

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXVIII—Number Five

May/June 2018



Zoombikes

Why don't more people ride bicycles in Vermont? "It's the hills and the weather," says Larry Gilbert, who runs Zoombikes, a small home business in East Montpelier. He continues, "but we sell electric bikes that level the hills and make it possible for riders of all capabilities to enjoy the Vermont biking season. However, we can't really do anything about the weather."

I visited Larry and his wife, Ann, in their home on County Road on a Sunday afternoon and was impressed with the basement bike shop. Eight or 10 bikes in various stages of repair or construction hung neatly on two racks, and a customer's bike was being repaired at the bike-stand workstation. I asked him how he got started, and he explained that he was the first electric bike dealer in Vermont, with a shop in Middlesex behind the Red Hen Bakery. But paying rent year-round for a seasonal business didn't make sense. Calling it a "net zero" operation, he brought it to his basement.

While we stood in the shop, Larry explained that electric bikes have come a long way. Some were made with the motor in the front wheel hub, others had the motor in

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An Active Threesome

We are so lucky to live in East Montpelier. It's a true blessing. We are also fortunate to have some great neighbors. We recently had outstanding additions to our East Montpelier neighborhood when Lauren Oates and Matt DiGiovanni, along with their wonderful border collie, Kona, moved into our little basin on Center Road in February of 2015.

Matt grew up outside of Philadelphia, the oldest of three. He has an extensive family and enjoys spending time with his 25+ cousins. Lauren is a native Floridian; however, she dislikes the heat and would much rather spend her time in the snow. Most of her much-smaller family still lives in Florida. Matt and Lauren met at Clemson University in South Carolina. After college, they moved to Baltimore together; Lauren went to graduate school at the University of Maryland while Matt started his

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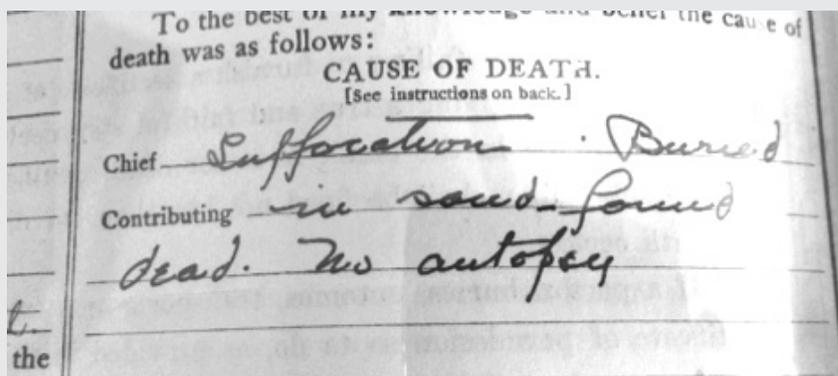
Spring at last. Most agree this has felt like a very long winter. The first time I dared to focus on warmer weather was at Town Meeting—that civic forerunner of the energy of a new season. Entering my home today, I noticed the snow is finally gone from the roof, and despite an April 19 snowfall, the yard should soon be clear, too. The first sprouts of green have just braved the still-cool weather and are visible.

This issue provides proof positive of spring's arrival: Green Up Day, now into its fifth decade is first up, followed by the due date for local taxes. Then we hear about bikes, scheduled hikes, and turn our thoughts to the garden. Cautiously, I pronounce, "we've arrived."

— Edie Miller

Tales from the Vault

Fortunately for East Montpelier, our town clerk, Rosie Laquerre, has taken on new responsibilities as a Signpost volunteer and will be reporting on vital statistics in the *Weathervane*. In addition, she has suggested a new series of articles exploring the many fascinating historical documents that are stored in the walk-in safe in the Town Office. We liked the idea and hope you will too.



Did you know that the town vault contains documents dating back to 1790? It's interesting to look into the vital records book to see who was born, who they married, and how they passed away. Often there is a clear connection with other historical events—like a sudden outbreak of tuberculosis or the advent of automobiles causing accidents. Many of the older records attribute death of older people to senility, apoplexy, or arteriosclerosis. Given East Montpelier's rich farming culture, it isn't surprising to see a number of deaths caused by tractor accidents as well. There are a few that seem mysterious at first glance, like the 11-year-old boy who was found buried in sand during the 1920s. The note that there was no autopsy seems to indicate that foul play was probably not involved, but rather the case of a young person being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

To learn more about those who lived, married, and died in our town, please feel free to visit the vault in the Town Office. It's a great place to start when seeking genealogical information.

— Rosie Laquerre, Town Clerk

GREEN UP DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 9-3, EMES PARKING LOT

Pick up bags at EMES, Dudley Store, Town Office, Plainfield Hardware, or bring your own. Thanks in advance for helping to keep Vermont clean. Last year, we picked a record 4,620 pounds of trash. Questions, call Chris Racanelli 793-6687.

Talking Trash

Most everyone knows about Green Up Day; it's the first Saturday in May when we spend the day picking up trash along the roads, helping to keep our neighborhoods clean and fresh. It's simply amazing how much trash accumulates over the winter.

What everyone may NOT know is how to be safe when greening up. Here are FIVE tips:

1. Wear brightly colored clothes, sensible shoes, and gloves
2. Green up with friends or family, never alone
3. Do not touch hazardous waste or pick up needles
4. Take breaks, drink plenty of water
5. Don't forget your sunscreen and bug repellent

You can find additional rules on how to be safe and also about the prevention and treatment of tick bites at the Green Up website at <http://www.greenupvermont.org>. Want to know what is hazardous waste? <http://www.cvsmd.org/what-is-hazardous-waste.html>



Green Up Lunch

Once again, the Green Up Lunch Committee, headed by Jennifer Zollner and Denise Roy, will provide a free lunch for all residents dropping off bags at the Green Up site. Make it a point to go to the EMES Cafeteria between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. for sandwiches and beverages. It's our way of saying thank you for participating in the great tradition of Green Up Day.

— Chris Racanelli is East Montpelier's Green Up Coordinator



Poster art by Uma Chirkova, Grade 8, Newbury.

GREEN UP DAY - MAY 5, 2018 - First Saturday in May
For your Town Coordinator's contact information, go to www.greenupvermont.org

#greenday2018
#greenupvermont
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Green Up Vermont is a non-profit organization, donate on your VT Tax Return, or anytime online at greenupvermont.org. (800) 974-3259

the rear wheel hub, but in the best design, the motor is under the frame below the crankset, which lowers the center of gravity for better balance. The motor doesn't do all the work; you still pedal, but the motor helps when the rider needs it most. This is known as "pedal assist," and some people liken it to a tailwind pushing you from behind. A throttle mounted on the right handlebar is twisted down to get power.

We talked about the idea of a motor on a bike as cheating in a way, and Larry said that in the racing world, an electric bike is considered "mechanical doping." But he was quick to add, "Hey, we are not racing, so it isn't cheating. Many of my customers are older, and some wouldn't be able to ride at all without a little help. I have people with knee or back issues, and a regular bike is just not an option. So many folks tell me they have a regular bike at home, and they don't ride it; and others say they want an electric bike so they can use their car less."

I asked him if that was the main reason he started with electric bikes, and he said, "You know, it actually could make a tiny difference in the fossil fuel usage, and that is a problem we must address." He thought for a moment, then added, "The real reason is that I wanted to ride a bike from here to Montpelier, but on the way home that blasted hill is a killer!"

Last summer, Larry and Ann rode electric bikes from East Montpelier to Brattleboro. They took three leisurely days and two nights, covering between 50 and 60 miles a day. They spent the first night in a B & B, the second night in an inn, and on day three took the train back to Montpelier. The range for a battery is between 25 and 45 miles, depending on the weight of the rider and load, the terrain, and the level of assistance. On a longer trip, an extra battery for each bike is essential.

We walked upstairs to the kitchen, and Larry introduced me to Ann, who was leaving for an appointment. While he made tea, I asked how he and Ann met. It was at a Berlin Pond Couple's Race. Each had joined with another partner who had run ahead, and Larry and Ann were running at the same pace chatting along the way. "Five miles later," Larry said, "we were in love."

Enjoying the tea and the view out the window of at least a foot of snow blanketing the back yard, Larry speaks optimisti-

cally about the future of electric bikes in Vermont; but he is also realistic. He stood, walked to the sliding door, and let the cat out. "I get it," he said, "we don't have a very long season, but the idea is catching on." He sat down again. "Look at what National Life has done. They built covered bike parking. Go there during any workday and see the parking lot full of cars with the overflow parked on the road. There's plenty of room in the bike parking area. We can't continue using fuel the way we do." I waited for him to continue and wasn't disappointed. "It's not only the fuel. Look at how much steel and plastic and rubber each car requires and compare that to a bicycle or smaller vehicle." He became animated at this point, saying, "We all can do better, even if it's just a little better! More people could ride a bike to work. Even if it's just ten days a year, it adds up. Besides, it's really fun! The bikes are like puppies; people are attracted to them."

We talked a while longer about energy-related matters and the possibilities for police patrolling with electric bikes. During the conversation it came up that Larry is president of the board of directors of the Robinson Sawmill in Calais. "We are restoring the mill which was built in 1803. We have some challenges to overcome: lots of silt in the pond, and the dam needs repairing. Our past is becoming our future, and it's funny to think that when the electricity goes out, we will be able to use the power of falling water to cut lumber in Calais."

We finished our tea, and it was time for me to go. Standing to leave, I noticed the cat outside the door and asked if I should let him in. "Sure, thanks," Larry said. He stood, and as we shook hands, he suggested that I try out a bike this summer. I'm looking forward to it. I came away from the interview with the feeling that here's a guy who is concerned about the future and is doing his part to nudge us in the right direction.

For more information on the electric bikes, go to zoombikes.net and for the sawmill, go to robinsonsawmill.org. If you would like to take a bike for a demo ride, drop Larry a line at larry@zoombikes.net.

— *Norman Hill lives in East Montpelier and serves on the Planning Commission and the DRB.*

CVHFH, Inc. Receives Best of the Best Award from Efficiency Vermont

Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity, Inc. (CVHFH) received the "Best of the Best" Honor Award in Residential Building for their passive house new construction build in East Montpelier, completed in August 2017. The award was presented at the Better Building by Design conference, hosted and led by Efficiency Vermont.

"Every year Efficiency Vermont uses Better Buildings by Design as an opportunity to highlight some of the 'Best of the Best' design, build, and renovation projects from around our state," said Efficiency Vermont Director Karen Glitman. "These winners exemplify the integration of innovative energy efficient practices with durability, beauty, and practicality."

CVHFH builds affordable, decent, energy-efficient homes with eligible low income families, resulting in an affordable mortgage and stable homeownership. Eligible families are in need of adequate shelter, can pay an affordable mortgage, and are willing to partner with Habitat for Humanity to build their home. Please contact Debbie Goodwin, CVHFH Executive Director, for information about volunteering and becoming involved at cvhfh.execdir@outlook.com, 802-522-8611 or www.centralvermonthabitat.org

career in civil engineering. After two years of city living, they both knew they wanted to live in the Northeast, where the weather is colder, and access to the great outdoors is easier.

Lauren is the State Hazard Mitigation Officer, and she deals primarily with climate change adaptations specific to natural hazards. Matt is a civil engineer and Operations Team Leader for the Federal Highway Administration. They both enjoy their respective public service positions and are honored to serve Vermonters.

Matt and Lauren are avid outdoor enthusiasts. The East Montpelier Trail System was a major motivator for them to buy in East Montpelier, and they are so appreciative of all of their neighbors who volunteer to maintain this local resource. They look forward to joining those efforts when the snow melts. They are both active skiers, snowshoers, and winter campers. Lauren is an ultramarathon runner, because you know, 26 miles is not ever enough! She wants to thank all of the awesome drivers on East Montpelier roads who have given her a safe passing distance and often a friendly wave while she suffers. Lauren runs quite a bit, so chances are you have been one of those drivers. While Lauren is out on her feet, Matt can be found mountain biking with Kona all around Vermont. The threesome also enjoys running up mountains together (Kona's favorite is White Rock). They aspire to backpack through all of the U.S. National Parks and are

particularly interested in getting to those in Alaska. Slowly, but surely, they are checking sites off their list.

Kona, the border collie, wants everyone to know that she promises to never ever run into the road. Even though she might appear to do just that, she is just practicing her herding techniques. She, too, is an avid camper, canoeist, and hiker. She goes everywhere her people go, for the most part, and is always ready for her next adventure. She does not miss a single happening on her property. May we all experience the love and loyalty of a lovely dog like Kona in our lifetimes.

When not outside, Matt and Lauren are also board game fiends; some of their favorites include Puerto Rico, Agricola, and Isle of Skye. They're challenging each other to read more (Lauren prefers fiction, Matt non-fiction) and invest the time to finally become fluent in Spanish. Their favorite vacation is their annual Winter Carnival trip with friends to Quebec City. Finally, in the darkness of night during the summertime, Matt and Lauren have turned their ledgey backdrop into an outdoor movie theater. At this theater, complete with popcorn and the best Vermont beer, these movie buffs have been known to show double and triple features.

— *Deb Glottmann has lived on Center Road for 18 years. She is a long-time veterinary technician and is president of the Vermont Veterinary Technician Association. She owns The Mother Hen, LLC, an airbnb in Vermont and Maine.*

In the Thank You Department

Many Hands Make Light Work

Many thanks to those who helped put on another successful Town Meeting Day Potluck Lunch. A strong sense of community flooded the room as we sat together, munching a delicious meal amidst the delightful drone of catching up with old friends and meeting new neighbors.



Photo: Alex Brown

In giving credit where credit is due, how about it for our neighbors, who year after year, with no pre-planning or note-taking, bring in such a wonderful variety of foods. A round of thank yous to the volunteers whose willing hands

took the stress out of potluck as they helped with set-up, cash register, cooking, serving, and cleaning up: Catherine Russell, Sally Colman, Carolyn Pastore, Mary Redmond, Carolyn Shapiro, Taggart & Duncan Schrader, Rhoda Chickering, Paul Erlbaum, Rachael Grossman, Cyn Drinkwine, Doug & Renee Kievit-Kyler, and Jennifer Zollner. I cannot forget the businesses whose thoughtful contributions added to our banquet table: Capitol Grounds, Hunger Mountain Coop, Dunkin Donuts, Shaws Supermarket, and Price Chopper. And finally, thanks to EMES's Steve Watson, Todd Hill, Brenda Clark, and Susan Olander whose cheerful enthusiasm in preparing the cafeteria and kitchen for the potluck made the event run smoothly. The potluck definitely reminds us that many hands do, indeed, make light work.

— *Sue Racanelli is chair of the Town Meeting potluck lunch*

TVSC

Twin Valley Senior Center (TVSC) sends a big "thank you" to residents of the six towns it serves for your support at your local town meetings. Please stop by the center any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday for a visit. Check the many free exercise programs that are available, and take a few minutes and have lunch with us. We always serve lunch at 12:15 p.m. on the three days. You will be surprised who you'll meet here.

Stories Shared Monthly at the Historical Society Meetings

A year ago I joined the East Montpelier Historical Society. There were all these great little booklets on the table at Town Meeting that piqued my interest—most of them put together by Dave Coburn (so much missed): Ancient Cemeteries and Burying Grounds; East Montpelier Women of WWII; Historic Sites; and more. A number of years ago, I had read *Across the Onion*, written by Lyn Blackwell and Ellen Hill, and that was the start of my interest in the town. I thought it was about time to hear the stories presented at the monthly historical society meetings. I was curious about what our town was all about, how it got to be “East,” where places are and/or were. In short, I wanted to know more of the history of the place where I have lived for more than 40 years.

The East Montpelier Historical Society meets monthly in conjunction with the Calais Historical Society. Our towns are so connected that this makes sense. And over this past year I have learned just how much so: families whose names we have heard and seen on road signs that go back generations; marriages from one town to another; men who went off to wars; one- or two-room schoolhouses that served small areas in our towns; churches that still exist but many that were turned into homes or were taken or burned down; the many sugar shacks in the maple groves— many now gone for one reason or another—that

provided the communities with the very best of Vermont maple syrup; homesteads that were there, many now gone.

There have been so many interesting presenters over this past year: Elliot Morse showing us slides of some of the sugar houses in our towns; Gail Graham describing the early schoolhouses in both towns; a very poignant presentation by David Book on his publication “One Family’s Civil War Story;” a couple of presentations from the Vermont Historical Society; Manny Garcia and Paul Heller on “Jacob Davis: Montpelier’s First Settler;” and just last month we got to “travel” with Chris and Theresa Reed as they described their trip through the many fascinating and well-kept Champlain and Erie Canal locks.

And, of course, at each meeting there are wonderful foods brought by East Montpelier and Calais members. I didn’t know we had so many good cooks around us. I encourage you to join the EMHS, learn more about our town, and meet more of the people who live here.

— Alison Underhill lives and raised her son in the great community of Adamant, the village that spans EM and Calais. (Did you know that the Adamant Coop is the oldest coop in New England and probably the second oldest in the country? And it was the foundation from which the Washington Electric Coop was created? Well, that’s one of the stories yet to be told.)

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

The mental health hotline in our area is 229-0591. Two Washington County Mental Health first-responders are on duty 24–7 to respond to calls and provide support. Concerned about a neighbor or family member? Call 229-0591. Another useful number is the National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255.



Did you know that Vermont has the highest number of craft beer breweries per capita in the United States? And that Vermont is the only state in which the highest-selling beers

are produced by independently owned companies?

Brazier Road resident Andy Morse was ahead of the curve and got into home brewing about 15 years ago. His decision to make beer was purely practical. Funds were short, and cutting beer from his diet didn’t seem like a good option. To solve the problem, he ordered a starter kit. However, life takes its turns, and the kit sat unopened for four years.

When Andy finally made his first batch of beer, he was hooked. He tells us that startup costs are minimal. For \$75 he purchased a five-gallon starter kit with ingredients. Later, he purchased a kettle that cost about \$90. A kegging system can cost up to \$280, although Andy suggests buying used products online. And, believe it or not, after all these years, prices have remained pretty much the same.

There are several steps to brewing. There is the initial brewing. Then the batch needs to chill and ferment. The brewing process takes about a half to a whole day, and fermentation, depending



on the type of brew, can take from 10 days to a couple of months. The final step is bottling.

Andy’s advice to others wanting to brew is to invest in a decent kettle, brew outside (it’s safer, easier, and more enjoyable), and either invest in an immersion chiller or make one. He tells us that they are fairly simple to make. Andy found YouTube and online forums to be excellent resources.

Three children later, and home brew has taken a back seat to other responsibilities for Andy, but he is planning on starting up again this summer. Andy would love to talk to you about home brew. Feel free to contact him at amorse9@gmail.com.

— Rachael Grossman, EME coordinator, lives on Brazier Road with her family.

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First Constable/Animal Control Officer:
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Assistant Animal Control Officer:
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Listers: Rob Chickering,
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Scenes from Town Meeting

photos by Alex Brown



Paulie's Recipe

From the *Community Cookbook of the Friendly Circle, North Montpelier*

Shrimp and Rice Casserole

(serves three)

3 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons flour
1 ½ cups milk
1/3 teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon paprika
¼ teaspoon celery salt
2/3 cup shrimp
1 cup cooked rice

Melt butter, add flour. When blended, add milk and cook until creamy sauce forms. Stir constantly. Add remaining ingredients, mix and pour into buttered shallow baking dish. Melt butter and crumbs. Sprinkle over shrimp mixture. Bake 20 min. in moderate oven.

2 tablespoons butter
1/3 cup crumbs

Paulie's Comment: I've made this substituting canned salmon or chicken.

Local Property Taxes Due May 15

The second installment of the 2017–18 property taxes is due no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15, 2018. You may pay via your computer by accessing the town website. Paying by credit or debit card incurs a three percent (of the total tax bill) charge; selecting the eCheck option (direct withdrawal from your bank account) will cost a flat fee of \$1.50.

Use the "Make Payment" tab on the homepage of www.eastmontpelier.com. Select "Noble Pay Portal" and follow instructions. Using the link near the bottom of the page, you will be directed to the submission page. At the top of this page, you will see a place to enter your tax payment amount. As soon as you enter your card number, the convenience charge amount (approximately three percent of your payment) will be calculated, at which time you can decide whether to continue or not. Under "Select Payment Method" you may select the eCheck option for direct withdrawal from your specified account. The convenience fee for this option is a flat \$1.50. Be sure to enter your "Parcel Number" just below the card/account information.

— Don Welch, Town Treasurer (223-3313 ext 207).

From the Selectboard

At Town Meeting 2018, a unanimous floor vote endorsed the town becoming part of a newly created communications district called Central Vermont Internet (CVI). The district, composed at this point of 12 central Vermont cities and towns, will create a publicly owned Internet service provider, with the goal of bringing high-speed Internet through fiber optic cables throughout our communities. It plans to guarantee net neutrality and customer privacy.

Joining the new communications district creates no real obligations for the town and none for residents—no one is required to sign up for the new service—and no town tax funds may be used to fund the district. The selectboard is expected to appoint a town representative to the CVI board in April, and the board's first meeting is scheduled for May 8.

In another Town Meeting action, the town approved a non-binding resolution urging state action and pledging local efforts toward a rapid transition to renewable energy in light of this time of climate change. The resolution was amended several times to strengthen the language on the protection of natural resources from commercial-scale renewable energy projects. The amended resolution passed with strong support on a voice vote. The selectboard has sent the resolution to our representatives in the legislature.

Moving to ongoing town work, the selectboard encourages all interested parties to comment on the draft of the new Town Plan. This document, on which the planning commission has worked exceedingly hard, is attractive and easy to read. The PC held a well-attended hearing in March, and the selectboard will hold two public hearings, on May 14 and June 4, both at 6:30 p.m.

in the Town Office. The selectboard's intent, if all goes well, is to adopt the plan at the June 4 meeting after the hearing. Written comments may also be sent to Town Administrator Bruce Johnson at eastmontadmin@comcast.net.

— Carl Etnier is an EM Selectboard member.

Planning Commission on the Move

The Planning Commission received a Municipal Planning Grant to hire a consultant to assist with updating EM's zoning regulations. This will take place in two phases:

- First we will develop zoning regulations to implement the East Montpelier Village Master Plan, including the creation of new zoning districts and setting appropriate uses, setbacks, and parking standards to encourage village-scale growth.
- The second phase will involve a review of the town's overall zoning regulations to ensure that they are clear and consistent with the Town Plan. This will be approximately a two-year process, with opportunities for public input and comment along the way.

Town Weathervane

MILESTONES

Births

- James H. Duane, son, born in December to Victoria Capitanelli and Will Duane
- Pierce Jacob Carpenter, son, born in February to Caitlin LaClair and Andrew Carpenter
- William Oliver Foxwell Huck, son, born in March to Celeste and David Huck

Marriages

- Jenna Beattie to Eric Seitz, March, 2018

Deaths

- Cynthia Reed died in January, 2018
- Robert A. Franks, Sr, husband of Sylvia, died in February, 2018
- Ritchie E. Dunster, husband of Joanne, died in March, 2018
- Elton E. Richardson died in March, 2018
- Daniel A. Neary, Jr, father of Carla Occaso and Jessica Neary, died in March, 2018
- Wendy Morgenbesser, wife of Michael, died in March, 2018
- Sarah Thompson, sister of Martha Holden, died in March, 2018

Land Transfers

Key to Deed Types: W=Warranty Q=Quit Claim C=Corrective E=Easement M=Mobile Home

- Kathie J. Hickman to Kathie J. Hickman Revokable Trust, 3.29 acres and dwelling on Northview Rd (Q)
- Richard Mastelli to Richard Mastelli & Deborah E. Fillion, 12.20 acres and dwelling on Horn of the Moon Rd (Q)
- Jerome Rappaport to Armand Laquerre, 28.20 acres and dwelling on Drake Rd (W)
- Reney Woodard to Doris Royce, Mobile Home on Sandy Pines Rd (M)
- The Elliston-Huck Living Trust to David & Celeste Huck
- Blair & Holly Nance to the Blair T. Nance Trust and Holly Nance Trust, 11.93 acres and dwelling on Mabuhay Dr (Q)
- Washington Electric Coop, Inc. to Stephen Rauh for a Right of Way Easement on Murray Rd (Q)
- Steven Bigras to Tylor Bigras, 11.16 acres and dwelling on Jourdan Rd (W)

SELECTBOARD

January 29, 2018 — Motions passed:

- to raise Road Foreman Guthrie Perry's pay to \$24.50 an hour when he passes his 6-month employment, per the town's agreement with him at the time of his hire

February 5, 2018

- Gave feedback on draft of revised Rec Board manual
- Discussed sidewalk project and culvert project

Motions passed:

- to authorize TA Bruce Johnson to finalize the purchase of a John Deere 6110M tractor with Tiger boom mower at a price of no greater than \$135,000
- to accept the January 31, 2018 Final Report of the Intersection Design Feasibility Study done for the Town of East Montpelier and the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission without taking any action on implementation options at this time

February 19, 2018

- Special joint meeting with the Calais Selectboard
- Legislative update discussion with Rep. Kimberly Jessup

Motions passed:

- to authorize Chair Seth Gardner to sign the revised letter to the East Montpelier Fire Department about EMFD Ambulance Revenue Accounting and Capital Plan
- to approve the CAI agreement for tax map updates for \$1,950
- Announced that the town will receive a \$20,000 Better Roads grant for the planned Snow Hill Road erosion control/drainage ditch work. Actual work can't begin until July 1 at the earliest

March 5, 2018 — Motions passed:

- to authorize the TA Bruce Johnson to sign the contract with DuBois & King for engineering services involving the intersection of the EM Village sidewalk project with the petroleum contamination zone between Dudley's Store and the Lamb residence
- to authorize the TA to sign the VTrans grant agreement for the High Risk Rural Roads Sign Project on County Rd
- to approve access permit 18-002 which converts an agricultural field access to a residential access

March 19, 2018 — Motions passed:

- to authorize Chair Seth Gardner to sign the contract with Vermont State Police, from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019
- to authorize TA Bruce Johnson to sign the schedule amendment to the state water program loan taken over from EM Fire District #1
- to elect Seth Gardner to serve as selectboard chair and Gene Troia as vice chair
- to appoint the following: Carolyn Shapiro, FCSH member; Sandi Conti, animal control officer; Elliott Morse, assistant animal control officer; Charles Johnson, conservation fund advisory committee member; Bill George & Toby Talbot, emergency management co-coordinators; Rich Curtis & Mark Lane, DRB members; Paul Cate, town tree warden; Julie Potter & Jack Pauly, CVRPC representative and alternate; Frank Pratt, transportation advisory committee; Carol Welch & Don Welch, State Police Community Advisory Board representatives; Gene Troia, Don Welch, Casey Northrup, Kim

- Watson, & Ed Deegan, capital improvement committee members; Rachael Grossman, town service officer
- to authorize the TA to appoint a qualified person to the CVSWMD board

March 22, 2018

Special Meeting

- Motion passed to authorize TA Johnson to sign the East Montpelier culvert grant agreement, which is considered an amendment to the original East Montpelier bike/sidewalk project grant

PLANNING COMMISSION

January 18, 2018

- Reviewed edits to EM 2018 draft of Town Plan
- Motion passed to approve the Request for Qualifications (for the consultant for the Municipal Planning Grant for Zoning Regulation Revisions) with minor revisions

February 1, 2018

Special Meeting – Public Forum

- Listened to comments and suggestions from the public on the 2018 draft of Town Plan

Regular Meeting

- Reviewed feedback from the public and discussed potential revisions
- Discussed review process for hiring the consultant for the zoning regulation revisions

February 15, 2018

- Discussed further changes to the 2018 draft of the Town Plan
- Discussed process for hiring the consultant for Zoning Regulation Revisions

March 1, 2018

- Motion passed to interview all four firms which applied for the consultant position

March 15, 2018

- Interviewed the four potential consultants and planned to review and rank the candidates at March 22 meeting

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

November 7, 2017

- Motion passed to approve the 8-foot side setback waiver for Application #17-046 submitted by William and Tammy Atkins

February 6, 2018

- Reviewed sketch plan for a proposed 2-lot subdivision of the Rauh property located on Murray Rd
- Reviewed sketch plan for a proposed 2-lot subdivision of the Clemons property located on Guyette Rd

EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD

January 15, 2018

- Discussed final budget changes and pre-Town Meeting communications

Motions passed:

- to adopt the EM Town School District Budget for 2018–19 School Year of \$3,990,773.00
- to approve EM Town School District Warning for Town Meeting Day

February 21, 2018

- Discussed Town Meeting Day communications/presentation

Motions passed:

- to approve a long term leave request shared by the principal
- to accept the tuition rate of \$18, 371 for FY19
- to appoint the following committee to meet with AOE reps about the Act 46 proposal: Matthew DeGroot, Flor Diaz Smith, and Scott Thompson

March 3, 2018

- Meeting followed by pre-Town Meeting forum

March 19, 2018

- Act 46 discussion with AOE
- Resolution in Support of Taking Action to Better Regulate Access to Firearms
- Capital plan developed by Principal Lyford

Motions passed:

- to elect the following board officers: Rubin Bennett, chair; Flor Diaz Smith, vice-chair; Lindy Johnson, clerk
- to establish the time and day of regular monthly meeting as the third Monday at 5:30 pm
- to establish the newspaper and posting locations as the *Times-Argus*, post office, and town office
- to elect Stephen Looke as representative and Flor Diaz Smith as alternate to the WCSU Executive Committee
- to elect Looke, Diaz and Darci Coleman-Graves as voting members of the WCSU board
- to elect representatives and alternates to the following committees: Negotiations: Steven Looke and Darci Coleman-Graves; Policy: Lindy Johnson; Transportation: Rubin Bennett and Darci Coleman-Graves; School Quality: Flor Diaz Smith and Stephen Looke; School Start Time: Rubin Bennett and Darci Coleman-Graves
- to appoint Principal Lyford as truant officer
- to use \$4,000 from capital fund to cover interior hardware replacements as needed
- to adopt a resolution in Support of Taking Action to Better Regulate Access to Firearms

U-32 SCHOOL BOARD

February 14, 2018

- A community member raised questions about the suspensions of students in possession of hemp and was referred to the superintendent
- Presentation on Alternative Special Education Program by Kelly Bushey followed by discussion
- Presentations by state legislators followed by discussion

February 21, 2018

- Student hearing was held in executive session
- After a recess to attend an SU meeting, U-32 meeting resumed
- Resumed executive session on earlier-discussed student issue

Motions passed:

- to set the tuition rate for FY19 at \$18,292
- to accept the resignations of teachers Allison Gauthier and Grant Gunther and facilities manager Matt Kolva
- to accept the principal's recommendation regarding the previously discussed student issue

March 7, 2018 — Motions passed:

- to elect the following board officers: Adrienne Magida, chair; Kari Bradley, vice chair; Cal Witke, clerk
- to establish times and days of regular monthly meetings
- to establish newspapers and locations for official postings
- to elect Adrienne Magida representative and alternate to WCSU Exec Committee
- to elect Adrienne Magida, Kari Bradley, and Carl Witke as voting members of the WCSU board
- to elect representatives and alternates to each of the following WCSU committees: Negotiations: Carl Witke, representative; Scott Thompson, alternate; Policy: Jonathan Goddard, rep., Adrienne Magida, alt; Transportation: Karen Bradley, rep., Scott Thompson, alt; School Quality: Kari Bradley and Adrienne Magida, reps; George Gross, alt; School Start Time: Karen Bradley and Scott Thompson, reps; Central Vermont Career Center Regional Advisory Board: Karen Bradley, rep., George Gross, alt
- to appoint Erik Bennett as truant officer
- to approve a resolution addressing gun violence
- to appoint Karen Bradley, Kari Bradley, George Gross, and Scott Thompson to the finance and facilities/capital budget committee
- held an executive session with a parent to discuss a student issue with no action taken afterward



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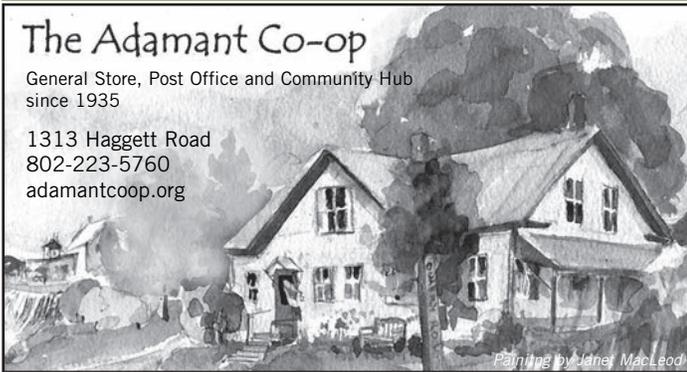
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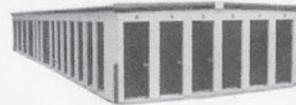
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CALENDAR

Sat. May 5, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Green Up Day, parking lot at EMES

Sat. May 5, 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Green Up Day lunch, EMES cafeteria

Mon. May 14, 5 p.m. Historical Society program on local trails, Four Corners Schoolhouse, brown bag supper & optional hike.

Free & open to all. For more info contact Sandal Cate, sandal@sover.net, 223-6466.

Mon. May 14, 6:30 p.m. Selectboard public hearing on proposed new Town Plan, Town Office, document available on town website.

Mon. June 4, 6:30 p.m. Selectboard public hearing on proposed new Town Plan, Town Office, document available on town website.

Mon. June 18, 5 p.m. Historical Society program on Renovation of the Old West Church Steeple, Old West Church in Calais. Bring a brown bag supper, bug spray, and lawn chair. Free and open to all. Rain or shine. For questions contact Gail Graham, gailgra@msn.com.

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee

as needed

contact: blusig@aol.com / 229-5441

Development Review Board (DRB)

1st Tues. 7:00 p.m.

Town Office Building

East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) Board

3rd Mon. 5:30 p.m.

Elementary School

East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)

Every Tues. 7:00 p.m.

EMFD Community Room

East Montpelier Historical Society

3rd Mon. 7:00/6:00 p.m.

Four Corners Schoolhouse/E. Calais

East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative

as needed

contact: rhazel@ezcloud.com

Four Corners Schoolhouse Association

2nd Wed. 7:00 p.m.

Four Corners Schoolhouse

EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)

2nd Wed. 6:30 p.m.

Elementary School, Art Room

Planning Commission (PC)

1st & 3rd Thurs. 7:00 p.m.

Town Office Building

Recreation Board

2nd Mon. 7:15 p.m.

Elementary School

Selectboard

1st & 3rd Mon. 6:30 p.m.

Town Office Building

U-32 School Board

1st Wed. 6:00 p.m.

U-32 School