

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXIX—Number One

September/October 2018



Photo: The Cates by Gary Lewis

Generations

For this issue, we asked the residents of East Montpelier to explore the concept of family. Expanding the well-known adage, "It takes a village to raise a child" to "It takes a village to support a family," we wanted to know what that looks like in 2018 in East Montpelier. How are folks in East Montpelier living intergenerationally and/or collaboratively and why? We asked you to tell us about the new—and old—ways that community members are living interdependently to meet the challenges of everyday life. Thanks to all who shared their family stories.

Fourth "New" Generation Sharing in Farm and Community Life

It can be confusing being a member of the Cate family living on Fox Run Farm because the ancestors of this family established the Cate Farm along the Winooski, but no direct descendants still live there. Our branch of the Cate family "returned" to town in 1977 when Jean and Wes Cate bought Fox Run Farm to retire to life in the country after decades of living in Montpelier.

Now, 40 years later, three generations still live on the farm. Paul and Sandal built a log home there in the early 1980s and raised their sons, Austin and Logan, who luckily grew up with

grandparents next door. After graduating from U-32, Austin studied and became an electrical engineer. With help from others, he and Paul determined ways to make the farm more self-sufficient. Several years ago they installed solar panels and a shared heating plant fueled by firewood. Austin then moved back to the farm where he and his wife, Katie, are raising their two sons. Each generation has shared in the farm activities of sugaring, gardening, raising hens and honeybees, and participating in town activities.

Paul served on the Planning Commission and the Four Corners Schoolhouse Association, and he is now our town tree warden.

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Top of the Signpost

When the *Signpost* volunteers decided on the broad, general topic of “Family” for the theme of this issue, we also tried to envision how we hoped readers would respond to the stories. In the end, we agreed that a good articulation of a primary goal for this issue might be that those reading the individual tales might come away thinking that East Montpelier is, indeed, a place that they would choose to live. We were delighted with the stories submitted from young and old, describing the supports we all need at the various stages of our lives; and we hope you are left feeling that you are glad you live in this town.

Of course, there are as many narratives as there are residents of East Montpelier, and the current issue presents a relatively small sampling. Having read these stories, if you are moved to share the experiences of your own family and friends, please send your stories to us (email to signposteam@comcast.net) for posting on the *Signpost* website.

— Edie Miller

Tales from the Vault

Articles of Interest Found in the Town Vault

In these days of HIPAA laws and information privacy and security, it was quite interesting to find this postcard. The document was created to be mailed to town health officers by physicians. Notice that it contained personally identifiable information relative to the patient, the disease s/he had, and whether the person had been quarantined. Can you imagine the access people had to this information? This was a postcard after all. The town’s postmaster would know before the health officer that someone in town was ill with smallpox.



Sandal presides over the local historical society. Katie and Austin enjoy getting to know the elementary school community with their sons in the early grades. Both families happily engage with neighbors and friends to maintain a vibrant rural lifestyle here in East Montpelier.

— *Sandal Cate lives with her husband, Paul, on County Rd. with a son and grandchildren on the same property.*

Twins Tell of Four Generations

There are four generations of the Clayton family living in East Montpelier. Sue and Put are our grandparents. We and our parents, Rick and Brandy, live practically next door. Our father's sister Kate lives in Minnesota, and our older siblings, Kylee and Quinton, live out of town as well. Our nephew, Colton, is living with us temporarily, and another nephew, three-year-old Greyson, visits frequently. This fall, Colton will start kindergarten at EMES where his mom, three uncles, and grandfather also went.

"One of the good things about living in East Montpelier is that it's nice and quiet," says Dylan. "We appreciate help from the other family members, like lawn mowing," say Gramma and Grampa. "Gramma makes good cookies, which we always appreciate," says Trevor. With our busy schedules we often need rides, which our grandparents supply. Holidays, especially Christmas, are fun with lots of aunts, uncles, cousins, and presents!

We've been very fortunate to travel a lot through sports clubs in Central Vermont. This summer we were able to go to Portugal, and last year we went to Spain—all with the help of family funding. We have also traveled to many different states for sports camps and tournaments. We have taken many out-of-state vacations together. This summer our family went on vacation to Maine.

We're looking forward to reading about other families in East Montpelier.

— *Dylan and Trevor Clayton, 15-year-old sophomores at U-32, live on Wallbridge Rd. with their parents, Rick and Brandy Clayton.*

A Legacy for Our Grandchildren

It was a beautiful summer afternoon in June 1972. We drove out to Center Road from our apartment in Montpelier to see Eva Towne's place. She had been rooted on the hillside farm since her father bought the property in 1933. We had been looking for over a year without success for an old farmhouse that had not been renovated.

The cows were still grazing in the back field, the pond was pristine, the farmhouse was rustic, and we were captivated. Little did we know how much that purchase would reshape our lives and those of our children and grandchildren.

When we left New York City, we not only said goodbye to our parents, siblings, and friends, but also to our suburban childhoods. Growing up, we had known our grandparents during holiday gatherings and summer vacations, but those visits were brief interludes; by the time we were teenagers, they had died.

Now we have eight grandchildren of our own, two of whom live next door. I hear their high voices in my backyard. It's Elsie and Ewan. "Hi, Mammy, here's a special mud cake for you. Where's Papa? Do you want to play?" Their visits delight and rejuvenate us, taking us back to our earliest days learning about rural life in East Montpelier.

The nearness of grandchildren is the most important but only one of the special benefits of living adjacent to our son Colin and his wife, Chelsea. They carved out a homestead lot on our farm, and now they help us in a multitude of ways to maintain and to conserve the family property.

In separate houses but with common goals for the fields, the forest, the gardens, the trails, the barn, and the youngest Blackwells, we hope we're leaving a legacy for all our grandchildren in the rocky but fertile soil of East Montpelier.

— *Lyn Blackwell lives with her husband, Ed, on Center Road.*

It Takes a Village

A day in the life of a 15-year-old girl who resides in a lively household of seven is probably different from one who resides in a household of one, or even two. I live with two siblings, my parents, and my grandparents. To me, "multigenerational household" is just a fancier way of saying home; it's where somebody is always there.



Photo: Ruby Singer and extended family near Mt. Rushmore, a stop on their three-week RV trip across the U.S. this summer

When my mom yells at me, I go downstairs and talk to my grandma about it. And there are two sets of food in the house, the healthy stuff in the kitchen, and then the stuff I sneak downstairs to eat—my grandparents' stash. That's my normal.

I don't think that it means everybody needs two sets of people being there for them. To me, "it takes a village to raise a child" means having people who love and support you or have seen you grow, and who will be there for your softball games or art exhibits.

I recently went to a play that my boyfriend was helping with. His parents couldn't make it, but there was a row full of his grandparents and cousins, and my family was also there for him. We all cheered when he had his sliver of glory, no matter how small. That is a village raising a child if I've ever seen one.

My point is that I have a built-in community of people that support me, right there in my home. Everyone needs that. Everyone needs those people cheering for them even if their role is small, providing a ride to the movies, or even a hug.

“It takes a village to raise a child,” looks different to everyone, but it’s also universally true. We all need people in our corners who will support us and change us for the better.

— *Ruby Singer lives with her siblings, parents, and grandparents on Cherry Tree Hill Rd., and they still want to vacation together.*

Ninety-one and 89: Living—and Dying—at Home

Despite our own particular infirmities and limitations that come with aging, Jo and I can enjoy living out our lives in the house built by two sons-in-law in 1996 on the property we bought in 1964. We can watch the ducks on the beaver pond down across Chickering Road, enjoy the hummingbirds at their feeder, share crab apples with the deer, and admire black bears ambling by. “Good old friends” bring lunch or share our tuna melts. A member of Jo’s sangha comes for weekly readings and discussion. An energetic young woman from Yorkshire writes and reads poetry with Jo.

A stair lift, an electric bath tub chair, and walkers accommodate Jo’s limitations from her stroke in 1999. Cortisone injections and pain killers ease the pain from my spinal stenosis. I am enduring standing long enough to pick and freeze several



Photo: Jo and Art Chickering

gallons of blueberries from our loaded bushes. I can still get in wood with my chainsaw and cut our grass with ride-on and push mowers. I hobble around for twice-weekly tennis during the winter. Audio books from Jo’s iPad and from Vermont’s accommodating Special Services Library staff keep hours on the couch interesting. Recordings of MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow and Laurence O’Donnell fire up our breakfast juices, thanks to Trump. PBS’s series, National Geographic Nature Programs, and Turner Classic Movies send us off to bed.

But we could not live out these final years and feel comfortable about dying in this place, without the ever ready emotional and practical support, sensitivity, and omnipresent awareness of our four “kids,” now in their 60s: Alan, Susan, Peri, and Nancy. Sue calls afternoons “just to check in” and supplements my meat and

potatoes with quiche and pasta. Doctor daughter Nancy visits twice weekly, helps Jo exercise, and provides advice and counsel. Peri comes to stay when we need additional help, and weekly phone conversations keep us in touch with Alan. Our sons-in-law also pitch in: John plows our driveway, maintains our ride-on lawn mower, and is there for emergency medical services. Kris steps up with his total competence when we have some special need. Andrew’s attentiveness help keep us centered and mindful.

So—blessed are we to the end of our days, when the Dartmouth Medical Center will collect our remains.

— *Art and Jo Chickering live on Chickering Rd.*

Enjoying Jokes and Camaraderie

“Why can’t you hear a pterodactyl going to the bathroom?”
“Because the P is silent!”

I get to listen to great jokes while driving our grandchildren



Photo: Greg and grandson

to school, and I get to share their stories with my exercise class at Four Corners Schoolhouse after I drop Jude (age five) at Orchard Valley and Theo (age seven) at EMES. While driving is a minor contribution, I know it helps Brooke and Andy get to work more easily and helps baby Truman (age one) get his regular nap.

Our daughter, Brooke, and her husband and three children moved back to East Montpelier three years ago, much to our delight. Both parents realized how much nicer it is to raise children in Vermont as opposed to busy Boston, and they have been thrilled with the quality of education and their quality of life in East Montpelier. They both work fulltime; and though they now have a wonderful nanny, Greg and I find plenty of opportunities to see their kids almost daily.

I love meeting Theo at the bus and having him come play after school. Greg has a regular golf and fishing buddy in Jude. If I’m cooking, it’s easy to add a little more and have them eat dinner with us. It’s also fun to have them spend the night and let their parents go out or just get to sleep in. It’s a little embarrassing how many books, legos, doll clothes, and games we have from raising our own children, most of which are still on the same shelves they sat on 35 years ago. Now I’m glad we saved them. We feel useful and very lucky. And sometimes we even learn some really good jokes.

— *Wendy Soliday and her husband, Greg MacDonald, raised their three children, Addie, Brooke, and Luke, in East Montpelier.*

They now have five grandchildren; Marlow and Sydney MacDonald live in Northampton, MA, and Theo, Jude, and Truman Morse live on Brazier Rd. Their son Luke recently returned from CA to live in Burlington. While all their children took off to big cities and distant places for a while, they seem to have settled close to home.

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We're So Lucky

Over 10 years ago, our first grandchild was born. Not only were we thrilled, awed, and wowed in every way by her entry into our lives, but we became something very different from what we were moments before her arrival. We always thought it was a joke that being a grandparent is so much fun and how we would have skipped the parenting phase and gone straight to it if possible. My husband was the lucky one to be the designated caregiver once a week for Ayla, and his Friday trips to her home in Chittenden County quickly became his favorite day of the week.

After her brother was born two years later, my husband continued his weekly adventures as the Friday babysitter. He came home with detailed stories about their outings together, puppet shows, clay creations, and other worlds of make-believe. When our other daughter had children, we both got to enjoy regular times with her sons here at our home. We feel fortunate to have had these opportunities to be so connected to our grandchildren and to be able to be part of their development.

This is the first year they are all of school age and it is going to require a considerable adjustment on our part.

— *Jamie O'Hare and her husband, Michael, live on Dodge Rd.*

Neighbors Become Family

You can choose your friends, but not your family—so goes the saying. The four of us moved here around 1980, leaving our own families a solid six-hour drive away in New York and New Jersey. Separately, we landed on Brazier Road and discovered that all of us had a strong desire to create community and family. With only a short walk between our homes, it was easy for us to rely on one another.



Photo: Anne and Ralph Flanders

When the kids were born, our interdependency increased. We became close with other families outside the neighborhood as well. With a group of three or four good friends, we had the security of knowing we could meet any challenge—be it transportation, childcare, getting a break from screaming kids, or getting through some rough teenage years.

Another piece of our search for family was finding our elders. We'd left our birth elders many miles south of Vermont. We needed, and wanted, local elders. And we totally lucked out here on Brazier Road. From the beginning, we had Anne and Ralph Flanders—two of our town's beloved elders who always had room for more in their hearts. We also found Norma Raymond, another town treasure, whose heart knew no limits.

Both sets of elders became family. When a fire severely damaged the house Doug and Renee were renting, they moved in with Ralph and Anne. Norma once showed up at Paul and Rachael's with an entire dinner from salad to dessert—just because. There was the time that eight-year-old Ari found himself mistakenly home alone after school (instead of at the school skiing program where he was supposed to be). He called Norma



Photo: Norma Raymond by Annie Tiberio

asking, "Do you know the way to East Montpelier Elementary School?" Then there was the time when, watching an over-exuberant three-year-old Brent, Ralph alleviated some of Doug and Renee's concerns with the comment, "He really celebrates life, doesn't he?"

From Ralph and Anne we learned about gardening in Vermont and how to bake a moist green tomato chocolate cake (to die for). From Norma we learned about our town's history and how to make do when without (most anything). From all of them we learned the long view of life that comes with full lives of many years. What did we know? We were just kids—with young kids of our own. We had a lot to learn about living and raising families in rural East Montpelier; our treasured elders, who truly were family to us, had the knowledge and experience to show us the way.

— *Doug and Renee Kievit Kylar, Paul Erlbaum, and Rachael Grossman have been sharing life together on Brazier Rd. since 1983. Between them, they have three kids, one daughter-in-law, and two grandsons.*

Continued on page 6

Mutual Admiration

As we age, life can throw us a curve ball. Losing my spouse after 40 years of marriage and retiring after 46 years of teaching could have left a huge void in my life. Then I started doing day care for my four-month-old grandson. The arrival in April of my second grandson gave me additional job security. There is no better feeling than when three-year-old Blakely says, “Grammy Mary, I love you so much,” or four-month-old Maverick stops sucking his bottle to give me a big smile. Life can’t be any better than that.

I know I’m providing a huge service to my son and daughter-in-law, but the benefits to me are immeasurable. What better start in life can one have than to have your primary caregivers be your father, your mother, and your grandmother?

And then there’s Dylan in North Carolina. In November, I’ll visit and care for her also. Life is a series of changes, and it is important to make the best of it.

— Mary Redmond lives and nurtures on Powder Horn Glen Rd.



Photo: Redmond grandchildren

Feeling Lucky to Have a Close Family

We are very fortunate in our family to have our two young grandchildren, Penny (nearly three) and James (eight months) living just down the end of our road. Our son Will and his wife, Victoria, purchased the Manghi’s home at the end of Markham Road, and our properties now abut. We have been caring for Penny at our house all day on Monday and Thursday for the last 18 months. Our daughter, Nora, has returned to Vermont and has a close connection to Penny and James through books and cooking. Nora’s husband, Peter, will be in charge of getting the kids mountain running. Our other son, Eamon, lives in Newport, Rhode Island, and travels to Vermont often—especially in the winter. He and his soon-to-be wife are in charge of teaching Penny and James how to ski and hunt. We share many meals, errands, childcare, and tools for gardening and wood cutting. We never take for granted how lucky we are to have such a close family that can have fun helping and enjoying spending time with each other.

— Michael Duane & his wife, Ellen Knoedler, live on Markham Rd.

Established in 1788: The Peck Family Farm

The first family on earth had no parents, birth certificates or “dependent” tax deductions. They did have other things in common with humanity: love of the garden, animals, and family.

Those three commonalities are vital to our new family as we raise and encourage the eighth generation of Peck Farm descendants. We treasure the advantages of our multi-generational family and hope to pass them on.

Three increasingly uncommon traits are necessary to build a strong family: self-sacrifice, generosity, and intentional human contact. Past family members stayed here and made sacrifices of career, finance, relationship, comfort, and convenience. Those sacrifices returned dividends of joy, authenticity, and consistency that help our children grow up with an identity tied to generations of magnanimous love. If they loved this land enough to settle and stay, we should as well.

While the fabric of society changes, the need for a sense of place and belonging is timeless. The Vermont landscape beckons children of all ages to work, play, and stay. Yet, still they leave. How do we encourage our family to stay and thrive in Vermont? We start by having family meals one to three times a day. We call, text, or visit one another often. We talk about bird sightings, fawns, bears, and butterflies. We share



Photo: Duane grandchildren

observations about the fruit trees, commune over a table of fresh garden vegetables, and chat about corn or the quality of a nearby pasture. This talk is not just about our own gardens. There is a long Vermont tradition of Sunday drives just for the sake of “visiting,” which is code for friendly rural spying. In so doing we sow the seeds of community, which find root in the fertile ground of family. A deep family tree is fertile ground for all. May it always be so.

— Daniel Bair lives with his wife, Leila, and three young children, Abigail, James, and Josiah, on Center Rd. in one of the houses of the Peck Farm. His mother, Joanne Bair, lives across the road in the original Peck farmhouse where Daniel grew up.

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East Montpelier Harvest Festival

Mark your calendar: on October 6, the East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) is the place to be. Many community members have missed East Montpelier's annual September Rally Day—an opportunity to get together for fun and fundraising—which was discontinued a few years ago. Now we hear that plans are underway for an end-of-the-season festival this October that sounds similar in many ways to that bygone day of family fun.

The primary grade teachers at the elementary school will be hosting a community Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 6 at EMES. Here are some things that young and old can anticipate: a farmer's market, live music, an obstacle course race, a silent auction, and a harvest dinner. A wonderful fireworks display, generously donated by our own Northstar Fireworks, will cap off what promises to be a terrific day. Many great activities and events are still in the planning stages; more information will be available on Front Porch Forum and other local sources as soon as the details get worked out.

We hope to see you all for this fun family event. Proceeds from the day will be donated to sustain our outdoor education program for primary students.

If you would like to have a table at the Farmer's Market or would be interested in helping that day please contact Jillian Zeilenga (jzeilenga@u32.org).

Bench to be Dedicated to David Coburn

The East Montpelier and Calais Historical Societies, along with the Four Corners Schoolhouse Association and the Coburn family, will honor the memory of David Coburn on Sunday, September 23, at 2:00 at the Four Corners Schoolhouse with the dedication of a bench. The bench, made by Hobie Guion, will provide a lovely view, and one sitting on it will have a lovely view of the Spruce Mountain Range and the Winooski River Valley. A brief ceremony will be followed by refreshments and visiting. It is open to the public. (The rain date will be the following Sunday.)

Paulie's Recipe

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

Orange Marmalade

1 doz. oranges	Slice the fruit thin/ turn water over it and let stand
6 lemons	24 hours or until fruit is tender. Add the sugar and
3 qts. water	boil half an hour longer. Turn into tumblers and
8 lbs. sugar	cover with parafin.

Paulie's Comment: I made half a batch of marmalade – it is plenty. Very tasty and fun to make. I cooked it longer (1 hour) to thicken more after adding sugar.

Editor's note: Would go well with Karen's scones. (See East Montpelier Eats)

New Pet Grant Program at Twin Valley Senior Center

Research tells us that seniors with pets are healthier and happier: they are 36 percent less likely to report loneliness and have 21 percent fewer doctor visits. A \$2,500 grant has kicked off the TVSC pet initiative that will provide pet food and supplies and can arrange for a veterinarian and groomer who will make house calls. This is another way that TVSC helps clients receive so much more than just a meal.

Through grant funding opportunities and in-kind donations we hope to grow the program at TVSC. If you would like to support this program, we will be happy to accept donations at P.O. Box 152, East Montpelier, Vt. 05651. Please note that it is for the Pet Fund.



Karen Kane doesn't do anything by accident. Many of us know her as the face behind Paris by Design, the consulting business she ran for many

years. Some of us have been lucky enough to have her design a trip for us or go on one of her Paris or Montreal tours.

So it was no accident that when Karen decided to close Paris by Design, she set about nurturing another passion—baking. The Adamant Co-op was looking for someone to provide scones at the same time that Karen was perfecting a variety of sweet and savory delicacies. Co-op staff was delighted to weigh in on the quality of her scones and, voila! A new business was born.

Karen tells us that delicious recipes, consistently reproduced, are key. Helen Labun, another amazing East Montpelier baker, graciously gave Karen her recipes. A food processor is helpful if you're making more than an occasional batch of scones. Karen uses high quality ingredients—fresh herbs, butter, cream, Madagascar vanilla, and King Arthur flour.

For anyone thinking about starting a small baking business, Karen has this advice. "It's important to specialize, no matter what your product is. And to be involved with something you love. I've been very lucky. After living in Paris, I developed a business based on my knowledge of the city. Now I'm moving in a different, though related, direction. While scones aren't French, I developed my palate in Paris, and that's where I learned the pleasures of gathering around the table to share good food with others. If I were going to have a name for my business, it would be Scones & Company."

If you are dying for a scone after reading this article, head to the Adamant Co-op. Karen delivers on Monday and Thursday mornings. For special events or special guests, Karen will take orders of eight or more scones.

Here's Karen's advice for anyone wanting to make scones: Shape the scones, place on baking pan. Freeze for about 20 minutes. The pan should go directly from freezer to preheated oven. This will give you scones that are very light. Check out the *Adamant Co-Op Cookbook* recipe for Traditional Cream Scones.

Karen would be delighted to talk about all things scones with you. She can be reached at: 456-8770 or email karen.parisbydesign@gmail.com

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



Photo: Karen Kane

Town Weathervane

Milestones

Births

- Avarie Oaklyn Kirby, a daughter, born to Veronica Quintanilla & Ross Kirby in April
- Theodore Hall, a son, to Elizabeth & Richard Hall in April
- Adeline Sayers, a daughter, to Carley & Justin Sayers in April
- Levi Preston, a son, to Kristin Brooks & Brian Preston, Jr. in May
- Ashton Lee Petteys Littlefield, a son to Caitlyn Petteys & David Littlefield in May
- Ellis Brynn Mroczek, a daughter, born to Devon & Ross Mroczek in May

Deaths

- Thelma Welch, a widow, died in April
- Maria Calamia, wife of Charles Calamia, died in July
- Esther Hoffman, mother of Richard Hoffman of East Montpelier, died in July
- Diane Dopp, sister to Sandy Bailey & Michael Ciampi, both of East Montpelier, died in July
- Susan Couture, wife of John Couture & mother of Opal Jones, both of East Montpelier, died in July
- Ann T. Evans, a/k/a Martha Evans, wife of Frank Evans, died in July

Land Transfers

- Key to Deed Types:
Key to Deed Types: W=Warranty Q=Quit Claim C=Corrective E=Easement M=Mobile Home
- Milton Hemingway to Milton Hemingway & Shereen Lena 0.34 acres & dwelling on Quaker Rd (Q)
- Robert & Rebekah Brown to Town of East Montpelier 0.06 acre easement on Quaker Rd (E)

Thank you, Signpost Supporter!
Nancy Couch

- Paul Ibey to Town of East Montpelier 0.04 acre easement on Quaker Rd (E)
- Richard & Debra Curtis to Town of East Montpelier 0.08 acre easement on Quaker Rd (E)
- Rubin Bennett & Shaline Kirkpatrick to Bennett Family Trust dated June 1, 2018, 1.10 acres & dwelling (Q)
- Kurt Pearson & Susan Gabor to Kenneth M. & Barbara J. Pearson, 3 acres & dwelling on Bliss Rd (Q)
- Shayd & Laurie Pecor to Willington Savings Funds Society, FSB, A, 3.00 acres & dwelling on Coburn Rd (Deed in Lieu of Foreclosure)
- Stephen S. Rauh #1 to Georgia D, Kenneth & Patricia Valentine. 10.8 acres open land, Lot 1 Murray Rd (W)
- Bridget & Thomas Coburn to Nicole Clark, 1.6 acres & dwelling on VT Route 14N (W)
- Cynthia Green & Donald Melcher to Phillip Humphrey, Jr. 2.26 acres & dwelling on Pine Ridge Rd (W)
- John Robert Hamilton to Jeremy Wallace-Brodeur and Carolyn Casner, 44 acres & dwelling on Butterfield Rd (W)
- Kenneth R. Libertoff to Kenneth R. Libertoff & Sarah D. Hofmann 9.60 acres & dwelling on Sparrow Farm Rd (W)
- Lynn Fabrizio to Ernest & Ina Broe 1 acre & dwelling on Center Rd (W)
- Cherry Tree LLC to Ramiz Bikic, 3.26 acres open land on Deerfield Lane (W)
- Susan Atwood to Isaiah & Jessica Seret, 17 acres & dwelling on County Rd (W)
- Jessica Taylor to Elizabeth Walsh & Nicholas Pantano, 10 acres & dwelling on Chickering Rd (W)
- Ryan & Tara Bugbee to Margaret Fawcett & David Thomas 3 acres open land on Captain Kidd Rd (W)
- Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. to The Secretary of Housing & Urban Development, 1.57 acres & dwelling on Pine Ridge Rd (Foreclosure)

Selectboard

May 21, 2018

Discussion items:

- Records Management Policy and Records Retention Plan with Town Clerk
- Options for improving the recreation field entrance and parking lot area
- Consideration of adding NEMRC Grand List options to town's in-development Web Map Service

Motions Passed:

- To authorize the Town Administrator to finalize the 5-year agreement with Conduent (formerly ACS/Xerox) for a land records system
- To authorize the Town Administrator to sign the updated Northeast Delta Dental Plan agreement

June 4, 2018

- Selectboard Public Hearing Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§4385 on the Proposed 2018 East Montpelier Town Plan
- The board accepted comments from the public
- Selectboard Meeting

Motions Passed:

- To adopt the 2018 East Montpelier Town Plan
- To authorize Chair [Seth] Gardner to sign the application for the boundary adjustment with the LaPerle family
- To participate in the FY2019 Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid program
- To authorize Chair Gardner to sign a letter of support for a 2018 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program application to secure the necessary funding for the construction of the EM Village sidewalk project
- To authorize TA Johnson to sign and submit a 2018 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program application for an amendment in the amount of \$200,000 to the original 2012 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian grant
- To accept the Gravel Construction Co., Inc. \$107,492.00 construction bid for the Quaker Road Culvert Replacement project
- To authorize TA Johnson to sign and submit the amendment request for FY2017 VTrans Structures Grant BC1773
- To appoint Lindy Johnson, Paul Erlbaum, Sue Racanelli, Sandal Cate, Ann Stanton, Jeanne Malachowski, and Kate Rader to the East Montpelier Funding Request Study Committee and Rebecca Schrader to the East Montpelier Revolving Loan Advisory Committee

June 18, 2018

Discussion items:

- Future Capital Projects Questionnaire
- Letter in support of EMSLI
- VTRANS wetlands mitigation project with Friends of Cobourn Pond

Motions Passed:

- To allocate \$2,900 from the Capital Reserve Fund to develop a preliminary design and cost estimate for the East Montpelier Recreation Field road frontage work
- To transfer \$414,817 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund
- To assign the current FY2018 budget surplus in the following manner:
 - \$5,000 to be added to the funds set aside to cover the future costs of allowable leave
 - Reimbursements at the time of employee termination; and, any remaining audited FY2018 budget surplus to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund;
 - Further, to release to the unrestricted fund balance the \$10,000 restricted in 2017 to cover the East Montpelier Fire District #1's now-paid loan; the unused \$25,000 set aside two years ago for the road foreman transition; and, to the extent it is unused, the \$75,000 committed to the FY2018 budget; and,
 - \$100,000 of the unassigned current fund balance shall be assigned to reduce property taxes in FY2019
- To approve the 2018 Warrant to Impound Unlicensed Dogs
- To adopt the Records Management Policy and Records Retention Plan as presented
- To authorize up to \$3,500 for work on asbestos remediation and permitting for the Old LaPerle farmhouse

- To approve the FY2019 wage schedule for municipal employees as presented
- To appoint officers as detailed:
 - Don Welch as Town Treasurer for the term July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019;
 - Don Welch as Collector of Current Taxes for the term July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019;
 - Denise Sparrow as Assistant Town Clerk for the term July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019;
 - Denise Sparrow as Assistant Town Treasurer for the term July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019;
 - Bruce Johnson as Zoning Administrator for the term July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019;
 - Bruce Johnson as Collector of Delinquent Taxes for the term July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019;
 - Gene Troia as Acting Zoning Administrator for the term July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019;
 - Seth Gardner as Road Commissioner for the term July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019;
 - Bruce Johnson as Road Commissioner for the term July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019
- To approve access permit 18-019, to shift residential access at 513 Bliss Road to the south.

July 9, 2018

Discussion items:

- Proposed Recreation Field entrance/parking lot area improvement project with Recreation Board
- With Revolving Load Advisory Committee (RLAC).
- Of tenant farmer concern at 918 County Road regarding welfare of tenant's livestock

Motions Passed:

- To adopt the Northfield Savings Bank corporate authorization resolutions for the Capital Reserve Fund and the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund CDs, with Treasurer Don Welch and Assistant Treasurer Denise Sparrow named as agents
- To authorize the Town Treasurer to sign and submit the Vermont Claim Form for unclaimed funds
- To authorize the Town Administrator to sign the VTrans Better Roads Grant Agreement
- To authorize the chair to sign the letter of support for EMSL's senior housing initiative
- To authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Lease Addendum to Fairmont Farm, Inc., Solar Facility Lease at Lyle Young Farm Location
- To authorize the Chair to sign the letter of support for Friends of Coburn Pond as presented, encouraging a Natural Resources Board (Act 250) enforcement effort
- To authorize the Collector of Delinquent Taxes to sign James Barlow's proposal for attorney services related to tax sale proceedings, as amended
- To authorize the Town Administrator to sign and submit the Notice of Intent for the Municipal Roads General Permit

Planning Commission

June 7, 2018

Discussion items:

- Brandy Saxton of PlaceSense about Technical Report and Outline
- 2018 Town Plan status: The plan has been adopted by the SB and has been submitted to CVRPC for approval. The plan took effect upon adoption by SB.
- Updates by Energy and Old LaPerle Farm Property committees

July 5, 2018

Discussion items:

- Public comment taken on Coburn Pond Act 250 project regarding enforcement of terms of the permit.
- Zoning Update: Consultant suggests nine districts instead of the current five
- Motion Passed to support the Recreation Board's grant process

Design Review Board

June 5, 2018

Motions Passed:

- To approve subdivision application #18-012 of Fairmont Dairy LLC as submitted with the condition that Lot 3A be conveyed to an adjoining landowner with no new access required
- To approve the large lot waiver for Faulkner/Guion for property located at 445 Kelton Road

EMES

May 21, 2018 (unapproved)

Motions Passed:

- To approve the hire of Mr. Robert Reed, for 0.42 FTE PreK Teacher
- To accept the retirement of Ms. Beth Downing

June 13 2018 (unapproved)

Motions Passed:

- To enter and exit executive session for student hearing on weapons violation
- To approve the recommendation of the administration

U32

May 23, 2018

- Discussion of flag policy

Motions Passed:

- To accept the resignation of Scott Harris
- To accept the following appointments: David Davis, 1.0 FTE English; Mark Brown, 1.0 FTE English; Matthew Girouard, 1.0 FTE Science; Jill Abair, Library Media Specialist/Technology Integrationist

June 6, 2018 (unapproved)

Discussion items:

- Public comments on Black Lives Matter flag
- Cell phone policy.
- Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Beliefs Statement.
- Motion passed to approve the hiring of Kim McKellar, 0.6 FTE Work-Based Learning Coordinator



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CALENDAR

Mon. Sept. 17, 6 p.m. E. Calais Recreation Center, Family night for the East Montpelier and Calais Historical Societies, potluck supper. State Archaeologist, Jess Robinson will talk about Vermont's archaeology. Contact Gail Graham, 223-5814, gailgra@msn.com

Sun. Sept. 23, 2 p.m. Four Corners Schoolhouse, dedication of bench in memory of Dave Coburn. Refreshments to follow.

Sat. Oct. 6 East Montpelier Harvest Festival, EMES. See p.7.

Mon. Oct. 15, 6 p.m. Old Brick Church, meeting of the East Montpelier and Calais Historical Societies, potluck supper to include Wayside Restaurant bread. Restaurant owner Brian Zechanelli will talk about "100 Years at the Wayside." Annual meetings and election of officers will follow. Contact Sandal Cate, 223-6466, sandal@sover.net

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon. Sept. 3, Labor Day, Town Offices closed

Tues. Nov. 6, General Election, EMES, absentee ballots available by late Sept.

Thurs. Nov. 15, by 5 p.m. first tax installment due, at the Town Office

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee

Development Review Board (DRB)

East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) Board

East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)

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.

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

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