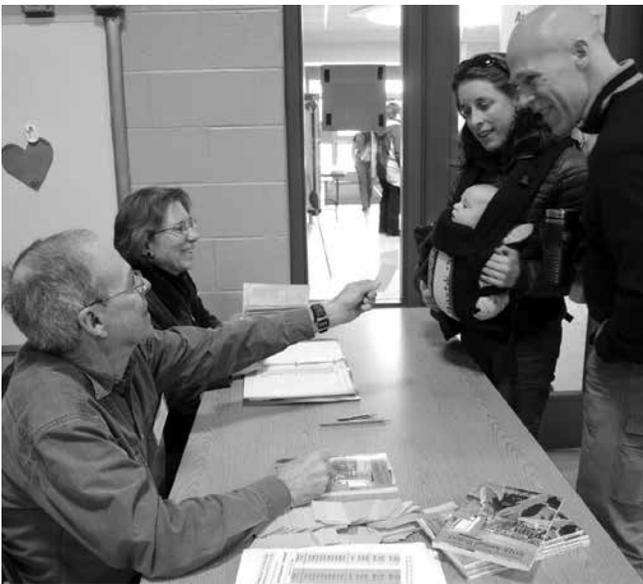


EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XXVI—Number Four

March/April 2016

Town Meeting Day: Tuesday, March 1



Photos: Alex Brown

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. 24 by 5 p.m.

Town/School Forum

Sat. Feb. 27, 9:30 a.m.–noon at EMES. Come discuss all School and Town Warning articles, including the budget items that are to be voted by Australian ballot. The candidates for offices will be introduced. Remember to bring your copy of the Town Report.

Town Meeting Day

Tues. Mar. 1, 9:30 a.m. at EMES. The Town and School Meetings are both warned for 9:30 a.m. The Town Meeting will be first followed by the School District Meeting. Babysitting will be available.

Australian Ballot Voting: Tues. Mar. 1, 7 a.m.–7 p.m. at EMES

Town Meeting Day Potluck: Tues. Mar. 1 around noon at EMES

Early or Absentee Voting

Available through Mon., Feb. 29. 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 Tues. Mar. 1 to be counted.

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Top of the Signpost 2016 Town Meeting Preview

Town Meeting generates excitement in East Montpelier as neighbors gather to eat, socialize, and, of course, discuss and vote on issues important to the town.

There are three particular issues that will be brought up at this year's meeting that will, no doubt, elicit interest and discussion. Citizens will be asked to vote on 1) whether to disband the current Recreation Board as a town entity and transfer its responsibilities to an independent non-profit organization; and 2) whether to add \$10,000 to the Land Conservation fund. The background information on both these issues is included on pages 12, 41, and 44 in the Town Report which each household receives.

The third issue concerns the recent purchase of the so-called Winston/Silberberg property, the 48-acre parcel (the remnant of the old LaPerle farm, including the old farmhouse) located at 3035 US Rte. 2. The property runs from US Rte. 2 to Marc Fontaine's saw mill property on VT Rte. 14 N and straddles Sodom Pond Brook. The selectboard will lead a discussion of possible uses for this land and will ask for seven volunteers to serve on a committee which will develop a plan of action for the property. The background story on this issue can be found on pages 12 and 46 of the Town Report.

Save the Date: Green Up Day May 7

Now in its 46th year, Green Up Day has made Vermont a model for civic involvement in the service of environmental cleanliness and beauty. Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., all of us will have the opportunity to get involved and demonstrate for our young people the vitality of community while seeing the difference our work makes in our town. Make Green Up Day a family affair; this very important yearly tradition starts with YOU!

SUPPORT GREEN UP DAY

- 1) Mark May 7 on your calendar and plan to participate
- 2) Hang a Green Up poster at your place of business, meeting space, or any area that is highly trafficked.
- 3) Make a tax deductible donation on your Line 29d of your 2015 income tax return (IN-111.) Donations can be made securely at www.greenupvermont.org or send a check to Green Up Vermont, P.O. Box 1191, Montpelier VT 05601-1191

Details on Green Up Day 2016 in East Montpelier will be available in the next issue of the *Signpost* or by calling Chris Racanelli at 802-225-6032.

Green Up Lunch Helpers Needed

In appreciation for our cleaner roadsides and your community spirit, the Jean Cate Committee will again provide a free lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the EMES cafeteria. The committee could use some help organizing and serving this lunch, so if you'd like to be in the midst of a nice community activity please call Paul Cate, 223-6466, to volunteer to help.

They Want Your Vote

Descriptions taken largely from the VLCT Resource Manual and Vermont Law

Town and School District Moderator

(elected separately)

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.



Michael Duane: I am running for re-election for the positions of Town and School District Moderator. My wife, Ellen, and I have lived in Vermont since the mid-1970s, and have been residents of East Montpelier for over 30 years. I served as President of the Washington Electric Co-op from 1991 to 1998, during which time I

presided over the monthly and annual meetings. I have also served on the Town Ancient Roads Committee, a town committee to explore the effect of land conservation on the property tax rate, and more recently on the town Charter Committee. I am also a member of the East Montpelier Historical Society, and was a member of the board of the Hunger Mountain Coop from 2008 to 2011. As Coop president during my final year, I presided over the monthly and annual meetings. I would be honored to serve again as the East Montpelier Town and School District Moderator, and I hope my experience can be of some service to our town.

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 as examples.



Carl Etnier, 3-year term: Every week on my WGDR radio program "Relocalizing Vermont," I explore issues related to building more resilient communities. I'm pleased to live in and serve a Vermont community that builds the strong bonds that make for resilience through neighborhood potlucks, community

sing-alongs, our discussions on Front Porch Forum, the work of the historical society, a town-wide network of trails, and much more.

I have served on the Selectboard for the last five years. The Selectboard has balanced keeping tax rates in check and predictable, while taking advantage of unpredictable opportunities that come our way. A new capital budget process, instituted in cooperation with the Planning Commission and the Treasurer, has helped us foresee what spending is coming up and plan to space it out over a reasonable time.

We have also been able to take advantage of the opportunity to buy 48 acres in the village when it was put up at auction. This is a property that can help the town shape the future of its village, and we were able to acquire it at significantly less than an appraisal we commissioned said it was worth. We look forward to continuing conversations with townspeople about how best to use the land.

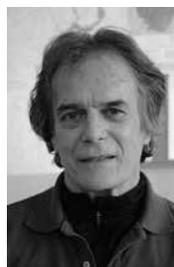
I have been proud to work with the team on the Selectboard, in the town office, and on the roads, and to represent the people of East Montpelier. I'm asking for another three years on the team.

Gene Troia, 2-year term: No candidate statement.

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.



Chris Racanelli: I have more than 30 years of experience with the real estate business and am familiar with appraisals and valuation. I also worked in Social Services for many years and developed good listening skills. I am friendly and easy to talk to.

I have lived in East Montpelier since 2010, and my wife Susan and I feel fortunate to call it home. My neighbor, Paul Erlbaum, introduced me to Green Up Day and I have enjoyed the tradition of this day and sense of community it fosters. I served as Co-coordinator for a few years, before accepting the role of Green Up Day Coordinator in 2014.

I look forward to serving the Town of East Montpelier and hope you will vote for me on March 1.

Auditor

one 3-year term

Town auditors are responsible for examining and adjusting the accounts of all town and 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 presenting an easy-to-understand picture of the town's finances.

Deborah Fillion: No candidate statement

Collector of Delinquent Taxes

one 3-year term

The CDT is authorized to work with delinquent tax payers to arrange payment due to the town and is authorized to collect penalty and interest and sell property at auction if necessary to assure settlement of the town's claim.



Karen M. Gramer: I have been your Collector of Delinquent Taxes for the past eight years and believe I have served the taxpayers of East Montpelier well. I successfully collected delinquent taxes due the town of East Montpelier and have initiated and conducted tax sales when necessary. My unique work experience as

a real estate paralegal for over 20 years, interacting with the public and working in many of the town clerk's offices in the State of Vermont, have given me the knowledge to thoroughly understand the tax collection process. After the Treasurer submits the warrant to me for collection, I notify taxpayers monthly via US mail of their delinquent accounts. I also speak or meet with them frequently in order to work on timely payment arrangements balancing the taxpayers' ability to pay along with the town's need for revenue. My tax collection policy is distributed to delinquent taxpayers in order for them to have a thorough understanding of the tax collection process. My detailed collection reports are submitted biweekly to the town, and frequent meetings with the treasurer and monthly reconciliations ensure accurate financial calculation and recordation of delinquent taxes.

My years as Collector of Delinquent Taxes for the town have been a mutually successful experience, and I look forward to continuing to serve the taxpayers of East Montpelier.



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.



Sandy F. Conti: I have served as the Town's First Constable (and Animal Control Officer) for nine years and still find it interesting and at times challenging. I enjoy the opportunity to give back to the town that I have called home for more than 20 years.

I would appreciate the opportunity to serve as the first constable for a tenth term.

Second Constable

one 1-year term

Same description as First Constable
No Candidate

Cemetery Commissioner

one 5-year term

The cemetery commissioners are responsible for the care and management of the Town's cemeteries.



Christopher "Chris" Reed: I live with my wife, Becky, in East Montpelier Center. For more than 40 years I have driven past Cutler and Doty cemeteries knowing their care was being overseen by a progression of friends and neighbors. This summer I had the opportunity to work with the commissioners while trimming brush,

then painting the fence at Cate cemetery. During conversations, they shared some of their goals and the challenges they face in maintaining these grounds in both a respectful and efficient manner with limited funds. I would be honored to take my turn at working with the current members to oversee this important responsibility.



Photos: Alex Brown

Planning Commissioner

three 3-year terms; one year of a 3-year term

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.



Norman Hill, 3-year term: I am seeking another term on the Planning Commission. I moved to East Montpelier in 2004 after retiring from the photojournalism staff of ABC News in Washington, D.C. Since then, I have served the town several ways including the Cemetery Commission as assistant groundskeeper, the Charter Committee,

Planning Commission, and Development Review Board. I enjoy being involved in the town government process and look forward to helping develop the Village Master Plan, the major focus through 2017. Another timely issue on the agenda is the PC's opportunity to seek town intervening status for commercial solar development. The status provides East Montpelier input into the development whether or not the town supports a particular project.

I serve on several committees at The Old Meeting House, and my hobbies include reading (presently hooked on David Baldacci), tennis (wish I was as good as I think I am), and baking sourdough bread, which you may have tasted at one time or another. I appreciate the opportunity to serve East Montpelier and thank you for your vote.



Julie Potter, 3-year term: I am running for re-election to a second term on the town Planning Commission. Prior to my retirement, I worked as a regional planner and understand how local planning works in Vermont. I want to continue sharing my knowledge and skills to help East Montpelier achieve the goals and objectives in the Town Plan.

The Planning Commission recently received a grant to develop a master plan and zoning for East Montpelier Village. I want to help this project be accomplished with strong community input. I would like to see the Planning Commission complete a review of the current zoning districts—adopted a few decades ago—to ensure that they continue to be effective in allowing development where we want it, as well as protecting important working lands and natural areas. The Planning Commission will need to start work on the 2018 Town Plan update fairly soon; I would like to help the Planning

Commission tap into available state and regional resources to assist us with this update.

It has been a privilege to work with my colleagues on the Planning Commission. I hope to continue serving the town for another term.



Kim Watson, 3-year term: Thank you for letting me support the community as a Planning Commissioner and a member of the Development Review Board (DRB) for the last nine years. I wish to continue in that role for another three years and I would appreciate your vote to continue as a member of the Planning Commission. I still

have a strong interest in zoning and planning in our community. While I support the zoning regulations, I and our fellow commissioners are open to interpreting and changing aspects of the regulations and town plan to encourage development. I believe that people have a right to do what they want with their property while ensuring that land and property values in East Montpelier are preserved. I have lived in East Montpelier for over 30 years and worked for the last 35 years in the environmental chemistry field in health and safety and quality assurance, balancing environmental issues with business strategies. I currently work as a Quality Assurance Manager and Health and Safety Officer for Stone Environmental in Montpelier. I also enjoy living and working on the McKnight Farm on Snow Hill Road selling certified organic beef and raw milk.



Ray Stout, one year of a 3-year term: I moved to East Montpelier with my wife and children a year ago. For the past couple of months I have been serving the residents of East Montpelier as a Planning Commissioner in an interim role. During that time I have found the work interesting and rewarding and I look forward to the opportunity to represent the interests of town residents in the upcoming year.

Thank you
Signpost supporters

Alice & Richard Angney

Sandal and Paul Cate

Loring Starr and Michael Dworkin

Kathie Hickman

Doris Washburn

School Director

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.

East Montpelier Elementary School Director

one 3-year term, one 2-year term



Stephen Looke, 3-year term: I would like the opportunity to continue my school director work for East Montpelier. I have lived in East Montpelier with my wife Mary Ellen and my son Stephen for more than 15 years. I have school board experience in both Washington Central Supervisory Union and Washington South Supervisory Union. I'm an active volunteer at U-32 in athletic and music events. You may have even spotted me leading the Catamount Pipe Band in area parades as the drum major of this world ranked band.

The Vermont education landscape is very fluid, confusing, and unpredictable. The experience I have gained over the past several years is invaluable in helping East Montpelier position itself for future financial sustainability while continuing to provide a high-quality education for all students. I serve as vice chair of the East Montpelier Elementary School Board, as chair of the WCSU Executive Committee and Full Board, and as chair of the Act 46 Study Committee. I would like to continue to bring my extensive school board experience to the position of EMES school director for another three years and would welcome your support.



Malinda "Lindy" Johnson, 2-year term: I have been attending EMES board meetings for the past two years as a concerned citizen and am now ready to participate in an official capacity. I worked at EMES in the 1990s and for WCSU in the 2000s. I currently work in the Barre Supervisory Union as a Literacy Coordinator, which

means I work on curriculum decisions, assessment/data review, teacher training, and professional development planning and

Susan Bull Riley's wonderful paintings of East Montpelier and surroundings are on exhibit at the Old Meeting House from February through April. If you would like to visit the Parish House Gallery at the Old Meeting House, or if you are an artist that would be interested in exhibiting at the Old Meeting House, please contact Wendy Soliday 229-9594.

The Signpost would love to encourage East Montpelier artists to contribute jpegs of their work (in black and white) to use in upcoming issues. Contact Wendy for more information.

implementation. Working in public schools makes me keenly aware of the challenges facing schools in our state.

I believe the role of the board is to represent the community in decision-making concerning the budget and the vision of the school while ensuring that learning outcomes meet expectations. Asking the right questions of the school and supervisory union administration to guide policy and procedures is integral to making decisions that could have long-term implications. I feel I could bring insight to the board as an educator with experience at the local, district, and state levels. An area that is of special concern to me and needs to be addressed more effectively is the dramatic drop in student enrollment at EMES and how that is dealt with holistically.

I live on Sodom Pond Road with my husband, Bruce, and, on school breaks, our college-aged sons, R.B. and Will. Both children attended EMES and graduated from U-32. Thank you for considering me when you vote.

U32 School Director

one 3-year term



Kari Bradley: It has been an honor to serve on the U-32 School Board for our town the past three years. I feel I have made positive contributions in communicating with the community, defining our desired learning outcomes for students, and effective budgeting. Last year I led the effort to provide our superintendent with a

meaningful performance evaluation. The next three years will be pivotal for our schools, and I feel I can help our community make good decisions for the benefit of our students, our taxpayers, and our entire community. Thank you for considering me for U-32 School Board Director.



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
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

Assistant Animal Control Officer:
Elliott Morse 839-8723

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 Gene Troia
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

East Montpelier Planning Commission

Thanks to a recently awarded Municipal Planning Grant, the Planning Commission's focus in 2016 will be the creation of a Master Plan for East Montpelier Village. We will be developing a detailed plan and supporting zoning regulations designed to create a vital and attractive business and residential center. The grant will allow us to hire the professional expertise of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC). We will be asking residents and business owners for their participation and ideas about which areas should be included in the village, whether different parts of the village might have different characters, and how infrastructure investments and zoning can help support the creation of a vital and attractive village center.

The Planning Commission will also continue to look at other parts of town and how we might help create new centers, such as around Gallison Hill, or encourage desirable patterns of growth. Like other communities, East Montpelier is beginning to experience developer interest in commercial-scale solar projects. We will be involved in these applications to ensure the best results for the town including creating screening and siting guidelines. Residents can read about the Planning Commission's 2015 endeavors in the Town Report.

The public is always welcome to attend our regular meetings on the first and third Thursday of each month, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the municipal building.

— Jean Vissering, chair

Community Projects: Maybe the Jean Cate Community Fund Can Help

"A community is strong when people have lots of opportunity to work and play together." –Jean Cate

If you are planning a project that will pull together the people of East Montpelier and enhance our sense of community, perhaps the Jean Cate Community Fund could help you with seed money, matching funds, or a piece of the cost of the project. The purpose of the fund is to encourage and support community-building activities in East Montpelier.

Following Jean Cate's death in 2004, her family decided that memorial donations that had been contributed by friends and family would honor Jean's community spirit by setting up a fund to be used for community activities. Jean Cate had been the spark that started Rally Day and the *Signpost* newsletter. Her husband Wes Cate brought together a committee to administer the fund, and it continues to function though Wes has also passed away. Recently the Jean Cate Fund has contributed to Front Porch Forum and the Green Up Day Lunch. In the past it has helped with orientations to Town Meeting for new residents, putting together a booklet "About East Montpelier," a celebration of retaining the Coburn Quarry as a swimming hole, distributing bulbs for the Daffodil Project, encouraging neighborhood potlucks, and organizing "Informatories" about East Montpelier issues. The fund also provided seed money for the East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative's early mailings regarding senior housing in town.

If you would like to ask the Jean Cate Community Fund committee about contributing money or matching grants to help with your project, please call Paul Cate at 223-6466.

Making Maple Syrup at Fox Run Farm

Just over 35 years ago Paul and Sandal Cate built a log-cabin style sugarhouse on the County Road at Fox Run Farm. Every spring since then they've used sap buckets and tubing on the farm and on neighbors' trees to gather, filter, and boil sap from about 160 taps to produce their syrup for home use and to sell to neighbors. Paul learned to sugar down the road at the Morse Farm, and he taught his wife, his sons, and now is teaching his grandsons all about sugarin'. It's hard work but it's fun, and maple syrup is unmatched in the sweetening realm!

Sugaring is best learned from helping another sugarmaker. Then, one has to decide if they have the time, energy, money, and trees needed to start in on one's own operation. Some families boil sap from a handful of trees while other sugarmakers have operations covering many acres of land and requiring lots of equipment in good working order. Vermont regulates the grading of syrup no matter how large or small one's operation may be. If you're going to sell maple syrup, it has to meet the grade. The Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association is the professional guide for assistance in all things maple.

The Cates enjoy hosting sugar-on-snow parties for family and friends at least once each season. At that time of the year everyone is ready to be outside enjoying the thawing days of



spring. The maple syrup is cooked down to a higher density than plain syrup, then gently poured over hard packed "sugar snow". It's chewy and tasty, served with pickles and doughnuts. Watch for steam coming from a sugarhouse near you soon!

— Sandal Cate helps with sugaring and cooks with syrup throughout the year on the family farm on the County Road

The Signpost would like to feature an article on egg producers as its East Montpelier Eats feature in the spring (April/May) issue. If you are engaged in such an activity, please contact Rachael Grossman at 223-3177 or garlicmountain@gmail.com. Also, if you are involved in any food-producing endeavor and would like to share information with your neighbors, contact Rachael.

Paulie's Recipe Sweet Doughnuts — Julia Clark

By Paulie Coburn

1 cup sugar	Add 3½–4 cups flour to make the dough stiff enough to handle. Cut out all the dough before you start to fry the donuts. Lard is best for frying — about 360-365°
2 eggs	
1 teaspoon melted lard (may substitute butter)	
2 teaspoon cream tartar	
1 cup sweet milk	
1 teaspoon vanilla	
1 teaspoon soda	Great with sugar on snow.
a little nutmeg	
a little salt	

The recipe comes from the North Montpelier Friendly Circle cook book put out by a ladies' group associated with an area church. Julia Hollister Clark was born in 1870 and lived until 1939. There is no date in the book, but we think it probably dates from the 1920s.

EMFD: Thanks and Tips

This past year was another busy year for the East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD). A big "thank you" to everyone who participated in the Holiday Baskets Giving Program. Again this year, the response of our communities was outstanding and overwhelming.

It takes many volunteers to run our fire and emergency services department, and in today's world volunteerism is in short supply. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering with EMFD, please stop by Station 2 at 54 Village Acres on any Tuesday evening between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. to discuss opportunities with us.

As winter is now in full swing a couple of important reminders to avert tragic outcomes:

- Replace the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and test them
- Clean your chimneys
- Drive carefully and always at an appropriate speed for the conditions
- Check on your neighbors in these periods of cold weather, especially the elderly and infirm. You may be the only one who does so and it can make a huge difference. Be Safe.

— Gary Ouellette is a member of EMFD

East Montpelier Trails

2015 was a busy year for East Montpelier Trails. We were thrilled by the support shown for the trails at Town Meeting with the community vote to approve our request for \$4,000. These funds were put to good use on several projects with the primary focus being on two sections, Mallory Brook and the new T. Clark connector to U-32.

On the Mallory Brook trail you will see new trailhead signs at both the Johnson Road and the Cherry Tree Hill Road entrances, and newly improved, clearly designated parking areas. Work has also been done extending the trail southward with the addition of a new bridge and a hardened surface for multi-purpose use. A big shout out “Thank You” to Greg Western and all of his numerous volunteers from Volunteers for Peace, Norwich University and the VYCC!

On the T. Clark trail, the funds were used to purchase materials for a crucial bridge crossing and boardwalk over a somewhat large gully. This project was exciting because it involved collaboration with the U-32 athletic department, assistance from Eagle Scout project leader Henry Hoffert, and the donation of invaluable time and expertise by “Timber and Stone” trail builders Josh Ryan and Gordon Adams who spent more than two and a half days on this major construction. At least 65 volunteers took part in this endeavor, which will greatly benefit East Montpelier and U-32 together. It is important to

note that while the trail is passable, there is still need for the installation of a boardwalk to protect the wetland, so please use the trail with discretion and please no bicycles at this time.

With a new trail easement on the Ormsbee property, Sandy Woodbeck and a crew of the East Montpelier Gully Jumpers cleared the snowmobile section of the right-of-way through this property.

We are currently scouting a route to connect the Mallory Brook trail to a safe place to cross Towne Hill Road and connect to School House Road and subsequently the T. Clark trail. This as-yet-to-be-determined route will likely need substantial work and another bridge eventually.

In other locations throughout the town, you will notice new trail signs in critical locations to address concerns regarding being able to follow the trail at any time of the year. A big thanks to Rick Hopkins for his diligence on these projects.

Once again, we greatly appreciate the support that the townspeople have given us to make progress on these projects with much more in planning stages. Visit our website at emtrails.org to learn more about our work, to see maps of all our trails and to contact us. Find out how to help and be sure to get out on the trails and take a hike, ski, or snowshoe!

— Sue Chickering & Mary Stone are members of EM Trails, Inc.



Walking the newly acquired town property. Please see “Top of the Signpost” for information. Photo by K. Watson.

Volunteer Profile: Michelle Singer at the Bene-Fit Shop

I began volunteering at the Bene-Fit Shop just a little over one year ago. Every week, I spend two mornings processing donations and ringing folks up on the cash register. I’ve always loved thrift stores, and my mornings at the shop are some of my favorite parts of the week. I love seeing the same people come in and saying hello to them by name, and I love the variety of things that are donated. It’s never boring at the Bene-Fit Shop!

In the same building as the Delicate Decadence bakery, and in the same plaza as Lenny’s and Rite Aid in Barre, the Bene-Fit Shop is run by the Central Vermont Medical Center Auxiliary. It has been providing not just a place for people to shop for (really) affordable clothes and household items, but also a place people can give gently used items a new life. The Auxiliary then uses the profits from the shop to give scholarships to nursing students and buy needed items at the hospital. It’s a win-win-win and as we say often as we ring people up for \$3 shirts and \$2 pants, “You can’t go wrong.”

For more information, including store hours or how to become a volunteer, visit:

www.cvmc.org/about-cvmc/community/cvmc-auxiliary/bene-fit-shop

Town Weathervane

Due to lack of space, summaries of the minutes of public meetings may be found on the Signpost website at www.emsignpost.com.

MILESTONES

Births

- Alyson Rose Nault, daughter, born Nov. 14, 2015 to Lindsay & David Nault
- Kian Kuiper Fisher, son, born Nov. 14, 2015 to Kaili Kuiper & Thomas Fisher IV
- Simone Judithann Kulsick, daughter, born Nov. 23, 2015 to Sharon & Dennis Kulsick
- Emmitt Reginald Austin, son, born Dec. 11, 2015 to Tasha & Dillon Austin

Deaths

- Patricia Jean Topping died Nov. 27, 2015, mother of Kathy Wiese
- Mina Healy died Nov. 28, 2015, wife of Shawn Healy
- John Unger died Jan. 9, 2016, husband of Mitzi Unger
- Elizabeth Catlin died Dec. 27, 2016, daughter of Mark & Charlie Catlin

Marriages

- Paul Eley & Sarah Waring, Sept. 12, 2015
- Seth Chapell & Natalie Jarnis, Sept. 26, 2015
- Steven Megrath & Susanne Jordan, Dec. 12, 2015
- Kathleen Hunt & Peter Shumlin, Dec. 16, 2015
- Alex Hickory & Jennifer Ertel, Jan. 8, 2016

Property Transfers

- John & Grace Mekkelsen to Constance Cherrier & Bruce Mekkelsen, single family dwelling & 1.05 acres, US2
- George & Shannon Wilson to Paul Winters, single family dwelling & 1.93 acres, VT14
- Stephen Gilbert to Jeffrey Biron, single family dwelling & 2.47 acres, VT14N
- Only Choice Health Cooperative to State of Vermont, 10 acres open land, US2
- James & Emily Reed to Andrew & Morgan Greenwald, single family dwelling & 1.5 acres, Powder Horn Glen Rd
- Conrad & Ruth Belanger to Peter Canales, single family dwelling & 1.0 acres, Cherry Tree Hill Rd
- Washington Electric Cooperative to State of Vermont Agency of Transportation, garage & 0.55 acres, Church St
- Gail Woodward to Michael Hill, mobile home & 1 acre, Snow Hill Rd

- Wells Fargo Bank to Sean & Joanie Smith, single family dwelling & 1.39 acres, Taycon Drive
- Celina Moore to Celina Moore Trust, single family dwelling & 99.63 acres, VT14N
- Edward & Marilyn Blackwell to Vermont Land Trust, single family dwelling & 79 acres, Center Rd
- Robert Morse to Robert Morse & Robert Morse Living Trust, single family dwelling & 15.7 acres, Coburn Rd
- Robert Morse Living Trust to Robert Morris, single family dwelling & 15.7 acres, Coburn Rd
- Donald Cote to Dass Enterprises, storage rental units & 5.75 acres, US2
- Arthur Hale to Amy Yantz, single family dwelling & 7 acres, Horn of the Moon Rd
- Hester Manning to Arthur Hale, single family dwelling & 7 acres, Horn of the Moon Rd
- Donald Blake to Debra Gomez, Randall Blake & Sherry Blake, mobile home, Sandy Pines Rd
- Jerome Rappaport to Armand Laquerre, 42.5 acres open land, East Hill Rd
- Barbara Eniti to Casey Wolf, single family dwelling & 14 acres, Old Farm Rd
- Donald & Carol Welch to Kristi Flynn, Laura LaBrie & David Welch, single family dwelling & 2.7 acres, Bliss Rd
- Ormsbee Living Trust to Fairmont Farm, 172 acres open land, Center Rd
- Susan Carr to Priscilla Carr, 6 acres open land, Bliss Rd
- Priscilla Carr to Priscilla Carr & Jay Stewart, 6 acres open land, Bliss Rd
- Nancy Williams to Rebecca Newhouse, mobile home, Robinson Rd
- Elizabeth LaFrance to William & Tammy Atkins, single family dwelling & 0.96 acres, Quaker Hill Rd
- Anthony & Pamela Biron to Bradley & Katelyn Biron, single family dwelling & 1 acre land, Quaker Hill Rd
- Albert & Catherine Plant to State of Vermont Agency of Transportation, 0.36 acres open land, VT14



Photo by G.A. Lewis

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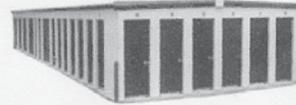
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CALENDAR

Sat. Feb. 27, Town/School District Forum: EMES, 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Tues. Mar. 1, Town Meeting Day: EMES, 9:30 a.m.

Polls open 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Feb. – April, Susan Bull Riley Exhibit, Old Meeting House,
EM Center, call Wendy Soliday, 229-9594.

Sat. May 7, Green Up Day: roadside trash pick-up, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Call Chris Racanelli at 225-6032 for more information

Sat. May 7, Green Up luncheon: EMES, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

The deadline for the next issue of the Signpost is April 1

IMPORTANT DATES

Wed. Feb. 24, Voter registration deadline for Town Meeting:
Town Office 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Mon. Feb. 29, Deadline to obtain absentee ballots:
Town Office or call 223-3313. Must be returned by 7 p.m. Mar. 1

Fri. April 1, Dog registration deadline: Town Office.

\$8.00 spayed/neutered \$12.00 not, current rabies vacc. required

Mon. May 16, Property Tax Installment Due: Town Office
by 5:00 p.m. to avoid 8 percent penalty

Mon. May 30, Memorial Day, Town Office closed

Committee Meetings

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee	as needed		<i>contact:</i> blusig@aol.com /229-5441
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 Senior Living Initiative (EMSLI)	as needed		<i>contact:</i> rhazel@ezcloud.com
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 Wed	6:00 p.m.	U-32 School