



*Sustainability*

**B**ranches spread and sink, take root, and spread some more. One big, living organism. Just like the entire world.

If you listen hard enough, you can hear every living thing breathing together. You can feel everything growing. We're all living together, even if most folks don't act like it. We all have the same roots and we are all branches of the same tree.

—*Tim Hedrick*



**Sustainability**—Since being designated a Green Community in 2011, Weston has made strides toward reducing our carbon footprint. There are two photovoltaic solar panel installations, the Public Works Facility and Police Station are built to LEED-Silver standards, and boiler systems have been upgraded; however, there is still much work to be done and a few concerned residents pushed us further towards the goal to achieve net zero and climate resiliency. The Sustainable Weston Action Group highlighted to the Selectmen what more needs to be done and requested a Sustainability Committee be established. This committee will continue to ensure sustainability issues and opportunities in Weston are proactively managed, and will recommend, develop and monitor programs designed to enhance Weston’s long-term sustainability and resilience in response to environmental, resource and energy challenges (pg. 33).

As the final piece to the 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan , the Open Space and Recreation Forum was held so all land, recreation, and environmental government and citizen bodies could share current plans and future goals, as they sought collaboration among one another to ensure our natural lands are enjoyed and protected (pg. 72).

The mission of the Department of Public Works was infused in every division and the resulting synergy brought about a cohesive team delivering sound fiscal and environmental service. More recycling opportunities and education were added at the Transfer Station. Supervisors worked with public utilities to identify gas leaks and coordinate gas main replacements with the paving schedule. The Highway Division implemented environmentally-friendly road treatments during winter plowing and implemented road maintenance programs to protect the investment and reduce the frequency for paving. The Tree Warden continued the public shade tree inventory, complete with identification and assessment. And, the Vehicle Maintenance Division got creative with up-cycling by repurposing old equipment for new use (pg. 105).

Our Historical Commission taught us that the most environmentally-friendly house is the restoration of an old house and its parts and our Facilities Department and the Permanent Building Committee were busy ensuring municipal buildings and grounds are built and maintained through proactive maintenance and in line with increasingly tight environmental standards.

2018 is the year we embraced our town and our environment, holding them a little more tightly. With clear eyes and focus the goal of net zero goal and climate resiliency is closer than before.

**Photographs**—Many of the photographs found within this year’s annual report were supplied by the committee and department members for their individual reports. The additional photographs that wonderfully capture life in Weston were supplied by the following:

**Cover and interior page design:** Aidan Llewellyn Fleming, WHS Class of 2019

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At its core, the issue of a clean environment is a matter of public health.

- *Gina McCarthy, Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.

- *Albert Einstein*

The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.

- *Robert Swan*

Consume less; share better.

- *Hervé Kempf*

We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.

- *Native American proverb*

Every child begins the world again.

- *Henry David Thoreau*