

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XXII—Number Four

March/April 2012

TOWN MEETING DAY: TUESDAY MARCH 6

Voting Dates & Locations

Voter Registration: Register at the Town Office, Mon.–Thurs. 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m.–noon. The deadline for the upcoming Town/School Meeting is Wed., Feb. 29, by 5 p.m.

Pre-Town/School Forum Coffee Hour: Sat., Mar. 3, 8:30 a.m. at EMES. The Town/School meeting process will be discussed and your questions will be answered.

Town/School Forum: Sat., Mar. 3, 9:30 a.m.–noon, EMES gym. Come discuss all School and Town Warning articles, including the budget items that are to be voted by Australian ballot (school, then town articles). The candidates for offices will be introduced. Remember to bring your copy of the Town Report.

Town Meeting Day: Tues., Mar. 6, 9:30 a.m., at EMES. The Town and School Meetings are both warned for 9:30 a.m. The Town Meeting will be recessed until the completion of the School Meeting. Fourth-grade Girl Scouts will provide babysitting between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Australian Ballot Voting: Tues., Mar. 6, 7 a.m.–7 p.m., at EMES.

Early or Absentee Voting: Available through Monday, Mar. 5. Call the Town Clerk's Office at 223-3313 or go to the office to obtain ballots and vote. All ballots must be returned by 7 p.m. on Mar. 6 to be counted.



Mechanics of Town Meeting

The Jean Cate Community Fund will host an informational coffee hour at the elementary school before the Town/School Forum on Saturday, March 3, beginning at 8:30 a.m. This is an opportunity for those who are new to the town meeting concept to learn a bit about it and for those who are not so new to brush up on process.

Moderator Michael Dworkin will give a short presentation on such facets as how Town Meeting works, the difference between floor voting and Australian ballot voting, and what can be brought up under "other business that may properly come before the meeting." There will be plenty of time for questions.

Come for coffee, a sweet roll, and the information; then stay for the Forum and participate in the discussion of the issues.

Cate committee members: Paul Cate, Dave Coburn, Deborah Fillion, Dave Grundy, Elaine Manghi, Barbara Ploof, Norma Raymond

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EAST MONTPELIER
Signpost

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Top of the Signpost

by Representative Tony Klein

On Tuesday, March 6, we will once again gather at the Elementary School to conduct our Town and Elementary School business. As citizens of Vermont and East Montpelier, we have the incredible opportunity to participate in the purest form of democracy found anywhere in the world. For over two hundred years now, friends and neighbors have gathered to share stories, thoughts, ideas, and even wonderful food. We debate, we share, we explain, and then each of us present votes to further the business of the Town. One person, one vote. What a beautiful, wonderful concept. I, for one, hope we never change that.

In this process nobody speaks for you, and when the debate is done, you vote the outcome. Nowhere else in the world is such direct democracy still practiced. And yet, because of the pressures of living in the modern world, more and more towns are deciding to switch to the Australian ballot method of deciding town and school business. I certainly understand that it allows more folks the opportunity to cast their vote in the decision-making process. I know it is difficult for many of us to get the time to come to Town Meeting, but come if you can. It's a great day for democracy. Hope to see you on March 6. It's fun, and the lunch is terrific!

The Future of EMES Considered

Our January 25 Community Forum was well attended. A special thanks to the teachers and staff that volunteered to serve a delicious spaghetti dinner!

We had a brief presentation on "How Students Learn Today," which showed how teachers are adapting a more collaborative and interactive approach in order to engage students and help them develop skills that will be critical in their adult work and lives. This affects the kind of spaces a school needs for teachers to be most effective. These changes are reflected in the preliminary options that TruexCullins presented for bringing our building up to code and our learning environment up to date. We had a lot of great input from the community that night, and the discussion continued during the Community Design Day on January 28. We appreciate your participation in this process.

Please save March 14, the date for our next Community Forum, when TruexCullins will present the final draft proposal. This will be the key time to suggest any changes to the design before the cost estimates are refined in advance of an anticipated bond vote in May. The Facilities Committee is also preparing a long-range maintenance plan for EMES, tax impact information for EM residents, student projections, and answers to other questions you have asked.

Surveys and discussions have confirmed that residents believe EMES is a very important part of our community. The Facilities Committee can use more help involving everyone in this very important community decision about the school's future. To learn more about how to help, contact Flor Diaz-Smith, Facilities Committee Chair, at 249-2279 or diazsmith.flor@gmail.com. You can also visit the school Facebook page or drop a note at the school office.

The proposed building options and other background information are available on the School website www.emontpelierschool.org, under the Facilities Committee tab.

EMES Facilities Committee



ALEX BROWN

Join Us for Lunch on Town Meeting Day

Town Meeting potluck lunch has become a wonderful tradition in East Montpelier.

Join us and catch up with old friends and meet new neighbors. Here's how it works: bring a dish to share—salad, main dish, bread, or dessert. Bring enough food for four times as many people as in your group. This is a true potluck.

If you can't possibly bring a dish to share, \$5.00 will buy you the best lunch you'll eat all year! We haven't run out of food yet, but please be mindful of the line behind you when filling your plate.

Dishes should be dropped off in the kitchen in the morning. Please remember to take your dish home with you. We are not responsible for dishes left at the school.

Being part of the kitchen crew is a great way to meet your neighbors or catch up with old friends. Volunteers are needed throughout the day. To volunteer, or for more information, contact Rachael Grossman at 223-3177.

Town Meeting 2012: Dollars and Sense

Most of the issues at Town/School Meeting revolve around how much money will be raised and spent by the Town and School District as they do their business. The Selectboard is asking taxpayers to raise \$1,446,639.75 for usual town operations, up from \$1,214,222 last year. In addition, they are recommending that \$50,000 be added to the Capital Reserve Fund. The School Board is seeking to adopt a budget not to exceed \$3,295,273 up from last year's \$3,183,814.

There are a number of special articles on the Town Warning that will be of interest to all. Included in those are:

- Should the Fire Department budget (EMFD, Inc. is an independent, nonprofit entity that provides fire, ambulance, and emergency services to the Town) be presented as separate article(s) on the warning or continue to be a line item in the general selectboard budget?
- For discussion: Shall the Town consider a process of strategic disinvestment in roads and other infrastructure that is at risk of severe damage from natural disasters?
- Does the Town support asking the U.S. Congress to propose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to overturn the recent Supreme Court decision in the case of Citizen's United, which said that money is political speech and corporations possess the rights of persons?

Check your Town Report and come to discuss these issues and others and also meet the candidates for office at the pre-meeting forum on Saturday, March 3, and then finally at Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 6.

East Montpelier Fire District #1 One-Time Tax Sought

By Steve Gilman, Chair Prudential Committee

Re-elected to the Prudential Committee of the Fire District at its January annual meeting, Rubin Bennett continues to serve as "Collector," Ed Burgess as "Clerk" and Steve Gilman as "Chair." Loretta Bresette was again elected to the role of "Treasurer." On March 14, 2012, members of the Fire District will vote on a one-time tax of \$20 per each connection (customer) to the existing Crystal Springs Water System. We anticipate raising about \$2,300 for the purpose of opening an account with a local financial institution for operational expenses and in preparation for receiving funding (long-term loan for Feasibility Study), from the State of Vermont Water Supply.

Similar to the way most municipal and public schools operate, the Fire District will seek a short-term loan from a lending institution in anticipation of the loan from the State of Vermont. We have received an informal endorsement of our application pending final approval by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank.

As always, we welcome your thoughts, comments, and questions. Thank you to the volunteers who continue to give their time to build this organization and to those who have offered their support! Please visit www.emfiredistrict.org for more information.

Know Your Candidates

Descriptions taken largely from the VLCT Resource Manual and Vermont Law

Town and School District Moderator (*elected separately; may be one or two individuals*) one 1-year term: The moderator is the presiding officer of municipal and school meetings and shall decide questions of votes taken, except if Australian ballot is used. The moderator shall preserve order in the conduct of business and meetings.

No candidates

Town Clerk (*one 3-year term*): The Town Clerk carries out many of the operational roles of the Town Office, including recording, preserving, and certifying public documents, administering oaths of office, complying with public information requests, posting notices on the Town's bulletin board, running the local elections, maintaining the grand list, selling fish and game licenses, issuing marriage licenses and licensing animals. The Town Clerk may assume unofficial duties as agreed to with the Selectboard.



TERRY J. ALLEN

Teresa "Terri" Conti: I have served the Town of East Montpelier as Clerk and Treasurer for the last six years. I have seen many changes within this Town which I have called home for almost 18 years. Before being elected as an officer in 2006, I began as Assistant Town Clerk and Treasurer in 2002. Over the

years, I experienced many challenges, and I have strived to maintain the integrity of the positions which I have been elected to throughout this time. I continue to define the serving of our Town as Clerk and Treasurer an honor and a privilege. I would appreciate the support to carry on.

Town Treasurer (*one 3-year term*): The Town Treasurer is responsible for keeping the Town's accounts, investing money received by the Town (with the approval of the legislative body), keeping a record of the taxes voted, and paying orders drawn on him or her by officials authorized by law to draw orders on town accounts. The Treasurer must work with the auditors to settle town accounts prior to the annual meeting, and he or she is often called upon to provide the Selectboard with information about Town finances. The Town Treasurer acts as the Town School Treasurer unless a separate School Treasurer is elected by the School District voters.

Teresa "Terri" Conti: See statement under Town Clerk



TERRY J. ALLEN

Donald B. Welch: Town affairs for East Montpelier have become more complex over the years. The dual roles of the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer have been served well by a single person for many years. However, I feel now is the time to separate the two positions enabling the person in each position to

focus more closely on his/her responsibilities. In recent years, our auditors have suggested several changes to the financial practices of the Town. Many of them have been implemented, including tightening our internal controls. There are additional recommendations that I would like to investigate further to find how they might work for East Montpelier. One such recommendation is a change in the Town's accounting basis from modified-cash to accrual.

I have lived in East Montpelier with my family since 1969. East Montpelier is a wonderful town in which to live with many friends and neighbors putting in untold hours to keep the Town running. I retired from National Life as an actuary. The next six years, I worked as a business consultant in the insurance industry. For the past nine years, I have been Treasurer of Bethany Church in Montpelier. I served the Town for many years on the Financial Advisory Committee and served two years as Town Auditor, resigning to take a Selectboard position. I did not run for re-election to the Selectboard this past year, electing instead to focus on the financial aspects of the Town. I was appointed Assistant Treasurer last spring and continue to serve in that capacity.

Selectboard Member (*one 3-year term; one 2-year term*): Selectboard members are responsible for general supervision of the affairs of the Town and are responsible for seeing that all duties, not assigned by law to any particular officer, are carried out. The Selectboard convenes Town Meetings and may enact ordinances and rules that regulate areas such as roads, traffic, waste disposal, animals, and nuisances.



TERRY J. ALLEN

Seth Gardner, 3-year term: As an incumbent in the two-year EM Selectboard position, I am now a candidate for the 3-year position. To those who don't know me, I've lived in East Montpelier for over 25 years, and I own and operate the McKnight Farm on Snow Hill Road. The McKnight Farm is a historical

dairy farm now operated as an organic dairy operation with 250 milk cows and many other farm products.

Thank you, East Montpelier community, for giving me the opportunity to be on the Selectboard for the last two years. As an active participant in Town business, from serving as payroll administrator, chairman of the roads policy committee, and strong involvement in many other issues facing the Town, it's rewarding to serve the community. I think my involvement in Town affairs has been positive for the Town, and I've learned a tremendous amount about grass roots democracy. I would like to continue to work on the many projects brought forth to the Selectboard. I hope I have your vote in the upcoming election at Town Meeting, and please feel free to call me with your concerns and questions. 223-1370 (h), 272-3478 (c).

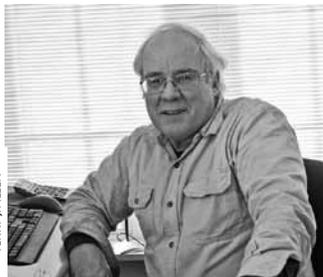


TERRY J. ALLEN

Steven Sparrow, 2-year term: I have lived in East Montpelier most of my life. My earlier years were spent at Sparrow Farm. I was employed by Lylehaven Farm for over twenty years, and I am owner of Back Forty Beef. I have experience in financial responsibility and long-term goals. It would be my privilege to serve

the town with a seat on the Selectboard. Thank you for your consideration.

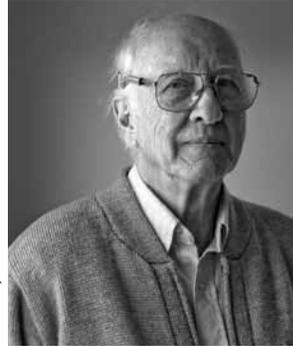
Lister (one 3-year term): Listers are responsible for determining the value of the real and personal property in town. This is the value the Selectboard or the Town will use to set a tax rate necessary to raise the money to operate the Town in the next year. It is also the basis for the determination of the property wealth of the municipality for purposes of setting state education property taxes.



TERRY J. ALLEN

Ross Hazel: I have enjoyed working as a lister for the Town of East Montpelier for nine years and I hope to serve as a lister for the Town in the years to come.

Auditor (one 3-year term; one 2-year term): Town Auditors are responsible for examining and adjusting the accounts of all Town and Town School District officers and all other persons authorized by law to draw orders on the Town treasurer. Secondly, they are to report their findings in writing to the legal voters of the Town.



TERRY J. ALLEN

David Grundy, 3-year term: I have lived on Clark Road since 1971 and currently serve as Town Health Officer, Chair of the Board of Civil Authority, and Chair of the East Montpelier Energy Committee.

I believe that it is vitally important that our Town finances are maintained according to Vermont state law and currently accepted accounting practices. Contrary to what many might believe, the duties of the auditor run throughout the year, not only when an annual audit is performed. The auditors form an important link between the Town Treasurer, the Town Administrator, and the members of the Town Selectboard.

I believe I am qualified for this position as I have, at various times, served as treasurer and auditor for my church and as treasurer of both a local business and a nonprofit organization. I am conscientious about any task I take on, and I believe I would serve the town well. I appreciate your support on Town Meeting Day.



TERRY J. ALLEN

Sally Longhi, 2-year term: As a 42-year resident of East Montpelier, I have had much experience reading town reports and realize how important the auditors are to that process. I owned my own business in Montpelier for 15 years and understand how vital accountability is to making good business decisions. I have recently

retired from Casella Waste Systems where I worked with customer billing on a daily basis. I feel that my years at Casella and my previous business experience will be helpful in this office. I plan to have the time to be of service to this office and I would appreciate your vote.

Continued on Page 8

Get Your Girl Scout Cookies

Several Girl Scout troops in East Montpelier will be selling their cookies at the following locations in the near future:

- February 25 at Tractor Supply from 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
- February 25 at the Berlin Mall from 9 a.m.–6 p.m.
- March 6 at Town Meeting day from 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
- March 10 at Berlin Mall near Walmart from 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
- March 10 at Tractor Supply from 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
- March 24 at Shaw's in Berlin from 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Town Offices

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651
Phone: 802-223-3313
Office Hours: Mon–Thurs 9 AM–5 PM
Friday 9 AM–12 PM

Town Clerk/Treasurer: Terri Conti
eastmonttct@comcast.net

Town Administrator: Bruce Johnson
eastmontadmin@comcast.net

Zoning Administrator: Dina Bookmyer-Baker
eastmontza@comcast.net

Collector of Delinquent Taxes: Karen Gramer
karengramer@comcast.net

Fire Permits: EMFD 225-6247

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

2nd Constable: Paul Haynes 223-1651

Listers: Rob Chickering, Putnam Clayton, Ross Hazel
223-3313 x206, eastmontlstr@comcast.net

Health Officer: Dave Grundy 476-4300

Service Officer: Rachael Grossman
223-3177

Selectboard

Bruce Johnson, Chair
savage1@pshift.com

Carl Etnier	Peter Hill
Seth Gardner	Casey Northrup

Planning Commission

Rick Hopkins, Chair, 229-4375

Development Review Board

Richard Curtis, Chair
rcurtis841@comcast.net

U-32 Jr./Sr. High School

Ginny Burley gburley@u32.org
Emily Goyette egoyette@u32.org

Elementary School

Rubin Bennett, Chair
rbennett@thatitguy.com

Andrea Colnes	Trevor Lewis
Stephen Looke	Flor Diaz Smith

State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032
twk@tonyklein.com

Town Weathervane

MILESTONES

Births:

- Samuel Joseph Nance, son, born on Nov. 12, 2011, to Jennifer Gannon Nance & Bryant Nance, grandson of Robin & Glenn Gannon
- Leopold Jack Church Stiles, son, born Nov. 29, 2011, to Matthew Stiles & Teal Church
- Carys Noelle Wood, daughter, born on Dec. 8, 2011, to Julie Elizabeth & Jason Daniel Wood
- Wyatt Allen Lunde, son, born on Dec. 13, 2011, to Meeghan Amanda Lynch & Gunnar Westcott Lunde
- Brianna Bailey Smith, daughter, born on Jan. 16, 2012, to Shannon Megan Rangow Smith & Charles Alan Smith

Marriages:

- Nora Ann Duane & Peter Michael Moksimow, Nov. 24, 2011
- Sandra Grace Moseley & Joshua Brandon Pickel, Nov. 28, 2011

Deaths:

- Linda M. LaFlower, died Dec. 9, 2011, spouse of David LaFlower
- David Alfred Plouffe, died Jan. 28, 2012, spouse of Kathleen Malone
- Robert Alvin Vivian, died Jan. 20, 2012, father of Karen LaChance

Property Transfers:

- Douglas J. Hill to Town of East Montpelier, Right-of-way, Pine Hill Rd. To Town of East Montpelier, Right-of-way, Boulder Ridge Rd.:
- Ralf H. & Mari Schaarschmidt
- Shane & Martha Oakes
- Timothy R. & Gail V. Groth
- John K. & Sharon C. Astle
- Jon & Linda Hutchins
- Robert H. & Rhoda B. Chickering

- Earl J. Montague to Earl J. Montague & Arthur M. Montague, 31 acres & dwelling, Putnam Rd.
- Julie Jennings to Bernadette G. Cleland & Albert R. Miller, 40 acres & dwelling, Dodge Rd.
- Nena M. Renfrew to Enid & David Angstreich, 1.34 acres & dwelling, Fair Rd.
- Stephan Isabelle & Serge Isabelle to Stephan Isabelle & Angie Pratt, 5.30 acres & dwelling, East Montpelier Rd.
- Adam & Lisa Woodworth to George & Shannon Wilson, 1.93 acres & dwelling, VT14
- Douglas & Corine Nicholson to State of VT, VTrans, 0.08 acres & dwelling, US2 village
- Joyce Parker to Joyce Parker & Clint Cliche, 1 acre & dwelling, US2 village
- James C. Blouin to Brian E. & Vallerie H. Morse, 14.62 acres & dwelling, Brazier Rd.
- Kenneth Persin & Milton Persin to Milton Persin & Beatrice Persin, 63 acres, Quaker Hill Rd.
- Sarah L. Jordan to William B. Jordan, 10.60 acres & dwelling, Horn of the Moon
- Justin & Erin Guarriello to Diane Fortin, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Donna G. Harriman to Bernard J. Harriman, 3.69 acres & dwelling, Towne Hill Rd.
- Charles Holt to Armand J. LaQuerre & Betty L. MacDuff, 2.04 acres, VT145
- Alberta R. Pacini, Estate of, to Gary & Lori Delphia, 32.58 acres & dwelling, Guyette Rd.
- Robert D. Robinson III to Delia B. Robinson, 2.35 acres & dwelling, Sparrow Farm Rd.
- Pavel Cherkasov to Jennifer Canfield, 16% interest, 41 acres & dwelling, life estate, Sparrow Farm Rd.
- Eileen C. Morrison to Win Turner & Geoff Beyer, 7.17 acres & dwelling, Dillon Rd



Visit with the Armchair Traveler

The Four Corners Schoolhouse's "Armchair Traveler" spring event will feature Sandal Cate: "Traveling to Nicaragua with a Purpose" on Sunday, April 22 at 3 p.m. Many people in central Vermont have another "family" in Nicaragua whom they've met through "Planting Hope." Join Sandal for a visual tour of the culture of rural Nicaragua with lessons about building cultural bridges. The talk will include some natural history as well. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Town Weathervane

EAST MONTPELIER SELECTBOARD

December 5, 2011

Motions Passed:

- to sign the contract with Front Porch Forum
- to adopt the Basic Emergency Operations Plan for East Montpelier as of 12/5/11
- to set the HSA payments as they were: \$2,000 single and \$4,000 family; paid 50% on 1/1, 25% on 5/1 and 25% on 9/1 and set the stipend at 25% of single payer premium
- to accept the Park and Ride proposal from VTTrans for a federally funded project
- to approve as amended minutes from 11/21/11
- to appoint Michael Dworkin as Town and School Moderator for the March 2012 Town/School Meeting
- to authorize the Chair to sign the proposal from All Seasons for \$2,509.00

December 12, 2011

Approved a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters

December 19, 2011

Public Hearing on Proposed Sign Regulation Amendments: no member of the public present

Regular Meeting

Motions Passed:

- to adopt the proposed sign regulations
- to authorize the Chair to sign the letter of intent being sent to Ray Doherty, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer
- to authorize the Chair to sign the Business Card Resolution Form for Peoples Bank
- to approve the request from the Gully Jumpers to use the four requested sections of town roads
- to accept the report of the Funding Request Committee as presented
- to approve The Kellogg-Hubbard Library's request to be placed on the town meeting ballot
- to authorize the Board Chair to sign a letter on the behalf of the SB, requesting more

information and more public hearings on the proposed merger of CVRPC and CVEDC with copies to be sent to all other towns in the region

- to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter
- to accept the resignation of road crew employee, Bruce Campbell, effective 1/3/12
- to approve, as presented, minutes of 11/28/11
- to approve, as amended, minutes of 12/5/11 and 12/12/11.
- to authorize the Chair to sign the proposal from ASUF for \$4,458.00

January 2, 2012

Motions Passed:

- to approve, as presented, minutes of 12/19/11
- to adopt a policy that the annual HAS payments for employees leaving or joining the benefit program are pro-rated on a monthly basis

January 9, 2012

Motions Passed:

- to authorize the Chair to sign the legal authorization letter to Town Attorney Bruce Bjornlund
- to adopt the Town of East Montpelier Fund Balance Policy
- to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters
- to offer a full-time position, at \$16/hour, on the town road crew to Craig Seadeek of Worcester, Vermont

PLANNING COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The following motions were approved:

- to approve minutes of 10/20/11 as amended
- to approve minutes of 11/3/11 as amended

December 1, 2011

Approved a motion to support the Selectboard concept of a stipend for the elected members of the Planning Commission

December 15, 2011

No motions approved at this meeting.

EMES SCHOOL BOARD

October 19, 2011

The following motions were approved:

- to accept the minutes of 9/19/11
- to accept the Financial Report
- to table the action to approve the Contract for Michael Levine, pending approval from Central Office, and to authorize Rubin Bennett to sign this contract, once approved by Central Office
- to approve the contract as presented for TruexCullin in the amount of \$37,300
- to approve the Audit Report for FY11

December 7, 2011

The following motions were approved:

- to accept the minutes of 11/16/11 with edits
- to approve the athletic coaches as presented
- to approve the board orders as presented

December 11, 2011

The following motions were approved:

- to accept the minutes of 11/21/11
- to accept the minutes of 12/8/11
- to accept the Board Orders
- to accept the Financial Report
- to accept the early retirement application, with appreciation and congratulations, of Chichi Barrett

December 19, 2012

The following motions were approved:

- to accept the minutes of 11/21/11
- to approve minutes of 11/8/11
- to approve Board Orders
- to accept the Financial Report
- to approve the Interim Action Plan

Central Vermont Humane Society



(802) 476-3811
info@cvhumane.com
www.cvhumane.com

Tuesday - Friday: 1pm - 6pm Saturday: 11am - 4pm
1589 VT Route 14S East Montpelier, VT 05651

Thank you *Signpost* supporters

Contributions are always welcome. Please mail them to:
PO Box 184, East Montpelier, VT 05651

Richard & Alice Angney
Joyce Bean
Kendal & Ruth Frost

Harriet Haggett
Robert & Lois Webster

Know Your Candidates *(continued from page 5)*

Trustee for Public Funds *(one 3-year term; one 2-year term):* The Trustee is given responsibility for managing public funds. In actuality, this is an inactive position in East Montpelier and other towns. In East Montpelier the position has been commonly held by the Town Treasurer who exercises this responsibility as Treasurer.

Teresa “Terri” Conti, 3-year term: See statement under Town Clerk

Donald B. Welch, 2-year term: See statement under Town Treasurer

Town Law Agent *(one 1-year term):* As in most Vermont towns, this is an inactive office in East Montpelier. Although statute provides that an agent to prosecute and defend suits shall be elected, agents have no independent authority to act.

No candidates

Town Grand Juror *(one 1-year term):* As in most Vermont towns, this is an inactive office in East Montpelier; duties have been taken over by the State’s Attorney. The Grand Juror is responsible for inquiring into and providing information to the proper authorities of criminal offenses that occur in their town.

No candidates

First Constable *(one-1-year term):* East Montpelier has voted to prohibit constables from exercising any law enforcement authority. The constables serve as animal control officers and may be called on to serve civil or criminal process and to aid first responders when necessary.



TERRY J. ALLEN

Sandy F. Conti: I have resided in the Town of East Montpelier for more than 20 years. I have served the town as First Constable as well as the animal control officer for the past five years. I have responded to a variety of calls and different situations. I enjoy giving back to the community especially as a member of the East Montpelier Fire and Rescue Department. I would appreciate your support to continue serving as First Constable.

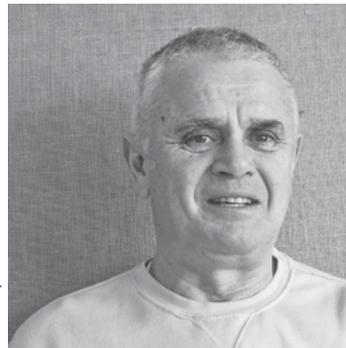
Second Constable *(one 1-year term):* Same as First Constable



TERRY J. ALLEN

Paul Haynes: I have been a resident of East Montpelier for the last 14 years and I have been Second Constable for eight years. As Second Constable I have gotten to know many people in town and some of your pets even more. This is a position that is always interesting with every call and situation. I look forward to helping where I can in the years to come. Thank you for your support.

Planning Commissioner *(three 3-year terms):* The Planning Commission is responsible for preparing and maintaining a current Town Plan and Zoning regulations. It reviews significant developments and makes recommendations on issues including land development, transportation, economic and social development, historic, wetland and scenic preservation.



TERRY J. ALLEN

John “Jack” Pauly: I would like to be re-elected to the Planning Commission to help in the revising of our Town Plan and other projects that may come along. Having lived in East Montpelier for 35 years, I want to keep East Montpelier the wonderful town that it is.



TERRY J. ALLEN

Jean Vissering: I’ve now served on the Planning Commission for four years. The PC recently sent out a citizen survey, and the enthusiasm of residents for the Town was heartening. As we update our Town Plan I want to ensure that we retain what people love about East Montpelier, but also capitalize on the enthusiasm for moving forward in areas like enhancing our villages as places to live, work, and do business; supporting our local farmers; and bringing in new energy and ideas for the future of our community.

No candidate for third Planning Commission position

Cemetery Commissioner (one 5-year term): *The cemetery commissioners are responsible for the care and management of the Town's cemeteries.*



TERRY J. ALLEN

Pauline Coburn: When I first ran for the Cemetery Commission fifteen years ago I did so with the intent to help make some improvements in the appearance and operation of the Town cemeteries. During these years we have fenced the Doty, Quaker, and Peck cemeteries; painted the Cate and Cutler fences; and refurbished

the fences at the East Village and Cutler cemeteries. Trees and brush have been removed from a number of the cemeteries, and efforts have been made to control the poison ivy at the Peck cemetery. There is the never-ending task of keeping the stones cleaned and the grass mowed and trimmed. I enjoy working with the other members of the commission. We make a great team!

I moved to East Montpelier in 1975 with Dave and our family, and have made it my home. For 18 years I worked as the Assistant Town Clerk. My first term on the Commission was while I was at the Town Office. More work remains to be done and I would like to help complete some of this.

School Director (one 3-year term EMES; one 2-year term EMES): *School Directors are responsible for managing the general affairs of the school district by developing policies and hiring able administrators to assure the soundness of the physical assets as well as the educational content and methods presented in student classrooms. They are responsible for convening School District Meetings.*



TERRY J. ALLEN

Flor Diaz-Smith, 3-year term: I am seeking re-election to the EMES School Board. If re-elected, I would continue to combine my love for children and people and my professional architectural experience with my passion for education to best serve the school and our community.

Education is the most important gift we give to our children. I value and understand the importance of collaboration between the board, superintendent, teachers, staff, and parents for the one common goal: what is best for our students. It is not easy to represent all voices in the community, but I am a patient listener and a good communicator.

I volunteered on the school's facilities committee in 2006 and was appointed to the Board last year. I volunteered for the

principal search committee last year and am now on the superintendent search committee. Also, I have a design studio and do residential, small commercial, and interior design.

I live with my husband Dan and our children, Mia (9) and Lincoln (6) on Horn of the Moon Road. We have a small family farm, raising beef cows, keeping chickens, and sugaring in the spring.

Thank you for your consideration, you can contact me at: 802-223-1113 or diazsmith.flor@gmail.com



Priscilla Gilbert, 2-year term: I have been an East Montpelier resident for 9 years and am proud to have two children in kindergarten at EMES. I am an active volunteer at the Old Meeting House, on the EM Recreation Board, and I teach in the Four Winds program in my children's classes.

I am a candidate for the EMES School Board because I want to ensure that our community school continues to provide a strong curriculum that is both steeped in classic education and engages our children with the community and world around them. I believe that strong education will allow our youth to become successful in their future careers and help them contribute to a community whose vitality is so dependent on its members.

I bring extensive financial experience to the East Montpelier School Board both through my role as an independent financial adviser, and from nearly a decade working in development and financial management in the nonprofit arena. These skills will help me to evaluate the school not only from the perspective of a parent and community member, but also in terms of the long-term fiscal health of our school and our community. This is especially critical now as we contemplate a major investment in our school facility. I look forward to the opportunity to serve our community in this new capacity,



ALEX BROWN

From our State Representative

Many of you have contacted me with questions about what we are doing in the legislature. I appreciate hearing from you. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any concerns, questions, or ideas. If you are having trouble getting service from any state agency, please call me. I am easily reached by e-mail at twk@tonyklein.com or by cell phone at 802.793.6032.

Getting Around in the East Village

The Town of East Montpelier, in cooperation with the Vermont Agency of Transportation, is studying the feasibility and costs of constructing sidewalks and other safety enhancements within East Montpelier Village. The Town is using a Transportation Enhancement Grant to fund the study and has retained the services of DuBois & King, Inc. to carry it out.

The Selectboard and Village Committee encourage all citizens to provide input on the project alternatives at this critical juncture of the project. Please attend the public meeting on Thursday, March 8, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the community room at the EMFD in the village.

Finding Temporary Housing Options

by Rachael Grossman, Town Service Officer

It happened again the other night. It wasn't the coldest night of the year, but cold enough with the temperature in the teens. The woodstove was cranking out delicious heat and I was cozy on the couch with a cup of tea and some chocolate. The warm, fuzzy feeling was broken when a friend called asking about shelter options for someone she knew who had suddenly found herself homeless. When I hung up the phone, I was no longer quite so comfortable. Once again, I was reminded that while I bask in warmth, others go without.

The sad fact is that there are few short-term shelter options available other than the Good Samaritan Haven in Barre. Sometimes a church or organization will pay for a couple of nights in a motel, but beyond that, you are on your own if you suddenly find yourself with no roof over your head. Subsidized housing is available, but it can be years before your name gets near the top of the list.

I would like to brainstorm some ideas about how we might work together to create emergency shelter options in East Montpelier. This is not about creating a plan to accommodate overflow from the Good Samaritan Haven; rather, a strategy for temporarily housing people our community members know either directly or indirectly. There will be a meeting at the Four Corners Schoolhouse on Tuesday, April 3, at 7 p.m. I have invited Kim Woolaver, director of the Good Samaritan Shelter to join us. She will give us an overview of the services available in central Vermont and discuss issues involved in inviting someone into your home. Please consider attending this meeting (there will be chocolate); right now I am looking for ideas rather than a working group. I can be reached at 223-3177 or garlicmountain@gmail.com.

Planning Commission Updating the Town Plan

The Town Plan is a working document that is updated every five years. The Planning Commission (PC) is currently working on the latest revision, which is due in June 2013. The 2008 Town Plan can be seen at the East Montpelier *Signpost* website (<http://emsignpost.com/EMTownPlan08.pdf>) and copies are available at the East Montpelier Municipal Building.

Using responses to a citizen survey sent to all households a year ago, Planning Commission members along with other townspeople with knowledge and expertise in a number of relevant areas are working on updating the Plan chapters.

The PC will sponsor a series of public meetings in May and June of this year to review the first draft of a new plan. East Montpelier residents are encouraged to review the draft town plan document once completed, participate during the meetings, and help with finalizing the document. Look for further announcements and details about these meetings in future editions of the East Montpelier *Signpost*, on the *Signpost* website and on FrontPorchForum.org (an email based newsletter now available to town residents).

The Town Plan is an important document, some portions of which are required by state law. It is an expression of who we are, where we've been and the direction we want to head as a town. In addition it

- provides the basis and rationale for zoning and other land use controls and regulations
- contains a reflection on where the town currently stands on a number of topics and issues
- contains statements regarding where the town wants to be (maybe even how to get there) in the future (5, 10, or more years)
- provides an accounting of progress or change

The East Montpelier Town Plan is about our town and its future. The PC welcomes and needs your involvement!

Contact any of the nine PC members identified below.

Rick Hopkins	Jean Vissering	Kim Watson
Scott Hess	Mark Lane	Jack Pauly
Tom Pierce	Gene Troia	Ken Santor

Signpost Readers: Stay Up to Date Online

In the past, *Signpost* webmaster Jennifer Boyer has been notifying readers via email every time there is a change on the *Signpost* website. Since we're always on the lookout to simplify, avoid duplication, and try to reach more people, we have decided to use Front Porch Forum for these notifications. So if you haven't yet signed up for FPF, go to FrontPorchForum.com and become a player.



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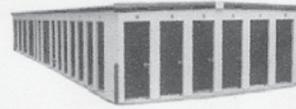
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 - *Signpost* archive
 - Organizations in town

Volume XXII—Number Four
 March/April 2012

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CALENDAR & NOTICES

EVENTS

- Sat. Mar. 3, 8:30 a.m.** Town/School Forum coffee hour and informal information session on mechanics of Town Meeting, EMES
- Sat. Mar. 3, 9:30 a.m.–12 p.m.** Town/School Meeting Forum, EMES
- Tues. Mar. 6, 9:30 a.m.** Town/School Meeting Day, EMES, Australian ballot voting 7 a.m.–7 p.m.
- Wed. Mar. 7, 6:30 p.m.** PTNO meeting, EMES Art Room
- Thurs. Mar. 8, 7 p.m.** Discuss sidewalks and other alternatives for East Village, EMFD
- Fri. Mar. 9–Apr. 20, 1:00–2:30 p.m.** (6 weeks), parenting education, Orchard Valley School, Rte 14N, for info call 802-456-7400
- Wed. Mar. 14, 6:30 p.m.** Future of EMES facility, EMES
- Thurs. Mar. 15 and Apr. 12, 6:30–8:30 p.m.** Learn about Waldorf education grades 1-8, Orchard Valley School, Rte 14N, for info call 802-456-7400
- Fri. Mar. 16, 4:30–6 p.m.** Learn about Waldorf early education, Child’s Garden Center, Montpelier, for info call 802-456-7400
- Wed. Mar. 21, 6–8 p.m.** Rabies clinic, EMFD village station
- Sat. Mar. 31, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.** Needle Felting Workshop, Orchard Valley School, Rte 14N, for info call 802-456-7400
- Tues. Apr. 3, at 7 p.m.** Discuss temporary housing options in EM, Four Corner Schoolhouse
- Sun. Apr. 22, 3 p.m. 4-CSH** Armchair Traveler Sandal Cate, 4 Corner Schoolhouse
- Sat. May 5, 9a.m.–3 p.m.** Green Up Day roadside trash pick-up at EMES. Call Paul Erlbaum at 223-3177 for more information
- Sat. May 5, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.** Free lunch served to all Green Up-ers at EMES.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Wed. Feb. 29, 5 p.m.** at town office, last day to register to vote
- Mon. Mar. 5** Last day to obtain absentee ballot from Town Clerk
- Mon. Apr. 2** Last day to register dogs. Up-to-date rabies vaccination required
- Tues. May 15, 5 p.m.** Second property tax installment due to avoid 8% penalty and 1% interest

WWW.EMSIGNPOST.COM

Check it out: **www.emsignpost.com**. East Montpelier announcements welcome. To be notified of new announcements, join the email list. Look under “contacts” for Jennifer Boyer and give her your email address.

A great way to know what is happening in town.

Deadline for Next Issue: April 1, 2012, to Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, signpostbcp@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	6:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Development Review Board (DRB)	1st & 3rd Tues	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wed	6:00 p.m.	U-32 School
Elementary School Board (EMES)	3rd Mon	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School
East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)	Every Tues	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
East Montpelier Fire District #1	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
Recreation Board	2nd Mon	7:15 p.m.	Elementary School
Conservation Fund Advisory Committee	as needed	7:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
East Montpelier Historical Society	3rd Mon	7:00 p.m.	Town Office/East Calais
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	Four Corners School
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)	2nd Wed	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School, Art Room