

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XX—Number Three

January/February 2010

MARTHA ISRAEL: HOUSE MOVING WASN'T THE ONLY THING ON HER PLATE

Why would anyone move their house 100 yards down the road? That's what everyone wondered as they drove down Barnes Road this past summer and saw the house raised off its foundation and moved onto a huge truck bed. "I didn't have any choice," explains Martha Israel. Here's the story of Martha and her house. In 2004 Martha bought the early 1800s little brown cape that had belonged to Carlton and Elaine Ryan. Martha was delighted that it was just the right size for her family, had eight acres for her horses, was located near friends, and was a piece of East Montpelier's history.

Martha looked forward to restoring the house and learning more about its history. She had moved from North Street in Montpelier where she had restored the old Harriman home. And before that she lived in Maine where she had restored an old mill owner's home. So she went to work on this house—rewiring, replumbing, and making a lot of badly needed

Continued on Page 3

RELAXING AT HIGH HILL INN

When Joe and Anne-Marie Dixon bought their home at the end of Green Road in 2006 they had no thoughts of operating a bed and breakfast business. It was during a dinner that summer with their next door neighbors, Jim and Maggie Eaton, that the idea emerged. Joe and Anne-Marie had bought a home with seven bedrooms and, with their sons away at school and only their daughter living at home, they had the rooms to spare. Joe, working mostly from home, and with a background in the food business, enjoys cooking, especially in the morning. It was actually Anne-Marie, though, that got really excited about the idea and said, "Let's give it a try."

So in the fall of 2006, High Hill Inn was born. The Dixons bought extra linens and towels and contacted the Central Vermont

Chamber of Commerce, which was very helpful in getting the business launched. They contracted with a bed-and-breakfast service that enables online bookings. It wasn't long before they invested in a commercial-grade clothes washer and dryer.

One of the things that Joe likes most about running the B&B is when newcomers first arrive in the house and catch the view from the back deck. One soaks in the panorama from east to south to west with not a building in sight all the way to the Sugarbush Ski area. As guests marvel at what they see, Joe quips that the only thing that has changed in the last century is the growth of the forest. This perception of wilderness draws guests to the deck at all hours of the day and evening.

The relative absence of artificial light near High Hill Inn attracts the attention of stargazers who sometimes enjoy sitting out in the front yard at night. The Dixons

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Anne-Marie and Joe Dixon

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Signpost

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TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

Serving Our Town Keeps Us "in the Loop"

A couple of weeks ago, after chatting about deer, carpooling, and the most efficient way to butcher one's own poultry, a neighbor asked my opinion regarding a controversial proposal within the school district. I realized immediately that my current understanding of the issues involved was superficial and limited—I had to admit that I was "out of the loop." Alas, I would have never said that a year ago, when I was still a member of the East Montpelier Elementary School board.

Service on the EMES school board was an extraordinary experience for me. The learning curve was steep and sometimes dangerous. While my background is in education, I knew little about the workings of a school board in a small Vermont town. There were times of smooth sailing and straightforward decisions, and long, tiring nights with difficult conversations regarding personnel or the budget. Our board was very diverse and strongly opinionated, and often we didn't agree. We worked hard to educate ourselves about all decisions, from whether or not to purchase "The Wave" for the playground to approving funds for an assistant principal. We capitalized on our various strengths to help EMES and realized our common goal to cast a strong vision for its future. We had some great laughs. We really got to know each other and became friends.

I would strongly urge each of you to consider serving East Montpelier in an elected office this year. The commitment of time and expertise is repaid by a deeper understanding of town issues and the opportunity to get to work with a group of people that you might otherwise never know. In a time when we often feel our ability to impact the world is limited, we can really make a difference in the wonderful community that we love.

—Julie Rochat

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

At our Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 2, we will elect a variety of town officers, all of whom are instrumental in keeping EM municipal and school government running smoothly. Please note the list below and think about getting involved to serve your town. For those who decide to become candidates for elective office, please remember to submit a statement for the *Signpost* introducing yourself and what contributions you hope to make. Send to Barbara Ploof no later than January 25, 2010, at signpostbcp@hotmail.com or 255 Barnes Road, Montpelier, VT 05602. You may call 223-6934 if you have questions. It will appear in the next issue prior to Town Meeting.

Town Moderator

School Moderator

Selectboard – one 2-year term, one 3-year term

Lister – one 3-year term

Auditor – one 3-year term, one 2-year term

Trustee of Public Funds – one 3-year term

First Constable – one 1-year term

Second Constable – one 1-year term

Town Law Agent – one 1-year term

Town Grand Juror – one 1-year term

Collector of Delinquent Taxes – one 3-year term

Planning Commission – two 3-year terms, one 2-year term

Cemetery Commissioner – one 5-year term

EMES School Director – one 3-year term, one 2-year term

U-32 School Director – one 3-year term



repairs. Then she painted it white, attached a barn, and added on a room for her daughter, Molly. Larry and Danny Perry of East Montpelier did all the electrical, plumbing, and carpentry and were "absolutely wonderful," she said. Amos, her now sixteen-year-old son, helped as well, except in winter when he was off snowboarding. They opened up the staircase to allow for more air circulation to the upstairs and found several 30" wide planks of wainscoting that had been wallpapered over. They also uncovered one of the ceiling beams that has some bark still attached. An old door, plastered over in one of the walls, was salvaged to become the door of a storage cabinet. The cozy kitchen has the old glass-fronted cabinets, and the living room floor is made from the original wide pine boards. Such a quaint and charming house was turning into a real treasure.

When Martha bought the house she knew the foundation needed work. She also knew that she needed to get rid of the water in the basement that came from a seasonal spring in the ledge under the house. She thought some simpler solution would be found, but professionals agreed that the only thing to do was to build a good foundation on another location, away from the water, and move the house to it. So that's what they did. The process was so nerve-wracking for Martha that she chose not to be present the day they actually moved the house. But a crowd from the neighborhood came to see the operation. The move, done by Dave Rogers with the help of Todd Croteau, was successful, and Martha returned to her house. Some neighbors say that this was not the first time the house had been moved. It may have been located farther up the hill behind its present

location and may have had another location prior to that. If anyone knows more about the history of her house, Martha would very much appreciate hearing about it.

Martha is a nurse and was recruited by the Union Elementary School in Montpelier to be the school nurse when she first moved to Vermont from Maine and enrolled her daughter in kindergarten. Now she works at Rumney School in Middlesex and enjoys serving young children in a small rural community. Additionally, she works part-time on the psychiatric unit of CVMC. One might think that her work and her house would leave her little time for other things. However, in addition to caring for her children, two dogs, a barn cat, a pony, and a horse (all of whom have been under her care at one time or another while she has lived on Barnes Road), Martha recently earned an M. Ed. in School Health from Cambridge College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the only college in the country that offers a school health Master's Degree. When her course work and thesis were completed, she turned to writing a book that will be published in 2010. The book combines her interest and expertise in the field of health and her knowledge and experience with horses. It is entitled *The Horse Health Journal*, published by Interlink. She has also written articles for horse magazines about the importance of keeping good health records on horses.

Many in East Montpelier Center first met Martha at a neighborhood picnic for her, which was organized by Jan Crossan and Karin Omasta soon after Martha moved to Barnes Road. Since then, neighborhood gatherings have become a regular activity in the Center, and Martha serves on the steering committee that organizes them. Perhaps you will meet Martha at one of these or at another town activity.



Or you may see her on the roads and trails riding her horse, Dakota, which she boards with Laurie Justis on Center Road. If you happen to see a big bloodhound and a little spaniel, Lucky and Ginger, trotting down the road without Martha, please call her. Lucky hasn't figured out that his underground electric fence is around the old house location, and not around the new one! Understandably confusing!

—Barbara Ploof is retired and lives on Barnes Road with her husband, Allen

recall one flute-playing Indian guest whose haunting music seemed to be answered by hooting owls and who deemed the property especially "grounded." Many of the Inn's guests appreciate a sense of deep relaxation during their stay. For those who want a little more activity, the 50 acres of surrounding land features trails for walking or cross-country skiing.

An early riser by nature, Joe enjoys cooking an organic breakfast for the guests, using eggs from the Inn's own chickens. He continues to be amazed at the unlikely connections that guests make around the breakfast table. Two couples who had never met discovered, over a morning meal, that the apartment that one couple's daughter moved into was the very apartment that the other couple's son had just vacated.

Some guests return again and again to relax at High Hill Inn and have become like family to the Dixons. They've hosted folks from Europe, South Africa, South America, and even Sarah Palin's home town of Wasilla, Alaska. Many parents of NECI and Norwich University students find their way to the B&B. Like most Vermont inns, fall is the busiest season here and the slower winter months give Joe a chance to relax a bit. He works part-time at two local stores and is able to pursue other work from home, thanks to the internet.

For more information and pictures of High Hill Inn, go to HighHillinn.com or call 223-3623.

—Rob Chickering and his wife, Rhoda, are both Signpost staff members. Their property on Boulder Ridge Rd abuts the Dixons'.

ANCIENT ROAD COMMITTEE REPORT

Bruce Bjornlund, Lyn Blackwell, Dave Coburn, Pauline Coburn, Michael Duane, Nona Estrin, Karen Gramer, Dave Hudson, Bruce Johnson, Martin Miller, Lisa Rice, and Sandy Woodbeck were appointed in 2007 to identify ancient highway corridors in East Montpelier. They have made the following recommendation to the Selectboard, which has not yet taken action:

Given the lack of general interest in all but two ancient corridors that were identified and the inability to document that the East and West Routes are still in the public domain, it is the recommendation of this committee that the Selectboard do a mass discontinuance of all possible town roads not identified on the official Vermont Agency of Transportation Highway Map for East Montpelier.

The complete report is available on the *Signpost* website at emsignpost.com.

Development Review Board Recommended

The East Montpelier Planning Commission has recently recommended to the Selectboard the creation of a Development Review Board.

Check the *Signpost* website—emsignpost.com—to read their full recommendation.

TECHNOLOGY IN EAST MONTPELIER REACHES AROUND THE WORLD

This is part of an ongoing series on how technology affects those living and working in EM. Contact us if you have a story to tell.

Serving full-time in the Vermont Army National Guard, I teach an online course to officers around the world using a high-speed Internet connection from home. At first I performed these duties from the National Guard Armory located on the Norwich University campus, but now technology enables me to conduct classes from home. Students in the class are traditional National Guard and Reserve soldiers with civilian jobs during the day. To accommodate their schedules and various time zones, I teach from 6 PM until 1 AM, and it is a relief to operate from home.

Differing from most online learning, the class is conducted live via the advanced technology available in the Breeze application, which is capable of simultaneous slide presentations, white board, chat, camera, and voice. The experiences of the students from around the world often result in vigorous discussion in this virtual classroom. As soon as class begins, I sit with headset and microphone and facilitate the learning. While the camera feature is available, it is seldom used as it slows down the available bandwidth. Besides, nobody looks good at one in the morning on a computer camera. Better to post a still photo of my dog Molly.

During this time of increased operational demands in the Vermont Army National Guard it is unusual for an Army officer to be working from home. Many are facing deployment.

Even though I work nearly 40 hours a week in the office and extra shifts online nights, I am grateful to be at home with my family. I have a strong desire to contribute toward the Global War on Terrorism and through this training am able to prepare soldiers to interact with the local population in cultures around the world.

The deployed soldiers enter a new philosophy of battle in which words and deeds have greater influence than tanks and guns. The Information Operations Course offers them the training necessary to succeed in this environment. With this new technology more soldiers in the Guard and Reserve are able to attend class and ultimately contribute toward mission success.

—Lieutenant Colonel Kimberly Swasey lives on Wheeler Road with her husband and her three daughters.

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EMFD BUILDING UPDATE

Construction of the Emergency Services Building has started. On November 18, 2009, the first dirt was moved at the future site of the fire station. The construction manager (Connor Contracting, Inc.) has been very busy organizing and recommending to the building committee the awarding of the different sections of work for this project. The first to be awarded was the site work and concrete work. The project brought in about 52 different bids from interested contractors.

As you read this in January, we hope we have closed in the building shell. Construction is expected to take about six months. The committee will meet on-site weekly to check out progress and to continue its commitment to our two communities and the fire department to build a financially responsible, safe, energy-efficient facility that will meet the current and future needs of all of us.

On behalf of EMFD, I would like to thank our communities for the support of this important project. I look forward to providing you with future updates and truly hope to see you at the first open house that will happen in the spring of 2010.

—John Audy, Chief EMFD

IMPORTANT PUBLIC MEETING ON SENIOR LIVING IN EAST MONTPELIER

On Tuesday, January 26, at 7:00 p.m., the East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative (EMSLI) will hold a community meeting open to all townspeople. Recognizing that, by 2030, one in four Vermonters will be over 65 years old, EMSLI would like our town to be ready to meet our elders' needs. At the meeting, we will discuss what we've learned so far and gather your thoughts and advice on how to accomplish this task. We need to hear from as many East Montpelier residents as possible, so please come to the meeting room of the Old Brick Church on 14N, share some yummy snacks, and spend time with other community members as we discuss Senior Living in EM.

East Montpelier Resource Guide

The new *What You Need To Know About East Montpelier* booklet is now available. We've included information for people new to town—and for the rest of us who could use a handy reference now and then. You'll find a calendar, important phone numbers, local history, a road map; and information about the town offices, town meeting, committees, and more. To download a copy, visit the *Signpost* website at www.emsignpost.com or ask for one at the town offices.

—Jean Cate Community Fund Committee

EMFP Tips for a Safe New Year

The EMFD wishes you a safe and Happy New Year and offers tips to make it happen:

- * Make sure you have both smoke and CO (carbon monoxide) detectors in your home with fresh batteries
- * Make sure you have cleaned your chimneys for the heating season
- * If you still have a tree up, make sure you have no cords under rugs and keep the tree watered and away from heat sources

Most importantly, don't hesitate to call us. We would rather come and give peace of mind rather than be called for an event that could have been prevented and/or dealt with on a much smaller scale. We are here 24/7 to assist you in any way we can, which is what makes our communities such a great place to live and raise our families.

EMERGENCY DIAL 911 / Non-EMERGENCY 223-5586

East Montpelier Churches

Crossroads Christian Church

Rev. Bob Walton, Pastor
Worship and Sunday School 9:30 AM
Phone: 476-4843 & 229-9389

Lighthouse Christian Church

Sue Salameh, Pastor
Worship and Children's Church 10 AM
Phone: 461-6856

Old Brick Church

Mark McEathron, Pastor
Adult Sunday School 9 AM
Worship 10 AM
Phone: 223-1232

Old Meeting House

Rev. Rona Kinsley, Interim Pastor
Rev. David Connor, Assoc. Pastor
Worship & Sunday School 9:30 AM
Phone: 229-9593



Hanging Baskets
Annuals
Perennials
Shrubs



Wheeler Homestead Garden & Supply

2075 Vermont Route 14 South
East Montpelier, Vermont 05651



TOWN OFFICES

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651
Phone: 802-223-3313
Office Hours: Mon–Thurs 9 AM–5 PM
Friday 9 AM–12 PM

Town Clerk/Treasurer: Terri Conti
eastmonttct@comcast.net

Town Administrator: Craig Kleman
eastmontadmin@comcast.net

Zoning Admin: Dina Bookmyer–Baker
eastmontza@comcast.net

Collector of Delinquent Taxes: Karen Gramer
karengramer@comcast.net

Fire Warden: Jon Boucher 223-7902

First Constable/Animal Control Officer:
Sandy Conti 479-3169

2nd Constable: Paul Haynes 223-1651

Listers: Ross Hazel & Renée Carpenter
eastmontlstr@comcast.net or 223-3313
ext.206

Health Officer: Dave Grundy 476-4300

Service Officer: Rachael Grossman 223-3177

Selectboard

Rob Chickering, Chair
rchickering2009@gmail.com

Peter Hill	Don Welch
Tracy Phillips	Duane Wells

Planning Commission

Rick Hopkins, Chair, 229-4375
Seth Gardner Mark Lane
Jack Pauly Gene Troia
Kim Watson Carol Welch
Ken Santor Jean Vissering

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Richard Curtis, Chair
Jeff Cueto Jane Grinde
Steve Kappel Cliff King
Mark Lane Gray Ricker
Ken Santor Stanley Pierce

State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032
twk@tonyklein.com

U-32 Jr./Sr. High School

Ginny Burley
Emily Goyette

Elementary School

Janice Aldrich, Chair
Janice_Aldrich@hotmail.com
Andrea Colnes
Rosie Laquerre
Michele Leno
Trevor Lewis

EARLY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LEGISLATURE

Between 1792 and 1848 (when Montpelier was divided into two towns), 22 men served as representatives to the VT Legislature from the Town of Montpelier. Of these, seven were from the area that is now East Montpelier.

David Wing, Jr. (Rep. 1797, 1798, 1800, 1801)

Born in Rochester, MA, in 1766, he came to town in 1788. He taught in the first school in town and bought land adjoining Clark Stevens on Towne Hill Road. He served as proprietors' clerk, town clerk, town agent, judge of the County Court, and Secretary of State.

Parley Davis (Rep. 1799, 1802)

Davis was born in Oxford, MA, in 1766 and came to Montpelier to work as a surveyor with his uncle Jacob Davis. Davis made the first pitch in EM on Center Road. He was elected company captain of the state militia.

Joseph Woodworth (Rep. 1803, 1810)

Woodworth, born in Lebanon, CT, in 1724, came with his wife and five children in 1794. They settled on Lyle Young Road. Woodworth also served as a lister and selectman.

Nahum Kelton (Rep. 1816-1818, 1820, 1829)

Kelton was born in Warwick, MA, and came to Montpelier in 1800. He taught school for three years in New York state, then returned to Montpelier, settling on Kelton Road. He served his community as constable and deputy sheriff.

William Upham (Rep. 1827, 1828, 1830)

Upham came with his family in 1800 and grew up on a farm off Dodge Road, in the vicinity of Partridge Run. He attended the Academy in Montpelier, studied law and practiced law in Montpelier for the rest of his life. He also served as a US senator.

Royal Wheeler (Rep. 1838 & 1839)

Wheeler was born in (East) Montpelier in 1799 on his father Benjamin I. Wheeler's Towne Hill Road farm. He helped organize the new town of East Montpelier in 1848 and served as its town clerk and selectman as well as state senator.

Addison Peck (Rep. 1842 & 1843)

Son of early settler Nathaniel Peck, he was born in 1807 in (E.) Montpelier. He served as High Sheriff, constable, and recruiting agent during the Civil War.

Dr. Charles Clark (Rep. 1846, 1847)

Born in (E.) Montpelier in 1800, he was the son of Nathaniel Clark of East Hill. He began the practice of medicine with Dr. N.C. King of North Montpelier, married Clarissa Boyden, and commenced practice on the Boyden homestead on Center Road. He built the house now owned by the Ostrums and practiced there for 12 years before moving to Montpelier.

Our current representative, Tony Klein, joins the ranks of these thrifty, industrious, independent, and patriotic folk, crafting ways to meet the challenges of our times.

–Anne Ormsbee, EM Historical Society

TOWN WEATHERVANE

MILESTONES

Births:

- Jack Jaydon Perry, son born Sept. 29, 2009, to Brittany Lynn & Daniel Paul Perry
- Jackson Tanner Lamere, son born Oct. 12, 2009, to Anne Marie & Jared Calderwood Lamere

Marriages:

- Randy Scott Jorgensen & Tara Lee Atchison, Aug. 7, 2009
- Michele Laureen Curren & Lisa Jane Clark Wernhoff, Sept. 30, 2009
- Carson Dean Stone & Susan Mary Alberico, Nov. 7, 2009

Deaths:

- Edward Francis Harris, died Oct. 1, 2009, spouse of Jeanette Rhodes Harris
- Paul Henry Brown, died Oct. 17, 2009, spouse of Elizabeth Brown
- Lucy Slayton Wheeler, died Oct. 26, 2009, aunt of Sylvia Slayton Franks
- John F. Burger, died Nov. 1, 2009, formerly known as The Drain Surgeon when he lived in EM on Putnam Road. Father to Nancy Gray and Alexander Burger.

Property Transfers:

- Robert & Carolyn Butler Brown to Harry Morse, Jr, spring rights on Center Rd.
- Robert McLaughlin and Carley Stevens-McLaughlin to Scott Hess and Amy Willis, 19.56 acres & dwelling, North St.
- Heather Wheeler to Douglas Wheeler, 10.2 acres & dwelling, Towne Hill Rd.
- Ronald Koss & Carley Claghorn, & Gerald & Patricia Balkcom to Ronald Koss & Carley Claghorn, 65.58 acres, Lot 3B Sanders Circle
- Ronald Koss & Carley Claghorn to same, 165 acres & dwelling, Sanders Circle
- Ronald Koss & Carley Claghorn, & Gerald & Patricia Balkcom to Gerald & Patricia Balkcom, 65.17 acres, Lot 3C Sanders Circle
- Gerald & Patricia Balkcom to same, 93 acres & dwelling, Sanders Circle
- Hugh & Susan Hawkins & Dennis Hawkins to William C. McCreedy, 3.7 acres, Towne Hill Rd.
- Clifton & Shirley King to Fairmont Farm Inc., 30.92 acres, Vincent Flats Rd.
- Sara Skomitz to Brendan Johnson, 8.01 acres & multi-family dwelling, Sanders Circle

SELECTBOARD

August 3, 2009

Motions Approved:

- to approve David Pope's request to change a driveway
- to approve the amended Rules of Transaction

- to approve a curb cut for Mr. Williams and Ms. Purcell
- to implement the wage and salary increases for hired employees and Town Clerk/Treasurer that were used to develop the FY2010 budget effective July 1, 2009
- to have Don Welch be the voting delegate at the Vermont League of Cities and Towns fair on 10/1/09 at the Barre Civic Center with Rob Chickering as alternate and Craig Kleman as a second alternate
- to execute the GIS (Geographic Information System) annual service agreement in the amount of \$500 effective August 14, 2009, to August 13, 2010

September 21, 2009

Motions Approved

- to appoint Christine (Dina) Bookmyer-Baker as the new zoning administrator for a 3-year appointment in accordance with the statute, with a starting wage of \$17.50/hour and a probationary period of 6 months
- to accept the name Mabuhay Drive as requested by the Pickels for the road they built when they developed a new lot along the current driveway
- to accept the recommendation of the name Mays Way for the private road for the Phillips subdivision
- to execute the architect's contract for the ESF [Emergency Services Facility] with amendments recommended by the town counsel
- to put an article on the Town Meeting Warning to support increasing the tax exemption for disabled veterans from \$10,000 to \$20,000
- to authorize the execution of the Fothergill Segale and Valley Management Letter.
- to adopt the Conflict of Interest Policy dated September 21, 2009, as amended by the Policy Committee
- to approve Town Administrator's evaluation as written
- for the Selectboard to set salaries of the Town Clerk/Treasurer, Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer, the Highway Dept and Municipal Assistant to a 1% increase over their FY2009 pay rates and increase the current Zoning Administrator wage to \$21.00/hour, all effective retroactive to July 1, 2009
- to close the Municipal Building on November 27 in lieu of Veteran's Day, November 11, 2009
- to approve minutes of meetings between Jan 19 and Aug 31, some with amendments

October 5, 2009

Motions Approved:

- to accept the Green Mountain Paving quote for paving 530-feet on County Rd between Fitch and Haggett Rds and use unused funds allocated for other road repairs
- to name the right-of-way to the fire station "Municipal Way"
- to accept the management letter as drafted by Don Welch following the exit interview with the external auditor
- to appoint Christine Bookmyer-Baker as the Town Sewage Officer
- to authorize Rob Chickering to sign off for the Selectboard after the 3 remaining voided checks of the Oct 5 warrant are corrected
- to authorize John Connor, Construction Manager for the Emergency Services Facility, to approve and sign the contract between the AIA and Construction Manager Connor
- to approve Don Welch as the Vice Chair of the Selectboard
- to authorize Town Administrator Craig Kleman to contact NEMRC, the town's computer record-keeping service, and get the auditor a protected password for read-only access to the payroll module
- to get General Ledger access from NEMRC for the Town Administrator's office

October 19, 2009—Strategic Planning Meeting

- Strategic Planning Topics: Town Offices building security and mold in building, the Animal Ordinance Policy as it relates to dog barking, road plowing, maintenance and the budget, ambulance service, 2010/2011 Town Budget: line items need to coincide with the Town Report, procedure for processing Farm Contracts
- Approved a motion to accept the Access Permit for Cris Michaud

November 2, 2009

Motions Passed:

- to table Elliot Kaiman's Access Permit
- to approve Excess Weight Permit for Masterson Excavation
- Ginny Callan, the EM representative to the The Central Vermont Solid Waste District (CVSWD), reported the CVSWD must make changes because the amount of trash produced has dropped, revenue continues to drop, fast trash drop-off sites are in competition for the District and recycling is no longer free of charge for CVSWD. The board accepted Ginny Callan's recommendation to raise the surcharge per

TOWN WEATHERVANE (continued)

taxpayer from \$3.10 to \$5.10, up \$2.00. If the depots are closed to trash, EM residents' options are using fast trash drop-off sites, Casella on US2, or private pickup.

November 9, 2009 (Joint meeting with Calais Selectboard)

Motions Approved:

- by the Calais Selectboard to agree to share operating services and capital expenses for Ambulance Services, apportioned $\frac{1}{3}$ from Calais and $\frac{2}{3}$ from EM and to incorporate such into legal documents for the next three to five years, unless determined otherwise
- by the EM Selectboard to agree to share operating services and capital expenses for Ambulance Services, apportioned $\frac{1}{3}$ from Calais and $\frac{2}{3}$ from EM and to incorporate such into legal documents for the next 3–5 years, unless determined otherwise

PLANNING COMMISSION

September 17, 2009

Motions Approved:

- to approve the preliminary plat review of a 2-lot subdivision of the Hasland property on US2 toward Plainfield with the following conditions: the survey must be of the whole property; all abutters must be noted, even those across the river; survey must be stamped and signed; and the survey must show a building envelope

Preliminary plat review of Application #09-080, submitted by Robert Phillips, to subdivide his property located at 1145/1195 VT14N

October 1, 2009

Motions passed

- to approve the final subdivision as presented of Application #09-070, submitted by Hasland LLC, to subdivide the company's property located at 3030 US2 even though the building envelope is not on the survey due to lack of a site plan
- to approve the final plat review of Application #09-080, submitted by Robert Phillips, to subdivide his property located at 1145/1195 VT14N
- to approve the Preliminary & final plat review of Application #09-085, submitted by Cross Vermont Trail Association, to subdivide its property located at 1248 US2
- to approve the final plat with the corrections of the Ricker Preliminary & Final Subdivision

U-32 JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

September 16, 2009

Motions Approved

- to adopt the Home School Credit & Placement Policy
- the appointment of Tom Cate as head of Visual and Performing Arts Dept.
- to approve Co-Curricular Advisors for the Queer-Straight Alliance "QSA" and Unified Sports.

November 4, 2009

Topics discussed: bringing the sixth grade to U-32, alumnae surveys, action planning, evaluating administrators, merging with Montpelier High School

Motions Approved:

- 2009-10 action plan
- rescission of discipline policies for handicapped students and child abuse and neglect
- co-curricular advisors.
- board orders

Selectboard Seeking Candidates

The East Montpelier Selectboard is seeking candidates for the following appointed positions:

1. Tree Warden
2. Green-up Day Coordinator
3. Wrightsville Beach Representative

More information is available at www.vtfpr.org/urban/tree_wardens.cfm, www.greenupvermont.org, or by contacting Assistant Town Administrator Jeanne Lamica at lamicaj@gmail.com or 223-3313

WELCOME TO EAST MONTPELIER'S NEW ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

In October, the town and related town boards sadly said their farewells and good luck to Bruce Johnson who served the Town of East Montpelier as a fair and knowledgeable Zoning Administrator (ZA) for a number of years. Following the review and evaluation of some two dozen applications, the Planning Commission recommended Dina Bookmyer-Baker, and the Selectboard extended an offer of employment to her for the position.

Starting in late September, Dina has settled in to her ZA role at the Municipal Building. Dina brings with her hands-on and practical experience in planning and zoning from previous ZA duties in the City of Barre and her on-going and part-time ZA duties in Plainfield. Dina also has planning and zoning experience from duties associated with Marshfield's Development Review Board. Her background includes experience with technical journalism, as well.

Dina's office hours at the Municipal Building are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 12 noon to 5 p.m. with additional hours for Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment meetings. Dina can be reached by phone at 223-3313, ext. 205, or by email at eastmontza@comcast.net.

The next time you are in the Municipal Building during her office hours, swing by Dina's office and welcome her to East Montpelier!

—Rick Hopkins, Chair, Planning Commission

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EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

I want to express my gratitude to all who attended our community forums in November. These two events were a great opportunity for me to get to know the East Montpelier community, for us to share the needs of the school, and for the School Board to gather valuable information about how to proceed balancing the best interests of school and community. Currently, we are having experts examine our heating and ventilation systems, taking a look at costs associated with other updates/retrofits (such as control systems and windows), and focusing attention on grant opportunities related to these updates as well as the possible funding opportunities for photovoltaic systems.

Budget season is here! With a dramatic decline in state revenue and an increasing burden placed on taxpayers, fiscal responsibility is an obvious mandate. In drafting our budget, I am considering many factors to decide how best to demonstrate constraint. Cutting teachers and other staff members is extremely difficult, but with the majority of our budget invested in staffing (as is the case with all schools), substantial savings are mainly achieved through personnel reductions. At a time when significant needs are being revealed to me—lack of adequate technology (preparing students for a world where computer literacy is crucial), basic repairs to the physical plant, as well as space, energy efficiency, and safety needs—it is difficult to find a single program or area that can sustain a financial setback. I proceed with the utmost concern for respecting the tremendous burden that many of you in the East Montpelier community, as taxpayers, have weighing you down. On a good note, the final payment for the 1989 expansion/remodel bond comes off the tax bill this year. As the budget process continues, I will work with the School Board to develop the best educational experience for our students while taking into consideration the many factors calling us to tighten our belts. Thank you for your continued support for our school.

Wonderful things continue to impress me here at school. From outstanding displays of Frisbee Golf technique to incredible pumpkin stories, students are working hard to stretch themselves to reach learning goals. This fall, we had a wonderful visit from Olympic hopeful Liz Stephen. She talked of great travels and persevering when things are tough. Also, at our Monday Morning Meeting (an all-school assembly that is held two times per month), our second-graders shared their latest works of art—butterflies. With musical voices floating down the halls from the music room and the sound of students presenting their reports, learning is literally bouncing off the walls.

As the snows approach (I hear that it snows in Vermont, but I have yet to witness this as of Nov 30!) I wish you all a warm and safe winter. Thank you for welcoming me to your community and please feel welcome to contact me at school or call to schedule a visit!

—Roddy Cooke, Principal, EMES

REPORT FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD FACILITIES COMMITTEE

We would like to thank you all for joining us for the informational meetings on school needs. We received a lot of great input from community members. We also learned that it is not just the School Board and the Facilities Committee that have been aware of many of these issues for over twenty years, but also many members of the community.

In holding these meetings, the Board was looking for a representative perspective as to what community members view as important, and your input provided that. The Board concluded that the community would like to proceed with a holistic plan that addresses the facility issues while still maintaining a program of quality education for children. The School Board accordingly feels strongly that we need to move forward and address the needs of the school in the most comprehensive way. We have set a tentative timeline to work toward a bond vote in November, 2010. We will soon be providing detailed information about the time and dates of future meetings and invite all community members to join us. It is particularly important to all of us that the Facilities Committee stays open to all members of the community and provides everyone an opportunity to express their opinions and concerns.

We are working hard to outline the school's overall needs, to evaluate them, and then to prioritize them. We are also researching costs and green technology, and taking into consideration each of your concerns raised at the informational meetings. We will be incorporating all of these ideas, and all new ideas presented into our work, and will be prepared to answer your questions at the meetings as we proceed.

East Montpelier has always strongly supported the educational needs of our children, because every dollar we spend on education comes back with multiple benefits. Strong schools equal strong and vibrant communities. Children spend most of their day at school, and their education is the biggest and most important gift we give to them.

We understand that the economic times are hard, but with your help, we will look at all the options to make this school project affordable to all. We will work together as a community toward this common goal.

Please take the time to visit the school page in the near future—we will soon have a link to keep you updated, with meeting dates and other information. We will also be sending you mailings to keep the information flowing back and forth. Again, the Facilities Committee is open to all so please don't hesitate to join, and please call any of us with your questions or concerns.

—School Board and Facilities Committee

COBURN ROAD QUARRY PROJECT

In March 2008, I became involved in the Act 250 hearing process to protect the Coburn Road Quarry Swimming Hole from being filled in as part of the Vermont Agency of Transportation's plan to construct wetlands to replace those likely to be destroyed in the proposed expansion of three highway segments along US2 in Cabot and Danville. As many know, the swimming hole has a long history of use in central Vermont and is mentioned numerous times in our Town Plan as an important resource.

Many thanks to everyone who attended the hearings: Members of our Selectboard, Planning Commission, swimmers, and local residents, and to everyone who filled out an affidavit to describe experiences at the Coburn Road Quarry. Your concern, presence, thoughts, and history were noticed by the District Commission which issued a Land Use Permit with seventeen conditions that appear to protect the quarry pond and the aesthetics of the site. Condition thirteen requires that before beginning construction, VTrans must "file an amendment application which provides a revised design for the proposed wetland compensation site" in favor of preserving the water quality of the pond, the shorelines, existing and current uses—including swimming, fishing, bicycling. It continues, "If a revised design is not feasible for the proposed East Montpelier wetland compensation site," they wrote, "then an alternative wetland compensation plan, or site, will be required for review under all applicable criteria."

We now wait to see if VTrans will appeal, present a new design for Coburn Quarry, or seek a new mitigation site altogether. (In which case we will organize to purchase and protect the site.)

Please consider a tax deductible donation to support these efforts to protect East Montpelier's only public swimming pond. Write "Coburn Quarry" on the memo line of your check made out to: VT Natural Resources Council (our fiscal sponsor) mailed to me at 2051 VT Rte 214, Plainfield, VT 05667. Thank you

—Reneé Carpenter

EAST MONTPELIER TRAILS

East Montpelier is fortunate to have a well-developed and ever-expanding system of trails for use in all seasons. While some of the more popular trails are well-worn and in great shape, others are still in the early stages of planning and development, while still others have seen a good host of maintenance lately by volunteers from all around the area.

The Sparrow Farm trail has recently undergone the most significant work. The trail was severely damaged late last fall by the rerouting of a snow machine trail. With funding and assistance from VAST, it has been regraded, seeded, and mulched, with pretty good winter rye growth due to the warm late fall. The altered section of the trail is closed to all trail uses until it is frozen. Once there is good snow cover, there should be good snowshoeing. When groomed later in the winter, the VAST trail will present a good challenging ski, but beware of the steep terrain, and always yield to snow machines. We are asking people to refrain from using this trail during the spring runoff.

The Mallory Brook trail has also seen steady improvement as Greg Western and Zyla Nuit continue to lead volunteers in building stone stairways through the steep gullies. Greg brought a Forest and Parks grant to our town to fund his work on building this beautiful trail, a legacy for us and future generations. The trail will not be marked with blazes until it is completed, so it can be difficult to follow in winter.

For everyone's enjoyment and safety when on our shared trails in the wintertime, here are a few things to remember:

- Wear bright clothing so that you can be seen. Often to a rider on a machine, it is very hard to tell the difference between the trees and a skier or showshoer wearing dark clothing.
- Please use off-road parking areas when possible (Dodge Road). If you must park on the road, please park as far off the traveled section of the road as possible and park 2-3 car lengths from the trail crossing in order to leave a good sight line for snow machines and skiers crossing the road.
- No bikes or horses are allowed on any of the East Montpelier Trails from December 1–June 1.

We hope everyone gets a chance this season to find themselves outside enjoying our local trail system. What a perfect place to ski or showshoe on those stunning winter days that will soon be here. Maps of existing trails are available at the *Signpost* website—emsignpost.com. Please also become a fan of the trails on Facebook to learn all about trail work volunteer opportunities or to simply to share in the appreciation of our community trails.

—Patrick O'Donnell, East Montpelier Trails, Inc.

HOME ENERGY VISITS WITH THE EM ENERGY COMMITTEE

The East Montpelier Energy Committee is still available to conduct home energy visits. We can install some energy saving materials and give advice on how to button up your home for the winter.

Call 476-4300 or ddgrundy@comcast.net.

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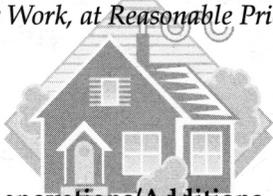


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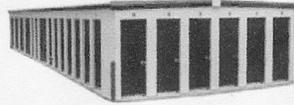
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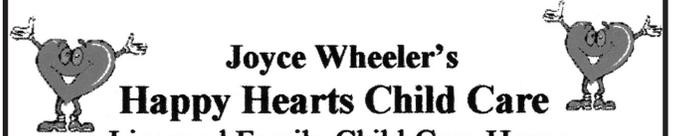


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East Montpelier announcements are welcome.

To be notified of new announcements, join the e-mail list. Look under “contacts” for Jennifer Boyer and give her your e-mail address.

A great way to know what is happening in town.

EVENTS

Art Farnum’s Photosafari South Africa: Sun., Jan. 10, 3–4 PM at the Four Corners Schoolhouse.

Willem Lange’s Salmon Fishing at the Arctic Circle: Sun. Jan. 24, 3–4 PM at the 4 Corners Schoolhouse.

EMSLI community forum: Tues. Jan. 26, 7 PM Come discuss housing needs of seniors at the Old Brick Church.

Kellogg Hubbard Library events call 223-3338 for details

A Capitol for the Green Mountains: Wed., Jan. 6, 7 PM Vermont’s State House at 150: with Vermont State Curator David Schutz

Bats, Demystified and Endangered: Wed., Jan. 13, 7 PM with Rose Paul of The Nature Conservancy.

Which Came First? The Addictions/Crime Relationship: Thurs., Jan. 14, 6:30–8:30 PM with professionals from central VT

Book Sales 2009: Dec. 14–Jan. 16, 2010

NOTICES

Thurs. Jan 21: last day to file petitions signed by a least 5% of voters (130) for articles for Town Meeting Warning.

Mon. Jan 25: last day to file nominating petitions for town offices to be voted on by Australian Ballot. (1% or 30 signatures).

Sun. Jan 31: last day to post Warning and notice of Town Meeting.

Wed. Feb 10: first day town ballots available for Early/Absentee Voter voting from Town Clerk.

Wed. Feb. 24: last day (by 5 PM) for Town Clerk to receive requests for addition to the checklist.

Sat. Feb 27: Town Forum (tentative date)

Tues. March 2: TOWN MEETING DAY

Thurs. April 1: last day to register dogs with up-to-date rabies vaccination.

Mon. May 17 by 5 PM: 2nd installment of property taxes due.

Deadline for Next Issue: JANUARY 25, 2010, To Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, signpostbcp@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	7:00	Town Office Building
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:30	Town Office Building
Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA)	1st & 3rd Tues	7:30	Town Office Building
Conservation Fund Advisory Committee	2nd Thurs	7:30	Town Office Building
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wed	6:00	U-32 School
Elementary School Board (EMES)	3rd Thurs	6:30	Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Wed	7:15	Elementary School
Volunteer Fire Department (EMFD)	Every Tues	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Rd.
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association	2nd Wed	7:00	Four Corners School
East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative (EMSLI)	2nd & 4th Tues	6:30	Town Office Building
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)	1st Wed	6:30	Elementary School