

# EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XXIX—Number Five

May/June 2019

## Do You Know About our Town's Best Kept Secrets?

by Deb Glottmann

This article features three homes in town that are hosting paid guests. We guess there may be many others. If you have such a home business and would like to be mentioned in the *Signpost*, please let us know; we will build a list and devise a way to get the information out to all in East Montpelier.

Our little town is full of ingenuity and inspiration. Many neighbors have opened their homes to Airbnb guests and some short-term renters. Be fairly warned, this is not for the faint of heart. It takes a lot of work, flexibility, and commitment, and the investment can take a long time to recoup. Airbnb, HomeAway, VRBO, Booking.com, and Craigslist are all geared towards

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## Brian Gallagher: East Montpelier's "Mr. Baseball"

by Wayne Hamilton

*The American Heritage College Dictionary* defines a "fan" as "an ardent devotee, an enthusiast." If you spend a few minutes talking with Brian Gallagher about the game of baseball, you may find the words "ardent" and "enthusiast" hardly sufficient to describe his passion for and devotion to the game. It would be difficult to imagine a person with a greater love of baseball and its history.

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## Top of the *Signpost*

Spring is a wonderful renewal, year after year, and really appreciated after the winter of 2018-2019—a particularly long, cold stretch. And as you can see from all the “thanks” handed out on this page, spring also awakens the volunteer spirit in all of us as we gin up our energy for all the opportunities the warmer weather provides and for giving back to our community.

Signpost volunteers are already planning to celebrate the 30th year of its publication starting with the September issue. As we move into that milestone year, we extend grateful thanks to Wendy Soliday who has been our features editor and all-around idea woman for quite a long time. We are doubly thankful that Wendy has recruited Rene Kievet-Keyler to work with Hilari Farrington (also brought into the fold by Wendy) to continue the great work of planning for our featured people and business articles. Welcome Rene.

— *Edie Miller is a Signpost volunteer.*



*Duncan and Taggart Schrader lend a hand.*

## Thank You, Thank You

It was another successful Town Meeting Potluck made possible by a lot of folks: all of you who contributed such a variety of wonderful meals and the many volunteers who helped set up, register, cook, serve, and clean. There were Ginny Callan and Leslie Drown collecting meals, attaching dots to pots, and issuing tickets; Charlie Catlin, Wendy Soliday, and the two young brothers Taggart and Duncan Schrader in the kitchen making salads, cutting bread, preparing beverages; Carolyn Shapiro collecting tickets and cash; Rachael Grossman and Ellen Seeger serving and replenishing meals; and Emily Goyette, Rachel Senechal, and Paul and Ari Erlbaum wiping down tables, counters, running the dishwasher and putting away trays and equipment.

Adding to the banquet table were thoughtful contributions from our business friends: coffee from Capitol Grounds, donuts from Dunkin Donuts, Misty Knoll chicken drumsticks from Hunger Mountain Coop, buns from Manghi’s Bakery, and cider as well as all the ingredients to throw together two lovely large salads courtesy of Shaw’s Supermarket.

East Montpelier Elementary School staff members were great: Todd Hill helped with storing food items and setting up the cafeteria, Brenda Clark with cleanup following potluck, and Annie Finegan in ordering the milk and butter and use of the kitchen. And finally, U-32’s Steve Watson was a gem in the kitchen with food prep and service.

Many thanks to all of you.

—*Sue Racanelli is coordinator of EM Town Meeting Potluck*

# GREEN UP DAY IS HERE

## Saturday May 4, 2019. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES)

Thanks to your efforts, we will all soon have cleaner roadsides!

Before you put on your long pants, bright tops, gloves, cap, and bug spray and head out the door to collect trash strewn along the neighborhood roads, here's a Top Five List.

#### 1. GREEN GARBAGE BAGS

Available at six locations: Adamant Co-op, Dudley Store, East Montpelier Elementary School, Plainfield Hardware, NorthCountry Federal Credit Union, and Town Office.  
OR bring your own!

#### 2. SAFETY

We care about your safety. A set of rules to abide by may be found at the Green Up website: <https://greenupvermont.org>.

#### 3. TICK SMART!

Ticks are now a year-round threat in Vermont.  
Check out the website for helpful hints.

#### 4. BE SAFE

Do not pick up toxic and hazardous materials (dead animals, needles, suspected toxic materials.) Once again, helpful information on dealing with dangerous stuff may be found on the website.

#### 5. HEAVY ITEMS

Best left by the roadside. Let us know the location, and we'll send someone to collect it.



*Chloe Jenkins, eighth-grader from Green Mountain Union High School in Chester is the winner of Green Up's 2019 Annual Poster Contest.*

The Green Up crew always seeks volunteers to help sort and recycle trash.

If you have a few hours to spare, please call Chris Racanelli, Green Up coordinator, 802-793-6687. Thank you.

### GREEN UP LUNCH

All your work deserves some grub! Because we appreciate your spending Saturday cleaning up, after dropping off trash, please head right over to the school cafeteria for a complimentary lunch of homemade sandwiches, cookies, and beverages. Available 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Once again, the Green Up Lunch Committee, headed by Denise Roy, will provide a free lunch for all residents dropping off bags at the Green Up site. Make it a point to go to the EMES Cafeteria between 11 and 1 for sandwiches and beverages—it's our way of saying thank you for participating in the great tradition of Green Up Day.

the renter. As a landlord, you need to have all your house rules well defined and make sure that your insurance allows this option. It is a wonderful way to make your home work for you instead of always the other way around.

### 1: The Mother Hen Vermont, Center Road

I opened the Mother Hen on Center Road in 2015. I utilized Airbnb a lot initially. I met some wonderful people from all over the world. I have especially enjoyed hosting neighbors' families around the holidays. I have also met some amazing canine guests. Most canine travelers are well behaved and ready for adventure. I have had many return customers who appreciate knowing they can enjoy their vacation while their dog hangs out with the cool Mother Hen geriatric pack.

I have utilized Airbnb, VRBO, and HomeAway, but most recently, I have concentrated my efforts on visiting nurses. Our local hospital and nursing home facilities draw many RNs and LPNs to our area. I have enjoyed this type of rental a lot because I get to know my guests for at least 13 weeks. I also allow dogs after an extensive doggy background check! Pets must be dog- and cat-savvy, well housebroken, crate-trained, and up-to-date with vaccines and treatments for heartworm and fleas.

Recently, I have taken in a fulltime resident nurse. She makes my other nurses feel so welcome and she makes my entire home a happier existence—you can't just let one of those go! My rentals are very complete with queen-sized beds, bureau, closet, desks, rocking chairs, and TV. They have a private bath, a full, shared kitchen/dining room and living room. Housekeeping, WiFi, cable, laundry, parking, and all utilities are included. Let's not forget the awesome eggs, the chicken humor, and the cutest senior King Charles Cavalier Spaniels. My guests are also always greeted at the front door by Chase, (the dog cat), and all of his stories.

My newest adventure is the Mother Hen Maine in Wells, ME. This house sleeps 11 people. Long distance rentals are especially not for the weary.

I had the pleasure of interviewing neighbors who also provide Airbnb/rental opportunities.

### 2: Green Acres, Kelton Road

Irene Facciolo and Soren Pfeffer are the hosts of Green Acres, on Kelton Road. It is a lovely old farmhouse that is exactly what folks envision when they think of Vermont country living. They book their guests through Airbnb and Booking.com. They, too, have met lovely people. They entertain many Canadians and have found all of their guests excited to be in Vermont and ready to truly enjoy our little state. Their completely renovated apartment has its own entry, can sleep up to four people (one queen bed and a pullout double futon), has a private ¾ bath and a very well-equipped vintage kitchen.

They are currently booking about 175 nights a year and are hoping to grow their business this year. Feel free to give out their

contact information to all your friends and family who may be coming to visit.

Irene is an architect and owner of Thunder Mill Design. She mostly works from home so she is a great resource for her renters. Irene exudes kindness; her motto is taken from Mother Theresa: "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

Soren also owns Central Vermont Real Estate and Bagitos. If you know anyone looking to relocate, he has truly enjoyed hosting folks at Green Acres and then celebrating the new resident's purchase of a lovely new home over a taco, great local brews, and some great live music. Green Acres is the place to be.

### 3: Magical Country Four-Season Yurt, Brazier Road

Sharon Plumb and Mark Keffer of Brazier Road have added a unique twist on the home-based rental. They have a Magical Country Four-Season Yurt. It is completely separate from their home and offers both privacy and seclusion from the speed of our current world.

Their visitors love their concept and design. It sits on a beautiful corner of their land that is incredibly quiet and peaceful but is only ten minutes from Montpelier. The yurt is close enough to the main house so visitors are comfortable engaging with Sharon and Mark and learning more about their homestead. Or they can choose complete seclusion. The yurt has a lovely wood stove, all the basic kitchen necessities, and ample lounging space. Its location offers a varied ecosystem with forests and wetlands neighboring each other. Their songbird and peeper presence is impressive. There is healing energy on this little slice of heaven.

Sharon shared, "We strive to live simply and respectfully on the land. We have solar panels, a car-charging station for our electric vehicle, large veggie gardens, a small orchard, and an unheated greenhouse filled with tomatoes in the summer and kale in the winter. In the near future, we'll be doing more to improve pollinator and bird habitat. The property was a bit of a wild mess just four years ago and is being transformed into a more ecologically diverse property that also produces food for our family."

They truly enjoy sharing their love for nature and all the good that can come from living in harmony with the earth.

We have lots of gregarious, kind people in our town who are excited to welcome folks from all walks of life. We are all very thankful to be able to offer a warm bed and exceptional Vermont hospitality.

— *Deb Glottmann, has been a certified veterinary nurse for 32 years and president of the Vermont Veterinary Technician Association since 2005. She enjoys fostering animals for CVHS and Cavalier Alliance. She usually has a spare senior King Charles Cavalier around with an interesting backstory. Her rare chicken collection is one of her favorite hobbies.*

Brian and his wife, Vanessa, live in East Montpelier Village, where they moved in 1994. They have two daughters, Calista and Carmen, who are students at U-32. Brian was born in Dover, NH and spent his early childhood in Lancaster, NH. When he was in third grade, his family moved to Lyndonville where he grew up. Brian recalls being very involved with sports during his youth. “I played basketball, baseball, and I ran cross-country and track. My parents were very active volunteers at the Lyndon Outing Club, so in the winter we lived on skis.” He also played baseball on Lyndonville town teams, often coached by his dad, Jim.

Brian has been a devoted Red Sox fan since his Little League days. “I got interested in the Red Sox and we were always able to go to one or two games a season at Fenway” he remembers. “As a teenager, I also went with my dad to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY, and that got me interested in the history of the sport. I’ve attended many induction ceremonies at the Hall of Fame since my first one in 1999.” Brian recalls Carl Yastrzemski and Carlton Fisk as his early baseball heroes, noting that Fisk attended the University of New Hampshire at the same time his father was a student there.

Brian attended Lyndon State College, earning a degree in physical education and a certificate in athletic training in 1991. Later he earned a master’s degree from the University of Southern New Hampshire. While at LSC, Brian continued his sports career, playing basketball. “Baseball was always my favorite sport,” he explains, “but I was better at basketball and was able to play through my college years.” In 2018, Brian was inducted into the Northern Vermont University—Lyndon (formerly Lyndon State College) Athletics Hall of Fame.

Since 1992, Brian has been a teacher in the Montpelier schools. For thirteen years he taught physical education at the Main Street Middle School where he also served as athletic director and coached basketball, baseball, and soccer. Since 2005, he has been a physical education teacher at Montpelier High School.

For those of you who don’t know Brian, he is well known locally as the President and General Manager of the Vermont Mountaineers, of the New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL). This league, sanctioned by the NCAA and Major League Baseball, brings college baseball players from around the country to New England, providing them opportunities to extend their playing season and to test themselves against talent from the very best college programs in the country; the league also allows players to be seen by professional scouts. Over its 25-year history, the NECBL has seen more than 100 players appear in the major leagues, several coming from the Mountaineers.

Brian has been with the Mountaineers from the start in 2003, initially as Vice-President and General Manager, and in 2015, becoming President/General Manager. Brian credits Central Vermont businessman Eddie Walbridge and a small group of enthusiasts with organizing the team in 2002. Their primary goal was to bring affordable, family-oriented summer entertainment to the Central Vermont community. When asked how he became a part of the Mountaineers, he explained that

Walbridge, with assistance from East Montpelier resident Richard Angney (then the Executive Director of the Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation), was handling the business planning and organizing but needed someone to handle baseball operations. Brian was invited to take on the job, and he has been at it ever since.

I asked Brian about some of his favorite memories from the Mountaineers sixteen-year history. He recalled that during the team’s second season, Babe Ruth’s daughter, Julia Ruth Stevens, attended a game at Montpelier’s recreation field and threw out the ceremonial first pitch. Ms. Stevens was a Red Sox fan for most of her life despite the famous “curse of the Bambino” associated with her famous father. She delighted the many Boston fans in attendance by predicting that the Sox would win the World Series that year (for the first time in 84 years). And, of course, her prediction was correct.

Brian also spoke very fondly of the relationship that he and the Mountaineers developed with Hall of Fame pitcher Robin Roberts. Roberts played for the Twin City Trojans, a summer college league team based in Montpelier in 1946 and 1947 while he was a student at Michigan State University. In 1999, while Brian was in Cooperstown for the Hall of Fame inductions, he went to a golf tournament, where the Hall of Fame members were playing. Brian spotted Roberts and called out to him that he was from Montpelier. Roberts stopped to speak with Brian and expressed his fond memories of playing ball here. This developed into a long relationship between Roberts and the Mountaineers with Roberts visiting Montpelier several times and serving on the board of directors for a number of years. The team honored Roberts with a “Robin Roberts Night” in 2003.

In addition to bringing baseball to Central Vermont, Brian speaks with pride of other contributions the team has made to the community. They include improvements to the recreation field valued at more than \$600,000 with many more in the planning stage. Each year, the Mountaineers summer camp provides an opportunity for as many as 300 kids age 6–12 to learn the game from Mountaineers players and coaches. The team also provides opportunities for interns with an interest in a career in sports. A former Mountaineers’ intern is now working as a baseball broadcaster for the San Diego Padres organization, and a former bat kid is an Assistant Director of Athletic Communications at St. Anselm’s College. Another intern went on to a job with the New England Patriots.

This summer, include a Mountaineers game at the recreation field on your schedule. Even if you are not an ardent baseball fan, it is a great way to spend a summer evening in a classic New England setting. And while you’re there say “Hi” and “Thanks” to Brian.

— Wayne Hamilton is a retired college administrator. He lives with his wife, Rachel Senechal, on McKnight Road, where he eagerly awaits the Cleveland Indians’ victory in the 2019 World Series.

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## School News

It's been confusing to keep up with the various developments and possible scenarios involved with Act 46, the State's Governance Law, even for those of us directly involved. Here is a brief summary:

- In November, the State Board of Education ordered that our Supervisory Union must merge its governance structure, meaning our five towns and six schools must operate as a single pre-K – 12 district with one board and one budget beginning July 1, 2019. The Washington Central Unified Union School District (WCUUSD) now exists under State law and will be subject to State's default set of Articles of Agreement (bylaws that define how the district will operate and handle certain decisions).
- Four of our towns joined a lawsuit to stop the merger. The East Montpelier Elementary and U-32 boards did not join this suit. The request to stop the law from being applied while the lawsuit is being decided was denied; we await the final ruling later this year.
- An initial meeting of our new unified district to determine organizational basics was adjourned without significant action. At a second meeting on April 8, all items were voted including decisions to elect WCUUSD board members and to approve the new district budget by Australian ballot.
- The House and Senate have each passed different versions of a bill that could provide some districts with a one-year merger delay. We await the final outcome.
- To assure that elementary school budgets are in place in the event that merger does not happen July 1, Berlin and Calais

held their individual budget votes on Town Meeting Day; the EMES, U-32, Rumney, and Doty budgets were approved on April 9.

- Meanwhile a committee made up of members from each board has finalized its recommendations for changes to customize the Articles of Agreement which will be voted on by the voters of the district.
- A transitional school board made up of two members from each of the individual boards has begun the work of the permanent consolidated board of the unified district, which will be elected on May 21. The transitional board will also set a date on which the residents of all five towns will vote on amendments to the Articles of Agreement.
- We had our organizational meeting on April 8th and we decided that the election of the new consolidated WCUUSD board will take place on May 21 by Australian ballot. If there is no delay and a new board is seated, there may be a vote of the electorate for a unified district budget, possibly before July 1, the start of the 2019–2020 school year.

Another significant change was assured when Superintendent Bill Kimball announced his resignation effective July 1. The WCSU Executive Committee is leading a process to select an interim Superintendent for the coming year.

We will do our best to provide regular updates and information about how you can participate in these transitions. Thank you for supporting our schools.

— Kari Bradley is an EM representative on the U-32 board and chair of the WCSU board.

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## Driftwind Press

One of the treasures in Paul and Sandal Cate's basement is a foot-powered Rotary Official Golding Press, which was the first press to be used by Driftwind Press of North Montpelier. The press has quite a history, as does the business. The founder was Walter Coates, who met with two of his Vermont writer friends to discuss "how to stimulate widespread and unified literary activity in Vermont – to encourage nascent writers and promote keener appreciation for their works."

To this end, Coates installed a press in the back room of his store, a wooden building with a long porch that is still standing on the west side of route 14 in North Montpelier. In 1926 he began printing Driftwind, a bi-monthly magazine of poetry and occasional essays.

The first printings were only 50 or so copies some of which he hand bound with birch bark or wallpaper and gave away. Eventually, he printed and sold as many as 400 copies per issue, which were mailed across the U.S. as well as Canada and Europe. He also printed several books of poetry on the press. The press was used at Driftwind Press until 1933, when it was upgraded to a linotype machine and an electrically operated press.

This Golding press has a special history of its own. It was purchased by Wes Cate, Jr. (Paul's father) in 1937 when he was 16

and living with his parents in Auburn, Maine. Cate saw the ad and purchased the press for thirteen dollars from Coates. He and four high school friends published a neighborhood newspaper called the *Hill Street News* using the press. He kept the press, moving it to his various homes, including Hartford, Vermont and Montpelier, and then to East Montpelier. When he purchased the press, Cate hadn't realized that he would eventually be bringing it "home" after its journey to Maine and other Vermont towns.

Apparently, Walter Coates was recognized as achieving his goal of stimulating literary writing in Vermont through his press and other literary activities. A *Free Press* article of 1936 says he was "largely responsible for bringing about a literary renaissance in Vermont." One person who benefited from the existence of Driftwind Press was Adelaide Rowland (Butterfield), grandmother of Andy Christiansen. Look in the next issue for more of her history and poetry.

— Barbara Ploof first learned of the Driftwind Press at a meeting of the East Montpelier Historical Society. She was particularly interested in it because her grandfather had operated a small town press in Londonderry, Vermont. Andy Christiansen, Paul and Sandal Cate, and Nathan Phillips gave her further information about Driftwind Press.

## Town Offices

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**Town/Zoning Administrator:**  
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**Fire Permits:** EMFD 225-6247

**First Constable/Animal Control Officer:**  
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**Assistant Animal Control Officer:**  
Elliott Morse 839-8723

**Listers:** Rob Chickering,  
Ross Hazel, Chris Racanelli  
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**Health Officer:** Ginny Burley 272-4045

**Service Officer:** Rachael Grossman 223-3177

### Selectboard

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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

Flor Diaz-Smith, Chair  
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Darci Coleman-Graves      Lindy Johnson  
Stephen Looke                  Rubin Bennett

### State Representative

Kimberly Jessup, 249-9306  
jessupkimberly@gmail.com

## Public Forum On Draft Zoning Districts

The Planning Commission will hold a public forum on Thursday, May 2, from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Emergency Services facility (East Montpelier Fire Department), 54 Village Acres. The purpose of this forum will be to present and get public feedback on the zoning districts proposed in the draft zoning update.

The proposed zoning districts are intended to implement the East Montpelier Town Plan, and include:

- Mixed Use and Residential districts for East Montpelier Village and North Montpelier
- Residential districts for East Montpelier Center, Gallison Hill Road near U-32, and the apartments near Goddard College
- Two Business districts for commercial and industrial development
- Three Rural districts with different lot sizes and densities

The Planning Commission seeks public opinions on the proposed districts and densities. Two versions of the Rural districts will be presented, and the Planning Commission is particularly interested in which version the community prefers.

The public forum will focus on two versions of Chapter 2 and the accompanying zoning district maps. These materials can be found on the Planning Commission page of the town website: <https://eastmontpeliervt.org>

Additional public forums will be scheduled in June. The future forums will focus how the draft zoning applies to village areas, businesses, and rural areas.

— Julie Potter is chair of the Planning Commission

## Apples

Susan Atwood

In the beginning, there was the tree,  
sprouting forth in its slow  
bending dance, blossoming and bee-laden,  
feasting on soil and sunlight.

Then the fruit, miracle beads,  
gradually growing, awaiting the worm,  
encasing the worm, becoming –  
heavy, tart, crisp.

Now, this warmest of late season days,  
they are everywhere,  
fallen along the roadsides  
left to rot from sheer abundance,

‘never seen anything like it’  
the newspapers report, and more –  
raspberries, blackberries, elderberries – legions,  
offering, where they can,  
assurance to the hungry world.

— Susan Atwood lives on the County Road where she observes the changing seasons and writes about the small miracles present in daily life.



Photo: Gary Ann Lewis

Winner of the first annual East Montpelier #1 Dog Prize is Tucker, who lives with Sally Colman and Richard Wiswall. Tucker is an eleven-year-old yellow lab, licensed on the last day of eligibility. Prizes were also awarded to first runner-up, Petie, and second runner-up, Buffy. A total of 292 dogs were licensed between January 1 and April 1 and were eligible for the prize drawing. A special thanks to Agway, Petco and Tractor Supply for donating prize items for this event.



## Twin Valley Senior Center

We thank all who attended Town Meeting and showed support for TVSC. Resident participation has increased, and we continue to expand our offerings, which satisfy our mission to encourage all residents to get the benefits of exercise, socialization, and nutritional meals. We provide bus-to-door service for anyone to come to the handicapped-accessible center.

I am seeking your aid in helping me visit with the residents of East Montpelier to understand better how TVSC can best serve them. I am eager to host gatherings (with refreshments, of course) or to attend meetings of existing groups or scheduled community gatherings. I can be reached by calling 223-3322 or email [twinvalleyseniors@myfairpoint.net](mailto:twinvalleyseniors@myfairpoint.net), and I look forward to hearing from you.

— Rita Copeland is executive director of TVSC

## Town Weathervane

### Milestones

#### Births

- Rylie Ann Cote-Wong, a daughter, born in December 2018 to Elizabeth and Jason Cote-Wong
- Vivienne Mave Gill, a daughter, born in October 2018 to Catherine McLinn and Peter Gill.
- Esja Jane Lange, a daughter, born in January 2019 to Petra Halsema and Benjamin Lange
- Ellie Jean Grandfield, a daughter, born in January 2019 to Ashley and Adam Grandfield
- Bridget Mae Leon, a daughter, born in March 2019 to Maria and Bennet Leon
- Braden Ian Byrnes-Hershey, a son, born in February 2019 to Alison Byrnes & David Hershey
- Robert Orville Calhoun, a son, born in February 2019 to Brook and Matt Calhoun

#### Deaths

- Todd Field died in February 2019
- John Hamilton died in March 2019

#### Land Transfers

*Transfers created for estate planning purposes are not included.*

- Michael & Jamie O'Hare to the Albert Russell "Duffy" Miller & Bernadette Cleland Revocable Trusts, 10-acre lot on Dodge Rd
- Mary Searles to Mary Tousignant, a mobile home on Robinson Rd
- Juston Powers to Jaimie LaFountain, mobile home on Sandy Pines Rd
- Roger & Rose Ehret to Seth B. Gardner Revocable Living Trust, 43.50 acres of open land on VT14N
- Jerome Rappaport to Armand Laquerre, 41.5 acres & dwelling on VT14S
- Wayne Clark Trust to Guthrie & Amber Perry, 5.16 acres on Wheeler Rd
- Lester Birnbaum & Allison Caldwell to Christopher Yannoni and Janet Powers, 6.98 acres of open land on Sparrow Farm Rd
- Lester Birnbaum & Allison Caldwell to Christopher Yannoni and Janet Powers, 145 acres of conserved land on Sparrow Farm Rd
- Heath Summerlin to John Duke Wallstrom, III, 8.38 acres of open land on Factory Street

- Richard Rowell to Nancy Griffin, 0.66 acres and multi-family dwelling on US2
- Steven Sinclair to Daniel Towner, 4.6 acres and dwelling on VT14N
- Albert Phillips to Scott & Kelly Phillips, 5.61 acres of open land on VT14S

### Selectboard

#### January 21, 2019

##### Motions Passed

- to approve the certification of highway mileage
- to authorize the town administrator to submit an application to the Vermont Emerald Ash Borer Municipal Planning Grant Program after further input from the Rural Rd Vegetation Assessment Project Committee
- to adopt the budget of \$1,749,764 for FY20
- to accept the Town Meeting warning
- to approve the reappointment of the East Montpelier Fire Department Chief Ty Rolland to a five-year term as fire warden
- to approve access permit 19-002, for property located at 505 Quaker Rd, submitted by Rob & Becky Brown.

#### February 19, 2019

##### Discussion

- Intersection of Towne Hill and Gallison Hill Rds
- CVRPC update
- Update on Local Hazard Mitigation Plan development
- RLAC update
- EMSLI's proposed use of grant funding
- Development of social media policy
- Certificate of no appeal or suit pending for 2018 Grand List
- Liquor license renewals

##### Motions Passed

- to approve the CAI Technologies agreement for tax map updates for \$1,500



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## March 4, 2019 (Unapproved)

### Discussion

- Potential shift of online payment provider
- Conversation with State Rep. Kimberly Jessup
- Black Rock Coal Quarry proposal

### Motions Passed

- to authorize Chair Gardner to sign the new contract with the Vermont State Police for the period April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 at a maximum cost of \$34,373
- to authorize TA Johnson to make the base bid on the Blake/Allard property scheduled for tax sale March 7, 2019
- to provide Town Clerk Laquerre with 30 hours of sick leave in compensation for her recent weekend, evening, and holiday workload

## Planning Commission

### January 17, 2019

#### Discussion

- Continued discussion of draft zoning with Brandy Saxton of PlaceSense
- Article for submission to *Signpost*
- Energy Committee update
- Old LaPerle Farm Property Committee update

### January 31, 2019

#### Discussion

- Continued discussion of draft zoning with Brandy Saxton of PlaceSense

### February 7, 2019

#### Discussion

- Continued discussion of draft zoning with Brandy Saxton of PlaceSense

### February 21, 2019

#### Discussion

- Continued discussion of draft zoning with Brandy Saxton of PlaceSense
- Development of Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Old LaPerle Farm Property Committee update

#### Motions Passed

- to appoint PlaceSense for the FY2019 Municipal Planning Grant

### February 28, 2019

#### Discussion

- Continued discussion of draft zoning with Brandy Saxton of PlaceSense
- Appreciation to Ray Stout and Norman Hill for their service on the PC

## March 7, 2019 (Unapproved)

### Discussion

- Continued discussion of draft zoning with Brandy Saxton of PlaceSense
- Rural Roads Vegetation Assessment PAC Grant
- Old LaPerle Farm Property Committee update
- PC entered executive session at 7:37 pm to discuss personnel matter; exited at 8:17 pm

## Motions Passed

- to authorize the Chair to recommend Sui Tip Lam to the SB for appointment to the PC until the next election
- to authorize the Chair to offer any of the other candidates a position on the Zoning Regulation Steering Committee

## Development Review Board

### December 4, 2018

#### Motions 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

#### Motions 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

## EMES

### January 21, 2019

#### Discussion

- Act 46 Update

#### Motions Passed

- to follow the Agency of Education's and Chris Leopold's legal advice not to present a budget for a vote on town meeting day
- to approve leave of absence for Michael Blanchard

### February 13, 2019

#### Discussion

- Town Meeting preparation
- Act 46 Update
- Entered executive session at 7:38 pm for negotiations update; exited at 7:43 pm

### February 19, 2019 (Unapproved)

- Special Meeting, Washington Central Unified Union School District
- Susan Clark was voted to serve as moderator for the meeting.

#### Motions Passed

- to adopt Robert's Rules of Order, as stated in Article ii
- to adjourn until the Act 46 judicial process reaches a decision on the preliminary injunction or stay

### February 22, 2019

#### Discussion

- Need for advice on budgets and teacher contracts
- Information posted on Front Porch Forum

#### Motions Passed

- to select Chris Leopold as legal counsel for advice on ensuring EMES remains operational, including advice on the teacher master agreement and presenting a budget for FY20

### March 4, 2019

#### Discussion

- Met with legal counsel for advice regarding next steps on budgets timelines & teacher contracts

## March 7, 2019

### Motions Passed

- to approve the warning for the school budget vote with the amendments of a vote date of April 9 and informational meeting on April 4 at 5:30 p.m
- Limited board reorganization as follows: Chair, Flor Diaz-Smith; Clerk, Lindy Johnson

## March 18, 2019

### Discussion

- Preparation for April 9 District meeting and vote.

### Motions Passed

- Remaining board reorganization as follows: Vice Chair, Stephen Looke;
- Regular meetings, third Monday, 5:30 pm; Official Posting, *Times Argus*, school, Town Clerk, Dudley's Store;
- Rep. to WCSU Exec.Comm., Flor Diaz-Smith; 3 Voting Members to WCSU Board, Darci Coleman-Graves, Flor Diaz-Smith, Stephen Looke;
- Rep. and Alt. to following WCSU Committees – Negotiations, Stephen Looke; Policy, Lindy Johnson; Transportation, Rubin Bennett; School Quality, Flor Diaz-Smith; Truant Officer, EMES Principal.
- to authorize Board Chair Diaz-Smith to communicate to senators that the EMES school board does not support a delay of Act 46

## U-32

## February 6, 2019

### Discussion

- Town Meeting preparations
- Conversation with Washington Central area Legislators

### Motions Passed

- to have April 5, 2019 be a student school day instead of the scheduled in-service day
- to approve the bid from "Selectric," as recommended
- to approve the two leaves of absences as presented

## February 13, 2019

### Motions Passed

- to authorize the superintendent to sign a contract with Dubois Construction

## February 25, 2019

### Discussion

- Need for advice regarding next steps on budgets and teacher contracts.

## Motions Passed

- to instruct the Superintendent to prepare a warning of the U-32 budget, for the school year 2019–2020, for the next board meeting (March 6th) for an April 9th vote
- to select Chris Leopold as legal counsel for advice on ensuring U-32 remain operational, including advice on the teacher master agreement and presenting a budget for FY20

## March 4, 2019 (Quorum not present)

### Discussion

- Meet with legal counsel for advice on next steps on budgets, timelines and teacher contracts

## March 6, 2019

### Discussion

- Corinne Stridsberg explained Berlin School Board's inability to act for lack of quorum
- Review of FY20 budget

### Motions Passed

- to approve the FY20 budget in the amount of \$15,159,196, as presented
- to approve the FY20 warning as presented, with the date of April 9, 2019, informational meeting on April 3, 2019

## March 20, 2019 (Unapproved)

### Discussion

- Board norms
- Track Project: on hold pending status of budget

### Motions Passed

- Board reorganization as follows: Chair, Kari Bradley; Vice-Chair, Scott Thompson; Clerk, Carl Witke
- Regular meetings, first Wed., 6:00 pm; Official Posting, *Times Argus*, Central Office, U-32 school building and Town Clerk Offices;
- Rep. to WCSU Exec.Comm., Kari Bradley; Alternate, Jonathan Goddard; 3 voting members to WCSU Board, Carl Witke (no other nom.);
- Rep. and Alt. to following WCSU committees – Negotiations, Carl Witke; Policy, Charles Merriman; Transportation, George Gross; School Quality, Kari Bradley; Rep. to CV Career Center RAB, Charles Merriman; Truant Officer, Dean of Students
- Member WCUUSD Transition Board, Scott Thompson;
- Appointed Scott Thompson and Karen Bradley to newly established U-32 Board Finance & Facilities/Capital Budget Committee
- to approve the reductions in force as proposed by the administration (seven positions)

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## CALENDAR

**Thurs. May 2, 7 p.m.** EMFD, Public forum on new updates to zoning regulations

**Sat. May 4, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES), Green Up Day

**Sat. May 4, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** EMES, free Green Up lunch for volunteers

**Mon. May 20, 5 p.m.** Old West Church, Calais, Brown bag supper & meeting of the EM and Calais Historical Societies.

Hike Contact Sandal Cate, sandal@sover.net, 223-6466 for details or visit us on Facebook or [www.eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org)

**Tues. May 21, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.** **EMES Library, Election of WCUUSD board members**

**Mon. June 17, 6 p.m.** Home of Chris Reed & Teresa Doyle on Rte 214, Annual croquet match and ice cream sundae social.

Contact as above for more info. Bring the trophy back to E. Montpelier!

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Wed. May 15,** 2nd installment of taxes is due at Town Office no later than 5 p.m.

*The deadline for the next issue of the Signpost is June 1*

## 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](mailto:blusig@aol.com) / 229-5441

Town Office Building

Elementary School

EMFD Community Room

Four Corners Schoolhouse/E. Calais

contact: [rhazel@ezcloud.com](mailto:rhazel@ezcloud.com)

Four Corners Schoolhouse

Elementary School, Art Room

Town Office Building

Elementary School

Town Office Building

U-32 School