

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXVII—Number One

September/October 2016



Welcome!

*Meet these and other recently arrived
members of our community.*

Story page 3



Clockwise, top left: Tom & Merry Schmidt, Morgan & Andrew Greenwald, Anne Campbell & Ken Matzner, Paul Eley & Sarah Waring, Johannes Wheeldon & Liz Suiter

IN THIS ISSUE

5 — Author in our midst: Laura Williams McCaffrey

8 — Act 46 and WCSU: Where Are We?

7 — A Gift for the Ages: The Ormsbee Legacy

9 — Apples Transformed at Mallory Brook Cider

Signpost Volunteers

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

Marlene Betit: Features Co-editor
223-7072 mabetit@aol.com

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

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

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

Rhoda Chickering: Town Records
229-5005 chickeringrhoda@gmail.com

Ed Day: Proofreader
229-2518 edjoday@ezcloud.com

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

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

Edie Miller: Managing Editor
229-0677 signposteam@comcast.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

Printed by L. Brown and Sons Printing
476-3164

Top of the *Signpost*

Autumn in Vermont and in East Montpelier, in particular, cannot be beat for its luxuriant beauty and relaxed pace which encourage exploration of the countryside on foot, bike, or motorized means. It's also a time of preparation—putting by some of the bounty of the garden to be enjoyed throughout the winter, maintaining the wood pile, and buttoning up the house to face another Vermont winter.

As you think ahead to cooler weather and perhaps to a different pace of activity, consider the various issues of importance to our local community that are under consideration currently: should the town charter be modified, should school governance be simplified, how should we use a new piece of town property, how can a good water supply be assured in the Village, and what about land conservation in East Montpelier? This is certainly not an exhaustive list—note, also, the ongoing work of the selectboard, planning commission, development review board, and Village committee to name just a few of the groups that help make this community operate in the short as well as the long term.

All of these issues depend on and benefit greatly from having the ideas and involvement of as many people as possible. Your thoughts and comments are vital to the success of the various initiatives underway. In addition, participation has the enormous benefit of providing each individual with a very personal sense of satisfaction from being part of a communal effort to create an environment in which we, our kids, and our grandkids want to live.

Look around, read, and then jump in. Attend a meeting, send an email, talk to a representative, volunteer. You'll enjoy it, and your community will benefit.



Volunteers are instructed on how to coat the R-40 insulated foundation slab at the East Montpelier Passive, Low-Energy home under construction by Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity. For more information or to join the volunteer building, fundraising, or outreach crew, call Debbie Goodwin at 802-522-8611 or email cvhfh.execdir@outlook.com

Welcome!

Cynthia Challener

Cynthia Challener and her two daughters, Maggie and Marion, moved into Jan Crossan Lambert's house on Center Road last August; they've been here nearly a year. Cynthia says, "We've been moving steadily south over time—first from Hardwick to Calais and now to East Montpelier." Maggie graduated from U-32 in June and will be attending New York University in the fall. Marion, meanwhile, is very happy to be so much closer to Montpelier and to her high school, U-32 (a sentiment many of us have heard from our teenagers over the years).

Tricia Collins

I moved to the County Road in East Montpelier less than a month ago from Hershey, Pennsylvania. Oddly enough, I prefer vanilla over chocolate even though my town is all about chocolate. I finished my Masters in Education at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, and moved to Vermont to be closer to my boyfriend who works in Middlebury. I chose East Montpelier because of the proximity to my first job at Washington County Mental Health. I am still getting to know the area and would love to find friends with similar interests in music, other performing arts, yoga, random trivia/game nights, and watching *The Bachelorette*. Contact me if you want to be friends at tncoo5@bucknell.edu. A great thing that's happened to me while living here is meeting so many kind people willing to be my friend around town.

Paul Eley and Sarah Waring

I met Sarah Waring six years ago now, working at summer camp. Our first date was the day after Hurricane Irene—it took me four extra hours to pick her up for it, as I navigated the wreckage of southern Vermont. Patience on her part, and the trying thereof on mine, is a running theme in our relationship. Ten minutes after picking her up, the transmission died in my truck. Our first date ended up lasting a week—I had nowhere to go and no way to get there and Sarah had a roof, a kitchen, and a couch. I lost the truck and gained a life partner, and though I know some folks treat their trucks like life partners, I'd make that trade every time.

I'm originally from Colorado and Sarah is from Glover. We wanted a place that was closer to her work in Hardwick, had some land and woods, but not far from friends and the amenities of Montpelier, where Sarah had lived for several years before I came crashing onto the scene. Two years ago we got very lucky and found a house through a friend. We love our house and little plot of land on Horn of the Moon and the bountiful home improvement projects it provides. It wasn't until Town Meeting this year (my first) that I truly fell in love with this town and its residents, but I'm smitten now. By the time this is published, we'll be the proud parents of one the town's newest residents!

Morgan and Andrew Greenwald

In January, we moved from Richmond to East Montpelier so we could spend less time driving and be closer to Morgan's workplace. Morgan works in Montpelier as the Laboratory Quality Assurance Manager at Cascade Technical Services. She enjoys running, hiking, cooking, homemaking, and going on adventures with the kids—most often the library, trails, and bike paths. Andrew is a hobbyist with varied interests, including biking, photography, cooking, fixing and building things, and home improvement. He is currently in the midst of finishing an upstairs addition in their home on Powder Horn Glen Road. Andrew also serves on the East Montpelier Development Review Board. Morgan and Andrew are travel enthusiasts and look forward to traveling more with their children, visiting national parks and exploring international destinations.

Wyatt turned five in June and loves riding his bike, reading books, cooking, swimming, taking pictures and videos, and driving RC cars. Winnie is almost three and loves animals, dolls, and all things tiny—slugs and snails included. She also enjoys riding her bike, swimming, swinging, drawing, and dancing. They are very interested to meet and play with other kids their age. The children enjoy being at home with their father during the daytime, playing outside in the dirt and the kiddie pool and enjoying their toys and their two cats, Mitty and Queekoo. This fall, Wyatt looks forward to returning to Child's Garden in Montpelier for preschool and Andrew looks forward to wrapping up the new addition to their home. We are enjoying our quiet new neighborhood, especially the nearby trails and woods, maple creemees at Morse Farm, and the idyllic backdrop that is East Montpelier. We are excited to meet more folks in the community, so if you see us out and about, say hello!

Ken Matzner and Anne Campbell

I am the spouse of an East Montpelier native, Anne Campbell, who grew up on the corner of County Road and Haggett Road. I feel a little like Jack Kennedy who announced to the French people that he was the man who accompanied Jackie Kennedy on their visit to France. Many of you have known Anne for a long time, but I am a true flatlander, born in South Dakota, and spent most of my adult and professional life in the mental health field in central Illinois with the corn and soybeans. I am very grateful that Anne led me to Vermont and to Barnes Road in East Montpelier in particular. Of all the places I have lived, this is where I feel most at home.

Anne and I met in graduate school at the University of Illinois in 1975, and then lost track of each other for 23 years. Our reunion on the Vermont Statehouse steps in 1998 is a long and romantic story which I am happy to tell anyone who asks.

When we moved to Montpelier in 2001 from Scarborough, Maine, we had no expectation of moving to East Montpelier. But Anne had long loved the house we currently live in, and when we discovered in September of 2012 that it was for sale, we pulled out all the financial stops and bought it.

It is the sense of community and a relaxed, accepting, and unpretentious social atmosphere that makes me feel most at home in East Montpelier. The Old Meeting House with its social and spiritual supports and welcoming atmosphere of acceptance of great differences is a very large part of that sense of community. The natural beauty of the surrounding countryside is another huge plus. Almost every day when we drive through the countryside, we say, tongue-in-cheek, “What an ugly state.” The only way I’m going to leave East Montpelier is in a coffin.

Jamie and Kristin Renner

My wife Kristin and I moved to Center Road in October 2015. We were drawn to the area for its natural beauty but quickly realized that we’d stumbled into a uniquely strong community as well. Generous neighbors greeted us with everything from homegrown brussel sprouts to homemade wine, homemade jam, stories about our house and the prior homeowner, offers of help, and a hand-drawn map of our neighborhood overlaid with names and phone numbers (just in case!). With these gestures and the February arrival of our first child—Anna—our house has quickly become a home. We’re grateful to be here.

Tom and Merry Schmidt

When we moved here, to DeRonde Road in East Montpelier, from warmer climes on the West Coast three years ago, people often asked why. For us the answer was easy: To be close to our grandkids, who live in Montpelier. But Vermont, as we quickly learned, is rich in history, tradition, natural beauty, resources, and good neighbors. We love it here.

We are both educators and met while teaching. Merry retired after forty years of teaching—English, language arts, and public speaking—but she still works with a few high school seniors needing help with their college-application writing. Tom taught humanities for thirty years and continues part-time at local colleges. He has published poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and academic works; his most recent book is *Approaching the Bible as Literature* (Cascade Books, 2016). His author website is www.nottuimpress.com.

Merry, a Master Gardener, marvels at the prolific Vermont growing season. In the winter she enjoys sewing and taking classes at MSAC and CCV in yoga, dance, and art. A favorite pastime is watercolor painting. Tom maintains a little flock of chickens that produces eight different egg colors—including green—and usually has a carpentry project in the works, from furniture and picture frames to a grandson-sized castle.

Their favorite mutual joy, however, is spending time with family. Their two young grandsons, ages four and 18 months, are always a source of fun, pride—and exercise!

Liz Suiter and Johannes Wheeldon

It’s only been three years for us “flatlanders” but East Montpelier already feels like home.

After criss-crossing the country from Washington, DC to Washington State, our family of five (including our dog!) loves Vermont living in all its seasons.

Johannes Wheeldon teaches at Norwich and works with the Community Justice Network of Vermont. He loves rec league hockey and playing music with some other dads.

Liz Suiter is a physician at Barre Internal Medicine. She enjoys early morning yoga, cross-country skiing, and hiking on the many trails near their home.

Our kids have benefited from the wonderful educators at All Together Now and EMES. They love swimming at the many local ponds and lakes in the summer, and sledding down our hill in the winter. And our dog Indy, while getting on in years, still likes barking at the deer and chasing off the groundhogs that come to visit.

This year we held our first annual “Jam on the Lawn,” a celebration of friends, food, and music. We were delighted with how many friends and neighbors came to play music, tell stories, bounce in the bouncy house, and enjoy this wonderful community.

Denise Roy and David Abrahamson

I moved here last year with my husband, David Abrahamson, and our two boys . . . surprisingly, for work. Chris Crandall had a hand in hiring both of us for his environmental engineering company in Montpelier. Soon after, he and Becky invited us up to learn about the area and schools and convinced us that the best place to live was here, on this street, in this house (which “coincidentally” was for sale). So we traded our “paved road, asphalt shingled, oil-furnace, w/garage” in the hills of New Hampshire for a “dirt road, metal roof, wood-burning, w/o garage” in the mountains of Vermont!

Thank you, *Signpost* supporters

Joan and Carroll Witham

Laura Williams McCaffrey: Inspired by East Montpelier

You probably can't throw a stone in Vermont, and East Montpelier in particular, without hitting a writer. Writers of all kinds dwell in our small town—nonfiction writers, fiction writers, poets, and children's writers. I feel fortunate to live in such a community.

Born and raised in Vermont, I moved to an apartment on Cate Farm in the fall of 1994, with my husband, musician Colin McCaffrey. In that little apartment, I wrote my first children's novel, *Alia Waking*, and, later, in an apartment in the barn, I wrote my second novel, *Water Shaper*. Our kids were young then, and I worked after they went to bed. Because I didn't have an office, I sometimes shut myself in the closet or the bathroom to write. But I most liked to sit at a desk overlooking the Winooski River and look out across the water.

We eventually bought land from the farm, and we built a house that you can reach from Route 214. In this house, I have a little office on the second floor that I tend to call my witch's tower. With our cat in the windowsill and our dog in one of my chairs, I write each morning. This office has helped me create a number of short stories, as well as my recent dystopian fantasy novel, *Marked*.



In *Marked*, released by Clarion Books in February 2016, sixteen-year-old Lyla lives in a society where only students who win high test scores and who impress patrons are able to attend university. However Lyla isn't as adept as her sister at earning good grades. Tempted by cheats in a black market, she ends up tattooed—*marked*—as a criminal. She's offered a deal, and she takes it—risking her relationship with a childhood friend she may love. Interspersed are graphic novel-style vignettes that reveal one of the mythic tales of Pirate Jackman and Lady Captain, heroes whom Lyla and her friends revere. Lyla hopes the tale might offer her clues as to how she may escape the double bind she finds herself in.

Some pieces of *Marked* are inspired by Vermont and East Montpelier. The setting is cold and mountainous. Though Lyla's town is larger than ours, her house itself and the landscape around it are inspired by our creeks, our forests, fields, and hills. Ideas for my stories come from kids I know and the situations they face. These kids worry about money and their futures. Will they be able to afford college? How? How might they make sure they aren't trapped in difficult financial circumstances?

I have a few other projects started, which means they're all over my office, in stacks of loose papers, some handwritten, some typed. East Montpelier, its many nooks and crannies, continue to inspire me.

See Laura's website at www.laurawilliamscaffrey.com

Some Very Ancient History

When the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service plans earth-moving conservation practices on private or public lands, they must first take measures to locate and avoid disturbing significant archaeological sites. During the planning of a streambank stabilization project along Coburn Road just south of the Cate Bridge, the archaeologist, David Skinas, and staff from the Berlin field office identified a pre-contact Native American site, listed as VT-WA-162 in the Vermont Archaeological Inventory. Three artifacts were recovered and returned to the Berlin office to be cataloged and analyzed. These waste flakes are the by-product of stone tool manufacture or maintenance where spear points or other tools were fashioned for hunting and butchering of game.

Bev Lavin, the landowner where the artifacts were found, says she always knew there was a possibility that Indians once used the land, since it is at the junction of the Kingsbury Branch and the Onion River. "It would have been a likely place for the Indians to come through. In fact I'd always heard there was an Indian meeting place somewhere near here along the Winooski, but I didn't know if it was true or just a folktale."

These artifacts were returned to Beverly Lavin, and she has donated them to the East Montpelier Historical Society. "I didn't want to be responsible for them so I offered them to the historical society," she explained.

Two of the flakes are quartz and one is chert*. There is insufficient information to tell when these chips might have been produced. Their recovery indicates that stone tool manufacture or tool maintenance was at least one of the activities that occurred on this site. The reported pre-contact village and burial site (VT-WA-1) is located to the immediate north of this site; the sites may be associated.

*Chert is a sedimentary rock composed mostly of the mineral chalcedony cryptocrystalline silica, or quartz in crystals of submicroscopic size. Chert can form in parts of the deep sea where the tiny shells of siliceous organisms are concentrated, or elsewhere where underground fluids replace sediments with silica. Chert nodules also occur in limestones.

(Most of this information came from the archaeological report and the letter to Mrs. Lavin.)

How to Use the New Town Property

Last year the town purchased the Winston/Silberberg property, the 48-acre parcel (the remnants of the old LaPerle farm, including the old farmhouse) located at 3035 US Rte. 2. The property runs from US Rte. 2 to Marc Fontaine's saw mill property on VT Rte. 14 N and straddles Sodom Pond Brook. In March the Selectboard appointed the Old LaPerle Farm Property Committee to investigate the options for the town's use of the property. Members are Seth Gardner, Chair, Ginny Callan, Louise Frazier, Bob Morey, Andy Shapiro, Ray Stout, and Zach Sullivan.

Committee members have walked the property more than once and are examining uses that include possible senior housing under consideration by East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative (EMSLI) as well as communal water treatment solutions for East Montpelier Village.

The committee welcomes ideas, comments, and discussion from townspeople. Follow its work on the town website at www.eastmontpeliervt.org.

Charter Committee Reactivated

At a recent meeting, the selectboard voted to reactivate the charter committee asking it to begin work in August. The charge to the committee is to consider the following for possible inclusion in the East Montpelier Charter: 1) appointment of town clerk, 2) appointment of delinquent tax collector, and 3) the basic property tax guidelines now voted on in town meeting each year.

RALLY FOR THE VILLAGE!

Saturday September 10, 2016

10:00–2:00

FOOD · MUSIC · DISCOVERY · PLAY

SCHEDULE (Check Town Web Site for Updates)

10:00–11:45 Old Hangar Building Tour, Upper Village with Dave Coburn

12:00–1:30 Games and Bike Tour
Lunch, Free Ice Cream, Music,

1:00– 2:00 Games on the Green by the Old Brick Church
East Montpelier Village Tour with Dave Coburn
(Meet at the Green by the Old Brick Church)

Come Celebrate Our Village

Sponsored by the East Montpelier Planning Commission
Contact Jean Vissering: 223-3262 or jeanviss@attglobal.net

How Much Land Conservation is Too Much?

The Selectboard is sponsoring an East Montpelier Land Conservation Summit on Monday, October 10, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at the Emergency Services Facility (the new fire station) in East Montpelier Village.

The Selectboard encourages all interested townspeople to join us for a forum focused on town goals for land conservation and more affordable housing, and methods of achieving those goals. We expect to have representatives from state and community housing agencies, land conservation organizations, and trails groups, along with numerous town board and committee members taking part in the discussion.

In the late 1980s–early 1990s the town crafted a land conservation program consisting of a dedicated land conservation fund to be stewarded by a Conservation Fund Advisory Committee. Over the years town voters appropriated money for the fund which was then used—after committee recommendation and Selectboard approval—to assist conservation organizations. Generally it has been the Vermont Land Trust which has helped raise funds and coordinate efforts to conserve East Montpelier parcels, either through the transfer of development rights or outright purchase. Often these projects included dedicated recreation easements for the benefit of the public. After a quarter century, some 3,500 acres, about one-sixth of the town's land, have been permanently conserved—this is in addition to the development restrictions on public lands or parcels in the state's Current Use Program.

The large amount of conserved land, coupled with other regulatory and natural constraints on development, along with a dearth of affordable housing in East Montpelier, has engendered a need to reevaluate the town's land conservation principles and priorities. This summit is an opportunity for the town to start a dialog on where we go next as a community with regard to land conservation, focusing conservation and development priorities for the future and answering the question: how much is too much conservation?

We'll be delving into issues such as the merits of further conservation, the potential to combine conservation efforts with targeted development, the limited amount of land available in town for potential development, and how to make better use of zoning regulations to effectuate the desires of the community. Please join us for what should be both a lively evening of discussion and a first step toward the creation of a next generation land conservation program. Refreshments will be served!

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 9 AM–5 PM

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

Fire Permits: EMFD 225-6247

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

Assistant Animal Control Officer:
Elliott Morse 839-8723

Listers: Rob Chickering,
Ross Hazel, Chris Racanelli
223-3313 x206,
eastmontlstr@comcast.net

Health Officer: Dave Grundy 476-4300

Service Officer: Rachael Grossman 223-3177

Selectboard

Seth Gardner, Chair
sethbgardner@hotmail.com

Carl Etnier	Gene Troia
Kimberly Swazey	Casey Northrup

Planning Commission

Jean Vissering, Chair, 223-3262

Development Review Board

Richard Curtis, Chair
rcurtis841@comcast.net

U-32 Jr./Sr. High School

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

Elementary School

Rubin Bennett, Chair
rubin@rbtechvt.com

Lindy Johnson	Kimberly Kendall
Stephen Looke	Flor Diaz-Smith

State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032
twk@tonyklein.com

A Gift for the Ages: The Ormsbee Legacy

Last year, the Town of East Montpelier received an extraordinary gift from Conrad and Anne Ormsbee—long-time members of our community, newly relocated to Massachusetts. The Ormsbees donated the development rights on 172 acres of their beautiful farmland to the Vermont Land Trust for preservation in perpetuity. The terms of the conservation easement specifically include a trail corridor: the right to build trails for all of us to enjoy—for snowmobiling, walking, skiing, birdwatching, etc.

The Ormsbees' generosity will provide "permanent and perpetual public recreational use of the Corridor, and . . . public recreational access across the property in a manner that enhances the outdoor experience, to establish a Trail, and to implement these purposes while substantially preserving Owners' quiet use and enjoyment of the Property."

The land lies on both sides of Center Road, a bit north of Dodge Road, and is a mixture of open pasture, woods, and a stream (Bennett Brook). From the top edge of the western side pasture, there is a beautiful view east to the Spruce Mountain range. On a very clear day, you can even see a bit of the White Mountains in New Hampshire.

Conservation easements such as this one are generally sold, not donated, and usually require major funding from towns, conservation and land trusts, and other donors to make them happen. But this property is a gift to all of us from the Ormsbees. According to Nona Estrin, who worked closely with Conrad and Anne on the gift, "Conrad said he was thinking of the history of this town and of its future." She adds, "I would like to publicly thank the Ormsbees for their extraordinary generosity and farsighted determination to preserve this property."

These donations are complex transactions. They often start with years of quiet discussions, and then involve negotiations among the landowners and a group of different organizations. They require lots of expertise: legal work, financial management, mapping, finding funding to pay for that work, and for the management of the easements. Easements need to be carefully monitored over the years to make sure that terms are being followed.

The Vermont Land Trust managed this process, with close cooperation and support from East Montpelier Trails, the Gullyjumpers, and the town Conservation Fund Advisory Committee. The town supported the project by helping with the funding to support the actual transaction: staff time, legal work, project mapping, and documentation.

So, now the easement is complete. What's next?

Sandy Woodbeck and other members of the Gullyjumpers have already built the new section of snowmobile trail, and it is a beauty. It winds through woods, sweeps down the high pasture with the views, crosses the brook at Center Road, and rises east to join the trails on Fairmont Farms land. In addition, members of East Montpelier Trails are working on plans for connections to other skiing and walking trails.

So, with profound thanks to Anne and Conrad Ormsbee, the town, the Vermont Land Trust, East Montpelier Gullyjumpers, and East Montpelier Trails, and other volunteers. See you on the trails!

— Loring Starr lives on Powder Horn Glen Road, and her family's land adjoins the Ormsbee land to the west. She and her husband, Michael Dworkin, have a network of neighborhood paths and hope to connect those trails to trails on the Ormsbee land.

Act 46 and WCSU: Where Are We?

Last fall the school boards of the Washington Central Supervisory Union (Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, and Worcester) appointed representatives to an Act 46 Study Committee. The committee's charge is a broad one: to look at a variety of ways of managing schools with the goal of achieving high quality education for all our children across WCSU at sustainable costs.

Act 46 was enacted during the spring of 2015 by the Vermont legislature as an effort to achieve the following goals as stated in the law:

1. provide substantial equity in the quality and variety of educational opportunities statewide;
2. lead students to achieve or exceed the State's Education Quality Standards, adopted as rules by the State Board of Education at the direction of the General Assembly;
3. maximize operational efficiencies through increased flexibility to manage, share, and transfer resources, with a goal of increasing the district-level ratio of students to full-time equivalent staff;
4. promote transparency and accountability; and
5. are delivered at a cost that parents, voters, and taxpayers value.

The law calls for all school districts to examine whether restructuring and simplifying school governance into a single, representative school board responsible for the education of all students in grades PreK-12 would increase both the quality of education and the efficiency of its delivery. WCSU has experience with this type of governance since half our students (grades 7–12) are governed by the consolidated, representative U-32 board.

This is a topic that has been discussed on and off for decades. The new law assures that the topic is examined carefully and considered seriously. Any changes must be voted by the citizens of each town.

Since last fall, the committee has examined information on what and how we teach in the six schools of the WCSU and has heard presentations from our students and educators.

In June, the committee submitted a progress report—as required—to the WCSU board. The complete report is available at the WCSU/Act 46 website. In summary, it stated that:

After more than eight months of information-gathering, study, and discussion, the committee has decided to pursue

the path of recommending a change in the way that the WCSU is governed. Exactly what form that recommendation will take remains to be determined as the work of the committee continues.

Since that report was written, the committee determined it will proceed with two simultaneous courses of action:

1. It will draft articles of agreement that would govern the operation of a single unified board should the five towns of WCSU choose this option. Such articles will spell out the details of how such a consolidated board will actually work giving us a fuller understanding of what such a change would mean to each town and to the students of all towns.
2. At the same time, a subgroup is examining alternate governance configurations that might better meet the needs of the districts within our supervisory union.

A vote is expected this fall as to whether and what governance change to present to the voters of our five towns at Town Meeting Day, 2017.

The members of the Act 46 Study Committee are as follows:

Berlin: Vera Frazier, Jason Giroux, Carl Parton

Calais: Chauntelle Eckhaus, Michael Giammusso, Scott Thompson (non-voting)

East Montpelier: Flor Diaz-Smith, Emily Goyette (non-voting), Stephen Looke, Edie Miller

Middlesex (Rumney): Adrienne Magida, Chris McVeigh

Worcester (Doty): Matthew DeGroot, Rebecca Heintz (non-voting)

Please follow the work of the committee through minutes of its meetings and other documents at the WCSU website at: <http://www.wcsuonline.org/>. A wealth of information on Act 46 is available on the Agency of Education website at <http://education.vermont.gov/laws/2015/act-46>

— Edie Miller, EM rep to the Act 46 Study Committee

Fire District #1 Reports Lack of Progress

The East Montpelier Fire District #1 was formed in 2010 by local volunteers for the purpose of exploring the purchase and operation of the Crystal Springs Water Company after the owner expressed his desire to sell the company that serves 115 East Montpelier homes and businesses. In a recent letter to all members of the Fire District, the Prudential Committee—the governing board of the District—outlined the activities to date and the current status of the project. After a lengthy period of stalled negotiations, the Prudential Committee suggested it is contemplating dissolution of the Fire District. To read the Prudential Committee's letter to its members go to www.emfiredistrict.org.



Apples Transformed at Mallory Brook Cider

Christie Burgess had an apple orchard. When Tom Tucker moved in with her the winter of 2015, they began to look at the orchard and wondered how they could put all those apples to use. The orchard had not been touched in several years. Tom and Christie got to work that spring pruning the trees and thinking about making apple cider.

They borrowed an antique cider press and a hand-cranked grinder from a friend, and in their first year produced 150 gallons of cider. This past spring, they expanded the orchard and planted an additional 70 apple trees (all English cider varieties) with input from Dan at the Peck Farm and Nicko from East Hill Tree Farm. Clearly these two are thinking big.

Tom and Christie invested in some new equipment this year. While it is satisfying to work with an antique grinder, producing large amounts of cider required an upgrade. They have purchased a modern press and an electric grinder. They hope to sell cider this year and are looking forward to making more hard cider in the fall.

Tom says cider-making can be simple. All you need is a cider press, an apple grinder, and jugs for storage, but most important is a good supply of apples. Although picking apples and setting up the press can be time consuming, the sweet smell and taste of the fresh juice makes it all worthwhile.

If you would like to make cider, Tom and Christie suggest keeping it simple and borrowing a cider press or build one from simple DIY plans available online. Tom also notes that a good grinder and a ready supply of apples are keys to success.



Photo: Eric Burgess

Contact them at: mallorybrookcider@gmail.com. Tom and Christie will be delighted to talk all things cider with you!

— *Rachael Grossman, coordinator of EM Eats, knows just where to go for the best local food products in East Montpelier*

Town Weathervane

MILESTONES

Births

- Odin Arthur Edson, son, May 13, 2016, to Heather Munzberg-Edson & Thomas Edson
- Calvin Phineas Beebe, son, May 17, 2016, to Elizabeth & Joel Beebe

Deaths

- Margery F. Lashua died May 25, 2016
- Elmer Jack DeForge, II died May 29, 2016, spouse of Lisa DeForge
- Linda Carol Russell died June 19, 2016, spouse of John Russell
- Leonard Wilson died July 31, 2016, spouse of Priscilla Wilson

Marriages

- Jessie Allen Blondin & Savannah Michelle Welch, June 10, 2016
- Cynthia Ann Green & Donald Melcher, July 17, 2016

Property Transfers

- Jean Myers to Stephen Belitsos & Catherine Chant, single family dwelling & 0.63 acres, Pine Ridge Rd
- Rodney & Donna Nobrega to Barbara Vernile Trustee of the Barbara Vernile Revocable Trust, single family dwelling & 3.17 acres, Old Farm Rd
- Marc Fontaine to Megan Hagerty. 11.2 acres open land, VT14N

- Francis Holmes to Betty & Patrick Sikora, 0.14 acres open land, Sanders Circle
- Betty & Patrick Sikora to Francis Holmes, 0.14 acres open land, Sanders Circle
- Michael & Marlene McCarty to McCarty Revocable Trust, single family dwelling & 98.55 acres, Jacobs Rd
- Deborah Gordon to Milika Neddo, single family dwelling & 1.45 acres, US2
- Jennifer Canfield to Paul Kramer & Beret Halverson, single family dwelling & 6.85 acres, White Rock Dr
- Susan Andersen to Lynn Fabrizio, single family dwelling & 1 acre, Center Rd
- Gregory Carriveau to Joseph Carriveau, barn & 7.6 acres, County Rd
- Tyler & Valarie Roberts to Adam Lenentine, mobile home, Mugford Dr
- Patricia Mahoney to Matthew Kaier & Sarah Perrault, single family dwelling & 6.2 acres, Towne Hill Rd
- Douglas Aja & Janis Mattson to Ryan & Kara Sexton, single family dwelling & 40.1 acres, North St
- Christopher Wong to Donald & Barbara Cote, single family dwelling & 1.7 acres, US2
- Lida Kenyon to Reney Woodard, mobile home, Sandy Pines Rd

Selectboard

June 6, 2016

Motions Passed:

- to authorize TA Johnson to sign the VTrans grant agreement for the Quaker Road culvert.
- to authorize Treasurer Welch to invest the Carlton Smith Fund's principal in a certificate of deposit on such terms as he deems appropriate.
- to reappoint Sue Racanelli, Paul Erlbaum, and Jeanne Malachowski to one year terms on the Funding Request Committee ending March 2017
- to authorize TA Johnson to sign the services agreement with Stone Environmental, Inc. for work in conjunction with the Old LaPerle Farm Property Committee

June 20, 2016

Motion Defeated to approve \$6,000 from the Conservation Fund to secure trails and easement in conjunction with the 361 acre parcel from the former Lylehaven farm, now owned by Fairmont Dairy

Motions Passed:

- to approve the Tax Collection Policy: Elimination of Small Amounts Due
- to approve the Tax Collection Policy: Small Credits Policy
- to approve the Investment Policy
- to transfer the remaining \$223,746.75 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund
- to restrict \$50,000 from the fund balance, with \$25,000 to partially cover the currently fully unfunded liability for vacation day payments at time of employee termination and \$25,000 for highway labor during a transition
- to authorize Treasurer Don Welch to act on the renewal of two cemetery perpetual care CDs, using his best judgment
- to approve the FY17 wage schedule for municipal employees
- to approve 5 extra vacation days for municipal assistant Denise Brown in appreciation of her coverage of the town clerk position.
- to authorize Town Administrator, Bruce Johnson, to sign Standard Grant Agreement #P01688 with the Agency of Transportation to accept a \$168,000 award for paving County Road, with a 20% Town match.
- to sign the warrant to impound unlicensed dogs
- to authorize the Town Administrator to finalize the agreement with Stitzel, Page & Fleming, PC, assuming the sidewalk project continues to move forward

July 11, 2016

Motions Passed:

- to authorize chair, Seth Gardner, to sign the Financial Management Questionnaire
- to approve the Tax Map Maintenance Agreement with CAI Technologies, at \$1,830 for one year
- to approve the Annual Query Manager Support Agreement with CAI Technologies at \$500 for one year



The Mother Hen, LLC

— An Air B & B —

www.airbnb.com/c/dglottmann

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

- to authorize the use of \$31,122.76 from the Capital Reserve Fund for the first payment of five on the 2017 Mack truck purchase
- to authorize chair Seth Gardner to sign the letter to Christopher Grimard re: the settlement agreement for his 2015 property tax bill
- to ask the East Montpelier Charter Committee to reconvene by August 15 to consider a charter change

Planning Commission

June 16, 2016

Discussion of East Montpelier Village Master Plan:

- Met with Sam Andersen, Exec. Director of the CVEDC to discuss aspects of a vital community center

Motions Passed:

- to deny the request from Mr. Lazer that the PC write a letter to the Public Service Board requesting an expedited decision for a solar array on the Cassani property at the South end of East Montpelier Village

July 7, 2016

Discussion of East Montpelier Master Plan:

- worked on the informational session planned for July 21, 2016
- planned the "Rally for the Village" event on September 10

Development Review Board

June 7, 2016

Motion Passed to grant a setback variance for Application #16-023 for the Stoufer's property in EM Center

July 12, 2016

Motions Passed:

- to approve a setback variance for Application #16-027, submitted by Heidemarie Heiss & Stephen Holmes
- to grant the Conditional Use for Application #16-028 of Kathleen Friedland as presented with the following conditions: (1) All parking must be accommodated on the property, not on County Road (2) Store can be open a maximum of 3 days per week during daylight hours (3) The applicants must check in with the ZA in two years to review the business

EMES Board

June 20, 2016

Motions Passed:

- to approve the board order in the amount of \$139,552.27
- to approve the blanket authorization for FY17
- to approve WCSU Food Service Pricing for FY17 (\$3.50) in order to stay in line with federal guidelines
- to award Revenue Anticipation Note bid to Merchants Bank for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017
- to award the Investment bid to Merchants Bank for the time period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

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



MORSE FARM
MAPLE SUGARWORKS

Thanks a lot for your continued support!

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

State and Federal Incentives Still Available



**CATAMOUNT
SOLAR**

Your East Montpelier Source for Solar Power Systems
30+ yrs. Experience Highest Quality Dependable

Contact Kevin McCollister 802-595-2390

Call to set up you free site evaluation and quote
Residential * Commercial * Farms * Camps

K & A LEASING



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

Call us for your storage needs

802-224-7170

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



**OIL &
PROPANE
DELIVERY,
SALES &
SERVICE**

Locally Owned & Operated
Now Supplying Premium Heating Oil

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



Oil & Propane Delivery • Air Conditioning • Installation • Service

**Insurance Agency
of New England, Inc.**

PO Box 1 Village Acres • East Montpelier, VT 05651
P: 802-229-4177 • F: 802-229-4199
Toll Free: 877-448-1553 • www.iaofne.com
Auto • Home • Business • life • Health



KC's Performance Auto Care

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

Casey Northrup
Owner/Technician

802-224-7170

4423 US Route 2
East Montpelier, VT 05651

kcsautovt@yahoo.com



Traditional Vermont
Homes & Outbuildings

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



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

Tel. (802) 223-7191
Nights (802) 229-2728
Cell (802) 249-8402



BLAKE'S SOUTHERN AUTOS

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

RICHARD "DICK" BLAKE
OWNER

TRUE SOUTHERN CARS
A SPECIALTY

Central Vermont Humane Society
50th Anniversary



Celebrating 50 Years of Saving Lives.

(802) 476-3811
info@cvhumane.com
www.cvhumane.com

Tuesday - Friday: 1 to 5 pm Saturday: 10 to 4 pm
1589 VT Route 14S East Montpelier, VT 05651

Maple Creemees All Year Long

We ship anywhere

"A quality
family farm
shop"

802-223-5757



Vermont
handicrafts
Gifts
Vermont
cheese
Mail-order
maple products

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



Free Estimates
Fully Insured
Quality Work

Patrick McCoy
249-3003

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

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

East Montpelier *Signpost*
PO Box 184
East Montpelier, VT 05651

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

Address correction requested

www.emsignpost.com

Signpost Archive

Business Supporters

Links to Other Town Information

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.

CALENDAR

Sat. Sept. 10, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Rally for the Village, EM Village—games, food, historical tours
Mon. Sept. 12, 7 p.m. Historical Soc. Mtg. Calais Memorial Hall, Pot luck at 6:00 p.m.—“Calais Founders Day” presented by Ted Wheelock
Mon. Oct 10, 7:00 p.m. Conservation Summit, Village Fire Station—How Much Land Conservation is Too Much?
Mon. Oct. 17, 7 p.m. Historical Soc. Annual Mtg. Four Corners Schoolhouse—“Women of the Long Trail” presented by Reidun Nuquist.
See www.eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon. Sept. 5, Labor Day, Town Office closed
Fri. Sept. 23, deadline to apply for Mallory Brook hunting permits
Mon. Sept. 26, absentee ballots available, Town Office
Wed. Sept. 28, 11:00 a.m. drawing for Mallory Brook hunting permits
Tues. Nov. 8, 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. General Election, EMES
Tues. Nov. 15 until 5 p.m. 1st installment of property taxes due (note: credit card payment incurs significant fees; see Town Treasurer for details)

The deadline for the next issue of the Signpost is Oct. 1

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee
Development Review Board (DRB)
East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) Board
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
1st Tues. 7:00 p.m.
3rd Mon. 5:30 p.m.
Every Tues. 7:00 p.m.
2nd Wed. 7:00 p.m.
3rd Mon. 7:00/6:00 p.m.
as needed
2nd Wed. 7:00 p.m.
2nd Wed. 6:30 p.m.
1st & 3rd Thurs. 7:00 p.m.
2nd Mon. 7:15 p.m.
1st & 3rd Mon. 6:30 p.m.
1st Wed. 6:00 p.m.

contact: blusig@aol.com /229-5441
Town Office Building
Elementary School
EMFD Community Room
EMFD Community Room
Four Corners Schoolhouse/E. Calais
contact: rhazel@ezcloud.com
Four Corners Schoolhouse
Elementary School, Art Room
Town Office Building
Elementary School
Town Office Building
U-32 School