

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT 2015

This year has been another busy year for building permits. There were 85 building permits issued in 2015. Six of them were being issued for new single-family homes at a valuation of \$2,508,470. Sixteen of the permits were for major alterations and additions at a valuation of \$733,806. It seems that the theme this year was for new expensive kitchens.

There was a steady flow of solar power installations permits. Four of them being fixed mounted systems, with the other four being mounted to the roof of the building. With most of the systems, they make more power than what is actually used at the residence. They get an electrical credit that can be used in the winter time when solar production is at its lowest or they can sell their electrical credit for cash. After January 1st 2015, all photovoltaic systems must be equipped with a rapid shutdown, which means there is no power being sent past the solar panels. This is for the safety of fire fighters in case of a fire in the structure.

This past year there were many minor and major code violations most of them being electrical in nature. With the major electrical code violation at a local commercial establishment, I had the state electrical inspector help me out with a plan to get these code violations fixed. They have started to fix the major code violations and by spring of this year they should be up to code.

As your building inspector this year, I took nine code course classes over a three-month period at the Ray Burton Fire Academy in Bethlehem New Hampshire. This is a second fire academy in the state of New Hampshire. This Fire Academy is used for firefighters and code enforcement officers, with many courses throughout the year. Most of the Fire Academy was put together by volunteer work and donations from the surrounding communities. It's nice to have a second Fire Academy in the North Country. Many heads of the different departments at the Fire Marshall's office were there to teach the updated code courses. Most of the classes had between 30 to 40 people, with a makeup of Fire Chiefs, Life and Safety Officers and Building Inspectors.

We continue to have Thursday meetings with the Fire Chief, fire departments life and safety officer, and road agent. We talk about what is going on in town as it pertains to building, roads, driveways and life and safety. This brings us all up to speed on what is currently happening in Jackson. I am also in close contact with the town septic engineer and health officer.

I would like to thank the town administrator, administrative assistant and selectmen that help out with the building inspector's job. Please remember to check your smoke detectors and CO2 detectors batteries twice a year. There are many houses in town that still do not have house numbers on their homes. Please make sure your house is probably numbered so that all emergency services can locate your house easily and event of an emergency.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Bennett
Jackson Building Inspector