

private donations to the Hugh Cargill Trust: \$14,981; the Concord Municipal Light Plant: \$14,000; Board of Selectmen Tax Relief Fund: \$61,856; Concord Cares: \$5,258.95; these generous contributions from the above mentioned sources were crucial to the Committee's efforts to meet the ever-increasing needs of Concord residents. The Committee met 12 times and approved 111 grants totaling \$28,559.25. The average grant was \$257.29. The majority of approved requests were for the payment of utility bills (electricity, oil, gas, telephone and water). In addition, grants were approved for the payment of rent, car repairs, medical expenses, and insurance. The Committee also administered the abatement program for municipal curbside recycling and waste collection funded by Concord Public Works.

For the sixth year, the Hugh Cargill Trust Committee was designated by the Board of Selectmen to administer the tax-relief fund from monies raised in response to the Selectman's annual appeal. For the year ending with the Nov. 1 billing quarter, 43 Concord households received a \$200 per quarter reduction in their tax bill. The total amount of grants was \$34,200 for the past 4 quarters. The Board of Selectmen authorized the continuation of a Tax Relief Committee which oversee the solicitation of funds for tax relief. The Hugh Cargill Trust Committee will continue to oversee the disbursement of any funds raised.

The Hugh Cargill Trust also keeps track of the funds disbursed by Concord Cares for citizens in need of emergency fuel assistance. The funds disbursed were \$4,701.69. The Trust does not authorize these distributions. Disbursement is made by the Community Services Coordinator, the Council on Aging, and the Police and Fire Departments as needed.

The Committee continues to make known its existence and its mission through local communications such as the Concord Journal and contacts with the Silent Fund, the Community Services Coordinator, the Concord Housing Authority, the Council on Aging, the Recreation Department, the Community Chest, Open Table, the Salvation Army, local clergy, and other groups.

In light of the current economic conditions, the Committee anticipates 2013 could be another difficult year for many residents. We welcome private donations to

continue the mission of providing short-term, emergency assistance to Concord residents. Donations may be sent to the Hugh Cargill Trust at the Town House, P.O. Box 535, Concord, MA 01742. All contributions are tax-deductible.

## TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE



*From left: Terry Rothermel, John Lombard, Chair; Demi Ayres*

The Tax Relief Committee was established by the Board of Selectmen in 2011 to carry out work previously done by the Selectmen. The essential task of the Committee is to plan, develop, and implement annually a systematic effort to raise voluntary contributions from the citizens of Concord to assist homeowners in demonstrable financial need in meeting their real estate tax obligations. Applicants are reviewed by the members of the Hugh Cargill Trust who, in turn, distribute quarterly checks to eligible parties.

Begun in the fall of 2011, the first solicitation of the new Tax Relief Committee resulted in receipt of \$54,510 from 177 donors in 2012. The proceeds from this initiative allowed 43 applicants to receive checks totaling \$200 per quarter. The donor list was developed from a previous database and expanded to include citizens who had moved to Concord in the past five years.

In reviewing the 2011-2012 effort, the Tax Relief Committee decided to undertake an all-Town solicitation in the fall of 2012, and every three years thereafter, in order to inform more fully the citizens of Concord regarding the ongoing needs of some of its citizens to meet their tax obligation, to invite voluntary donations to assist those in need, to expand the donor base and increase available funds, and to nurture a culture of generosity in enabling individuals of varying income levels and economic means to own property and reside in Concord. Public relations efforts were expanded to inform and

educate the public with respect to the activity and mission of the Tax Relief Committee. As of December 31, 2012, the preliminary and early results of the 2012-2013, solicitation were 260 donations totaling \$52,706. Gifts for the current campaign will continue to be received through June 30, 2013.

The members of the Tax Relief Committee heartily thank all the citizens of Concord who have generously offered financial assistance to help enable our neighbors in need to meet their property tax obligations. We welcome input and ideas from the public which would enhance our collective efforts, and we encourage the public to spread the word regarding the work and activity of the Tax Relief Committee. The Committee deeply appreciates the support of the Selectmen's Office and their capable staff in facilitating the work of our committee and the implementation of our solicitation. It is our great privilege to serve the citizens of Concord.

### CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Kitsy Rothermel, Chair  
Matt Boger  
Paul Dewey  
Heather Peachey  
Melissa Saalfield  
Sandy Shen  
Bob Sekuler.

The mission of the Concord Free Public Library is to inspire lifelong learning and to actively promote personal enrichment by connecting community members to information, ideas, culture, unique historical resources and each other, in a tradition of service, innovation and excellence.

The Library Committee consists of seven members appointed by the Selectmen for the purpose of:

- Providing policy guidance to the Library Director
- Recommending policy and organizational methods to the Selectmen
- Serving as liaison between the Library and the Trustees of the Library Corporation, governmental units, and private groups that relate to Library services.

Throughout 2012, the Library Committee has had opportunities to hear from a number of department heads, broadening the Committee's understanding of the many

things that take place at the CFPL. Karen Ahearn enthusiastically shared, both in words and photographs, the many projects and activities involving our children. Robin Demas, head of Circulation, both in February and later in December, described the challenges and the excitement of the upcoming RFID implementation. The need to tag every item in the collection, as well as every item coming in, has meant inordinate volunteer hours, but the time for implementation is near. Many thanks to the Town of Concord for supporting such an exciting project at Town Meeting 2011.

Pat Pluskal talked about the enthusiasm with which the community has embraced the newly renovated Fowler Library and the many varied uses it now has. Leslie Perrin Wilson gave the Committee a personalized tour of the agriculture exhibit, "This Garden Spot of Concord", followed by a visit to Special Collections where she spoke about its history and current use. Deborah Ervin, the new Assistant Director, was welcomed at an ice cream social in August and then was the October guest at the Library Committee meeting. Deb will be working with reference in particular, as well as helping to expand programming and assist with team building. An annual visit from Robin Cicchetti, Head Librarian at CCHS, described the CCHS Learning Commons, which makes available online tools, platforms and databases to support student learning.

One challenge facing the Library Committee this year was the announcement by the CFPL staff that they were forming a union. While this was an institutional change, it has not affected the excellent service and patron interaction that the staff provides. The Committee has worked hard to respect the needs of the staff and to be supportive in any way it can. Town Manager Chris Whelan met with the Committee in January and in March to share the status of the unionization process.

Tony Logalbo, Town Treasurer, has been working with the library on the implementation of computerized cash registers to collect and tally payables at both libraries. At a fall Library Committee meeting, he met with the Committee to describe the benefits of this more structured process of dealing with incoming moneys. This process is in common use in a number of other libraries and is moving forward here.