

# EAST MONTPELIER Signpost



Volume XXIII—Number Six

July/August 2013

## Marc's Mill: Fontaine Millwork and Forestry

by Jessie Taylor



TERRY J. ALLEN

I found Marc Fontaine just where I had expected to find him in his small cubicle at Fontaine Millwork and Forestry. From this four-foot-square space Marc runs his WoodMizer. A large plate-glass window gives him full view of the computer-run saw mill.

It's fun to watch as he turns a pine log into a perfect pile of dimensional lumber. The log is rolled onto arm-like levers that lift it onto the mill platform. Hydraulics tweak it into place. Then the saw makes its way down the length of the log. Ten-inch fingers then push the cut piece onto a conveyor belt that takes the board to the workers at the other end of the shed.

Marc chats away while deftly maneuvering the many levers on the mill's computer board. On both sides of the window are

*Continued on page 8*



TERRY J. ALLEN

## The Stones: Rocks & Music

by Wendy Soliday

As I wind my way up Chris and Mary Stone's driveway, past three elderly sheep, I see Mary bounding out of the woods with a handful of greens. "Want some mint in your lemonade?" I was meeting them on their deck, to sip a cold drink, eat a chocolate chip cookie, and chat. Usually when I join them for activities I'm out of breath and sweating. They obviously know the woods well and are planning a hike as soon as we finish this interview. Although they said it would be a hike, I know Mary has been known to run in the woods with ski poles, bounding up and down the steep hills, in preparation for ski season.

*Continued on page 4*

## Rally Day: RIP?

by Jean Vissering

This will be the first year since 1989 without a Rally Day, which, ably organized by many volunteers, brought pleasure to the community. Early on, the Community Activities Committee of the Planning Commission organized the event. In more recent years, Bill Merrylees (and

family) spent lots of energy as chief organizer. Last year Lisa Helme, Becky Brown and I shared responsibility with the help of wonderful volunteers and donors. This year the available committee volunteers dwindled to two, neither of whom had time to take on leadership of the event.

A Front Porch Forum plea yielded only one volunteer. My own two year stint

focused on bringing Rally Day into East Village to draw attention to our town center and new green. The farmer's market showcased our local producers, but attendance was not what it could be.

As Edie Miller notes in *The Top of the Signpost*, it is time to rethink this event and perhaps to find new ways to celebrate our community. Contact me: [jeanviss@attgobal.net](mailto:jeanviss@attgobal.net). And stay tuned.

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**Printed by L. Brown and Sons Printing**  
476-3164

EAST MONTPELIER  
**Signpost**

Published six times a year.  
Mailed free of charge  
to all residents of  
East Montpelier.

PO Box 184  
East Montpelier, VT 05651

## Top of the *Signpost* No Rally Day in 2013



Twenty-five years ago, a group of townspeople put together a day of community activities meant to attract East Montpelier residents to gather together, share food, stories, and good times. Rally Day has taken place each September since then with varying activities and with some recent changes in venue—always due to the hard work and commitment of many of our neighbors.

This year, there will be no Rally Day. (See Jean Vissering's article on the front page.) Rather than considering that to be a "bad" thing, perhaps it gives us a chance to reflect on some basic questions.

1. Do Rally Day events need to be updated to suit the interests of adults and children in 2013?
2. How can we communicate more effectively with residents?
3. Has Rally Day outlived its purpose—i.e. is it no longer relevant to busy lives and times?
4. Do we need a new vision for how the community comes together and enjoys being a community?
5. Should we work together to revitalize a "new and improved" Rally Day?

The *Signpost* and Rally Day were both end results of serious conversations by many EM residents about what they wanted our community to be. Both efforts sprang from the vision of creating a closer, more cohesive community where neighbors know and value each other, enjoy spending time together, and can rely on one another.

Rally Day and the *Signpost* share not only common beginnings and purposes, but Rally day has provided the *Signpost* with the context for its most significant (and fun) fundraising opportunity—the Silent Auction. Last year, for the first time, the auction was canceled for lack of volunteer coordinators. This year, we were planning the auction, but there are not enough volunteers to plan Rally Day.

In a recent survey and at the 2013 Town Meeting, citizens expressed a desire to see the *Signpost* continue to be published. Many suggested that we charge for the *Signpost*, publish it online only, or have it funded by the town. We (the current *Signpost* volunteers) remain adamant that the *Signpost* must be readily available to everyone. We have been reluctant to change our financing model since some of us can still hear the echo of Jean Cate's voice saying, "If people want to read it, they will pay for it voluntarily."

The current situation demands that we rethink what we're doing and how we're doing it. Please take the time to share your thoughts and ideas about the future of Rally Day and the *Signpost*. Post your thoughts on FPF or contact Edie Miller or Jean Vissering.

— Edie Miller

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## East Montpelier Has A New Town Plan

by Rick Hopkins, Chair, EM Planning Commission

The 2013 Town Plan, adopted by the East Montpelier Selectboard on June 3, 2013, is an effort to respond to changes in East Montpelier's population, economy, land use, and public services since the document was last updated in 2008. The new Town Plan is also an outline for addressing the challenges we face as a community over the next five to ten years. Following are some of the notable changes and highlights of the 2013 East Montpelier Town Plan:

### Land Use

East Montpelier residents continue to value our scenic and productive rural landscape. The plan recommends the possibility of a new village zoning district for East Montpelier Village and re-establishing a Wastewater Advisory Committee to focus on East Montpelier Village. The "Agriculture" chapter provides new emphasis on local food production.

### Economic Development

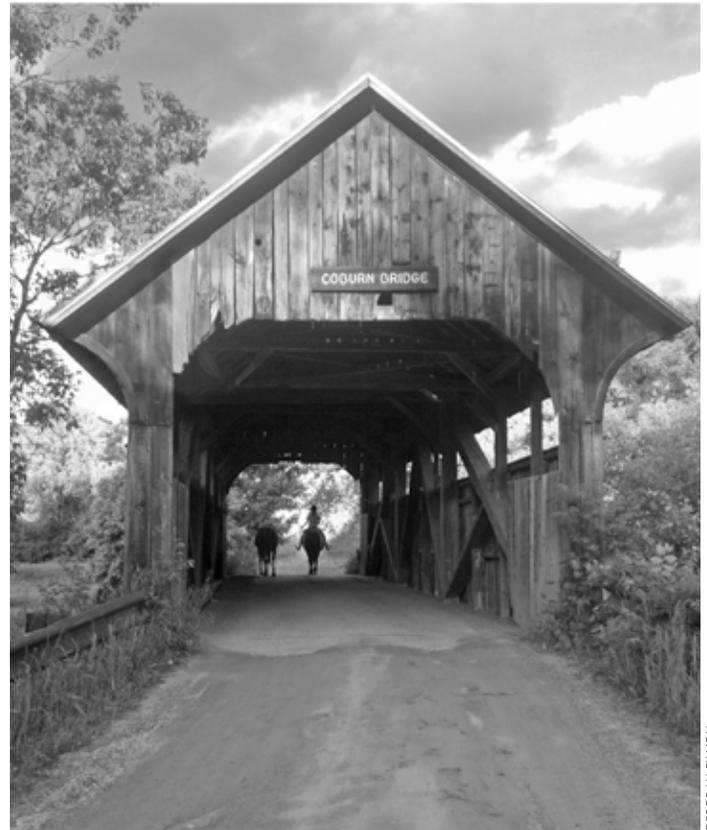
This is a new chapter for the Town Plan as a result of changes in state law. The chapter looks at our current businesses and recommends ways to encourage and support businesses within our community.

### Communication

Educating ourselves regarding the issues at hand is the best way for us to understand one another and to cultivate discussion, debate and consensus. To that end, the plan includes recommendations for improving communication among the town's entities, increasing access to information, and ensuring representation in decision-making. New recommendations include creating a town web site.

### Water Resources

Several recent events have created new interest in our water resources reflected in chapters on "Wetlands, Waterways and Wildlife" and "Water Supplies and Aquifers." There is discussion of protecting groundwater resources by lowering the threshold for DRB review of water extraction



for commercial purposes, ensuring that our Conservation and Aquifer Protection Overlay Districts reflect current conditions (including new information from state geologic and groundwater mapping for the town), and consideration of reducing erosion and runoff into streams through Low Impact Design (LID) techniques.

### Energy

Interest in renewable energy is reshaping our lives and landscape and this is discussed in the "Energy" chapter. The new Town Plan contains, also, an impressive list of accomplishments and progress made since 2008.

For readers that wish to inspect the 2013 Town Plan, go the "town docs" button found on the East Montpelier Signpost website at [www.emsignpost.com](http://www.emsignpost.com).

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## Senior Housing Coming to a Neighborhood Near You

Formed in 2005 to preserve and create safe and affordable housing for senior citizens in our town, the East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative (EMSLI) has now entered into a purchase-and-sale agreement for the hillside land across the road from the East Montpelier Home Center. We recently obtained a local building permit from the town's Development Review Board for a sixteen-unit structure that includes 12 one-bedroom and 4 two-bedroom apartments, as well as common areas and attached covered parking. This will be independent living, complemented by a community kitchen and activity rooms available for social events.

Each apartment will have either one-and-a-half or two baths and a small deck to enjoy sunrise and the view of the surrounding mountains.

We have several permits to go, but the energy and excitement is growing as our shared vision for senior housing here in East Montpelier becomes a reality.

EMSLI meets at the Town Office Building on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. Our meetings are open to all town residents, and we invite you to drop in.

—by Ross Hazel, chair, EMSLI

Chris and Mary Stone are people with many roles and interests, all seeming to intersect around caring for the earth, their family, the community, and rocks. They met at UVM apparently in a class called “Geomorphology.” (I think they were serious?) They traveled after college to Michigan learning about rocks, to South America, and then to Maine, where Chris enrolled in graduate school to become a hydrogeologist. Mary, having studied science and art, worked on an acid-rain project at the University of Maine.

In 1983 they returned to Vermont, first moving into the Flanders’ garage on Brazier Road and eventually building their present house on Cummings Road. Both Mary and Chris have childhood memories of this area and wanted to return here to raise their family. Mary grew up in Northfield. Chris, though technically a “flatlander” from Redding, Connecticut, has been coming to Vermont since 1971, when his mother bought a farm (the John Peterson Farm) in East Montpelier. The farmland is now home to many family members, including their three children, Zoe, Phoebe, and Maia. Zoe and Maia live in the original farmhouse; Phoebe is returning soon to live in the house above them. Across the road are two more relatives, Chip (Chris’s brother) and Susan Stone. Chris’s mother, Ann Stone, and Mary’s sister, Elaine Manghi, also live in the area.

Chris began working as a consulting geologist and in 1992 founded Stone Environmental, Inc. in Montpelier. His company now employs about 40 people and is established as one of the top firms for evaluating the environmental effects of agrochemical use. Basically, the firm focuses on water quality issues, providing the technical and scientific information, research, and studies for many projects around the country. The goal is to understand, verify, and reduce sources of water pollution.

Although he obviously works hard and is very effective, Chris does make time for his many hobbies and passions. In his basement is an almost completed 17-foot wooden sailboat. It is one of four boats he has built. He and Mary both enjoy being on the water and have spent much time kayaking in his homemade rigs. He also skis, bikes, and is an “out of the closet” musician. In fact, he’s in a new blues band, The Usual Suspects, playing the harmonica and singing. While visiting, I scored an invite to his performance at the Whammy Bar in Calais for later that night.

I asked Mary about her interests and career and how she got started as a whistle maker. It appears she has always loved making things—herb vinegars, little clay people, gardens, and whistles. She got involved with Haskell Pottery and learned whistle making from Delia Robinson. She quickly developed her own style, selling her work at craft shows and the Artisan’s

Hand Gallery in Montpelier. She has been a board member and co-owner of the Artisan’s Hand Gallery since 1988. Her whistles range from tiny, porcelain necklaces to chunky, elephant ocarinas. Each can play three to five notes and are tuned by ear. Her studio overlooks the hillside farm. As her website states, “Whistle making has allowed me to work at home in a creative and intentional way, and has given me the freedom, when the snow is good, to step outside for an inspiring ski in the beautiful surrounding countryside.”

She does step, hike, bound, and ski outside frequently. She has at least two outdoor passions. One is creating and maintaining trails in East Montpelier. As president of the East Montpelier Trails, Inc. Mary works hard with the other members of the trail committee to ensure that others in town can enjoy the woods and open fields. Presently they manage 12 miles of trails and are working with other groups in the state to create a necklace of trails crossing Vermont. Volunteers are always needed to help with these trails.

Mary’s other passion is cross-country skiing. Although she has skied for years, she began to take it more seriously five years ago, training with a group of women in Stowe led by Olympic skier Trina Hosmer. Three years ago she decided to share what she was learning with women at the newly established Morse Farm cross-country ski center. Her enthusiasm and skills have encouraged almost 40 women to join her, and she plans to continue. As one of her “students,” I have jumped from slogging through the back woods on my clunky metal-edged skis to almost gracefully gliding down, and less gracefully up, hills on my very skinny, light skate skis. I haven’t yet joined her for the dry-land training (it sounds daunting), but I am hooked by her confidence in how we can all push ourselves and get a little bit faster and stronger. She is simply an amazing coach.

Chris’s mother, Ann, who now lives at Westview Meadows and stops by frequently for walks and visits, joined us on the porch to quietly listen to this interview. I’m sure she was proud and amused to hear her children’s lives reviewed. She also shared a few stories. Surprised that Chris actually had a gig tonight, she reminisced about his first venture into being in a band. I think he played the bass guitar, raised \$75 to buy a truck with his fellow band members, and headed off to make his fame and fortune. Apparently he got as far as New Hampshire, where the truck broke down and the dream ended. “Or maybe not,” we chimed in.

—Wendy Soliday lives on Murray Road and thoroughly enjoyed listening to *The Usual Suspects* at the Whammy Bar. Wendy, an artist, can often be seen shivering by the roadside trying to capture the last glimmer of light. She is married to Greg MacDonald, has three children, and three grandchildren.



# Eating Local Food

by David Grundy

"Eat more local food." These are the buzz words heard frequently these days, and it makes a lot of sense. Many of us are aware of the often-stated fact that the food on local grocery store shelves travels an average of 1,500 miles, some from foreign countries. In addition to losing flavor and freshness, foods from the far-away industrial food system may contain any number of pesticides, herbicides, GMOs (genetically modified organisms) and other ingredients that affect their value.

Recently, a local grocery store, in an effort to unload an over-supply of lobsters, offered five ears of corn with every lobster. One shopper was overheard commenting that the corn from Florida being offered was not fit to feed his hogs. He was expressing what many of us feel about food that is often harvested before the flavors develop, that travels long distances at the expense of precious fuel and is likely produced with questionable practices.

We are fortunate here in East Montpelier to have an abundance of fresh food available to us. We know that Vermont, as a state, has the most farmers' markets and CSAs (community supported agriculture) per capita of all other states. A few years ago, some local producers formed the East Montpelier Food Producers Network to get the word out about the availability of high-quality local food. A number of local farms raise grass-fed beef which has been shown to contain more omega-3 fats so important to our well being (for an article on the importance of omega-3 fats, contact [ddgrundy@comcast.net](mailto:ddgrundy@comcast.net)).

Here is information on just a few of the local foods and other products you can find close by:

Cate Farm: Seedlings available through July 4 at Hunger Mountain Coop and at Cate Farm. Tomatoes at Hunger Mt Coop, seconds and cases available at Cate Farm by pre-arrangement. Burdock root from September through January at Hunger Mt Coop. The Cate Farm is located on Coburn Road between Routes 2 and 14. [catefarm@gmail.com](mailto:catefarm@gmail.com)

Colin Blackwell will have garlic in the fall. He is on Center Rd. Give him a call at 279-5522.

Erika Zimmerman has grass-fed lamb, pastured chicken and pork, white and natural colored yarn, raw fleece and sheepskins, and mulch hay. Available at the farm with the yellow barn on Center Road just past the Old Meeting House.

Miriam Hanson has lettuce, arugula, parsley, basil, cherry tomatoes, English cucumbers, and raspberries. Miriam has a mailing list where she lets people know once a week what is available, at what cost, for pick-up on Thursdays between 3 and 5. She is located on Sparrow Farm Road. [freshair460@gmail.com](mailto:freshair460@gmail.com)

And if you are interested in how to prepare this fresh local food, Lisa Masé can help out. She offers hands-on cooking lessons, tailored recipes and meal plans, nutrition support, har-



Sally Colman and Pete Colman of Cate Farm

monized cookery at \$40 per hour. Cook with local seasonal food to save money, feel better, and enjoy life. [www.harmonizedcookery.com](http://www.harmonizedcookery.com)

There are other producers in town who are making a variety of foods and other products available to us. If you are interested in what is available and where it can be purchased, contact me at [ddgrundy@comcast.net](mailto:ddgrundy@comcast.net), and I will put you in touch with our members.

## Historical Society Seeks Researchers/Writers

East Montpelier's most recent town history, *Across the Onion*, was published in 1983. The 30 short years since then have witnessed many changes in the life of our community, and these are worthy of being chronicled. For example, in 1980 there were 22 active dairy farms; now there are only three or four. However, there are now a number of farms raising vegetables, sheep, perennials, and maple products.

Population growth has resulted in new homes and required significant changes at our elementary school and at U-32. The political demographics were beginning to change in the 80's from a town that was Republican to one that is now solidly Democratic.

The many changes over the past three decades should be recorded. So, if you have an interest in historical research and writing, let the Historical Society know. Rather than publishing a full addendum to *Across the Onion*, the changes may be compiled into several pamphlets on individual subjects.

Call Joanne Bair 223-2830 or David Coburn 223-6886 to express your interest.

## Town Offices

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

**Town Clerk:** Terri Conti  
eastmonttct@comcast.net

**Town Treasurer:** Don Welch  
eastmonttr@comcast.net

**Town /Zoning Administrator:** Bruce Johnson  
eastmontadmin@comcast.net  
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9AM-5PM

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

**Fire Permits:** EMFD 225-6247

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

**2nd Constable:** Paul Haynes 223-1651

**Listers:** Rob Chickering, Putnam Clayton, Ross Hazel  
223-3313 x206, eastmontlstr@comcast.net

**Health Officer:** Dave Grundy 476-4300

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

### Selectboard

Seth Gardner, Chair  
sethgardner@hotmail.com

Carl Etnier  
Steve Sparrow

Casey Northrup  
Kim Swasey

### Planning Commission

Rick Hopkins, Chair, 229-4375

### Development Review Board

Richard Curtis, Chair  
rcurtis841@comcast.net

### U-32 Jr./Sr. High School

Kari Bradley@u32.org  
Emily Goyette egoyette@u32.org

### Elementary School

Rubin Bennett, Chair  
rbennett@thatitguy.com

Kimberly Kendall  
Stephen Looke

Priscilla Gilbert  
Flor Diaz-Smith

### State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032  
twk@tonyklein.com

## Town Weathervane

### MILESTONES

#### Marriages

- Allison Grogan & Howard Badillo, April 8, 2013

#### Deaths

- Paul Lewis Seguin died April 24, 2013
- Richard J. Weeks died May 1, 2013
- Earl Montague died May 11, 2013, father of Arthur M. Montague
- Beverly Hull died April 13, 2013, wife of Kenneth Hull, mother of Cynthia Doan and Kathy Karr

#### Property Transfers

- Morris Wyman to Fairmont Farm, Inc., 120.2 acres open land, US2
- Duane Wells to Glen Ehret, 3 acres open land, East Hill Rd

### SELECTBOARD

#### March 18, 2013

Motions Passed:

- to allow the EM Fire Department to use bond funds to make electrical upgrades
- to authorize the town treasurer to renew the Forest Fund CD on such terms as he deems appropriate
- to approve and sign CP Dudley's Liquor License Renewal
- to organize the board as follows: Seth Gardner, chair; Casey Northrup, vice chair
- to continue having Seth Gardner handle payroll warrants and payroll vendor warrants
- to appoint Casey Northrup as the alternate SB member to handle payroll warrants and payroll vendor warrants
- to adopt the SB Rules of Transaction as presented
- to appoint the following: Sandy Conti as animal control officer; Elliot Morse as assistant animal control officer; Gray Ricker, Jeff Cueto and Carol Welch to the Development Review Board; and Ginny Callan as the town representative to the Central VT Solid Waste Management District
- to authorize the town administrator to sign Excess Weight Permits for Newport Sand & Gravel, Camp Precast Concrete, Lajuenesse Construction, United Natural Foods, Pyrofax Energy, Johnson Artesian Well Drilling, HA Manosh, and Rice Lumber Company

#### April 1, 2013

Motions Passed:

- to form the Town Charter Committee and to adopt the charge of considering the advantages and disadvantages of East Montpelier's adopting a town charter

- to extend the farm contracts for a period of one year for Frances Donaghy, et al; Peter & Mary Ellen Hill; Harry & Elizabeth Morse; Ila Smith; Ann Talbot Stone; Charles Stone & Susan Atwood-Stone
- to authorize the chair to sign the letter to Roger & Barbara Clark regarding clearing brush along EM Trail #4
- to authorize the town administrator to sign the State of Vermont Bike & Pedestrian Grant Agreement.
- to appoint the following: Rachael Grossman as town service officer; Paul Cate as town tree warden; Tim Carver as lead representative to Central Vt. Regional Planning Commission, and Julie Potter as the alternate; Frank Pratt as representative to the Transportation Advisory Committee of Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission; Paul Cate to the Forest Committee; Phillip Heinz and Pete Richards to the Recreation Board; Michael Dworkin to the Conservation Fund Advisory Committee; Bill George and Toby Talbot as emergency management coordinators; Don Welch and Carol Welch to the State Police Community Advisory Board
- to sign Excess Weight Permits for Barrett Trucking Co Inc, Donald Giroux Trucking, Ivan Maxwell, Marlin Environmental, Cardinal Logistics Management, Harrison Redi-Mix Corp, and Feed Commodities International

#### April 15, 2013

#### Discussion issues:

- Contract with Xerox/ACS for land records digitization to provide new services; will review an updated contract later
- Recreation board handles its money differently from all other boards; treasurer suggested changes
- Received draft Town Plan from PC and discussed setting meeting dates

Motions approved:

- to adopt the Cash Receipts, Petty Cash and Returned Check Policy for the Town of East Montpelier
- to authorize town administrator to sign the CVSWMD grant application
- to approve the annual NEMRC Disaster Recovery Agreement effective through 5/9/14
- to authorize the town administrator to sign the rbTech proactive maintenance contract
- to appoint the following to the EM Charter Committee: Carl Etnier, Julie Potter, Rick Mastelli, Edie Miller, Jack Pauly, Richard Brock, Norman Hill, Michael Duane, Ed Deegan, Kim Watson and Karen Gramer

- to appoint Ken Santor and Colin Blackwell to the Forest Committee
- to enter and exit an executive session to discuss a legal matter
- to waive the \$185 DRB hearing fee for the OMH
- to authorize the town administrator to sign Excess Weight Permits for: Hutch Crane & Pump Rental Corp, Kelley-View Farms Inc., Fred Vance, and Dubois Construction Inc.

### May 6, 2013

Discussion issues:

- Delinquent tax collector Karen Gramer reported that on in May, 2012 there was \$193,000 outstanding and only \$38,000 outstanding a year later
- Orchard Valley School wants to reduce speed limit on VT14N past the school. Frank Pratt & Tom Anderson will meet and observe

Motions approved:

- to authorize the town administrator (TA) to sign the ACS Enterprise Solutions Agreement for IT products and services
- to engage Fothergill, Segale and Valley for a term of one year
- to authorize TA to sign ESRI ArcGIS license maintenance agreement (used by listers)
- to accept Cheney Trucking bid for sand for winter of 2013-2014
- to authorize the town administrator to sign Excess Weight Permits for: Haskins & Associates Concrete, John Picard, Miller Construction Inc., Newton Construction LLC, Gregory Bartlett, Grandfield Masonry, LePage Gravel Pit, Warren Hill Trucking Inc., and Kingsbury Companies LLC

### May 13, 2013

Following a one hour public hearing on the Draft Town Plan, SB held a special meeting to discuss proposed draft

Motions approved:

- to authorize the town administrator to incorporate into the revisions to the Town Plan reasonable changes to the maps as described by a PC member within the next 24 hours
- to accept the Draft Town Plan dated 4/15/13, as amended, for the 6/3 hearing

## DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

### April 2, 2013

Motions passed:

- to recess condition use review of application #13-001, by East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative to May 7, 2013
- to approve the EMES application #13-005 as presented with the following conditions: applicants will receive curb cut approval and adequate easement from the town for a culvert across the recreation fields

- to approve the survey of Roger & Barbara Clark PRD (Application #12-022) to replace the formerly approved site plan
- to accept the subdivision plat plan for Blackwell, application #13-002, as presented

### May 7, 2013

Motions passed:

- to approve conditional use application #12-058 of Charlene Anderson & Catherine Taylor, 479 Stoney Corners Rd, as presented
- to approve conditional use application #13-011 of Tracy & Brian Phillips at 2075 VT14S
- to approve the revised site plan for conditional use application #13-010 by The Old Meeting House
- to accept the 16-unit senior housing project proposed in conditional use application #13-001 by EMSLI with the details shown on site plans, pages 1-6, dated 4/23/13 and revisions dated 5/7/13

## EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD

### March 18, 2013

Motions Passed:

- to organize board as follows: Rubin Bennett, chair; Stephen Looke, vice-chair; Kim Kendall, clerk
- to establish the *Times Argus* as the town newspaper and Dudley's, the town office, and EMES as the three official postings sites
- to have the regularly scheduled board meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at EMES
- to elect Stephen Looke as the representative to the Washington Central Supervisory Union Executive Committee and Flor Diaz-Smith as the alternate
- to elect Priscilla Gilbert, Stephen Looke, and Flor Diaz-Smith as the three voting members of the WCSU from EMES
- to nominate Priscilla Gilbert as the WCSU Negotiations Committee representative and Flor Diaz-Smith as the alternate
- to nominate Stephen Looke as the WCSU representative to the Policy Committee and Kim Kendall as the alternate
- to nominate Rubin Bennett as the WCSU Transportation Committee representative and Kim Kendall as the alternate
- to nominate Marion Anastasia as the truant officer for the school
- to approve Amy Barrett's one year leave of absence (after executive session discussion)
- to approve the RIF of 2.0 FTE para-educators and 0.6 special educators.
- to approve both the bullying and harassment policies as written
- to renew the principal's contract for the duration of three years and ask the

superintendent to bring the recommendation to the board in May

### March 27, 2013

Motions Passed:

- to ratify the negotiated ESP agreement for 2013–2017, and to authorize the board chair to sign the agreement on behalf of the board
- to approve the construction budget of \$8.17m
- to go into executive session for a discussion of personnel

### April 15, 2013

- Discussed compromises and options to consider in order to stay within budget on renovation project

No actions taken

### April 17, 2013 – special meeting

- Passed motion to approve Truex Collins Contract for \$609,450 and authorize Flor Diaz-Smith to sign in behalf of the East Montpelier School Board

## U-32

### March 6, 2013

Motions approved:

- to organize the board as follows: chair, Adrienne Magida; vice-chair, Conrad Smith; clerk, Jonathan Goddard
- to set regular monthly meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month
- to designate official postings as the *Times Argus*, town clerks' offices of Calais, East Montpelier, Berlin, Middlesex and Worcester
- to appoint to the WCSU Executive Committee Conrad Smith, with Adrienne Magida as alternate
- to designate Conrad Smith, Kari Bradley and Adrienne Magida as voting members of the WCSU Board; Emily Goyette as representative on WCSU Negotiations Committee, alternate, Conrad Smith; Katie Winkeljohn to WCSU Policy Committee, alternate, Jonathan Goddard; Mike Law to the Transportation Committee; Jonathan Goddard to the WCSU Labor Management Committee; Eric Bennett as truant officer; Emily Goyette rep to the Barre Technical Center Regional Advisory Board
- to appoint members to U-32 board committees: Finance, Emily Goyette, Kari Bradley; Policy, Jonathan Goddard, Katie Winkeljohn, Conrad Smith; Negotiations, Emily Goyette, alternate, Conrad Smith; Facilities & Capital Budget, Mike Law, Emily Goyette; School Quality, Conrad Smith, Kari Bradley, Adrienne Magida
- to disband the Curriculum/Co-curricular Committee and the Personnel Committee

- to approve U-32 Spring Coaches and volunteers as presented
- to accept Maggie Eaton's retirement
- to accept Norm Vandal's retirement

### March 20, 2013

Motions Passed:

- to approve the grant applications for a part-time project-based learning programs coordinator
- to accept George Olson's retirement

### March 27, 2013, Special Meeting

Motions Passed:

- to approve the negotiated ESP Agreement for 2013 through 2017
- to authorize Adrienne Magida to sign the negotiated agreement on behalf of the board
- to approve an additional 0.1 FTE science teacher
- to approve the 0.4 RIF recall of Brian Albee

### April 3, 2013

Motions Passed:

- to approve the coaches and volunteers as presented
- to accept end-of-year retirement of Barbara Korecki
- to accept Chris Grantz's resignation

- to approve the following appointments: Roderick Lang, para-educator; Johanna Hiller, 0.4 FTE English teacher; Kristine Chartrand, 1.0 FTE visual arts teacher

### April 17, 2013

Motions Passed:

- to appoint Emily Goyette to award the roof bid on behalf of the board
- to approve the athletic volunteer as presented
- to approve the appointment of Karen Lieberman as 0.5 FTE Branching Out coordinator
- to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing non-bargaining salaries
- to approve the superintendent's recommendation that all non-bargaining employees receive a 3% salary increase for their 2013-2014 contracts
- to accept the resignation of Andrea Bonamico, choral music teacher

### May 1, 2013

Discussion/report issues:

- offered Harwood sports teams use of U-32 fields after damage there
  - exit interview with retiring teacher Maggie Eaton
  - roofing bid has been awarded to Burrell
- Motions approved:

- to appoint spring athletic coaches & volunteers as presented
- to accept the resignation of Marieka Larrabee
- to approve appointments of Mollie Hart & Abbey Kalman—each as a 1.0 FTE English teacher

### May 15, 2013

Discussion/report issues:

- exit interview with retiring teacher Barbara Korecki
  - discussion of alternative learning pilot program with teachers and students
  - special education throughout the district
- Motions approved:
- to grant payment authorization to U-32 treasurer
  - to approve retirement of Arlene Trombly-Holcomb
  - to accept the resignation of asst. principal Stephanie Taylor who will become co-principal at Vergennes UHS
  - to approve Adrian Wade to take Barbara Korecki's position at 0.7 FTE
  - to appoint Jennifer Ingersoll as 0.6 FTE English & social studies teacher

*Fontaine, continued from page 1*

dozens of lumber orders all lined up. Some are for tiny orders of just a few boards. Others are huge—lumber for post-and-beam houses, state bridges, guardrails and everything in between. On a small shelf on the side wall, a radio plays soft country music and a video monitor shows customers heading for the office and machinery moving about the yard.

Marc moved to East Montpelier in 1999 from Walden, where he grew up. He built his house and barn on Route 14N about a mile from Dudley's. He purchased a small WoodMizer that year to complement his logging activities. He laughs as he looks around the mill yard saying, "It was meant to just be a hobby!"

The mill is now a family business. Two of Marc's brothers work full time with him. Several nephews and his son are weekenders or fill in when help is needed. Brought up in a French Canadian household, the three brothers carry on in a language that is a blend of English and French. They work like a well-oiled machine. It's nice to have a lifetime of history with your workmates.

I asked Marc what the favorite part of his business was. Without hesitation he said—the people. Placing an order at the mill seems to be almost as much about the chat as it is the lumber. Marc is equally at ease talking with a new gardener about raised beds as he is a building contractor. Delivering orders has also allowed Marc to see many of his customers at their homes. If you ride with Marc around the countryside, there will be a running commentary on an astounding number of wooden structures:



I did the lumber for that barn, or this bridge, or that house.

Several years ago Marc set up a kiln to dry lumber. Fueled with a wood burning furnace the kiln dries a huge palette of wood suitable for interior finish work. It is one of the fastest growing parts of the business. Over the summer, the huge pile of logs in the yard dwindles as he produces dimensional lumber, shiplap, beams, flooring. All leave the mill via the tops of cars, pickups and the large delivery dump truck. The kiln adds to the variety of lumber available.

Winter is when the three brothers head into the woods. It is where they have been most of their lives. There is hardly an area in the state where they have not worked. Once again they work in unison, each knowing what the other is going to do by osmosis.

Cutting his own logs, Marc is not only furnishing the mill, but it is a nice diversion from the bustle of the mill, especially during the coldest winter months.

It is wonderful to have this local resource available. Marc has found a niche and is filling it for the benefit of us all. The orders keep coming in and Marc continues to make plans for upgrading and a possible expansion. So, if you are in need of a board or are building that new barn you've wanted, go to the mill. Perhaps you'll be lucky enough to visit the cubicle and see where it all happens.

Fontaine Millwork and Forestry: 223-7719.

—Jessie Taylor lives on Chickering Road with her two sons Zack and Rob.

## Crystal Springs Study Nears Completion

by Steve Gilman, Prudential Committee Chair

The engineering study project of the Crystal Springs Water System is nearing completion. A public meeting to share the final report will be held most likely in July or August and all interested parties will be notified.

We strongly encourage Crystal Spring's customers and non-customers that live within the Fire District boundaries to attend this public meeting once announced. Despite our very best efforts to have accurate mailing addresses for all Crystal Springs customers, we know that there may be some missing. If you are a customer of Crystal Springs and are not sure you are on our list, please contact Prudential Committee Chair Steve Gilman at 223-0803. Join us at one of our meetings held the second Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. at the village Fire Station. We welcome any and all public comment.

### New Faces at the Signpost

Rob Chickering has recently turned over the financial reins of the *Signpost* to Patty and Mike Hambro. We're grateful to Rob for his careful stewarding of our resources for many years as well as his leadership in guiding the direction of the *Signpost*. We welcome the Hambros who will, no doubt, bring a fresh set of eyes and ideas to keep the *Signpost* moving confidently into the future. Mike, a former actuary, and Patty, a former teacher live on Murray Road.

Please keep the Hambros busy with many, many donations to ensure that future issues appear in your mailbox. Remember, you can donate online at [www.emsignpost.com](http://www.emsignpost.com) or by mail: P.O. Box 84, East Montpelier, VT 05651.

### Using Alternative Energy? The Signpost Wants to Know

Have you installed a solar array for your home or business? Kicked the petroleum fuel bucket and switched to biomass or some other alternative fuel? Is the stream in your backyard powering your lightbulbs? We want to hear about it.

The next *Signpost* will feature the efforts of East Montpelier residents to rely less on fossil fuels. Please describe in about 300 words what you're doing to decrease your carbon footprint. If you have a story to tell, but would like someone else to write it, let us know. Either way, contact Barbara Ploof at [signpostbcp@hotmail.com](mailto:signpostbcp@hotmail.com) by July 30.



Greening up and chowing down at the EMES free lunch.

### Greening Up Our Community

The weather was perfect on Green Up Day 2013—a fine time for a town-wide spring cleaning.

Many hands collected 1,332 pounds of garbage and 50 illegally dumped tires! More than 85 volunteers cleaned over two-thirds of our town's roadways. Nearly all the students at East Montpelier Elementary School (about 230 kids) picked up trash around the school yard and along Vincent Flats Road. A Boy Scout troop worked diligently to clear some disgusting trash from Muddy Brook Road.

We'd like to acknowledge Dave Fletcher who was a great help, opening the school building for the Green Up Lunch, setting tables, and making sure the school stayed tidy.

The ever-wonderful Jean Cate Community Fund provided Green Up volunteers with a free delicious lunch, made possible in part with donations from Shaw's, Price Chopper, and our own Manghi's Bakery. Special thanks to all the volunteers who pitched in to help with lunch, including Marlene Betit, Nancy Bisson, Sue Clayton, Paulie Coburn, Teresa Doyle, Diana Fielder, Ruth Frost, Rachael Grossman, Julia Haynes, Lorie Rice, and Sue Stephen.

Casella Waste Management helped out by providing a deep discount for recycling tires. Dudley's Store distributed Green Up bags and East Montpelier Elementary School provided a central location for all the Green Up activities. This was truly a community effort.

Although Green Up Day was a great success, we had fewer participants than in previous years. This could be because (1) it was a beautiful day for gardening and other engagements, (2) less trash on our roadsides, (3) other activities in the area. We welcome your thoughts, comments, and suggestions for improving Green Up Day.

With thanks for all from your Green Up coordinators:

—Paul Erlbaum (223-3177) & Chris Racanelli (225-6032)



# Renovating the School

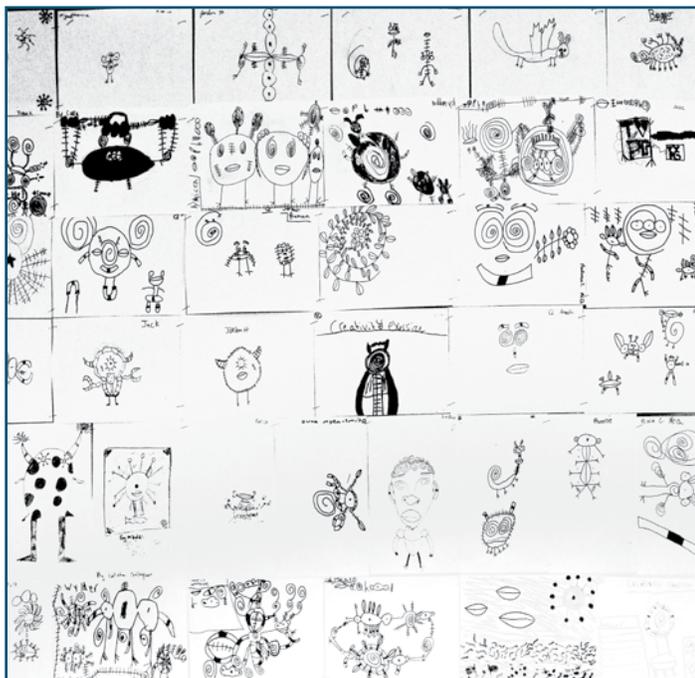
by Flor Diaz-Smith

Writing this article in the last days of May reminds us how far we have come in one year as we are about to break ground on the renovations for our school. By the time you read this article we will have a general contractor on board, and we will know the interest rate for our 20-year bond. The timing appears favorable for a very good rate.

Our work over the last few months has resulted in compromises to make sure that we respond to the school needs while remaining on budget. We will have bleachers in the gym but not in the originally planned location. Moving a bathroom and punching a hole through a structural wall proved too costly. We have added benches for the teams, a safe space to keep score, and bleachers on the stage instead. This was the best solution for our money.

We have a lot of people helping along the way. Bill Kimball, Lori Bibeau, Alicia Lyford, Marion Anastasia, Todd Hill, Marty Miller, Bill Ford, and Karin Martin have spent countless hours making this renovation a reality. A special thanks to Andy Shapiro, our energy consultant and community member, for all the many hours he has shared with us.

Construction will start June 24, 2013 and will continue until August 2014. The project will be performed in three continuous phases. The final schedule will be worked out by the general contractor. Keep in touch with the progress of the project on our blog at [www.emesfacilities.blogspot.com](http://www.emesfacilities.blogspot.com)



## Play Ball with Ben Winters

by Alexander Rob

If you've been to a Central Valley Little League game in East Montpelier lately you've probably seen Ben Winters. He's in his seventh year volunteering for the league and he has done it all. Starting as assistant coach for the T-ball team when his oldest son, Hunter, was in preschool, he has followed his boys along as they grew up on the baseball field. This season he is head coach of his youngest son, Lucas', minor league team of third and fourth graders. After coaching for a few years, Ben started umpiring little league games. He really enjoys working behind home plate and if you've seen him in action you can instantly tell that he has a talent for it.

In addition to coaching and umpiring, he serves as East Montpelier's town representative to the Central Valley Little League board of directors. The board starts to meet in January as the season draws near. They set the rules for our local league and serve as the link between East Montpelier and little league teams all over the world. As the scheduler for the league, he creates and maintains the massive spreadsheet that lays out the season's schedule for the league's hundreds of players.

Anyone who has spent time around younger kids knows that with the right coach they can progress rapidly. Indeed, Ben says his biggest satisfaction is watching players get better through the season. Over the years he's seen many young players progress from running to third base after a hit to becoming capable and confident players.

In addition to his work with little league, Ben serves as co-chair of the East Montpelier Recreation board. He grew up in Middlesex and played for the Middlesex Twins as a boy. Ben's favorite position has always been catcher. And his favorite pro baseball team? He's a Red Sox fan through and through.

Thanks Ben!

*—Alexander Rob lives in East Montpelier Center with his wife Kate, and three children*

### Efficiency Vermont Offers Money to Save Money

Efficiency Vermont will be offering a seasonal promotion of an additional \$500 completed-job incentive bonus to customers participating in its Home and Building Performance programs. The offer will be extended to qualifying home owners and businesses completing jobs by August 31, and sending in their paperwork (completed signed incentive form) by September 30. Contact Efficiency Vermont at 888-921-5990 to learn more.

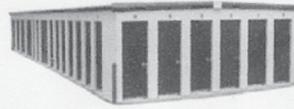
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Volume XXIII—Number Six  
 July/August 2013

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink

## CALENDAR & NOTICES

**Thurs. Fri. July 4 & 5, Independence Day,** Town Offices closed  
**Mon. Sept. 2, Labor Day,** Town Offices closed

### Thank you *Signpost* supporters

- Norma Raymond
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Pastel by Wendy Soliday

### Deadline for Next Issue: July 30, 2013

to Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, [signpostbcp@hotmail.com](mailto:signpostbcp@hotmail.com)

#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee  
 Development Review Board (DRB)  
 East Montpelier Charter Committee t  
 East Montpelier Elementary School Board (EMES)  
 East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)  
 East Montpelier Fire District No. 1  
 East Montpelier Historical Society  
 East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative  
 Four Corners Schoolhouse Association  
 EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)  
 Planning Commission (PC)  
 Recreation Board  
 Selectboard  
 U-32 School Board

as needed 7:30 p.m.  
 1st & 3rd Tues 7:00 p.m.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wed 7 p.m.  
 3rd Mon 6:30 p.m.  
 Every Tues 7:00 p.m.  
 2nd Wed 7:00 p.m.  
 3rd Tues 7:00/6:00 p.m.  
 2nd & 4th Thurs 6:30 p.m.  
 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.  
 st & 3rd Mon 6:30 p.m.  
 1st & 3rd Wed 6:00 p.m.

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 Elementary School  
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 U-32 School