

DEADLINE for FEBRUARY issue: Friday, January 25
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Windsor, Massachusetts

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www.friendsofwindsor.com

JANUARY 2020

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Windsor Now & Then Guidelines

This paper is a publication of Friends of Windsor, Inc., a nonprofit public organization dedicated to fostering communication and supporting town organizations, welcomes submissions from community groups and members supporting these goals.

This is a non-sectarian publication and not a forum for promoting any particular religious or political position. The articles included do not necessarily reflect the views of FOW. We reserve the right to edit and deny publication on the basis of length or content.

To enable us to accommodate as much information as possible, we request that basic news items be limited to about **150 words**. For submission of longer feature-length articles related to appreciation of Windsor's unique assets—our natural setting, people, and community—contact fowindsor@gmail.com.

FRIENDS OF WINDSOR INC. BOARD MEMBERS

Patty Crane, president; Julia Allen, director; Deborah Balmuth, co-editor; Cindy Efinger, director; Dominique Frink, director; Val Kohn, director; Eileen Markland, director; Susan Phillips, co-editor; Leslie Reed, treasurer; Robin Tesoro, director.

Paper Talk

The new year brings new opportunities to be involved in helping shape Windsor's future! Come out and be part of the conversation. --Deborah

If you have events happening in early FEBRUARY, please send to fowindsor@gmail.com for inclusion in our **online calendar** (at friendsofwindsor.com) and our **print version** available at the stores and at the Town Offices.



**FOW News
2020 Vision**

It's hard to feel hopeful about what the new year might bring when we live in a time of such disturbing divisiveness, and *at a time* when our planet and its creatures—we humans included—need us to be anything *but* divided. It helps me to think of 2020 as a metaphor. Having 20/20 vision doesn't mean you can see perfectly; it's a measure of how clear your vision is from a given distance. If we can step back and look toward the future through the lens of our community, it's easier to see how, working together, we can make the kind of difference that strengthens and empowers us with the sort of hope that stems from feeling connected.

Whoever said "The shortest distance between two people is a story" surely had it right. So, I'm thrilled to announce that we've just received a generous grant from the Central Berkshire Fund of Berkshire Taconic's Community Foundation to support Friends of Windsor's 2020 storytelling project. An experienced oral historian is gathering audio-recorded stories from some of our longest-time residents—folks who grew up and/or raised their families here or have tales to tell that paint a picture of who Windsor was and is. These stories will be transcribed, edited, and shared in a year's-worth of special features in *Windsor Now & Then*. We'll also be expanding our efforts to protect native pollinators, hosting our 3rd Annual Concert & Photo Exhibit at the East Windsor Chapel, and delivering welcome baskets to all new residents. Stay tuned for more details on these projects, and more.

We are so thankful for our loyal donors. While we rely on grants to tackle our larger projects, donations are what drive our ability to seek grants in the first place. Most grants are 'matching,' which means we must pitch in half of what we request. Quite simply: the more you give, the more we can request, and thus, the more we can do. You may have noticed in our 2019 Annual Report (included in this issue) that 17% of Windsor households contribute to FOW. We'd like to raise that level to 25%. Will you help us? We'd be most grateful and have included a small envelope to make that task easier.

Happy New Year!

Patty

SEND US YOUR STORIES! – *Do you have a story to tell? Expertise to share? A new project or business to promote? Get in touch with your submission, or to ask for our help pulling your story together. Contact Susan Phillips at susanphillips57@gmail.com.*

Important Meeting Dates for All Residents

Tuesday, January 7 at 7 PM at the Town Hall. Windsor's Municipal Vulnerability Plan developed by our local team will be presented. This plan identifies Windsor's greatest risks posed by climate change and possible interventions and actions to address them. All town resident are invited to join this discussion.

Immediately following the above presentation, The Planning Board will review the draft of the new bylaws addressing large scale industrial development that will be up for adoption at the Special Town Meeting on January 29.

January 11 at 10 AM—Broadband. Whip City Fiber and Wired West will be hosting a kick-off event at town hall for the sign up for our new fiber optic broadband network. Sign up procedures and service options will be discussed, along with an explanation of how video streaming and voice over internet telephone service work.

--Doug McNally

Neighbor-to-Neighbor Crisis Assistance Available for Windsor Residents

A few years back the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation created the Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) Fund to help those in need in the Central Berkshire Seven Town District.

Neighbor-to-Neighbor provides emergency one-time assistance for local residents who are in economic distress. Neighbor-to-Neighbor makes small grants (generally around \$500) to help with overdue utility bills, medical bills, short-term housing costs, and transportation problems. Checks are written to the vendor (landlord, utility company, pharmacy or mechanic) on behalf of the community member in need. The funds are not intended for long-term or ongoing assistance, but for strategic intervention to help achieve a measure of stability and avert further crises.

To make an application, please contact: Alison Peters, Executive Director, Dalton Community Recreation Association, 400 Main Street, Dalton, MA 01226, Phone: 413.684.0260, Email: apeters@daltoncra.org

Town Clerk Notes

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Census Forms: The Windsor municipal census will be mailed to each full-time residential household in early January. It is very important that this form is checked for accuracy, changes made, and the form mailed back immediately.

There will be a stamped envelope to make this process easy. Your children must be listed on the census in order to attend school in this district.

Also included in this mailing will be a notice for the 2020 Federal census to be mailed in March. The Federal Census is important because it is used to determine our representation in government and area funding. Residents are encouraged to respond to the Federal Census online. Workstations will be available in the Town Offices to do that.

Our outreach worker will be available to help shut-in seniors complete these forms in their homes.

Note: Federal Census forms will not be mailed to PO Boxes. Those with PO boxes may respond online from a link that will be included in the March WNT.

Town Road Winter Parking Ban: On April 7, 1975, the Town voted to prohibit remove vehicles parked on Town Roads from November 1-March 30. Removal shall be at owner's expense. We also voted to prohibit plowing snow onto Town Roads. Failure to comply will result in a \$25 fine. *Do the right thing!*

There will NOT be a January Community Luncheon.

The Attorney General has approved our amendments to sec 23 of our Zoning Bylaws. The bylaws can be viewed on our windsormass.com website.

Planning Board Hearing for the proposed Large-Scale Industrial Bylaw will be held January 7, 7:30PM. This bylaw is slated for the Jan 29 Special Town Meeting.

Employment Opportunity: Windsor's Chief of Police Barnaby will be leaving his position in March 2020. The job posting is on our website and all public places in Windsor. The job is open until filled, but applications are preferably received by Jan 27.

A Special Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 29 at 7PM in the Town Hall. Watch for the warrant posting.

Nomination Papers are available at the Town Clerk Office for the following offices on the May ballot: Select Board, Moderator, Cemetery Commission, Finance Committee, Planning Board, Library Trustee, Tree Warden, Constable and ZBA.

--Madeline Scully

Upcoming Events at Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center in Windsor

For more information on these and other events, visit:

www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.com

Spruce-Fir Boreal Forest Snowshoe Trek and Track Sunday, January 19 & February 9, 10am-1pm. Snowshoe (or hike depending on trail conditions) in the Spruce-Fir boreal forests and learn about the unique ecology of the upper elevations of Massachusetts featuring balsam fir and red spruce trees, snowshoe hare and ruffed grouse tracks and other characteristics unique to higher elevations. This moderate trek is approximately 2 miles round-trip. Snowshoe rentals available at Tamarack Hollow for \$5 per pair. Co-sponsored by Mass Audubon. Email aimee@gaiaroots.com to reserve snowshoes & for registration info.

Wildlife Tracking Workshop with master wildlife tracker Sue Morse! Sunday, Feb 16, 9:30am-12pm (Space Limited, fee TBA); 1-3:30pm (Space Limited, fee TBA). Learn to identify wildlife tracks and sign from the master, internationally acclaimed wildlife tracker and photographer Sue Morse. This is a hands-on, in-the-field opportunity to learn about and track bear, bobcat, coyote, fisher, fox, and others. To register, contact the Berkshire Environmental Action Team at: elia@thebeatnews.org.

Sense of Community

"Whether we and our politicians know it or not, Nature is party to all our deals and decisions, and she has more votes, a longer memory, and a sterner sense of justice than we do." — Wendell Berry

Reflections from Mame Whelihan

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

HATS OFF I SAY... Grandma's Crystal Window is the best kept secret in Windsor. Would you believe I just discovered it? Where have I been? How could I have missed this gem? I didn't even know it existed and it's a Windsor landmark, a beautiful shop with a bit of everything. I would challenge you to stop in and not find a gift you need for anyone, including yourself. All one has to do is go up Peru Road until you come to a quaint welcoming cottage proclaiming that wondrous things await within, and so they do.

Janet and Gary will welcome you with open arms and guide you to some great things to see and enjoy, including that stunning spotted hat in the corner. I have dibs on that as soon as I can get back there. The handmade ornamental flowers are spectacular. I don't think Janet will part with the orchid; she likes that one too much. Irina bought the clock made from part of a tree trunk for a special gift. That was a perfect choice.

Well don't just listen to me, get over there before I do. I'm really not into sharing when choices like this exist. This is a unique and special shop presented by a unique and special Windsorite couple. Hats off to them I say, but not my hat. I hope it's still there.

Green Committee Report

The Green Committee is urging all Windsor residents to help get legislation passed that would allow us to receive maximum financial benefit from the solar array which started providing electricity to the town office during June 2018.

As many of you know, the array is currently considered to be a "private" not "public" installation, and as such, we receive a lower reimbursement rate for the electricity we generate from the panels. State Sen. Adam Hinds and State Rep. Paul Mark have introduced a piece of legislation, S1974, that would correct this matter, but it is stuck in the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy.

We believe that an onslaught of letters from Windsor residents (and friends!) would help move things along. Would you send a letter? We have provided a sample letter that you can simply copy and send (by email or snail mail) or use as a guide for writing your own letter.

To access the sample letter template and other relevant information visit Windsor town website, www.windsormass.com, under BOARDS & DEPARTMENTS then GREEN COMMITTEE. The link is also available on the Windsor town Facebook page. For questions, contact committee member Holly Higinbotham at higinbo@hotmail.com, 413-212-4352.

Other members: Stu Besnoff, Chair, stu@alpinesolarheat.com, 684-3950; Mark Barrette, markbarrette@icloud.com, 413-212-0345; Jan Bradley, janet.bradley2@gmail.com, 684-3732; Bob & Marnie Meyers, windalewoods@verizon.net, 684-3463

Selectboard Corner

The Select Board is calling another Special Town Meeting (STM) on Wednesday, January 29 at 7pm. I want to make you aware of some of the most significant items on the warrant, as well as other conversations that will be taking place on the 29th.

Large-Scale Industrial and Commercial Facilities Zoning Bylaw: The Planning Board has done a lot of work developing this new bylaw. The intent of the Bylaw "is to provide for the public health, welfare, and safety of the residents of the Town of Windsor (the "Town") through implementation of a zoning bylaw and performance standards for environmental and land use impacts associated with the construction or operation of large scale industrial and commercial facilities proposed to be located in the Town." The Planning Board will be hosting a public hearing on January 7, with a vote on the Bylaw at the STM.

Accountancy Services: Our accountant resigned in late fall, at which time we enlisted interim accountancy services from Erik A. Kinsherb and his team. They have worked with other local communities in both an interim and long-term capacity. While this group is more expensive than the town has customarily paid, we are receiving quality, helpful, comprehensive, and timely service. It is important to note that as we secure more grants and embark upon owning our own internet service, our financial needs are more complex. It is also the case that our town government is incredibly lean, often relying on town officials "volunteering" time, taking on more, or doing work outside of their area of expertise to get important work done. This is my personal pitch to support the additional funding needed to allow us to continue working with Kinsherb.

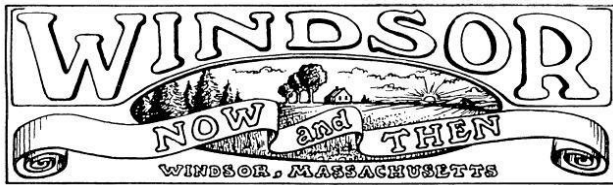
Medium-Term Expenditure Framework: On the subject of finance, after the official STM warrant is complete, the Finance Committee will be hosting a conversation about a medium-term budget framework that allows the town to better prepare itself financially for the next 5-10 years. This Committee of knowledgeable and committed volunteers have done amazing work to ensure the town is financially situated into the future. This is an important conversation that impacts all of us as taxpayers.

—Kim Tobin, Chairperson



Be sure to visit our JANUARY Community Calendar, either online at friendsofwindsor.com (under Windsor Now & Then) or pick up a print version at Sangar's, Friendly Fred's, and the Town Office.

JANUARY 2020



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

FOW Annual Report & Donation Envelope Inside

“Not Quite as Piously Awful-Looking”

What did it take to be a very public rarity, a woman pastor in the 1920’s, while facing the challenges of living alone in rural Windsor on a meager wage?

Self-deprecating humor seems to have been one favorite tool for the Rev. Euphemia Drysdale (b. 1870, d. 1945), who served both the hilltop Congregational Church and the East Windsor Chapel from 1923 until 1938.

This spirit peeks out in a clipping from the May 29, 1931 Berkshire Evening Eagle headlined “Windsor Church, Where Woman is Pastor.” Next to an unflattering photo of Drysdale in a black dress, hair in a bun, and a school-marmy smile on her face, she scrawled the following: “I’m not quite as piously awful looking as this picture!” Fortunately I have located a better picture, as seen at right.

Born in Alva, Scotland, Drysdale came to North Adams with her family in 1880 and at age of 10 started work in the Braytonville mill. A determined student, she was among the first graduating class of North Adams Normal School (now MCLA) , before going on to Radcliffe, receiving her B.A. in 1906.

Despite progressive deafness, she was very active in her pastoral duties, rattling around Windsor’s dirt roads in an increasingly dilapidated Model T.

She wrote of her rural reality in 1927: “I might speak of the sense of adventure that pervades pastoral life in the country, especially if the pastor is a woman living alone. You never know when a record-breaking blizzard is coming to town. You never know how many burglars may be hiding under your bed when you’ve been out all evening, leaving the door unlocked because the frost has warped the door...”

And (as you must if you are going to love Windsor) she loved winter: “The winter landscape in the country is an ever ringing Angelus, summoning us to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, and in the holiness of beauty as well...”

On Mother’s Day, 1945, Drysdale returned to Windsor to preach what was to be her last sermon, called back to temporary duty as the town was without a pastor. At the end of her talk she collapsed, according to her obituary. A few months later, she passed away. –*Susan Phillips*



Rev. Euphemia Drysdale