

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXIX—Number Four March/April 2019

Town Meeting Day: Tuesday, March 5



Photos: Alex Brown

Voter Registration

Register at the Town Office Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m.–noon or at the polls on voting day. Register online at mvp.sec.state.vt.us/.

Early or Absentee Voting

Ballots may be requested from the Town Office at 223-3313, Ext. 202, or picked up at the office. All ballots must be returned to the office by 5 p.m. on Monday, March 4, to be counted or they may be returned at the polling place on Tuesday, March 5.

Town/School Forum

Saturday, March 2, 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

Tuesday, March 5, 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. Child care will be available.

Australian Ballot Voting

Tuesday, March 5, 7 a.m.–7 p.m. at EMES

Town Meeting Day Potluck

Tuesday, March 5, around noon at EMES. To volunteer, contact Sue Racanelli at 225-6032 or racanellis@gmx.com.

IN THIS ISSUE

2 — Joyce's Jokes

3 — Town Meeting Potluck

6 — School Governance Changes in Limbo

7 — Significant Zoning Changes Coming

Signpost Volunteers

Terry J. Allen: Design & Photography
229-0303 tallen@igc.org

Jennifer Boyer: Webmaster
223-8926 vtpots@gmail.com

**Alex Brown: Production, Mailing,
Photography**
223-0430 alex@printmark.net

Charlie Catlin: Records Editor
229-4273 shcharlie@hotmail.com

Darryl Garland: Design
272-4962 redgarlanddesign@gmail.com

Rachael Grossman: E.M. Eats Coordinator
223-3177 garlicmountain@gmail.com

Rosie Laquerre: Town Records
778-0273 vtlaquerres@gmail.com

Eddie Miller: Managing Editor
229-0677 Signpostteam@comcast.net

Carolyn Pastore: Copy Editor
223-7463 cwpas44@yahoo.com

Barbara Ploof: Copy Coordination
223-6934 Signpostbcp@hotmail.com

Mary Redmond: Copy Editor
229-0437, marycampbellvt@gmail.com

Merry Schmidt: Copy Editor
223-2550 merrykschmidt@gmail.com

**Michelle Singer: Inside EMES
Coordinator & Copy Editor**
223-6186 jmsinger98@hotmail.com

Wendy Soliday: Features Editor
229-9594 wsoliday@aol.com

**Ann Stanton: Business Manager,
Copy Editor**
223-5321 profstanton@aol.com

Kathy Topping: U-32 Coordinator
ktopping@u32.org

Printed by L. Brown and Sons Printing
476-3164



Top of the Signpost

Despite how we feel about today's politics, we can still govern ourselves on the local level. In the past decade, my wife, Kim Swasey, has served on the Selectboard, and I have served several terms on the Planning Commission, the Development Review Board, and the Charter Committee. Though some of the committee work is monotonous and uninspiring, the business of the town, such as paying the bills and planning for our children's future, is essential. Town Meeting is approaching, and all town residents are encouraged to attend if for no other reason than to recognize and show appreciation for the sovereignty and self-determination that we enjoy in our small corner of the country. Norman Rockwell's illustration, "Freedom of Speech," depicts a man who looks like Abraham Lincoln standing at town meeting—his hands, worn from hard work, grasping a wooden rail. Protruding from the pocket of his soiled jacket is his folded copy of the town report. Well-dressed folks, seated, look up to him in admiration as he speaks his mind. The picture is a powerful portrayal of the notion that every opinion is valuable, and the New England town meeting is a pure democratic process in which every opinion is given equal consideration.

March 5 is Town Meeting Day, and this is the day we come together to support our town, thus each other. We will meet at the Elementary School at 9:30 a.m. and start with the school meeting, which will include discussion of the potential merger of the school districts within the Washington Central Supervisory Union. A potluck lunch is served around noon, after which the citizenry will discuss, debate, and decide agenda items and appropriate issues that arise. Please participate in this important and valuable right to gather and self-govern. Stop in even if you can't stay long. Hope to see you.

—Norm Hill & Kim Swasey

Joyce's Jokes: Her Humor Shared

One of my greatest joys in the last few years has been attending the Bone Builders' group at the Four Corners Schoolhouse, not just because of the exercise and friendships that have formed, but also because of the humor and wit of Joyce Bean. Joyce, 92, died in December 2018 and is sorely missed by this exercise group. She had been a regular since its inception, which is probably why she was able to live independently for so many years. Her mind was sharp, and she lifted all our spirits by reading us three jokes every Monday and Thursday at "half-time." Fortunately for all of us in East Montpelier, Joyce's family has given these jokes to our group. We will be sharing them periodically in the *Signpost*. We hope they boost your spirits as we remember Joyce.

—Wendy Soliday

God says to an angel: "I just created a 24-hour period of alternate darkness and light."

Angel asks: "What are you going to do next?"

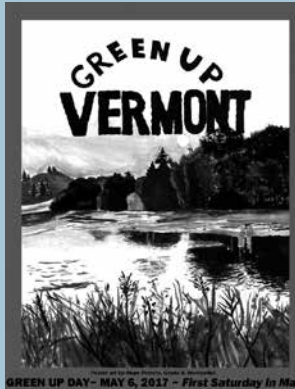
God says: "I think I'll call it a day."



Photo: Terry J. Allen

A little girl asked her mom if she could go outside and play with the boys. Her mother replied, "No, you can't play with the boys, they're too rough!" The little girl then asked, "If I can find a smooth one, can I play with him?"

Save the date: May 4 GREEN UP DAY



Green Up Day is that special day in Vermont when we are out and about in our neighborhoods for a massive spring clean-up of litter. We've been doing this since 1969. Bags will be available at Dudley Store, East Montpelier Elementary School, the Town Office, and

a few other locations. You can download the free Green Up App, www.codeforbtv.org/projects/greenup-app, to coordinate with friends which section of roads you'll be clearing.

Support Green Up on your State Income Tax Return

Don't forget to make your charitable contribution to Green Up Vermont on Line 29 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form, or send a check to Green Up Vermont at P. O. Box 1191, Montpelier, VT 05601-1191. You can also make a secure donation online at the Green Up website, www.greenupvermont.org. Your donation is instrumental in helping keep Vermont clean and green!

Helpers Needed for Green Up Lunch

The Green Up Lunch Committee offers a free lunch in appreciation of your community spirit and our cleaner roadsides. The committee could use some help organizing and serving lunch, so if you'd like to be in the midst of a nice community activity, please get in touch with Denise Roy, 603-860-8231 or denise.roy@comcast.net.

The **East Montpelier Girl Scouts** will be selling Girl Scout cookies around the area in March. Here's where folks can find their favorite cookies!

Tuesday, March 5 at Town Meeting, EMES

Saturday, March 9, Berlin Walmart from 9-2

Saturday, March 16, Shaw's in Berlin 10-4

Town Potluck Is 21



Photos: Alex Brown

Rachael Grossman, Volunteer Potluck Lunch Coordinator for many, many years, dropped off a manila envelope filled with papers relating to Town Potluck from many moons back. What a treasure trove! There were the minutes from March 3, 1998, typed lists of things to bring and do, meal rosters, and plenty of scribbled notes.



In looking these over, I realized that 21 years later, not much had changed. It all happens at EMES with their staff generously readying the room. Bob Watson at Capitol Grounds continues to donate coffee. Neighbors bring the food, a veritable feast of good old-fashioned homemade cooking. Volunteers cut, cook, serve, and clean in the kitchen. But, best of all, it's the bargain of the century at \$5.

As Rachael has always said, \$5 will buy you the best lunch you'll eat all year!

And here we are again, as Town Potluck rolls around there are to-do lists drawn up, notices posted, volunteers signed up. Town Meeting Day is here. We'll see you March 5 at the Potluck Lunch.

Potluck Details

Drop off food and collect lunch tickets: 9:00-10:30 a.m., cafeteria

Meals: Your choice of appetizers, salads, main dishes, sides, bread/rolls, dessert, enough to feed 8-12 guests. Label your dish: vegetarian, vegan, meat, gluten-free, nuts

Cost: Free with a food contribution or \$5 for the best lunch you'll eat all year!!

Contact for info or to volunteer: Sue Racanelli, 802-225-6032, racanellis@gmx.com

They Want Your Vote

Descriptions taken largely from the VLCT Resource Manual and Vermont Law

Town and School District Moderator

(elected separately; may be one or two individuals):
one 1-year term

The moderator is the presiding officer of municipal and school meetings and shall decide questions of votes taken, except if Australian ballot is used. The moderator shall preserve order in the conduct of business and meetings.



Michael Duane: I am running for re-election as the East Montpelier Town Moderator for the 2019 term. It has been my privilege to have served as Town Moderator for the past four years. I have lived in East Montpelier for 37 years. My wife, Ellen Knoedler, and I live on Markham Road, where we raised our three children. All of our children grew up here and

attended our local schools. We now have two little grandchildren who live at the end of our road. I am recently retired as an attorney, and Ellen has likewise recently retired from teaching at EMES. We are fortunate to be able to spend our time traveling, hiking, babysitting, and getting to all the projects around our home, gardens, and 35-acre woodlot.

I was president of the Washington Electric Coop for nine years and learned how to keep a board meeting running smoothly. During my term as moderator, I believe I have developed a pretty good handle on Robert's Rules of Order and the Vermont laws that govern Town Meeting. It would be an honor to serve as the East Montpelier Town Moderator for another term if you so choose. Thank you.

Schoolboard Moderator

No candidate

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: When I joined the East Montpelier Selectboard eight years ago, it was a time of rapid turnover on the board, and it was shortly after the change from a three-person to five-person board. The board now has a depth of experience, with the senior member having nine years of service, and there

is enough turnover to provide a flow of fresh ideas and energy to the deliberations.

The board has worked to set up clear lines of authority and accountability in town government, staff the town with excellent workers, and maintain stability in expenditures and tax rates.

A lot of the job of the selectboard is to help town residents pursue projects for the good of the town. We've worked with the Recreation Committee to help it pursue funding for improvements to the Recreation Field next to the elementary school. We're working with the Cemetery Commission to simplify its work by bringing its finances wholly onto the town books. We endorsed and presented the Central Vermont Internet (now CVFiber) initiative to voters last year, and its work is now well underway. We granted the East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative (EMSLI) an extension on its award from a revolving loan fund, so it could pursue a project not contemplated five years ago.

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



Kimberly Swasey, 2-year term: I am Kimberly Swasey, and I am seeking a fourth term for the East Montpelier Selectboard. I am writing this just before heading to the town office for a selectboard meeting. It is minus four degrees, dark, and I would much rather stay at home by the woodstove with my family. However, to the question, "What makes you go to the meetings?" my answer

is, "Service and commitment." Once I agree to do something, I stick with it. After a lengthy career in the US Army and Vermont National Guard, I consider myself a public servant. Serving East Montpelier on the selectboard is an extension of that motivation.

The *Signpost* asks, "What contributions do you hope to make?" During this term, I intend to lay the foundation for succession planning. Though the administration is solid, and no turnover is imminent, in a small organization such as our town, employee departures are challenging because a few people handle a wide scope of responsibilities. One of my goals is for us to have a plan for when key positions change hands. Another goal is to consider the upcoming changes to our zoning regulations with an open mind to the feedback from you, the citizens.

In a recent meeting with our state representative, Kimberly Jessup, she said that I add energy to the selectboard and encourage discussions with the best interest of the long-term plan in mind. We are lucky in East Montpelier to have a diverse group with individual talents that come together for a strong and effective selectboard that always acts in the best interest of the town. I appreciate your support as I seek to serve a fourth term. Thank you.

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: After serving my first term, I am running for lister in East Montpelier again. Over the course of the past three years, I have gained insight and understanding of what it means to be a lister. Current use, Grand List, data collection, inspections, deed research, common level of appraisal, grievances are terms and concepts now familiar to me, and

I have been able to use this knowledge fairly and consistently in property valuations and reviews.

I thank you for entrusting me with this job and ask for your vote and support as I continue to learn the many complexities of the position.

Town 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 statement received

First Constable:

one 1-year term



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. East Montpelier has voted to prohibit constables from exercising any law enforcement authority.

Sandy F. Conti: No statement received

Second Constable

one 1-year term / No candidate

Planning Commissioner:

three 3-year terms

The planning commission is responsible for preparing and maintaining a current town plan and zoning regulations. It reviews significant developments and makes recommendations on issues including land development, transportation, economic and social development, historic, wetland, and scenic preservation.



Julie Potter, 3-year term: I am seeking re-election to the Town Planning Commission. Prior to retirement, I worked as a regional planner and understand local planning in Vermont. I have served two terms on the planning commission and in this past year have been privileged to serve as chair. As the town's representative to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, I have been able to bring information and access to resources to the town planning commission.

The planning commission is currently working on updating the town's zoning and subdivision regulations. I helped the town obtain state grants to hire a highly qualified consultant to assist the planning commission in this effort. I would like to see updated regulations that implement the 2018 Town Plan, encourage development in East Montpelier Village, and protect working lands and natural areas. An important aspect of this update is ensuring appropriate outreach and opportunities for public input.

It has been an honor 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 as a member of the Development Review Board (DRB) for the last twelve years. I wish to continue in that role for another three years, and I would appreciate your vote. I still have a strong interest in zoning and planning in our community.

While I support the zoning regulations, I do feel it is time to update the regulations we have. I and our fellow commissioners are open to interpreting and changing aspects of the regulations to encourage positive 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 33 years and worked for the last 38 years in environmental consulting, including environmental engineering, analytical chemistry, data integrity and data collection. I currently work as a Quality Assurance Manager and Health and Safety Officer for Stone Environmental. I live and work on the McKnight Farm (organic beef and dairy) with my partner Seth Gardner on Snow Hill Road.



Zachary (Zach) Sullivan, 3-year term: I moved to East Montpelier in 2014, have been serving on the LaPerle Farm Committee since 2016, and am interested in working more broadly to plan for the town at large. I have a background in public policy and, as I've started attending planning commission meetings this winter, I've found the work to be interesting and important in shaping the town for the future.

I am interested in working to allow the types of development that will encourage young families to move to our town while preserving its natural resources and rural character.

Cemetery Commissioner

one 5-year term, one 3 years of a 5-year term

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

No candidate

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



Darci Coleman-Graves, 2-year term: My name is Darci Coleman-Graves, and I am running for the EMES School Board. I grew up in East Montpelier and attended both EMES and U-32. I'm a Software Engineer at IBM. Once we started our family and thought about what we wanted in a school system, we decided East Montpelier was where we wanted to be. EMES has such a sense of community, and we are happy to be a part of it. I've spent time in the school as a chaperone and a volunteer in the classrooms and love what I see from the teachers, students, and the rest of the community. Spending time at the school allows me to get a small glimpse

into the world of education that guides my decisions as a school board member. My first term as a school board director has been a learning experience. I enjoy knowing more about what is involved in providing high quality education to the kids in East Montpelier and the surrounding communities.

I live on the County Road with my partner Elisha Coleman and our two children, Addison and Samantha. Thank you for your consideration.



Stephen Looke, 3-year term: I am seeking support to continue in my position as an EMES school director. I have held this position for several years and have additionally served on the WCSU Executive Committee, the WCSU Board, the Act 46 committee, policy committee, and the Board negotiations team. I consider it a privilege to serve the East Montpelier community, and if selected, I will continue to serve to my fullest abilities.

U-32 Director

one 3-year term



Kari Bradley: It has been an honor serving East Montpelier for the past six years on the U-32 School Board. If reelected, I plan to continue working on uniting all board members and our leadership team around accomplishing our Student Learning Outcomes and using that mission to drive planning, measure success, and communicate about our school's performance. Preparing our young people for success is one of our most important responsibilities as a town, and I appreciate the incredible support that East Montpelier provides.

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE ISSUES IN LIMBO

On February 7th the Vermont House of Representatives approved a bill (H.39) that would allow East Montpelier an additional year to implement the consolidation (with Berlin, Calais, Middlesex, and Worcester) mandated by Act 46. If some form of this bill is approved by the senate and governor, the local districts that are part of the Washington Central Supervisory Union will then work toward creating the merged district by July 1 2020.

In the meantime a lawsuit will soon be heard in Vermont Superior Court challenging the underlying basis of Act 46.

Because of these two lines of activity, the timeline for the consolidation of the WCSU districts is far from certain. There are three possible scenarios:

1. If the lawsuit is successful, it is likely all movement toward consolidation would halt for the time being while the larger issues are settled at the state level.

2. If Act 46 implementation is delayed for a year by the legislature as proposed in H.39, the EMES, U-32, and other local districts of Washington Central Supervisory Union may choose to aim for a merger date of July 1, 2020 which will mean:

- EMES and U-32 directors will be elected on Town Meeting Day, March 5.
- EMES and U-32 budgets will be voted on a date in the spring to be determined.
- Dates for other activities leading to a 2020 merger will be set.

3. If Act 46 implementation moves forward under the current timeline, the merger of the WCSU districts will proceed.

- The first steps will have taken place prior to the publication of this issue at an organizational meeting in February. Voters of the five towns were scheduled approve transitional members (two from each town appointed by local boards)

continued next page

Crafting Land Use Regulations for the 21st Century

Land use and development issues facing EM have changed dramatically in the decades since the town's zoning and subdivision regulations were first adopted. Rapid population growth has leveled, and the number of school-age children has declined. Development of large lots is costly, resulting in the town being unaffordable for many young families. Meanwhile, scattered development has fragmented valuable forests and agricultural soils.

Increasingly, land use planners have recognized that clustered development, oriented towards people, rather than cars, can help reduce resource fragmentation, revitalize villages, and enable housing at more affordable prices.

Following the adoption of the 2018 Town Plan, the East Montpelier Planning Commission (PC) has embarked on a comprehensive update to the town's land use and development regulations. The PC has been awarded two state planning grants to hire an experienced consulting planner to assist with this effort.

Some objectives for this update include:

- Establishing new zoning districts to allow for smaller house lots, particularly in East Montpelier Village.
- Promoting agriculture and forestry by discouraging the conversion of agricultural and forest lands into house lots and siting new homes where their impact on working lands will be minimized.
- Providing clear standards that will make the permitting process more predictable for applicants.
- Streamlining administrative processes for some permits, which will reduce cost and time to get a permit for smaller projects.

Our consultant has identified several other issues for the PC to consider:

- Using density standards (e.g., number of homes per acre) rather than just lot size as a way to manage rural residential development, which allows property owners to subdivide into smaller lots but limits the overall number of lots allowed.
- Allowing fewer parking spaces for many types of businesses.
- Establishing standards for onsite stormwater management, to protect water quality.
- Providing standards for landscaping, outdoor lighting, and screening for major site plans (new commercial, industrial, or multi-family development).

- Establishing different types of Planned Use Development standards that provide flexibility for projects that further community goals such as creating affordable housing or conserving open space.

Some of these concepts, particularly density and lot sizes, have prompted vigorous discussion by the PC. How can we best zone for increased density in the village, recognizing that typical village densities cannot be achieved without a centralized wastewater treatment system? How can we best protect forest areas from fragmentation, while still allowing some development? How should we regulate new technologies (such as electronic signs) or new uses (such as short-term vacation rentals)? The answers to these questions are not easy or obvious.

All of this is taking longer than originally envisioned. But it is important that the PC take the time to consider these issues thoughtfully. The PC is trying to ensure that new residential and business development consistent with the goals and objectives of the Town Plan is encouraged, but occurs in a way that protects the environment and preserves what residents love most about East Montpelier. The PC anticipates having a complete draft for public review late winter – look for it to be posted on the town website as soon as it becomes available.

Right now we can't predict a timetable for completing the update, but we do know the next steps. Once a draft of the proposed land use regulations is ready for public review, the PC will hold several public comment sessions to explain how the proposed regulations would work, to get community feedback, and to make appropriate revisions.

State law requires that the PC hold at least one formal public hearing on proposed zoning changes. The PC's final draft regulations will be submitted to the Selectboard, which is also required to hold at least one public hearing before adoption. The Selectboard may adopt the regulations, require changes to the regulations, or reject the regulations.

The PC meets on the first and third Thursday of the month. Agendas are posted on the PC page of the town website. The public is always welcome at our meetings.

—Julie Potter, Planning Commission Chair

School Governance, continued from previous page

of a new board and to determine how a new single-board district will function both before and after it becomes functional on July 1, 2019

- April 2, 2019 is the *tentative* date set for the election of school directors to sit on the merged Washington Central Unified Union School District Board.
- May 7, 2019 is the *tentative* date to vote on a budget for the new WCUUSD.

- EMES and U-32 school directors will be elected on Town Meeting Day. Those boards will continue to exist until December 31, 2019. They will accept the audit reports for FY18 and fulfill any other obligations as needed.
- The new Washington Central Unified Union School District will be officially operational on July 1, 2019.

Look for news in the local media to remain current with just how this year's school business will unfold.

—Edie Miller

In the movie *Men in Black II*, agent K harbors a culture of miniscule, bug-eyed aliens in locker C-18 at Grand Central Terminal. When K opens the locker door, the creatures exclaim worshipfully, “K! He’s back! The life-giver!” When our three girls were younger, we contrived a similar gleeful celebration when we opened the crock to feed the sourdough starter that I began in 2009. Since then, I estimate the culture has been the base for around 4,000 loaves of bread. However, the first loaves were better



suited for truck wheel chocks than for eating. Maybe that’s what made me stick with it. Only four ingredients; how could something so simple be difficult? To starter add flour and water, salt, a little sugar, and, to make it quicker and for a softer crust, include a few grains of instant yeast. I’ve been baking bread for nine years and find the process nothing short of miraculous.

Why miraculous? Because of the mind-boggling variables. Time, temperature, humidity, age of each ingredient, size of grains, type and hydration level of wheat, type of salt, type of sugar, minerals in the water, type and size of oven, baking surface, and method of dough handling, all combine to produce the loaves. Alter one of these, and the loaves will vary. For consistently uniform loaves, ingredients must be weighed, especially the water and flour mix for feeding the starter. Water weighs more than flour, and over time, extra water will collect on the starter if measured and not weighed. For anyone interested in beginning a sourdough hobby, an accurate scale is necessary and can be found for around twenty dollars.

I bake eight loaves every Wednesday for the Old Meeting House community café. I don’t typically sell the bread; it is pleasure enough to see friends and community members enjoy the crisp crust and fluffy, steamy crumb of a sourdough loaf fresh from the oven.

I studied under Jeffrey Hamelman at King Arthur. His book, *Bread, A Baker’s Book of Techniques and Recipes*, is considered the master’s guide. Questions for me? Email: normsbread@gmail.com.

—Norman Hill

TRAILS, TRAILS, TRAILS

East
Montpelier
Trail



The mission of East Montpelier Trails, Inc. is to work with the townspeople, landowners, and conservation organizations to conserve trails for recreation, for education, and for the enjoyment of

nature. For many years our primary goal has been to complete a “necklace” of continuous trails winding through the town and to join the conserved properties with neighborhoods and the two public schools. Something wonderful happened last year when we opened up the new Ormsbee Trail, which wanders through field and forest from Center Road westward to Powderhorn Glen Road.

This success story began about five years ago when the Ormsbee family conserved their farm on Center Road, donating a permanent trail easement in the process. The farm is now owned and operated by the Fairmont Farm, which has been proactive in helping to locate a scenic trail route. Adjoining landowners Loring Starr and Michael Dworkin generously agreed to partner with EMTI to open their own trail network to the public and to provide us with a trailhead complete with parking. The trails are now maintained by the immediate neighborhood with support from EMTI. If you have not yet walked, biked, snowshoed, or skied this trail, check it out. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if all of our residents could reach a footpath without a future trail expansion, through the efforts of neighbors working together to connect to the East Montpelier trail system?

—Mary Stone is a long time leader of EMTI

New Year ahead for Historical Society

We will be exhibiting at Town Meeting when you can pick up a copy of our 2019 program schedule, join the EMHS for \$5, browse and buy our pamphlets and town history book, and find out more about our activities. We share our programs and meeting spaces with Calais and have very tasty potluck suppers prior to most meetings. We’ll have our annual croquet match, easy hikes on Calais trails and a possible field trip to the site of a famous crime! For more information visit www.eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org Come join us!

—Sandal Cate, president, EMHS

Town Offices

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

Town Clerk: Rosie Laquerre
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

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: Ginny Burley 272-4045

Service Officer: Rachael Grossman 223-3177

Selectboard

Seth Gardner, Chair
sethbgardner@hotmail.com

Carl Etnier Gene Troia
Kimberly Swazey Amy Willis

Planning Commission

Julie Potter, Chair, 262-6119

Development Review Board

Richard Curtis, Chair
rcurtis841@comcast.net

U-32 Jr./Sr. High School

Kari Bradley, kbradley@u32.org
Karen Bradley, kabradley@u32.org

Elementary School

Rubin Bennett, Chair
rubin@rbtechvt.com

Darci Coleman-Graves Lindy Johnson
Stephen Looke Flor Diaz-Smith

State Representative

Kimberly Jessup, 249-9306
jessupkimberly@gmail.com

Town Weathervane

BIRTHS

- McKenna Seraphina Wright, a daughter, was born to Kala Kew & Zackary Wright in September 2018
- Natalie Jane Hubbs, a daughter, was born to Kristin & Steven Hubbs in November 2018
- Rylie Ann Cote-Wong, a daughter, was born to Elizabeth & Jason Cote-Wong in December 2018
- Ella Mae Paquet, a daughter, was born to Hilary & Travis Paquet in December 2018

DEATHS

- Maybeth Butler, mother of Gary Butler, died in October 2018
- Margaret Murray, mother of Debbie Hickory, died in October 2018
- Carole DeMag died in November 2018
- Joyce Bean died in December 2018
- Janet Franz died in December 2018
- David Keefe died in December 2018
- Ernest Keogh, father of Michael, Patrick, Steven, and Jeff, died in December 2018
- Marion Palmer, grandmother of Jon Palmer, died in December 2018
- Anne Sherman died in December 2018
- Evelyn Hendrickson died in January 2019

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

- Estate of Jeffrey Biron to Jeffrey J. Laquerre, 2.47 acres and dwelling on VT14N
- Malcolm & Diana Fielder to Hannah Phillips & Gustave Goodwin, 1.07 acres and dwelling on County Rd
- Matthew Swenson to Jonnie Dunne & Clarice Cutler, 5.50 acres and dwelling on Brazier Rd
- Lauren Isaak to Larken Bunce & Keith Taber, 10 acres and dwelling on Guyette Rd
- Robert & Jeanette Pratt to Robert & Singne Coe, 13 acres timberland off Towne Hill Rd
- Wilmington Savings Funds Society FSB to Nathan Ebert & Usnea Granger, 3 acres and dwelling on Coburn Rd
- William Hodgeman & Diane Conlin to Town of East Montpelier, 3.0 acres of open land on VT14N
- Nicholas & Kristine Brink to Alexander Jinks & Gianna Petito, 2.5 acres and dwelling on Horn of the Moon Rd
- Emily Urquhart to Glenn & Jennifer Weyant, 3.5 acres and dwelling on Johnson Rd
- Winooski Hydroelectric Company to Cross Vermont Trail Association, easement on 4.2 acres on US2

- Ruth Weeks to Jeanne Lajeunesse, 1 acre and mobile home on Clark Rd

Following are selected excerpts from minutes of E. Montpelier's governing boards. Complete minutes are available on the town and school websites.

SELECTBOARD

December 3, 2018

Discussion Items:

- Kellogg-Hubbard Library budget request
- CVEDC dues request
- Cemetery Commission v. Cemetery Committee
- Town Meeting appropriation article for Poplar Hill Cemetery
- 2019 Town Meeting Warning
- Senior Housing project with EMSLI

Motions Passed:

- to authorize Town Administrator to sign the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Collaborative grant application as described
- to approve access permits 18-053 and 18-054 for subdivision of O'Hare property at 835 Dodge Rd

December 6, 2018 Special Joint Meeting with Calais SB

Presentation of proposed FY2020 Ambulance & Fire Emergency Services budget by the E. Montpelier Fire Dept.

December 10, 2018. Special Joint Meeting with Calais SB

Discussion of the FY2020 Ambulance & Emergency Services budget request by the East Montpelier Fire Dept.

December 17, 2018

Discussion Items:

- Green Mountain Transit Rte 2 Commuter Bus budget request
- Central VT Home Health and Hospice budget request
- Montpelier Senior Activity Center budget request
- Funding Request Study Committee report
- FY2018 Financial Audit
- EM Village bridge design concern
- FY2020 budget development
- 2019 Town Meeting Warning

Motions Passed:

- to accept the report of the capital improvement committee and adopt the FY2020 capital plan
- to authorize town administrator to sign the municipal planning grant agreement.
- to extend the December 23, 2013 Grant Agreement between the Town of East Montpelier and the East Montpelier

Senior Living Initiative, under the same terms, through February 15, 2020

January 7, 2010 (Unapproved)

Discussion Items:

- potential recording of SB meetings by ORCA
- Vtrans request to recommend Center Rd stone culvert for listing in National Register of Historic Places
- FY2020 budget development and Town Meeting Warning

Motion Passed:

to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the landowner permission form to grant Montpelier Parks permission to create a winter use trail crossing the Town of East Montpelier's Baird Woods parcels, as indicated on the maps accompanying the permission form

PLANNING COMMISSION

December 6, 2018

Discussion of draft zoning with Brandy Saxton, PlaceSense.

December 20, 2018

Continued discussion of draft zoning with Brandy Saxton, PlaceSense.

January 3, 2019

Continued discussion of draft zoning with Brandy Saxton, PlaceSense.

January 10, 2019

Continued discussion of draft zoning with Brandy Saxton, PlaceSense.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

December 4, 2018

Motion Passed to approve Application #18-042 as presented, for property at 835 Dodge Rd, submitted by Michael and Jamie O'Hare

January 8, 2018 (Unapproved)

Review sketch plan for a proposed 5-lot reconfiguration & subdivision of the 3-lot, 46.17-acre Abrams property located at 925 Center Rd Motion Passed to approve Application #18-055 as conditional use for the secondary use of motor vehicle service with the condition that if the applicants decide to use the additional access for expansion of the commercial use, they need to come back to the DRB

U-32

November 28, 2018

Discussion Items:

- Budget Draft #1
- Track Project Contractor Pre-qualification Criteria

December 5, 2018

Discussion of Budget Draft #2

Motions Passed:

- to approve the Pre-Qualification Criteria for Track Improvements, as discussed at the previous board meeting
- to approve creation of Act 49 Committee, and to appoint Kari Bradley U-32 rep

December 19, 2018

Motions Passed:

- to enter and exit executive session for the purpose of a student hearing
- to recommend the draft budget for the consideration of the Transition Board
- to approve Adrienne Magida's and Carl Witke's appointment to Transition Board
- to approve Winooski Valley & Statewide Choice Agreement for 2019-2020
- to approve the School Quality Committee's recommendation for SU-wide goal, related to student learning, to the Transition Board
- to approve the recommendation for pre-approval of Capitol Earth Moving, J. Hutchins, Dubois, EF Wall and Engineers Construction, Inc. as bidders on the track project

January 14, 2019 (Unapproved)

Motions Passed:

- to approve the U-32 School District Town Meeting Day Warning that contains the public hearing verbiage

January 21, 2019 (Unapproved)

Motions Passed:

- to approve the U-32 School District Town Meeting Warning Revision adding Article 3 fixing the annual compensation of the Union School District officers

THE TWIN VALLEY SENIOR CENTER

Twin Valley Senior Center (TVSC) is once again asking taxpayers for their continued support on Town Meeting Day.

The center is not only a gathering place for food and socialization but a lot more. The center hosts healthy exercise programs, such as Bone Builders, Tai Chi, yoga, and meditation as well as art classes, foot clinics, blood pressure clinics, and yes, free tax service to all low-income people. The center may be rented and can cater a variety of events. We are always in need of volunteers, who are essential to the operation of the center. Volunteers help with repairs, provide kitchen and dining room assistance, deliver meals-on-wheels, and serve on the board of directors; volunteer time can be adjusted to fit your schedule. If you are interested in becoming an exercise leader, we are happy to assist you in acquiring certification. You may contact me at 223-3322 or email twinvalleyseniors@myfairpoint.net.

—Rita Copeland is executive director of TVSC

EMES

October 24, 2018

Discussion Items:

- Student Monitoring Report
- Act 46 Update

Motions Passed:

- to rescind East Montpelier Policies C1 - Board Meeting Agenda Preparation, Meetings and Distribution, C2 - Regular Board Meetings, C3 - Public Participation at Board Meetings, D1 - Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment, and Background Check, D10 - Public Complaints About Personnel
- to not offer a retirement opt-out for teachers in 2019-2020

November 19, 2018

Discussion Items:

- use of Recreation Board vs. Athletic Director
- Budget Draft #1

Motions Passed:

- to reduce the music teacher position at EMES to 0.6 FTE in order to share time with Calais
- to enter executive session for the purpose of a personnel discussion

December 17, 2018 (Unapproved)

Discussion of Budget Draft #2

Motions Passed:

- to accept the audit report
- to approve the school quality committee recommendation for the SU wide goal related to student learning to the transition board
- to appoint Flor Diaz-Smith to Articles of Agreement Committee
- to appoint Flor Diaz-Smith and Ms. Johnson to the transition board
- to appoint Flor Diaz-Smith and Ms. Coleman-Graves to Act 49 Committee



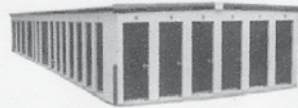
The Mother Hen, LLC

— An Air B & B —

www.airbnb.com/c/dglottmann

Deborah Glottmann, Owner
210 Center Road
East Montpelier, VT 05602
802.249.7227 Fax 802.229.1911
themotherhenllc@gmail.com
Come enjoy the quiet and serenity...

K & A LEASING



44 Storage Units
Assorted Sizes
5 x 5 to 10 x 30

Call us for your storage needs

802-224-7170

Locally owned & operated on Rt. 2 in E. Montpelier



Locally Owned & Operated
Now Supplying Premium Heating Oil

Route 14, East Montpelier, Vermont 05651
Ph: 802-223-0126 • Cell: 802-793-4013
homeenergy@pshift.com



Oil & Propane Delivery • Air Conditioning • Installation • Service

KABD CPA

• Tax Preparation and Planning

• Quickbooks Bookkeeping

KERI-ANN BLACK-DEEGAN
CPA PLLC

455 Coddling Road
East Montpelier, VT 05651
802-223-3069

• Auditing - Specializing in Nonprofits

• Financial Planning



KC's Performance Auto Care

Quality auto repair and maintenance
Vermont state inspection station
Reliable used cars

Casey Northrup
Owner/Technician

802-224-7170

4423 US Route 2
East Montpelier, VT 05651

kcsautovt@yahoo.com



Traditional Vermont
Homes & Outbuildings

- ♦ Custom Designed & Handcrafted
- ♦ Specializing in Energy Efficient Homes
- ♦ Committed to Local Natural Resources
- ♦ General Contracting Services



Call for a free consultation
Winterwood Timber Frames, LLC
Andy Harper
802-353-6111
winterwoodtimber@gmail.com
winterwoodtimberframes.com

TEL. (802) 223-7191
Nights (802) 229-2728
CELL (802) 249-8402



BLAKE'S SOUTHERN AUTOS

D.B.A. BLAKE-LOSO
Finest in North Carolina Used Cars
And Trucks
Rt. 14, EAST MONTPELIER, VT 05651
DEDICATED SALES & SERVICE

RICHARD "DICK" BLAKE
OWNER

TRUE SOUTHERN CARS
A SPECIALTY

Maple Syrup • Vermont Products • Country Store
Corporate Gifts • Woodshed Theatre • Folk Art

MORSE FARM MAPLE SUGARWORKS

Thanks a lot for your continued support!

1168 COUNTY ROAD, MONTPELIER, VT 05602
1-800-242-2740 • WWW.MORSEFARM.COM

Maple Creemees All Year Long

We ship anywhere

"A quality
family farm
shop"

802-223-5757



Vermont
handicrafts
Gifts
Vermont
cheese
Mail-order
maple products

1 mile north of E. Montpelier village on Rt. 14 (follow signs)

Free Estimates
Fully Insured
Quality Work



Patrick McCoy
249-3003

P.W. McCoy Corp
964 Bliss Road
E. Montpelier, VT 05651

- ✓ **Driveways:** Installing New or Resurfacing (Slate and Gravel); Ditching and Culvert Work; Plowing
- ✓ **Lawns:** Grading, Seeding and Mulching for New or Existing Sites
- ✓ **Land Improvement:** Rototilling; Bushhogging; and Trail Work
- ✓ **Dump Truck:** Delivery of Topsoil, Manure, Compost, Gravel, Slate
- ✓ **Excavation:** Site Work for Sonotube and Floating Slabs; Digging Underground Utility Lines; and Much More!

East Montpelier Signpost
PO Box 184
East Montpelier, VT 05651

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 61
Montpelier, VT

Rabies & Dog Licensing Clinic
Tuesday, March 26, 2019
6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.
DOGS & CATS

East Montpelier Fire Department
Station #2 – 54 Village Acres
Vaccines: \$15 per animal
Dog Licenses: \$9 for spayed/
neutered; \$13 if unaltered
Proceeds from vaccinations benefit
the EMFD Donation Fund

www.emSignpost.com

Signpost Archive

Business Supporters

Links to Other Town Information

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.

CALENDAR

Mon. Mar. 18, 6 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m. program. EM & Calais Hist. Soc, E. Calais Rec. Hall, Preserving older historic structures. Call Andy Christiansen for info – 223-1342

Mon. Apr. 15, 6 p.m. potluck & sugar-on-snow, EM & Calais Hist. Soc, E. Calais Rec. Hall. Tales of sugaring. Call Sandal Cate for info, sandal@sover.net, 223-6466.



IMPORTANT DATES

Tues, Mar. 5, Town Meeting Day, Town Office closed

Mon. Apr. 1, Last date to acquire dog licenses without late fees. Town office. Number 1 dog license prize will be drawn on Apr. 2

Tentative date: Tues. Apr. 2, 7 a.m.–7 p.m. Town Office, Election of school directors for new Washington Central Unified Union School District (WCUUSD). Check media for updates.

Tentative date: Tues. May 7, 7 a.m.–7 p.m. Town Office, Vote on WCUUSD budget. Check media for updates.

Tues. May 15, 2nd Installment of Taxes, due at Town Office by 5 p.m. to avoid penalties

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee
Development Review Board (DRB)
East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) Board
East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)
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.
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
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