

# EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXV—Number One

September/October 2014

FROM FUN, FIRE-FIGHTING, AND FINANCE TO HISTORY, GOVERNANCE, AND CONSERVATION

## Something for Everyone

*One of the best features of living in a small town is how easy it is to get involved in any number of activities...provided you know what's available and whom to contact. Thus, this issue: a resource for those new to town and for all of us who probably aren't aware of just how many different groups are engaged in all manner of enjoyment and good works.*



David Coburn, Chris Reed (standing) Teresa Doyle, Sandal Cate, (seated),

## Connecting Past & Present

**EAST MONTPELIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** If you are a relative newcomer to town you may feel that you have no connection to the town's past. However, the connections that you have might surprise you. Do you know the person for whom the road you live on was named? Some but not all were named for early settlers. Others were named for prominent citizens

*Continued on page 10*

## Work and Fun on the Trail



Mary Stone, Sue Chickering, National Trails Day

**COMING SOON**

**EMES Open House October 3, 4 – 8 p.m.**

**Celebrate the completion of our "new" school**

**Tour the building, meet our educators**

**EAST MONTPELIER TRAILS COMMITTEE:** East Montpelier currently has approximately 10 miles of trails used for hiking, biking, skiing, and snowmobiling. Most of these trails were developed by the town's very own non-profit East Montpelier Trails, Inc. (EMTI). EMTI was established in 1994 as a volunteer organization working to build and maintain a local network of trails with willing landowners.

*Continued on page 10*

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**Deadline for the  
next Signpost is  
Oct. 2**

## Top of the Signpost

Even those of us who have been in East Montpelier for some time were quite surprised by the wide variety of citizen groups we discovered when we did a little research. All those mentioned in this issue welcome anyone interested in discovering more about their interests and activities. Although this is not an all-inclusive list, it is a good introduction to many of the ways East Montpelier residents are working together to have fun while improving themselves and our community. Please check some out; and if you find nothing to interest you, start something new. A great way to meet people.

--Edie Miller



### The Signpost

**JOIN US IN SERVING EAST MONTPELIER:** Entering its 25th year, the *Signpost* was originated by volunteers as a means to foster a sense of community in East Montpelier and to help residents stay in touch with one another and general happenings in town. Every other month the *Signpost* is delivered free of charge to all EM residents and landowners. It is also available – even earlier – online; some folks choose to receive it that way rather than in the mail.

While we operate in a very informal and cooperative manner with everyone filling in as needed, the *Signpost* staff requires volunteers to do most of the same functions as are needed for any publication: planning for what content will appear; organizing and coordinating content and writers; writing, editing, layout designing, proofreading, operational oversight, and financial management. See the listing of volunteers on page two of each issue.

We differ from many publications in a couple of ways: while Signposters do some of the writing for the newsletter, we encourage townspeople to take on that role as often as possible. Also, we look to readers to suggest topics, people, and businesses to be featured. In other words, we look to the townspeople to help produce the product they want to read.

Please consider joining the ranks of *Signpost* volunteers either as an ongoing staff person or as a regular or periodic contributor. Also please share your ideas on how we can continue to strengthen the *Signpost* to better serve our community. Contact Edie Miller at signposteam@comcast.net or 229-0677.

## The Four Corners Schoolhouse Association

**A GATHERING PLACE:** In 1991 the last remaining one-room schoolhouse in East Montpelier was turned over to a group of citizens who created a non-profit organization to oversee its use and maintenance. The Four Corners Schoolhouse Association's mission is to add to East Montpelier's cherished rural character and sense of community by offering an inviting, accessible space for locals to gather. We host all sorts of educational, creative, and social events.

A few years ago we developed the Armchair Traveler Series which features the always-interesting slide shows, movies, and artifacts from the travels of our friends and neighbors. Last year we hosted a series of vibrant discussions among local farmers, gardeners, and plant pest experts. We schedule many different activities such as concerts, birthday parties, a summer Shakespeare day camp, the monthly community sing-along, pastel painting workshops in the spring, graduation parties, and going-away parties for beloved friends like Conrad and Anne Ormsbee. Several of our local clubs and service groups meet here. The world's best and funniest senior exercise group meets here twice a week.

We also maintain the building itself. Our board of directors gathers on the second Wednesday of each month (except for July and August) to tackle the challenges of keep-



ing an old schoolhouse functioning. We hire out some predictable work (snowplowing and sanding; summer mowing) but do most repairs and projects ourselves, such as the roof and foundation insulation extravaganza of 2011, 2012, and 2013.

Last year we dug a big trench to redirect water away from our foundation. We trim trees and plant flowers. We plan for fuel buys, electric bills, floor sanding, and painting. Some of us have served for more than a decade on this committee.

We enjoy thinking up ways to benefit our community and are eager to hear your ideas for interesting uses of the schoolhouse. For this little essay we chose to speak with one voice, which is just one indication of our delightful collegiality.

## Jean Cate Community Fund

**ENCOURAGING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY:** As a way of honoring Jean Cate, her husband, Wes Cate, set up a community fund with memorial monies. He recruited several people to be on a committee which would use the money to further Jean's passion to enhance the sense of community in East Montpelier. Jean started Rally Day and the *Signpost* as two major projects that would provide a greater feeling of community.

The mission of the committee is "to encourage and support community-building activities in East Montpelier." To this end, the committee continues to organize the Green Up Day lunch and the coffee hour before Town Meetings that provides information and discussion about how Town Meeting works.

Other projects of this committee included setting up a couple of "Informatories" about town business, updating the booklet *About East Montpelier*, supporting the beginning of the local food shelf, disseminating daffodil bulbs to be planted at the base of road-sign posts, and encouraging neighborhood potlucks. Some seed funding has been given to projects that the committee considers will make good contributions to the East Montpelier sense of community, most recently including Front Porch Forum.

If you are interested in joining the JCCF committee or in helping with its projects, please contact any one of its members: Paul Cate, Dave Coburn, Dave Grundy, Elaine Manghi, Norma Raymond, Deb Fillion, or Barbara Plooff.

## East Montpelier Fire Department

**THERE FOR US—24/7:** On August 16, the East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD) celebrated its 50th Anniversary of providing Fire and Emergency Medical Services. The core of its long-term success has been the willingness of local community members to volunteer their time, energy and support to these critical emergency services. Our neighbors in East Montpelier, Calais, and other nearby communities give countless hours of their personal time to protecting the lives and property of the residents of East Montpelier and Calais.

EMFD's fire and emergency medical service operations are comprised of a close-knit team of ordinary people who just happen to be willing to respond at all hours of the day and night when their neighbors need help. At times the job may seem thankless as we interact with people in what are often their most difficult times. However, if you ask anyone at EMFD, I think you would find there is no more rewarding experience.

Our members come to us from all walks of life. Some have family who were in the fire service, others always wanted to serve and now have available time. We find the public is often nervous about volunteering because they don't know much about firefighting and emergency medical services. We understand, and everyone at EMFD was new to this at one point in their lives. We spend most Tuesday evenings year-round training on fire and emergency medical skills; it's how we learn new skills, keep in practice with existing skills, and stay safe.

We invite you to stop by our Station at 54 Village Acres in East Montpelier Village any Tuesday evening between 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. to meet with us and discuss your interest in volunteering for fire and EMS or to ask questions and to tour the facility. Bring your kids too; we recognize that they are the firefighters and emergency medical technicians of the future. Feel free to call ahead to be sure we are available at 225-6245 or 225-6247.

## East Montpelier Fire District No. 1

**CLEAN DRINKING WATER FOR THE FUTURE:** The East Montpelier Fire District is all about safe, clean drinking water in the East Montpelier Village area. We are a small group of volunteers, completely unrelated to the East Montpelier Fire Department, who are also customers of the Crystal Springs Water Company. We have been exploring the possibility of taking over the water system's operations with its 115 village connections. A moratorium was imposed years ago on any new connections due to deficiencies in the system.

With the help of a state planning loan we have had the system evaluated and have been working for some time to negotiate a reasonable and sustainable purchase price for

the system, taking into consideration the necessary capital improvements needed after taking ownership. As of this time, we are quite a way from coming to an agreement on a purchase price.

If you are a registered voter in East Montpelier and also live within the Fire District boundaries and/or receive your drinking water from Crystal Springs, then you are automatically a voting member of the Fire District and may take part in our annual election of officers and other matters requiring a membership vote. We encourage active involvement by all members. Our meetings, held on the second Wednesday of each month, are warned at the Town Hall, Post Office and Dudley's Store. Contact Steve Gilman at [steve.gilman@comcast.net](mailto:steve.gilman@comcast.net).

## East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative

**COMMUNITY LIVING:** The East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative (EMSLI) was formed by local citizens concerned about the future for senior housing in East Montpelier. Though the future has not yet arrived, the need for senior housing will increase as the baby boomers advance in age. EMSLI is planning for a 16-unit apartment dwelling. Though this will not be sufficient to meet the future housing needs of seniors in our area, it is a start. Some seniors may want to live within the Barre-Montpelier municipalities, some near children who have moved away, and some to warmer climates. But there will be those who desire to live locally, closer to friends, family, and the community they have spent a lifetime nurturing. The current demand for senior housing is not pressing but it is the demand that will help us acquire funding. We have, therefore, begun talking to people of simi-

lar interest in the bordering town of Marshfield and have rewritten our bylaws to allow participation of other towns in EMSLI. This will give us a stronger voice as we approach funding sources.

EMSLI has a purchase and sales agreement for the back field across from the East Montpelier Home Center. We have the required building permit from the town, and a Letter of Intent from the Agency of Transportation that will allow access onto Route 2 after we receive an Act 250 permit. We currently have funding for the engineering services needed for the storm water and waste water permits, but are waiting to see if the E.M. Fire District will be able to purchase Crystal Springs. This will allow EMSLI to hook up to the water line that runs across the property. All the different hoops we have to jump takes time, but because we are working towards this goal now, we have that time. Interested people should contact Ross Hazel at 454-1255 or e-mail [rhazel@ezcloud.com](mailto:rhazel@ezcloud.com)

## Parent, Teacher, Neighbor Organization

**ENRICHING OUR SCHOOL:** At East Montpelier Elementary, the PTNO (Parent, Teacher, Neighbor Organization) is a group of parents, teachers, staff, and community members who strive to enhance the school experience for our children. We also host events that connect our community members to one another and the school.

Come to our meetings! The PTNO meets monthly to plan and discuss our ongoing and upcoming events and to consider current requests and/or needs. It's a great way to become more involved in the school lives of the children. Meetings typically last about one hour, and are held on the second Wednesday of the month at EMES, at 6:30 pm.

There are many ways to be involved with the PTNO and the programs we support. Here are a few:

- Attend a meeting! There is power in numbers, and better ideas come from better attendance. Plus, look for an exciting classroom representation system coming this fall!
- Volunteer! Get together with a friend and coordinate an event, sign up to help at an event or even to bring a snack.
- Be on our board! We have four positions in the PTNO; President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Being on the board is a fantastic way to ensure the success of the PTNO.
- Participate in our yearly fundraiser! Every fall we send home the annual PTNO fundraiser. We strive for this to



Still on time and on budget. Open house Oct. 3, 4-8 p.m.

be the only send-home fundraiser the PTNO has for the entire year. Your participation can make this a success and eliminate the need for additional fundraisers.

- Make a financial contribution! If fundraising just isn't your thing and you would rather make a financial gift to the PTNO, we're always appreciative.

The PTNO has supported many events, including the Fall Fundraiser, the Halloween Monster Mash, Gifts for Giving, R.I.F. (Reading Is Fundamental), Teacher Appreciation, Teacher Enrichment Grants, and the whole school Enrichment Program. Contact Sara Garland, 225-6075, [sara@red-garland.com](mailto:sara@red-garland.com).

### East Montpelier Charter Committee

**HOW SHOULD OUR TOWN WORK?** East Montpelier, like all Vermont municipalities, is governed by state law. Our early lawmakers, independent souls that they were, foresaw that "one-size" government might not fit the needs of each and every one of Vermont's 251 towns over time. They provided a way for individual towns to spell out in a charter certain aspects of local governance that might work better for them while not impinging on the rights or needs of other towns.

A charter is, then, an amendment to state law that applies to one town only and spells out specific ways in which that town would like to operate. A charter must be first approved by the town and then by the state legislature.

In April 2013, the East Montpelier selectboard created the East Montpelier Charter Committee and appointed 11 members to examine ways in which town government might work more effectively. From April through November, the

committee researched, gathered community input, deliberated, and reached consensus on a proposed charter for East Montpelier which was submitted to the selectboard in December. After the required public hearings, the charter was approved by the voters on Town Meeting Day 2014 and by the State legislature in May, 2014.

The charter is a living document meant to be reviewed and revised over time. With this in mind, the selectboard made the charter committee a standing committee which can be called upon at any time to consider possible charter changes. So, at the moment, the charter committee is not active, but no doubt will be called upon periodically over time.

If you are interested in local governance, are eager to learn, and want to make a difference in how your town operates, please consider joining the East Montpelier Charter Committee. For further information, contact Edie Miller – [signposteam@comcast.net](mailto:signposteam@comcast.net); or notify Town Administrator Bruce Johnson of your interest at [eastmontadmin@comcast.net](mailto:eastmontadmin@comcast.net) or 223-3313.

## 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:** Terri Conti  
eastmonttct@comcast.net

**Town Treasurer:** Don Welch  
eastmontr@comcast.net

**Town/Zoning Administrator:**  
Bruce Johnson, eastmontadmin@comcast.net  
Hours: Mon–Fri 9 AM–5 PM

**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

Seth Gardner, Chair  
sethbgardner@hotmail.com

Carl Etnier                      Steve Sparrow  
Kimberly Swazey              Casey Northrup

### Planning Commission

Jean Vissering, Chair, 223-3262

### Development Review Board

Richard Curtis, Chair  
rcurtis841@comcast.net

### U-32 Jr./Sr. High School

Kari Bradley kbradley@u32.org  
Emily Goyette egoyette@u32.org

### Elementary School

Rubin Bennett, Chair  
rbennett@thatitguy.com

Kimberly Kendall              Priscilla Gilbert  
Stephen Looke                  Flor Diaz-Smith

### State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032  
twk@tonyklein.com

## Town Weathervane

*Below are summaries of important issues at meetings. Complete minutes are available in the Town Office or online at the town and school websites.*

### MILESTONES

#### BIRTHS

- Ezra Culling Adams, son, born June 7, 2014, to Amy Cooper & Travis Adams
- Orin Ember Winans, son, born June 30, 2014, to Rae Ann Kelly & Jeremy Winans

#### DEATHS

- Clarence "Leo" Landry died July 6, 2014, spouse of Shirley Landry
- Nancy Strong died July 9, 2014, spouse of Fred Strong

#### MARRIAGES

- Renot Lopes & Stacy Rus, July 12, 2014
- Zackary Laramay & Fiona Moseley, July 12, 2014
- Blake Hutchins & Jamie Hackett, July 13, 2014

#### PROPERTY TRANSFERS

- Ronald Ferland to Rodney Asetline, mobile home & 1.10 acres, Codling Rd
- Stanley Pierce to Mark Ollmann, single family dwelling & 2.71 acres, Cherry Tree Rd
- Duffy Gardner & Krista Gardner to Chris Grimard, single family dwelling & 7 acres, Horn of the Moon Rd
- Christopher Grimard to Paul Eley & Sarah Waring, single family dwelling & 7 acres, Horn of the Moon Rd
- Michael & Maryse Boardman to Bridget McGough, single family dwelling & 1.6 acres, Vt14N
- Jana & John Bagwell to Jenna & Joshua Ryan, single family dwelling & 20 acres, Center Rd
- Michelle Harper to Catherine Taylor, 4.71 acres open land, Stoney Corners Rd
- Gary & Lori Delphia to Francis & Irene Tash, single

family dwelling & 1.42 acres, Guyette Rd

- Amy Thornton & David Kelly to Amy Thornton, single family dwelling & 12.13 acres, North St
- Sally Longhi Estate to Cynthia Wheeler & Donald Melcher, single family dwelling & 2.26 acres, Pine Ridge Rd
- Stephen & Andrew Ribolini to Christopher Lumbra, single family dwelling, residential new construction & 2 acres, County Rd
- Shirley Granger to Shirley M Granger Rev Family Trust, single family dwelling & 0.95 acres, Carleton Blvd
- Gail & Timothy Groth to Zachary Sullivan & Helen Wilbur, single family dwelling & 3.6 acres, Boulder Ridge Rd
- Mari & Ralf Schaarschmidt to Ralf Schaarschmidt II, single family dwelling & 8.7 acres, Boulder Ridge Rd
- Mary Morrison to Christopher & Patti Morrison, single family dwelling & 3.4 acres, US2
- Robert Phillips to John Clement & Callie Buck, 5.1 acres open land, Mays Way
- Donna Butler to James & Sally Olmsted, single family dwelling & 56.9 acres, Brazier Rd

### SELECTBOARD

#### May 19, 2014

Motions voted:

- to reappoint Brian Lusignan to the Conservation Fund Advisory Committee for a term ending March 2017
- to approve the EMFD purchase of a tanker truck at a cost not to exceed \$15,000..
- to approve a five year renewal for the certificate of approval for location of Montague salvage yard

- to authorize the expenditure of up to \$1,000 for topsoil on the recreation field
- to adopt the Town of East Montpelier CDL Drug & Alcohol Policy
- to approve FairPoint Communications' request to install improvements to its phone distribution equipment near 1320 Horn of the Moon Road
- to authorize Town Administrator (TA) Johnson to sign the Agreement for Consultant Engineering Services between the town and DuBois & King, Inc.
- to authorize TA to sign the excess weight permit for Haskins & Associates concrete, LLC

#### June 2, 2014

Special Meeting

- Discussed three road reclassifications under consideration
- Motions voted:
- to accept the quote for the life insurance, long term disability insurance, and short term disability insurance products offered through VLCT Health Trust and by Lincoln Financial Group, and to implement these benefits for eligible employees starting 7/1/2014
- to authorize Vice-chair Northrup to sign a letter to *Times Argus* reporter Amy Nixon concerning her records request for all email communication between Town Administrator Johnson and board members between 3/1/14 and 4/29/14 and to include an invoice for the produced records.
- to authorize Town Treasurer Don Welch to invest the \$50,000 corpus of the Carlton C. Smith fund on such terms as he deems appropriate

- to authorize the vice-chair to sign the Letter of Agreement between the town and the state for CAMA Cost Table Service
- to approve Access Permit Application #14-030, as presented, to relocate the curb cut for the Warner driveway

#### June 16, 2014

Special Meeting

Motion Passed:

- to authorize Town Administrator Johnson to sign the excess weight permits for Grandfield Masonry and Bellavance Trucking

#### June 23, 2014

Motions voted:

- to authorize Bruce Johnson to sign the VTrans grants for Gallison Hill Road and the Dodge Road culvert
- to authorize Seth Gardner to sign a special warrant to pay the invoice due on the new truck chassis
- to move \$25,000 listed in the FY14 budget as "Park and Ride Project," for use as a part of required cost match for sidewalk grant and as needed for other Village Grant projects
- to continue using NEMRC for remote payroll processing services for FY15 at a cost of \$5,200
- to authorize Bruce Johnson to sign the contract with the Central Vermont Humane Society to accept animals as per the current Stray Animal Holding Agreement through June 2015
- to name the spur road off Northwood Drive, serving apartments A, B, and C, "Southwood Drive"
- to designate the town office, the East Montpelier Post Office, and the East Montpelier Elementary School as the official places to post meeting agendas for town business
- to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter
- to set the FY15 wages and salaries at specific hourly or yearly levels for all town employees including road crew members, town clerk and assistants, recording secretary, listers, auditors, town treasurer, and town and zoning administrator.
- to give 40 hours of extra vacation to Denise Brown in recognition of services provided above and beyond her job description

#### July 7, 2014

Discussion items:

- PC members outlined proposed changes, most minor, with the exception of a change in the threshold for requiring a conditional use permit for groundwater withdrawal.



- paving alternatives for Vincent Flats Rd: will state consider class 2 status between US2 and Fairmont Farm?
- procedures for handling vicious and potentially vicious dogs: looked at possible changes to existing animal control ordinance
- procedures for complying with VT open meeting law requirements and public records requests

Motions voted:

- to authorize Seth Gardner to sign the memorandum to all East Montpelier boards, commissions, committees, and subcommittees, dated 7/7/14, on Vermont Open Meeting Law changes
- to sign the 2015 CAI Tax Map Maintenance Contract as proposed
- to support the EMFD 50th anniversary celebration with a contribution of \$500

### PLANNING COMMISSION

#### June 5, 2014

- 7:00: Public Hearing on proposed amendments to the East Montpelier Land Use & Development Regulations
- 7:50: regular PC meeting
- Continued work on the new flood hazard regulations with river corridor protection with help of Kim McKee of CVRPC
- requested Ms. McKee to draft some language to include in zoning regs regarding minor changes to existing permits.

#### June 19, 2014

Motions Passed:

- to submit to the selectboard the final revisions to the land use regulations with the amendments as of 6/5/14 and to recommend approval

#### July 10, 2014

- Continued work on the new flood hazard regulations with river corridor protection with help of Kim McKee of CVRPC
- heard report of ZA

### DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

#### April 15, 2014

Motions Voted:

- to approve Application #14-009 as submitted by Abigail Faulkner & Hobart

Guion to construct an L-shaped garage addition on their residential property located on Kelton Road

The DRB said goodbye and thank you to Gray Ricker for his service and welcomed to the newest member, Norman Hill.

#### May 6, 2014

Motions Voted:

- to accept Application #14-016, submitted by Tracy and Brian Phillips to construct a variety of improvements on their residential property
- to accept Application #14-041, submitted by Michelle and Andy Harper to develop a 3.5-acre lot owned by Steve Ribolini & Alan Lendway on US 2 into the new home of Winterwood Timber Frames, LLC

### U-32 SCHOOL BOARD

#### May 21, 2014

Presentation and discussion of U-32 Middle School Reconfiguration of math instruction.

Motions voted:

- to approve the following resignations: Jennifer Ingersoll, 0.2 Social Studies and 0.2 English and Grant Gunther, 0.2 Academic Coordinator
- to approve the following appointments: Jennifer Ingersoll, 0.4 English teacher; Grant Gunther, 0.2 English teacher; Stephanie Wicks, 0.1 world languages teacher; and Brianne Keefe: 1.0 science teacher

#### May 28, 2014

Motions voted:

- to go into executive session for a student hearing
- following executive session, to approve the administration's recommendation regarding the student matter

#### June 4, 2014

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss two items:

- multi-year budget development process
- board goals

#### June 18, 2014

Motions voted:

- to approve the revenue anticipation note of Merchants Bank for the time period 7/1/14 through 6/30/15
- to approve the investment bid of Merchants Bank for the time period 7/1/14 through 6/30/15, at a minimum guaranteed interest rate of 3.56%
- to approve the following appointments: Meaghan Falby, 1.0 Health teacher; Sarah Jackson, 0.8 English teacher; Samantha Ogilvie, 0.5 Science teacher; Eric Weiss, Academic Coordinator – Math White Table

## Funding Request Committee

**EVALUATING LOCAL SERVICES:** The selectboard relies on our committee to review requests for town funding from local non-profit organizations. These organizations provide essential social services, environmental protection, and/or educational opportunities for the community. (See the 2014 Town Report for a list of those currently funded.)

Each year groups submit applications for support describing their services, supplying financial information, and explaining how they benefit residents of East Montpelier. Our taxpayer support acknowledges their value to the whole community and often provides the match necessary to secure funding from federal and state agencies or private donors. Appropriations for these organizations represent approximately 1% of the town budget.

The committee meets once or twice in the fall to review applications and to hear from new applicants or any others who are invited to explain their programs in person. We consider the nature of the services provided, the number of residents served, the availability of other funding sources, and each organization's unique ability to serve East Montpelier. Our report is presented to the selectboard and voted on the floor of Town Meeting.

Appointed annually, committee members serve at the discretion of the selectboard, which appoints new members after Town Meeting. Participation is a great way to learn about and support local organizations while serving the town as well.

## East Montpelier Village Committee

**SHAPING VILLAGE LIFE:** Although the East Montpelier Village Committee has been active for well over a dozen years, in 2013 the selectboard officially recognized the Village Committee and appointed seven people to serve as members. The recent focus of the Village Committee has been public safety improvements along our main street (the US Route 2/VT Route 14 corridor). East Montpelier was awarded a VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program grant of \$490,000 for the design and construction of pedestrian and street improvements. The Village Committee selected Kevin Russell as project manager, and contracted with DuBois and King for design and engineering services. Construction will be coordinated with the VTrans Village Bridge replacement and southerly US Route 2/VT Route 14 intersection project. Construction will likely be in three to five years. The Village Committee has also been involved in reviewing progress on the park-and-ride lot proposed for the WEC utility building lot (the old fire station) and participated in the development of the East Montpelier Town Plan, especially sections addressing East Montpelier Village.

Meetings are called as needed. Call Town Administrator Bruce Johnson if you wish to know the dates of future meetings so you can attend. Village Committee Members: Michelle McFadden (chair), Jean Vissering (Vice-Chair), Alice Smith (Recording Secretary), Bob Smith, Casey Northrup, Bob Morey, and Frank Pratt.

## East Montpelier Conservation Fund Advisory Committee

**KEEPING EAST MONTPELIER OPEN:** The East Montpelier Conservation Fund was an outgrowth of a public planning process initiated by the Planning Commission in 1988. Embarking on an update of the town plan, the commission organized a forum in 1988 at which they asked citizens how they wanted the town to look in 2010. From the scores of ideas generated by this process grew the notion of establishing a fund to conserve land and waters for agricultural, forest, wildlife, scenic, recreational, or natural area use. At the 1989 Town Meeting, articles were approved to establish a land conservation fund with an initial appropriation of \$40,000. In 1989 the selectboard established the seven-member Conservation Fund Advisory Board with members serving staggered terms. The board reviews applications and makes recommendations to the selectboard.

A person or entity applying for use of these funds must be able to illustrate how their proposed application will

benefit the Town. Such benefits must result in at least one of the following: 1) protection of agricultural land that will help ensure the continuing viability of farms and agricultural enterprises in the town; 2) support of the traditional family farm as an economically viable unit of agricultural production and provision of opportunities for young people to enter farming; 3) Diversification of agricultural enterprises which allows land to remain in conservation; 4) protection of the Town's rural character and scenic open space; 5) prevention of excessive increases in public service costs; 6) provision of opportunities for public outdoor recreation for the people of East Montpelier; 7) preservation of natural habitats for plants and animals.

To date, the Town of East Montpelier has contributed \$145,580 to the Conservation Fund, leveraging \$2,531,315 from national, state, regional, and other sources to conserve a total of 2,366.2 acres. A map of these protected lands can be seen in the Town's 164th Annual Report. There is currently \$20,423.32 in the Conservation Fund account. For information about this committee please contact Brian Lusignan at [brian.lusignan@oracle.com](mailto:brian.lusignan@oracle.com).

## East Montpelier Cemetery Commission

**CARE OF OUR CEMETERIES:** The Commission is a five-member body, each elected for a term of five years with one term expiring each year. Their responsibilities are the maintenance of all the cemeteries in town, the sale of lots in the active ones, and coordination of interments. The present membership is Pauline Coburn, Chairwoman; Fred Strong, Secretary; Elliott Morse, Sexton; Allen Ploof and Gary Hudson, members.

The active cemeteries are the East Montpelier Village, the Cutler on the County Road, and the Doty in the Center. Interment lots are still available in the Cutler and Doty. East Village and the Cate have only a limited number of cremation lots available.

There are eighteen old cemeteries including the Pinkham, Quaker, Peck, and Wheeler. Many of these were private family burial grounds. A booklet listing all of them along with the names of the persons interred therein was published by the Historical Society and is available at the Town Office or from the Society at PO Box 63, East Montpelier, VT 05651.

The Commission has adopted rules for the regulation of the cemeteries. Among the provisions are those that govern the size of lots, placement and size of monuments, and restrictions on artificial flowers and other ornaments. Copies of these rules are available at the Town Office.



## New Farm to Table Corner

### Calling All Farmers, Food Fabricators

The *Signpost* is planning an expansion of our recipe section by linking ideas for home food preparation with the various food growers and preparers in East Montpelier. In each issue of the *Signpost*, we'd like to feature a brief description of the efforts of one of our many agricultural and edible specialists along with a recipe for a dish using the products of that business.

If you are a grower/preparer of any type of edible, please contact Rachael Grossman at [garlicmountain@gmail.com](mailto:garlicmountain@gmail.com) or 223-3177 who will coordinate this effort for the *Signpost*.

## Energy Committee

**LOOKING FOR SPARKPLUGS:** The town's Energy Committee has tackled an impressive list of projects to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels. Recently Dave Grundy lay down his mantle of committee leadership, and no one has volunteered to take it up. As committee member Rob Chickering put it at a meeting with the selectboard, "There's probably nothing more important than figuring out how to make progress on energy. But there doesn't seem to be much momentum amongst town people now to do some things that would make a significant difference."

The selectboard believes that the work of the energy committee is too important to let go. The committee and selectboard have asked Carl Etnier to be the selectboard member maintaining an overview of the committee's projects and charges, looking for opportunities to move forward.

The committee's accomplishments include helping establish bus service along Route 2, weatherizing the town office and town garage, creating 25 neighborhood groups where

people can know and help each other, bringing the PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program for home owners to use in financing energy efficiency and renewable energy, and replacing the town's street lights with LED lamps that last longer and use less energy. Also, the selectboard is moving forward on a park-and-ride with electric car-charging stations in the village, across from the Washington Electric office.

The town plan calls for the energy committee to create more carpools, increase bike paths, increase bus routes, encourage and inform residents about saving energy and converting to renewables, assist neighborhood groups in building community, work with the schools to make sure students understand sustainable energy, work with the Village Committee to save energy in their designs, and work with the Fire Department to investigate the feasibility of using biodiesel in their vehicles.

Thank You *Signpost* supporters

Susan & Patrick Biggam

Kenneth Feld

## East Montpelier Revolving Loan Advisory Committee

**IMPROVEMENT MONEY FOR EM:** The East Montpelier Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) has money available to assist East Montpelier residents and businesses with essential maintenance projects and growth. As of June 30, 2014 the fund had \$9,010.56 available.

Administered by the RLF Advisory Committee, the funds are available for low-interest loans based on income. The RLF has assisted the East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative (EMSLI) in its efforts to plan for the construction of senior housing in the Village Center of town.

If you are interested in learning more about this fund and would like to serve on the committee that selects recipients, please contact us. Furthermore, if you or someone you know that is a resident of East Montpelier and needs work done on such things as a replacement roof, heating system, or some other housing project, please contact Leslie Drown, Chair, 802-279-2782, or [Leslie@CherRealEstate.com](mailto:Leslie@CherRealEstate.com) to discuss your options for funding.

### Trails, continued from page 1

EMTI is involved in all aspects of trails, from conservation, construction, maintenance, and signage, to outreach, education, and negotiating with landowners. And of course, fundraising. Most trail segments are secured through projects with a land trust and with funding from a variety of private, state, and federal sources.

As a resident new to town, Virginia Farley was surprised to learn just how diverse and extensive the trail system was. "I took a look at the map and said, 'Wow.' Then I ran into Nona Estrin at town meeting and the next thing I knew I was involved. The board members and volunteers are fantastic. It is great to be able to take a hike on a trail and with neighbors and realize it is a community effort."

Estrin, who has lived in East Montpelier since 1975, is one of the founding members along with Sandy Woodbeck and Madeleine Mongan. President Mary Stone emphasized the group's interest in finding new volunteers and board members. "We are always looking for more energy and enthusiasm," she said. "So if you are interested we hope you will get in touch and get involved. There is always something fun to be involved in."

Want to get involved?

- Join the EMTI Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/EastMontpelierTrails>
- Download the trail map at: <http://emsignpost.com/Trail%20Map-2.17.08.pdf>
- Contact David Webb, Mary Stone, Virginia Farley, Nona Estrin, Sandy Woodbeck, Sue Chickering, Richard Brock or Rick Hopkins about volunteering.

### Historical Society, continued from page 1

of more recent times, while a few were named by developers who built homes along them. You may live in one of the homes of these early settlers or of someone from the large in-migration of the late 1800s and early 1900s. Even if you do not, it is very likely that the land on which your home is situated was part of one of the 112 dairy farms counted in the 1900 census.

The East Montpelier Historical Society has as its purpose the building of understanding and appreciation for local heritage by bringing together people of all ages who are interested in the history of the town and the preservation of its historic resources. Our principal objective is to help people who live here now connect with those who lived here in the past. We do this by monthly meetings (February to November) where some aspect of history is presented by the publication of booklets on some aspect of town history and through our website.

Our meetings are open to all. We share them with the Calais Historical Society and usually alternate meeting places between the two towns. They are not all devoted to "stuffy names and dates" however. In April we have a sugar-on-snow party and in July (weather permitting) we hold the hard-fought croquet match between the two societies and eat/enjoy ice cream.

To learn more of what the society does and some facts about our town, go to the website at [www.eastmontpelier-historicalsociety.org](http://www.eastmontpelier-historicalsociety.org). There you will find our program schedule and short articles on local history. And there is a list of folks to call if you want further information.

Do come to a meeting and see what we are all about.

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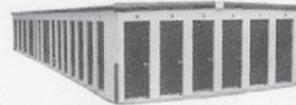
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- ✓ **Excavation:** Site Work for Sonotube and Floating Slabs; Digging Under-ground Utility Lines; and Much More!

## Scouting in East Montpelier

**FUN AND GROWTH FOR GIRLS AND BOYS:** “Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.”

Whether she is 5 or 17, you want her to become self-confident, strong, and compassionate. You want her to respect herself and others, make good decisions, be open to new challenges, and use her skills and talents to make her world a better place. You want her to build strong friendships, be a leader, and put her values into practice in her everyday life.

Leaders needed! Visit [www.girlsctsgwm.com](http://www.girlsctsgwm.com) to find out more about leading a Girl Scout troop for the girl in your life.

The EM Boy Scout Troop #742 is a small but dedicated group of eight boys. They have been together since their Cub Scout days and have been diligently earning merit badges and becoming good citizens along the way. Some examples of the earned merit badges are: camping (summer and win-

ter), cooking, photography, citizenship in the community, nation and world, reading, wood carving, rocketry, cycling, emergency preparedness, first aid, and wilderness survival. One of our boys is a new Eagle Scout, one will be doing his Eagle project this fall, and the others are not far behind. Eagle projects are community service projects, and we are always looking for ideas that our boys could work on.

You have probably seen the Boys Scouts at Town Meetings, passing the microphones or cooking muffins for the crowd. The troop is always active in Green-up Day and often tackles the toughest roads. Our Assistant Scoutmasters are Josh Riley and Logan Wells, with our Scoutmaster CJ Flynn. The parents of all the boys are very involved in all the activities we do and most of them are merit-badge counselors. The Boy Scouts in Troop #742 are Ethan Burroughs, Devin Burroughs, Casey Flynn, Riley Flynn, Henry Hoffert, Connor Noyes, Michael Reiner, and Cyrus Royce. Please feel free to contact one of the boys if you need more information or have a project the scouts can help you with.

## Gully Jumpers Snowmobile Club

**ASSURING WINTER FUN:** The Gully Jumpers could possibly be the oldest operating club in East Montpelier—established in 1971 in order to maintain the portion of the statewide trail system located in our town. We are a self-funded, wintertime-only organization providing a recreational opportunity during a most difficult time of the year.

It is interesting to note that we are the only recreational entity regulated by the legislature. State statutes establish when we can ride (December 15 to April 15) and require

registration, insurance, club membership, helmets and even a statute requiring the chin strap be fastened.

Many non-snowmobilers join the Gully Jumpers, and we welcome to our meetings everyone who is interested, has questions, or just likes to gossip.

Meetings are held on Tuesday, following the second Sunday beginning in September at the Four Corners School House. Come at 7:30 p.m. for a visit and chat about what’s happening around town. [www.gullyjumpers.com](http://www.gullyjumpers.com)

### CALENDAR

- Mon, Sept 1:** Labor Day – Town Office Closed
- Wed, Oct 1:** Mallory Brook hunting permit lottery drawing
- Wed, Oct 29:** Voter Registration deadline for General Election
- Tues, Nov 4:** **GENERAL ELECTION** at EMES, polls open 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Mon, Nov 17:** Property Tax installment due by 5:00 p.m.



### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee	as needed	7:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
Development Review Board (DRB)	1st Tues	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) Board	3rd Mon	5:30 p.m.	Elementary School
East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)	Every Tues	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
East Montpelier Fire District No. 1	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
East Montpelier Historical Society	3rd Tues	7:00/6:00 p.m.	Four Corners Schoolhouse/E. Calais
East Montpelier Sr. Living Initiative	2nd & 4th Tues	6:30 p.m.	Town Office Bldg
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	Four Corners Schoolhouse
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)	2nd Wed	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School, Art Room
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Recreation Board	2nd Mon	7:15 p.m.	Elementary School
Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	6:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wed	6:00 p.m.	U-32 School