyone at the Laconia waypoint office for helping our family through a difficult time, we are happy to have completed our 6-month CBVS program and wish we had longer to work with you”.



Supported Outside Agencies

Winnepesaukee Wellness

We have been in our new location, 60 Whittier Hwy in Moultonborough, for over two years. Our active membership continues to increase each month with members residing in Meredith, Moultonborough, Center Harbor, Sandwich and North Sandwich.

Our mission to promote self-health while providing a safe comfortable site for exercise and the encouragement of healthy lifestyle habits for our clients continues to be our mission.

We are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:00 until 4:00 with certified CPR supervision. During the past year we have expanded our operation to 24 hour 7 day a week operation with the installation of electronic entry (non-supervised) utilization.

We continue to solicit and receive monetary grants from the surrounding towns. These funds are utilized to assist in our overhead costs and maintain affordable client monthly dues.

Winnepesaukee Wellness Center
P.O. Box 184 Center Harbor, NH 03226



Vital Statistics

Births

<i>Date of Birth</i>	<i>Child's Name</i>	<i>Father's/Partner's Name</i>	<i>Mother's Name</i>
01/01/23	Corliss, Mila Rose		Corliss, Michelle Rose
01/30/23	Swan, William Alan	Swan, Brian	Swan, Erinn
02/10/23	Geer, Miles Benjamin	Geer, Richard	Barbato-Geer, Anna
03/16/23	Cullen, Tate James	Cullen, Charles	Cullen, Jamie Lyn
04/04/23	Mavrikos, Roman Alexander	Mavrikos, Dean	Mavrikos, Ashley
04/21/23	Landry, Noah Gerard	Landry, Nathan	Landry, Katherine
05/01/23	Dauer, Lillian Eloise	Dauer, Spencer	Dauer, Jamie
06/10/23	Taylor, Benjamin Sean	Taylor, Todd	Taylor, Annie
06/11/23	Currier, Andrew Johnathan	Currier, Andrew	Fysh, Alex
06/22/23	Findlay IV, James White	Findlay III, James	Findlay, Cortland
07/03/23	Beauchemin, Maverick James	Beauchemin, Alec	Beauchemin, Danielle
07/15/23	Currier, Owen Mitchell	Currier, Tyler	Currier, Rachel
07/16/23	Hallett, Alexander Locke	Hallett, Trapper	Hallett, Kayla
08/07/23	Eastman, Brayden Allon-Scott	Eastman, Jeremiah	Eastman, Holly
09/11/23	St Louis, Hadley James	St Louis IV, Henry	St Louis, Shannon
09/20/23	Jurius, Leland Kevin	Jurius, Hayden	Jurius, Braelynne
10/24/23	Richards, Annika Lynn	Richards, Cody	Safford, Madison
10/27/23	Leighton, Cole Patrick	Leighton, Scott	Leighton, Tiffany

Vital Statistics

Marriages

<i>Marriage</i>	<i>Person A's</i>		<i>Person B's</i>	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Residence</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Residence</i>
2/4/2023	Tagget, Taylor	Biddeford, ME	Menken, Jacqueline	Meredith
3/24/2023	Noyes, Christopher	Meredith	Adams, Tiffany	Meredith
5/1/2023	Duquette, Austin	Meredith	Baillergion, Victoria	Meredith
6/3/2023	Shirah, Zachary	Meredith	Lentine, Jessica	Meredith
6/3/2023	LaPlante, Shaun	Meredith	Godek, Lucile	Gilford
6/4/2023	Herbst St, Richard	Meredith	Ballou, Mary	Meredith
6/10/2023	Hoyt, John	Meredith	Ellsworth, Holly	Meredith
6/24/2023	Hurd III, Robert	Meredith	Tetreault, Jessica	Meredith
8/12/2023	Fand, Jesse	Meredith	Davis, Chelsea	Meredith
8/14/2023	Hanks, Richard	Meredith	Hurd, Samantha	Meredith
8/18/2023	Murley, William	Meredith	Baker, Bonnie	Meredith
8/19/2023	Fall, Crystal	Sanbornton	Huntoon, Brent	Meredith
9/02/2023	Woodaman, David	Meredith	Martindale, Elizabeth	Meredith
9/24/2023	Kloetz, Kristopher	Meredith	Goodheart, Kira	Meredith
9/30/2023	Plancon, Keenan	Meredith	Lyle, Jordyn	Meredith
10/11/2023	St Laurent, Steven	Meredith	Bisbano, Cathy	Meredith
10/13/2023	Dearborn, Justin	Meredith	Perl, Ellen	Meredith
10/14/2023	Jullian, Scott	Meredith	Riffe, Renee	Meredith
10/14/2023	Arizmendi, Domanick	Meredith	Sorell, Kaylee	Meredith
10/21/2023	Gambale, Michael	Meredith	Rice, Molly	Meredith
10/28/2023	Breen, William	Meredith	Leblanc, Melanie	Meredith
10/29/2023	Rowan, John	Meredith	Wright, Jennifer	Meredith
11/18/2023	Sweetland, Scott	Meredith	Casas, Marie	Meredith

Vital Statistics

Deaths

<i>Date</i>	<i>Decedent's Name</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Father's Name</i>	<i>Mother's Maiden Name</i>
1/4/2023	Otto, Norman	Newton, MA	Otto, Norman	Ludeke, Charlotte
1/7/2023	Neofotistos, Christopher	Laconia	Neofotistos, Louis	Kleris, Anna
1/8/2023	Daigneau, Sidney	Laconia	Daigneau, Stacey	Calley, Florence
1/22/2023	Koppisch, Noel	Meredith	Koppisch Sr, Bertram	Noel, Dawn
1/24/2023	Sears Jr, William	Meredith	Sears Sr, William	Downing, Alice
1/26/2023	Edgar, Heidi	Concord	Swartzwelder, William	Elder, Priscilla
1/28/2023	Minior, Esther	Meredith	O'Gara, William	Kruczek, Catherine
1/29/2023	Leech, Peter	Concord	Leech, Homan	Felch, Winnifred
2/5/2023	Degroat, Robert	Laconia	Degroat, Stanley	Pyle, Inez
2/11/2023	Watkinson, John	Meredith	Watkinson Jr, John	Marchinetti, Irene
2/12/2023	Wilson, Betty	Meredith	Blake, Archie	Hook, Ethel
2/14/2023	Binstock, Kenneth	Meredith	Binstock, Paul	Unknown, Rose
2/16/2023	Eaton, Stephanie	Meredith	Eaton, Steven	Gordon, Margaret
2/17/2023	Mitchell, Eunice	Meredith	Merrill, Clifford	Doore, Lucetta
2/21/2023	Lynch Sr, Michael	Meredith	Lynch, John	Sullivan, Christine
2/26/2023	Keyser, Mary	Meredith	Faye, George	Webster, Bertha
3/1/2023	Mallory, Patricia	Laconia	Livingston, Albert	Smith, Lila
3/8/2023	Clough Jr, Arthur	Meredith	Clough Sr, Arthur	Chapman, Barbara
3/17/2023	Huffman, Scott	Meredith	Huffman, Jack	Belcher, Jeanne
3/23/2023	Thayer, John	Laconia	Thayer, Charles	Richardson, Grace
3/23/2023	Rathke, Thomas	Meredith	Rathke, Walter	Slavin, Thelma
3/26/2023	Blake, Deborah	Laconia	White, John	Priest, Annabelle
3/31/2023	Roman, Marie	Laconia	Caira, Cesino	Randolfi, Carmela
4/17/2023	Price, Hayward	Meredith	Price, Joseph	Harris, Edna
4/22/2023	Bicknell, Lois	Meredith	Wilson, John	Gordon, Anna
4/30/2023	Howes, Jacklyne	Meredith	Corson, Richard	Knights, Lelia
5/1/2023	Dow, Donald	Meredith	Dow, Walter	Buckley, Eunice
5/2/2023	Taylor, Mary	Meredith	Doucette, Harold	Cook, Helen

Vital Statistics

Deaths continued...

<i>Date</i>	<i>Decedent's Name</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Father's Name</i>	<i>Mother's Maiden Name</i>
5/4/2023	Pitcher, Danielle	Concord	Columb, Daniel	LaPoint, Marlene
5/6/2023	Stone, Charles	Meredith	Stone, Howard	Hill, Beatrice
5/22/2023	Haynes, Leslie	Meredith	Haynes, Merrill	Baker, Pearl
5/22/2023	Hough, Paul	Concord	Hough, Richard	Vallee Paige, Lena
5/27/2023	Sleeper, James	Meredith	Sleeper, Frank	Nutting, Gladys
5/27/2023	Pitman, Dorothy	Meredith	Haynes, Melvin	Senter, Mildreth
5/29/2023	Taylor, Perry	Meredith	Taylor, Gerald	Hughes, Elizabeth
5/30/2023	McDermott, Virginia	Meredith	Demers, Aristide	Doiron, Arminnie
6/9/2023	Wallem, Lutz	Concord	Wallem, Harald	Kraushaar, Charlotte
6/12/2023	Serino, Gayle	Meredith	Cranshaw, James	Gillis, Mary
6/19/2023	Dunnell, Jacob	Meredith	Dunnell Jr, William	Unknown, Ellen
6/22/2023	Alliare, Robert	Meredith	Allaire, Frederick	Forsman, Blanche
6/22/2023	Pike Jr, Thomas	Meredith	Pike Sr, Thomas	McCarthy, Carol
6/24/2023	Lavin, Thomas	Meredith	Lavin, Thomas	McKeon, Charlotte
6/28/2023	Kelling Sr, Barry	Meredith	Kelling, John	Boardman, Virginia
6/30/2023	Phillips, Catherine	Meredith	Goold, Donald	Hathaway, Julia
7/1/2023	Grad, Gordon	Meredith	Grad, Linden	Clement, Gladys
7/4/2023	Beede, Arlene	Laconia	Moulton, Nathan	Towle, Ruth
7/6/2023	McEwan, John	Concord	McEwan, Sheldon	Lake, Pearl
7/7/2023	Duquette, Lylia	Plymouth	Labraney, Frank	Whiting, Georgette
7/9/2023	Witham, Mary	Concord	Isabelle, Armand	Henault, Lydia
7/9/2023	Bean, Thena	Meredith	Duncan, James	Woods, Virginia
7/14/2023	Spaulding, Cary	Meredith	Spaulding, Lawrence	Strout, Pearl
7/17/2023	Thomason, Nancy	Belmont	Miller, Robert	Smith, Sarah
7/18/2023	Martel, Donat	Meredith	Martel, Irene	Sevigny, Yvonne
7/22/2023	Poole, Rosanne	Meredith	Jason, Matthew	Carlos, Helen
7/25/2023	Gagnon, Katherine	Concord	Sager, Henry	Tasch, Clara

Vital Statistics

Deaths continued...

<i>Date</i>	<i>Decedent's Name</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Father's Name</i>	<i>Mother's Maiden Name</i>
7/28/2023	Tiernan, Kenneth	Meredith	Tiernan, Albert	Reitano, Grace
7/28/2023	Sweton, John	Meredith	Sweton, John	Seibert, Clara
7/29/2023	Marchio, Alan	Concord	Marchio, Anthony	Perezy, Josephine
7/30/2023	Bates, Yolande	Meredith	Larose, Osias	Lussier, Paula
7/31/2023	Brien, Joseph	Meredith	Brien, Alfred	Bergeron, Yvonne
7/31/2023	Brunstad, George	Meredith	Brunstad, Arthur	Severance, Helen
8/4/2023	Brouillard, Eleanor	Meredith	Ewen, George	Fenemore, Elizabeth
8/7/2023	Meehan, Elizabeth	Meredith	Meehan, Robert	Constantine, Gail
8/9/2023	Wilkerson, Mary	Meredith	Olson, Elmer	Twedt, Gendra
8/9/2023	Pike, Anthony	Meredith	Pike, Donald	Fortier, Joyce
8/10/2023	Defosses, Nathan	Meredith	Defosses, Richard	Macquarrie, Marylou
8/12/2023	Whitcher, Gordon	Meredith	Labree, Clayton	Whitcher, Elizabeth
8/13/2023	Dearborn, Kelli	Meredith	Dearborn, Richard	Bates, Shirley
8/17/2023	Slocum, Phyllis	Meredith	Witter, Kenneth	Puckham, Gennavee
8/19/2023	Corrette, Shirley	Meredith	Solari, Emilio	Cornoni, Louise
8/22/2023	O'Neil, Elizabeth	Meredith	Murrie, Glen	Felber, Elizabeth
8/25/2023	Clairmont, B Jeffrey	Concord	Clairmont, Robert	Bell, Annette
8/26/2023	Frechette, Belinda	Concord	Spaulding, Cary	Emerson, Carolyn
8/29/2023	Green, Merrill	Meredith	Green, Daniel	Tripp, Leona
8/30/2023	White, Roland	Meredith	White, Willis	Labombard, Lila
9/17/2023	English, Dora	Meredith	Goldthwaite, Roger	Mosher, Cora
9/20/2023	McNeil, Mary	Meredith	McNeil, Charles	Donahue, Rita
9/24/2023	Ummel, Margaret	Meredith	Trussell, Frederick	Unknown, Marion
9/25/2023	Parks, Elaine	Meredith	Ferris, Jon	Duwart, Mary
9/28/2023	Russett, Robert	Laconia	Russett, John	Pankala, Gertrude
9/29/2023	Ruiter, Isabelle	Franklin	McCormack, Charles	Wallace, Francis
9/30/2023	Gilchrist, Frances	Meredith	Conn, Earl	Keough, Ethel
9/30/2023	Cummings, Charles	Meredith	Cummings, Charles	McLaughlin, Claire

Vital Statistics

Deaths continued...

<i>Date</i>	<i>Decedent's Name</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Father's Name</i>	<i>Mother's Maiden Name</i>
10/3/2023	Belanger, Rita	Meredith	Brisson, Wilfred	Desmarais, Lena
10/4/2023	Porter, Jane	Meredith	Litch, Frank	Moore, Pauline
10/8/2023	Cochran, Robin	Concord	McLaughlin, Albert	Painter, Jeanne
10/11/2023	Davis, Kathleen	Meredith	McGlone, John	Sable, Carol
10/14/2023	Parris, Evelyn	Meredith	Parker, Willis	Kennett, Glenna
10/15/2023	Ainsworth, Janet	Laconia	Rayno, Wilfred	McCordic, Lamina
10/17/2023	Nienstadt, James	Meredith	Barnes, James	Nienstadt, Norma
10/27/2023	Silva, John	Meredith	Silva, John	Panus, Mary
10/30/2023	Maclean, Florence	Meredith	Sutherland, Carroll	Wilcox, June
11/10/2023	Blaine, William	Meredith	Blaine, Henry	Brickett, Winifred
11/12/2023	Gilman, Ardelle	Meredith	Benton, Scott	Merrill, Evelyn
11/14/2023	Ramsay, John	Laconia	Ramsay, Elmer	Wood, Catherine
11/14/2023	Moore, Stephen	Meredith	Jones, Burleigh	Dame, Frances
11/22/2023	Whitney, Stephen	Meredith	Whitney, John	Holden, Grace
12/1/2023	Ring, Barbara	Meredith	Duggan, Joseph	Keizer, Edith
12/2/2023	Blake, Ramona	Concord	Pickering, Clarence	Shaw, Margare
12/3/2023	Bossey, Frances	Meredith	Parent, Francis	Chamberlain, Floris
12/6/2023	Marcus, Ruth	Meredith	Averbuck, Alan	Erben, Celia
12/10/2023	Clawson, Dale	Londonderry	Clawson, Dale	Wright, Mona
12/13/2023	Gallagher, Francis	Meredith	Gallagher, Francis	Jordan, Clare
12/18/2023	Boucher, Brian	Meredith	Boucher, Joseph	Berube, Debra
12/19/2023	Morrill, Timothy	Meredith	Morrill, William	Ladd, Jeanette
12/21/2023	Cram, Brian	Meredith	Cram, Raymond	Bristow, Sheila
12/25/2023	Wilber, Edythe	Laconia	Johnson, Lawrence	Sproles, Lynna
12/28/2023	Atkinson, Janet	Meredith	Atkinson, Frederick	Hines, Doris
12/29/2023	Taggett, Michael	Meredith	Taggett, William	Granfors, Lucienne
12/30/2023	Tyrrell, Mary	Center Harbor	Olney, Roy	Duncan, Ellen
12/30/2023	Weeks, Peter	Meredith	Weeks, Hayden	Sheldon, Christine

Financial Statements

Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Group

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)

Assets & Other Debits	Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciary Fund Types		Account Group		Total (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Trust and Agency	General Long-Term Debt			
<u>Assets</u>								
Cash & Equivalents	\$ 12,489,296.41	\$ 5,234,619	\$ 887,060	\$ 2,736,845	\$.		\$	22,347,820
Investments				1,088,492				1,088,492
Receivables (Net of Allowance for Uncollectible)	111,308	67,827						179,135
Taxes	12,853,825							12,853,825
Accounts				258,384				258,384
Special Assessments—Current								
Special Assessments—Noncurrent								
Other								
Inter-fund Receivable	39,093		172,856					211,949
Intergovernmental Receivable								
<u>Statutory Tax Liens Receivable</u>	362,669							362,669
Statutory Tax Liens Reserved Until Collected	29,303							29,303
Other Debits								
Compensated Absences								608,119
Amount to be provided for Retirement								
Of General Long-Term Debt							8,584,000	8,584,000
Total Assets & Other Debits	<u>\$ 26,493,613</u>	<u>\$ 5,302,446</u>	<u>\$ 1,059,916</u>	<u>\$ 4,083,721</u>	<u>\$ 8,584,000</u>		<u>\$</u>	<u>45,523,696</u>

Financial Statements

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)

Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups

Liabilities & Equity	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types		Account Group		Total (Memorandum Only)	
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects		Trust and Agency			General Long-Term Debt
			Revenue	Projects	Agency	Term Debt		
<u>Liabilities</u>								
Accounts Payable	\$ 11,194,089	\$ 112,538	\$ 144,815	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,451,442	
Retainage Payable		702,702					702,702	
Intergovernmental Payable		157,438					157,438	
Inter-fund Payable	5,140,090						5,140,090	
Escrow & Performance Deposits				258,384			258,384	
Deferred Revenue								
Deferred Compensation Benefits Payable								
General Obligation Debt Payable					8,584,000		8,584,000	
Compensated Absences Payable	608,119						608,119	
Total Liabilities	\$ 16,942,298	\$ 112,538	\$ 1,004,955	\$ 258,384	\$ 8,584,000	\$ -	\$ 26,902,175	
<u>Equity</u>								
Fund Balances								
Reserved for Encumbrances		\$ (454,592)	\$ 205,805	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	(248,787)	
Reserved for Special Purposes	2,186,740	1,779,587	276,917	3,825,337			8,068,581	
Reserved for Capital Recovery		654,638					654,638	
<u>Unreserved</u>								
Designated for Special Purposes								
Undesignated (Deficit)	7,364,575	3,210,275	(427,761)				10,147,089	
Total Equity	\$ 9,551,315	\$ 5,189,908	\$ 54,961	\$ 3,825,337	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,621,521	
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$ 26,493,613	\$ 5,302,446	\$ 1,059,916	\$ 4,083,721	\$ 8,584,000	\$ -	\$ 45,523,696	

Financial Statements

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)

Special Revenue Funds - Combining Balance Sheet

		Public Library	Conservation Commission	Cable Franchise Revolving Fund	Boat Launch Fee	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Total
Assets								
Cash & Equivalents	\$	11,042	212,887	305,935	88,714	2,045,867	2,570,174	5,234,619
Receivables (Net of Allowances for Uncollectables)						29,589	38,238	67,827
Accounts Interfund Receivable								
Total Assets	\$	<u>11,042</u>	<u>212,887</u>	<u>305,935</u>	<u>88,714</u>	<u>2,075,456</u>	<u>2,608,412</u>	<u>5,302,446</u>
Liabilities & Equity								
Liabilities	\$	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Accounts Payable						7,302	105,236	112,538
Deferred Rev.- Access Fees								
Total Liabilities	\$	<u>.</u>	<u>.</u>	<u>.</u>	<u>.</u>	<u>7,302</u>	<u>105,236</u>	<u>112,538</u>
Equity								
Fund Balances								
Reserved for Encumbrances	\$	.				(177,848)	(276,744)	(454,592)
Reserved for Special Purposes		16,326	157,827		88,714	501,994	1,014,726	1,779,587
Reserved for Capital Recovery						604,638	50,000	654,638
Unreserved								
Unreserved/Undesignated	\$	(5,284)	55,060	305,935		1,139,370	1,715,194	3,210,275
Total Equity	\$	<u>11,042</u>	<u>212,887</u>	<u>305,935</u>	<u>88,714</u>	<u>2,068,154</u>	<u>2,503,176</u>	<u>5,189,908</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$	<u>11,042</u>	<u>212,887</u>	<u>305,935</u>	<u>88,714</u>	<u>2,075,456</u>	<u>2,608,412</u>	<u>5,302,446</u>

Financial Statements

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)

Capital Project Funds - Combining Balance Sheet

	Community Center	Landfill Closure	Police Detail	Public Works Building	Total
<u>Assets</u>					
Cash & Equivalents	\$ 242,675	\$	\$ 5,000	\$ 639,385	\$ 887,060
Interfund Receivable			164,523	8,333	172,856
Total Assets	<u>\$ 242,675</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 169,523</u>	<u>\$ 647,718</u>	<u>\$ 1,059,916</u>
 <u>Liabilities and Fund Balances</u>					
<u>Liabilities</u>					
Accounts Payable	\$	\$ 9,534	\$ 135,281	\$	\$ 144,815
Due to General Fund				702,702	702,702
Retainage Payable				157,438	157,438
Total Liabilities	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 9,534</u>	<u>\$ 135,281</u>	<u>\$ 860,140</u>	<u>\$ 1,004,955</u>
 <u>Fund Balances</u>					
Reserve for Encumbrances	\$	\$ (1,184)	\$	\$ 206,989	\$ 205,805
Reserve for Special Purposes	242,675		34,242		276,917
<u>Unreserved</u>					
Undesignated (Deficit)		(8,350)		(419,411)	(427,761)
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$ 242,675</u>	<u>\$ (9,534)</u>	<u>\$ 34,242</u>	<u>\$ (212,422)</u>	<u>\$ 54,961</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 242,675</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 169,523</u>	<u>\$ 647,718</u>	<u>\$ 1,059,916</u>

Financial Statements

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)

Trust and Agency Funds - Combining Balance Sheets

	Trust Funds						Totals
	Expendable			Nonexpendable			
	Library	Others	Town	Library	Agency Funds	Totals	
<u>Assets</u>							
Cash & Equivalents	\$ 5,528	\$ 613,328	\$ 2,007,929	\$ 110,060	\$.	\$ 2,736,845	
Investments			140,402	948,090		1,088,492	
<u>Receivables</u>							
Interest							
Accounts					258,384	258,384	
Total Assets	<u>\$ 5,528</u>	<u>\$ 613,328</u>	<u>\$ 2,007,929</u>	<u>\$ 140,402</u>	<u>\$ 1,058,150</u>	<u>\$ 4,083,721</u>	
 <u>Liabilities and Fund Balances</u>							
<u>Liabilities</u>							
Inter-fund Payable					258,384	258,384	
Escrow and Performance Deposits							
Deferred Comp. Benefits Payable							
Total Liabilities	<u>\$.</u>	<u>\$.</u>	<u>\$.</u>	<u>\$.</u>	<u>\$ 258,384</u>	<u>\$ 258,384</u>	
 <u>Fund Balances</u>							
Reserved For Endowments							
Reserved For Special Purposes	5,528	613,328	2,007,929	140,402	1,058,150	3,825,337	
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$ 5,528</u>	<u>\$ 613,328</u>	<u>\$ 2,007,929</u>	<u>\$ 140,402</u>	<u>\$ 1,058,150</u>	<u>\$ 3,825,337</u>	
 Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 5,528</u>	<u>\$ 613,328</u>	<u>\$ 2,007,929</u>	<u>\$ 140,402</u>	<u>\$ 1,058,150</u>	<u>\$ 4,083,721</u>	

Financial Statements

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)

Agency Funds - Combining Statement of Changes in Assets and Liabilities

	Balance 1/1/2023	Additions	Gain/Loss	Balance 12/31/2023
<u>Developers' Performance Bond Fund</u>				
Assets				
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 265,115	\$ 27,488	\$ (34,219)	\$ 258,384
Liabilities				
Escrow and Performance Deposits	<u>\$ 265,115</u>	<u>\$ 27,488</u>	<u>\$ (34,219)</u>	<u>\$ 258,384</u>

Report of the Trustees of Trust Funds- *Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)*

Non-Expendable Trusts	Purpose	Beginning Balance 1/1/2023	Total Deposits	Total (Withdrawals)	Period Interest	Ending Balance 12/31/2023
WWII Memorial	Upkeep	\$ 2,916	\$.	\$ (15)	\$ 249	\$ 3,150
Outlying Cemeteries	Cemetery Care	91,041		(478)	7,764	98,327
Town Cemetery	Cemetery Care	22,516		(118)	1,918	24,316
Caroline M. Swift	Cemetery Wreath	841		(4)	72	909
J. Beede Cemetery	Perpetual Care	12,685		(66)	1,081	13,700
William E. Bixby	Library	160		(1)	13	172
Edwin E. Beede	Library	96,549		(1,504)	8,167	103,212
Hattie R. Erskine	Library	114		-	9	123
Samuel W. Rollins	Library	4,970		(26)	423	5,367
J. Bennett/E. Swain	Library	743		(40)	65	791
Ebon S. Roberts	Library	333		(2)	28	359
George S. Fogg	School District	3,505		(18)	298	3,821
Leavitt Fund	Leavitt	12,266		(65)	1,479	13,680
Total All Non-Expendable Trusts		<u>\$ 248,662</u>	<u>\$.</u>	<u>\$ (2,301)</u>	<u>\$ 21,567</u>	<u>\$ 267,927</u>

Financial Statements

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)

Treasurer's Account Summary

Reconciliation of Pooled Cash		
Fund No.	Fund Name	Balance
1	General	\$ 12,489,261
2	Water	\$ 2,045,867
3	Sewer	\$ 2,570,174
4	Library	\$ 11,042
5	Conservation Commission	\$ 212,887
7	Cable Franchise	\$ 305,935
10	Community Center	\$ 242,675
11	Public Works	\$ 639,385
13	Library	\$ -
15	Landfill	\$ -
16	Boat Launch	\$ 88,714
17	Engineering	\$ 258,385
20	Hawkins Brook	\$ 35,509
	Total Cash	\$ 18,899,834
	Less: Other Fund Cash Accounts (Funds 2 –20)	\$ (6,410,538)
	Total General Fund Cash Excluding Restricted	\$ 12,489,296

Summary by Account

Accounts Payable	\$ (446,409)
Baby Bicentennial	\$ 90
Cloud	\$ 181,032
Debit Cards	\$ 15,000
Engineering	\$ 258,385
Hawkins Brook	\$ 35,509
High Yield Savings	\$ 7,071,074
Operating Account	\$ 5,668,160
Payroll Account	\$ (551)
Petty Cash	\$ 900
	Total Cash \$ 12,783,190
	Less: Other Fund Cash Accounts (Funds 17&20) \$ (293,894)
	Total General Fund Cash Excluding Restricted \$ 12,489,296

Financial Statements

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)

Statement of Changes in Unreserved - Undesignated Fund Balance General Fund

Fiscal Year 2023

Unreserved - Undesignated

Fund Balance - January 1 \$ 5,531,395

Deductions

Unreserved Fund Balance Used To Reduce 2023 Tax Rate \$ (385,000)

Capital Projects from Fund Balance (105,000)

Subtotal \$ 5,041,395

Additions

Adjusting Entries (Unaudited)

2023 Budget Summary

Revenue Surplus (Unaudited) \$ 123,216

Unexpended Balance of Appropriations (Unaudited) \$ 479,101

2023 Budget Surplus \$ 602,317

Unreserved - Undesignated

Fund Balance - December 31, 2023 (Unaudited) \$ 5,643,712

Fiscal Year 2024 - Worksheet

Unreserved - Undesignated

Fund Balance - January 1, 2024 (Unaudited) \$ 5,643,712

Deductions

Unreserved Fund Balance Used To Reduce 2024 Tax Rate \$ 0

Unreserved - Undesignated

Fund Balance - December 31, 2024 (Unaudited) \$ 5,643,712

Independent Auditor's Report



PLODZIK & SANDERSON

Professional Association/Certified Public Accountants

193 North Main Street • Concord • New Hampshire • 03301-5063 • 603-225-6996 • FAX 603-224-1380

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager
Town of Meredith
Meredith, New Hampshire

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Meredith as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Meredith, as of December 31, 2022, the respective changes in financial position and the respective budgetary comparison for the general fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town of Meredith and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

The Town of Meredith's management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Meredith's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Meredith's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgement, there are condition or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Meredith's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Independent Auditor's Report

Town of Meredith Independent Auditor's Report

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Change in Accounting Principle

As discussed in Note 2-C to the financial statements, in fiscal year 2022 the Town adopted new accounting guidance, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 87, Leases. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

Required Supplementary Information - Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the following be presented to supplement the basic financial statements:

- Management's Discussion and Analysis,
- Schedule of the Town's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability,
- Schedule of Town Contributions - Pensions,
- Schedule of the Town's Proportionate Share of the Net Other Postemployment Benefits Liability,
- Schedule of Town Contributions - Other Postemployment Benefits,
- Schedule of Changes in the Town's Total Other Postemployment Benefits Liability and Related Ratios, and
- Notes to the Required Supplementary Information

Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information - Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town of Meredith's basic financial statements. The accompanying combining and individual fund schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The combining and individual fund schedules and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual fund schedules and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 6, 2023 on our consideration of the Town of Meredith's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Town of Meredith's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

October 6, 2023
Concord, New Hampshire

*Pledzik & Sanderson
Professional Association*

Tax Information

Tax Collector's Summary of Warrants

Debits	2023	2022
Uncollected Taxes 1-1-23		
Property Taxes	\$	\$ 13,476,989.11
Maple Ridge Village District		1,604.39
Yield Taxes		2,394.17
Land Use Taxes		15,000.00
Water Rents		26,891.00
Sewer Rents		28,215.33
Property Tax Credit Balance		-19,597.57
Taxes Committed to Collector		
Property Taxes	37,776,671.07	
Maple Ridge Village District	6,001.39	
Yield Taxes	3,030.67	30,797.36
Land Use Change Taxes	35,900.00	34,000.00
Water Rents	496,518.35	145,033.35
Sewer Rents	723,774.24	214,244.42
Refunds for Overpayments		
Property Taxes	5,883.92	17,453.24
Water Rents	104.40	
Sewer Rents	6,914.80	
Interest	11,517.97	38,040.21
Total Debits	\$ 39,066,316.81	\$ 14,011,065.10
Credits	2023	2022
Remitted to Treasurer		
Property Taxes	\$ 24,930,246.12	\$ 13,466,467.69
Maple Ridge Village District	4,077.04	
Yield Taxes	3,030.67	32,831.87
Land Use Change Taxes	35,900.00	49,000.00
Interest (Include Lien Conversion)	11,517.97	38,040.21
Water Rents	466,802.80	172,051.18
Sewer Rents	681,840.76	241,988.29
Conversion to Lien (Principle Only)		
Deeded to Town		
Property Tax		
Abatements	408.14	10,341.14
Property Taxes		
Yield Taxes		
Water Rents	104.40	
Sewer Rents	10,172.96	908.30
Uncollected Taxes 12-31-23		
Property Taxes	12,851,900.73	
Maple Ridge Village District	1,924.35	
Yield Taxes	0.00	0.00
Land Use Change Tax	0.00	0.00
Water Rents	29,715.55	-126.74
Sewer Rents	38,975.32	-436.84
Property Tax Credit Balance		
Other Taxes/Charges Credit Balance		
Total Credits	\$ 39,066,316.81	\$ 14,011,065.10

Tax Information

Tax Collector's Summary of Tax Liens

<u>Debits</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Prior</u>
Unredeemed Liens 1-1-23	\$	\$ 197,669.49	\$ 119,529.61	\$ 20,429.03
Liens Executed During 2023	204,082.32			
Refunds for overpayment				
Interest & Costs after Lien	2,346.34	13,267.51	25,512.85	852.20
Total Debits	\$ 206,428.66	\$ 210,937.00	\$ 145,042.46	\$ 21,281.23
<u>Credits</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Prior</u>
Remitted to Treasurer				
Redemptions	\$ 60,680.63	\$ 134,710.53	\$ 79,659.83	\$ 1,191.12
Interest & Costs after Lien	2,346.34	13,267.51	25,512.85	852.20
Abatements of Unredeemed Taxes		2,379.95	2,186.03	6,073.98
Liens Deeded to the Town...		88.37	10,871.27	
Unredeemed Liens 12/31/2023	143,401.69	60,490.64	26,812.48	13,163.93
Total Credits	\$ 206,428.66	\$ 210,937.00	\$ 145,042.46	\$ 21,281.23

Tax Collector's Report

Thank you, Town of Meredith, for welcoming me when I joined the team at Town Hall in November! It has been a pleasure meeting so many of you over the last several months. With my first tax season now under my belt, I'm looking forward to learning more about my new position and working on my certification.

In addition to expanding my job knowledge, we are working on implementing a new software system in the office this year. The new system will bring some long-awaited updates that we are excited to share with you in the coming months.

The tax office is open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We accept cash and checks in the office. Payments can be made online using a credit card, checking or savings account at www.MeredithNH.org, and the drop box is always available for your convenience.

If you have any tax questions, I can be reached directly at 603-677-4202 or by email at dte@meredithnh.org.

Thank you,
Linda Sherman
Deputy Tax Collector

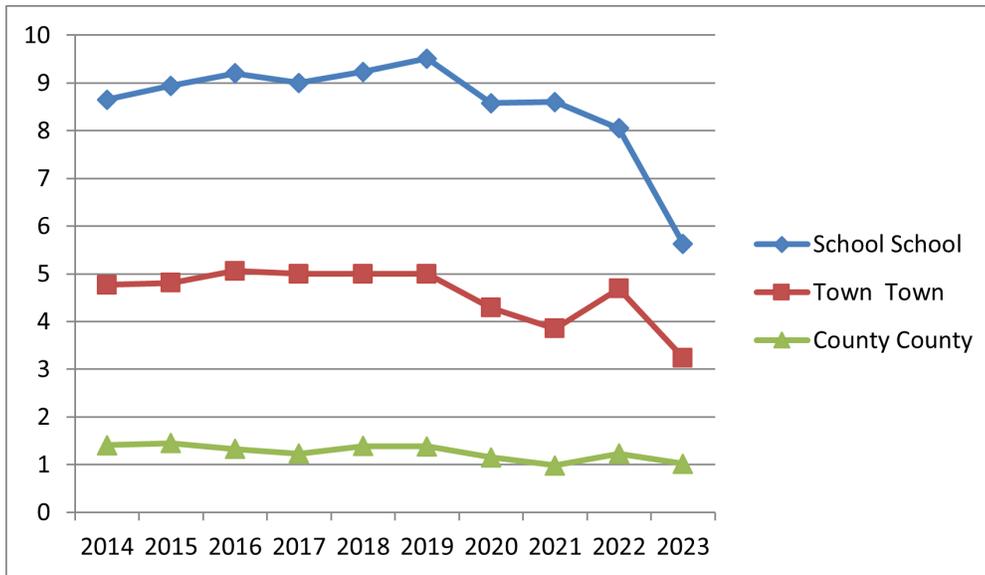
Tax Information

Ten Year Tax Rate Comparison

Year	School	Town	County	Combined Tax Rate	Net Valuation
2014	8.65	4.77	1.41	14.83	1,745,511,622
2015	8.94	4.81	1.45	15.20	1,758,060,047
2016	9.20	5.06	1.33	15.59	1,771,154,645
2017	9.00	5.00	1.23	15.23	1,923,690,590
2018	9.23	5.00	1.39	15.62	1,936,858,689
2019	9.51	5.00	1.38	15.89	1,956,399,890
2020	8.58	4.29	1.15	14.02	2,302,685,480
2021	8.60	3.85	0.98	13.43	2,330,415,957
2022	8.05	4.69	1.23	13.97	2,355,818,734
2023	5.63	3.24	1.02	9.89	3,850,478,052

Chart shows Ten Years of Tax Rate Comparison's

Tax Rate per \$1,000 Valuation



Tax Information

Department of Revenue Administration - 2023 Tax Rate Calculation

Municipal Accounting Overview	Appropriation	Revenue	Tax Rate
Total Appropriation	\$ 18,681,880.00		
Less: Net Revenues (not including Fund Balance)		\$ (6,131,350.00)	
Less: Fund Balance Voted Surplus		\$ (105,000.00)	
Less: Fund Balance to Reduce Taxes		\$ (385,000.00)	
War Service Credits	\$ 301,625.00		
Actual Overlay Used	\$ <u>97,122.00</u>	\$ _____	
Net Required Local Tax Effort		\$ 12,459,277.00	
Municipal Tax Rate			\$ <u>3.24</u>

County Apportionment

Net County Apportionment	\$ <u>3,932,330.00</u>	\$ _____	
Net required County Tax Effort		\$ 3,932,330.00	
County Tax Rate			\$ <u>1.02</u>

Education

Net Cooperative School Appropriations	\$ 21,665,625.00		
Net Education Grant		\$ 0	
Locally Retained State Education Tax	_____	\$ <u>(4,727,806.00)</u>	
Net Required Local Education Tax Effort		\$ 16,937,819.00	\$ <u>4.40</u>
State Education Tax	\$ <u>4,727,806.00</u>	_____	
Net Required State Education Tax Effort		\$ 4,727,806.00	\$ <u>1.23</u>
School Tax Rate			\$ <u>5.63</u>
Combined Municipal, School and County Tax Rate			\$ <u>9.89</u>

Total Municipal Tax Effort	\$ 38,057,232.00	
Village District Tax Effort	\$ 6,001.00	
Less: War Service Credits	\$ <u>(301,625.00)</u>	
Total Property Tax Commitment	<u>\$ 37,761,608.00</u>	

Valuation

<u>Municipal (MS-1)</u>	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Assessment</u>
Net Assessed Valuation with Utilities	\$ 3,850,478,052.00	\$ 8.64	\$ 33,329,426.00
Net Assessed Valuation without Utilities	\$ 3,830,968,852.00	\$ 1.23	\$ 4,727,806.00
<u>Village (MS-1V)</u>	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	
Maple Ridge Road Village	\$ 4,581,200.00	\$ 1.31	6,001.00
Less War Service Credits			\$ <u>(301,625.00)</u>
Proof of Rate			<u>\$ 37,761,608.00</u>

Supplementary Information

Summary Inventory of Valuation - All Properties

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2023

Value of Land Only

Current Use	\$	945,126
Residential		2,102,391,403
Commercial / Industrial		<u>100,232,997</u>
Total Value of Land	\$	2,203,569,526

Value of Buildings Only

Residential	\$	1,490,392,185
Manufactured Housing		12,490,900
Commercial / Industrial		<u>128,303,915</u>
Total Value of Buildings	\$	1,631,187,000

Public Utilities

Electric	\$	<u>19,509,200</u>
Total Valuation Before Exemptions	\$	3,854,265,726

Exemptions

Blind	\$	150,000
Elderly		1,470,000
Totally & Permanently Disabled		682,200
Solar / Wind Power		<u>1,485,474</u>
Total Exemptions	\$	3,787,674

Net Taxable Valuation	\$	<u><u>3,850,478,052</u></u>
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Supplementary Information

Summary of Town Owned Property - Facilities

<u>Map/Lot</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Use</u>
I02-021	0.07	1 Bear Island	Post Office, Dock
R08-047	0.29	Meredith Center Road	Fire Station
R08-048	0.92	101 Meredith Center Road	Fire Station
S15-008	28.80	11 &17 Jenness Hill Rd	Public Works Garage/Solid Waste
S15-008		400 Daniel Webster Hwy	Police Station
S17-007A	0.00	22 Sunset Hill Road	Water Tower
S17-018R-1	0.00	132 Upper Mile Point Drive	Booster Station
S23-021	0.36	30 Reservoir Road	Pumping Station (Water Dept.)
U02-040	0.26	21 Lower Ladd Hill Rd	Pumping Station (Water Dept.)
U03-028A	0.21	72 Waukewan Street	Sewer Pump Station
U03-030	0.44	69 Waukewan Street	Waukewan Town Beach
U05-001A	0.07	Waukewan Street	Water Treatment Plant
U05-001B	0.51	50 Waukewan Street	Water Treatment Plant
U06-037	0.17	High Street	Parking Lot
U06-038	0.26	7 High Street	Parking Lot
U06-43	0.31	10 High St	Library expansion-2020
U06-059	0.57	91 Main Street	Library
U06-063	0.16	6 Water Street	Parking Lot
U06-112	0.51	286 Daniel Webster Hwy	Fire Station
U06-117C	0.27	Lang Street	Swasey Cemetery
U06-145	0.04	291 Daniel Webster Hwy	Town Docks
U07-043	0.14	5 Highland Street	Town Hall Annex
U07-044	0.15	41 Main Street	Town Hall
U07-086A	0.02	Daniel Webster Hwy	Utility Right of Way
U07-088	0.36	326 Daniel Webster Hwy	Parking Lot
U07-107	0.17	327 Daniel Webster Hwy	Sewer Pump Station
U07-108	0.92	323 Daniel Webster Hwy	Parking Lot
U10-017	0.29	17 Philbrook Avenue	Sewer Pump Station
U10-034	16.00	347 Daniel Webster Hwy	Public Works Office
U11-050	3.68	1 Circle Drive	Community Center
U11-067	0.38	Kelly Lane	Fire Pond
U11-071	19.00	379 Daniel Webster Hwy;	Meredith Village Cemetery
U12-004	0.23	Philbrook Avenue	Road Turnaround
U15-027	0.08	Morrison Avenue	Road Turnaround
U33-015A	1.55	57 Cattle Landing Road	Parking Lot/Right of Way
U33-025	0.41	58 Cattle Landing Road	Docks
U35-010	1.02	30 Lovejoy Sands Road	Boat Ramp/Docks/Parking
U07-092	0.53	320 Daniel Webster Hwy	Parking Lot—Former Laundromat Property
U36-006	0.11	Powers Rd	Strip of Land near Y Building

Supplementary Information

Summary of Town Owned Property - Conservation Recreation

<u>Map/Lot</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Use</u>
R08-014	1.60	Meredith Center Road	Childs Park
R08-015	0.88	151 Meredith Center Road	Childs Park
R13-005	3.25	Mercier Drive	Lk Wicwas Peninsula
R13-006	3.20	Lake Wicwas	Dolloff Point Island
R13-007	5.50	Lake Wicwas	Big Pine Island
R14-001	305.58	Chemung Road	Hamlin Town Forest
R14-028	2.02	Chemung Road	Pickering Park
R14-029	1.00	113 Chemung Road	Wicwas Boat Launch, Pickering Park
R17-035	2.50	Chemung Road	Abuts Hamlin Town Forest
R17-036	5.06	Chemung Road	Abuts Hamlin Town Forest
R18-009A	188.00	Tucker Mountain Road	Conservation/Eames Forest
R21-008	12.00	Sherene Orchard Road	Wetlands/Loon Preserve
R22-007	23.34	Tucker Mountain Road	Town Forest
R22-013	31.04	Nedeau Road	Town Forest
R23-004	93.00	Off Carleton Road	Leighton Wildlife Sanctuary
R31-020	37.80	Carleton Road	Dockham Town Forest
R32-001	49.40	Hermit Woods Road	Town Forest
R32-011	63.00	Carleton Road	Leighton Wildlife Sanctuary
S02-005	3.03	Beattie Road	Former Tree Nursery
S03-006	186.53	Quarry Road	Page Pond
S04-001	188.34	Off Blueberry Hill Road	Page Pond
S04-003	20.66	Off Blueberry Hill Road	Page Pond
S04-006	170.00	Off Blueberry Hill Road	Page Pond
S12-004	82.72	Barnard Ridge Rd	Page Pond Expansion
S12-005	116.09	Barnard Ridge Rd	Page Pond Expansion
S22-020	13.01	Parade Road	Waukewan Highlands Community Park
S22-022	178.10	75 parade Road	Waukewan Highlands Reservoir
U04-025	0.92	Waukewan Street	Monkey Pond
U05-002	0.30	49 Waukewan Street	Boat Launch, Picnic Area
U06-031	7.90	12 Waukewan Avenue	Swasey Park
U06-060	0.32	65 Main Street	Community Park
U07-121	0.37	1 Pleasant Street	Scenic Park
U07-123	0.13	9 NH Route 25	Scenic Park/Indian Island
U07-126	0.83	309 Daniel Webster Hwy	Hesky Park
U07-127	0.92	Daniel Webster Hwy	Hesky Park
U10-031	12.87	367 Daniel Webster Hwy	Prescott Park
U10-033	0.32	Daniel Webster Hwy	Prescott Park
U10-035	1.16	Daniel Webster Hwy	Wetlands/Hawkins Brook

Supplementary Information

Summary of Town Owned Property - Conservation Recreation

<u>Map/Lot</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Use</u>
U11-047	0.63	Greemore Road	Recreation
U11-050A	1.95	Greemore Road	Wetlands/Hawkins Brook
U11-050B	1.00	Circle Drive	Community Center Park
U12-015	189.00	Jeness Hill Road	Community Forest
U14-001	21.74	363 Daniel Webster Hwy	Prescott Park (New Fields)
U15-019A	0.12	1 Pleasant Street	Clough Park
U19-031A	0.12	Pinnacle Park Road	Pinnacle Park Beach
U39-058	28.01	50 Leavitt Park Road	Leavitt Park Beach, Bathhouse, Bartlett Brook

Summary of Town Owned Property - Vacant/Undesignated

<u>Map/Lot</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Use</u>
I06-013	0.73	301 Bear Island	Tax Deeded Property
R08-033	1.90	113 Meredith Center Road	Wetland
R17-016	0.69	Chemung Road	
R35-003	13.00	Edgerly School Road	Landlocked
R37-012	1.70	NH Route 132	
S15-057	2.10	Off Boynton Road	
S18-055	0.27	Tracy Way	Adjacent to Right of Way
S19-053	1.53	Needle Eye Road	Tax Deeded Property 2019
S22-027	0.53	Tracy Way	Intersection Sight Distance
U01-001-096	0.22	Westbury Road	Tax Deeded Property
U01-001A	0.27	Neal Shore Road	
U01-034	0.08	Off Neal Shore Road	Adjacent to Railroad Right of Way
U10-027A	0.28	358 Daniel Webster Hwy	Water Line Loop
U11-63-9	0.00	5 Frances Court	Tax Deeded Property - 2021
U12-001	0.17	30 Philbrook Avenue	Tax Deeded Property
S26-079	3.10	Winona Shores Rd	Tax Deeded Property
R08-026	6.00	Baywoods Rd	Tax Deeded Property
R11-007	0.75	Old Stage Rd	Tax Deeded Property
S25-036	0.48	150 Waukewan St	Tax Deeded Property
U39-007	0.03	Leavitt Park Rd	Tax Deeded Property

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Meredith Town Warrant

Town Warrant Information

2024 Town of Meredith Warrant and Budget

The inhabitants of the Town of Meredith in the County of Belknap in the state of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs are hereby notified that the Annual Town Meeting will be held as follows...

You are hereby notified to meet at the Meredith Community Center, 1 Circle Drive, in said town on the second Tuesday of March (March 12, 2024), from 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM for the casting of ballots to act upon Article 1 through Article 2; and Wednesday, March 13, 2024 from 7:00 PM until complete, at the Inter-Lakes Junior/Senior High School Gymnasium, 1 Laker Lane, in said Town to act on Articles 3 through 20.

BALLOT ARTICLES TO BE ACTED UPON:

ARTICLE 1 Elected Positions

To bring					ballots for:
	Library Trustees	Four (4)	For Three	(3) Years	
	Moderator	One (1)	For Two	(2) Years	
	Selectman	Two (2)	For Three	(3) Years	
	Supervisor of the Checklist	One (1)	For Six	(6) Years	
	Trustee of the Trust Funds	One (1)	For Three	(3) Years	

ARTICLE 2 Town Zoning Ordinance Amendment 1

Are you in favor of adopting the amendment as proposed by the Planning Board for the Meredith Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Article VII B.2. Accessory Short Term Rentals to revise the specific criteria required for that use including but not limited to amending the number of days each year that a property may be rented on a short term basis, adding maximum daytime and nighttime occupancy, requiring documentation of septic system sufficiency, and requiring certain life safety provisions; as well as to add new definitions for Owner, Owner in Residence, and Owner Not in Residence.

ARTICLE 3 Clean Water State Revolving Fund Grant

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of completing a full update of the Lake Waukewan Watershed Restoration Plan to protect Meredith's primary drinking water source and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$100,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and, further to authorize the Select Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the conditions and rate of interests thereon; and, to further authorize the Select Board to offset a portion of said appropriation by applying for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF) it being understood that repayment of the loan funds may include up to 100% principal forgiveness in the amount up to \$100,000. (Requires a 3/5 ballot vote)

Recommended by the Select Board (5-0)

ARTICLE 4 Municipal Operations

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,695,874.53 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board (5-0)

Town Warrant Information

BALLOT ARTICLES TO BE ACTED UPON *continued...*

ARTICLE 5 Collective Bargaining Agreement

To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town and the State Employees Association of NH, Inc. SEIU Local 1984 which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Estimated Increase</i>
<i>2024</i>	<i>\$82,170</i>
<i>2025</i>	<i>\$85,770</i>
<i>2026</i>	<i>\$89,562</i>

and further to raise and appropriate \$82,170 for the current year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board (5-0)

ARTICLE 6 Full-Time Firefighters and Part-Time Administrative Position

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$580,000 to create six (6) new full-time firefighter positions and one (1) part-time administrative position and hire for these positions no sooner than April 30, 2024. This amount includes all salary and benefit costs. If approved, the appropriation for these new positions will become part of the annual operating budget in subsequent years. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board (5-0)

ARTICLE 7 Public Works Equipment Replacement Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$320,000 to be added to the Department of Public Works Equipment Replacement Expendable Trust Fund previously established. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board (5-0)

ARTICLE 8 Fire Department Vehicle Replacement Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$320,000 to be added to the Fire Department Vehicle Replacement Expendable Trust Fund previously established. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board (5-0)

ARTICLE 9 Parks and Recreation Facilities Improvement Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the Parks and Recreation Facilities Improvement Expendable Trust Fund previously established. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board (5-0)

Town Warrant Information

BALLOT ARTICLES *continued...*

ARTICLE 10 NH 25 / Laker Lane Intersection Improvements (CMAQ Grant)

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,346,964 with \$269,393 to come from the unassigned fund balance and \$1,077,571 from the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) for engineering, potential right-of-way acquisition, construction of turn lanes, sidewalk replacement, and other related construction costs for traffic congestion and pedestrian improvements at the intersection of NH 25 and Laker Lane. This reimbursement program provides 80% federal funding with a required 20% local match. No amount to be raised from taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the specified project is complete or December 31, 2026, whichever comes first. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board (5-0)

ARTICLE 11 Establish a Lake Waukegan Water Quality Protection ETF Fund

To see if the town will vote to establish a Lake Waukegan Water Quality Protection Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a for expenses related to projects addressing lake water quality improvement, restoration and protections and to raise and appropriate \$100,000 to put in the fund with this amount to come from the unassigned fund balance; further to name the Select Board as agents to expend from said fund. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board (5-0)

ARTICLE 12 Change Solid Waste Trailer Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the town will vote to change the name and purpose of the Solid Waste Trailer Expendable Trust Fund created in 1998 to the Solid Waste and Recycling Vehicle and Equipment Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of repairing, replacing and purchasing solid waste and recycling vehicles and equipment and further to name the Select Board as agents to expend from such fund. (2/3 vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board (5-0)

ARTICLE 13 Discontinue Library Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the town will vote to discontinue the Library Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund created in 1995. Said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal (approximately \$0.10) are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board (5-0)

ARTICLE 14 Discontinue Library Feasibility Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the town will vote to discontinue the Library Feasibility Expendable Trust Fund created in 2017. Said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal (approximately \$5,551.71) are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board (5-0)

ARTICLE 15 Discontinue Wotanda Place

To see if the town will vote to completely discontinue all of Wotanda Place as a public roadway and authorize the Select Board to convey the fee to the road. If approved, this discontinuance will extinguish all public rights of access over the existing Class VI Road of 250 +/- feet.

Recommended by the Select Board (4-0-1 abstained)

Town Warrant Information

BALLOT ARTICLES *continued...*

ARTICLE 16 Discontinue a Portion of Old Perkins Road

To see if the town will vote to completely discontinue a portion of Old Perkins Road as a public roadway and authorize the Select Board to convey the fee to the road. If approved, this discontinuance will extinguish all public rights of access over the existing Class VI Road from Chemung Road to the shared corner of Lot 6 and Lot 22, 722 +/- feet.

Recommended by the Select Board (5-0)

ARTICLE 17 Meredith Neck Road Conservation Easement

To see if the town will vote to authorize the conveyance of a conservation easement on 38 acres of property on Meredith Neck Road (Tax Map S05, Lot 1C), currently owned by the Ycas Family Trust and anticipated to be acquired by the Town of Meredith in 2025, to Lakes Region Conservation Trust or another similar conservation organization.

Recommended by the Select Board (5-0)

ARTICLE 18 By Petition

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes, based on the prior fiscal year's actual amount of local taxes raised, by more than 3%. This article requires a 3/5ths majority and shall be determined by a ballot vote.

NOT recommended by the Select Board (5-0)

ARTICLE 19 By Petition

To see if the voters will adopt Municipal Budget Law RSA 32 and Municipal Budget Committee pursuant to RSA 32:14.I with 3 members at large to be appointed by the moderator immediately following adoption and to be elected by voters thereafter.

NOT recommended by the Select Board (5-0)

ARTICLE 20 By Petition

Shall the following provisions pertaining to elections be adopted? All voting shall be by paper ballot and all ballots shall be hand counted only, rather than by use of optical scanning or any other types of programmable electronic counting devices. This shall constitute a return to hand counting ballots and the immediate discontinuance of all electronic voting machines and electronic devices authorized for use by trial in RSA 656:40. Shall this article be passed, it shall be enacted by the town of Meredith immediately.

NOT recommended by the Select Board (5-0)

Select Board - Meredith, New Hampshire

Jeanie L. Forrester, Chairperson Lynn Leighton, Vice Chairperson
Steven Aiken, Selectperson Jonathan James, Selectperson Michael Pelczar, Selectperson

Budget Information

2023 Meredith Budget - Revenues

<u>Taxes</u>	<u>2023 Estimated</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Recommended Estimated</u>
Yield	30,000	30,361	30,000
Payment in Lieu of Taxes - Local	136,955	118,958	135,000
Boat	53,500	54,424	60,000
Interest & Penalties on Taxes	75,000	80,003	75,000
Total Taxes	\$ 295,455	\$ 283,746	\$ 300,000
<u>Licenses and Permits</u>			
Motor Vehicle Permits	1,925,000	2,059,047	2,000,000
Building Permits	62,000	100,181	85,000
Other Licenses, Permits, Fees	125,000	101,260	77,000
Total Licenses and Permits	\$ 2,112,000	\$ 2,260,488	\$ 2,162,000
<u>Intergovernmental Revenues</u>			
<u>State/Federal</u>			
Highway Block Grant	215,765	215,765	215,765
Rooms & Meals Tax	630,972	630,972	630,980
State & Forest Land Reimbursement	122	122	122
Other State/Federal Revenue	2,708	2,708	1,180,271
Total Intergovernmental Revenues	\$ 849,567	\$ 849,567	\$ 2,027,138
<u>Charges for Services</u>			
Income from Departments	\$ 800,000	\$ 833,216	\$ 875,000
<u>Miscellaneous Revenues</u>			
Other	75,000	75,620	85,000
Interest on Investments	150,000	161,146	150,000
Total Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ 225,000	\$ 236,766	\$ 235,000
General Fund Revenues	\$ 4,282,022	\$ 4,463,783	\$ 5,599,138
<u>Other Financing Sources</u>			
Other	-	-	369,393
Enterprise Fund	-	-	-
Trust Funds	-	105,000	-
Total Other Financing Sources	\$ -	\$ 105,000	\$ 369,393
<u>Unreserved Fund Balance Used To</u>			
Reduce Tax Rate	\$ -	\$ 385,000	-
Total Revenues, Other Financial Sources and Use of Fund Balance	\$ 4,282,022	\$ 4,953,783	\$ 5,968,531
<u>Special Revenue Funds</u>			
Sewer	1,141,215	1,212,629	1,274,891
Water	\$ 708,041	\$ 578,082	\$ 745,975
Grand Total All Funds	\$ 6,131,278	\$ 6,744,494	\$ 7,989,397

Budget Information

2023 Meredith Budget - Appropriations

	<u>2023</u> <u>Appropriations</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>Expended</u>	<u>2024</u> <u>Recommended</u>
<u>General Government</u>			
Executive Office	\$ 243,703	\$ 233,248	\$ 243,613
Executive - Municipal Administration	1,749,274	1,670,268	2,021,081
Public Health - Ambulance	351,294	339,678	366,616
Public Health - Lakes Region Mutual Aid	101,146	101,146	114,817
Personnel Administration	3,048,649	2,884,693	3,170,485
Town Clerk	151,409	150,767	164,442
Administrative Services	365,064	364,942	316,893
General Assistance	50,000	50,134	50,000
Assessor's Office	250,753	245,164	273,198
Tax Collector's Office	74,359	71,265	73,002
Community Development Department	413,334	424,803	375,601
Regional Association	246,863	245,363	249,332
<u>Public Safety</u>			
Police	1,696,156	1,678,280	1,732,165
Fire	503,796	497,264	556,045
<u>Public Works</u>			
Solid Waste Facility	859,670	844,897	835,415
Building & Grounds	358,194	316,650	336,962
Cemetery	68,737	64,584	68,990
Highway Department	2,843,162	2,785,439	2,844,054
<u>Culture and Recreation</u>			
Parks and Recreation	888,899	863,084	963,446
Library	616,681	612,338	618,327
<u>Debt Service</u>			
Principal - Long-Term Debt	906,500	906,500	910,000
Interest - Long-Term Debt	398,080	390,080	347,525
Interest - Tax Anticipation Notes	10,000	-	10,000
Total General Fund	<u>\$ 16,195,722</u>	<u>\$ 15,740,586</u>	<u>\$ 16,642,008</u>
<u>Conservation Commission</u>			
	31,900	26,960	33,000
<u>Sewer Fund</u>			
	1,141,215	1,129,087	1,274,891
<u>Water Fund</u>			
	708,041	705,725	745,975
Total Operating Budget	<u>\$ 18,076,878</u>	<u>\$ 17,602,358</u>	<u>\$ 18,695,874</u>
<u>Capital Projects</u>			
CIP & Non-CIP - Capital Projects	\$ 605,000	\$ 605,000	\$ 740,000
Grand Total - Municipal Budget	<u>\$ 18,681,879</u>	<u>\$ 18,207,358</u>	<u>\$ 19,435,874</u>

Budget Information

2024 Municipal Tax Rate Projection

2024 Operations & CIP Appropriations - Approved by Board of Selectmen	\$ 19,435,874
Less: 2024 Estimated Revenues - Other than Property Taxes	(6,442,433)
Less: Use of Fund Balance	
Add: Proposed Overlay	47,500
Add: War Service Credits (Deducted from Property Tax Warrant)	301,625
Total Net Town Appropriation to be Raised by Taxation	<u>\$ 13,342,566</u>

2024 Estimated Tax Rate (Municipal Portion Only)

\$3.47

Compared to 2023 Tax Rate of \$ 3.24 (Municipal Portion Only)



Municipal Directory

Fire - Business

Located at: 286 Daniel Webster Highway
Mailing Address: PO Box 494
Meredith, NH 03253

Ken Jones, Fire Chief...
kjones@meredithnh.org
Phone #603-279-6061

Hours 8:00 am - 5:00 pm M - F

Meredith Public Library

Located at: 91 Main Street
Mailing Address: PO Box 808
Meredith, NH 03253

Erin Apostolos, Director...
erin@meredithlibrary.org
Phone #603-279-4303

Hours 9:00 am - 8:00 pm Tu, W & Th
9:00 am - 5:00 pm F, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Sat
Closed Monday & Sunday

Parks & Recreation

Located at: Community Center
One Circle Drive
Mailing Address: One Circle Drive
Meredith, NH 03253

Vint Choiniere, Director...
vchoiniere@meredithnh.org
Phone #603-279-8197

Hours 8:00 am - 5:00 pm M - F
Open to the public Saturdays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Open for bookings Saturdays and Sundays

Police - Business

Located at: 400 Daniel Webster Highway
Mailing Address: PO Box 1366
Meredith, NH 03253

Mike Harper, Police Chief...
mharper@meredithnh.org
Phone #603-279-4561

Hours 8:00 am - 12:00 am daily

Public Works - Business

Located at: 347 Daniel Webster Highway
Mailing Address: 41 Main Street
Meredith, NH 03253

Mike Faller, Public Works Director...
mfaller@meredithnh.org
Phone #603-279-6352

Hours 8:00 am - 4:00 pm M - F

Includes...

- ~Buildings & Grounds
- ~Cemetery
- ~Highway
- ~Solid Waste

Solid Waste Facility

Located at: 17 Jenness Hill Road
Mailing Address: 41 Main Street
Meredith, NH 03253
Phone #603-279-8480

Hours 8:00 am - 3:00 pm daily
Closed Wednesdays and Holidays

Town Hall

Located at: 41 Main Street
Mailing Address: 41 Main Street
Meredith, NH 03253
Phone #603-279-4538

Hours 8:00 am - 5:00 pm M - F

Includes...

~Administrative Services
Robert Carpenter, Director...
rcarpenter@meredithnh.org
Phone #603-677-4208

~Assessing
Jim Commerford, Assessor...
jcommerford@meredithnh.org
Phone #603-677-4226

~Town Clerk
Kerri Parker, Town Clerk...
kparker@meredithnh.org
Phone #603-677-4203

~Town Manager
Troy Brown, Town Manager...
tbrown@meredithnh.org
Phone #603-677-4209

Town Hall Annex

Located at: 5 Highland Street
Mailing Address: 41 Main Street
Meredith, NH 03253
Phone #603-677-4215 Fax #603-556-8823

Hours 8:00 am - 5:00 pm M - F

Includes...

~Community Development
Angela Labreque, Planner
alabreque@meredithnh.org
Phone #603-677-4228

~Conservation Commission
conservation@meredithnh.org

Water & Sewer

Located at: 50 Waukewan Street
Mailing Address: 41 Main Street
Meredith, NH 03253

Jason Bordeau, Superintendent
jbordeau@meredithnh.org
Phone #603-279-3046

Hours 7:00 am - 3:30 pm M - F

