

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XVIII—Number Six

July/August 2008

ALICE AND RICHARD ANGNEY: MULTI-TALENTED, SINGULARLY GENEROUS

Alice and Richard Angney are people I have admired from afar for a number of years, so I was delighted when I was given the opportunity to interview them and to share their story with you. We both live in the East Montpelier community off Towne Hill Road and we sit on opposite sides of the Old Meeting House Church where we are members and nod to one another. At the fortieth anniversary of the day they joined the church, I learned from an excellent homily by Alice that they were part of the nucleus of members that revived the Old Meeting House; they are longtime members and faithful worshippers.

As we sat down together at their lovely country home on Bliss Road, spring was in full bloom outside, and inside I felt welcome, warm, and comfortable with them. They both had so much to offer about their lives and family. Alice's career in education is memorable, and as she has only recently retired, I interviewed her first.

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GREEN SACKS HAVE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM IN THE BAG

In recent times, resource conservation and Earth-friendly practices have become more mainstream. Many of us now use durable canvas tote bags to haul our groceries home from the store, thereby lessening the need for throw-away shopping bags. However, when it comes to collecting our broccoli or beans from the produce aisle, or our bulk foods, we generally bag 'em...in plastic. Grocery stores, co-ops and even farmers' markets in our area all use these bags by the roll. Nationwide, the numbers are staggering: billions of produce



Carol Rose & Colleen Brooker

bags every year. These are made of petroleum, naturally, and are piling up in our landfills by the ton, literally. But now there is an alternative—Green Sacks: durable, machine washable cotton bags with drawstring closures that can be used over and over. The innovators behind this product are Brazier Road's Carol Rose and her daughter Colleen Brooker of East Calais.

The inspiration for Green Sacks came 12 years ago and half a world away while Colleen was on an extended backpacking trip in New Zealand. She met a woman there who used drawstring bags to organize her belongings inside her backpack. Living frugally, she had hand sewn these bags from her shirttails, and used them to carry sourdough bread, rice, nuts and other provisions. "She gave me one," says Colleen, "and I've used it ever since." When this friend visited Vermont in 2006,

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EAST MONTPELIER
Signpost

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TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

Ah, summer is finally here! I love seeing all of the lush green of our rolling meadows and vivid colors of the flowers. Hanging baskets of cascading blossoms are everywhere. As a teacher I look forward to summer to relax and rest up. Usually there is a course to take on the latest, best practice in teaching. It's also a time for some reflection on the past year and lots of gardening. Weeding and tending a garden doesn't take lots of thought, but I find it's a great time to just let my mind wander.

Summers aren't as long as they used to be. When I was a youngster growing up in southern Illinois, we were out of school by Memorial Day. That meant nearly three whole months for summer fun. I loved to be outside doing anything from playing tag to helping weed the garden, or catching fireflies. "Sleeping in," as we called it, was a definite part of summer. I was always eager for the chance to spend a week or more with my grandparents on their small farm. My sister, cousin, and I spent our days running around outside or in the barn having any wonderful adventures our imaginations could create. We had a few chores, one of which was to bottle feed some of the lambs. I thought it was just fun and it began my love of taking care of animals.

I recently asked my first graders what they liked to do in the summer. Even though our summer vacation is now shorter, I found that the children like doing many of the same things I did as a child. They like sleeping late, playing outside, going to grandparents, having sleepovers, planting a garden, riding bikes, playing sports, and catching fireflies.

Did you know fireflies don't live everywhere in the U.S.? We did have fireflies in Illinois and, lucky us, we have them in Vermont, too! So whether summers are long or short, it is still a magnificent time to just enjoy. This summer I'm very excited to be celebrating my daughter Gina's wedding. It will truly be a special summer for me, and I hope for all of you as well.

—Carolyn Pastore, a teacher
at EMES, lives on Powder Horn
Glen Road.



TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER PUBLIC NOTICE OF VACANCIES IN ELECTIVE AND APPOINTIVE OFFICE

Vacancies as of 6/4/08

Collector of Lease Land Rent	Town Tree Warden
Fence Viewers (1)	Forest Committee (2)
Trustee of Public Funds (elective office)	Lister (elective office)
East Montpelier Revolving Loan Fund Committee (2)	

If you are interested in being considered for any of these vacant positions, please contact Town Administrator Robyn Hall at 223-3313 or eastmontadmin@comcast.net.

the subject of the bags came up "You should make and sell these," Colleen suggested. "No, *you* should!" was the reply.

Following up on that challenge, Colleen brought her wistful idea to her mom, Carol, an expert seamstress with an eye for planning and marketing. Mother and daughter decided to make a batch of prototypes and see if they would sell. "We wanted to offer a variety of sizes," says Carol, "so we chose sizes that could be cut from a single bolt of fabric with no waste." They now produce six sizes of Green Sacks, ranging from extra small (perfect for seeds or spices), to extra large, which will hold a dozen ears of corn. My personal favorite is their "skinny" size, designed for carrots and scallions. Who wouldn't want to own at least something in size skinny?

The response to the new venture has been very positive. Early press coverage of the pair's unique product led to traffic on their website, www.greensacksvt.com, and brisk sales at a few of last year's Montpelier Farmers' Markets. Soon thereafter Burlington's City Market placed a large order. "It really took off last summer," says Carol. "One day we got a 300-bag order." Their most unusual order to date? A buyer requested 100 bags for mailing earthworms. It seems the uses of these sacks are limited only by one's creativity and imagination!

Production of Green Sacks has been done in Carol's East Montpelier basement, first with her home sewing machine and now with a recently purchased serger, a super-fast stitching machine that creates reinforced seams. They imprint their logo on each sack with a clothes iron, and install the drawstrings during downtime at home in the evenings or when traveling. Colleen is sewing at home now too, and their husbands are getting into the act as well, helping with the website and cutting the fabric.

The duo was recently contacted by a corporate natural foods chain, but they decided against the explosive growth that would have resulted from going national. "We started this small and local, and we want to grow it 'organically' through local connections," says Colleen, who fits in her Green Sacks' work when she isn't busy with sons Gabe, 7, and Simon, nearly 3. "All of our materials are from local sources, and we sell locally through LACE in Barre, Natural Provisions in Williston, and several area food co-ops." If growth continues, the pair envisions themselves offering gainful employment to moms

who want to earn extra income while working from home on their own schedule.

Right now Carol is working with Red Hen Bakery to design a sack for transporting warm bread to retailers, something currently done in brown paper. They're developing gift sacks for wine bottles, and Carol also reports that they're having discussions with the "Eat More Kale" guy about a custom logo sack. Now that's the big time! They are also beginning to produce 100 percent organic cotton sacks in addition to the unbleached cotton muslin fabric they offer. True to the Green Sack ethic of waste reduction, they found a unique source for this organic fabric: a local bedding and futon company who agreed to sell them unused end-cuts and scraps.

In just one year, this cottage business seems to have taken hold, and its originators feel gratified that their small idea for more sustainable living is being embraced by shoppers locally and beyond. A single Green Sack has countless uses and the potential to replace thousands of plastic bags over its lifetime, so this is an Earth-friendly habit worth adopting!

—Bill Merrylees lives on Gallison Hill with wife, Lucy Patti, and children, Eliza and Ben.

4-CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE

The shocking and apparently ongoing increase in the price of oil has galvanized the Board of Directors of the Four Corners Schoolhouse into action. We have begun the process of conferring with several local energy experts in preparation for a complete energy audit of our beautiful old building. We'll keep you posted about our progress.

—Rhoda Carroll, 4-C Board of Directors

Wanted: Animal Sightings and Stories

Have you had strange creatures in your attic? Seen bears at your bird feeder? Sighted a snowy owl, a moose, a panther? Are there panthers in East Montpelier? Help us discover what wildlife visits or dwells in East Montpelier by contributing your stories, sightings, and knowledge for our next issue.

Stories should be brief and sent to Barb Ploof at signpostbcp@hotmail.com or 223-6934.



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Alice and Richard Angney

She is a lady from Stowe, and mention was made of seven generations of her family in Vermont. She has served public education and the children of Vermont for more than 40 years, starting out as a kindergarten teacher here in East Montpelier. Before her retirement last June she was Superintendent of the Lamoille South Supervisory District (Elmore, Morristown, and Stowe) for 21 years. Dr. Angney served as president of the Vermont Superintendents Association and the New England Association of School Superintendents. In 1996 she was named Vermont Superintendent of the Year and was one of four finalists for National Superintendent of the Year. Her other educational services were as a special educator, Director of Special Services, and she was the Superintendent of Schools for U-32 and the five elementary schools from 1981 to 1986. She has just completed several months as interim principal at East Montpelier Elementary School and says she has enjoyed working with the teachers, students, and families but is looking forward to resuming her retirement.

Richard retired at age 66 and has an interesting bio as well. He is a gentleman from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and has lived in Vermont 57 years. His career was 17 years with Farmers Home Administration and his office was in Montpelier. The next 15 years he was in commercial banking, and the last ten years he was Executive Director of Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation. His community activities include nine years on the U-32 School Board, Cemetery Commissioner, and Conservation Commissioner. He is cur-

rently on the Board of Directors for the Mountaineers baseball team.

Alice's interests and hobbies are many. She told me she is an avid reader, likes to walk, snowshoe, ski, water ski, and bike. Recently she has tried snowboarding and was on a golf course for the first time last year at the Copley Country Club in Morrisville.

Richard's interests mirror Alice's, except he hasn't yet taken up snowboarding. He also told me he is enjoying his retirement years. They have a camp at Lake Elmore where they enjoy boating. From 1965 to 2002 they raised Morgan horses, and the family all were riders.

Richard graduated from Arlington (Vermont) High School in 1958 and Alice from Stowe High School in 1960. They met in 1960 when they were both students at the University of Vermont. They both graduated from UVM, and Alice went on to get her master's degree and doctorate from UVM as well. They were married in 1962 and built and moved into their East Montpelier home in 1965.

So let me tell you about their family of four daughters who grew up here in East Montpelier, attended the East Montpelier Elementary School, and graduated from U-32. Today Dawn lives in New Jersey, Daryl in Colorado, and Krista in Massachusetts, and all three are married. Amy lives in a condo in Montpelier and works at the Secretary of State's Office.

Three and a half years ago Daryl finally made them grandparents by providing a grandson, Jackson McCool, who quickly became the great joy of their lives. Six months ago Dawn added grandson number two, John Thaddeus Kress, who doubled their joy and also injected the shadow of sadness. John Thaddeus has been diagnosed with a rare kidney disease that is life threatening, but, if and when needed in his young life, a kidney transplant may be their hope for his health. Alice showed me a picture of her new grandson. She was holding him wrapped in a quilt she had made for him as an expression of her love and talent, a first quilting for her. The Old Meeting House is keeping them close in their prayers.

There is no doubt in my mind that with these wonderful career backgrounds and with their hobbies, interests, and grandsons to love, both of them will find retirement rewarding and a different pace.

As I drove away my thoughts were, "What lovely, interesting, community-minded people." Hopefully my writing will help you become acquainted with this East Montpelier couple or remind you how fortunate you are that they are already your friends and have touched your lives.

—*Esther Crane Goodall is married to Glen. They are 90-year-old senior citizens and live at 65 Maplewood Road. They have two daughters, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren scattered across the U.S.A. (Esther's father, Charles Crane, was the author of two books about Vermont. Esther laughingly says she is waiting for some sign that the writing genes were passed on.)*

HOUSING REAPPRAISAL STARTS THIS SUMMER

You will soon see people with cameras cruising the roads of East Montpelier. This is the first step in a town-wide reappraisal that is starting this summer. According to state law, when the common level of assessed values (CLA) drops below 80% of recorded sales prices, a municipality must engage in an appraisal of all properties to bring the assessed values up to market value. East Montpelier has not had a full assessment of all properties since 1995; its CLA for Fiscal Year 2008 was 57.55%. More than two years ago, the Selectboard and Listers put out a request for proposals for this project and chose Vermont Appraisal Company (VAC) to do the job. VAC has worked with East Montpelier in the past, and they are familiar with both the community and the process required to complete a reappraisal.

The town Listers will work closely with VAC for the next several months. The year-long project is a joint effort. The Town will schedule appointments with individual homeowners, learn new appraisal methods, help to set values, and work with VAC representatives on all steps of the project. When the project is complete, East Montpelier appraisals will be in electronic form for the first time and will be far easier to maintain over time.

The first step, which is to analyze the market and photograph all main structures (residential and commercial), will occur during June and July. The photographers are representatives of VAC and will have appropriate identification and will drive vehicles clearly marked with "VERMONT APPRAISAL COMPANY" stickers on the front doors. Their first job is simply to take exterior photos. They will not be doing building inspections at this time. If you have questions about anyone in your neighborhood, contact the Town Office, the State Police, or Sheriff's Department.

Interior and exterior inspections are the next part of the project. Each property owner will receive a letter informing them of the upcoming inspections. The first letter will introduce the reappraisal process and ask that you contact the Lister's Office to make an appointment. Someone will return your call and schedule an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

The Town's agreement with VAC states that VAC will "physically inspect all taxable real properties with inside inspections of these properties (unless prevented by circumstances beyond VAC's control)." Every property owner has the right to refuse to let the appraiser on the property or in the house. Property owners are encouraged to cooperate, however, to assure an equitable final Grand List. VAC is an experienced and neutral third party hired to develop an up-to-date Grand List. If VAC cannot complete any part of that process, such as interior inspections, then they will have to estimate based on incomplete information, which may result in unnecessary errors.

The final values will be set as of April 1, 2009. The new Grand List will be the best estimate of the Listers and VAC appraisers of the value of each property next spring. The complete project will take 12 months to complete. In June, 2009, notices will be sent to each property owner summarizing the values (old and new) for each property and describing how to obtain more information about individual properties. The Grand List is a public record; the process and final values will be open for a thorough review. Representatives from the town and VAC will be available to discuss the project and any individual property appraisal. In the meantime, property owners are encouraged to remain aware of the project, cooperate with the Listers and VAC appraisers, and begin to develop an understanding of the current market value of their properties.

Thank you to these *Signpost* supporters

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Fri, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Clerk/Treasurer: Terri Conti
eastmonttct@comcast.net

Town Administrator: Robyn Hall
Mon-Thurs, 12-3 p.m.
eastmontadmin@comcast.net

Asst. Clerk/Treasurer: Denise Brown
eastmontatct@comcast.net

Zoning Administrator: Bruce Johnson
(Contact Bruce for sewage questions.)
Tues-Thurs, 1-4 p.m.
eastmontza@comcast.net

Fire Warden: Jon Boucher, 223-7902

First Constable/Animal Control Officer:
Sandy Conti, 479-3169

Health Officer/2nd Animal Control
Officer: Elliot Morse, 223-6279

2nd Constable: Paul Haynes, 223-1651

Selectboard

Steve Jerome, Chair	
Tracy Phillips	Rob Chickering
Don Welch	Duane Wells

Planning Commission

Rick Hopkins (Chair)	
Seth Gardner	Mark Lane
Jack Pauly	Gene Troia
Kim Watson	Carol Welch
Ken Santor	Jean Vissering

Board of Adjustment

Richard Curtis (Chair)	
Jeff Cueto	Jane Grinde
Steve Kappel	Cliff King
Mark Lane	Gray Ricker

State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032
twk@tonyklein.com

U-32 Jr. Sr. High School

Ginny Burley, Chair, 229-0826
gburley@u32.org

Emily Goyette 223-1867
egoyette@u32.org

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Janice Aldrich, Chair, 229-0406
Janice_Aldrich@hotmail.com

Julie Rochat 223-1423
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John Audy 223-7899
vtfiredog@comcast.net

Andrea Colnes 223-8474
alc@sover.net

Trevor Lewis 229-2569
kd1yt@pshift.com

TOWN WEATHERVANE

MILESTONES

Births

- Sophia Belle Guarriello, born April 9, 2008, daughter to Erin Marie & Justin Joseph Guarriello
- Brady Christopher Vivian, born April 13, 2008, son to Amy Lee Vivian
- Addyson Lea Bedell, born April 12, 2008, daughter to Michelle Marie & Bryan Robert Bedell
- Una Margaret Osborne Liebermann, born May 10, 2008, daughter to Karen Marie Liebermann & Thomas Robert Osborne

Marriages

- David Hale and Marcy Shaffer, April 18, 2008.

Deaths

- Stanley L. Christiansen, died April 7, 2008, spouse of Joyce Rowland Christiansen, (deceased 1997) married Marion Townsend Guazzoni on October 9, 2004.
- Dorothy Mae Johnson, died April 10, 2008, lived in North Montpelier.
- Anthony C. Williams, died April 12, 2008, spouse of Margaret Williams of Berlin, employed by Town of East Montpelier for 13 years.
- Philip L. Sparrow, died May 1, 2008, spouse of Linda Brackett Sparrow. Father of Steven P. Sparrow, Sara L. Cavanaugh, Scott R. Sparrow, Stacey Ambrosch, and brother to David H. Sparrow.
- Nelda M. Haley, died May 7, 2008.
- Isabelle Flint Plummer, died May 9, 2008, spouse of Nelson E. Plummer (deceased 1986).
- Howard E. Walbridge, died May 16, 2008, spouse of Alice Walbridge.

Land Transfers

- Hugh H. & Susan W. Hawkins & Dennis R. Hawkins to Rickey L. Gordon, 10.8 acres, Towne Hill Rd.
- Kenneth J. & Beverly A. Hull to Montgomery & Kathy Karr, 7.09 acres, Sanders Circle.
- Anthony J. Quattrone & Amy A. Torchia to Michael J. & Carol M. Conley, 3.35 acres & dwelling, Haggett Rd.

SELECTBOARD

March 17, 2008

- Paul Erlbaum invited the Selectboard to participate in an organizational meeting of a groundwater study group and asked the board to designate a representative to participate in the group on a regular basis.

- Steve Jerome presented a brief history of the Road Management Team model. This model is falling short of expectations for East Montpelier. Mr. Jerome mentioned the possibility of the Town returning to a Road Forman model of management.
- Denise Brown will start as Assistant Town Clerk/Assistant Town Treasurer on March 31, 2008.
- Tracy Phillips asked Terri Conti to update the board on the accounting of the 4200 International Truck from Aug, 2007. Ms. Conti stated that she is missing paperwork to track the complete transaction.
- Motion passed to use the \$8000 from the Sandy Pines revolving loan fund as a match for the planning grant and to approve the use of \$2780 in administrative services for a cash in-kind contribution. Also, to grant the Town Administrator the authority to apply for the grant on behalf of the Town of East Montpelier on March 18.
- Bruce Bjornlund has completed his review of the proposed zoning regulations and he reports that he finds no conflicts with state ordinances or the state constitution. Bjornlund expressed his concerns with a section that referred to roads and interior access when there was more than one lot. Another concern of Bjornlund was the cost associated with the required certificate of compliance.
- Motion passed to approve the financial resources to allow the Listers to hire an assessor consultant if they so choose for no more than \$25/hour for a maximum of 20 hours/week until June, 2008, or until the backlog of property site visits is up to date, whichever comes first.
- Motion passed to accept Don Welch's resignation as town auditor.

April 14, 2008

- The Selectboard convened to sign payroll warrants and to give building keys to new board members Rob Chickering, Don Welch, and Duane Wells.

April 17, 2008

- Motion passed to go into executive session.
- Motion passed to warn an open meeting for Tuesday, April 22, 2008.
- Motion passed to set the agenda for April 22, 2008.

TOWN WEATHERVANE (CONTINUED)

- Motion passed to approve Don Welch contacting Jane Burroughs for an audit of the town financial records during the time of the forensic audit.
- Motion passed to authorize Daniel Richardson to receive a copy of the draft audit report from Melanson Heath and Associates and Fothergill Segale and Valley.

April 21, 2008

- Paul Erlbaum came forward to offer the Selectboard an update on the groundwater study group meeting.
- Carol Welch, on behalf of the Planning Commission, presented the updated Town Plan with a memo that explains the differences between the existing Town Plan and the revised version. She emphasized the need to have the plan adopted by the Selectboard by June 18, 2008, due to requirements in grant applications and for participation in Act 250. Bruce Johnson reminded the Selectboard that the Planning Commission decided to forego any public hearings on the revised plan after receiving conflicting opinions on the need for a public hearing from VLCT and the CVRPC.
- Motion passed to accept the Town Plan from the Planning Commission.
- Frank Campbell, Road Manager, reported on the work schedule and various areas that need attention.
- Terri Conti distributed financial reports to the Selectboard including the budget status, the revenue report, the expenditure report, and the accounts payable status report.
- Motion passed to approve 2008 Liquor Licenses to Dudley's, Plainfield Hardware, and the Riverbend Store.
- Motion passed to approve the reinvestment of the reappraisal CD.
- A public hearing will be warned as close to May 21 as possible for both the Town Plan and for the Proposed Zoning Bylaws.
- Motion passed to approve the NEMRC training for town office staff.
- Motion passed to approve excess weight permits for Camp Precast Concrete Products, Inc., Black Rock Coal Inc., B&R Power Trucking LLC, and Gregory A. Bartlett.
- Motion passed to approve the appointments of Jane Grinde and Steve Kappel to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

- Motion passed to recommend Jon Boucher as Town Fire Warden to the State Fire Warden.

PLANNING COMMISSION

February 21, 2008

- The members discussed the town plan renewal process.
- The Zoning Administrator explained that an examination of the Antonovich deeds surrounding the North Street springs showed a possible problem with the transfer of 2.5 acres from the VT Land Trust to the Antonovich family in 2004 as a buffer area for the springs. This will require further study.
- The Chair thanked Lyn Blackwell and Tim Carver for their service to the PC and to the community as a whole.

March 20, 2008

- The commission listened to and asked questions about the Nishiyachi Sketch Plan Review, the Heller Sketch Plan Review, and the Rolland Sketch Plan Review.
- Paul Erlbaum gave an overview of the plans for the groundwater study group to gather data about the topic and asked a Planning Commission member to join the group at quarterly meetings.
- Rob Chickering officially resigned from the Planning Commission effective March 21, 2008, because of his election to the Selectboard. The Planning Commission will recommend that the Selectboard appoint Ken Santor to the vacant position as he received the next highest number of votes for the position.

April 3, 2008

- Motion passed to approve the sign permit for Vermont Compost Company.
- Heard a review of Application 08-011 submitted by Brian Phillips dba Wheeler Development LLC, to expand the existing liquid petroleum transfer station to include an additional 30,000-gallon tank and to construct a fuel distribution center with three 20,000-gallon underground storage tanks.
- Motion passed to continue the hearing on April 17, 2008, and to schedule a site visit.
- Kim Watson volunteered to be the Planning Commission liaison for the groundwater study group, whose first meeting is April 10 at U-32 High School. Rick Hopkins volunteered to be the alternate.

- Motion passed to accept the following officers for the Planning Commission: Chair, Rick Hopkins; Vice Chair, Carol Welch; Corresponding Secretary, Kim Watson.

May 1, 2008

- Continued the Nishiyachi Preliminary & Final Subdivision Plat Review.
- Motion passed to approve the subdivision as presented.
- Motion passed to approve as submitted the Grundy Preliminary & Final Subdivision Plat Review.
- Motion passed to approve the corrected map for the Heller Preliminary & Final Subdivision Plat Review.
- Other business included a report about the groundwater study group from Kim Watson, a report on the Selectboard's review of the Town Plan from Carol Welch, a report on a Wetland Mitigation Site hearing in Cabot by Rick Hopkins, and the East Montpelier Village Center Designation by Jean Vissering.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

January 17, 2008, Joint Meeting with the Zoning Board of Adjustment

- Motion passed that Jeff Cueto serve as Acting Chair for this ZBA meeting.
- Motion passed that the permit for the Wetlands Mitigation Site be extended one year to expire three years from the date of issuance, conditional on the permittee providing the ZBA with photographic evidence, prior to the permit expiration, showing the work completed during the extension period. The permittee is on notice that another extension is unlikely to be granted.
- Discussed the Kline Sketch Plan to sell two lots on Chickering Road.
- Discussed the Danforth Sketch Plan to subdivide 51 acres of land.

EMES BOARD

March 20, 2008

- Reviewed yearly assessment results of the NECAPs with Carole Freeman, WCSU Director Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment presenting. Discussed using action planning for change and the importance of coordinating the curriculum.
- Board reorganization by consensus: Chair, Jan Aldrich; Vice Chair, Julie Rochat; Clerk, Trevor

TOWN WEATHERVANE (CONTINUED)

- Lewis; Representative to WCSU Executive Committee, Jan Aldrich, alternate Andi Colnes; Representative to WCSU Transportation Committee, John Audy; Representative to the Negotiations Committee, Jan Aldrich, alternate, Trevor Lewis; Truant Officer, Alice Angney; WCSU Students Who Exceed the Standards Committee, Jan Aldrich, alternate Julie Rochat; Action Planning Team, Julie Rochat; Community Connections Site Council, Andi Colnes.
- Motion passed to adopt the Kindergarten Age Policy.
 - Motion passed to authorize Alice Angney to make decisions concerning the removal of the garage/storage shed, which John Audy reported is structurally unsound.
 - Motion passed to pay up to \$2500 to Black River Design for a space analysis.
 - The Principal Search Committee is bringing two strong candidates to the Board. There will be a community forum and Board interviews and a decision made within a week.
 - Motion passed to approve the request for a job share if Alice Angney can work out the details and find an appropriate person for the other portion of the job.

U-32 SCHOOL BOARD

March 5, 2008

- The board elected unanimously the following: Chairperson, Ginny Burley; Vice Chair, Mark Berry; Clerk, Conrad Smith; Executive Committee Representative, Ginny Burley, alternate, Adrienne Magida; WCSU Transportation Committee Representative, Michael Stridsberg; Truant Officer, Dan Violette.
- The board voted unanimously to establish the following Committee membership with the chair's name underlined:
- Finance: Allen Gilbert, Ginny Burley, Conrad Smith
- Policy: Mark Berry, Allen Gilbert, Mike Stridsberg
- Curriculum: Adrienne Magida, Ginny Burley, Emily Goyette
- Personnel: Mark Berry, Ginny Burley, Emily Goyette
- Co-Curricular: Emily Goyette, Adrienne Magida

- Facilities: Conrad Smith, Ginny Burley, Mark Berry
- Negotiations (ESP): Ginny Burley, Mark Berry
- The board made the following decisions on unanimous votes: Regular monthly meetings on the first and third Wednesdays at 6 p.m.; Newspaper for official postings will be *The Times Argus*.
- Motion passed to appoint William Dunn as part-time maintenance and mechanic.
- Keith Gerritt reviewed his administrative goals as described at last year's retreat: attention to the Action Plan and the curriculum; organization of leadership in the school, particularly the Department Head structure; and greater accountability among staff and students.

March 19, 2008

- After coming out of Executive Session, the board voted to deny, with regret, a request for a change to part-time status.

April 2, 2008

- Motion passed to accept level staffing as per the budget development plan.
- Motion passed to accept the following year-end resignations and to consider a long-term goal of having fewer part-time teachers. Retirees are David Nicholson, Janey Malloy, Joanne Greenberg, Barry Kopecky, and George Olson.
- Motion passed to approve the following appointments: Sheryl Ferris, David Nicholson, Amy Herrick, Jessica Smetana, John Antonucci, and Kate McCann.
- Motion passed to approve two new course proposals as presented.
- Motion passed to spend up to \$18,000 from the capital fund for resurfacing the track.
- Motion passed the board orders.
- Discussion items included the drop-out rate, the use of technology for harassment and bullying.
- First Policy Reading of the Co-Curricular Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy.
- Second Policy Reading of the Student Conduct and Discipline Policy.

April 16, 2008

- Motion passed to adopt the Student Conduct & Discipline Policy.
- Motion passed to adopt the Drugs & Alcohol Policy.
- Motion passed to adopt the Prevention of Harassment of Students Policy.

- Motion passed unanimously to approve the spring coaches as presented.
- Motion passed with one abstention to approve a one-year leave of absence for Randy Brown as presented.
- Discussion items included administration evaluations and the difference between feedback and evaluation, substitute reports, and memorial gifts.
- First Policy Reading of Drugs & Alcohol, Prevention of Harassment of Students, and Vehicular Idling.
- Second Policy Reading of Co-Curricular Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy
- Third Policy Reading of Student Conduct and Discipline Policy.
- The Fundraising Policy will be put on the agenda for discussion at a future meeting.

May 7, 2008

- Motion passed with Conrad Smith voting against the motion and Allen Gilbert recusing himself to accept the administration's recommendation regarding a student issue.
- Motion passed to adopt the Harassment of Employees Policy.
- Motion passed to adopt the Co-Curricular Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy.
- Motion passed to adopt the Vehicular Idling Policy without a third reading.
- Motion passed to purchase a tractor using up to \$43,500 from the capital fund.
- Amended Motion passed to accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee regarding the memorial bench as amended with suggestions from Conrad Smith incorporated into the proposal.
- Motion passed to accept the design of the bench and accept the Principal's recommendation regarding location.
- Motion passed to approve the spring athletic coaches.
- Motion passed to approve the supplemental contract.
- Motion passed to accept with great regret the resignations of Tom McKone and Eric Keck.
- Motion passed to approve the appointment of John Pandolfo.
- Motion passed to approve the administration's decision regarding a personnel matter.

UPDATED TOWN PLAN AND NEW ZONING REGULATIONS

The Selectboard held a special meeting on May 27 to discuss feedback from the public hearings concerning the proposed Town Plan and Zoning Regulations. The Selectboard hopes to be able to approve an updated Town Plan prior to June 16 when the existing plan expires. Vermont towns without approved Town Plans are ineligible for state planning grants.



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS AND NOTES

EMFD has been busy again this year. From January to May, we have responded to 58 emergency medical (EMS) calls and 29 fire-related calls for a total of 87 runs. EMFD has also been busy working with the selectboards of East Montpelier and Calais on an inter-local agreement.

We have also kicked off our *Go for the Green* raffle. First prize is a Cub Cadet tractor mower, second prize is a Cub walk-behind mower, third is a Cub trimmer, and fourth is a \$50 cash prize. Tickets for the raffle are \$50 and only 120 will be sold. Drawing is July 1, 2008. All proceeds will be put into our building fund. Please contact any EMFD member if you would like to purchase a ticket.

EMFD has also had some visitors. We hosted Community Connections, 14 K-6-graders, who came to the fire house on Fridays. This was a wonderful way for the kids in our community to get to know us and what we do.

As always, we are looking for new members, not just firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs), but support members who are willing to help in and around both firehouses. If you have any questions, please contact Fire Chief John Audy at 223-7899.

—John Audy, EMFD Chief

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CHURCH BELLS

Old Brick Church
Mark McEathron, Pastor
Worship & Sunday School at 10 a.m.
Phone: 223-1232

Old Meeting House
Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge, Pastor
Rev. David W. Connor, Assoc. Pastor
Worship & Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.
Nursery care is available
Phone: 229-9593

Crossroads Christian Church
Rev. Bob Walton, Pastor
Worship and Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.
Phone: 476-4843 & 229-9389

KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY NEWS

All East Montpelier residents are entitled to a free library card!

Website: www.kellogghubbard.org, Phone: 223-3338

Summer at the Library for Children and Teens

For more information, call 223-4665.

There is something for children of all ages at the library this summer! From Story Time for preschoolers and their families every Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., to "Bug Out with Ben" for 4-7 year olds on Fridays at 10:30 a.m., to craft programs, to Comics Club activities, to Friday afternoon games and Monday evening movies, the library will be filled with creative kids and their favorite people. See the *Events Calendar* on the back of the newsletter for more.

New! Audio Books for Downloading

You can now download audio books to your computer or your MP3 player from the comfort of your own home. Just go to the library's home page and click on "Listen Up! Vermont". There are directions for getting started and for downloading the software you will need.

Everything Else

Don't forget the K-H Adamant Annex and Lunch in a Foreign Language.

Pick up a complete schedule of events, or check the library's website for updates.

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Cow Plop Bingo at Rally Day 2007.

Our 20th annual Rally Day could be our last...

A small, dedicated group has begun planning this year's Rally Day. But we can't do it alone. Our little committee needs more hands and more ideas to put together another great community celebration. Please call us to volunteer an hour of your time to direct parade traffic, paint faces, judge a contest, whatever you like to do. Reserve a space in the 2008 Marketplace featuring local handmade or homegrown products and hometown businesses—bring your own table to show your wares. Or come to our next meeting (July 9th at 6:30 at the Town Office) with ideas for new activities or a nomination for Citizen of the Year. Mark your calendars: Rally Day 2008 is Saturday, September 6th. Then call one of us so we will know we've got enough people power. Thanks! –Matt Curtis 223-7403; Bill Merrylees 223-4951; Barbara Brown 223-2842; Erica Zimmerman 223-6930; Bill Jordan 223-3793; Deb Fillion 229-1320.

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NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

FROM THE EMES PRINCIPAL

Dear *Signpost* Readers,

The East Montpelier School Board has hired Deborah Lesure as the East Montpelier Interim Principal for the 2008–2009 school year. Debbie comes from New Hampshire, where for the past four years she has been the Principal of Antrim Elementary School. Prior to that, she worked as a Special Education Teacher, an Educational Consultant, and an Educational Specialist at Children's Hospital in Boston.

She has an undergraduate degree in elementary education from Ohio Wesleyan University, a Master's Degree in Special Education from Clark University, and a post-Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Keene State College.

Debbie has a passion for literacy. She is the co-author of *Help Me Learn to Write: Teaching Strategies for Struggling Writers*, a book on teaching writing strategies to students. This year she was named New Hampshire Environmental Educator of the Year. She and her family have vacationed in Vermont for many years and are looking forward to becoming permanent residents.

The East Montpelier Elementary School has been a beehive of end-of-year activities. The students have had many opportunities to demonstrate their learning. During the final weeks of school there was a Science Fair, an Author's Tea, a Fine Arts Night, the Spring Concert, and the First-Grade Operetta, *Tikki Tikki Tembo*. Thank you to all who have come to school to see the students' work and to support East Montpelier's young and eager learners.

Sometimes people are lucky and have the opportunity to experience what I call a "sweet spot" in their lives. The last six months serving as Principal for EMES has been a "sweet spot" for me. I have thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to work with the students, families, and staff of EMES. This is a remarkable community and I want to thank all of you for contributing to making this experience special.

—Respectfully, Alice Angney, Principal, EMES

SUPPORTING YOUR SCHOOL HAS NEVER BEEN SO EASY

EMES is enrolled in several programs that provide supplies or money to our school. Save the following items and bring them to EMES or C.P. Dudley's Store and the school will enjoy the rewards: General Mills box tops, money for the playground; Campbell's points, art, music and library; Hannaford's points, money for the playground; Price Chopper Receipts, gym equipment; Shaw's receipts, money for classroom enrichment program.

Any questions? Please contact Katina at 229-6284.

The East Montpelier T-Ball Teams
would like to say

THANK YOU

to Pampered Paws and Ila's Daycare for
the generous donation of helmets.

The teams and parents appreciate
your support.



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NORTH MONTPELIER'S FINE DAM HISTORY

The Kingsbury Branch of the Winooski River provided water power to the early settlers in North Montpelier for their most pressing needs, from sawmills to gristmills to woolen mills.

In 1792, Samuel Rich dammed the Kingsbury and built a sawmill. Three years later he added a gristmill, and between 1795 and 1800 carding and fulling operations were built. (A carding machine straightened wool fibers for local people who then took the wool home for spinning and weaving. They brought the cloth back to the mill for fulling, which pounded and shrank the cloth.)

By 1831, Nathaniel Davis owned both operations, and he decided to build a new structure to house advances in wool processing. By 1838 the new mill was complete, accommodating all facets of cloth production. But, alas, the wool market declined, and Nathaniel and his son Nathaniel, Jr., sold out in 1841.

In May 1853, Walter Little bought the mill. He probably purchased some local wool, but because there was not much wool produced in town, some wool arrived from "away" via rail. After Walter died in 1859, his three children took over operations. Financial difficulties and several changes in management led to the sale of the mill to George Sibley in 1878. Sibley revitalized the business, producing white flannel for the Boston market. After his death in 1904, the mill was re-named the Little Woolen Company by Sibley's three nephews, Walter H., Fred, and Charles Little. It was back in the Little family again. The business suffered more calamities, including a fire in 1912, washout of the two dams in April, 1914, and another fire later in 1914.

The Littles reconstructed the mill in 1916, building a new concrete dam with a penstock and water wheels. Harry Daniels, who financed the project, constructed a new building across the road for carding, dyeing, and spinning. The main building, housing the weaving and finishing rooms, was connected by a walkway over Route 14. On the site of the former gristmill, Daniels built a bobbin mill which operated until 1930 when it burned.

During the next 40 years, the mill operated with varying degrees of success, changing ownership and management many times. Erlene Leonard of East Calais recalls that the mill produced blankets for civil defense and California prisons in the 1950s. Later the mill produced yard goods for clothing manufacturers. Competition from southern and foreign mills proved too great, and the mill ceased operation in 1969.

Over the years, North Montpelier has been home to a blacksmith shop, a shoemaker's shop, a distillery, a brickyard, the Rich Tavern, two stores, a post office, a creamery and cheese factory, a church, the Nye organ factory, and the Driftwind Press, as well as a self-sufficient and lively community. And the Kingsbury is still at work: the dams that once powered businesses and industry now produce electricity.

—Anne Ormsbee, *EM Historical Society*

REPRINTING EAST MONTPELIER HISTORY

The endeavor by the Historical Society to replenish the supply of *Across the Onion* moves forward with due dispatch. Three hundred copies of the soft-cover edition and 200 copies in hard cover will be printed. Other than updating the information on authors Lyn Blackwell and the late Ellen Hill, no significant changes will be made. The text will be scanned and reprinted as is. The plan is to sell the soft cover books for \$25 each and the hard cover editions for \$35.

The glue has failed on some of the original soft cover books and they are now "loose-leaf." If the owners of such books wish to purchase a new edition, of either binding, the Society will take back the old copy for a credit of \$5. These can be re-glued and sold as used books.

The new books should be available at the Town Office by early July. They also may be sold through some of the local bookstores. Contributions toward the reprinting would be gratefully accepted and will go toward reducing the amount needed from the \$3,000 loan to the Society the voters agreed to at last Town Meeting. Anyone wishing to make a contribution or pre-order copies may do so by contacting Anne Ormsbee 223-5372 or Dave Coburn 223-6886.

— Dave Coburn, *East Montpelier Historical Society*

HISTORY ON VIEW AT TOWN OFFICE

In the Town Office display window Anne and Conrad Ormsbee, members of the Historical Society, have put up pictures of the reconstruction of Center Road done in 1970–71. Pictures show the location of the work by naming the property owners at the time such as Caccios, Palmers, Badgers, and the Parley Davis House now owned by Kirby Scarborough and Madeline Mongan. Other pictures show the actual paving of the Center Road. A miniature depiction of the road being paved is set up showing traffic ranging from horse and wagon to modern-day equipment used to reconstruct the road.

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TRUCKLOADS OF TRASH, INCLUDING THREE KITCHEN SINKS, GREEN-UP DAY CLEANS UP

Our sincere thanks go out to the 70-plus volunteers who braved the chill and the rain on May 3 to Green-Up our roadsides. In all, 120 old tires, several hundred pounds of recyclables, and an entire town-truckload of trash were collected, as well as 3 sinks and a TV! Additional thank yous to the Jean Cate Community Group for the wonderful lunch and to Lucy Patti for overseeing the drop-off.

If your neighborhood road didn't get greened-up, you're invited and encouraged to pick up a Green-Up bag from the elementary school, town office, or Dudleys and get out there before the grass grows higher. There isn't any free disposal now that Green-Up day has passed, but the result will be worth your while. For additional information, please call Bill Merrylees at 223-4951, or bmerrylees@u32.org.

—Bill Merrylees, Green-Up Day Coordinator



Lucy Patti and Mike Duane helping with trash collection



Barb Ploof, Paulie Coburn, Elaine Manghi and Rhoda Carroll serving lunches to green-uppers

Paulie's Recipe

MOCK ANGEL CAKE **HELEN SPARROW**

From the North Montpelier Community Cook Book, sponsored by The Friendly Circle. Helen Sparrow was for a time co-owner of the North Montpelier General Store.

- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup sugar
- pinch salt
- 2 tsp. baking powder

Sift together three times.

Then add 2/3 cup sweet milk scalding hot, and beat well.

Fold in the whites of two eggs beaten stiff. Flavor and bake in an ungreased angel tin in a moderate oven.

Paulie's comments. This makes quite a small cake but it has a really good flavor and texture. I used 1 teaspoon vanilla for flavor and baked the cake at 350° F for 30 minutes.

OUR GOOD NEIGHBORS



Do you have a good neighbor? We're guessing you do. "Our Good Neighbors" is a regular Signpost column. Send your story, about 250 words or so, to P.O. Box 184, East Montpelier 05651, or email to signpostbcp@hotmail.com.

COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	7:00	Town Office
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:30	Town Office
Zoning Board of Adjustment	1st & 3rd Tues	7:30	Town Office
Conservation Fund Adv. Comm.	2nd Thurs	7:30	Town Office
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wed	6:00	U-32 School
Elementary School Board (EMES)	3rd Thurs	6:30	Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Mon	6:30	Town Office
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tues	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Rd.
Four Corners Schoolhouse Assoc.	2nd Wed	7:00	Four Corners School
East Mont. Senior Living Initiative	2nd & 4th Tues	6:30	Town Office
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org.	1st Wed	6:30	Elementary School

NOTICES

Copies of the proposed Town Plan and zoning regulations may be picked up at the town office. The proposed zoning regulations can be viewed on line at the *Signpost* website www.emsignpost.com.

Starting Aug 11: Early or Absentee ballots for the State Primary Election available from the Town Clerk. A ballot may be mailed or you may complete the ballot in the office during office hours.

Sept. 3: Last date to register before the State Primary Election, by 5 p.m.

Sept 9: State Primary Election, voting at EMES 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

EVENTS

Kellogg-Hubbard Library Events

School-aged children can sign up for the Summer Reading Program throughout the summer, beginning on Saturday, June 21st. **Every Friday from 3–5:30 p.m.:** Board games for the whole family.

July 7–Aug. 4. Monday movies at 6:30 p.m.: Pick up a schedule at the library, or call 223-4665 for more information.

July 3, p.m.: Library Lawn Party with Jeh Kulu African Drum and Dance, hat-making, bubbles, popcorn, lemonade, and preparation for the parade.

July 12: Comics Club Art Reception

July 15, 3–5:30 p.m.: Book Release Party with comic book author James Kochalka.

August 1, 10:30 a.m.: Annual Tie Dye Party

August 8, 10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Bring your stuffed animal to the library for a sleepover!

August 9, Sleepover reunion: Come back at 9 a.m. the next morning to meet your animals for breakfast and see photos of what they did in the library!

Deadline for Next Issue: AUGUST 1, 2008, To Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, signpostbcp@hotmail.com

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