

TAX COLLECTOR

TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE

Appropriated July 1, 2002	\$13,260.00
Expended	13,212.61
Returned to Treasurer	47.39

TAX COLLECTOR SALARY

Appropriated July 1, 2002	\$23,508.00
Expended	23,508.00

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT
TOWN OF PLYMPTON
BALANCE SHEET
June 30, 2003**

GENERAL FUND

Cash	1,290,178.86	
Petty Cash		50.00
Performance bonds	24,286.69	
Res. for Performance Bonds	<u>(24,286.69)</u>	0
Personal Property	39,731.41	
Real Estate	<u>276,880.90</u>	316,612.31
Allowance for Abatements		(158,730.96)
Tax Liens	194,998.54	
Tax Possessions	4,586.19	
Res. for Uncollected Tax Liens	<u>(199,584.73)</u>	0.00
Def. Property Taxes Due	4,968.89	
Res. for Def. Property Taxes Due	<u>(4,968.89)</u>	0.00
Motor Vehicle Excise	78,318.95	
Res. for Uncollected Excise	<u>(78,318.95)</u>	0.00
Farm Animal Excise	46.55	
Def. Rev. Farm Animal Excise	<u>(46.55)</u>	0.00
Veterans Benefits	325.49	
Assess. Conveyance Tax	1,172.30	
Allow. Uncol. Receivables	<u>(1,497.79)</u>	0.00
Deferred Teachers Salaries		23,788.80
Overdrawn and Unprovided Snow and Ice Deficit		<u>41,153.73</u>
TOTAL ASSETS & DEBITS		<u>1,513,052.74</u>
Accrued Payroll Withholdings		15,281.00
Other Liabilities		
Tailings	4,302.46	
Deferred Rev. Property Taxes	157,881.35	

Over/Under Assessments	(24,602.04)	
Tax Title Recap-Treas & Col.	<u>9,932.96</u>	147,514.73
Reserve for Petty Cash		50.00
Prior Year Encumbrances		584,319.67
Unreserved Funds		
Res. for Unforeseen Expenses	42,000.00	
Undesignated Fund Balance	<u>723,887.34</u>	<u>765,887.34</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>1,513,052.74</u>

HIGHWAY FUNDS

Cash		(18,720.35)
State Aid to Highways	100,572.21	
Def. Ref. Intergovernmental	<u>(100,572.21)</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		<u>(18,720.35)</u>
Fund Balance-Chapter 90		<u>(18,720.35)</u>

SCHOOL GRANTS - FEDERAL & STATE

Cash		<u>2,694.49</u>
Fund Balances		
EEO Grant	444.49	
Math Grant	250.00	
Emergency Education Grant	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>2,694.49</u>

TOWN GRANTS – FEDERAL & STATE

Cash		<u>43,632.81</u>
Fund Balances		
Cultural Council	2,705.16	
Board of Health-Septic	6,055.19	
Elder Affairs Formula	16.60	
Police DARE 2002	1,781.42	
Police DARE 2001	649.71	
Right to Know	873.00	
Police-DARE Education	14,421.28	
Pol. Dep. Safety Grant	9,490.75	
Community Policing Grant	2,921.03	
Fire Protection Grant	479.67	
State Firearms	25.00	
Board of Health Grant	2,000.00	
Election Grant	<u>2,214.00</u>	<u>43,632.81</u>

REVOLVING FUNDS

Cash		<u>21,046.03</u>
Fund Balances		
Student Activities		1,093.56
Treas Redemption Fees		263.74
Collectors Liens		1,160.81
Detail Fees		22,013.85
Police Details		(6,941.99)
Town Clerk Fees		3,210.48
Libraries Recoveries		245.58
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>21,046.03</u>

RECEIPTS RESERVED FUND

Cash		96,292.87
Ambulance Receivables	39,387.57	
Def Ambulance Rec.	<u>(39,387.57)</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		<u>96,292.87</u>
State Aid to Libraries		8,427.29
Insurance Reimbursement over \$20,000		217.64
Dog Fund		4,351.06
Ambulance Fee Fund		83,296.88
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>96,292.87</u>

AGENCY FUND

Cash		<u>3,453.00</u>
Fish & Game Licenses Payable		<u>3,453.00</u>

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Cash		<u>39,433.14</u>
Fund Balances		
School Gifts		331.15
Student Act. Gifts		1,062.89
Fire dept. Gift		100.00
Sale of Town Property		16,715.00
Library Gift Fund		8,341.33
Planning Board Deposits		10,420.52
Police Gifts		1,228.54
Cultural Council Gifts		226.43
Town House Gifts		520.34
Conservation Escrow		430.30
Jason Park Memorial Fund		<u>56.64</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES **39,433.14**

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Cash - Capital Projects		
Dennett School	151,185.50	
Amt. Provided for Ban	7,307,760.00	
Ban Payable	(7,307,760.00)	
Town Projects	17,022.13	
A/R Septic Loans	50,333.08	
Def. Rev. Septic	<u>(50,333.08)</u>	<u>168,207.63</u>

Fund Balances		
Dennett School		151,185.50
Board of Health		<u>17,022.13</u>
TOTAL ASSETS & DEBITS		<u>168,207.63</u>

TRUST FUNDS

Cash		<u>499,080.07</u>
TOTAL ASSETS & DEBITS		<u>499,080.07</u>

Fund Balances		
Investment Funds		2,375.25
Sale of Lots		43,298.52
Cemetery Perpetual Care		90,230.82
Law Enforcement Fund		825.87
Stabilization		<u>362,349.61</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>499,080.07</u>

DEBT

Amount to be Provided		<u>411,100.30</u>
Septic Loans	58,100.30	
Town Barn	224,500.00	
Dennett Roof	<u>128,500.00</u>	<u>411,100.30</u>
Loans Authorized		<u>8,411,760.00</u>
Loans Authorized & Unissued		<u>8,411,760.00</u>

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Gomez, Town Accountant

TOWN TREASURER'S RECEIPTS
JULY 1, 2002 - JUNE 30, 2003

TAX COLLECTIONS

REAL ESTATE 2003	\$3,796,752.11
REAL ESTATE PREVIOUS	132,840.69
PERSONAL PROPERTY 2003	104,242.07
PERSONAL PROPERTY PREVIOUS	2,243.87
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE 2003	263,494.54
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE PREVIOUS	96,061.88
BETTERMENTS	3,343.57
FARM ANIMAL EXCISE	653.83
ROLLBACK TAXES	7,391.51
TAX TITLE	61,891.66
PENALTIES AND INTEREST	65,586.21
IN LIEU OF TAXES	3,796.59
TOTAL TAX COLLECTIONS	\$4,538,298.53

RECEIPTS

DEPARTMENTAL RECEIPTS	58,935.33
PERMITS	51,758.75
COURT FINES	837.50
CEMETERY DEPARTMENT	7,990.77
VENDOR REFUNDS	40,915.50
TAILINGS	257.91
INTEREST	30,734.88
INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENTS	28,402.91
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$219,833.55

PAYROLL WITHHOLDINGS	782,912.53
CHAPTER 90	94,483.53
STATE AID	823,930.00

GRANTS

GAPS GRANT REIMBURSEMENT	15,201.00
TITLE ONE GRANT	11,655.00
CULTURAL COUNCIL	2,050.11
COMMUNITY POLICING GRANT	10,000.00
FIRE SAFE GRANT	1,176.27
SEMASS GRANT	9,683.36
PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT	15,000.00
HANDI-PERSONS GRANT	2,600.00
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRANT	14,361.04
ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS	516.00
TOTAL GRANTS	\$97,742.78

REVOLVING FUNDS

LIBRARY	283.55
AMBULANCE COLLECTIONS	23,067.57
TREASURER'S REDEMPTIONS	257.50
DEPUTY FEES	7,822.00
TOWN CLERK FEES	2,090.61
STUDENT ACTIVITY FUNDS	15,790.84
POLICE DETAIL FEE	1,150.90
POLICE DETAIL	26,921.75
REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES	20,593.00
STATE FIREARMS FUND	1,112.50
TOTALS	\$99,090.22
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	11,564.06
RECEIPTS RESERVED	67,458.04
INTEREST ON TRUSTS	9,558.44
LICENSE PAYABLE	5,705.50
TOTAL	\$6,750,577.18

GENERAL FUND – APPROPRIATIONS FISCAL 2003

DEPARTMENT	EXPENDITURES
TOWN MEETING MODERATOR	60.00
SELECTMEN	25,330.92
GENERAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLES	10,255.00
FINANCE COMMITTEE	1,655.13
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	7,447.00
ASSESSORS	51,648.54
ASSESSORS REVALUATION	17,209.00
TREASURER	43,417.71
TAX COLLECTOR	36,720.61
TREASURER'S TAX TITLE	-659.35
LEGAL DEPARTMENT	62,039.02
TOWN SERVICES	7,777.15
TOWN CLERK	28,768.24
ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION	8,552.86
ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER	5,720.00
PLANNING BOARD	390.20
APPEALS BOARD	623.35
TOWN BUILDINGS	7,869.53
NEW TOWN HOUSE	29,500.00
UTILITIES	6,773.93
POLICE	439,552.92
POLICE VEHICLES	18,422.42
POLICE ARTICLES	29,096.65
COMMUNICATION CENTER	2,000.00
FIRE	116,098.00
FIRE ARTICLES	24,000.00

FIRE SERVICES	46,351.25
BUILDING	20,001.43
PLUMBING AND GAS	3,341.88
WIRE	7,680.19
CEMETERY MAINTENANCE – INT. TRAN	3,810.24
CIVIL DEFENSE	300.00
DOG OFFICER	6,240.00
TREE DEPARTMENT	14,812.07
PLYMPTON SCHOOL SYSTEM	2,059,568.78
SILVER LAKE REGIONAL SCHOOL	1,067,268.20
HIGHWAY	244,935.90
HIGHWAY ARTICLES	43,448.65
CEMETERY DEPARTMENT	4,664.36
HEALTH OFFICES	162,796.73
COUNCIL ON ELDER AFFAIRS	3,489.89
VETERAN'S SERVICES	11,769.44
MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE	233.19
COUNTY EXTENSION	125.00
LIBRARY	81,609.06
RECREATION DEPARTMENT	651.00
PARK DEPARTMENT	7,855.87
DEBT SERVICE	100,085.78
INTEREST	1,926.51
RETIREMENT	64,678.00
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	13,955.58
GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE	116,593.56
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS	55,463.04
LIABILITY INSURANCE	55,579.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	5,179,478.43
FEDERAL AND STATE GRANT FUNDS	
DARE COMMONWEALTH OF MASS	2,667.67
COMMUNITY POLICING	16,414.76
PUBLIC SAFETY GRANTS	21,713.67
SEMASS GRANT	9,683.36
COUNCIL ON AGING GRANT	2,617.60
CULTURAL COUNCIL ARTS LOTTERY	3,803.70
TOTAL FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS	\$56,900.76
REVOLVING FUNDS	
TREASURERS REDEMPTION FEES	306.50
COLLECTORS FEES	7,865.00
TOWN CLERK FEES	1,790.61
POLICE EXTRA DETAIL	26,200.25
STATE FIREARMS FUND	1,112.50
STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND	14,952.33
LIBRARY RECOVERIES	43.12

TOTAL REVOLVING FUNDS	\$52,270.31
RECEIPTS RESERVED	
AMBULANCE FEE FUNDS	120.00
LIBRARY STATE AID	1,118.90
TOTAL RECEIPTS RESERVED	1,238.90
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	
GIFTS HARRY JASON JR. PARK	83.25
CONSERVATION	382.00
PLANNING BOARD ESCROW	6,883.00
POLICE DEPARTMENT GIFTS	385.12
BUILDING DEPARTMENT ESCROW	450.00
STUDENT ACTIVITY DONATIONS	1,103.97
LIBRARY GIFT ACCOUNT	237.71
TOTAL OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$9,525.05
EXPENDABLE TRUSTS	
PERPETUAL CARE FUND	2,688.27
TOTAL EXPENDABLE TRUSTS	\$2,688.27
AGENCY	
AGENCY FUNDS	5,706.00
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$5,706.00

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne M. Sullivan
Treasurer

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The Real Estate market continued to soar during calendar year 2003 with residential home sales outpacing assessments by as much as 30%. The average sale price of the 34 single-family homes sold was \$367,000. The average sale price of the 4 vacant land sales was \$128,000. Interim adjustments have become the standard rather than the exception in order to keep assessments reflective of fair market value and will become mandatory beginning in Fiscal 2005. Lack of development in the town's Industrial Park continues to burden the residential taxpayer, increasing its share of the levy once again.

TOWN VALUE BY CLASS

RESIDENTIAL	\$ 250,143,200	91.47%
COMMERCIAL	\$ 7,971,600	2.92%
INDUSTRIAL	\$ 7,734,600	2.82%
PERSONAL PROPERTY	\$ 7,622,633	2.79%
TOTAL TAXABLE PROPERTY	\$ 273,472,033	

Fiscal year 2005 will be a Triennial Revaluation year, as mandated by state statutes. The Board has entered into a contract with Vision Appraisal Technology to assist the department with the Industrial and Commercial update portion.

As of January 1, 2004, the Assessors' Office had viewed over 175 properties having outstanding building permits which included 10 new starts of single family homes. The Board also acted on 213 applications for property tax exemptions, real and personal property tax abatements, and motor vehicle excise tax abatements.

The Board welcomed Jocelyn A.P. Anderson, voted at Town elections in May to serve a three year term, replacing her father John Anderson, who passed away in November of 2002.

The Board would also like to acknowledge with great appreciation the updating of the Assessors' maps this year by Vautrinot Land Surveying, Inc. at no cost to the Town.

Due to budget cuts experienced town-wide, the Assessors' open office hours are now Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Monday evenings, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Batchelder, Chairman
George I. Thompson, Clerk
Jocelyn A.P. Anderson, Member

FY 2003 ASSESSORS EXPENDITURES
Assessors Expenses

Appropriated July 1, 2002	\$20,184.00
Expended:	
Clerical	12,138.68
Postage	254.85
Telephone	358.97
Registry	73.75
Meetings, Supplies, Mileage	3,661.00
Computer	2,445.10
Map Maintenance	59.75
	<u>\$18,992.10</u>
Balance returned to Treasurer 6/30/03	\$1,191.90

ASSISTANT ASSESSOR/APPRaiser

Appropriated July 1, 2002	\$28,000.00
Expended:	
Assistant Assessor/Appraiser Salary	28,000.00
	<u>28,000.00</u>
Balance returned to Treasurer June6/30/03	0.00

ASSESSORS SALARIES

Appropriated July 1, 2002	\$ 4,689.00
Expended:	
Assessors Salaries	4,656.44
	<u>4,656.44</u>
Balance returned to Treasurer 6/30/03	32.56

REPORT OF THE PLYMPTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

On the occasion of my first annual report to the residents of Plympton I would like to thank retired Chief Barry Vinton for his gracious assistance to me during this transition. Without his help the department could not possibly realize the gains made in the past seventeen months. Many of our accomplishments were programs initiated by Chief Vinton during his tenure. I would also like to thank all our town employees, elected officials and residents for welcoming me to the community.

I must also recognize the men and women of our police department whom have all given their absolute best over the past year. They have faced countless changes and a funding crisis and yet they continue to dedicate themselves to the mission at hand. I am grateful for their service.

Your police department continues to be successful in locating and obtaining grant funding. In the past year we have received new breath testing equipment, a new phone system, a department web site, new radar equipment, a new all-terrain vehicle, and many other upgrades all of which were funded through grants and donations. We have completed two significant computer upgrades which were funded at previous town meetings. Our in-house computerized records system was replaced and our patrol cars are now outfitted with a new state-of-the-art mobile data system in which we joined forces with the Weymouth, Rockland, and Hanover police departments in a regional cost sharing network.

Increased training for your officers has been a priority of mine. Due to the budget crisis we needed to find creative ways to improve in this area. We were fortunate to locate a great deal of no-cost training classes and we were able to utilize grant funding for other training programs. Recently we teamed up with the Taunton Police to provide additional training for our officers on a regular basis. I thank Chief O'Berg of Taunton for his generous offer of providing free training for our staff.

In August of 2003 we participated in the first annual Plympton "Nite Out" which was modeled after the "National Nite Out" program. What originally began as a "take back the streets" campaign many years ago has evolved into a celebration of community. The night was a great success. The event was sponsored by your Police and Fire departments with assistance

from many other public safety organizations. We look forward to this years "Nite Out".

Over the past six months you may have noted construction work at the police station. The station was in dire need of security upgrades. We undertook an ambitious project based on donations and volunteerism. As we reach town meeting I am pleased in inform our residents that this project is very near completion and it has addressed all the security concerns. The project provided a much larger, user friendly public lobby while properly securing sensitive areas of the station. We were truly overwhelmed at the support received from so many local businesses and residents. All the work was completed by volunteers from the local trades, a sheriff's work crew, and the officers themselves and their families. This however is a temporary fix. In the future we will need to address the police department's building needs in a more permanent fashion.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew M. Clancy
Chief of Police

PLYMPTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Police Budget Activity
Fiscal Year 2003**

Police Services	(Officers Salary & Wages)
Appropriated 7/1/2003	312,000.00
Transfer from Free Cash (Addition)	-13,000.00
Transfer from Chief's Salary (Addition)	-2,500.00
Expended	327,489.98
Returned to Treasurer 6/30/03	10.02
Chief Salary	
Appropriated 7/1/2003	63,155.00
Transfer to Services (Reduction)	-2,500.00
Expended	60,360.00
Returned to Treasurer 6/30/03	2.95
Clerk Salary	
Appropriated 7/1/2003	12,443.00
Expended	12,047.51
Returned to Treasurer 6/30/03	395.49
Department Expenses	
Appropriated 7/1/2003	18,500.00
Expended	18,496.44
Returned to Treasurer 6/30/03	3.56
Equipment	
Appropriated 7/1/2003	17,500.00
Expended	17,500.00
Returned to Treasurer 6/30/03	0.0
Vehicles	
Appropriated 7/1/2003	20,400.00
Expended	20,376.73
Returned to Treasurer 6/30/03	23.27
Police EMT	
Appropriated 7/1/2003	3,750.00
Expended	3,750.00
Returned to Treasurer 6/30/03	0.0

Patrol Activity 2003

By-Law Violation	10
Aggravated Assault	1
Burglary (Commercial)	3
Burglary (Residential)	15
Burglary (Motor Vehicle)	3
Burglary (Other)	2
Larceny	15
Stolen MV	5
Simple Assault	7
Warrant Arrest	7
Trespassing	40
Citizen Assist	203
Disabled Motorist Assist	57
Transports	6
Building Check	54
Message Delivery	13
Animal Complaint	65
Mutual Aid	135
Suspicious Activity	162
911 Accidental	46
Deaths-Suicide	1
Deaths- Unattended (Natural)	2
Deaths- Accident	1
Requested Radar	60
Motor Vehicle Accidents	87
Weapons Violations	1
Assist Ambulance	65
Vandalism	21
Domestic Violence	25
Restraining Orders	9
Threats	10
Narcotics Investigations	2
Directed Patrols	1821
Traffic Stops	977
Noise Complaint	14
Field Interview	27
Fire Alarm	14

Burglar Alarm	145
Misc. Service	37
Community Policing Activity	116
Total Incidents	4,284

Traffic Enforcement

Traffic Stops	977
Citations Issued	661
Criminal MV Violations	29
OUI Arrests	5
Fines Issued	\$52,880.00
Fines Collected	\$14,425.00

Firearms Permits

Issued/Renewed	108
Fees Collected	\$5,625.00
Fees Retained by Town	\$1,875.00

Private Detail Administration

Hours Billed	1944.5
Amount of Billing	\$60,692.83
Admin. Fee Retained	\$6,035.00

Public Records Requests

Number of Requests	117
Fees Collected	\$461.00

Court Activity

Traffic Hearings	147
Criminal Complaints	27
Criminal Appeals	3
Arrests	24
Court Fines Collected (Non-traffic related)	\$1,360.00

Police Vehicle Fleet

Car 111	2000 Ford 128,000 miles
Car 117	1998 Ford 225,000 miles
Car 118	2003 Ford 50,000 miles
Car 119	2003 Ford 65,000 miles

REPORT OF THE PLYMPTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Over the past year we have experienced another increase in our call volume. One area with significant increase is the response to fire alarms. Many of these fire alarms are in commercial buildings and present a burden to the residential taxpayer. In 2003 we were successful in getting a bylaw passed at Town Meeting to encourage commercial building owners to maintain their fire alarm systems. As a result of this bylaw the fire department was able to bill \$2,000 in fines to be returned to the Town's General Fund.

With significant cuts in funding we have also seen the elimination of the Massachusetts Student Awareness of Fire Education Grant. The SAFE Grant allowed fire fighters to spend time in the classroom, teaching students about the dangers of smoking, ways to prevent fires, self-preservation, and valuable life skills.

The fire department ambulance, operating budget continues to be self-funding through medical billing allowing us to provide ambulance service to everyone with out increasing property taxes.

The fire department web site continues to allow people to interact with the us 24 hours a day. The site can be found at www.plymptonfire.com this is where you can find information about the department, the incidents we respond to, and important information on protecting yourself from harm.

Respectfully submitted
David L. Rich
Fire Chief

ACTIVITY FOR 2003

Structure Fire		12
Vehicle fire		2
Trees, Brush, Grass Fire		8
Refuse Fire		1
Medical Emergency		153
Extrication/EMS/Auto Accident		43
Spill, Leak No Fire		2
Power Line Down		7
Medflight Standby		0
Haz. Condition, not classif.		1
Lockout		2
Smoke, Odor Removal		2
Unauthorized Burning		1
Mutual Aid to Others		13
Service Call, not classif.	2	
Controlled Burning		0
Vicinity Alarm		31
Good Intent Call		6
System Malfunction		6
Total Incidents		<hr/> 292

REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

CEMETERY DEPARTMENT

Appropriated July 1, 2002	4,688.00
Expended	<u>4,664.36</u>
Returned to Treasury June 30, 2003	23.64

PARK DEPARTMENT

Appropriated July 1, 2002	6,500.00
Transfer	1,485.87
Expended	<u>7855.87</u>

LABOR ACCOUNT

Appropriated July 1, 2002	62,130.00
Expended	<u>61,700.40</u>
Returned to Treasury June 30, 2003	429.60

SUPERINTENDENT'S SALARY

Appropriated July 1, 2002	41,562.00
Expended	<u>41,562.00</u>

GENERAL HIGHWAY

Appropriated July 1, 2002	65,575.00
Expended	
Fuel	5,756.51
Utilities electric	2,302.30
Utilities gas	3,242.74
Telephone	1,778.34
Tools	1,109.26
Road Maintenance	35,739.73
Office Supplies	480.55
Vehicle Repairs	1,995.14
Building Maintenance	2,771.40
Equipment Rental	780.00
Equipment Repair	3,035.80
Uniform Items	1,515.98
Meetings	220.00
Miscellaneous	794.00
Labor & Supplies	2,895.91
Signs	947.88
Licenses	180.00
<u>Dues & Memberships</u>	<u>44.46</u>
Expended	65,560.54
Returned to Treasury June 30, 2003	14.46

TRUCK & EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Appropriated July 1, 2002	5,000.00
Expended	4,997.23
Returned to Treasury June 30, 2003	<u>2.77</u>

SNOW & ICE

Appropriated July 1, 2002	30,000.00
Expended	85,476.77
Emergency Funding (FEMA)	-
Total Budget	<u>71,115.73</u>

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Mulcahy
Highway Surveyor

REPORT OF THE TREE WARDEN

What do Tree Wardens Do? A Tree Warden is a person who cares for all of the shade trees on public lands in our town, such as the town green, public streets, school, and town house. Since 1899 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has required by law that every town have a Tree Warden. I thank the voters for electing me the Tree Warden this past May and I look forward to continuing to serve the community.

The mission for the Tree Department is to protect and enhance the health of trees belonging to the citizens of the Plympton community. To manage hazard trees to ensure public safety, provide corrective pruning to manage the health of trees and to plant the right trees in the right place for future generations.

The objective I have managed first is to reduce the number of high-risk trees with defects. I have evaluated trees in town and prioritized those trees that I believe to be the greatest public safety issue. The result so far is that I have removed over 30 large diameter trees that were completely dead and/or hazardous. I have also had large tree branches pruned back to healthy limbs to minimize branches falling into our streets. I continually patrol the town evaluating risk of tree failures to minimize the emergent tree demands. The tree defect objective is a process of priorities that will be performed on a continual basis.

A second objective is to manage the health of our trees and to pursue funds and resources for tree planting. I have provided corrective arboricultural services to our trees around the town house, school and public streets and intend to provide more in depth plant health care to specific trees in need. I have outlined an "Arbor Day Proclamation" to be celebrated annually the last Friday of April. The purpose of the celebration of Arbor Day is to provide outreach to the community and urge all citizens to support efforts to care for our trees and woodlands. I have secure grant money and granted trees to plant in 2004. I will be reviewing appropriate planting sites with local community organizations and plant in the spring.

General tree business in town included; tree hearings, supervision of tree contractors for electric, telephone and road tree maintenance, response to emergent tree calls, roadside chipping of tree limbs and Christmas tree chipping at the town transfer station.

I am the appointed town Gypsy Moth Superintendent / Superintendent of Insect Control. There has not been a significant insect or disease tree issue concerning town trees. However, an insect pest of interest is the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. This pest feeds on Eastern Hemlocks and can cause the death of the tree within a few years. White cottony sacs at the base of needles, the discolor of needles from green to gray and to drop prematurely are good evidence of the insect. The insect is unusual in that it is active through the winter and dormant from mid-July to October. Private property owners can control the damage by the insect on individual hemlocks with horticultural oil applied by a plant health care professional.

For more information in regards to the "Tree Warden" and "Gypsy Moth Superintendent/ Superintendent of Insect Control", refer to the town of Plympton website.

I look forward to continue to develop the tree department, promote an awareness and appreciation of trees and to provide professional arboriculture service to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

William N. Hayes, Jr.
Plympton Tree Warden

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health meets Monday evenings at 7:30 PM in the lower level of the Town House. In the event of a Monday holiday the board will meet on Tuesday evening. The board will conduct inspections, observe percolation tests, perform restaurant inspections and other Board of Health related duties on alternating Saturday mornings throughout the year.

Along with normal meeting activities of plan reviews, scheduling percolation tests and reviewing permit applications, the board completed several other important projects. The board sponsored a rabies clinic in the spring and has scheduled another clinic for the upcoming spring. We had a thermometer exchange program this year, which was very successful. All residents were encouraged to come to the board meeting and exchange an older mercury type thermometer for a new digital type. The purpose was to remove the mercury type from service due to the hazardous nature of the chemical inside.

We welcomed a new member to the board this year. We were very pleased to have Scott Varley fill the seat vacated by former member Arthur Bloomquist. Scott is a local businessman with deep ties to this community. A family man with a broad scope of knowledge has made Scott an asset to the board.

In addition to Monday evenings, our Administrative Assistant is in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during the morning hours. This has helped streamline the day-to-day clerical work. The board operates at a much higher efficiency than ever before. Our assistant has branched out to the building department also. She works with the building inspector two days a week. This change has brought the building department and the Board of Health into a much closer working relationship.

The board continues to fine tune our local regulations. This is necessary to provide maximum protection to the natural resources and also the health and well being of our residents. This year there will be more changes. We encourage our residents to come to our meetings, as your input is very important to us.

One of the greatest challenges for the Board of Health is the rising cost of trash. As you may have noticed, we managed to hold the cost of the transfer station stickers at fifty dollars. We have made every effort to hold the line on all other expenses.

Unfortunately next year we anticipate the cost to use the transfer station will rise significantly. We cannot cut expenses any more than we have. Please bear with us as we try to manage through a very difficult fiscal situation.

REPORT OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT (DOG OFFICER)

Pet care is usually one of the most enjoyable of activities for us all. Dogs, cats, horses, birds, and a host of other domesticated animals provide families and individuals with a wealth of humane activities and personal enjoyment. The proliferation of wildlife and 'animal planet' type programs in our daily news and television programming gives testimony to this fact. Pet owners have increased in numbers in our Town and surrounding communities as rapidly as the popularity of owning certain "designer dogs" has increased throughout our Nation. Because of this pet explosion animal control organizations and Municipal animal control officers are now overloaded with the quantity of unwanted animals either "given up" or cruelly abandoned by their owners when the novelty of the new pet has worn off.

The number of Plympton residents seeking relief from dogs running at large on their properties increased sharply in 2003; (316) calls and responses were recorded requiring (55) road trips to rescue animals or investigate complaints. Most of these calls were for lost animals. Allowing your pet to roam unsupervised spells trouble. Some of the pitfalls that dogs can run into when allowed to roam are as follows:

1. Being stolen. Dog thieves are a fact of life. They entice animals into their vehicles and whisk them away to sell to any careless buyer with the money. You will never hear from the new 'buyer' and his stolen property.
2. Being injured or killed. Several dogs per year are found deceased on Plympton roadways after being struck by vehicles. Roaming dogs or cats can also fall prey to coyotes and other predator wildlife.
3. Becoming aggressive when encountering pedestrians and/or other pets.
4. Injuring or killing livestock or fowl being raised by residents. Or, perhaps unjustly, being blamed for the work of a stealthy coyote.
5. Losing life to the perils of nature. Falling through ice during winter, being bitten by a rabid wild animal, or becoming incapacitated or trapped in an untravelled woodlot or swamp never to return are a few tragic examples.

Stray dogs and feral cats represent a prime source for the spread of rabies as they are more likely to come into contact with local wildlife (especially raccoons, skunks, coyotes and foxes).

While more rabies cases are reported annually involving cats than dogs, all stray dogs and cats should be removed from the Town. Removal attempts are more effective when owned animals are confined or kept on leash.

Homes were found for all animals taken up in 2003 except two. A Labrador retriever dog brought in from the Halifax - Plympton Silver Lake Area, and an angora cat rescued with severe injuries from being struck by an automobile on Rte 58.

On July 10, 2003 Plympton effected its own 'Rules & Regulations Relative to the Control of Dogs' as approved by the office of the Attorney General. All complaints involving vicious dogs brought to hearing by this Department resulted in the permanent restraining or euthanasia of the animal involved. Public Safety will remain the major thrust for actions taken by our Department.

Plympton residents are again to be praised for their contributions of food and blankets for animals temporarily under the Department's care. All stray dogs are (by law) held for at least 10 days, and all animals are cared for with the utmost in humane conditions at the fore.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank C. Bush
Plympton Dog Officer

REPORT OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The ZBA is authorized to hear five types of applications. These are:

1. Special Permit requests,
2. Requests for Variance from the zoning bylaws,
3. Appeals from decisions of the Building Inspector on zoning matters,
4. Requests to build affordable housing under Chapter 40B
5. Appeals under the Subdivision Control Law Chapter 41 Section 81Y

When considering these cases, we apply neighborhood sensibility to the town's zoning bylaw and the state-zoning act.

Our rules, application forms and informative FAQ are available on the town website:

<http://town.plympton.ma.us/land/zba.html>

All hearings, meetings and deliberation of the Board are public. Should you receive a hearing notice in the mail please come and tell us what you think. We are here to listen to you.

During 2003 two requests for special permits to construct dwellings in the Floodplain and Watershed Protection Zone were granted. An appeal requesting permission to sell ice cream at a farm stand was also approved. An appeal/special permit application requesting permission to establish multiple dwellings for agricultural purposes was denied. An application for a dimensional variance filed in 2003 and acted on in early 2004 was also denied.

On the litigation front, the ZBA prevailed in a long-running case involving a business operated in a residential area. A new case alleging discrimination and denial of rights to establish housing under the agricultural exemptions to zoning is pending. Unfortunately, the enormous cost involved in litigating these cases leaves each taxpayer a loser. We consider our decisions carefully, follow the bylaw and the zoning act, and are prepared to fight on in the courts when we know it's the right thing to do.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Mattern
William McClellan
Scott Sauchuck
Edward Murray, Alternate

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board is responsible for the development and amendment of the Town's Zoning Bylaw as well as the creation of the Subdivision Rules and Regulations. The Planning Board reviews proposed divisions of property under the Subdivision Control Law and conducts public hearings on subdivision applications. The planning Board also reviews building permit applications, conducts site plan review for industrial and commercial uses and holds public hearings for certain types of special permits.

The Planning Board meets the first and third Mondays of each month in its Town House office at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise stated.

This year, Don Matatall was elected to fill the Planning Board seat vacated by Brian Wick at the 2003 Annual Town Election. Ken Thompson was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Allison Raines. At the Board's first organizational meeting this year the Board elected Ann Sobolewski to the position of Chair and Don Matatall to the position of Clerk.

The year the Planning Board conducted several subdivision hearings and is continuing its process of reviewing the Subdivision Rules and Regulations in an attempt to identify areas of improvement. The Planning Board is also in the process of considering revisions to the procedural aspects of the Site Plan Review process.

Several of the Planning Board's members have been active in additional town endeavors. Specifically, Don Matatall chairs the reconstituted Long Range Planning Task Force that is now focusing on the preparation of an Affordable Housing Production Plan for the Town under the guidance of the Department of Housing and Community Development. Such a plan includes three components: a housing needs assessment, the identification of affordable housing goals, and the development of an affordable housing strategy. Through the preparation of this plan there will be greater community involvement in the development of any future affordable housing. Similarly, Board member Ken Thompson is the Chair of the Ad-Hoc Building Permit Process Group. This group is in the process of developing a uniform policy and procedure to be used in the processing of Building Permit applications by Town Boards and Committees.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sobolewski, Chair
Don Matatall, Clerk
Jack O'Leary
John Rantuccio
Ken Thompson

REPORT OF THE OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of the Town of Plympton:

As your representatives to the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC), we are pleased to present this report on behalf of the Council for 2003.

The Old Colony Planning Council was established in 1967 by state statute and is authorized to prepare plans for the physical, social and economic development of the fifteen-member community region. OCPC is designated as: an Economic Development District by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for the coordination of economic development activities within the OCPC District; an Area Agency on Aging by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs to plan, manage and coordinate elder services in a twenty-three community service area; and, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to plan and program transportation and transit improvements for the region. We are proud that the Old Colony Planning Council is the only regional council in New England to hold all of these official designations at the same time.

In addition to the above-designated responsibilities, the Council is concerned with a wide variety of area-wide and inter-municipal concerns as they pertain to the development of the Planning District. The Council also assists its member municipalities with technical planning assistance, grant application preparation assistance and with information on local and regional trends by maintaining current socioeconomic information.

This past year, the Council completed work on the Pembroke Master Plan; Whitman Master Plan; Abington, Pembroke, and Whitman Community Development Plans; Old Colony 2003 Long Range Regional Transportation Plan, which identifies transportation project needs, in the OCPC region, for the next twenty-five years; Avon East/West Circulation Study; Regional Truck Study; OCPC 2003 Data Book; Old Colony 2003 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies; BAT FY 2003 Ridership Analysis; Bridgewater State College (BSC) Transit Study; Whitman Traffic Circulation Study; numerous Intersection Studies and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). During the past year, the council conducted traffic counts at approximately 150 locations throughout the region. The Council also continued to work on Route 28 Corridor Study (Avon/Randolph town line to

Bridgewater/Middleborough town line), Executive order 418 Program, Brockton Area Coalition for the Homeless, and with the Southeastern Massachusetts Vision 2020 Program. The Council initiate work on the Local/Regional Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan for the OCPC Region. During the past year the Council also restructured the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to include four additional members (City of Brockton, Town Avon, Bridgewater, and Plymouth).

Each member community of the Council is represented by one delegate and one alternate member. The Council members establish policy, develop the work program, and employ and oversee the activities of the professional staff. The Council meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the OCPC offices located at 70 School Street, Brockton, MA. In 2003, the Council re-elected David A. Johnson of East Bridgewater as President of OCPC; Jeanmarie Kent Joyce of Easton as Council Secretary; and, Joseph P. Landolfi of Stoughton as Council Treasurer. Pasquale Ciaramella serves as Executive Director of the Council.

The Council gratefully acknowledges the generous support and cooperation of its member communities and the participation and involvement of the many individuals who participate as members of committees. Special thanks are extended to Joint Transportation Committee Chair Noreen O'Toole; Comprehensive Economic Development Committee Chair Salvador A. Pina; and, the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Committee Chair Diane Cunningham, for their commitment, dedication and leadership during the year. The Council also recognizes the work of local boards and commissions and the government agencies, public and private institutions and individuals who assisted the Council in its efforts.

Respectfully submitted,
John Rantuccio, Delegate
Brian Miller, Alternate
Matthew Striggles, Delegate At-Large

REPORT OF THE PLYMPTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

This was another busy and challenging year for the Plympton Library. We offered more programming, services and materials than ever before in FY '03. However, budget cuts in the fall caused a 24% reduction in staff hours. This slowed our handling of new materials, eliminated the staff time needed for planning and limited time for coordinating and training volunteers.

Our long-range plan, based on community input, called for more library programs. With much volunteer effort and coordination, we offered 24 more children's activities, up from 33 to 57 and held 4 more adult programs up from 12 to 16. Attendance also grew over 100% increasing from 317 to 695!

For the third year in a row, we experienced an increase in our circulation. This time we had over a 9% increase in materials going out in Plympton, from 14,579 items in FY '02 to 15,959 items in FY '03. However, our largest increase was in materials we loaned to other towns. This figure jumped dramatically increasing by 21 % in FY '03 going from 4,051 to 4,929. All this activity constantly demands more staff time. However, these welcomed increases are encouraging signs of a more popular and updated library collection.

We added a collection of award winning CD's in the children's room and we recently started purchasing select popular movies on DVD. We also offer some new book titles in cd-book format, as well as in large print. Thanks go to CASA's for their financial support of our summer reading program. This allowed us to hire a storyteller and distribute free book to readers.

Thanks to some great volunteer effort, we now have our own library website at www.plymptonlibrary.org. Here you can review upcoming library programs or access the SAILS library network 24 hours a day. You can check your account, place holds or even renew your books all from home. All you need is a computer with Internet access and a library card. Check out this great resource!

Mid-year, Debbie Batson, our Acting Director, completed her college degree and the state required library coursework. She was appointed our official Library Director in June. She now meets all state requirements for the directorship of a small town library. Thank you for all the wonderful support and encouragement during this time.

Our Director attended over 30 meetings, 7 workshops or training events and 2 special school functions. The Staff attended 4 meetings and 3 training sessions. This professional development is crucial as computer technology is pushing information and library services to new levels. We need to stay informed and up-to-date in order to assist you with your informational needs.

Unfortunately, our beautiful building is aging and this creates its own concerns. TOPLA, the Town of Plympton Library Association, owns the building. They pay for the maintenance of all the major building systems and insure the physical structure. Lowered interest rates caused a large drop in their yearly revenues from investment funds while more building issues appear. This leaves TOPLA in a precarious position. Therefore, new membership and fundraising efforts are underway.

Once again, we thank our hard-working staff and dedicated volunteers for an amazing year. We are very lucky to have so many willing hands. Scout projects spruced up our landscaping and washed windows. Other volunteers shelved, stamped, covered, sorted or cleaned books. Some have read stories, planned crafts or played games. Other volunteers cleaned and cleared the basement after summer flooding. They hauled out boxes, papers, magazines and rotten pallets. Thank you, thank you, thank you, everyone! We couldn't do all these things without you.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Batson, Director
Wallis, Trustee Chair
Judith Cronan, Library Technician
Gail Mattern, Vice-Chair
Kathleen Keirstead, Circulation Clerk
Lisa Hart, Treasurer
Geri Carter, Secretary
Kristine Boyles
Brenda Traynor

Susan

REPORT OF THE WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Plympton launched its official web site, <http://town.plympton.ma.us>, in March 2003. Since that time the site has doubled in size, with over 900 pages, images and other files now available. Originally consisting of town government content, the site has been expanded in short order to include community, sports and local business pages.

Plympton's Web site has been well received both inside and outside of town, as evidenced by our being chosen as a finalist in the Massachusetts Interactive Media Council (MIMC) 2003 Award competition. The site receives over 80 distinct visitors each day, many of whom stay for more than 15 minutes. We continue our efforts to provide a site that offers residents and visitors accurate, timely and valuable data while painting a rich picture of our unique community.

During the year we were able to provide important information to residents on very short turn-around time. At the outset of the Iraq war, we designed and built pages to support Plympton's service people. The site carried Dennett School mold remediation updates and reports as soon as they became available, and election results were posted within hours of the votes being tallied. To enhance community involvement we sponsored our first local news contest; and in cooperation with the Brockton Enterprise we now link to their current Plympton-related stories. All of this was accomplished against the backdrop of an annual cycle of updating content for over 40 government organizations.

The site was also expanded to include some nice interactive tools, like a polling feature that was first used by the Selectmen to gauge public sentiment regarding a second budget override ballot question. Additionally, we added a notification feature through which subscribers receive an email when we've added noteworthy content to the site.

The site was built, and continues to grow and be maintained, at minimal cost to taxpayers. Volunteer committee members contribute dozens of hours every month to expanding the site and keeping the existing information fresh and accurate. Devine & Pearson, which built the site at no cost to the town, continues to lend a pro-bono hand. If you would like to help with the site, either by collecting and editing content or webmastering, please let us know at webmaster@town.plympton.ma.us.

Respectfully submitted,

Maxwell C. West
Jon K. Wilhelmsen
Brian Wick
Carolyn DeCristofano
Steven W. Ziglar
Deborah Anderson
Nancy J. Butler
Robert F. Green
Christine M. Joy
David Proudman

REPORT OF THE PLYMPTON CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Plympton Cultural Council receives money each year from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), a state agency. These grants can be used to support a variety of artistic and cultural projects to benefit citizens in the Plympton area. Each year the grant application deadline is October 15 for organizations and individuals to apply for grants to support cultural activities in the community.

The Plympton Cultural Council will entertain funding proposals from schools and youth groups through the PASS Program, a ticket subsidy program for school-age children that allows them to attend a Massachusetts based cultural event. Application forms and additional information are available during the grant application time, at the Plympton Library, the Town House, Dennett Elementary School, Silver Lake Regional Junior High School, and Silver Lake Regional High School. Application forms and additional information about the Local Cultural Council Program is available on the MCC website at: massculturalcouncil.org/lccgrants.html.

The Local Cultural Council Program, of which Plympton Cultural Council is a part, comprises a network of 335 councils across the state. The MCC provides allocations to each LCC annually to support cultural activities in every city and town in Massachusetts.

The purpose of the local Plympton Cultural Council is to support public programs that promote access, education, diversity and excellence in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences in our communities.

During 2003, the Plympton Cultural Council provided support to the following programs in our area community. An Inter-generational story teller in July 2003 with the Council on Aging, the Winter Juried Show, Mid summer Show at the Duxbury Art Association; Exhibits & Educational Program at the Fuller Museum of Art; Concerts at the Plymouth Philharmonic; and Theatrical Workshops at South Shore Arts and Recreation.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to former members; Cathy Drinan, Rebecca Giglio and Jane Dannemiller for their many years of hard work and commitment to Plympton keeping the Arts alive through their dedication to the work of the Council.

The Plympton Cultural Council invites anyone interested in promoting access, education, diversity and excellence in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences in Plympton either by sponsoring a project or by serving as a member of the Council to contact a council member or the Board of Selectman.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Ferguson, Chair

Cultural Council Active Members:

Jeanne Black	Margaret Kent
Frances Lundgren	Jane Schulze

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

The COA consists of eight members who meet on the second Monday of each month at the Town Hall.

The COA function is to provide referrals for nursing services, homemakers, or other state or federal agencies for needed assistance. Plympton provides the services of a Senior Aide for transportation to doctors appointments or grocery shopping. The aide also makes visits to shut-ins and nursing homes as well as publishes the COA newsletter monthly.

As of this report we have lost the Federal funding for our senior aide program and are seeking alternate sources.

This year we continued to provide a blood pressure clinic on the second Tuesday of each month through CURA Visiting Nurses as well as a flu clinic in November. We also made available to seniors a foot clinic every other month. In October we once again provided a senior exercise class on Thursday mornings in the function room at Woodlands Senior's Housing for all interested Plympton seniors.

We applied for and received again this year a Grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs for our Handi-person Program. This is a chore service to help seniors stay in their homes.

Any Plympton seniors interested in the above programs may call Emelia Kirkland at 781-585-9876 or Director Sandra Henry at 781-585-5208.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Henry, Director

REPORT OF THE PLYMPTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Plympton Historical Commission, the 7-member board, responsible for community-wide historic preservation planning and the administration of the demolition delay bylaw, continues to work closely with residents and town officials to help mitigate the impacts of development pressure on the historical character of the town.

The Commission with the significant assistance of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (formerly the Department of Environmental Management) compiled an initial inventory of the historic resources in the vicinity of Plympton Green, including Hillcrest Cemetery. The inventory included a survey of historic resources, historic research, and an assessment of National Register eligibility for historic properties and landscapes in the area. In October, the Massachusetts Historical Commission used this information to determine that the Plympton Center area is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of the inventory forms and MHC letter can be found on our Web page at <http://town.plympton.ma.us/cultural/hc.html>. In November the Commission hosted area resident questions regarding National Register listing at its monthly meeting and plans additional public meetings in the coming year. Additionally, the Commission has submitted a Request for Proposal to historical consultants to assist in the completion of the Plympton Center inventory. It is this inventory that would be used to submit a National Register nomination. The Commission will continue to work closely with residents and other town boards and committees over the coming year toward the completion of a National Register nomination for the Plympton Center area.

The Commission was actively involved in a number of issues facing the town in 2003. Early in the year, the Commission worked closely with the Board of Selectmen and the Fire Department to find a mutually acceptable solution to the cistern access pipes located on the Town Green. The Fire Department needed quick access to the cistern's water supply while the Commission wanted to minimize the visual impact to the historic area. The resulting solution allowed for shorter, dark-green pipes which met both groups' needs. The Commission would like to thank the Fire Department for their cooperation in reaching and implementing this compromise.

The Commission continued to work closely with the Highway Department on the Rte. 58 widening and the redesign of the Main-Parsonage-Mayflower intersection in order to mitigate the impact of the proposed improvements to the adjacent historic Plympton Green area. In October the Commission offered comment on the proposed project both at the public hearing and also in a letter addressed to Mass Highway. The comments focused on 4 major areas of concern: the Main-Parsonage-Mayflower intersection design, the sidewalk and roadway widening, the guardrails located in front of Hillcrest cemetery, and the use of signage within the Plympton Green area. A copy of this letter can be found on our Web page.

The Commission continues to maintain responsibility for the oversight of any decoration to the Plympton Town Green or its structures. The Commission's decoration policy and request form that can be obtained directly from the commission or found on our Web page.

The Commission has been a strong supporter of Plympton's Web site (<http://town.plympton.ma.us>) as it provides a cost-effective venue to facilitate town business, to promote the distribution of community information and to increase access to historical information regarding our community. In addition to the information noted above, the Commission's site provides access to the Demolition Delay Bylaw for Historically or Architecturally Significant Buildings, information about the Commission, and links to other historical resources.

The Commission looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with Plympton's residents and town government to promote the preservation and celebration of our town's historic character.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Wilhelmsen, *Chair*
Maxwell West, *Vice Chair*
Tara Wick, *Secretary*
Walter Peterson
Dorran Prescott
Jonathan Shaw
Deborah West

**REPORT OF THE PLYMPTON
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

The Plympton Historic District Commission (PHDC) reviews all changes to the built environment within the Harrub's Corner Local Historic District. Centered on the intersection of County Road (Route 106) and Lake Street, the district is comprised of seven properties. The commission is charged under state law to protect and preserve the district's historic assets and character: building and demolition permits may not be issued within the district without either a certificate of appropriateness, a certificate of non-applicability, or a certificate of hardship from the commission.

The PHDC approved several applications for changes within the Harrub's Corner historic district in 2003. Only one resulted in a change visible from a public way. The property owner worked with the commission to ensure that the new outbuilding would conform to district guidelines and have no detrimental impact on the aesthetic and historic character of the district. The commission issued a certificate of appropriateness that was forwarded to the building inspector.

Respectfully submitted

Jonathan Shaw
Stuart Chase
Charles Nickerson
Alfred Norton
Carol Quindley
Ann Sayles
Marylouise Sayles

REPORT OF THE PLYMOUTH COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

The role of Plymouth County Cooperative Extension is to deliver research-based information to Plymouth County residents through non-formal methods. The Plymouth County Extension staff work, in concert with UMass Amherst Faculty and Extension staff on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, to provide valuable information in Extension's four major program areas: Agroecology; 4-H Youth and Family Development; Nutrition Education initiatives; and Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. The Extension System is supported by County, Federal and State funds, and operates under Federal and State laws and agreements. Local citizens, appointed by the Plymouth County Commissioners, serve as Plymouth County Cooperative Extension Trustees, directing the overall program. Volunteer advisory groups work with Extension staff on developing specific programs.

Cooperative Extension resources and programs for Plymouth County include: garden lectures, fruit pruning demonstrations; pesticide applicator training and licensing exams; the annual UMass Extension Garden Calendar; educational resource materials; training and resources for green industry professionals and youth service agencies; accredited overnight 4-H summer camps; and teacher workshops and resources. New research findings are translated into practical applications and shared with people and communities through workshops, conferences, field demonstrations, radio and television, local libraries, technical assistance, and newspaper articles. Publications such as newsletters, booklets, and fact sheets bring information directly to those who need it. Additional information is delivered through office visits, phone calls, and UMass-Amherst Extension web access – www.umassextension.org.

The Plymouth County Extension office is located at P.O. Box 658, High St. Hanson 02341 (781-293-3541; 781-447-5946). Regional Extension programs are often conducted in Southeastern Massachusetts. UMass Extension also operates the Cranberry Experiment Research Station, located in Wareham.

Members of the Plymouth County Staff:

Michael D. Koski, 4-H Youth and Family Development Program
Amy S. McCune, 4-H Youth and Family Development Program
Deborah C. Swanson, Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry Program

Debra L. Corrow, Executive Assistant

Board of Trustees:

Michael Connor, Chairman - Halifax

John Peterson - Halifax

Joseph Freitas - Plympton

Janice Strojny - Middleboro

Marjorie Mahoney - Hingham

Chris Wicks - Middleboro

Dominic Marini - E. Bridgewater

Philip Wyman - Hanson

Plymouth County Commissioner Timothy McMullen – Pembroke

**UMass Extension staff funded by Federal or State Program
Grants: UMass Nutrition Education Program, 34 School St.,
Brockton 508-513-3475:**

Andrea B. Gulezian, Supervisor

Tammy Short, Nutrition Educator

Maria Pique, Nutrition Educator

Jennifer Anderson, Nutrition Ed.

Joyce Rose, Nutrition Educator

Anita Sprague, Senior Clerk

REPORT OF THE PLYMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

The Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project are pleased to submit the following report of our activities during 2003.

The Project is a special district created by the State Legislature in 1957, and is now composed of all Plymouth County towns, the City of Brockton, and the Town of Cohasset in Norfolk County. The Project is a regional response to a regional problem, and provides a way of organizing specialized equipment, specially trained employees, and mosquito control professionals into a single agency with a broad geographical area of responsibility.

The 2003 season began with an above normal water table which produced large numbers of spring and summer brood mosquitoes throughout the County. Efforts were directed at larval mosquitoes starting with the spring brood. Ground and aerial larviciding was accomplished using B.t.i., an environmentally selective bacterial agent. Upon emergence of the spring brood of mosquitoes, ultra-low volume adulticiding began. The Project responded to 11, 130 requests for service, the largest number since 1998.

We are again happy to report that in 2003 there were no human Eastern Equine Encephalitis or West Nile Virus cases in Plymouth County. The recurring problem of EEE and WNV to the northeast continues to ensure cooperation between this Project and the Department of Public Health.

West Nile Virus decreased during 2003 with 15 human cases statewide. Two horse cases occurred in Plymouth County during 2003, Rochester (EEE-9/27) and Plympton (WNV – 10/6). In 2003, 18 birds tested positive for WNV. To ascertain the risk to human health and horses, this Project continued placing mosquito traps in known infected areas from the year prior. The mosquitoes collected were tested at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for EEE and WNV. WNV was isolated from *Culex* species collected in Brockton (9/3 and 9/11). EEE virus was first isolated from *Culiseta melanura*, a bird biting species, from collections in Halifax on August 26, 2003. Five additional EEE isolates were collected from a Project New Jersey Trap (8/18, 9/9, 9/16, and two isolates on 9/23) in Pembroke. In an effort to keep the public informed, EEE and WNV activity updates are regularly posted on our web site, www.plymouthmosquito.com and Massachusetts