

# SUDBURY, Massachusetts

## 1966 TOWN REPORT



*"Minutemen  
at the  
First Parish Church"*

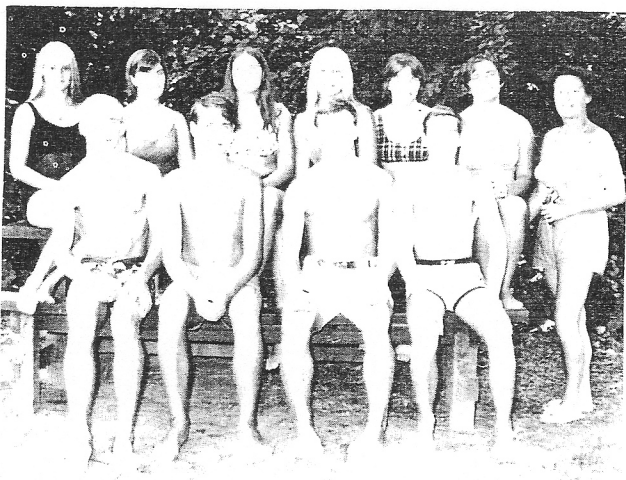
In the past, Sudbury has been a member of the Walden District Council with representatives appointed by the Commission and has offered swimming lessons to a large number of young people through this agency. Unfortunately the decline of the water level at Walden Pond caused the County Commissioners to close the lake for swimming purposes, thereby canceling its use by the Council. With permission of the State Natural Resources Department to use a section of Cochituate State Park for morning swimming classes, the Recreation Commission was able to salvage our portion of the program and hire instructors for the courses.

A Steering Committee was appointed to explore and recommend possible recreation projects for teen-age youth. Presently this group is working with teen representatives on the use of the lower portion of the White School building as a center. It is the desire of both committees to establish a drop-in facility that will serve as a clearing house to apprise Sudbury youths of spare time opportunities and encourage them to plan and conduct flexible programs with limited adult guidance.

A small parcel of land was acquired at Willis Lake which establishes public access to Sudbury residents. With the co-operation and efforts of the Pine Lakes Association the roadway was re-opened and the shoreline prepared for boat launching and fishing.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia E. Barnicle, Chairman  
 Arthur F. Howard  
 Edward P. Rawson  
 Ralph B. Truesdale  
 Richard T. Cutler, Clerk



SUMMER SWIMMING program instructors were Bob Self, John Young, Tom Blanchette, Wes Littlefield, Nancy Allen, Ellen Galligan, Bonnie Campbell, Pam Gonyer, Chris Stone, Kathy Stone and Director Mrs. Bette Littlefield.

## EARTH REMOVAL BOARD

In 1966, no new applications for permits to remove earth were received.

The following permits were renewed for a period of one year: Thomas Vassalotti, Codger Lane; Paul F. Cavicchio, Codger Lane; Paul F. Cavicchio, Union Avenue; Leonard D. Stiles, Boston Post Road; Walter M. Griffin, Peakham Road; Alton F. Clark, Town Dump; Fairview Development Corp., North Road; L. Roy Hawes, North Road.

A Petition of Declaratory Relief was filed by the Thomas Quinn Company in the Middlesex ss. Court because of the Board's 1965 decision to deny a permit to remove sand and gravel from the property owned by the Thomas Quinn Company, on the south-east side of Concord Road, adjacent to the Nashawtuc Country Club. A Demurrer was filed by Town Counsel Earl Nauss in response to the Quinn Co. petition. A hearing on this matter has not yet been scheduled.

During the year, the Board lost the services of its very capable Chairman, David O. Ives, when he moved from Sudbury to Lincoln. David L. Bobroff was elected Chairman and William Lamb was elected Clerk. Ronald Adolph was appointed to the Board of Appeals to fill a term expiring March 1967, and Theodore Kohane was appointed by the Moderator to the Earth Removal Board for a term expiring March 1967.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Bobroff, Chairman  
 William R. Lamb, Clerk  
 Ronald Adolph (resigned)  
 Tadeus J. Medowski  
 Theodore Kohane

## POWER AND LIGHT COMMITTEE

### Battle Against Wires Continues



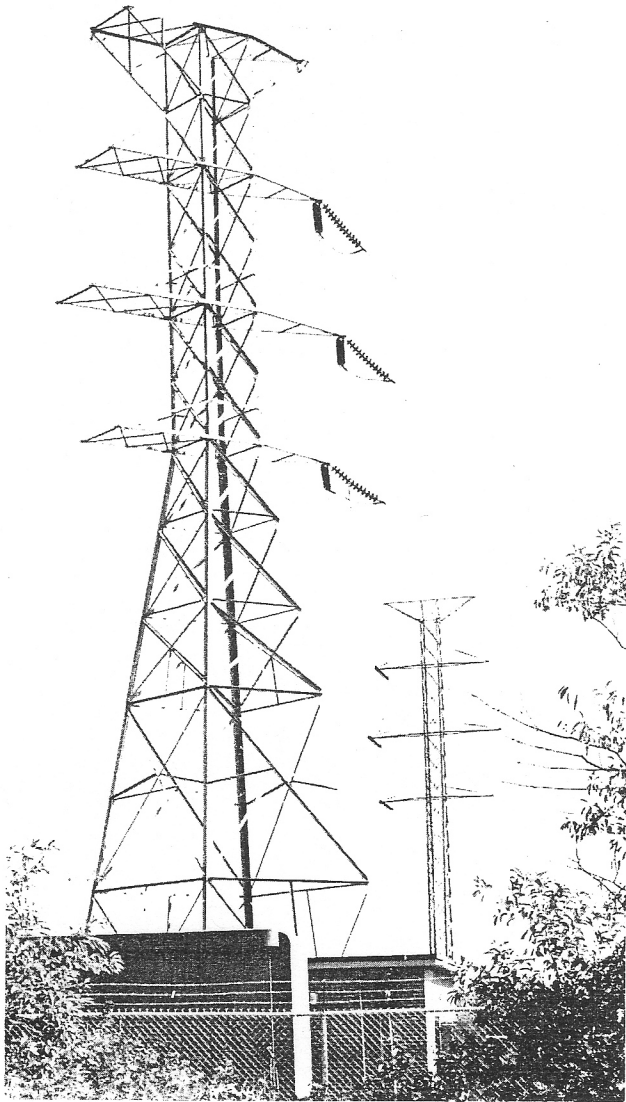
ROBERT C. WELLMAN  
Chairman

In addition to the routine checking and reporting on proposed new locations for Boston Edison and New England Telephone poles, the past year has been a busy one for the Power and Light Committee, working in cooperation with the Selectmen in its continued effort to keep overhead transmission lines out of Sudbury. Letters have been sent to various government officials who could be helpful to our efforts; hearings and meetings have been attended in Boston, Brookline, Haverhill and Washington as well as Sudbury. Conferences have

been held with the Regional Director of the Federal Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and with officials of Northboro, Chelsea, Milford, Medway, Hopkinton, Harvard, and Ayer, as well as Concord and Wayland, all of whom are now faced with overhead transmission line problems.

In May 1966, the Chairman of our Committee attended the hearings in Washington, D.C., on two bills which would direct the Government to conduct research into the effect of overhead electric transmission and to encourage the use of underground lines. The prepared statement of this Committee as well as the testimony of Robert Wellman became part of the printed records of the hearings.

The Brookline Selectmen called a meeting on June 20, 1966 of all interested cities and towns in Massachusetts to discuss the drafting of legislation for underground lines. Some 15 municipalities were present. Sudbury was represented by two members of this committee. A state-wide committee was formed at this meeting to draft a bill to be filed in the Legislature.



SUDBURY'S SIX-YEAR fight to bury the power lines continued, with other communities joining. SEE SPECIAL BROCHURE AT THE BACK OF THIS BOOK.

Boston Edison during the year petitioned the D.P.U. for exemption from the by-laws of various towns along its right of way from Medway to South Sudbury in order that it might construct a 230 kv line on steel towers varying from 110 to 160 feet in height and up to 60 feet square at the base. At the D.P.U. hearings Sudbury Selectmen and members of this Committee testified against this proposal and the Town was represented by Special Counsel Phillip B. Buzzell. Counsel representing Framingham, Wayland and Sudbury filed a brief in regard to requests for rulings of law at these hearings. No decision has been handed down at the time of this writing.

In connection with the Medway-South Sudbury line petition, our Selectmen called a meeting in Sudbury on July 6 which was attended by representatives of six towns along the right of way and Concord and Weston. Chairman Taft and Robert Wellman addressed the meeting. The towns were urged to oppose the petition, to refuse permission to cross public ways and to circulate petitions opposing the requested exemptions from their town by-laws.

Chairman Wellman also spoke at the meeting of the Middlesex County Selectmen's Association held at the Wayside Inn in July outlining Sudbury's lengthy and continuing effort to have the proposed transmission line across the Sudbury River Valley placed underground.

Boston Edison has also proposed a new 345 kv line through 22 towns from Somerset to Ayer through Medway. While this line will not touch Sudbury, members of our Committee have met with the Selectmen of a number of these towns urging them to present a united front in opposing the line at the D.P.U. hearings.

The Power and Light Committee prepared for the Selectmen the booklet "Do We Have to be Ugly?" This booklet has been sent to many Federal and Massachusetts officials and to the governing boards of most of the Massachusetts cities and towns. It has been well received and we are hopeful that it will arouse further interest in the whole transmission line problem.

There is evidence that the public is becoming aware of the threat from such lines to the natural beauty of the countryside as well as property values. The Legislature has directed the Department of Natural Resources to investigate and study overhead electric transmission lines with reference to the economic and other damage which they may cause and the impact on zoning, property values and natural beauty of the Commonwealth. Gov. Volpe has appointed a committee of three, of whom Robert Wellman is one, to study the feasibility of municipalities sharing with the electric industry the cost of burying transmission lines underground. Sudbury's six-year struggle to preserve its own natural beauty may well prove to have been the start of a crusade which will benefit all communities in the State.

Last June the Supreme Judicial Court ruled on Sudbury's appeal and upheld the D.P.U. order giving Boston Edison the power to acquire its right of way through the Sudbury River Valley and the Sudbury countryside by eminent domain proceedings. This was another discouraging development in our fight, but it still left us with other methods of attack by refusing permission for the lines to cross public ways or by the Federal and State governments preventing overhead lines from crossing their wildlife areas in Sudbury.

Then in November came the first break in our long drawn out efforts. Dr. Stanley A. Cain, Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior, departed from his prepared



text at the Bemis Lecture in Lincoln to state that the Department would never give permission for overhead transmission lines to cross its wildlife refuge in Sudbury. It is quite possible that Sudbury's statement and testimony at the Washington hearings together with the impact of various letters from the Selectmen, the League of Women Voters and others, and the "Ugly" booklet brought about this decision by the Interior Department. Our Committee is greatly encouraged by this word from the Assistant Secretary, but we realize that it may be subject to change

in the future. We will not relax until Boston Edison withdraws its plan to construct overhead transmission lines across Sudbury.

Submitted by:

Robert C. Wellman, Chairman  
Myles Standish, Jr.  
John J. Hennessy  
Alan Newton  
Dorothy Russell

## MANY SERVE SUDBURY



CHRISTMAS PACKAGES for U.S. servicemen in Viet Nam were prepared by members of the Sudbury Women's Club.

In addition to its many citizen-committees which serve the town in official capacities, Sudbury has many service organizations working for the betterment of the town and its people. Some of these organizations are:

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League of Women Voters of Sudbury celebrated 10 years of service to the community in 1966. A non-profit, non-partisan, political organization, the League is dedicated to better government through a knowledgeable, interested citizenry. To fulfill this aim, it gathers and distributes information on candidates and issues, holds forums at which citizens have an opportunity to meet and question candidates, conducts voter registration drives, and makes available literature on the state and local governments.

Through its study programs, the League investigates major issues facing local, state and national governments; and through membership consensus, takes stands on these issues.

### SUDBURY HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Sudbury Human Rights Council, organized in the spring of 1964, is dedicated to the establishment of equal opportunities for all. Toward this, its 85 members work in three areas: fund raising for scholarships, a fair housing committee to help minority group members find and purchase property, and community information through public meetings.