

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXV—Number Five

May/June 2015

Building with Vision: Hobie Guion and Bill Heigis

by Susan Atwood-Stone



Photo: Terry J. Allen

Imagine you have a home that, even if the power goes out, is unlikely to freeze. . . ever. Imagine a home where you can sit in front of a south-facing window and soak in the sun, and when it's really cold and cloudy, the window is still warm to the touch, its triple panes increasing your comfort. After this past winter, one can see the appeal of such a home. East Montpelier builders Hobie Guion and Bill Heigis bring this vision to life daily through their fifteen-year collaboration to create state-of-the-art energy-efficient buildings. Many of their projects have won awards for being among the most efficient homes built in Vermont. Hobie and Bill derive deep satisfaction from participating in the leading edge of energy-efficient construction that they hope will become the norm for home building in Vermont in the near future.

Hobie first arrived in East Montpelier with his then fiancée, Apple Faulkner, in 1993 when they purchased the old Copping farmhouse on Kelton Road. He had come to the building trade through working summers and apprenticing with local contractors in Litchfield, Connecticut, hometown of Ethan Allen. In particular he worked with one Connecticut carpenter "who had been an art major. . . he had a certain aesthetic that I liked and preferred to use 'real' materials like wood, stone and steel, which I really liked." That led to an interest in architecture and engineering. After spending two years at UVM studying engineering, Hobie transferred into the Architectural and Building Program at Vermont Technical College. Thus began his path to residential construction.

Bill and his wife, Trish Dwyer, moved to the Montpelier area in 2000 where Bill worked as a consultant for Stone Environmental. Bill had learned residential construction

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Top of the Signpost

by Benedict Koehler

The weather in early March can be anything from fiercely Arctic to downright balmy and seems to defy prediction almost from day to day. However, another seasonal phenomenon is far more reliable: the annual crop of opinion—in the press, on radio, and overheard in conversation—regarding Town Meeting and why, according to some, declining attendance is endangering the institution.

There are many factors cited as responsible for this erosion: the circumstance of the weekday meeting (especially in conjunction with the high number of households where both parents work), difficulty of arranging child care for the day, the insidious influence of the Australian Ballot which enables those with hectic modern-day lives to practice “drive-by” democracy and skip the meeting itself, and so on. All of these concerns are valid and deserving of examination; perhaps there are ways in which these and other obstacles can be eliminated or lessened. But I would suggest that in addition to looking at why people don’t attend Town Meeting, we should also look at why many of us still do. What sort of experience at Town Meeting would encourage us to do what it takes to be able to come back next year? Here’s a possible recipe:

- Hold the meeting in a warm, well-lit, clean and pleasant venue. (I wasn’t the biggest supporter of the EMES project but I will say that the end result is impressive.)
- Add friendly, efficient voter registration desks.
- Make sure to have a sound engineer there who unobtrusively but expertly ensures that we can all clearly hear what is being said, and then add a troop of Scouts who uncomplainingly log the equivalent of a ten-mile hike delivering wireless microphones all day.
- Elect school boards and selectboards whose members, in addition to working well together, are thoroughly familiar with their facts and who answer questions directly and clearly.
- Top it off with a moderator who combines unfailing good humor with remarkable efficiency and who seems to know, by name, most of the population of the town.
- Garnish with a gang of heroic volunteers who—apparently by magic—cause a tremendous potluck feast to appear in an adjoining room, right on time.

These are the kind of details that helped me leave at the end of the day feeling that my time had been well spent and that our old-fashioned New England system really does work. Can this level of commitment and professionalism alone bring about better attendance at Town Meeting? Probably not, but it sure doesn’t hurt, and I for one doubt that there are many towns in Vermont that couldn’t learn a thing or two from East Montpelier on Town Meeting Day.

Thanks to everyone who chipped in, and I’ll see you there next year.

— Benedict Koehler is a musician and a maker of the Irish bagpipes. He lives with his wife and fellow musician, Hilari Farrington, in the wilds of East Montpelier.



Photo: Alex Brown

Green Up Day: Saturday, May 2, 2015

by Chris Racanelli, Green Up Coordinator

Green Up Day sets Vermont apart from the rest of the United States. It is more than a political gambit put on by the top brass. It is hard work, often dirty, and lends credence to the real possibility that Vermont is the most pristine state in the Union. It's a reputation earned for many reasons, but Green Up Day is one reason for this accolade.

It starts with two hands, a pair of gloves, and a trash bag. Spend a few hours cleaning your street and maybe the next street, too. Grab a bag from Dudley's store, the Town Office, or bring your own. As you go along, separate recyclables such as cans and bottles. When you have collected a few bags of trash, bring it to the East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) parking lot between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and we will either recycle or dispose of it.

Please let us know where you have cleaned up so we don't duplicate efforts. If you have any questions, problems, or know of an area that is particularly trashy, call Chris Racanelli, Green Up Coordinator, at 802-225-6032, and he will get you some help. Last year we had special help from businesses such as Creative Visions Landscaping. Joshua Riley and the Boy Scouts helped with some of the heavier loads.

Take a rest from your labors and grab a bite at the new EMES lunch room from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy a complimentary fresh sandwich on Manghi's bread as well as cookies and coffee with your neighbors from the Jean Cate Community Fund Committee who are celebrating Green Up Day just like you.

And, if you can volunteer with Chris at EMES anytime on May 2nd, give him a call at 225-6032; it will be hundred percent appreciated.

We hope to see you on May 2nd at EMES, rain or shine.



Photos: Gary Ann Lewis

Be Safe Out There on Green Up Day

- Wear brightly colored clothes, sensible shoes, gloves, and sunscreen.
- Work on the left side of the road facing oncoming traffic.
- Be tick smart. Wear long pants, avoid tall grass, and check for ticks when you arrive home. Repel. Inspect. Remove!
- Do not remove dead animals or suspected toxic or hazardous waste.
- Items that are too large or heavy to transport should be dragged, if possible, to a visible place on the side of the road for later pickup. Inform Green Up Coordinator, Chris Racanelli (225-6032) of the location.

You will find additional information here:

- Safety Rules: www.greenupvermont.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Safety-Rules.pdf
- Tick Smart: www.healthvermont.gov/prevent/zoonotic/tickborne/Tickborne_diseases.aspx

If you need to dispose of household trash such as paint, cleaning products, fluorescent bulbs, pesticides, and other hazardous waste, call Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Hazardous Waste Collection program at 229-9383.

An App for Green Up

Track your time and progress with free Green Up Day App that allows you to map out areas you have cleaned, flag areas where hazardous materials are found, and identify locations where additional help is needed.

Below are links for Iphone and Android users. The Iphone App is downloadable, but the Mobile Web-App, for all other smart phone users, is a web-based App, not a download, so simply bookmark on your web browser for easy access.

iPhone: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/green-up-vt/id860271437?ls=1&mt=8>. Check www.greenupvermont.org for Android users.

Share Some of Your Green!

Keep Vermont green and clean. Your gift supports Green Up Day, a unique Vermont tradition that brings together families, neighbors, and communities to remove litter and restore the natural beauty of our state every spring.

Green Up Vermont is a non-profit and contributions are tax-deductible. You can donate online at www.greenupvermont.org or send your check to Post Office Box 1191, Montpelier, VT 05601-1191.

Town Meeting and Beyond

Town Meeting 2015 was held in our newly renovated elementary school. Toward the end of the day, the moderator asked for a sense of the meeting as to where future Town Meetings should be held. The unofficial but clear response seemed to be—at EMES. The gym, where the meetings were held, has been refurbished and painted. A bigger change was that the outstanding pot luck luncheon that draws many of us was held in a new lunch/meeting room where all participants could sit at tables and eat together.

In addition to thanking our elected officials who work all year to run the machinery of our local government and to bring thoughtfully researched options to us for approval (or not), we are grateful to a number of others who are responsible for a successful Town Meeting Day. Special thanks are due to Colin McCaffrey for the sound system, to the members and leader of Boy Scout Troop 742 who made sure all speakers had a microphone to make themselves heard as well as providing snacks during the meetings, and to Sue Racanelli and her hard-working crew of potluck volunteers who, once again, assured the availability of the best luncheon we may have all year.

The Town Meeting elections this year provided few surprises since there were no contested races. 190 voters registered to vote in person on the floor, 574 voted by Australian ballot, and 76 voted by absentee ballot (out of 1997 names on the voter checklist). We elected the following officers:

Town & School Moderator: Michael Duane
Town Clerk: Terri Conti
Selectboard Members: Seth Gardner, Kim Swasey
Lister: Ross Hazel
Auditor: Dave Grundy
First Constable: Sandy Conti
Cemetery Commissioner: Elliott Morse
Planning Commissioners: Mark Lane, Jack Pauly, Jay Stewart (write-in), Jean Vissering
EMES Board Members: Flor Diaz-Smith, Kim Kendall

In addition to the local officers that we elect, there are many more roles to be played by the members of various groups in town charged with specific responsibilities.



Photo: Alex Brown

Since Town Meeting Day, the selectboard has made the following appointments:

Animal Control Officer: Sandy Conti
Assistant Animal Control Officer: Elliott Morse
Central VT Solid Waste Management District: Ginny Callan
Town Service Officer: Rachael Grossman
Town Tree Warden: Paul Cate
Emergency Management Co-Coordinator: Bill George, Toby Talbot
State Police Community Advisory Board: Carol Welch, Don Welch
Central VT Regional Planning Commission: Julie Potter, Jack Pauly, alternate
Transportation Advisory Committee: Frank Pratt
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association: Carolyn Shapiro
Development Review Board: Rich Curtis, Mark Lane, Ken Santor
Conservation Fund Advisory Committee: Charles Johnson

Minutes of Town Meeting and all minutes of our governing groups are online at www.eastmontpeliervt.org.

Planning Commission Moving Ahead on Revisions

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, May 7 for public comment on proposed changes to the Land Use and Development Regulations. The changes are posted on the Town web site (<http://eastmontpeliervt.org/may-7-2015-planning-commission-public-hearing/>). Significant proposed changes include:

- Major revisions to Flood Hazard Area regulations (Article 9) and the associated map;
- Revisions to the Conservation Overlay District (Table 2.6) and map
- Revised groundwater withdrawal permit threshold (Sec. 4.7);
- Provisions for Administrative Amendment (Sec. 5.2);
- Provisions for Conceptual Site Plan and Conditional Use Review (Sec. 5.4 and 5.5);
- Revised procedures for Certificate of Compliance (Sec. 7.4).

The Planning Commission will next turn its attention to a number of broader planning and zoning changes and will be discussing options and priorities over the next few months. Topics may include master planning for East Montpelier Village and a growth area along Gallison Hill Road near U-32.

The Planning Commission meets the first and third Thursday of the month at 7:30 in the Town Office. Residents are welcome to attend, or to submit comments to jeanviss@attglobal.net.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten

by Michelle A.L. Singer

“The academic success of a child depends heavily on how ready he/she is for kindergarten. However, Vermont’s kindergarten readiness test scores show that nearly half of all children are not showing up ready. Over the past five decades, numerous studies have repeatedly shown that full day, high-quality early childhood education increases the likelihood that children—especially from disadvantaged backgrounds—will succeed in school and beyond.” from Traci Sawyers, Vermont Department of Health, *Building Bright Futures*.

Last year, Vermont passed Act 166, a law that mandates publicly funded pre-kindergarten education for all 3- and 4-year-olds (3 years old as of September 1, 2015, also 5-year-olds who are not enrolled in kindergarten). The law reads, “No fewer than ten hours per week of publicly funded prekindergarten [sic] education shall be available for 35 weeks annually to each prekindergarten child whom a parent or guardian wishes to enroll in an available, prequalified program operated by a public school or a private provider.”

The good news is that EMES has already been providing a high quality pre-k program to 3- and 4-year-olds for many years, offering three 9-hour sessions to 37 children last year. A pre-k room was also included in the recent renovation, making it easier for East Montpelier to satisfy the new mandate since pre-k rooms have requirements that older grade classrooms don’t. A principal example is the requirement for having a handicapped-accessible restroom inside the classroom.

“Looking ahead to next year,” says EMES Vice Principal Alicia Lyford, “we will begin offering two 10-hour sessions, Monday–Thursday, morning and afternoon. While we have strived each year to get closer to the 10-hour-per-week goal, this mandate gave us the push we needed to ensure it will happen. We are confident that with the consistency of ten hours over four days per week, our students will be better prepared than ever to enter kindergarten.”

In addition to the pre-k school day, for the past two years EMES has partnered with Community Connections in order to make transportation and childcare more accessible and more affordable for families. Students have the option of eating lunch at school and attending Community Connections before and/or after pre-k in a licensed daycare also housed at EMES. This allows children to ride the bus to and from school at the beginning and end of the school day, eliminating the challenge of a mid-day drop-off and pick-up for many parents.

According to the Vermont Department of Health *Building Bright Futures* policy brief update, “This law is the beginning of an effort to build a universal system that offers equal access to high quality programs throughout the state. Vermont currently has many early education programs but they vary widely in structure, accessibility and level of quality. It builds on Vermont’s first pre-k law, Act 62, which was passed in 2007. The total number of children who will take advantage of the program is expected to be about 6,000, or 60 percent of the state’s 11,284 preschool-aged children.”

Principal Transition at EMES

by Edie Miller

July 1 will see a transition in leadership at EMES as Principal Marion Anastasia leaves to pursue a new opportunity.

In March, the EMES board issued a press release in which they described accepting, with mixed emotions, the resignation of Dr. Anastasia after she was selected to become superintendent of the White Mountains Regional School District in Whitefield, NH. The board expressed appreciation of Anastasia’s leadership and her many contributions to EMES during “. . . four transformative years.” The board noted that her new position is a step forward in a career of excellence and brings the added benefit of having a much shorter commute for her. Members went on to wish her success in her new position.

Immediately upon learning of the upcoming vacancy, the Washington Central Supervisory District posted the opening, and a principal search committee was appointed. Made up of EMES board members, members of the EMES educational community, parents, and community members, the search committee evaluated candidates, held interviews, and

recommended to the WCSU superintendent and the EMES school board that Alicia Lyford be appointed to the position. On April 16, 2015 the community had a chance to chat with Lyford after which she was officially offered the position. As of this writing, a formal contract has yet to be signed.

Lyford joined EMES in 2010 as assistant principal. She earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education, special education, and English from Trinity College of Vermont and a master’s degree in educational administration from Castleton State College. Prior to her work at EMES, she served as a special educator in the Montpelier schools for 9 years.

In deciding to offer the position to Lyford, the school board noted the range of her leadership skills from being able to connect with kids and their families and earning the respect of her educational peers, to successfully managing the recent school renovations in addition to her other duties.

In appointing Lyford, the board expressed confidence in her ability to continue the excellent work initiated by Anastasia during her tenure, particularly with regard to professional development and the deep commitment to strengthening the knowledge and skills of our children.

Town Offices

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

Town Clerk: Terri Conti
eastmonttct@comcast.net

Town Treasurer: Don Welch
eastmonttr@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

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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

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS



Illustration: Hal Mayforth

Everyone should know that I have the finest of neighbors—Anne Campbell and Ken Matzner. Ken has brought in my mail and paper all through this never-ending winter, and has kept my walk cleared of snow. With weather so unrelenting, I am doubly grateful for his kindness to me!

Thank you, Ken.

Joyce Bean

Where Are They Now?

For a number of years, the September/October issue of the *Signpost* has been written mostly by East Montpelier residents who contribute their comments, thoughts and ideas about a particular topic (road names, favorite trails, and disappearing landmarks are a few recent ones) chosen by the *Signpost* volunteers. We've been delighted with the broad participation and have all learned a great deal from piecing together the information that many people contribute.

This September we'd like to find out a bit about some of the folks who spent their childhoods in East Montpelier. Some remain here, others have "flown the coop" so to speak. We'd like to know a little about where some of our former youngsters are 5, 10, 30 or 60 years after finishing school here. What decisions took you to your current locations, occupations and interests?

In approximately 250 words, we'd like to know what you're doing now and whether it's what you planned all along. What attracted you to remain in our community or what drew you away? In the end we want to hear about the many paths taken by those who shared a common road in their early years.

This call for contributions will reach those of you who are here. We count on you to forward this solicitation to family and friends who now live elsewhere.

Please submit all contributions to Barbara Ploof at signpostbcp@hotmail.com or 223-6934 no later than August 1, 2015



East Montpelier Trails Expanding

by Nona Estrin, East Montpelier Trails Board

Thanks to all for a Town Meeting vote of “yes” on a trails contribution! Our trail system is about to expand! Look for a longer article, maps and pictures, in the summer edition of the *Signpost*. Here’s the preview:

The old Clark Farm on Codling Road, recently conserved by T.C. and Helen Clark and family, and now owned by Seth Gardner who allow them to demonstrate their expertise and knowledge of best practices for energy-efficient building design, will connect us to U-32, Codling Road, a river walk, and, eventually, Cross Vermont Trail and Montpelier Bike Path.

Carol Dixon and Bruce Howlett, new owners of the old Hawkins Farm, have kindly offered a trail route across their farm (now Bobolink Farm) to connect U-32 with the Mallory Brook trails.

Last but not least, Conrad and Anne Ormsbee have generously donated both farm and trail easements in historic East Montpelier Center to the Land Trust. Trails there will connect Center Road to Powder Horn Glen.

So stay tuned!

Saving Our History

From time to time, the East Montpelier Historical Society receives offers of artifacts: letters, scrap books, photos, and objects. We would very much like to accept them since they help document the history of the town and, unless we can do so, they will probably be lost forever. Our problem, however, is where to store these items.

The Town Office lets us keep some of our collection in the vault. Space there is limited and we are reluctant to ask for too much of it. Other items are at the homes of society members.

Since we do not wish to turn down offers of historical ephemera and artifacts, we are seeking advice from townspeople on what might be done to store them. Our long-term hope is to acquire the present town office building when a replacement is built. It is understood that is not going to happen anytime soon. So, in the meantime, what might be done? Any reasonably safe, dry storage would be considered. Our funds are limited so the rent must be very reasonable.

Anyone with suggestions is urged to call me at 223-6886 or email dave.coburn@comcast.net. All thoughts are appreciated.



Photo: Michael Hambro

Thank you
Signpost supporters

Harriet Haggett

Charles & Martha Haynes

working with his father-in-law in Bennington and decided that he wanted to return to construction. Through word of mouth he heard that Hobie was looking for carpenters to help renovate Hobie's Kelton Road home. Bill was hired on, and Bill and Hobie have been partners ever since. Bill and Trish began construction on their own home on Sparrow Farm Road in East Montpelier shortly afterwards.

Hobie's engagement with turning the Copping farmhouse into a well-insulated, comfortable and efficient home taught him many lessons he has since used both in renovating other people's homes and in new construction. As Hobie tells it, Loretta Copping moved out when she was in her nineties, the year prior to his moving in. "She had lived there for sixty-eight years! Other than wallpaper and rugs, not much had been done to the house. We found wide pine boards that measured over 30 inches wide, a room of formal raised-paneling that was hidden by wallpaper of colorful flowers, scary looking 'shelf chimneys' and evidence of the fire that was likely responsible for the removal of the center fireplace, though its giant foundation remained. Across the beams in the attic, sheets of newspaper from the 1830s were glued up to provide a wind barrier, with articles reporting on the Trail of Tears debacle."

Hobie claims he is still learning the many ways an old house stays drafty even after valiant efforts to button it up. Tools like infrared cameras and blower-door tests help find the problem areas, and there are numerous choices now for retro-fitting insulation far superior to glue and newspapers! "I attended my first building conference 21 years ago. Soon after incorporating some of what I had learned at the conference into the remodeling of my own home, I was asked to build a home for Charlie Wanzer and Lydia Faesy and was introduced to Andy Shapiro, Efficiency Vermont, Five Star Homes, and Efficiency Vermont's Building Conference. There's been a growing awareness of energy conservation and new building techniques. I also had the luck of finding in Bill a smart, hard-

working business associate who has the same interests (and a back that is ten years younger!) and, for the last several years, a steady diet of constructing 'net zero' homes."

According to Bill Heigis, the shared vision of making buildings that are more sustainable and easier on the environment is a major motivation for their projects. "To keep things interesting, we are always researching the latest technologies, which are changing daily," Bill notes. "We work hard to stay up-to-date on heating systems, window design, and building materials that offer the leading edge for efficiency." However, Bill points out, "It is equally important to find a balance between efficiency and affordability." Bill has been a guest speaker, with Andy Shapiro, at the Better Building by Design Conference held annually in Burlington, and has published an article in Fine Homebuilding on constructing a net zero home—a home that produces its own energy in a clean and efficient manner.

Both Bill and Hobie appreciate the local community for its interest in energy-efficient building design. They have not had to go too far to find projects which allow them to demonstrate their expertise and knowledge of best practices for energy-efficient building design in collaboration with local architects, energy consultants, and sub-contractors. And as for living in town, they both like the vibrant community-minded feel of the town and acknowledge the many recreational opportunities available after work. Bill is an avid mountain-biker and skier. And according to Hobie, "I love to be outside either biking, hiking or skiing when not tending to my own woodpile, mowing our neighborhood trails, or thinking about how to insulate the Four Corners Schoolhouse!"

— Susan Atwood-Stone lives in a net zero home built by Bill and Hobie in 2007–2008. She and her husband, Chip Stone, made it through this past winter warm and cozy. They burned about a cord and a half of wood, with solar panels and a geo-thermal heat pump providing the rest of the energy. According to Susan, the collaboration with Bill and Hobie was "a joy."

Town Weathervane

MILESTONES

Births

- Jasper Paquet, son, born Jan 30, 2015 to Travis & Hilary Paquet
- Makenzie Quintin, daughter, born Jan 30, 2015 to Kaitlin Folsom & Troy Quintin
- Elsie Blackwell, daughter, born Feb 19, 2015 to Colin & Chelsea Blackwell
- Rosemary Bean, daughter, born Feb 20, 2015 to Garrett & Kathryn Bean

Deaths

- Florence Young died Jan 27, 2015
- Doris Tumulty died Feb 14, 2015, mother of Bobby, Paul, Mary, Cathy, & Tricia
- Barbara Thurlow died Mar 6, 2015, mother of Dave Thurlow
- Walter Brehaut died Mar 16, 2015, father of Ruth Weeks

Marriages

- James Pulsifer & Cynthia Hurst, Feb 14, 2015
- Peter Baker & Laura Parker-Noyes, Mar 14, 2015

Land Transfers

- Eric Ladd & Lynn Choquette to Jacques Gourlet, easement, Cherry Tree Hill Rd
- David Webb to Matthew DiGiovanni & Lauren Oates, single family dwelling & 0.55 acres, Center Rd
- Ann T. Stone Living Trust to Charles Stone Trust & Susan Atwood-Stone Trust, single family dwelling & 44.61 acres, Cummings Rd
- Richard Comi to Robert Comi, Deborah Evans, & Christine Comi, single family dwelling & 0.53 acres, Center Rd
- John Baird Estate to Helen Merena & Marjorie Merena, single family dwelling & 52 acres, North St
- John & Patricia Connor to Cherry Tree LLC, 10.7 acres open land, Cherry Tree Hill Rd

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Marigold Farm

by Erin Clark

In late 2014 the Signpost initiated East Montpelier Eats to shine a light on the many townspeople who are engaged in growing or fabricating food as part of the larger "farm-to-table" movement. The Signpost contacts these neighbors and asks them to share a little about their efforts. If you or someone you know should be on our list, please be sure to contact us.

My husband and I have 11 acres on the west side of County Road not far from the Calais town line. Since we moved here in 2008 I have dabbled in small agricultural enterprises as Marigold Farm producing eggs, broilers, strawberries, and balsam wreaths. My lifetime love of gardening has been inspired by four years in organic certification, working with Northeast Organic Farming Association Vermont and another organic farming organization in Florida. I have done several stints working on organic farms in both states. I also worked for a year with UVM Agricultural Extension office in Berlin.

I never seem to be satisfied with just growing enough for the family and always look to market possibilities. However, despite these yearnings, I have currently turned my focus to producing enough to keep the family in eggs, chicken, preserves, and vegetables through the winter, raising two young children, and going to nursing school. I do still occasionally sell surplus eggs and strawberries at the Adamant Coop.

I have been fortunate to work with and learn from many, both in the world of organic agricultural policy, small business development, and out in the fields. Generally those working in the first two categories do a lot of day-dreaming about the third category. The reality is that the farmers you see year after year at the market are extraordinary people. To make a livelihood from the earth requires eternal optimism, business skill, and material sacrifice.



Photo: Terry J. Allen

Paulie's Recipe: Strawberry Pie *By Paulie Coburn*

- 1 c. (heaping) flour
- ½ c. butter
- 3 ½ tbsp. powdered sugar
- 1 qt. strawberries, sliced
- 1 c. sugar
- 3 tbsp. cornstarch

Blend butter, flour, and powdered sugar; press in pan with fingers.
 Bake at 350 degrees until slightly brown; about 20 minutes.
 Place half of berries in baked crust.
 Add the sugar and cornstarch to the other half of the berries and boil until clear and thick. Cool slightly; pour over berries in crust.
 Cool; cover with whipped cream and serve.
Paulie's comment: "Really good."

Town Weathervane (continued)

- John & Patricia Connor to Patricia Ann Connor Trust, single family dwelling & 5.47 acres, Cherry Tree Hill Rd
- Edward & Gladys Cote to Daniel Cote, 7.88 acres open land, Sanders Circle
- Milton & Justin Persin to Jacques Gourlet, 11.2 acres open land, Quaker Hill Rd
- Fay Anderson to Karl Hammer, single family dwelling & 3.4 acres, Casavant Rd
- Kenneth Moll & Barbara Korecki-Moll to Kenneth Moll & Barbara Korecki-Moll Trust & Kenneth Moll, single family dwelling & 4.48 acres, Vincent Flats Rd
- Karen Liimatainen to Jonathan Marshall, mobile home, Robinson Rd
- Martha Holden to Elizabeth & Walter Carter, single family dwelling & 19.9 acres, Templeton Rd

- to approve the FY16 budget as submitted
- January 26, 2015 — Motion Passed:**
- to approve the 2015 Town Meeting Warning as written
- February 2, 2015 — Motions Passed:**
- to adopt the East Montpelier Town Treasurer Job Description as amended
- to accept and sign the 2015 Certificate of Highway Mileage
- to recommend to the state that Dave Grundy be reappointed to a 3-year term as Town Health Officer
- February 16, 2015 — Motions Passed:**
- to approve the Employment Agreement with Treasurer Don Welch
- to authorize Town Administrator Bruce Johnson to sign the excess weight permits for McCullough Crushing, Newport Sand & Gravel, and Pike Industries
- to approve the VTrans Certificate of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards

continued on page 10

SELECTBOARD

January 19, 2015 — Motions Passed:

- to approve the Selectboard's Report for the 2014 Annual Report

Town Weathervane (continued)

March 2, 2015 — Motions Passed:

- to support the Vermont Land Trust's conservation of the Ormsbee Center Road property and to provide \$15,000.00 from the East Montpelier conservation fund to facilitate the conservation project
- to authorize Treasurer Welch to sign the user agreement with Noble Payment Technologies LLC
- to approve the 2015 liquor license application for Plainfield Hardware
- to authorize the chair to approve the March 17, 2015 one-day catering license for the St. Patrick's Day event at the Twin Valley Senior Center.
- to authorize the town administrator to sign the excess weight permits for Allen Lumber, Camp Precast Concrete, Jack F. Corse, and United Natural Foods

March 16, 2015 — Motions Passed:

- to authorize the chair to sign the one year contract with the Vermont State Police for 40 hours a month of patrolling in East Montpelier starting April 1
- to authorize Treasurer Don Welch to roll over the Forest Fund CD into another one-year CD
- to authorize Bruce Johnson to sign the 2015 High Risk Rural Roads Program
- to elect Seth Gardner as chair of the Selectboard
- to elect Casey Northrup as vice-chair
- to adopt the 2015 Selectboard Rules of Transaction as amended

PLANNING COMMISSION

January 15, 2015 — Motions Passed:

- to approve the draft annual report with the changes made this evening
- to accept draft Table 2.6 as amended this evening as final

February 5, 2015 — Discussion Issues:

- discussed sections 5.3 and 5.4 of site plan and conditional use applications for which the SB asked for more research
- listed items to be studied in the future: U-32 growth center, encourage town to purchase property in the village – master plan, re-zoning in village, commercial uses – make it easier, residential in industrial zone, preliminary review, certificate of compliance, flood hazard regulations, strip development along Route 2, hitching to Montpelier water/sewer, applying for municipal planning grant

— Motions passed:

- to revise section 7.4 of the Land Use and Development Regulations as discussed

February 19, 2015 — Motions Passed:

- to approve the revised Certificate of Compliance form as presented
- to accept the revised Section 5.3 and Section 5.4 with new conceptual language

March 5, 2015 — Motion Passed:

- to withdraw the zoning regulations amendments which had been submitted to the SB in 2014 and re-submit these changes along with the changes made in 2015 as one document
- to make the change to Article 9, section 9.3 (A)(3) under River Corridor as follows: For regulatory purposes, the river corridors are determined by the most current corridors mapped and published by Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, beginning with the East Montpelier River Corridor dated 2/17/15, which are hereby adopted by reference

March 19, 2015 — Discussion Issue:

- Discussed format and process for public hearing on May 7 on proposed zoning amendments

— Motions Passed:

- to recommend that the Selectboard appoint Jack Pauly as the alternate Town Representative to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD

January 8, 2015 — Motions Passed:

- to approve the 2015-16 Budget as presented in the amount of \$4,133,843
- to approve the School District Warning as presented

February 5, 2015 Special Meeting

- The board went into executive session to discuss personnel but took no follow-up action

February 16, 2015 — Motions Passed:

- to set tuition rate at \$17,849 for FY16
- to approve Board Member Conflict of Interest (B3) as presented
- to approve the following personnel reductions: School Counselor position from .8 FTE to .6 FTE
- Spanish position from .6 FTE to .5 FTE
- Pre-Kindergarten teacher from 1.0 FTE to .81 FTE

March 23, 2015 Special Meeting

- In a discussion facilitated by Jen Miller-Arsenault the board discussed and outlined the skills, knowledge, traits, and characteristics needed in seeking to replace Principal Marion Anastasia who has resigned effective at the end of the school year

U-32 SCHOOL BOARD

February 4, 2015 — Motion Passed:

- to adopt, as amended, the document, "Learning Outcomes"
- to accept the end-of-year resignation of Sheryl Ferris – 0.6 FTE school nurse

February 18, 2015 — Motions Passed:

- to accept Tim Flynn's retirement at the end of the school year
- to accept Kristie Ferguson's resignation
- to accept the following reductions in force: 0.5 FTE special services & programs director, and 4 educational support personnel positions

March 4, 2015 — Motions Passed:

- to elect the following board officers: Adrienne Magida, chair; Kari Bradley, vice-chair; Katie Winkeljohn, clerk
- to set meeting day and time on the first Wednesday of every month @ 6:00 p.m.; official postings: The Times Argus and the Town Clerks' Offices
- to designate the following board member responsibilities:
 - Kari Bradley, representative to the WCSU Executive Committee, Adrienne Magida as the alternate
 - Kari Bradley, Katie Winkeljohn, and Adrienne Magida - voting members to the WCSU full board
 - Scott Thompson; with Jonathan Goddard, as the alternate - WCSU Negotiations Committee
 - Katie Winkeljohn, with Jonathan Goddard as alternate - WCSU Policy Committee
 - Mike Law, with Adrienne Magida as alternate - WCSU Transportation Committee
 - Eric Bennett – Truant Officer
 - Emily Goyette - Representative to the Barre Technical Center
- to designate the following U-32 Committee Memberships: Finance: Kari Bradley, Emily Goyette, Scott Thompson; Policy Committee: Jonathan Goddard, Katie Winkeljohn, Scott Thompson; Facilities and Capital Budget: Mike Law and Emily Goyette; School Quality: Kari Bradley and Adrienne Magida
- to accept the resignation of Kyle Cushman 0.2 English Teacher

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U-32 Seniors Offer a Day of Volunteer Service! June 10

by Ethan McCollister

Do you need help planting your garden? Painting your house? Moving firewood? Taking down storm windows?

The U-32 High School Student Council is planning the Senior Community Outreach Project: a chance for seniors at U-32 to give back to the community that has supported them so much for the past 18 years.

Senior Community Outreach Project (SCOP) will take place on Wednesday, June 10th between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. We are seeking projects for small or large crews in the Middlesex, Worcester, East Montpelier, Berlin, and Calais communities. Let us know if you are in need of assistance! No job is too big or too small!

Preference will be given to senior citizens and people with disabilities. For more information or to suggest a project, please contact our Student Council Advisor, Paula Emery, at 229-0321 ext. 5135 or pemery@u32.org.

CALENDAR

Sat. May 2, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Green Up Day drop off, EMES
Sat. May 2, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Green Up Day lunch, complimentary lunch for Green Up Day workers, EMES
Thurs. May 7, 7 p.m. Planning Commission Public Forum, Town Office
Wed. June 10, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. U-32 Senior Community Outreach Program, 229-0321 x5135 or pemery@u32.org.

NOTICES & IMPORTANT DATES

Fri. May 15, no later than 5 p.m.

Property Tax Installment, Town Office

- Postmarked payments dated on or before the due date but received after the due date will be considered late and will be subject to 8% penalty.
- A drop-off mail slot has been installed in the back door at the Town Office back for receipt of tax payments.
- Direct Debit is now a payment option—contact Treasurer Don Welch.

Mon. May 25 Memorial Day holiday, Town Office closed

Fri. July 3 Fourth of July holiday, Town Office closed