

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XXIX—Number Two

November/December 2018

Miriam Bernardo: Keeping Art Alive in East Montpelier

by Becca Schrader

You could say Miriam Bernardo didn't choose music; music chose her. She's been performing in Vermont and across the Northeast for more than fifteen years, but singing has been a part of her entire life. For as long as she can remember, song has been a positive, freeing force that she simply had to let out.

Miriam was born in Boston and moved to Vermont when she was six. She grew up in Athens and moved to East Montpelier 14 years ago to be with her sweetheart Robinson (Rob) Morse, a fellow musician. Since that time, living in the area has allowed her to take full advantage of what she says is one of the best things about being an artist in Central Vermont: joining and

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Photo by Luke Awtry



Photo by Terry J. Allen

Tregia Bevan: Fiber Artist

by Hilari Farrington

A friend once gave fiber artist and designer Tregia Bevan a greeting card that pictured a woman standing on the back of a galloping horse. The caption read "Intrepid." It's hard to imagine a better way to describe this artisan, ballroom dancer, horsewoman, skier, chef, kayaker, adventurer, and all-around woman of action.

On the day of our interview, Tregia had just returned from a juried craft show in Chicago where she was exhibiting her line of elegant clothing made from handwoven fabrics in jewel-like colors.

Born in Washington, D.C., where her father was attending Georgetown University Law School, she moved with her family shortly thereafter to Rockland County, New York, along the Hudson River north of Manhattan. It was a solidly middle-class,

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Top of the Signpost

I'm writing this on a day that feels more like summer than fall, but I know that by the time you read this in early November, there may be signs of winter in the air. I attended a perfect end to summer on October 6: the Harvest Festival at EMES. Teachers and staff presented a day full of events, good food, and visiting with neighbors reminiscent of our former East Montpelier Rally Day. See photos and story below.

Rally Day was a similar day of family-oriented fun and food that was enjoyed by many of us for well over twenty years. Several years ago, it became a casualty of our very busy lives: there was no one willing and able to take on the very significant organization work that made the event so popular.

I salute the EMES staff, under the leadership of kindergarten teacher, Jillian Zeilenga, who took on these tasks this year and, in the process, raised needed funds for an outdoor education program while giving a wonderful gift to the community. I hope we are looking at a resurgence of community feeling and support as the organizers talk of another festival next year.

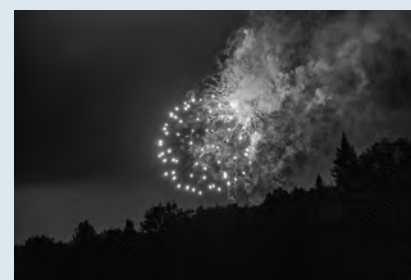
— Edie Miller is a Signpost volunteer

Harvest Festival 2018: Rally Day Redux

Under sunny blue skies, the Harvest Festival at East Montpelier Elementary School was a huge success on October 6. With the race/walk first thing in the morning, the farmers market, the pony rides, lamb petting, obstacle course, live music, and ending with the community dinner, silent auction, and spectacular fireworks, there were activities suitable for the young and not-so-young. Families thoroughly enjoyed the activities and, perhaps even more, the chance to visit with neighbors. Thanks to all the volunteers and especially to Chef Martin Smith for creating a delicious variety of soups and to Northstar Fireworks for capping off a wonderful day in fitting manner.

All proceeds from the event go to support the outdoor education program (ECO) at EMES. Congratulations and thanks to the EMES community, under the leadership of Jillian Zeilenga, who supplied the energy and enthusiasm to create this wonderful community event.

Harvest Festival photos, clockwise: Musicians Jairo Sequeira and Thomas Morse; Jenna Ryan helping Adaline Ryan, Ezra and Ari Chapin get their booth ready; fireworks presented by Northstar Fireworks (fireworks photos by Terry J. Allen)



Growing Habits of Mind at EMES

by Ann Stanton

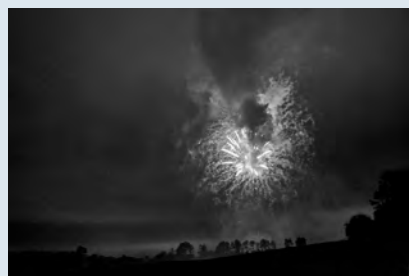
Last spring, I was excited and intrigued to hear that EMES had introduced a mindset approach across the grades: excited, because the mindset idea comes out of thirty-plus years of important research by psychologist Carol Dweck; intrigued, because I didn't know how that research could be translated to a classroom. This fall, I interviewed Beth Parker, who continues to use the mindset curriculum, and I spent the morning in her second-and-third grade classroom observing a lively crew of 21 students to see it in action.

Mindset is how Dweck describes two different ways that people think about their own abilities and performance. Someone with a fixed mindset believes that intelligence is inborn and so are talents such as math, drawing, and sports.

Facing a shortcoming or failure, these folks tend to think and say things like, "I can't draw," and "I've never been good at math." A person with a growth mindset sees falling short as a signal of needing to try harder. Growth-minded people tell themselves, "Try another way," "I need to practice some more," and "Next time, I'll do better." Until I encountered this research, I myself had a strong fixed mindset: proud of my grades and reluctant to try anything where I might fail. Dweck discovered these patterns initially in grade-school children; she found that girls were more likely to show the fixed mindset—focusing on neat papers, good grades, and exemplary behavior—than boys. Interestingly, it was the boys who were willing, even eager, to respond to the challenge of doing hard puzzles.

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More Harvest Festival photos, clockwise: face painter Ashley Gilstad working on Asher Swenson; Addison Coleman and Emarie Brown; Kaitlin Irwin enjoys a pony ride provided by Erica Zimmerman of Center Farm; fireworks presented by Northstar Fireworks (fireworks photos by Terry J. Allen)



David Coburn Remembered



Members of the Coburn family honor Dave

On September 23 a lovely cedar bench was placed on the grounds of the Four Corners Schoolhouse in a cooperative venture between the Four Corners Schoolhouse Association and the East Montpelier Historical Society. The bench was built by East Montpelier resident Hobie Guion, covered by an antique woolen blanket woven in the former North Montpelier Mill, and placed next to the Cate family bench. It was a bright, early fall day, and the view toward the Spruce Mountain range was clear and dramatic.

The bench honors David Coburn who passed away in April, 2017. Dave held many positions of leadership in our town—too many to name here. His family is very much a part of the community still, with several members occupying the historic family home. Sandal Cate and Diana Fielder made a few remarks about Dave and his contributions to the town, and others from the gathering of 40 or so folks shared additional memories. Then members of the Coburn family removed the blanket and tried out the bench. (Pictured here.) If you're passing that way and have a few minutes to stop and enjoy the view, please do! Dave would be happy that folks can take the time to reflect on the beauty and importance of our fine community.

East Montpelier Historical Society: the Year in Review

Our historical society has had an active year in 2018. We hold joint programs with the Calais Historical Society and separate business meetings. Usually we have a delicious potluck dinner, with an occasional brown bag supper and field trip.

Our year started in February with Ben Ward, a Calais high school senior, talking about “Getting Young People Involved in History.” In March, Chris Reed of East Montpelier showed photos describing his 2017 kayaking venture along the historic Champlain and Erie Canals. In April we held our annual sugar-on-snow party and shared stories of sugaring in the past. Our May meeting began at the historic Four Corners Schoolhouse in East Montpelier. Following a brown bag supper, Nona Estrin and Reed Cherington shared information about town trails in East Montpelier and Calais. We then went to the Dodge Trail to visit the historical marker dedicated to original settlers. In June we went to the Old West Church for a brown bag supper to hear about the ongoing renovation of the Old West Church steeple.

In July we had the annual croquet competition between our two societies, followed by an ice cream social.

The weather in East Montpelier cooperated this year, but Calais took home the trophy! On August 20 we took a tour of the Templeton Farm, home of Bruce Chapell, who provided maple ice cream sundaes and a guided tour of the dairy barn and expanded sugarhouse. September was Archaeology Month, and State Archaeologist Jess Robinson presented a program on Vermont’s archaeological history. In October, restaurant owner Brian Zechinelli discussed “100 Years at the Wayside.”

Our final meeting of 2018 will take place on Monday, November 19 at the Old Brick Church in E. Montpelier Village starting with a 6:00 p.m. potluck supper. The 7:00 p.m. program will feature Tina Bielenberg sharing “Bridges to the Past—Stories of our Elders”, with business meetings to follow. Meetings are free of charge and everyone is invited and welcome to attend.

Check out www.eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org for our calendar of events and more. Additional information can be had by contacting President Sandal Cate at 223-6466 or sandal@sover.net.

collaborating with a community of artists that all support one another's projects. Bernardo, who doesn't restrict herself to a particular genre, is particularly well-suited to thrive in this environment, performing with everyone from the Montpelier Chamber Orchestra to the Eames Brothers. Jazz, salsa, rock, it's all second nature to her—in Spanish or English. Her musical influences are just as wide-ranging. She enjoys listening to many different kinds of music; and depending on what's happening in her life or the project she's working on, her playlist may include anything from Joni Mitchell to Alabama Shakes.

Currently, she's in two bands, as well as working on and off with six or seven other projects. She fronts Steady Betty, a nine-member, all-female rocksteady reggae band, and also sings with High Summer, a group of area musicians from different bands that performs a mix of original compositions and covers. Previously, she's been part of several other duos and bands, including Magic City with Michael Chorney, the folkloric group Amapola, and the salsa band Afinque.

In many ways, her latest project is a culmination of the best parts of her work and the best parts of being part of a local community of artists. For the last four years, she's been working on a solo album produced by Peg Tasse and supported in part by a Kickstarter campaign. Many of the songs on the album were written for her or given to her by her favorite singer-songwriters, including Patti Casey ("Good to You"), and Anais Mitchell. One song on the album, "Contraption," is particularly special. It was written by Michael Chorney. When she asked him to write a song for her, he replied that he'd do her one better and write a song about her—specifically about her voice. "It's beautiful and simple," she says, "really an honor." *Songs for Miriam* will be released soon.

There are pros and cons to living an artist's life in Central Vermont. Bernardo says one of the greatest challenges is getting paid what you're worth. Ideally, she says, musicians are "paid well, fed, and listened to." But being able to play with good people, to make lasting connections—those things can make the hard

parts more bearable. She's held 9–5 jobs before but has found that a piecemeal approach at several different gigs works better to give her the flexibility she needs to "keep the art alive." These days, part of that means working as a server at Three Penny Taproom (one of her songs also appears in their commercial). From May to November, or "whenever the soil is pliable" here in Vermont, Miriam also works as a gardener. Another challenge is staying inspired to keep going. Her commitment to making the music work is inspired partially by her Cuban grandmother. Miriam honors her by embracing freedom and "living the life she couldn't."

Another challenge, though not one necessarily unique to being in Central Vermont, is the need for constant self-promotion. Bernardo is passionate about sharing her gift and loves performing, but to keep your calendar full and make a living, you need to be able to do more than create and perform. You're managing a small business, and you have to do a lot of marketing and logistics. Fortunately, the bands she's currently with have other people who do the promotion, negotiations, and scheduling work. But if you want to keep working and be able to devote energy and time to the projects you care about, you have to do a certain amount of telling the world how great you are—and that's not something that comes naturally to Bernardo. With her differing music styles appealing to broad audiences, and with the trust and support she's built from audiences and fellow artists alike, she's been able to make a good name for herself and create longevity in her career while maintaining her integrity.

The best way to hear Miriam's music is to attend a live show, but a preview is available at her website, miriambernardo.com, at steadybettyvt.com, or at highsummervt.com.

— *Becca Schrader lives in East Montpelier with her husband Earl and two sons, Taggart and Duncan. She works at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and in her spare time enjoys singing, watching her kids play sports, and taking in Vermont's beautiful landscapes and local foods.*

Twin Valley Senior Center Knitting Group

Twin Valley Senior Center has had a knitting group for some time thanks to Kass Phillips from Plainfield. After Kass taught a class on how to use knitting looms to make hats, the group met weekly, and some even took the looms home to make more hats. The group—consisting of Phillips, Judy Cookson, Barbara Pearson, Doris Washburn, Lu Pacheco, Sandy Noyes, Jean Lawson, and Audrey Huntington—made well over 200 hats that were donated to people who need hats. Special thanks go to Huntington for her many creative donations of hats and shawls.

Mary Ann Cerasoli and Loretta Schneider organized the distribution of the knitted products to the Christian Appalachian Project in Kentucky, the Fairbanks Cancer Center in Alaska, Calvary Hospital Cancer Center, Bronx, N.Y., the Good Samaritan Shelter in Barre, the Kurn Hattin Homes in Southern Vermont, and the Linda Clemens Cancer Center in Connecticut.

A new knitting group will start after the first of the year. If you would like to take part in this group please email Twinvalleyseniors@myfairpoint.net. Donations of acrylic type nine washable yarn or monetary donations are welcome at any time and can be dropped off at the center.

Another fine piece of work from TVSC seniors is a new cookbook called *Recipes and Remembrances* on sale now for \$10.50. This cookbook is filled with many recipes from our members and some from their parents' cookbooks dating back to 1835, making it a wonderful gift for any occasion. Please feel free to call to reserve yours or drop by the center. We will also mail you a copy if you are unable to pick it up. Just drop us a note with name and address on your check. Please add "Cookbook" on the memo line.

“baby boom” community, filled with children around the same age as Tregea and her twin brother.

“My father was the son of a Pennsylvania coal miner of Welsh extraction, and he was the first in his family to go to college. My mother was an artist from Ohio. She had gone to art school but then moved to D.C. to seek her fortune. That’s where she met my dad.”

Tregea says that she was a tomboy in childhood. “I ran everywhere! I was taught to ski by one of the local dads who built a little ski hill in the neighborhood and taught all the neighborhood children. Having learned so young, I was never afraid.”

In fact, it was skiing and schooling that brought her to Vermont. Having gone to a progressive public school in New York, she found that Johnson State College reminded her of that experience, and it turned out to be a perfect fit. Although her major was history (Senator Bill Doyle was her first history teacher), she also became interested in dance, art, anthropology, and environmental science.

She stayed at Johnson State for two years and then took a year off to ski. During that time she met her first husband, a woodworker, and moved to his home in Woodbury. Tregea explained that South Woodbury was a hotbed of artisans at the time, and, as in Renaissance Florence, she and the others began to trade ideas and skills, inspiring one another along the way.

Tregea’s interest in fiber arts came early. Taught to sew and knit at a very young age by her grandmother and namesake, Blanche Tregea Bevan, she showed a gift for making things with her hands. She knit hats for everyone on her high school ski team, and in home economics class, she decided to create a sheepskin coat—a challenging project for a high-schooler. And when she moved to Woodbury, she continued using sheepskin to make hats, mittens, and vests.

It was in Woodbury that she met Jan Brough who taught her to weave, primarily using cotton, silk, and mohair. Tregea added that there are some top-notch craftspeople in Vermont, which helps to explain the birth of Artisans Hand, a popular store still operating in Montpelier. In fact, Artisans Hand started as a group of fiber artists, including Janet Ressler, Martha Talbot, and herself; they were later joined by other artisans including Lisa Roman, Rob Green, Georgia Landau, Terry Allen, Jennifer Boyer, and Mary Azarian.

Today, Tregea’s studio (Tregea Bevan Handwovens) on Barre St. in Montpelier has two fly shuttles so that they can weave wide fabrics in order to produce cloth more quickly. Tregea also uses a Compu-dobby loom which allows her to weave complex fabrics with the assistance of her computer, which she uses also for designing.

Employee Sally Allen (also of East Montpelier) now does all of the sewing and weaving for the company. Tregea explained that it is difficult to sew handwoven fabric, and the stunning clothing they now make was the result of a good deal of trial and error. “I’ve always employed women—sometimes up to five—to meet demand.”

When asked about the most memorable compliment on her work, she replied that a customer once told her, “When I put on your jacket, it makes me feel so confident and powerful.” It only takes a look at Tregea’s designs to understand how true this would be.

This talented East Montpelier resident’s creativity extends also to dance—contemporary, modern, jazz, and ballroom. She was so captivated by salsa and tango that she traveled all the way to Argentina, the “motherland” of the tango, to learn the art of the dance. In fact, she became a competition ballroom dancer, attending competitions while on the road to craft shows.

Creativity is also evident in her unique home. After her divorce and subsequent move to a geodesic dome in Marshfield, she knew that she wanted to live closer to Montpelier. “I always thought of East Montpelier as a place where interesting people lived!” Eventually she was able to buy a lot with a trailer in East Montpelier and spent two winters in the trailer while working with David Blosser on designing and building her house.

Her home, which she shares with her husband, Esteban Guevara, is indeed unique for Vermont. Influenced by the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, it fits neatly into the landscape in a style more typical of the Midwest than New England. The interior design is simple but stunning, making the most of beautiful views, with natural materials, warm earth tones, large windows, and an overall feeling of airiness and light.

Asked what she considers her most important successes, Tregea replied, “Although I had to close it due to pressing family obligations, I am very proud of Adorn, the store I opened on State Street. And I’m proud of my business, which I have had since I was 21. It gives me so much pleasure when people tell me how much they love wearing the clothing I make.”

Reflecting on her childhood heroes, Tregea immediately refers back to her grandmother, whose Welsh surname was passed on to her and who gave Tregea her first sewing machine. “She was a very strong, very sweet woman who had a hard life. The oldest of seven children, her parents died when she was nineteen, leaving her to care for the other children. She cleaned houses for money. But she was the one who taught me to knit and sew as a young child.”

Looking forward, Tregea hopes in the future to have more time to volunteer for causes that she is passionate about—to do something good for the community or to work with animals. She believes that a good life is more about community and less about possessions and the love one can give and receive from another person. When asked how she sees her place and purpose in life, she replied without hesitation, “To live a life that contributes to the humanity of the world.”

For more information on Bevan’s work see her website at <http://www.tregeabevan.com>.

— Formerly the director of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Hilari Farrington now teaches and plays Irish traditional music with her husband, and spends a lot of time opening and closing doors for two large cats.

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Growing, continued from page 3

From that early research, Dweck went on to find the two mindsets present in adolescents and adults, with nearly 40 percent showing fixed and 40 percent showing growth perspective. She also discovered that they have broader implications. The fixed perspective was associated with more anxiety, depression, and feelings of defensiveness and helplessness. These folks were more judgmental of other people and likely to form stereotypes. As a consequence, fixed mindset people are also likely to be less optimistic and less open to new ideas and people.

Whew! Knowing that, I knew I needed to change. And that's the good news: people can back away from the fixed mindset and train themselves to approach life with a growth mindset. Even better, teachers and parents can operate in ways that encourage their children to develop growth mindsets. That's what EMES did as a whole school last year. This year, Beth Parker continues to use this opportunity in her classroom.

How do you talk to first, second, and third graders about mindsets? You don't. Instead, children are introduced to five habits of mind (how we think and talk to ourselves and one another). These are called stances. (Notice how the children are absorbing new vocabulary too.)

The stances are listed below, each with its own symbol and a simple sentence children can say to themselves.

- Empathy is represented by a heart and, "I feel others' feelings in my heart."
- Resilience shows a bouncing ball and, "I can bounce back."
- Optimism is a smiley face, and "I can give it a try."
- Persistence is a crossed-out stop sign and "I won't stop even when it's hard."
- Flexibility is a cartoon face with four directional arrows and "What else can I try?"

Mrs. Parker uses these words throughout the day (I counted seven instances in three hours). For example, waiting to hear about recess over the intercom, she said, "Let's be optimistic that we can go outside." In helping students make their own abacus, she said, "You need to be persistent to move those little beads on the fuzzy stick." Once, a student pointed out something she did wrong, and she replied, "I made a beautiful mistake. My brain just grew!"

There is a separate poster for each stance on the wall. Mrs. Parker handed out five sticky notes to each child, and they came up with their own examples. It was fun to decipher their efforts. Empathy: A was scared; L was happy. Resilience: I got hurt and bounced back. Optimism: a hard math problem, and I gave it a try. I got it. Persistence: trying to spell a hard word and I did it. Flexibility: for math, is there another way? Mrs. Parker says that parents tell her that they hear the stance words used at home around things like piano and horseback lessons. Indeed, one of the persistence stickers said, "My brother persists to wake me up in the morning."

I observed all of the stances operating in the classroom as a whole. It's an open and flexible space, with children often offered choices: where to sit, which books to read to themselves, whom to work with. A sense of optimism pervades, a feeling that everyone will be included and is encouraged to participate. For math, the children practiced finding the many different ways to come up with the numbers five and ten, and these ways were written on the board as "number sentences," a concrete example of "try another way." Empathy was also on display; as one of the sticky notes says, "Mrs. P. shows empathy for us."

The whole experience has left me with feelings of optimism. It took me until I was in my late forties to start turning my mindset toward growth. Our children encounter and are building growth mindsets from the very beginning. What a great school we have!

— Ann Stanton is a retired college professor who lives on Center Road with her husband Dave Connor.



One loving memory I have of my grandmother is watching her make donuts—and then devouring them with her. When she was no longer

able to make donuts, I made them for her.

I have always loved to bake goodies for friends and family. My friends call me Betty—as in Betty Crocker. When I was thinking about a way to earn a little extra money as a stay-at-home mom, making and selling my grandmother’s donuts seemed like a good choice. In our fast-paced world, Grandma’s time-consuming, donut-making method may seem like a thing of the past—but her method is exactly what makes the donuts so delicious.

On donut days, I get up around 4:00 a.m. This way, I am sure that the donuts will be warm on the porch by 6:30 a.m. My husband often wakes up early to sample them. He’s the quality control department of my operation. I have always loved to bake and dreamed of opening a bakery; however, I worried that if I made it into a career, I would lose my passion for it. Selling donuts one day each week is perfect for now.

To make donuts, you need a large electric frying pan and a good mixer. I’ve been longing for a Kitchen Aid mixer, and this project gave me the excuse I needed to buy one. I lucked out and bought one last spring at a restaurant auction.

My products are available on Thursday mornings starting around 6:30 a.m. If the morning goes smoothly, I am on the porch



as early as 6:00 a.m. I have been posting on Front Porch Forum to let folks know when the donuts will be available. I’d love to talk about homemade donuts with you. I can be contacted at: gaperry07@gmail.com

If I had one tip to give to fellow bakers it would be this: remember you are your own worst critic...no one will notice the imperfections of your product the way you will.

— Amber Perry lives at 2812 US Route 2 with her husband and two daughters.

Planning Commission Update

The recently revised Town Plan sets long-term goals for growth and land use that would not be possible under the current zoning regulations. To assist in working toward these goals, the Planning Commission (PC) is examining revisions to the zoning districts and land use regulations as suggested by consultant Brandy Saxton. During this grant-funded process, documents under review pertaining to the zoning update are accessible at the town office or on the planning commission page of the town website under the bold red heading “2018/19 Zoning Regulation Update Project.” PC meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of each month; they are open to the public, and comments are welcome.

— Norman Hill, PC Secretary

Thank you, Signpost Supporters!

Nancy Couch
Chris Reed and Teresa Doyle

Paulie’s Recipe

Boiled Cookies — from Dodie Vinton

Combine in a saucepan the following:

- 2 cups of sugar
- ¼ cup of cocoa
- ½ cup of milk
- 1 stick of margarine or butter

Boil these for two minutes and get ready to put right in the following:

- ½ cup of peanut butter
- 1 tsp. of vanilla
- 2 ½ cups of quick oatmeal

Mix well and spoon on to wax paper. Makes about three dozen cookies.

This recipe was chosen from the *East Montpelier Elementary School Cookbook, Favorite Recipes of Parents and Teachers*. It was assembled in the mid-1970s and sold as a fundraiser for the school.

Town Weathervane

Milestones

Deaths

- Frederick DeMag, husband of Carole Stevens, died in September
- Judith Goodell died in September
- Shawn Healy died in September

Births

- Maxwell Sinclair Hickman, a son, born to Selina & Troy Hickman in March
- Everlee Elizabeth Peplowski, a daughter, born to Heather Haskins & Alexander Peplowski in August

Land Transfers

- Julie Blackwell to Susan Tarshis, 7.20 acres & dwelling on VT14N
- Roger Mack to Norberta Klee, a mobile home on Robinson Rd
- Albert Phillips to Shellie Janawicz, 3.04 acres & dwelling on VT14S
- Jeremy Dodge to Shawn Dodge, 16 acres & dwelling on Foster Rd
- Cynthia Challener to Annette Bertelsen, 1 acre and dwelling on Center Rd
- Annette Lawson to Steven Hubbs, 1.23 acres and dwelling on Quaker Rd
- Janet Wass to Celina R. Moore Trust, 1.0 acre of land on VT14N
- Celina Moore to Vermont Land Trust, 97 acres of timberland VT14N
- Megan Porter to Kaitlyn Allen, a mobile home on Sandy Pines Rd
- Adam Lenentine to Sandra Gill, a mobile home on Mugford Rd
- Kenneth & Susan Page to Danielle Brooks LaFleur and Susan Hand, 0.96 acres & dwelling on Maplewood Rd
- Estate of Andrew Y. Kline to Nadell Fishman, 1.77 acres & dwelling on Chickering Rd
- Keith Friedland to Kathleen Friedland, 2.67 acres & dwelling on County Rd
- Bobbi Palmer, JoEllen Calderara, Laurie Pearo, Peter Palmer, Rebecca Mastieri and Susan Aho to Northern Traditions Property Ventures, LLP, 0.30 acres and dwelling on Center Rd
- Estate of Reginald D. Laundry to Ellen Marsha and Roxann Dupont, 0.08 acres and mobile home on Horn of the Moon Rd
- Roxann Dupont to Ellen Marsha, 0.08 acres and mobile home on Horn of the Moon Rd
- Daniel and Lori Wilson to Suzanne Hedding, 3.34 acres & dwelling on Cookson Dr

Selectboard

July 23, 2018

Motions Passed:

- to find that the boundary adjustment with the LaPerle Family, on 3035 US 2, to benefit the park and ride facility is a highway project (per V.S.A. 19 section 501(4)) and therefore exempt from notice requirements (V.S.A. 24 section 1061), and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the quit claim deed
- to submit the application for the recreation field/parking lot area improvement project to the Vermont Recreational Facilities Grant Program

- to authorize chair Seth Gardner to sign the letter of support committing the town to its 50% match, up to \$8,370.84, for the application to the Vermont Recreational Facilities Grant Program
- to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the letter to Vermont Housing and Conservation Board relinquishing the feasibility study grant [for the LaPerle farm property] and requesting reimbursement for the wastewater study

August 6, 2018

Discussion Items:

- Conversation with Vermont Senate candidate Andrew Perchlik
- Future Capital Projects Questionnaire
- Proposed Grand List Archive Preservation Project
- Consideration of easement over town-owned Hudson Parcel to allow construction of VTrans cross-US2 culvert replacement project
- Vermont Council on Rural Development Community Leadership Summit
- Vermont Land Trust offer to present an update of the current status of second Fairmont Dairy conservation project

Motions Passed:

- to set the 2018/2019 property tax rates at 2.5329 for resident (homestead) properties and 2.2599 for non-resident properties
- to waive the homestead declaration late filing penalty
- to authorize the Chair to sign the [annual Treasurer's Financial Management] questionnaire
- to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the warranty deed of easement for Crystal Springs
- to approve access permit 18-032, 139 Daggett Road
- to authorize the Town Administrator to sign Written Order No. 1 regarding the Park and Ride, to Richard Seymour of John Turner Consulting and Chip Percy of Dale Percy Inc

August 20, 2018

Discussion Items:

- Recreation Field site visit with consultant Rob Townsend
- 2018 draft Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan
- 2019 draft Vermont League of Cities and Towns' Municipal Policy
- Vermont Council on Rural Development Vermont Community Leadership Summit

Motions Passed:

- to appoint Jason DeForge to the Recreation Board
- to approve access permit 18-035 for 445 Kelton Rd
- to authorize the listers to lower the grand list value by \$1,273, to correct the Hudson Parcel error

September 10, 2018 (Unapproved)

Discussion Items:

- preliminary list of potential projects for the town's stormwater master plan
- Recreation Board on Recreation Field Project
- Funding Request Study Committee
- CAI Technologies' Web Map Service

- 2019 draft VLCT Municipal Policy
- Real estate proposal for Hodgeman Parcel
- Delinquent Tax Collector report

Motions Passed:

- to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the VTrans Structures Grant Amendment for the Quaker Road culvert project (BC1773, amendment 1)
- to authorize the chair to sign a special warrant for the four right-of-way payments
- to adopt the "Municipal Resolution for Municipal Planning Grant"
- to designate Carl Etnier as the town delegate to the 2018 VLCT annual meeting
- to approve the town purchasing policy
- to correct an error by the listers by making parcel # 07-038.500 inactive, reducing the grand list value by \$6,031
- to rescind the appointment of Rebecca Schrader as an alternate town representative to Central Vermont Internet at her request

Planning Commission

July 19, 2018

Discussion Items:

- including exceptions for handicapped accessibility and hardship in zoning regs
- Draft Zoning Districts

Motions Passed:

- to approve the Fairmont/Lylehaven Phase II project as presented with a permanent trail easement to be determined
- to authorize the PC Chair to sign the Coburn Pond Enforcement Support Letter for the PC

September 6, 2018 (Unapproved)

- Public Comment: Setbacks often restrict development and renovation
- Continued discussion of Draft Zoning Districts

Motions Passed:

- to approve the draft Municipal Planning Grant application and forward to the SB for approval

DRB

July 10, 2018

- DRB entered deliberative session to discuss the variance for Application #18-024 (Bender North St. property addition) at 7:45pm; exited at 7:55pm

Motions Passed (for Application #18-024):

- that condition #1 is met because the structure is non-conforming and pre-dates existing zoning regulations and any addition would require a variance
- that condition #2 is met because the only logical alternative would be to subdivide and the property cannot be subdivided in strict conformity of these regulations
- that condition #3 is met because the hardship was not caused by the applicant as the property pre-dates zoning

- that condition #4 is met because the variance will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood
- that condition #5 is met because the variance represents the minimum that will afford relief of hardship and represents the least deviation possible that will afford that relief
- to grant the variance for Application #18-024
- to allow the re-opening for Fairmont Dairy (Application #18-012) at the 8/7/18 meeting

August 7, 2018

- DRB entered deliberative session to discuss Washington County Mental Health's Applications #18-030 at 8:55pm; DRB exited at 9:26pm

Motions Passed:

- to continue the site plan review of Application #18-031 at the 9/4/18 meeting
- to grant a large lot waiver for proposed subdivision of Coburn property at 125 Daggett Road
- to recess the hearing for Application #18-030 to 8/14/18 at 7pm

August 14, 2018

- Discussion item: Fairmont Dairy request to alter the June 8, 2018 DRB decision for Subdivision Application #18-012 to reflect a revised access plan for new Lot 3A

Motions Passed:

- to approve Application #18-030, submitted by Washington County Mental Health

September 4, 2018 (Unapproved)

Sketch Plan Reviews:

- Isaak property at 663 Guyette Road
- O'Hare property at 835 Dodge Road

Motions Passed:

- to continue the hearing for Application #18-031, submitted by Joseph Carriveau, to the October 7, 2018 DRB meeting
- to approve Application #18-034, submitted by Abigail Faulkner and Hobart Guion, as presented
- to grant the large lot survey waiver for Antonovich property at 2570 North Street
- to approve the request of Fairmont Dairy to alter of Application #18-012 by removing the condition

EMES

June 14, 2018 Emergency School Board Meeting

- Entered executive session at 3:36 pm for a student hearing; exited executive session at 3:45pm

Motions Passed:

- to accept the recommendation of the superintendent with regard to student issue

U-32

August 2, 2018 Special School Board Meeting

Motions Passed:

- to approve WCSU testimony for State Board of Ed. meeting
- to appoint Matthew DeGroot, Flor Diaz-Smith and Scott Thompson as representatives to the State Board of Ed. meeting



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CALENDAR

Mon. Nov. 19, 6 p.m. Old Brick Church, Meeting of the EM & Calais Historical Societies; potluck followed by Tina Bielenberg on "Bridges to the Past—Stories of Our Elders"

IMPORTANT DATES

Thurs. Nov. 15 by 5 p.m., First installment of property taxes due to avoid late fees and penalties, Town Office

Thurs.–Fri. Nov. 22–23, Thanksgiving Holiday, Town Office closed

Mon.–Tues. Dec 24–25, Christmas Holiday, Town Office closed

Mon.–Tues. Dec. 31–Jan 1, 2019, New Year's Day, Town Office closed

The deadline for the next issue of the Signpost is November 30

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