

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXIII—Number Four

March/April 2013

Voting Dates & Locations

VOTER REGISTRATION:

Register at the Town Office, Mon.–Thurs. 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m.–noon. The deadline for the upcoming Town/School Meeting is Wed., Feb. 27, by 5 p.m.

PRE-TOWN/SCHOOL FORUM COFFEE HOUR:

Sat., March 2, 8:30 a.m. at EMES. The Town/School Meeting process will be discussed and your questions will be answered.

TOWN/SCHOOL FORUM:

Sat., March 2, 9:30 a.m.–noon, EMES gym. Come discuss all School and Town Warning articles, including the budget items that are to be voted by Australian ballot (town, then school articles). The candidates for offices will be introduced. Remember to bring your copy of the Town Report.

TOWN MEETING DAY:

Tues., March 5, 9:30 a.m., at EMES. The Town and School Meetings are both warned for 9:30 a.m. The School Meeting will be recessed until the completion of the Town Meeting. Babysitting will be available.

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTING:

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

EARLY OR ABSENTEE VOTING:

Available through Tues., March 5. Call Town Clerk's Office at 223-3313 or go to the office to obtain ballots and vote. All ballots must be returned by 7 p.m. on Tues. Mar. 5 to be counted.



Town Meeting 2012

ALEX BROWN

Town Meeting: How It Works

For those who are new to the Town Meeting concept, those hoping to brush up on the process, or those who simply want to enjoy coffee and conversation with friends, the Jean and Wes Cate Community Fund Committee will host an informational coffee hour at the Elementary School prior to the Pre-Town Meeting Forum on Saturday, March 2, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Town/School Moderator Richard Brock's short presentation will include such facets as the difference between floor voting and Australian ballot voting and what can be brought up under "other business that may properly come before the meeting." There will be plenty of time for questions. Come for the coffee, a sweet roll, and the information; then stay for the forum and participate in the discussion of the issues.

Committee Members: Paul Cate, Dave Coburn, Dave Grundy, Norma Raymond, Elaine Manghi, Deborah Fillion, Barbara Ploof

IN THIS ISSUE

4 — Candidates' statements

6 — Weathervane

9 — EMES Project Update

10 — Looking for Homeowners

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Top of the Signpost

We often proudly refer to Vermont's style of annual town meetings as democracy in its purest form—and it certainly is that. There are few enough forums these days to discuss openly, agree, disagree, modify, and then vote on what should transpire. While we certainly can't have such immediate impact on what happens on the national and state levels, we do have that power in our own town, and it's a great privilege.

Town Meeting Day has another equally important function. It is like a big family reunion—a time to renew acquaintances and see friends whom we might not have visited with since the snow flew or perhaps since the previous Town Meeting. Having been part of recent conversations that have confirmed that the original goals of the *Signpost*—to foster a sense of community and help us to get to know each other—remain constant, I realize anew how big a part Town Meeting plays in that effort. Not only can we meet and greet, gossip and eat a great lunch with friends old and new, we get a sense of participating together in something a little larger than ourselves.

Please don't miss this yearly gathering. It's sometimes serious, occasionally silly, but always interesting and fun. Tuesday, March 5, 9:30 a.m.

— Edie Miller is a long-time attendee at EM Town Meetings

The Best Lunch in Town



After 15 years Rachael Grossman (r.) turns over the pans of the TM Day lunch to Sue Racanelli. (l.) Thanks Rachael!

Town Meeting Potluck Lunch is a wonderful tradition in East Montpelier. Join us Tuesday, March 5, at East Montpelier Elementary School. Here's how it works: bring a dish to share—salad, main dish, bread, or dessert. Label your dish vegetarian or non-vegetarian and clearly note if it contains nuts. Bring enough food for four times as many people as in your group. This is a true potluck. Dishes should be dropped off in the kitchen in the morning. Please remember to take your dish home with you. We are not responsible for dishes left at the school.

If you can't bring a dish to share, \$5.00 will buy you the best lunch you'll eat all year! We haven't run out of food yet, but please be mindful of the line behind you when filling your plate.

Volunteers are needed throughout the day; we cannot pull this off without you. We need help with set-up, serving, and clean-up. Or be part of the kitchen crew and help with cooking and coordinating food served at the potluck. This is a great way to meet your neighbors and catch up with old friends.

To volunteer, or for more information, contact Sue Racanelli at 225-6032.

Long Ago Winters

by Elliott Morse, EM Historical Society

People say that winters years ago were much more severe than they are now. This may be true, but maybe not. Back then houses couldn't be heated so well, and roads were hard to keep open. Today, even though we may have bitter cold and snow, we are snug in our warm homes, and our roads are nicely plowed.

The arrival of the auto changed people's lives forever. Springtime roads were challenging, and it was unthinkable to use cars in winter. As snow accumulated, owners would put their cars up on blocks for the winter. From then on, until spring, horses were used. Even horses sometimes had trouble getting through the deep drifts. In the early 1900s, East Montpelier owned several snow rollers. These things were heavy and could pack down lots of snow. When a storm arrived, the town hired farmers with their teams of horses to pull the rollers.

Some years ago, Bonnie Burkholder, from the Horn of the Moon, called brother Burr. She had found, she thought, the skeleton of a snow roller behind her home in the Morse woods. She said that if we wanted it, we could have it! When we saw the machine, we were determined to take it home. This thing had a four to five foot diameter and steel-spoked wheels connected by an axle about twelve feet wide. It is designed to have narrow planks bolted crossways. Then it would have a framework with



TERRY ALLEN

Elliott Morse with his snow roller..

a driver's seat on top. Trees had grown up through the spokes. We cut out the trees and away we went with the roller.

Conrad Ormsbee told me that along with packing the snow, sometimes many men would work shoveling through the drifts. Sometimes it took four horses to tow a roller. Late in the early '30s, the town bought crawler tractor snow plows, which could keep the roads open for year-round auto traffic. These tractors, at first, had huge wooden plows. They traveled at about six miles per hour. One plow was kept on the west side of town and one in East Village. These machines pushed the snow up into high banks. Nowadays our big trucks travel quite a bit faster and throw the snow several feet back.

East Montpelier Fire District No. 1

Prudential Committee elections were held recently at our annual meeting. Returning to the governing body are Steve Gilman and Rubin Bennett, who welcome new member Bob Morey. Bob is no stranger to community involvement, and we welcome him as we move forward.

The engineering feasibility study of Crystal Springs Water System is well underway and should be concluded in a couple of months. Next steps are to carefully review the completed engineering study and the negotiation of a fair and financially sustainable purchase price for the water system. To that end, a third party appraisal of the water system will be required to finalize a price, with consideration of any construction costs to bring the water system into compliance with Vermont state water supply standards. As always, we welcome your comments and attendance at our regular monthly meetings, held the second Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Emergency Services Building in the village. Visit our website at www.emfiredistrict.org for more information.

Paulie's Recipes

PARSNIP STEW

from Winnie Persons

Peel and slice 3 large parsnips and 3 large potatoes. Boil in salted water. When done, mash and add 1 quart rich milk and a piece of butter the size of an egg. Add salt and pepper to taste and serve with crackers.

Crispy Crackers

Split round, common crackers in halves. Spread the inside with butter and then place them, buttered side up, on a cookie sheet or in a shallow pan. Bake in the oven (at, say, 350 and watch carefully) until brown. Serve with soup, or they may also be served hot with jellies or marmalade.

They Want Your Vote

MOST CANDIDATE PHOTOS: TERRY J. ALLEN

Descriptions largely from the VLCT Resource Manual and Vt. Law

TOWN MODERATOR: ONE 1-YEAR TERM

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



Michael H. Dworkin: For the last few years, I've been honored to be elected moderator for our Town and School Meetings. I have enjoyed doing this, and I hope I've been doing a fair job. If you think so, I'd appreciate your vote in this year's election (to be moderator for the 2014 Town and School Meetings). I will not be moderator in 2013 as I am on a sabbatical and traveling. However, in 2014 I would be pleased to again serve as the moderator for the Town and School Meetings.

I will continue to try to follow the good examples I saw in past decades—able moderators who helped us consider, debate, learn from each other, and decide things. I try to listen for “the sense of the meeting,” to apply the rules with fairness, efficiency, and common sense, and to help us all move to clear resolutions of the issues before us.

My wife, Loring Starr, and I have lived on Powder Horn Glen Road since 1984. At various times over my 29 years in East Montpelier, I have tried to be helpful in town affairs, ranging from serving on the Conservation Advisory Committee, to helping with some *Signpost* silent auctions, to scooping ice cream and judging baked goods on some Rally Day weekends. Also, for decades I've walked, driven, and snow-shoed across enough of East Montpelier to know how much we owe to those who have built and sustained a wonderful community for us to live in.

SCHOOL DISTRICT MODERATOR: ONE 1-YEAR TERM

Same as Town Moderator in the matter of school meetings.

Michael H. Dworkin: see under Town Moderator

SELECTBOARD MEMBER: ONE 3-YEAR TERM, ONE 2-YEAR TERM

Selectboard members are responsible for general supervision of the affairs of the Town and are responsible for seeing that all duties, not assigned by law to any particular officer, are carried out. The Selectboard convenes Town Meetings and may enact ordinances and rules that regulate areas such as roads, traffic, waste disposal, animals, and nuisances as examples.

Carl Etnier: 3-year term When I ran for the Selectboard two years ago, I sought the two-year term so that both voters and I would



have a relatively quick exit in case the match of person and position proved poor. Near the end of this term, I'm pleased with the work we've done as a board and my role in it. As two years is little time to learn all the ways to be effective as a Selectboard member, I'm asking voters for a second term—and this time I'm committing, and asking you to commit, to three years.

The Selectboard and other citizens have worked constructively over the last two years to improve the staffing of the Town Office. These changes started with my inaugural meeting as Selectboard member, when the then-town administrator handed us his resignation letter. We went through some transitional phases that seemed necessary to be confident that we liked the direction we were heading in, and now we have an excellent division of labor.

I've also been glad to help secure additional funding to start Front Porch Forum (frontporchforum.com) and work on energy policy at different levels. I hope the state-level work will get to the point during my second term that the town can finally use its PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program.



Kimberly Swasey: 2-year term

After serving more than 26 years and retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel from the US Army and Vermont National Guard, I became eligible to participate in local government. The East Montpelier Selectboard honored me with an appointment to be an interim Selectboard member. Joining the board during the current budget

cycle revealed how my experience in the military will be valuable for the town. I learned in the military that decisions affect people's lives, and great care and consideration should be given to those decisions. The priorities are sometimes clear, such as being prepared for emergencies, but other decisions are discretionary. Being open to the ideas of the other elected Selectboard members is important when it comes to determining the needs of our community. I grew up in Montpelier, graduated from the University of Vermont, and have lived in East Montpelier since 1994. I appreciate the uniqueness of Vermont, and I ask for your support on Town Meeting Day 2013. Thank you.

LISTER: ONE 3-YEAR TERM

Listers are responsible for determining the value of the real and personal property in town. This is the value the Selectboard or the Town will use to set a tax rate necessary to raise the money to operate

the town in the next year. It is also the basis for the determination of the property wealth of the municipality for purposes of setting state education property taxes.



Putnam Clayton: “Why would anyone want to be a lister?” That is a question I get once in a while, especially when I ask people to sign my petition for a second three-year term. So why am I running for office? The people of East Montpelier make this a good place to live and work. Most people are very cooperative when we are talking with them about changes in their property that may increase

their taxes. That is perhaps the most public part of the job, but a lot goes on in the office. The work there involves data entry and preparation of reports for the State as well as trying to answer questions about properties in town. It is an enjoyable place to work. I think we have a good lister team in place, and I would like to continue to be part of it for another three years. I would appreciate your support.

AUDITOR: ONE 3-YEAR TERM

Town Auditors are responsible for examining and adjusting the accounts of all Town and Town school district officers and all other persons authorized by law to draw orders on the Town treasurer. Secondly, they are to report their findings in writing to the legal voters of the Town.

Deborah Fillion:

The 2012 Town Report is on deadline, and I am waiting to hear back from proofreaders before sending final pages to the printer. No one appreciates a second set of eyes on their work more than I do; after all, a big part of my job description for the past 12 years has been to serve as the townspeople’s eyes and ears. While the Town engages a professional CPA to do a year-end review, the elected town auditors are engaged all year. In addition to preparing the 128-page annual report, we regularly examine accounts, evaluate procedures and troubleshoot. We review invoices before the Selectboard authorizes payments. We compare cash receipts to bank deposits and to entries in the treasurer’s ledger and in the records of current and delinquent tax collections. It’s very satisfying to arrive at a perfectly balanced account, particularly as the result of good-spirited team effort. But for me, the best part of being auditor happens in January, when I get to bring together the voices of officers and committees in one big report to the townspeople. It’s this community-building project that interests me most; and it’s why I’m running for a fifth term.

COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES: ONE 3-YEAR TERM

The CDT is authorized to work with delinquent taxpayers to arrange payment due to the Town and is authorized to collect

penalty and interest and sell property at auction if necessary to assure settlement of the Town’s claim.



Karen M. Gramer: I have been your collector of delinquent taxes for the past five years and believe I have served the taxpayers of East Montpelier well. I successfully collected delinquent taxes due the Town of East Montpelier and have initiated and conducted tax sales.

My unique work experience as a real estate paralegal for over 20 years, interacting with the public, and working in many of the town clerks’ offices across the state have given me the knowledge to thoroughly understand the tax collection process. After the treasurer submits the warrant to me for collection, I notify taxpayers monthly via US mail of their delinquent accounts. I also speak or meet with them frequently in order to work on timely payment arrangements balancing the taxpayers’ ability to pay with the town’s need for revenue. I have written a collection policy which is distributed to delinquent taxpayers in order for them to have a thorough understanding of the tax collection process. My detailed collection reports are submitted biweekly to the town, and frequent meetings with the treasurer and monthly reconciliations ensure accurate financial calculation and recordation of delinquent taxes.

My years as collector of delinquent taxes for the town have been a mutually successful experience, and I look forward to continuing to serve the taxpayers of East Montpelier.

TRUSTEE FOR PUBLIC FUNDS: ONE 3-YEAR TERM / NO CANDIDATES

The Trustee is given responsibility for managing public funds. In actuality, this is an inactive position in East Montpelier and other towns. In EM the position has been commonly held by the Town Treasurer who exercises this responsibility as Treasurer.

FIRST CONSTABLE: ONE 1-YEAR TERM

East Montpelier has voted to prohibit constables from exercising any law enforcement authority. The constables serve as animal control officers and may be called on to serve civil or criminal process and to aid first responders when necessary.



Sandy Conti: I have resided in the Town of East Montpelier for more than 20 years. I have served the town as first constable as well as the animal control officer for the past six years. I have responded to a variety of calls and different situations. I enjoy giving back to the community especially as a member of the East Montpelier Fire and

Continued on page 8

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

Ginny Burley gburley@u32.org
Emily Goyette egoyette@u32.org

Elementary School

Rubin Bennett, Chair
rbennett@thatitguy.com

Andrea Colnes
Stephen Looke

Priscilla Gilbert
Flor Diaz-Smith

State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032
twk@tonyklein.com

Town Weathervane

MILESTONES

Births

- Samantha Paige Coleman, daughter, born Dec. 14, 2012, to Darci & Elisha Coleman
- Liza Rose Byers, daughter, born Dec. 28, 2012, to Courtney & Stephen Byers

Marriages

- Ashley Danielle Badeau & Nelson David Morales, Jan. 8, 2013

Deaths

- John "Spike" Holden died Dec. 9, 2012, husband of Janet McLeod and brother of EM residents Martha Holden and Sarah (Sally) Thompson
- Carolyn Barney died Dec. 10, 2012, longtime resident, wife of Robert and mother of Jo-Ann Velander

Property Transfers

- Helen Eldred to Robert & Rebekah Brown, 9 acres open land, Quaker Rd
- Robert & Rebekah Brown to Robert & Rebekah Brown, single family dwelling and 10 acres, Quaker Rd
- Mark Milazzo to Virginia Farley, single family dwelling & 1.98 acres, Northview Rd
- Martha Israel to Thomas McMurdo & Kathryn Kennedy, single family dwelling & 3.08 acres, Barnes Rd
- Sue Hudson to ABG Corporation, store & 0.52 acres, Rte 14N
- Anthony & Pamela Biron to Ernest & Brenda Searle-Spratt, easement, Quaker Rd
- Hugh & Susan Hawkins to Charles & Heather Warner, 3.75 acres open land, Towne Hill Rd
- Barbara Starr to Loring Starr & Owen Starr, single family dwelling & 10 acres, Center Rd
- Cynthia Drinkwine to Roderick & Emily O'Brien, single family dwelling and 1 acre, Bliss Rd
- Robin Spencer & Kris Bador to Alfred & Brenda Prive, single family dwelling & 10.6 acres, County Rd
- Roger & Barbara Clark to Stephen Clark, 1.67 acres, Dodge Rd
- Marc Fontaine to David Maynard, 9.4 acres open land, Mays Way
- Jeremy Dodge to Foster Road LLC, single family dwelling & 16 acres, Foster Rd
- Donna Poulin to Kenneth & Stacy Beaulieu, 10 acres open land, Chickering Rd
- The Housing Foundation to Kyle Gover, mobile home, Sandy Pines Trailer Park
- Crystal Vivian to The Housing Foundation, mobile home, Sandy Pines Trailer Park
- David & Julie Tucker to Dennis & Hugh Hawkins, easement, Towne Hill Rd
- Charles & Shannon Smith to Duane Wells, single family dwelling & 3.4 acres, Barnes Rd

PLANNING COMMISSION

November 15, 2012

- Discussed public comments on the following sections of the new Town Plan: agriculture, villages and growth areas, forest resources, scenic resources and trails
- Passed a motion approving the FY2014 budget as proposed

December 6, 2012

- Discussed public comments on the following sections of the new Town Plan: Water Supplies & Aquifers, Land Use Patterns & Zoning, Transportation, Energy, Economic Development, Agriculture
- No Motions passed

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

November 20, 2012

Continuation of Hearing on Application #12-048, a proposal by John & Phyllis Sanfacon for storage on Wheeler Road

Motions Passed:

- to close the hearing for evidence-taking and go into deliberative session at the end of the meeting and reconvene the hearing after the session.
- to grant permit #12-048 with the following conditions:
 - construct a stockade fence to screen trailers from the road
 - storage shall be personal property of the applicant only
 - no storage of unpermitted hazardous material with the exception of material customary and characteristic of residential use
 - structures shall be maintained in good, serviceable condition
 - no materials stored outside or under the storage units
 - periodic compliance reporting, including site photos, on a bi-monthly basis starting 60 days after the issuance of the zoning permit
- to recess the hearing on Application #12-043 (Chris Wong) to the 12/18 DRB meeting
- to waive the survey of Lot 1 of a proposed two-lot subdivision of Blackwell on Center Rd.

EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD

November 19, 2012

Discussed at length the ongoing responsibilities of the facilities committee and how the project will proceed

Motions Passed:

- to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues (twice)

- to approve the Financial Report
 - to approve the Board Warrant
- Motions Tabled:
- to approve early retirement application(s)
 - to approve the leave request for Carol Humphries
 - to approve a method of construction management for the renovation project

December 17, 2012

Discussed the facilities project: construction management vs general contractor model; also a hybrid

Discussed helping students to process events at Newtown, CT

By consensus went into executive session to discuss personnel matters

Motions approved:

- to accept financial report
- to deny a request for early retirement on supt's recommendation
- final budget for FY2014
- to go with the GC mode of construction for facilities project
- to create an Oversight Committee for facilities project with Flor Diaz-Smith as board representative; a charge for the OC and other members

January 7, 2013

- discussed pre-Town Meeting Forum
- approved and signed school warrant

U-32 SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

December 19, 2012

Motions Passed:

- to set the tuition bill-back amount for FY12 at \$395.00
- to approve the athletic coaches and volunteers as presented
- to approve the following board orders:
General Fund: \$80,350.97; Athletic Officials: \$668; Food Services: \$223.60

January 2, 2013

Motions Passed:

- to approve the budget as originally presented tonight, totaling \$14,101,074.00, including the fund balance transfers of \$134,000.00 and \$84,000.00
- to approve the board orders
- to approve the U-32 District Warning
- to approve the athletics coaches and volunteers as presented

Due to space limitations, Selectboard minutes for this issue have been posted on the *Signpost* website at: www.emsignpost.com.

Year-Round Fun with Community Connections



EMES first grade artist Paige Oakes creates one of her early sculptures last year in Community Connections' *Sculpt-o-Rama* class. Watch for Community Connections' April Vacation Camp information to be released soon!

New Faces of Local Government

Town Meeting Day will see a couple of new faces at the front of the room. Former Town and School Moderator Michael Dworkin knew he would be away from East Montpelier on March 5 and did not run for those positions last year—nor did anyone else. Appointed by the Selectboard, Richard Brock, long-time resident and Montpelier attorney, will moderate both meetings. The new face on the Selectboard is Kim Swasey, appointed in December to fill the unexpired term of Bruce Johnson.

Town Meeting 2013: Dollars and Sense

Most of the issues at Town/School Meeting revolve around how much money will be raised and spent by the Town and School District as they do their business. The Selectboard is asking taxpayers to raise \$1,507,365 for usual town operations, up 4.2% from \$1,446,639.75 last year. In addition, they are recommending that \$50,000 be added to the Capital Reserve Fund.

In the area of school expenses, the EMES Board is seeking to adopt a budget not to exceed \$3,386,336—up from last year's \$3,295,273—a 2.8% increase. U-32's proposed budget is \$14,101,074, up 3.7% from the current year's \$13,594,212.

A warning that will be of interest to all concerns the future of East Montpelier's farmers' contracts:

- Shall the town follow the Farm Contract Study Committee's recommendation to stop offering local farmers' contracts?

Check your Town Report and come to discuss these issues and others, and also meet the candidates for office at the pre-meeting forum on Saturday, March 2, and then finally at Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 5.

Rescue Department. I would appreciate your support to continue serving as first constable.

SECOND CONSTABLE: ONE 1-YEAR TERM

Same as First Constable



Paul Haynes: I have been a resident of East Montpelier for the last 15 years and I have been second constable for nine years. As second constable I have gotten to know many people in town and some of your pets even more. This is a position that is always interesting with every call and situation. I look forward to helping where I can in the years to come. Thank you for your support.

TOWN LAW AGENT: ONE 1-YEAR TERM / NO CANDIDATES

As in most Vermont towns, this is an inactive office in East Montpelier. Although statute provides that an agent to prosecute and defend suits shall be elected, no statute provides the agent with any independent authority to act.

TOWN GRAND JUROR: ONE 1-YEAR TERM / NO CANDIDATES

As in most Vermont towns, this is an inactive office in East Montpelier whose duties have been taken over by the State's Attorney. The grand juror is responsible for inquiring into and providing information to the proper authorities of criminal offenses that may occur in the town in which he or she has been elected.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS are responsible for managing the general affairs of the school district by developing policies and hiring able administrators to assure the soundness of the physical assets as well as the educational content and methods presented in student classrooms. They are responsible for convening School District Meetings.

EMES DIRECTOR: ONE 3-YEAR TERM: ONE 2-YEAR TERM



Stephen Looker: 3-year term I am running for re-election to the EMES Board having finished serving my initial two-year term. I live on Lyle Young Road with my wife, Mary Ellen, and son, Stephen, a seventh-grader at U-32. I work at Norwich University in Northfield as the transition and academic success coach and have been at Norwich since 1980 following an active duty stint with the United States Marine Corps. I have had the privilege to serve East Montpelier the past two years on the EMES Board and I

have valued that opportunity. I also serve on the WCSU Executive Board bringing East Montpelier's concerns to the broader supervisory union discussions.

The last two years have given me a more complete understanding of a larger cross section of our community, the current needs of our students, and the capabilities of our schools. A desire to serve and an understanding of the need to balance academic opportunities with fiscal constraint drive my continued willingness to serve. I am asking that you entrust me with another term as school director.



Phillip A. Heinz: 2-year term

Thank you for taking your time to read this and consider who might best serve our community on the EMES Board. My name is Phillip Heinz and I would like to tell you a little about myself and why I am running. My wife and three daughters and I have lived here just off Horn of the Moon Rd. for the past seven years. I currently serve as a

co-chair on our town Recreation Board and coach youth sports. In 2010, I completed my Master of Education degree, a long-time dream, and left the business world. I now work as a middle school science teacher in the Northeast Kingdom.

I am running this year to support the strong momentum that our current board has in their efforts to move our school forward toward twenty-first century learning. I led efforts at my current school to bring technology up to date and offer better learning opportunities to the students of that community. I will be able to bring my life's experience as a manager, leader, and educator to enhance the skill set of the current board. I look forward to your support and your vote.



Kimberly Kendall: 2-year term

I live on Sparrow Farm Road with my husband, Jamie Shanley, and two children, Tom and Ava (grades 5 and 1). I am running for East Montpelier School Board because I feel strongly about contributing to my community. I have served as a volunteer since I moved to East Montpelier 16 years ago, first as treasurer of East Montpelier Trails, Inc., and more recently at EMES. I served on the Facilities Committee for the past year to help shape our school environment. I also participate actively in fundraising for the enrichment programs that the PTNO sponsors. And for six years, I have been an EMES co-coordinator of Four Winds, a science program that also gets children outside for hands-on learning.

As a parent, I feel strongly that our school should be a place where children are challenged academically, are able to build social skills, and develop a lifelong love of learning. I also appreciate that our public elementary school is a place where we all

come together as a community to decide the best way to educate our children. I hope that I can use my experience to contribute as a school board member.

U-32 DIRECTOR: ONE 3-YEAR TERM



Kari Bradley: I am seeking election to the U-32 School Board as the representative from East Montpelier. I grew up in Central Vermont and graduated from U-32, as well as the University of Chicago and the University of Montana. Since 2004, I have lived on County Road with my wife, Gabrielle Malina, and our three children: Simon, Jacob, and Ella. All three attend our public schools and I have been an

active volunteer at East Montpelier Elementary School. This marks my eighth year as general manager of Hunger Mountain Co-op where I've had excellent training in leadership, finance and personnel issues, and community service. My experience with the Coop Council and two other boards has helped me develop skills in governance and building consensus amongst a variety of stakeholders. I believe I will bring a valuable perspective to the U-32 Board of Directors and it would be an honor to represent the town. If elected, I will work diligently to serve our children, the institution, and our community.



Edward Deegan: Ed Deegan has lived on Codling Road with his wife, Kerri-Ann Black-Deegan, for over 20 years and has raised his family of four sons in the community. Ed works in Montpelier, with his wife, in public accounting doing tax and audit work as well as general accounting practice. He has served for over a decade on the East Montpelier Recreation Committee as well as serving several

terms as the U-32 district auditor. He has also served on other town committees over his years in the community. His goal as the U-32 board representative is to continue to have U-32 excel and maintain its current status as a desirable high school for all students.

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER: ONE 5-YEAR TERM

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

Frederick Strong: no statement

PLANNING COMMISSIONER: THREE 3-YEAR TERMS

The Planning Commission is responsible for preparing and maintaining a current Town Plan and Zoning regulations. It reviews significant

Continued on page 10

EMES Project Update

The successful fall bond vote for the renovation and expansion of EMES has initiated a period of intense work as the school board, school personnel, project professionals, and community members prepare for actual construction. This is the first of a series of regular updates to the community in the Signpost.

The passing of the school renovation bond is for real now with the passage of the appeal period, and as of December 6, 2012, at 7 p.m., we started the next steps.

Thanks are due to all: to the Facilities Committee which worked tirelessly, to teachers and staff who volunteered many hours through the years, and, of course, to all the East Montpelier residents who said "Yes."

The role of the Facilities Committee will now be that of a communications link to the community and the developer of a capital plan for the school to assure its future. The School Board has appointed an Oversight Committee—made up of community members, administrators, and a board member—to be responsible for making the renovations and additions to the school a reality.

There is a great deal of work underway prior to the start of actual construction. The architects are completing the final drawings and coordinating all the permitting. The Oversight Committee is preparing to hire a clerk of the works and sending out requests for proposals to prequalify general contractors. On the financial side, the Merchants Bank is arranging for temporary bonding to assure adequate cash flow. At the same time the financial team is drafting bid specifications for the permanent financing. The Oversight Committee meets weekly on Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. You can follow its work through minutes in the Facilities Committee tab on the School Web page, www.emontpelierschool.org.

We will continue to update you regularly. If you have any questions please feel free to post your questions on the Facilities Committee blog <http://emesfacilities.blogspot.com> or email Alicia at alyford@u32.org or Flor at diazsmith.flor@gmail.com.

Female mentor wanted

for 11-year-old East Montpelier girl who enjoys baking, arts and crafts, sports and just having fun. Please contact Wendy Freundlich, Coordinator of Girls/Boyz First Mentoring at wendy.freedom@gmail.com or call 229-4798.

developments and makes recommendations on issues including land development, transportation, economic and social development, historic, wetland and scenic preservation.



Thomas K. Pierce: I am a native Vermonter and have lived here all my life. Following graduation from Norwich University, I went to work for the Vermont Agency of Transportation, retiring in 2000 after 42 ½ years. The last 13 years I was an administrative civil engineer in charge of the Construction Division, and prior to that I held positions as chief of contract administration and

the assistant district engineer for District 8. I worked primarily with town selectboards and road commissioners on layout and construction of State Aid and Town Highway construction projects. During my tenure as chairman of the Montpelier Recreation Board we built the athletic complex for Montpelier High School.

I have lived in East Montpelier on DeRonde Road for the past 23 years and currently serve as one of the trustees for the Old Meeting House. Since my retirement, I have had the opportunity to work with four different town planning commissions on subdivision and building projects and have gained an appreciation for the value of good thoughtful planning and zoning to preserve the desires and needs of town citizens. At the present time I am about to finish my first term as a member of the East Montpelier Planning Commission. I hope that my statewide experience is of some value to the Planning Commission and that I will continue to have the opportunity to expand my knowledge as a member of the Planning Commission.



Julie Potter: I am running for the Planning Commission to help with completing the update to the Town Plan and implementing the action items contained in the Plan. For the past year and a half, I have attended almost every Planning Commission meeting, participating in discussions about the Town Plan update and offering assistance. With professional planning experience—I have a graduate degree in planning

and recently retired after eight years with one of the Regional Planning Commissions—I have knowledge of planning issues

affecting small towns in Vermont and the techniques and resources available to help communities accomplish their vision for the future.

Small towns rely on the talent and skills of their residents. Since moving to East Montpelier with my husband in 2010, I have been impressed with the town's character, community spirit, and the service of the town's many volunteers. I offer my time and skills, and welcome the opportunity to serve the community.



Kim B. Watson: Thank you for letting me support the community as a planning commissioner for the last six years. I wish to continue in that role for another three years and I would appreciate your vote to continue. I still have a strong interest in zoning and planning in our community.

While I support the zoning regulations, I and my fellow commissioners are open to interpreting

and changing aspects of the regulations and the Town Plan to further support our citizens' vision of East Montpelier. I believe that people have a right to do what they want with their property while ensuring that land and property values in East Montpelier are preserved. I support the work of our Selectboard and the zoning administrator and encourage business ownership.

I have lived in East Montpelier for over 27 years and worked for the last 32 years in the environmental chemistry field and project management, balancing environmental issues with business strategies. I currently work as a quality assurance manager and health and safety officer for Stone Environmental in Montpelier. I also enjoy helping out on the McKnight Farm. I also serve as a member of the Development Review Board.

Looking For a Few Good Homeowners

The East Montpelier Energy Committee has joined with other Vermont town energy committees in the Efficiency Vermont-sponsored "Vermont Home Energy Challenge." The goal is to encourage at least 33 East Montpelier homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes in 2013. This effort will require the help of a number of volunteers who will be trained to visit their neighbors and show them how they can benefit financially from an energy upgrade.

The legislature has set a goal of 80,000 homes by the year 2020, and we are falling behind. The time commitment will be small, and the potential benefit will be large, for the homeowners, the economy, and the environment. For more information on how you can help, contact Dave Grundy at dgrundy@comcast.net or at 476-4300.

IT'S GIRL SCOUT COOKIE TIME

East Montpelier Troop 30380 will be selling cookies at Town Meeting Day from 9-3, at the Berlin Mall on March 9, Tractor Supply on March 16 and Big Lots on March 23.

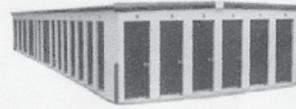
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- ✓ **Land Improvement:** Rototilling; Bushhogging; and Trail Work
- ✓ **Dump Truck:** Delivery of Topsoil, Manure, Compost, Gravel, Slate
- ✓ **Excavation:** Site Work for Sonotube and Floating Slabs; Digging Under-ground Utility Lines; and Much More!

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- Up-to-date calendar listings
- *Signpost* archive
- Organizations in town

Volume XXIII—Number Four
 March/April 2013

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CALENDAR & NOTICES

Sat. Mar. 2, 8:30 a.m. EMES: Town/School Forum coffee hour and informal information session on how Town Meeting works

Sat. Mar. 2, 9:30 a.m. EMES: Pre-Town/School Meeting Forum

Tues. Mar. 5, 9:30 a.m. EMES: Town Meeting followed by School District Meeting

Thurs. Mar. 7, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Orchard Valley School: Windows on Waldorf education; call 802-456-7400

Mon. Apr. 1, Deadline to register dogs at the Town Office

Sat. May 4, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. EMES: Green Up Day roadside trash pick-up. Call Paul Erlbaum at 223-3177 for more information

Sat. May 4, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. EMES: Free lunch will be served to all Green Up-ers

Wed. May 15, 2nd Installment of property taxes due by 5:00 pm to avoid penalty



Thank you Signpost supporters

**Lois Webster, Carroll/Joan Witham, Richard/Alice Angney,
 Loring Starr/Mike Dworkin, Carol McKenna/Michael Thiemann,
 Paul Erlbaum/Rachel Grossman, Harriet Haggett**

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. PLEASE MAIL TO: PO BOX 184, EAST MONTPELIER, VT 05651

Deadline for Next Issue: April 1, 2013

to Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, signpostbcp@hotmail.com

Jump up and **DONATE** to keep the *Signpost* frisky!

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	6:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Development Review Board (DRB)	1st & 3rd Tues	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wed	6:00 p.m.	U-32 School
Elementary School Board (EMES)	3rd Mon	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School
East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)	Every Tues	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
East Montpelier Fire District #1	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
Recreation Board	2nd Mon	7:15 p.m.	Elementary School
Conservation Fund Advisory Committee	as needed	7:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
East Montpelier Historical Society	3rd Tues	7:00/6:00 p.m.	Four Corners Schoolhouse/E. Calais
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	Four Corners School
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)	2nd Wed	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School, Art Room