

CHAPTER 5

**RECREATION AND
COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

5.1 EFFINGHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Effingham is part of the Governor Wentworth Regional School District (GWRSD). High school and Middle School students are bussed to the Kingswood Regional High School and Middle School in Wolfeboro. Students in kindergarten through sixth grade are housed in a relatively new school building in Effingham.

The Effingham Elementary School, while owned by GWRSD, provides a gathering place for the community. Effingham's annual Town Meeting as well as police department training sessions and safety sessions are held at the school. The Ossipee Park and Recreation Department hosts basketball, volleyball, and adult activities in which residents of Effingham participate, at the school. The space has been used for town variety shows, celebrations (Celebrate Effingham), and fund raisers (Fire Department, Friends of the Effingham Library). The fee for use, if any, varies depending on the nature of use (profit or non-profit), the time of use and the need for custodial services and/or kitchen staff. Outside of school hours the school grounds are open to the public, including a one-mile nature trail with exercise stations, a butterfly garden, and a playground. The school building also serves as the town's primary emergency shelter.

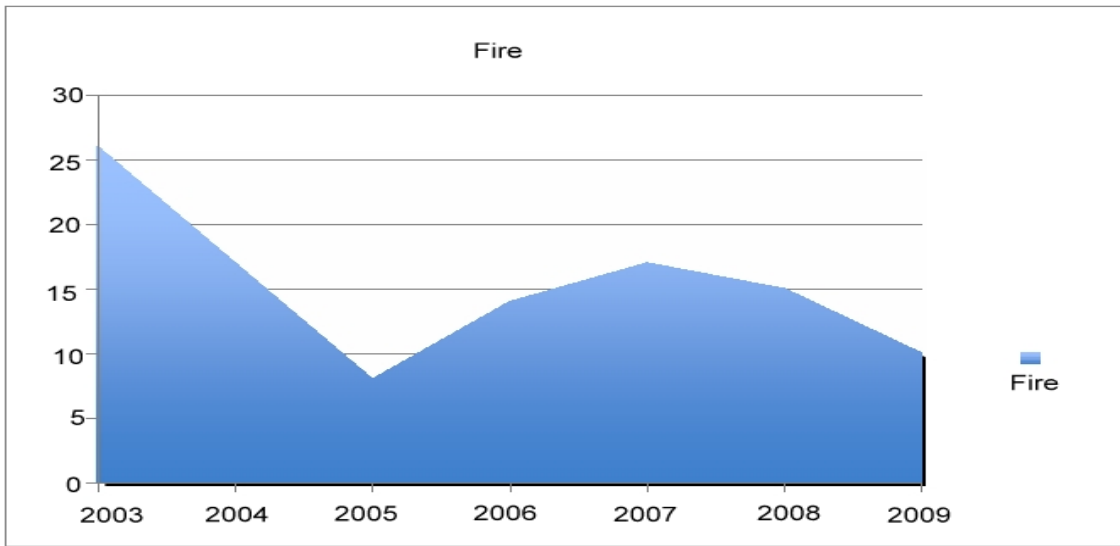
5.2 EFFINGHAM FIRE AND RESCUE

The Town of Effingham Fire and Rescue is comprised of a Chief and a staff consists of volunteers who respond to emergency calls. The department is equipped with an engine, a 2003 pumper/tanker, a 1971 forestry truck, a 1999 utility vehicle and a 2005 ambulance, which has the ability to transport the sick and injured to the hospital. Effingham also contracts with a commercial ambulance service which acts as the primary transport ambulance. All apparatus and equipment, along with maintenance of same; continuous training of the membership and well established mutual aid agreements are the duties and responsibilities of the Officers of the Effingham Fire and Rescue.

The main fire station is located on 1102 Province Lake Road, and houses the fire and rescue equipment. The building lacks shower facilities. A second, smaller, fire station is also located at 596 Province Lake Road, and it is used mainly for storage of the forestry truck, an antique fire truck and seasonal equipment. This building has no water, toilet or shower facilities.

Figure 1 below shows the total number of fires from 2003 through 2009. Mutual aid calls increased into the hundreds in both 2007 and 2008, then returned to the normal level set in the 1970's. Medical calls increased into the 200 range with a spike to 320 in 2008, then dipped to 268 in 2009.

Figure 1: Total Number of Fires 2003 - 2009

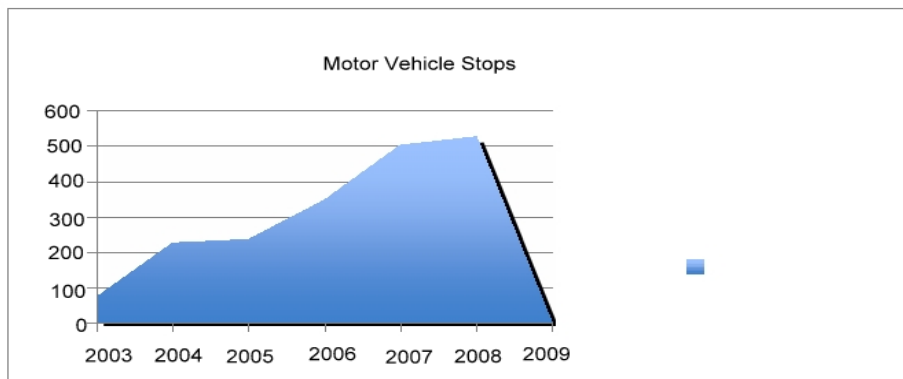


The funding for these activities is the responsibility of the community at large. To plan for future departmental needs, the town is currently saving money in a capital reserve account to offset the large purchase prices of new fire apparatus/equipment and/or rescue vehicles/equipment.

53 EFFINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

Effingham has two full time police officers, a Chief whose duties also include those of Dog Officer, and a Sergeant. Both officers are housed in the modular unit at the rear of the Municipal Office Building. Additionally there is one part time officer.

Figure 2: Motor Vehicle Stops 2003 - 2009



Police activity is divided into two categories: **general calls for service** and **crime response**. **General calls for service** peaked to 305 in 2008 and then rose to 419 in 2009. **Crime reported** ranged from 74 in 2004 and reached a high of 116 in 2009. The Carroll County Sheriff's Department and the NH State Police assist with coverage in these areas.

5.4 EFFINGHAM MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING

Effingham's Municipal Office Building (MOB) is at 68 School Street and houses the Select Board and the Town Clerk/Tax Collector since 2004, when these offices/functions moved permanently from the historic Town Hall. The modular unit behind the Municipal Office Building provides space for the Police Department, the Zoning Enforcement Officer, the Supervisors of the Check List, as well as storage and meeting space for the various town boards.

The meeting room in the MOB is used weekly for a series of regularly scheduled meetings, *e.g.*, the Select Board, the Planning Board, the Budget Committee, the Conservation Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Town, local and national elections are held in this area with a handicapped access booth as well as several stations providing chairs. Various community groups and organizations use the MOB meeting room by reservation.

The Master Plan Survey responses indicated that the Police Department and the Select Board, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Offices were sufficient and need no upgrade at this time. However, there was some concern expressed with respect to the long term use of the modular unit. (Please refer to the goals and actions pertinent to the modular unit.)

5.5 RECREATION

As mentioned in the Effingham School section there is a one-mile exercise route with a variety of stations, a full playground, games, teams and a variety of recreational offerings are coordinated with the Ossipee Park and Recreation Department. The town pays Ossipee annually to participate in these programs. While this has been a long-standing and amicable arrangement, there is some concern that it may not be able to continue indefinitely. The county recreation directors and associations meet three times a year to plan and organize activities.

Water access to the Ossipee River is available at the boat launch off Province Lake Road and there are several ponds available for water sports/travel/bird watching. Also off Province Lake Road there is a marked Audubon trail, which is maintained by the Audubon Society. Hiking trails are interspersed in the Green Mountain area.

It should be noted that Effingham has no dedicated access to beachfront on any lake in the area. The Master Plan Survey respondents rated this as a high priority.

5.6 EFFINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

5.6.1 Early History

Early in the 19th century, there were several private efforts to establish libraries in Effingham. According to Lawrence Hall ("Tales of Effingham," by Lawrence P. Hall, 1988, Freedom, NH), "...inhabitants of Effingham on Lord's Hill pooled their resources and started a library. Books could be borrowed and were to be returned the first Monday in September, December, March and June. In the 1860s a library was kept in the home of Josiah Dearborn."

The Effingham Public Library was established in 1893 in the reading room of the Charitable Masonic Institute. Hall's account continues, "In the town meeting of March, 1893, it was voted to have a town library and \$30.00 was raised to start it. The state library had offered to help if some conditions were met and this offer was accepted....A board of trustees was set up, consisting of twelve members: John L. Demeritt, R.M. Fulton, John M. Drake, James M. Leavitt, John P. Glidden, James M. Champion, J.N. Marston, O.J. Avery, Josephus L. Drake, Cyrus P. Keay, Charles L. Miles, and Francisco Barker.... What was ... the recitation room of the Charitable Masonic Institute was papered and painted, fitted with shelves, and adapted for the library." An 1896 Trustees' report showed that there were 761 titles available. The building itself later became the Town Hall and housed the town offices.

5.6.2 Growth of the Library

In 2004, the town offices and associated personnel were relocated from their space in the historic Town Hall building to the original elementary school. As a result of the relocation, the library was able to expand from its single room at the Town Hall, and it presently occupies the entire first floor of that building. The Masons retain complete access to the second floor.

Since 2004, the library has made substantial progress in its goal of serving the community. Library holdings have increased from 2,500 in 2004/2005 to in excess of 10,000 in 2010. Two new laptops and three desk top computers currently provide public access to the Internet at no charge and a wireless network provides Internet access to library patrons who wish to use their own laptops on-site. Other equipment now available includes a copier/printer and a digital camera. The library also provides downloads of audio books and access to a number of research databases. A recent project, the Effingham History Project, is a collaborative effort between the Effingham Public Library and the Effingham Historical Society to create a searchable database of Effingham's photographic and textual artifacts.

EPL's mission statement is "to provide a center for the community that promotes education, leisure and creative pursuits by providing a means to access information and resources." Family membership passes to regional museums are available at no charge to library patrons, there is a training program for volunteers and a number of seasonal activities for children, including a Summer Reading Program. Air conditioners and comfortable tables and chairs provide reading space for patrons and accommodate community gatherings such as Writer's Night.

Key to the success of the library's mission continue to be the efforts the many volunteers who have donated time and resources to raise funds and improve services. A Children's Room devoted to children and their activities was made possible by the Friends of Effingham Library (FEL) through a \$10,000 grant from the Kingsolver Foundation. Numerous reference and non-fiction titles have been added to the collection, thanks to a generous \$5,000 grant from FEL; a new circulation and reception area crafted by Jack Williams was provided from the FEL Annual Appeal funds. FEL has also supported continuing education for library employees.

With respect to building repairs, maintenance and renovation, the roof and tower have been repaired and painted; the foundation has been improved and secured and the entire exterior of the building has been painted. Electrical work has begun and the unusable heating units have been removed. Library appropriate shelving was purchased and installed in the reception area. Dozens of community volunteers moved the collection into the new stacks and the back room was re-configured as the community meeting room.

Future plans call for draft resistant flooring, weatherization and ADA compliant bathrooms. The library also needs to complete and implement a technology plan. On an ongoing basis, EPL will continue to upgrade its space, increase its holdings and expand family and educational programs to benefit the community.

5.7 SALT SHED

The Salt Shed is located on Storage Road off Rte 25. Originally purchased from NH DOT it sits on a gravel foundation. It measures 36 feet by 36 feet with an attachment measuring 31 feet by 21 feet. There is neither a door nor are there any security measures in place to prevent tampering. Given the present condition of the salt shed, it would be important to improve the state of the building and install reasonable security features.

5.8 Transfer Station

The Subcommittee addressed the issue of recycling at the Transfer Station, noting the improvements since 2003. We hope that we can continue adding to the list of recyclables.

5.9 2011 MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

See implementation Chapter