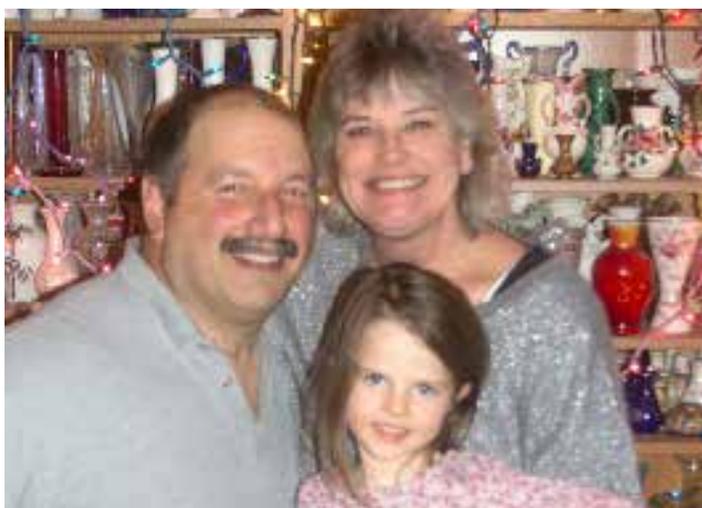


EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XXVII—Number Three

January/February 2017



Sandy & Terri Conti Dedicated To Our Town

By Bruce Chapell

I have been friends with Sandy and Terri for a long time, but I never realized how much they have contributed to our town over the years.

Sandy has worked for Rock of Ages for 29 years. Currently, he is a granite cutter operating a computer-assisted saw with diamond-tipped blades, cutting huge blocks of granite into a vast assortment of products. He is very involved with his work as a union officer and has helped negotiate a number of labor contracts for the Granite Cutters Union.

Besides his job, Sandy has an impressive list of local and state organizations to which he contributes his time. He has always loved sports and is the vice president of the Central Vermont Umpires' Association. He is also a member of the Barre Tournament Committee, which is responsible for the boys' and girls' high school basketball championships at the Barre Auditorium. Once May arrives, he begins umpiring boys' high

Conti, continued on page 10

Winterwood Timber Frames: Andy Harper

by Andy Morse

In 1997, Andy Harper taught himself to build his first timber-frame structure, a sugarhouse, on the 150-acre farm he called home in Chelsea, Vermont. It was a challenging build, especially considering that he chose to use maple—a hard wood—selected



from his property. "It was hard work," Andy remembered from his desk inside the new Winterwood Timber Frames facility on Route 2 in Plainfield. Today, he builds timber frames almost exclusively out of white pine, and the scent of fresh, kiln-dried wood permeates the 52' x 100' building that serves as a timber-cutting, kiln-drying, manufacturing, and finishing facility. When I observed how sweet the place smelled, he mentioned, "It sticks to you. My wife loves it when I come home."

Andy lives with his wife, Michelle, on Captain Kidd Road in East Montpelier. She is a lifelong town resident, and Andy chose the location of the new facility to be closer to their home. Before moving the business, he operated out of Chelsea, where he first started out in the lumber business by operating a sawmill on his farm. He soon realized he would get bored cutting boards; so

Harper, continued on page 8

IN THIS ISSUE

2 — Think about Town Meeting

7 — Author in Our Midst: Brian Tokar

4 — Planning East Montpelier Village

8 — East Montpelier Eats

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Top of the Signpost

The New Year is here, and once again it's time to think about Vermont's nearly unique institution of Town Meeting, coming right up on March 7. In addition to anticipating the opportunity to see old friends, meet new ones, and enjoy eating and socializing together, now is the moment to consider getting even more involved in operations of our small town. Petitions to run for public office are due no later than January 30; and even the collection of the 25-30 signatures needed to put your name on the ballot provides great opportunities to visit with your neighbors. Local government is one forum where you can definitely have an impact. Try it; you'll like it. This year you have your choice of the following positions:

Town Moderator, 1-year term
Town Clerk, 1 year of a 3-year term
Selectboard Member, 3-year term
Selectboard Member, 2-year term
Lister, 3-year term
Auditor, 3-year term
First Constable, 1-year term

Cemetery Commissioner, 5-year term
Planning Commissioner, 3-year term
Planning Commissioner, 3-year term
Planning Commissioner, 3-year term
EMES Board, 3-year term
EMES Board, 2-year term
U-32 School Board, 3-year term

And A Wonderful Bonus: A Great Meal



An important part of Town Meeting is our traditional Potluck Lunch—the best meal in town. Mark your calendars—Tuesday, March 7, East Montpelier Elementary School. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, preparation, serving, and clean-up. More details in the next *Signpost*. Contact Sue Racanelli at 225-6032 or racanellis@gmx.com.

Thank you, *Signpost* supporters

- Conrad and Anne Ormsbee
- Doris Wasburn
- Cynthia Tomaszewicz

Building Bridges, Making Tracks

Working with Fairmont Farms, we are moving right along on trails on the Ormsbee land easement along the Center Road. The snowmobile trail is laid out and cleared—now all we need is frozen ground and snow. The new four-season trail will connect to a network of neighborhood trails near Powder Horn Glen Road and will make possible access to the whole network from either Center or Powder Horn Glen Road.

The Karen Clark Trail is a new spur connecting Wheeler Road, off Gallison Hill Road, to the U-32 High School system. This trail is a proposed link to the Cross Vermont Trail. Karen Clark, a beloved educator with Community College of Vermont, was the daughter of T. and Helen Clark, whose family lived for generations in town on the Clark Farm.

A heartfelt thanks to MAMBA, the Montpelier Area Mountain Bike Association, which did significant fundraising and assembled a large crew of volunteers to build a new sturdy boardwalk on the Sparrow Farm Trail.

Unfortunately, the beautiful bridge over Mallory Brook on the trail off Johnson Road needs work. For now, it has been braced, but we advise using caution on crossing the bridge this winter. We will be rebuilding the bridge with the help of town resident and EM Trails board member Josh Ryan of Timber and Stone, Greg Western, and landowner Chris Pratt.

We are also working with Greg and the Cross Vermont Trail Association (CVTA) on an exciting new bridge that will cross the Winooski below U-32; this bridge is a linchpin in the Cross Vermont Trail and will also connect it to our own town trails. CVTA already has in place a major chunk of the funding needed, including a \$3,000 donation from the town of Berlin. The CVTA is requesting a \$1-per-capita contribution from each of the partner towns in the Washington Central Supervisory Union—Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex and Worcester—and is asking Plainfield for some funding as well. EM Trails will be asking EM residents to match the trail group's contribution at Town Meeting in March.

EM Trails is grateful to its many partners and generous donors. We use town-approved funds to maintain existing trails and build new ones. Gifts in memory of Esther Salmi were used for securing new easements and for the memorial boulder and bench on the Esther Salmi Trail off County and Haggett Roads. Thanks to Paul Cate and Rick Hopkins for providing a resting place and incomparable vistas.

For more info and photos see us on Facebook and on our website at emtrails.org. Both are thanks to webmaster guru Jennifer Boyer.

Many thanks to Marlene Betit, former features co-editor, whose ideas enriched the *Signpost*. We hope to welcome her back in the future.



The Food Shelf at the Old Brick Church is open on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Food is available to residents of Calais, East Montpelier, North Montpelier, and Plainfield. Twenty-eight to 30 families are served by volunteers like Jason and Christine Webb (above). For more information, call the church at 223-1232.

From the Twin Valley Senior

Warmest wishes to you and yours for a very safe and healthy New Year. Please remember to check on elderly friends and neighbors during the cold months of winter and offer help clearing steps and sidewalks, getting mail, or bringing in wood for the stove. Winter can be a depressing time, and loneliness and isolation can lead to serious consequences for senior health. Nobody relishes the prospect of aging without friends and families to support them, so, please give a few minutes of your time to an elderly resident near you.

Twin Valley Senior Center has started weekly evening Bingo games for the public on Tuesday nights with games starting at 6:00. Those who attend must be at least 12 years old. Light refreshments and drinks will be available starting at 5:30. Rip Off tickets are available. The event is a fundraiser for the Twin Valley Senior Center and the Meals on Wheels program. Your attendance and support will be helping the most vulnerable population in your community. You can make a difference while enjoying an evening of fun at your local Bingo game.

From the Fire Department

This holiday season East Montpelier Fire Department continued its annual tradition of giving holiday baskets to a number of our neighbors in need. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all who donated and participated. Your help and generous support makes a difference and is noticed and appreciated by all involved!

A reminder as winter and heating season is upon us, please check and replace the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors per the manufacturer's recommendations. It's a very small price in money and time that can save lives. Be safe.

Planning East Montpelier Village: Student Ideas on Community

The planning commission has been drafting a plan for East Montpelier Village and has held public hearings which revealed support for a fairly dense mixed-use village core surrounded by housing on lots ranging from 0.25–1 acre in size. EMES students were asked to contribute ideas about their visions of community. Led by librarian Arlyn Brucolli, EMES created a project



that integrated social studies, art, technology, and literacy. makes a community valuable to its people requires looking at and considering assets over time. The EMES 2nd and 3rd graders considered how community assets have changed over time. Students then focused on a particular asset they would like to see in the future. Students explored their asset through art and writing.

Students learned that communities are places where people gather, live, play, and work. They change over time but remain important by continuing to provide gathering places and services to the people who live there. Understanding what

that integrated social studies, art, technology, and literacy. The culminating project included a narrated electronic book, a detailed illustration, and a writing piece. Classes also created maps to show where these assets could be located in East Montpelier. The narrated books are available in video format and without narration in pdf at <http://emeslibrary.blogspot.com/>

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Bookstore



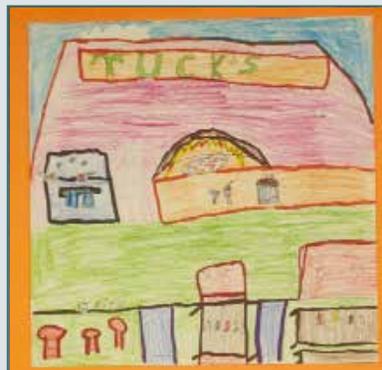
“Welcome to Bob’s Book Store!” At Bob’s Book Store there are pillow chairs, and tons of books. I want it to be where that old house is across from the old auto parts place, in the “y” between Rte. 14 and Rte. 2. I think it should be blue. I think there should be a book store because right now there are no places to get books.

Restaurant

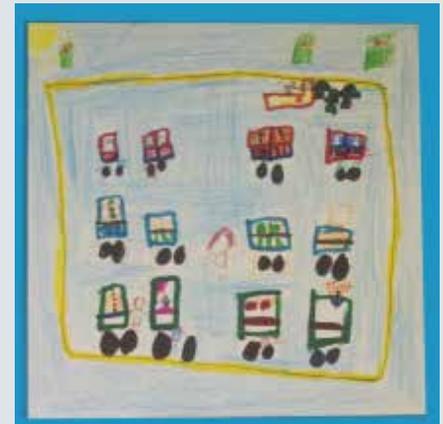
“Here is your food.” I think we would need a restaurant because then you could go out with your family. Also it would have everything, hamburgers, eggs, pancakes,

ice cream, pizza and more! The restaurant would be helpful if the power went out and you couldn’t cook. Also, you could talk to your friends and have important conversations.

The restaurant would be called “Tucks”. It would smell like pizza and pancakes. The waiters would be wearing chicken costumes. They would give out candy to



the kids. The booths would be red. The walls would be pink and the floor would be green. There would be a gumball machine. The waiters would be dancing down the aisles. There wouldn’t be music because the people would be laughing so hard. I would put it next to the fire station.



A New Arcade

“Welcome to the new arcade.” Imagine if one day you walked down the street in East Montpelier and you saw a brand new arcade. You walk in and see all these new games you have not seen before and then you reminded yourself that there hasn’t been an arcade in town for years! Not long after that you start playing in the arcade and you got a burger. A long, long, loooooong time after that it becomes a place people know and love.

The Future of the East Montpelier Historical Society?

The East Montpelier Historical Society has reached a turning point and must either add new and younger members, or it will cease to exist. The town history, *Across the Onion*, was published in 1980, and there have been significant changes since then. We need to do research into what may be termed “contemporary history,” and we need the help of recent town residents who have been instrumental in these changes and who have lived through them.

As a resident of East Montpelier, would you like to know more about our town’s history? How have farmers changed their work habits over the past century? How have our schools changed and grown over the decades? How have Town Meetings evolved to create today’s town structure? What pastimes did families enjoy before videos, computers, and four-wheel-drive vehicles? Who have been some of the foresighted leaders whose names might be on our streets and buildings?

.....

If you have wondered about such changes or if you have participated on various committees for the town, school, or recreation association, we would love to have your involvement this year. We meet the third Monday of each month from February to November.

The society will use the February 20 meeting to develop plans for membership growth, to plan for the 2017 programs, and other administrative procedures. The March 20 meeting will be devoted to membership development. We will invite all town residents to come to the society meeting at the Four Corners Schoolhouse for a presentation on the society, its mission, and goals.

Look for our display table at Town Meeting on March 7. We will use the Front Porch Forum to keep everyone informed on our activities. Also, www.eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org will have full details of the plans. Anyone with thoughts on this issue is invited to send them to me at dave.coburn@comcast.net or call me at 223-6886.

A Park

Do you know how much easier it would be to go for a picnic if we had a park? Here is why. If you were walking by you could rest on a bench. You could sit under a tree for a picnic. It could have space for children like me to play and grown-ups to chat under the trees. I think we should, should, have a park in East Montpelier.

A Library



I think that East Montpelier should have a library because then people could read books. People could also play a couple of games there. Also people could borrow books to read at home. I think you would have fun if we had a library in East Montpelier.

A Poem Store

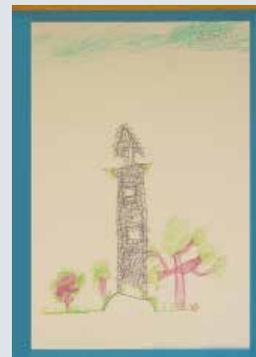
Have you ever thought of a poem store in East Montpelier? You could read more poems. You could sell poems. You could also pick up poem books. That’s why I want a poem store in East Montpelier.

A Candy Factory

I would really like a candy factory in East Montpelier because you can have more candy. You can have more chocolate and more lollipops. It would be good for kids because most kids like candy. You could try to convince your mom or dad to eat candy. I hope we get a candy factory in East Montpelier.

A Café

We need a cafe in East Montpelier right now! If you are tired and you need to cook supper you can just go through the drive through! If you do not really have food at your house you can just go to the drive through. If you can’t go to the store at night, a cafe could have fast food, fruits and vegetables and a whole bunch of other healthy food. That is why I think we should



have a cafe in East Montpelier village!

A Tower

If there was a tower in East Montpelier village, you could look at the view of the Winooski River. It would

make people happy to have a tower where they could see beautiful trees, bald eagles, and the whole village! East Montpelier needs a tower!

A Museum

What would it be like to have a museum in East Montpelier? People would be able to get a job there. Another reason is that people can see cool stuff there. I think a museum would be a good idea for East Montpelier. You might be able to buy stuff there too. I want a museum with dinosaur bones because I’ve never seen any. I think it would be a good idea to have a museum in East Montpelier because there will be cool exhibits and

Fun on Snow in Our Own Backyard



The girls team last February after finally winning the Division II State Title after four years as the runner-up. There are quite a few girls from East Montpelier in the photo. In the back row: Mark Chaplin (head coach), Eliza Merrylees, Tim Flynn (assistant coach) Middle row: Alex Reilly, Kaylyn Crompton, Charlotte Harris, Kathy Topping (assistant coach), Rena Schwartz, Rebecca Thompson, Ruby Lamb, Andrew Tripp (assistant coach), Audrey Oliver, Anna Davis-Noe Front row: Emma Curchin and Jesse Colnes

Are you interested in cross country skiing? Did you know the Nordic Ski Team at U-32 grooms ski trails at the high school? Our season began on November 28 and, weather permitting, we will have groomed trails available until our season ends in mid-March. We maintain trails both in the fields and in the woods when we have enough snow and generally have up to six kilometers groomed for either classic or freestyle (skate).

In the fall of 2015 one of our seniors, Henry Hoffert, completed his Eagle Scout project by building a bridge to the adjacent property now owned by Seth Gardner. He was helped by the East Montpelier Trails Committee, his teammates, and their parents to create another trail about six kilometers through the woods out to Codling field and back to the bridge to U-32. As you may remember, the winter of 2015-2016 had very little snow, so we were not able to groom trails on that property. This winter looks to be much snowier, so we hope to also groom this section of trail for classic skiing only.

We encourage the public to use our trails. Grooming is generally done on the weekends and just before and after practices in the afternoon. We often see skiers using the trails during the school day and by headlamp at night. When the conditions are right, skiing is very popular on the weekends.

Many people also come to U-32 to sled on the hill down to the main field. We try to leave space for this activity and try not to groom close to the press box. We ask the public not to walk on the ski trails since it is difficult to remove the deep footprints. We also remind everyone that U-32 is a pet-free zone, so please, no dogs on the trails.

Many people ask us if there is anything they can do to support our team. We accept donations for the snowmobile fund for grooming. These donations are used to buy gas, for upkeep, and for eventual replacement of the machine.

We also accept donations of equipment. We have a large team, and a policy to provide equipment for middle school skiers and older skiers who are trying the sport for the first time. If any community members have modern equipment they no longer need, we would be happy to put it to use.

Think snow! We hope to see you on the trails this winter.

—Kathy Topping, a long time teacher and coach at U-32, is one of the assistant coaches of the Nordic Ski Team.

Paulie's Recipe

Paulie Coburn and her husband, Dave, are students (and descendants) of early East Montpelier. She chooses recipes from the Community Cookbook of the Friendly Circle, North Montpelier, dating most likely, from the 1930s. Paulie has tested each recipe and adds comments and hints occasionally.

Mashed Potato Pancakes

Left-over mashed potato

1 egg

2 tablespoons flour

Pinch of salt

Mix together and form little cakes. Fry these slowly on both sides in hot fat.

Meat Loaf

1½ lb. ground lamb

1 beaten egg

1 cup milk

2 shredded wheat biscuits, rolled fine

1 tsp. salt

1 medium onion

¼ tsp. pepper

Combine all ingredients and mix thoroughly. Shape into a loaf and put in a well-buttered baking dish. Bake for one and a half hours in a moderate oven.

Thicken the gravy with well-browned flour. Carrots baked with this meat loaf are very good.

Brian Tokar

Brian Tokar has lived in East Montpelier since 2004 and in central Vermont since 1983. He first came to Vermont in the late 1970s to visit the original Social Ecology program at Cate Farm, then part of Goddard College, and relocated to Vermont a few years later. He accepted a Master's Degree for his completed graduate work in biophysics at Harvard University, rather than continuing to work

on his PhD, and began to dedicate his life to strengthening the political and scientific focus of the environmental movement, both locally and globally. He is now a lecturer in environmental studies at UVM and serves on the boards of 350Vermont and the Institute for Social Ecology.

Brian has published a total of six books, including three written on his own and three edited compilations of writing by a variety of authors. Most recently,

he published an expanded and revised edition of his book, *Toward Climate Justice: Perspectives on the Climate Crisis and Social Change*. The book addresses a wide variety of scientific and policy issues related to the unfolding global climate crisis and describes the emergence of a distinctly justice-centered perspective within popular movements for climate action. *Climate Justice* aims to illuminate the many ways in which often-marginalized people around the world, who contribute very little to the problem of excess greenhouse gas emissions, often experience the worst impacts of an increasingly unstable climate.

Toward Climate Justice was originally published in 2010; the newer edition is about 30 percent larger and more up to date. The publisher, New Compass Press, is a social-ecology-oriented press that is based in Norway, though all their books are in English. Brian's previous books have been published by South End Press, Zed Books in London, and the New York-based Monthly Review Press. Monthly Review published *Agriculture and Food in Crisis*, which he co-edited with UVM Emeritus Professor Fred Magdoff back in 2010. He is currently working on a book on genetic engineering (GMOs) and the future of our food movements, here in Vermont and around the world, and is beginning research on an edited collection that will document a variety of global civil society responses to the destabilization of the earth's climate.

For a complete summary of all his books, please see social-ecology.org/brian-tokar-page.



TERRY ALLEN

Ten Below

Ten black hens closed
in the old red shed
soot-shadows huddled
all ten in the far corner
their blue feet gripping
a maple limb roost.
I thump a milk bucket
with a mittened fist
advertising treats—
crusts of whole wheat toast
last night's fried potatoes
red ribbons of apple peel.
The hens agitate down
floorward, stamp the straw,
fuss by the window's
moted beam, kick straw
while I pull the board door
and latch it against the wind.

—Molly Power lives on Evermore Farm in East Montpelier with her husband, John Ordway. She writes fiction and poems.



The Magic Bean Farm is operated by me, Sarah Graves, with a little help from my husband, Dave Torres, and our son, Henry. We grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers, and we make pickles, pesto, tea, and holiday wreaths. Our mission is to provide our

Harper, continued from page 1

after just three years, he sold his portion of the company to his business partner and set out to put up timber frames full-time.

The operation consisted mainly of building barns and outbuildings at first, although as he started building more houses, it became apparent he would need to integrate vertically in a space that could accommodate more custom design work, including cabinets and flooring. While there is a lot of wood to behold, it is the building itself that catches your eye. Timber-frame structures are ideal for open spaces like the Winterwood facility, but they have recently caught on in homes. Open floorplans are becoming more common, and for good reason. The king-post trusses that vault the ceilings are secured through dovetail joinery, allowing free span spaces without partition walls. The thick purlins on the ceilings, and especially the beams in the corners of rooms, look so natural that they seem to be alive coming out of the ground. "That's the beauty of the timber frame," Andy said, when talking about its rustic elegance, "...our forbearers figured it out so many centuries ago."

One of Andy's favorite parts of the job is sourcing the wood. Sometimes clients will use trees from their own property for framing. "The connection to the land—the opportunity to get out into the woods—that's a big deal for me." Keeping the trees local is also a big deal regarding Winterwood's mission and business model. Last year they won a grant from the Working Land Enterprise Fund, intended to help create utilization for local products. With the money, they installed a wood boiler

community with locally grown food, to build healthy soil and habitat for beneficial wildlife, and to create an environment that encourages curiosity and discovery.

From 2008 to 2014, I worked in the produce department of the Onion River Co-op, where I became acutely aware of the important role I played in an incredible local food network. It was this experience that led to my interest in farming.

When Henry was born, my farming dream really began to take shape. I wanted to be closer to my family in East Montpelier, so my husband and I began our search in my hometown. Fortuitously, I found an apartment at the Cate Farm, the home of childhood friends and my eighth-grade employers! Moving to the Cate Farm was like coming home, and it was just a mile from my dad's property, where I would establish The Magic Bean Farm in 2015.

As a new farmer, it seemed practical to start out slowly. I wanted to limit waste and grow only what I knew would be harvested and eaten. I developed a small, custom-order CSA that delivers to the offices and homes of my customers in Central Vermont and Burlington. This system allows me to harvest exactly what my customers want and when they want it, while giving me the flexibility to stay small and to try my hand at growing new or unique varieties of produce.

If you would like to learn more about The Magic Bean Farm, or try some of our delicious recipes, please visit our website: magicbeanfarmer.com or email Sarah at gravesarah@gmail.com

that consumes scrap wood to heat the radiant floors, and they bought two large kilns and a generator.

As the operation has grown so has Winterwood's staff of carpenters: from four when based out of Chelsea to 12 and growing now that they are able to utilize the facility closer to its full potential. Andy attests that the quality of Winterwoods Timber Frames is a testament to his staff. "This is all hand-crafted. These are skilled craftspeople who work here, both men and women who have come through this business and really applied their very particular skills to the success of the business."

Andy has been very busy working 50 to 60-hour weeks managing the growing business and taking on new types of projects; but being busy is nothing new to him. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, after getting degrees both in forestry and environmental education, he worked with various non-profits. Whatever it was that sparked Andy to take on timber-framing, love of trees, wood, craft, or all the above, it is remarkable that he could teach himself the skills to create such spectacular structures. Winterwood Timber Frames, itself, seems to be a joinery of an appreciation for the beauty of nature, passion for aesthetic quality, and commitment to strengthening the framework of our local economy.

—Andy Morse grew up in Shelburne and now lives on Brazier Road with his wife, E. Montpelier native Brooke MacDonald and their two young sons, Theodore and Jude.

Town Offices

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Phone: 802-223-3313

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Friday 9 AM–12 PM

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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

Assistant Animal Control Officer:

Elliott Morse 839-8723

Listers: Rob Chickering,

Ross Hazel, Chris Racanelli

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

Gene Troia

Kimberly Swazey

Casey Northrup

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Jean Vissering, Chair, 223-3262

Development Review Board

Richard Curtis, Chair

rcurtis841@comcast.net

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Emily Goyette, egoyette@u32.org

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rubin@rbtechvt.com

Lindy Johnson

Kimberly Kendall

Stephen Looke

Flor Diaz-Smith

State Representative

Kimberly Jessup, 249-9306

jessupkimberly@gmail.com

Town Weathervane

MILESTONES

Births

- Sofia Mae Champagne, daughter, born Aug. 2, 2016 to Lisa Liard & Randy Cabrera Champagne
- Orion Christopher Eley, son, born Aug. 4, 2016 to Sarah Waring & Paul Eley
- Kvothe Isiah Wood, son, born Sept. 27, 2016 to Ciria Moreno & Brandon Wood
- Teis Wheeler, son, born Oct. 20, 2016 to Katharine Trautz & Daniel Wheeler

Marriages

- Bridget McGough & Thomas Coburn, Sept. 23, 2016
- Richard Hall III & Elizabeth Olson, Sept. 24, 2016
- Steven Bigras & Chantal Parent, Nov. 5, 2016

Deaths

- Wayne Roberts died Aug. 2016
- Virginia Keefe died Sept. 12, 2016, spouse of David Keefe
- Francis Farmer died Oct. 17, 2016
- Irene Stott died Dec. 2, 2016, mother of Rebecca Reed

SELECTBOARD

October 3, 2016

Motions Passed:

- to adopt the 2016-17 Winter Roads Policy as presented
- to adopt the amendments to the East Montpelier Traffic Ordinance as presented with an effective date of December 2, 2016
- to approve the WEC utility line work in the town's Powder Horn Glen Road right-of-way as presented
- to authorize Town Administrator Johnson to sign the Chase & Chase Surveyors Scope of Services Agreement
- to authorize TA Johnson to sign the application for the 2017 renewal of the town's membership in the VLCT PACIF

October 10, 2016

Motion Passed:

- to send the response to the charter committee as written

November 7, 2016

Motions Passed:

- to authorize the listers to alter the 2016 Grand List, as requested, for a net decrease of \$166,200.
- to authorize the expenditure of \$1,336.85 to continue the NEMRC annual software support agreement

November 21, 2016

Motions Passed:

- to adopt the Plan of Merger of the East Montpelier Fire District #1 with the town of East Montpelier, as presented
- to allow the East Montpelier Gully Jumpers Club to use town roads, as requested
- to appoint Ed Deegan to the Capital Improvement Committee for the term ending March 2017 and Gabriella Malina to the Revolving Loan Advisory Committee with an open ended term

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

October 4, 2016

Motions Passed:

- to approve Application #16-038 from Ashley Demers to add a spa business at 1528 US2 which is an amendment to Application #10-025, as presented with 3 conditions
- to approve Application #16-047 as an amendment to Conditional Use Permit #91-029 from Doug and Barbara Bragg to build a new shed on their commercial property at 1005 VT14N

PLANNING COMMISSION

October 6, 2016

Motions Passed:

- to not appeal the Public Service Board's granting of a certificate of public good for the BDE East Montpelier Lazar Solar LLC 500kw Solar Array.

October 20, 2016

- Reviewed the public input on the well-attended October 10 meeting on land conservation and the October 20 meeting on the master plan for EM Village.

Nov. 3, 2016

Discussed Village plan including recreation and trails and next steps



TERRY J. ALLEN

school varsity baseball games around Central Vermont and East Montpelier Little League games as time allows.

Throughout the year, Sandy dedicates a large amount of his time to the East Montpelier/Calais Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department as a fire fighter and emergency medical responder. While I was interviewing them, an emergency call came in, and Sandy was off to a medical call. When fire or ambulance calls come in, Sandy and Terri exhibit a real team effort. Terri often knows the precise location of the emergency due to her town clerk experience. She provides Sandy with key information so he can respond quickly to emergencies; before you know it, he is out the door. Terri went on to explain that these fire and medical calls come in at any hour of the day or night. It made me think that many of us do not realize that while we are safe and sound in our homes, the men and women of our fire and rescue department are handling many traumatic fire and medical situations throughout our community.

A number of folks in town know Sandy as our East Montpelier Town Constable and Animal Control Officer. His animal control stories are quite interesting and range from unruly dogs to runaway horses, cattle, cats, dogs, and once, some uncooperative pigs. As town constable, he can be found assisting in town events. He also cooperates with the Vermont State Police, Washington County Sheriff's Department and Vermont Fish & Game Wardens concerning town law enforcement issues.

With all of Sandy's volunteer commitments, it is hard to imagine he would have any free time, but he sure does fit in a lot of activities. He and Terri enjoy snowmobiling on our great Vermont state trail system. During the summer they enjoy camping with friends, and Sandy gets in some well-deserved bass fishing. From October to mid-December, Sandy spends any free time deer hunting with his family. Winter months find Sandy rabbit hunting with his two beagles. From late February to mid-April, the Chapell family is blessed to have Sandy's able-bodied assistance at Templeton Farm's maple operation. Sandy loves maple sugaring and has worked with us for years. He is always willing to help with any task that is needed. I have to say, Sandy is a great guy to have on our sugaring crew and is a total pleasure to work with; we are so lucky to have his help and great spirit.

The other half of this community-minded couple is Terri Conti. An interesting turn of events brought Terri into town service. In the spring of 2002, Terri had worked as an insurance agent for 18 years, and she just happened to be in the town clerk's office registering her dog. Terri was having a casual conversation with Sylvia Tosi and Paulie Coburn and mentioned she had just gotten laid off from work and was looking for a job. As luck would have it, Paulie was retiring as assistant town clerk and treasurer, so the town would be soon looking to fill her position. In June 2002, the select board appointed Terri to Paulie's position. Over the next four years, Terri learned the multitude of duties required to run our town.

In the spring of 2006, Sylvia Tosi, long-time town clerk, decided to retire. Terri ran for this office and was elected at Town Meeting that very year. Since then she has run for this office and been elected for three consecutive 3-year terms. After serving our town for so many years, she has acquired tremendous knowledge of our community. I swear she knows every road, house, and the majority of residents in this town. I cannot imagine the number of meetings, land transfers, deed searches, marriage certificates, tax payments, and election preparations (the list goes on and on) this woman has been involved in during her tenure.

Terri has been beset with medical problems for a number of years, and recently, both she and Sandy have been struggling with health issues. Sandy was recently diagnosed and treated for thyroid cancer. This summer, after considering Sandy's cancer and her many health concerns, Terri made the difficult decision to resign as town clerk effective September 1, 2016. As we discussed this subject, it was apparent that this decision was still very troubling to her. This was not the way she wanted to retire from her position. However, she does look forward to spending more time with her sons and grandchildren.

We ended with both of them agreeing it is time to move on to the next phase of their life together. They left me with these words: "Life is too short and time too precious; we want to make the most of the years we have left." This couple has certainly given a lot to our community, and each and every one of us is so much better off because of them. Thank you, Sandy and Terri.

—Bruce Chapell lives on Center Rd. and operates Templeton Farm Beef and Maple, an 8th generation family farm, with his son Seth and wife Natalie, who reside on Foster Rd..



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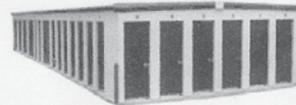
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IMPORTANT DATES

Wed. Jan. 11, 7 p.m., Annual Meeting of EM Fire District #1 (village water district); vote on merger with town, Emergency Services Facility

Mon. Jan 16, 6 p.m. Public hearing on charter amendments, Emergency Services Facility

Thurs. Jan. 19, 5 p.m. petitions for articles for the Town Meeting Warning due at Town Office ~ 125 signatures

Mon. Jan 30, 5 p.m. candidate petitions due at Town Office ~ 25 signatures

No meeting of the Historical Society in January.

Sat. Mar. 4, 9:30 a.m. Pre-Town and School Meeting Forum, EM Elementary School

Tues. Mar. 7 9:30 a.m. Town and School Meetings, EMES

Tues. Mar 7, 12 p.m. Community Potluck, EMES

Tues. Mar. 7, Town Meeting Day elections, polls open 7 a.m.-7p.m., EMES

Tues. Mar. 7, Town Office closed

Sat. May 6, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. EMES, Green Up Day roadside trash pick-up. Call Chris Racanelli at 225-6032 for more information.

The deadline for the next issue of the *Signpost* is Thurs., Jan. 26.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee

Development Review Board (DRB)

East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) Board

East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)

East Montpelier Fire District No. 1

East Montpelier Historical Society

East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative

Four Corners Schoolhouse Association

EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)

Planning Commission (PC)

Recreation Board

Selectboard

U-32 School Board

as needed

1st Tues. 7:00 p.m.

3rd Mon. 5:30 p.m.

Every Tues. 7:00 p.m.

2nd Wed. 7:00 p.m.

3rd Mon. 7:00/6:00 p.m.

as needed

2nd Wed. 7:00 p.m.

2nd Wed. 6:30 p.m.

1st & 3rd Thurs. 7:00 p.m.

2nd Mon. 7:15 p.m.

1st & 3rd Mon. 6:30 p.m.

1st Wed. 6:00 p.m.

contact: blusig@aol.com /229-5441

Town Office Building

Elementary School

EMFD Community Room

EMFD Community Room

Four Corners Schoolhouse/E. Calais

contact: rhazel@ezcloud.com

Four Corners Schoolhouse

Elementary School, Art Room

Town Office Building

Elementary School

Town Office Building

U-32 School