

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Abington:

Your Board of Selectmen is pleased to present its report for the year 2008.

Meetings of the Board of Selectmen are held on the second and fourth Mondays of every month and are broadcast live on Comcast Cable's Government channel number 15 as well as on Verizon local programming channel.

Selectmen Gerald Corcoran and Thomas Corbett were re-elected to the Board this year.

The year 2008 continued to show significant improvements in the financial management of the Town. The Financial Management team continues to be awarded certificates of excellence in financial reporting.

The Board of Selectmen approved the application for a cable franchise license from Verizon. They received assurances that all local programming could be broadcast from Verizon as well as Comcast. Residents are now afforded the opportunity to choose their cable and internet providers.

The Senior Center opened in 2008! This cooperative effort between the Town and several fundraising groups has provided a place that the Seniors of Abington can finally call their own. A Town meeting vote and special legislation submitted by the Board of Selectmen finalized the funding for the purchase of the Center.

The new Abington Police Station was also opened in 2008! The new station is a credit to all of those who gave their time to serve on the building committee. The building is state of the art.

The Board of Selectmen continued the arduous process of capping the landfill and choosing a post closure use. This process will take several years.

Improvements were made to Memorial Field this year. State funding paid for new bleachers and private donations of time and money gave us a new field and improvements to the baseball field as well. The Board congratulated all those involved in this endeavor for their time and efforts.

Residents of the Musterfield section of Town brought their complaints of train noise to the Board. The Board reacted strongly and held several meetings between the residents and representatives of the MBTA to try to mitigate and resolve their noise issues.

The weakening economy was of great concern to the Board members throughout the year. The Special Town Meeting in the fall saw several projects go unfunded due to the loss of revenue.

The Board of Selectmen re-dedicated the Cotter Hearing Room to include our late Town Counsel, Shawn P. Cotter. His portrait was hung beside Robert Cotter, his father and also the Town's previous Town Counsel.

In the year 2008 the Board issued or renewed 45 Commercial Garage licenses, 40 Class I and Class II used car licenses, 56 Common Victualler licenses, 28 Liquor licenses, 3 Used Article licenses, 4 Lodging licenses, 16 Entertainment licenses, 3 Billiard licenses, 1 Livery license and 1 Card Reader license.

The Board of Selectman was also deeply saddened at the loss of Doug Jeffery, the Building Inspector. Doug died during the summer in a boating accident. He served the Town for several years and did his job with enthusiasm and distinction.

The Board would like to thank Town Manager, Phillip L. Warren, Jr., Assistant Town Manger, Dori R. Jamieson, Administrative Assistants, Nancy Hurst and Elizabeth Shea for their hard work and dedication to the Office of the Board of Selectmen.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert E. Wing, Chairman
Gerald F. Corcoran, Vice Chairman
Kathleen W. Lavin
Thomas J. Corbett
Richard D. Cunningham