

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

Becket, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington,
Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Plainfield, Russell, Sandisfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington

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BLANDFORD

Cecropia moth hatches from cocoon

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

The Cecropia Moth cocoon hatched this past week at the Porter Memorial Library.

The cocoon, also known as a pupa, was carefully watched over by staff until the moth erupted, ever so slowly, from its home.

The Cecropia is the largest native Eastern North American moth, according to Director Nicole Daviau. The scientific classification is Hyalophora cecropia. The moth's cocoon originated from Magic Wings in South Deerfield. Daviau grew up hatching moths, praying mantis, and butterflies every spring. Nicole now brings them to the library for all to enjoy before releasing them. "Everyone, who comes in learns about our local pollinators and is fascinated," said Daviau "Even the UPS delivery person sat for a while to watch them emerge. The excitement from the children, who have been attending the story time program every Tuesday and Wednesday, has been wonderful to watch."



This Cecropia moth hatched from its cocoon at the Porter Memorial Library in Blandford. It has a wingspan of about six inches and has been much admired by visitors.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

The moth's cocoon was kept cool until mid-April, when it was placed in a container on the service counter, joined by Luna and Polyphemus moths, and five butterfly chrysalises. When signs of life emerging began, they moved to a large net container to allow com-

plete hatching unhindered.

These Cecropia moths have no mouth parts, but live off the fat they stored as a caterpillar. As a result, their lifespan is only two to three weeks. The Cecropia moth that hatched is a male, which can be identified by the larger feathery antenna.

The male moth will use the large antenna to detect the pheromones of the female moth, which stays where it emerges.

According to Daviau, moth cocoons and praying mantis egg cases blend in

MOTH, page 6

BLANDFORD

Select Board adopts BESS resolution

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

There was standing room only as residents filled the Select Board's meeting room for the Monday, May 5 meeting.

The controversial issue that drew the crowd was the proposed Battery Energy Storage System.

Chair Cara Letendre said she was pleased to see the number of people present.

After the board unanimously adopted the resolution drafted by Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera, in opposition to any BESS installations, Planning Board Chair Paul Martin, Conservation Commission Chair Dick Gates, Zoning Board of Appeals new member Asa Kerr were at the table. Kerr was later joined by ZBA Chair Kim Bergland.

The Conservation Commission received a request for an installation of a 50-megawatt unit on the south side of North Blandford Road, which was denied or given a negative determination. Since then, the commission received another permit application, which only asks for temporary access to the area behind the substation for soil testing. The commission will probably use a third-party consultant to help assess the application. A public meeting is tentatively planned for Tuesday, May 27, according to Gates.

Martin told the board that after their adoption of the resolution, he found himself in "a quandary." "What am I supposed to do?" he asked.

BESS, page 6

HUNTINGTON



Fifty two Huntington residents attended the final public hearing continuance about a proposed gravel pit, held May 6.

Turley photos by Wendy Long



Engineer Rob Levesque spoke with reporters after the conclusion of the hearing.

Hull Forestlands withdraws gravel pit application

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

A continuance of a year-long public hearing to consider a gravel pit between Goss Hill Road and Route 112 in Huntington was held at Stanton Hall on Tuesday, May 6, with 52 people attending.

At issue was an application for an earth removal operation on land owned by William Hull of Hull Forestlands. If approved, the pit would have been run and managed by Hilltown Sand

and Gravel in Huntington. This was the sixth continuance hearing on the application.

The meeting was over in about 20 minutes, with Hull Forestlands asking to withdraw their application without prejudice and the Zoning Board voting their approval.

Karon Hathaway, Chair of Huntington's Zoning Board of Appeals, called the meeting to order and introduced the board members and alternates: Victoria Minella-Sena, Jill Rose, Alicia Hackerson, and Deresa

Helems. She also introduced applicant Bill Hull, engineer Rob Levesque and their attorney Michael Pill. Hathaway announced the meeting's agenda, which was to review and approve the final impact study proposals regarding traffic, noise, silica dust and hydrology.

But first, two statements one submitted by Hull's attorney Michael Pill, and another by the Zoning Board were read aloud by the Hathaway.

GRAVEL, page 3

BLANDFORD

Tractor Trailer stuck in mud last week

An A T Q Express, Inc. box tractor trailer out of Chestermere, Alberta, Canada picking up a load of lumber got stuck in the mud last Wednesday, May 7 on North Street.

According to Police Chief Jen Dubiel, the driver was trying to get to the Massachusetts Turnpike.

He apparently decided to turn around in the Buss'

side yard on North Street just across the street from the fairgrounds and sank in mud up to the axle on the cab. The previous days of rain contributed to the depth the cab sank into the soggy ground.

There were 40,000 pounds of lumber in the trailer. The Buss family was at home at the time, according to Chief Dubiel and were with the driver "throughout the event."

The semi was mired to the hub-

caps for over four hours while attempts were made to tow it out. It was finally freed about 7 p.m. by Red's Towing, Recovery, & Transport of West Springfield.

Police Chief Dubiel was on duty at the site to direct traffic the entire time. operated is a combination of a tractor (front part) and a trailer (rear part) used for transporting goods.

Tractor trailers are also known as semi-trucks and play a vital role in the American freight industry.

The tractor houses the engine, driver's compartment, and controls, while the trailer holds the cargo.



A T Q Express Inc. tractor trailer got stuck in the Buss' side yard on North Street in Blandford. Turley photos by Mary Kronholm



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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



Hikers explore Bidwell House Museum

The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers Saturday monthly group hike was to Bidwell House Museum.

Outside the house tour was narrated by Rob Hoogs of the Monterey Historical Society. The rain did not keep anyone away from Hoogs' historic story telling of the property taking them to cellar holes and colonial roads off the main trails.

The 1734 colonial settlement includes a Meeting House, many roads and mills. Township No. 1 was one of four townships chartered by the Massachusetts General Court in 1734 for settlement. The land for the four townships; Tyringham (and Monterey), New Marlborough, Sandisfield

and Becket, plus province land that became Otis was “bought” from the Native Americans for £360.

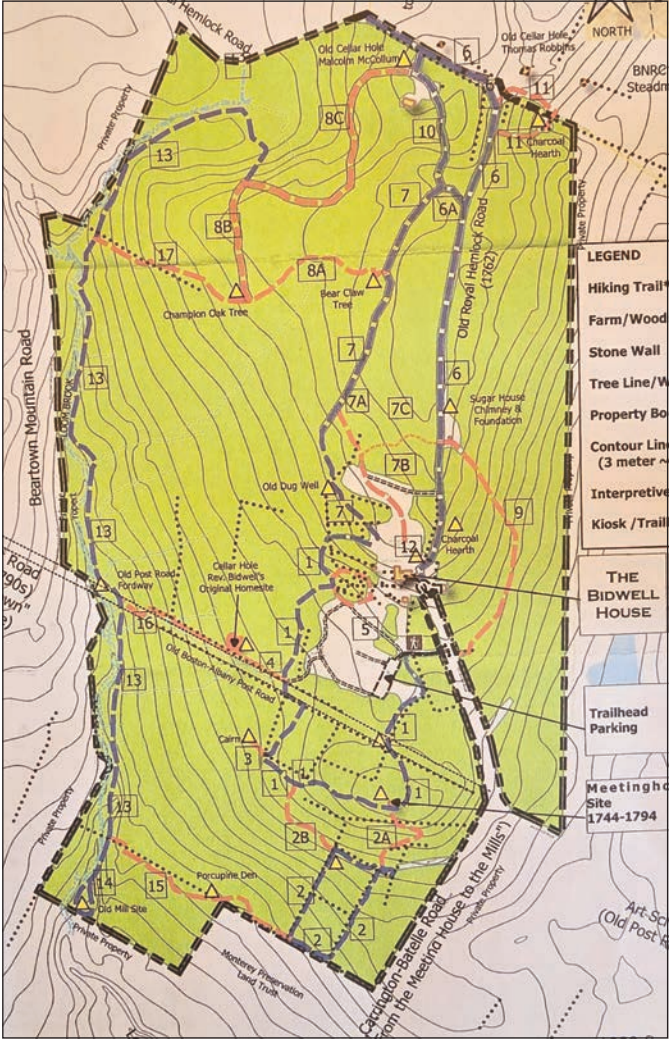
The townships were laid out along the “Great Road,” the old Indian Path between Westfield and North Sheffield (Great Barrington). A branch road split off to run to Indiantown (Stockbridge).

The early colonists, called “Proprietors,” surveyed and subdivided the township into 64 home lots and about 250 other lots. As hard as it is to believe today, the Bidwell House was the center of the planned township, containing the first Meeting House, the original site for Grist and Saw Mills, one of the main “highways,” a lot reserved for a school and lots reserved for the


First and Second Ministers to the township.

Roads were laid out, cleared and graded; home sites cleared and homes built, fields cleared and “English Grass” and grain crops were planted. The Meeting House building was built; mills were constructed, further downstream at what is now Monterey Village. By 1750, about 30 families were living in town.

A big thank you to Rob Hoogs and the Bidwell House Museum. People should plan for a full day of exploring here and visit the website at Bidwellhousemuseum.org for programs offered.



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Congratulations
Karly Smith!
We are so
very proud of
you and your
accomplishments.
Good luck
at Springfield
College!



Love Dad. Mom & John

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