

Health system reordered

By JILL WALLACH
Union correspondent

NORTH ADAMS — The board of trustees of the recently formed Northern Berkshire Health Systems, Inc. announced Thursday that the corporate reorganization for the tax exempt holding company went into effect on July 18.

Northern Berkshire Health Systems, Inc. has three subsidiaries. The major subsidiary is North Adams Regional Hospital. The two new subsidiaries include the Northern Berkshire Community Services Inc. and Northern Berkshire Realty Inc.

Henry J. Pierpan, chairman of the board of trustees, said the reorganization "will not alter delivery of the hospital's high quality acute care services, but will allow for greater financial viability and the means for possible diversification of services to better meet the needs of residents." The reorganization was approved in June by the hospital's community corporators.

Pierpan said members of the hospital's governing board will remain the same, but titles of the officers have been changed to reflect industry trends.

Pierpan will now be chairman of the Board and Howard E. Brookner will be vice chairman. Management's titles have also been changed to reflect a corporate model. Bernard Shapiro's title has been changed from administrator to president of NARH and current assistant administrators are now vice presidents.

Pierpan also announced appointments to the governing bodies of the holding company and two subsidiaries.

Pierpan said he will serve as chairman of the Northern Berkshire Health Systems Inc. Barbara Bashevkin was named vice chairman; Marianne Congello was named secretary; and Edward Briggs is treasurer.

Members of the board include Stephen M. Long Jr., John Umlauf, Dr. Robert Cowing, Dr. Frank Eddy, Ernest Brundage, Philip Alton, Norman Ott, Michael McAndrews, Howard E. Brookner, Fred Winderover and John Dempsey. All are associated with businesses or schools in Northern Berkshire.

Stephen M. Long Jr., former chairman of NARH Board of Trustees, will now chair the Northern Berkshire Community Services Inc., which will deal with community outreach programs. Mary Lou Galusha will be secretary. Howard Winerberg will serve as treasurer.

Members of the community services board include Dr. Robert Herzog, Margaret Grandchamp, James Leonesio and Raymond Ranzoni.

Northern Berkshire Realty Inc., which will oversee the doctors' office building at NARH, will be chaired by Philip Alton. Donald Dubendorf will be secretary and Rolland Duval will serve as treasurer. Board members include Dr. Frank Eddy and David Dickey.

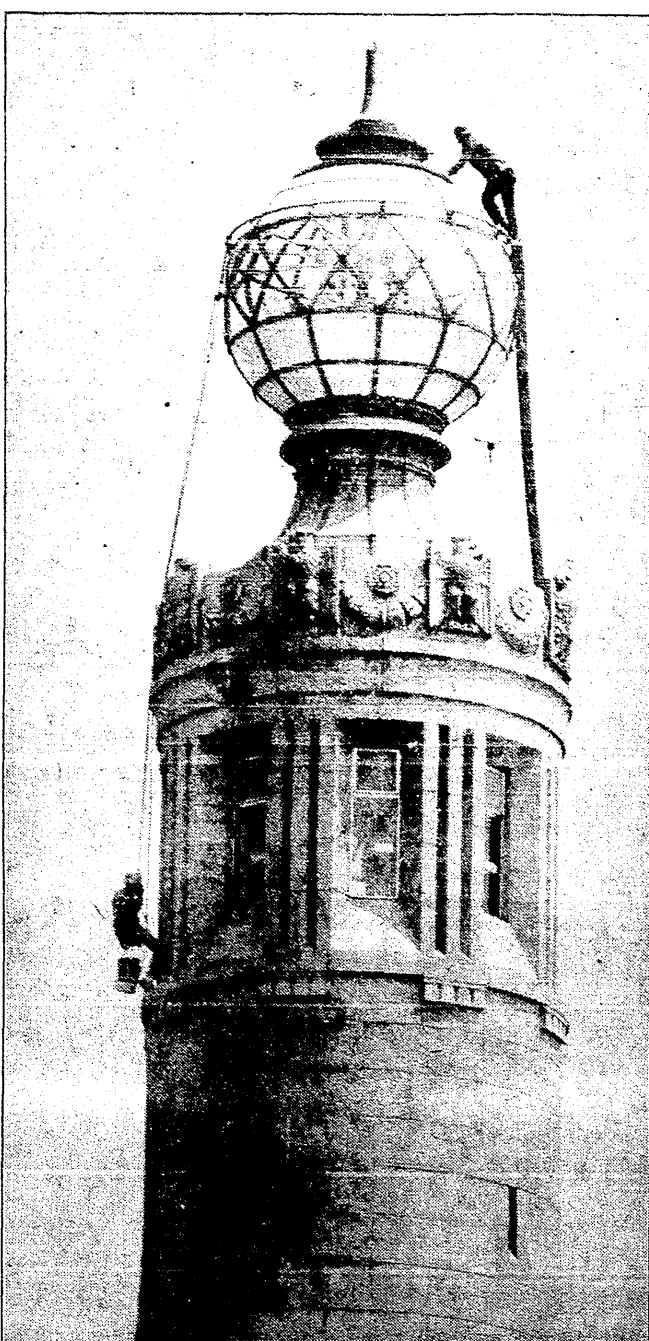


Photo by David Vallette

Top cleaners

Michael Mastrototaro hanging at left, and John Corbett scaling the giant bulb at right, of Landmark Rigging of Haydenville, do a high wire act of sorts as they clean the windows of the War Memorial Tower on the summit of Mt. Greylock Thursday. The state Department of Environmental Management hired the firm to do the windows and check for leaks.

Atomic plant knocked off line by small fire

By RALPH GORDON
Union bureau chief

ROWE — Yankee Atomic Power Plant here was slowly taken off line Thursday night after a small fire in an auxiliary electric switching cabinet in a non-nuclear section of the nation's oldest operating atomic power plant.

Yankee Atomic spokesman William McGee said the plant was expected to be off-line by 10 p.m. to give maintenance personnel a clear chance to inspect all electrical lines that might have been affected by the small fire.

The fire, he said, was in the "switch gear room" in one of three "power supply packs," which are beyond the generator, and the next step to the transmission lines.

The fire was picked up by smoke detectors at 10:10 a.m. and immediately extinguished by Halon extinguishers.

However, because of its connection to the electrical supply system that "also serves some safety systems," officials were required to declare an alert, the second stage in a four-stage warning system for nuclear power plants.

The alert was declared at 10:57 a.m. after officials assessed the damage and notified Massachusetts and Vermont Civil Defense and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and was called off at noon.

Local fire and safety officials were notified of the alert at 11:15, only 18 minutes after the alert was passed along to the state officials, and towns like Rowe, Monroe, Heath, Charlemont, Buckland, Hawley, Clarksburg, and nearby towns. Readsboro and Whitingham, Vt. were also notified.

The notification to the towns was recorded at 12:08.

McGee said the Halon fire extinguishers in the cabinet, described as

about the size of a large filing cabinet, immediately extinguished the fire as soon as it was picked up by smoke detectors.

Halon extinguishers are a gas type extinguisher that snuff out any flames rather than covering them with foam or powder.

McGee said that the safety systems only require one of the three power packs, and are backed up by diesel generators and batteries.

McGee noted that the power station uses some of the power it generates, and gets that power back through the power supply packs. McGee said, however, there are redundant safety devices that would keep any electrical fire in those power packs from flashing back into the main control system.

He said the length of time the power plant would be down would be determined by the amount of damage to the switch cabinet and any connecting wires.

Furniture stripper sues board over permit denial

By DAVID A. VALLETTE
Union staff

EGREMONT — The town Planning Board, after saying yes to one furniture stripper and no to another, finds itself a defendant in a Berkshire Superior Court civil suit.

John M. and Robin L. Walther of Route 71, South Egremont, represented by attorney Gerald Denmark of Pittsfield, have filed suit seeking annulment of the board's denial of a special permit to operate a furniture-stripping business at their home, and to have the court order the planners to hold a new public hearing and grant the permit.

Although three of the five board members voted to issue the permit to the Walthers, four affirmative votes were needed.

Sandra Ullian, in voting negatively, cited that Egremont is "a one-zone town," therefore her decision had to be made "as if there is one uniform zone rather than

imposing our opinions on a segment of the town as to its suitability for business."

Contending that the chemicals used in the stripping process would invade the privacy of neighbors, Ullian, who was acting chairman at the June 21 public hearing held on the matter, concluded that "there are other places better suited for business in the area."

Casting the other vote against the permit was Stephen W. Agar, who said he voted for a similar permit applied for by Robert Mellor at the same time, but not for Walther's, because the "Walther proposal would not fit into the neighborhood; whereas the Mellor proposal is more in character with the surrounding area."

Walther gained positive votes from Thomas A. Race, Richard M. Kirchner and Angus MacDonald, who saw no problems with the chemicals used and felt it would not be a business detrimental to

Walther's neighbors. Kirchner, in fact, said the business would be "an asset" for the town.

In asking for a new hearing, the Walthers point out in the suit that only three board members were on hand for the public hearing, yet all five subsequently voted at a later date, when the Mellor application was also up for a vote. They charge also that Ullian, as acting chairman at the hearing, mistakenly announced that a favoring vote of two of the three then on hand would lead to approval, when actually four positive votes would be needed.

And the Walthers also contend that information gleaned from the Mellor application was used in deciding their case, representing an unfair application of information.

John D. Walther, father of the applicant John M. Walther, has called for the resignations of Ullian, Agar and Chairman MacDonald in the wake of the board's decision on the permit application.

Mt. Hope Farm sales offer before court today

By JILL WALLACH
Union correspondent

WILLIAMSTOWN — A revised sales purchase agreement, signed Monday by John R. Campbell, a California entrepreneur seeking to buy the Mt. Hope Farm, will be submitted to U.S. Bankruptcy Court today, a week later than expected.

Philip J. Hendel, the Springfield attorney representing August E. Mansker, the farm's current owner, said submission of the new agreement and additional paperwork was delayed a week while negotiations were completed. The paperwork was completed Thursday.

Hendel said he also has asked for a 30-day review period instead of the 20 days he was originally going to request because he plans to advertise the property for sale in a number of newspapers around the country. The property will be advertised at \$2.2 million and will invite other offers for the property.

All the creditors will also be notified and a hearing will be held to air any objections or hear other offers. Hendel said these actions will prove that Mansker is trying to get the best possible price for the property. He noted Mansker is willing to sell to the Purple Mountain Partnership,

but the group did not offer a fair price.

In another development, Bruce Grinnell, the attorney representing Williams College on the Mt. Hope sale, denied earlier reports the college had assumed the \$200,000 mortgage/downpayment made in January by the Carley Capital Group of Madison, Wis.

He said the development firm, which had set up the Mt. Hope Farm Realty Trust to protect its investment, reached an agreement with the Purple Mountain Partnership in early July. The four-member group of Williams Alumni assumed the \$200,000 mortgage in early July.

Under the stipulations of the Mt. Hope Realty Trust, the down payment became a third mortgage on the 1,009-acre estate.

Williams College holds the first mortgage of over \$350,000 and a second mortgage of nearly \$600,000 is held by Mansker's former wife, Pamela Pierce.

John Wilson, a representative of the Carley Capital Group, said Thursday when the Purple Mountain Partnership assumed the mortgage, Carley Capital agreed "to bow out" and not pursue further efforts to purchase the estate.

The group of alumni, through the trust, now have more clout in the

bankruptcy court as a security party, Hendel noted.

The trust filed a motion July 20 seeking to have Campbell testify under oath to his ability to buy and maintain the 1,009-acre estate, according to Hendel.

Hendel said he filed a counter-motion Monday seeking to examine under oath Robert Werbel, a New York City attorney representing the Purple Mountain Partnership and Frederic M. Myers, a Pittsfield attorney who served as a trustee for the Mount Hope Realty Trust. No hearing dates have been set for those motions, Hendel said.

Radio club lease endorsed

Study planned on Greylock antenna

By DAVID A. VALLETTE
Union staff

ADAMS — The state Department of Environmental Management will make a new study of antenna facilities atop Mount Greylock, but it will not stand in the way of a lease to the Northern Berkshire Amateur Radio Club.

Douglas Poland, regional director of forests and parks for DEM, said Thursday that should the study find that the monopole on which the club's antenna is mounted next to Bascom Lodge be abandoned in favor of a new pole at another summit site, the relocation could be accommodated by alteration of the agreement.

No relocation would take place, however, unless there would be no significant impact on the efficiency of the radio system.

Chris Olney, representing the state Division of Capital Planning and Operations which has the task

of developing the agreement with the club, has called for in recently-passed legislation to ensure ham operators retain rights to the summit, said that from a standpoint of supporting Civil Defense activities, the guarantees to the club make sense for the state.

Civil Defense's mission is to provide help to the public, and the radio club assists Civil Defense in that task, so the state ought to support the club in its quest for guarantees the antenna pole will remain available and the basement of Bascom Lodge will continue to house equipment, Olney said.

Supporting the role of the amateurs were two instances earlier in the day Thursday, one in which a scoutmaster used the ham network to have medicine delivered to a diabetic scout on an outing in the Greylock Reservation, and the other involving communication linkups during an alert from the Yankee Atomic plant in Rowe.

Olney said he will begin negotiations to determine a fair fee for the club to pay, and that the fee may reflect a deduction for services the club provides the state, particularly Bascom Lodge security. Breaching of the lodge by intruders, under a system developed by the club, causes warning radio signals to be transmitted to club members who notify state police. The system is particularly valuable in the winter when the lodge is unoccupied and vulnerable.

State Rep. Frank N. Costa, D-Adams, who along with state Sen. Peter C. Webber, R-Pittsfield, filed the bill to give the club a 20-year lease, adamantly opposed Thursday any move by the DEM to block the lease via a wait for a siting study for the antenna pole.

"This is no time, in my judgment, to go back," Costa told Poland of the effect a wait for the study could have. He said the DEM had already had plenty of time to do a study, but

had not, and the lease should not be held up waiting for a study to finally get done.

Poland, agreeing the lease should not be held up, said a siting study will still be done to see if both the club's and the DEM's purposes could be met. The study would find out if the antenna monopole, which the DEM considers unsightly next to the lodge, could be put in a place more aesthetically appropriate while still providing for the radio needs of the club.

That prospect was deemed unlikely, however, by the club's technical advisor, Richard Frey, who works in research and development in communications for General Electric in Schenectady, N.Y. Frey said that the equipment inside the lodge would have to move with the pole and housing for it would have to be found. Also, the antenna would likely find interference from trees in any other possible summit area aesthetically right sites.



Photo by David Vallette

State officials and Richard Goodman, president of the Northern Berkshire Amateur Radio Club met atop Mount Greylock Thursday to discuss a 20-year lease the club wants to guarantee access to the monopole which holds the club's antenna.