

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXX—Number Two

November-December 2019

The Beginning

On September 21, I sat down to tea with Cherie Staples and Janice Waterman to hear about the early days of Signpost volunteering. They paged through the first volume of the Signpost, exclaiming, explaining, and answering my questions. Janet MacLeod added her comments later.

How did you come to volunteer for this new enterprise?

Cherie: Several committees were formed as a result of a town forum, convened by the Selectboard, to discuss ideas about the town's future, including the idea of a newsletter. I think I probably signed up then.

Janice: I got recruited by Becky Reed, my next-door neighbor. I had a new baby and was staying home with the children. Volunteering seemed like a good opportunity to get out of the house and also a way to get to know the town and its people.

Janet: I was on the Town Planning Committee focusing on Recreation and Trails, which was led by Jean Cate, and liked the newsletter idea when it came up. I was a devoted follower of Jean, so I was happy to be involved in anything she was heading up.



Janet MacLeod, Janice Waterman, and Cherie Staples

Who was involved and where did you meet?

All: We were a diverse group: Anne Sherman, Fred Tubbs, and Sylvia Tosi from the Town Clerk's office. Jean Cate was the Grand Pooh-Bah. We generally sat down to tea at Jean's kitchen table; she served us cookies and licorice tea. We had to invent everything from scratch. This was pre-internet, so the *Signpost* was conceptualized to communicate about town events and committee meetings; meeting dates appeared on the back page. The *Weathervane* feature summarized

meetings of the Selectboard, town committees, and the school; Church Chimes covered the two churches in town; and Moose Lips was a light-hearted collection of anecdotes. We decided to feature a person and a business in each issue—the same as today. And we agreed not to cover political subjects. Later, we added land transfer information—that was very popular (still is). Oh, and we also decided on what color to make the heading—that changed with each volume.

Figuring out a name took a while. Roads back then were identified by tall, square, wooden posts, with the road names

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Top of the Signpost

The first *Signpost* arrived at our house in August 1990, about the same time as my younger son left for college. Our days of being parents of school kids were over, and that easy and direct link with other parents in East Montpelier ended. However, just as the *Signpost* staff had intended, the town newsletter created a new connection to the community for all of us. The idea for starting a town newsletter was an outgrowth of the 1988 Planning Commission's effort to involve the whole community in the writing of a new town plan.

At a town forum organized by the Planning Commission, one of the groups formed was called the Community Activities Committee and was chaired by Jean Cate. One of its goals was to come up with activities that would "develop a sense of community" (from the 1988 Annual Report). The newsletter helped accomplish that goal because it was mailed—free of charge—to every household in town. It provided profiles about people and businesses in town, a calendar of town events, other town news, and capsules of the minutes from the town committees. The compilation of each issue was a community effort: a group of volunteers decided its contents, found writers who would be paired with subjects, and in that way, connected people with each other. It survived through donations from townspeople and proceeds from a silent auction—a very successful Rally Day event.

When the *Signpost* issues arrived at our home, we read them cover to cover and left them on the side table to be picked up again whenever a question about something in town came up. For us, it certainly enhanced our sense of belonging to this community.

—Barbara Ploof has been a Signpost volunteer for many years and lives near EM Center with her husband Allen

A Signpost Birthday Present

In honor of our 30th year, Ken Hertz and Jennifer Boyer have completed the new Archives Page on the *Signpost* website. Many thanks to Ken who scanned all the early issues so that we now have each and every *Signpost* available online. And kudos to Jennifer who has expanded the list of subjects and made it possible for us to use any web browser search function to find articles about friends and neighbors old and new, going back to 1990. We know you'll find interesting articles, so enjoy! Questions? Call or text Jennifer at 802-522-3841.



Darryl Garland

East Montpelier celebrates at the Harvest Festival

East Montpelier's Gould Cemetery

This is the first article in what we hope will become a series about East Montpelier's little-known, historic cemeteries and what the Cemetery Commission (Cemetery Committee as of Town Meeting 2019) has done to preserve them. It's based on oral history provided by Elliott Morse, sexton, and Tim Lamson, cemetery committee chair, and the booklet, *Ancient Cemeteries and Burying Grounds of East Montpelier Vermont 1794*, published by the East Montpelier Historical Society. The fourth edition was printed in 2012 and is available for purchase at the Town Office.

In August 2018, the Cemetery Commission was presented with an interesting mystery. Mark Lane, a member of the Cemetery Committee, had driven by a property owned by Les Birnbaum on Sparrow Farm Road near its junction with Perkins Road, and he noticed several headstones lying along the driveway next to a leach field being constructed in preparation for sale of the property. After reporting his discovery to the town, construction was halted by the Cemetery Commission until the matter could be resolved—as former burial sites cannot qualify as septic sites. The booklet prepared by the East Montpelier Historical Society had this to say about Gould: “The Gould cemetery was located in the Gould Hill section of the town near Sparrow Farm Road on what was once the David Gould farm and later in the Sparrow family. The stones are in a pile, broken and disarranged. Reportedly, they were thrown aside about fifty years ago. It was said that there were two to three dozen graves.” According to town records, burials in the Gould Cemetery date from 1821 (John Gould at the age of 72, a Revolutionary War soldier and David's father) to 1884 (Polly Gould at the age of 93, David's wife). Elliott Morse surmised that the stones may have been moved during the digging of a pond back in the 1930s.

On September 21, 2018, Cemetery Commission members Les Birnbaum, Mark Lane, State Archaeologist Jesse Robinson, and Town Administrator Bruce Johnson met at the site to try to determine the original cemetery location. In addition to the gravestones dislodged during the leach field excavation, many more stones were found in a wooded area further uphill. Elliott noted that folks at that time liked to give their ancestors a nice view. The State Archaeologist pointed out that if the original location of the cemetery was where the pond sits in a much lower area, it would be highly unlikely that any evidence could be found today even if the pond was drained and excavated. The Commission decided, with Mr. Birnbaum's agreement, to designate the hillside area, where the preponderance of



Elliott Morse, Nick and Tim Lamson

Terry J. Allen

stones was found, as the official Gould Cemetery. During this summer, Tim Lamson and his son Nick, cleared a 12' x 40' area plot, situated all the found stones within, seeded and fenced it with stained posts and chain, and put up a sign. The address is roughly 670-680 Sparrow Farm Road and the cemetery can be accessed by a path from the driveway through the woods.

Here's a little history of the original Gould family condensed from the sources, *Revolutionary War Soldiers of East Montpelier*, by Ellen C. Hill (1975) and FindaGrave.com. You can find more details and sources there.

John Gould was born January 17, 1750 in Sutton and married his wife, Mary (Molly), a first cousin, in August 1769. (They had nine children between 1769 and 1789.) The Revolutionary War lasted from April 19, 1775 to September 3, 1783. Five children were born before Gould enlisted in August 1777, two were born during the war, and two after the war ended. The war years must have been very hard for Molly! John and some of his family moved from Sutton, Massachusetts, to East Montpelier in 1799 and settled the area that became known as Gould Hill.

The Cemetery Committee takes service to our country very seriously and wants our soldiers to be recognized, honored, and remembered. Of our members, Elliott Morse served in the Vermont Army National Guard and Tim Lamson is on the verge of retiring from the Vermont Air National Guard. It is our intention to update the records of FindaGrave.com and Vermont Society of Sons of the American Revolution with East Montpelier information when available.

—Emily Goyette is a member of Cemetery Committee. She has lived in EM Center for 30 years with her family

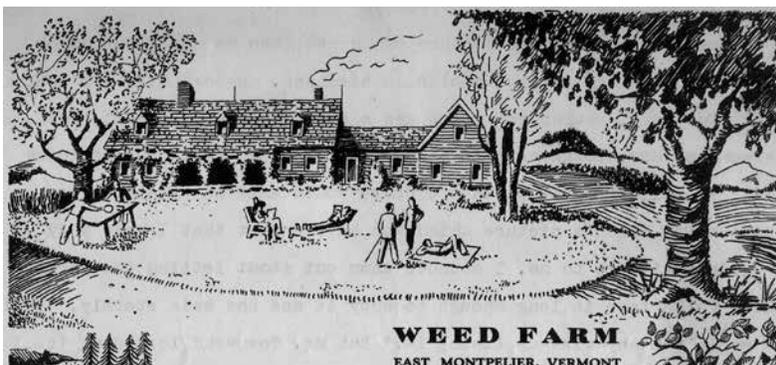
Weed Farm—A Century of Political Activism

He was naked and mortified. Fumbling for his clothes in the dark room, he hurried back to the door he had just slammed. No time to review the sequence of events—how his dog kept fussing to go outside to relieve itself on this scorcher of a summer night. On the third excursion at 2 a.m., he'd had enough when the dog was slow to return, so he flung open the door and yelled, "Get the hell in here." Standing in front of him was an elegantly dressed woman in high heels who seemed unfazed by his urgent invitation.

The man was Gerald "Mac" McFarlane, the future husband of my father's cousin. He lived above his place of business, the garage across from Dudley's Store. "So what do you want?" he asked. She smiled as Mac tried to fathom what was going on. She replied, "I'm lost and trying to find the Weed Farm."

Mac knew Hal and Florence Weed, good people and active in the community, though rumored to be communists. They had fancy people coming up from New York City who would play ping-pong on the lawn when they weren't composing, painting, or writing. The woman standing in front of him was clearly one of these city folks, so he gave her directions and let the chagrined dog in before closing the door.

The Weed Farm, just west of the Sibley Farm on Sibley Road and currently owned by Robert and Tyler Debbs Squire, was, in the early to mid-1800s, a safe haven for fugitive slaves and is described in our town's history, *Across the Onion*. Less known is



its role as a safe haven for artists and intellectuals and its connection to the fight against racism and fascism. Some of the famous people who visited were the composer Bela Bartok, who was forced into exile because of his unpopular, anti-fascist views in Hungary; and American artist Edward Hopper, who would come there to paint, as did Gladys Mock, a modernist engraver whose works were displayed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Another visitor was Herman Neuman, who was a pioneer in radio broadcasting of classical music as well as a conductor. He had conducted orchestras across Europe in 1936 and was invited to lead orchestras in Poland in 1947. That he was self-taught and not formally trained in a conservatory led the FBI to assume he must have been a Communist. In his FBI file it says, "Neuman is not musically inclined as an orchestral conductor, and thus the State Department suspicion, although not substantiated by fact, [was] that Neuman was going to Poland for clandestine program purposes." This was written a year after a successful June 22, 1946 concert Neuman conducted at Carnegie Hall with a 70-piece orchestra playing

scores written by jazz great Mary Lou Williams.

While Hal was preoccupied with running the farm, Florence Weed was a sought-after violinist who played in many dance orchestras around New England and performed at music conventions held in East Montpelier. She also played a role in creat-

continued on next page

Chicken and Eggs Come First at Premont Homestead

Craig Premont sells eggs and meat chickens out of his home. Because of his passionate determination to eat local and provide healthy food for his family, the Premonts have a good-sized vegetable garden and free-range chickens for eggs. Then, the Premonts decided to grow their own meat as well, starting with day-old chicks from Guy's Farm and Yard. They now raise carefully tended, organically fed meat chickens that, as Craig explained, "have all good days and one bad day" in their short, two-month lives. They have learned the ropes as they go, with help and tips from friends and fellow homesteaders.

This is their third year. They order enough chickens so that friends and neighbors can also partake. The baby chicks arrive in mid-summer and are slaughtered and processed in mid-October, when the weather cools down. This year, Craig ordered 89 chicks. They are housed in a 2500 square foot yard, with two coops, protected with electric netting. His two daughters are the main chicken wranglers, feeding them and collecting eggs. The family fills its own freezers and sells the remaining chickens, advertising on Front Porch Forum, Facebook, and by word of mouth. Craig emphasizes that this isn't a huge operation—they want to sell enough to break even on costs.

Craig says that raising chickens is a lot of fun. They are enjoyable creatures, and he enjoys meeting new people



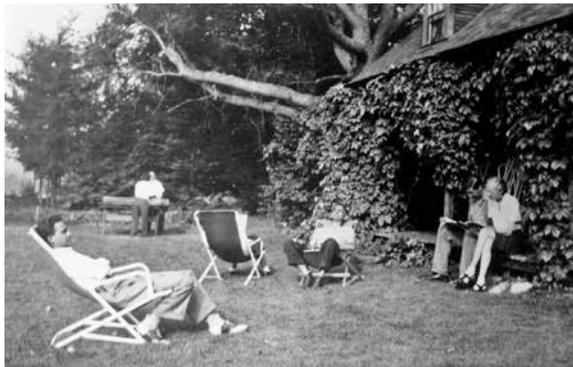
Savannah, Rooster Ron, and Sierra

through the sales. Raising organic eggs and meat benefits his family, his customers, and the planet. For chickens and eggs, contact Premonteggs@yahoo.com or 802-917-1716.

—Ann Stanton is coordinator of East Montpelier Eats

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ing the Adamant Music School by convincing her sister, Alice Mary Kimball along with her husband, Harry Godfrey, and pianist Edwine Behre, to come to the old, run-down parsonage in Adamant and site their school there. The purpose of the school was to provide a safe place for Edwine's Jewish piano students to study and work away from the danger posed by Nazis in New York City.



Focused on justice for family farms and small businesses, Florence and Hal formed a Nonpartisan League for Vermont in 1938, but were discouraged by the in-fighting between different groups of communists and socialists. Writing to Alice Mary on March 6, 1938, after the organizing convention, she wrote: "To have a Trotskyist attack an innocent liberal like me thinking I was a communist, that a desperate fight within the

labor unions and carried on by these two groups is an actual fact made me still sicker and down-in-the-dumps. It made me realize as never before the helplessness of our fight against fascism, for who are our friends and who are our foes?"

Whether it was resistance against corporate power or countering the KKK, which held rallies at the airfield in East Montpelier (currently the site of the Credit Union and Paul's Square),

the Weeds put themselves on the line, just as Nathan Dodge did harboring slaves in the very same house a century before.

As for Mac, he remained cautious when opening doors in the middle of the night.

—Andrew Christiansen is an 8th generation East Montpelierite, writer, and musician and was a student at the Adamant Music School. He knew Alice Mary Kimball and the Weeds.

Update: Washington Central Unified Union School District

Representatives from the five towns of the Washington Central Unified Union School District (WCUUSD) are focusing on the central task of effectively directing a high quality pre-k through 12 school system as opposed to a collection of standalone schools. The leadership team (interim superintendent Debra Taylor, building principals, and other senior administrators) and the board are reading and discussing *Equity, from the Boardroom to the Classroom—Transforming Districts into Professional Learning Organizations* by Dr. Patrick Rice. Rice's guidelines for a Professional Learning Organization (PLO) will help us revise and reaffirm our norms, vision, mission, and goals as we collaborate on a new consolidated sense of purpose. Creating strong community partnerships will also be key to this effort.

On November 5, each of the five towns will vote on the following matters to clarify how WCUUSD will operate:

- Whether to move the annual WCUUSD meeting to the first Monday before town meeting with Australian ballot items to be voted at each town's town meeting

- Whether to elect the district's moderator, clerk and treasurer by Australian ballot
- Whether to comingle the ballots from the five towns when counting all Australian ballot items (this is the way U-32 voting has been handled)

Fall is budget time, and a WCUUSD finance committee has been appointed to start the process of developing our first unified budget. Dates for community engagement on the budget are as follows: December 4, 2019 and December 11, 2019 at U-32; January 15, 2020 at Calais Elementary; and February 19, 2020 at Doty Memorial. All meetings will start at 5:30 p.m.

Lastly, the board has appointed a small hiring committee to begin working with consultant Mark Andrews to define and start the process for hiring a superintendent.

Thank you for your support and don't hesitate to reach out to any of your school board members if you have any questions.

—Flor Diaz Smith, Vice Chair WCUUSD

New Faces in Town Service

For issues from lost cats to rabid bats to serving process, East Montpelier has seen a changing of the guard for officials.

Sandy Conti stepped down at the beginning of the summer after more than a decade of service as constable and animal control officer (ACO), and long-time assistant ACO Elliott Morse followed suit. At the state level, long-serving game warden Sean Fowler was promoted to lieutenant; EM remains in his district in his new, supervisory role. The Selectboard thanks all of them for their service to the town in those roles.

With no stampede of volunteers to take the local positions, some of my fellow Selectboard members approached me about serving as ACO. They were perhaps influenced by the fact that one of the most frequently appearing members of the public at Selectboard meetings was my dog. I saw the position as an interesting new way to get to know townspeople and their animals, so I said yes.

We were delighted when Amber Perry offered to take the appointment as assistant ACO. The village resident said, "I have been in town for about two years now and still feel like a 'newbie.' I figured this position would help me get involved within the community and help me get to know the townspeople better. In the past I have worked at an animal hospital and have some knowledge from that which I hope to apply to this position." I'm learning a lot from her, and her presence on Facebook has already helped us communicate more successfully with owners of lost animals.

As any reader of Front Porch Forum knows, there are plenty of lost and found animals in town. My first call was from a Good Samaritan passing through North Montpelier who

stopped to help a cat that apparently had been hit by a car; the cat died almost immediately, and she wanted advice on what to do with the carcass. Later, I found who the owner was and broke the news. While it can be helpful to have someone to call for issues like this, I've been struck by how many people are neighborly enough that they take in found animals and locate the owners without involving Amber or me.

Town ACOs generally work with domestic animals. For wild animals, the state game warden is the person to call. Sean Fowler has long served East Montpelier in that capacity. With Fowler now supervising, Mike Scott moved to Washington to serve East Montpelier and nearby towns. Scott previously lived in Barton and served in the Northeast Kingdom, where he was named state game warden of the year in 2018. He's now the one to call for suspicions of deer jacking, to report encounters with possibly rabid animals, and with similar questions.

Jon Boucher volunteered to be appointed to serve the rest of the constable's term. While constables in East Montpelier don't have law enforcement authority, they are authorized to serve civil process, assist the health officer, destroy unlicensed dogs, and remove disorderly people from town meeting. If you notice any disorderly people at town meeting or need to serve someone with civil process, Boucher can be reached at 917-4855.

For wild animal issues, Mike Scott can be reached through state police dispatch (229-9191).

For domestic animal issues, I can be reached with a text or call to my cell phone (552-4343), as can Amber Perry (498-5140).

—Carl Etnier, in addition to his new role as animal control officer, is a long time Selectboard member in East Montpelier.

Creature Feature

With this issue, we introduce a new column, *Creature Feature*. Have you had an encounter in East Montpelier with mammals, amphibians, insects, or snakes? We encourage anyone with a story to tell it in a paragraph or two. Nona Estrin will tie things up with a comment afterwards that sheds light on an aspect of the story. Send your observations to Nona Estrin at nonaestrin@gmail.com with subject line **CREATURE FEATURE** in caps. To start us off, here's the first one from volunteer, Ann Stanton.

Ann: In keeping with the history theme, my bear stories date back before we knew to bring in bird feeders, those tasty targets of adolescent bears kicked out of the den. Our house is on the edge of 100-plus-acres of woods. One night, David was at choir practice, Nora was out, and the dogs were asleep in the bedroom. I was lying on the couch, reading a scary thriller, when I heard a noise on the deck. Half-spooked, I cautiously turned out the light and peered out the sliding glass door leading onto the deck. There was a beautiful black bear eating his fill at our bird feeder. I watched for a few minutes before rapping on the glass. That woke the dogs, who rushed into the room barking; the bear turned tail and ran into the woods.

Later that year, a bear—the same one?—strolled around the front corner of the house below my study window and down the driveway. He stopped at the edge of Center Road, looked both ways, and then leisurely crossed the road and melted into the woods on the other side. Last September, my dog flushed a bear behind Carroll Whitham's sugar shack. Why so many, so near? Sunflower seeds, compost piles, and garbage constitute bears' junk food treats. These days, we do our best to keep them on a "no junk food" diet.



Terry J. Allen

A garbage can on the porch is not a good place to store bird seed.

Nona: These wonderful observations of bears in our community describe rather benign experiences without damage to property or livestock. Fortunately, I think most of us have had these experiences, at least if we live adjacent to an undeveloped parcel, most particularly if it is connected to other undeveloped parcels by wetlands, a favorite feeding place for bears. It's the connectedness of many different habitats that are wild and provide cover that is so attractive to bears and other animals

Our town is blessed with such corridors, interspersed with small communities of homes. For better or worse, we are all thrown together, animals and people, in close proximity. A good reason to respect the limits and laws that help keep us from conflict with these beautiful and interesting creatures.

Join the Fun at TVSC

Twin Valley Senior Center will once again be hosting its Hunter-Community breakfast buffet on November 16 with serving time from 5 a.m. to 11 a.m. The menu will consist of scrambled eggs, toast, English muffins, bacon, sausage, and home fries, as well as sausage gravy over biscuits with hot chocolate, coffee, and OJ. Price will be \$8 or \$5 for children under 10. Hope that you will join us!

Again veterans are invited to join us as our guests for a free luncheon on Veterans Day, November 11, at the center. Every year we demonstrate our appreciation for all the veterans sacrificed for our country. This opportunity gives us time to visit, hear about your service, and share a great meal. Please invite a guest (\$5 donation appreciated). Arrival time is at 11:30 a.m.

with luncheon following at 12:30 p.m. Please RSVP by calling 802-223-3322 or emailing Twinvalleyseniors@myfairpoint.net.

While TVSC loves our location at Blueberry Commons, which is pretty central to the six towns we serve, we have outgrown our space. We are attempting to acquire the building so we may add on the space that we need. We are asking for help and guidance from the people in our service area who have experience with banking, contractors, real estate, lawyers, state government, grant writing, etc., to help us expand the center as a permanent home for Twin Valley Senior Center. If you are interested in helping us, please contact us at 802-223-3322 or twinvalleyseniors@myfairpoint.net.

—Rita Copeland is executive director of TVSC

Thank you
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• Nancy Couch

• Dale Ferris Phillips

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Carl Etnier Gene Troia Amy Willis

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Julie Potter, Chair, 262-6119

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Richard Curtis, Chair
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WCUUSD Board

East Montpelier Representatives:
Lindy Johnson, Flor Diaz Smith

State Representative

Kimberly Jessup, 249-9306
jessupkimberly@gmail.com

Town Weathervane

DEATHS

- Laurie LaBarthe, formerly of Worcester, died in August 2019
- Richard “Richie” Martin, a widower, died in August 2019
- Steven Omasta, husband of Karin died in September 2019

BIRTHS

- Ryden Seneca Sheeler, a son, was born to Jody Stryker & Stephen Sheeler in August
- Nelle Josephina Campbell-Nelson, a daughter, was born to Rebecca Jordan & Jordan Campbell-Nelson in September

LAND TRANSFERS

Transfers created for estate planning purposes are not included in this listing.

- Randell Lavin to Beverly Lavin, 1.10 acres and dwelling on Coburn Rd
- Gloria Biron, Trustee to Joseph Carriveau, 0.45 acres and garage on US2
- Yvette Stevens to Christopher & Tonya Nuñez, 3 acres and dwelling on County Rd
- Robin Biron to Natalie Cartwright & Allan Serrano, 3.05 acres & dwelling on East Hill Rd
- Elizabeth Jerome to Patrick Southern, 1.10 acres and dwelling on Center Rd
- Cherry Tree, LLC to Aaron & Ashley Preston, 3.21 acres open land on Deerfield Lane
- Louise & Roger Crowley to Virginia W. Burley and David E. Burley Revocable Trust, 3.08 acres and dwelling on Old Farm Rd
- Guiliana & Kristopher Jensen to Brian & Jaye Johnson, 4 acres and dwelling on Sparrow Farm Rd
- Gabrielle Malina & Kari Bradley to Emily Alfano and Griffin Ludwig, 1.5 acres and dwelling on County Rd
- Clifford Hickman to Trevor Storey, 1.10 acres and dwelling on US2
- Vanessa Deuso & Anne Chamberlin to Vanessa Deuso, 0.41 acres and mobile home on Clark Rd
- Edward Mortimer to Todd & Angel Wood, 3.06 acres on Cherry Tree Hill Rd
- Union High School District No. 32 to Cross Vermont Trail Association, trail easement near Gallison Hill Rd
- Winooski Hydroelectric Company to Cross Vermont Trail Association, trail easement near Gallison Hill Rd
- David & Celeste Huck to Eric Andersen and Olivia Campbell, 35 acres and dwelling on Horn of the Moon Rd

- Tamara Haywood to John Haywood, II, 1.10 acres & dwelling on Putnam Rd
- Maurice & Pamela Woodworth to Carmen Gusan and Travis Cargo, 1.20 acres and dwelling on Quaker Rd
- Lindsay Guilette & David Nault to David Nault, a mobile home on Robinson Rd

SELECTBOARD

Following are selected excerpts from minutes of E. Montpelier’s governing boards. Complete minutes are available on the town and school websites.

August 5, 2019

Discussion

- Presentation of EM Conservation Commission proposal
- Review of proposed Fairmont Dairy/VT Land Trust Conservation Project
- Discussion of future Capital Projects Questionnaire
- Presentation of public feedback for PC Zoning Update Project

Motions Passed:

- to set the 2019/20 property tax rates at 2.4564 for homestead parcels and 2.2905 for non-homestead parcels
- to waive the homestead declaration late filing penalty
- to authorize the Collector of Delinquent Taxes to sign James Barlow’s proposal for attorney services related to tax sale proceedings

August 19, 2019

Discussion

- Discussion of future Capital Projects Questionnaire
- Discussion of East Montpelier Conservation Commission proposal

Motions Passed:

- to appoint Lauren Oates to the DRB
- to approve use of up to \$30,000 from the EMFD capital reserve funds for purchase and commissioning of a used 2010 F450 4x4 ambulance from the Williston Fire Department
- to authorize the chair to sign the letter to VLT approving the proposed Fairmont Dairy—Vermont Land Trust conservation project
- to appoint Darci Coleman-Graves to the vacant 3-year term on the Recreation Board, through March 2022
- to approve access permit 19-042 for property located at 445 Kelton Road

September 9, 2019

Discussion

- Conversation with Karen Horn, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for Vt League of Cities and towns (VLCT)
- Conversation with Funding Request Study Committee
- Animal Control Officer report
- Traffic flow at intersection of US2/VT14S

Motions Passed

- to designate Carl Etnier the East Montpelier delegate to the VLCT annual meeting
- to authorize town administrator to sign and submit the application for recreation field shed to Development Review Board
- to authorize Washington Electric Co-op to install a pole and run a line over Factory St to benefit a new single-family residence under construction at 830 Factory St.
- to appoint Casey Northrup to the Town Garage Facility Improvements Committee
- to appoint Clarice Cutler to the vacant position on the Planning Commission until town Meeting Day 2020
- to accept the bid for town generator from Bushey's Generator Sales & Service

PLANNING COMMISSION

July 25, 2019

Discussion

- Consider New Feedback on Draft Zoning Districts
- Discussion of revisions to Draft Zoning Districts and next steps
- Discussion of Lylehaven Conservation Project

Motions Passed:

- to endorse the application for Designated Village Center for North Montpelier
- to authorize the chair to sign the letter of support for the Recreation Board

September 5, 2019

Discussion

- Possible cell tower at intersection of Bliss and Center Roads
- Consideration of new written comments on Draft Zoning Districts
- Continued discussion of revisions to Draft Zoning Districts

Motions Passed:

- to recommend to the SB to appoint Clarice Cutler to the Planning Commission
- to accept the letter as drafted and authorize the Chair to sign the letter of support for Fairmont Conservation Project

September 19 (Unapproved)

Discussion

- Continued discussion of revisions to Draft Zoning Districts and next steps

November/December 2019

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

July 2, 2019

Motions Passed:

- to approve Application #19-030 submitted by Jacques Gourlet for property located at 670 Cherry Tree Hill Road, as it meets all regulations under Section 3.8(A)(5)
- The DRB entered deliberative session at 7:48 pm; the board exited at 8:07 pm.
- to approve Application #19-022 submitted by Ellen Leonard and Janice Walrafen for property located at 370 Cherry Tree Hill Road, subject to conditions
- to approve Application #19-031, submitted by the town of East Montpelier, for the installation of a dry hydrant at the south end of Codling Rd

September 3, 2019 (Unapproved)

Discussion

- Sketch Plan Review for property located at 3205 North St, as approved in 2006
- Conceptual Plan Review for property located on L Brown Dr

Motions Passed

- to approve Application #19-041 submitted by Abigail Faulkner and Hobart Guion for property located at 445 Kelton Road to change the easement as presented with the condition that the deed work be completed within 180 days
- to approve the change of use as presented in Application #19-040 submitted by Vermont Country Camper Sales, Inc., for property located at 50 Packard Rd
- to approve the change of use as presented in Application #19-040
- to grant a setback waiver for Application #19-044 submitted by Nate Ebert and Usnea Granger for property located at 550 Coburn Rd, subject to Section 3.14 in the town's zoning regulations based on the topography of the site
- to grant a setback waiver for Application #19-037 submitted by William Morrison and Jayne Ollin for property located at 720 Templeton Road, subject to Section 3.14 in the Town's zoning regulations due to the topography of the site

Washington Central Unified Union School District (WCUUSD)

July 17, 2019

Special retreat meeting

August 1, 2019

Special retreat meeting



Darryl Garland

End of a perfect Harvest Festival

August 13, 2019

Board training

August 21, 2019

Discussion

Board organization

Motions Passed

- to approve the Board Goals and Work Plan as presented
- to establish Finance Committee as follows: Flor Diaz Smith and Vera Frazier co-chair, and Scott Thompson to oversee development of FY21 budget by mid-January 2020; monitor current spending under FY20 budget; oversee development of a framework for long term capital planning and budgeting by end of May 2020
- to establish Negotiations Committee to negotiate agreements with teachers and non-teaching staff by mid-March 2020, with membership as follows: George Gross, Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, Lindy Johnson and from the public, Suzanna Culver and Chani Waterhouse
- to appoint Debra Taylor (administrator), and Flor Diaz Smith (board) as representatives to Central Vermont Career Center Board with Marylynne Strachan as alternate
- to approve the budget process and timeline as presented
- to authorize the issuance of individual procurement cards to individual school districts, and to authorize Scott Thompson to sign the resolution in acceptance, on behalf of the board
- to approve hiring the following: Bonne Dunham, Charles Legge, Maria Melekos, Michael Sutherby

September 4, 2019

Discussion

- Board organization and planning

Motions Passed

- to establish a Policy Committee; the committee charge: "to review all existing

continued on next page

Beginning, continued from p. 1

carved on sides of the post: hence, “signpost.” Some roads still have such posts. Janet MacLeod designed the header title and illustration.

We met every two months to plan the next issue and find writers. Then we met again to edit the submitted articles, making sure to preserve the “voice” and perspective of the authors (same as today). Janet adds: “I loved going to whoever’s house and meeting to discuss the next issue and being with people I didn’t get to see otherwise. It was sort of a mini experience of what the *Signpost* was created to do. I still look forward to the *Signpost* to learn about newer residents or things I didn’t know about old-timers.”

What specific parts did each of you play?

Janice: I would take the baby with me to the Town Clerk’s office and read the hand-typed minutes from different committees, taking notes. (Not all of them; Jean Cate was on some committees, and she did those.) Later, at home, I used my notes to write up summaries.

Cherie: I did layout. I taped 13 x 17 sheets of paper on the glass doors leading to my patio. That was my light table. I printed out the material, cut it up, and pasted it onto the sheets. I also pasted on photographs and Janet’s artwork. Those sheets were then sent to L. Brown and Sons, located in East Montpelier, to print up and mail. (Although they moved to Barre, L. Brown and Sons still prints and mails the *Signpost*.)

Janet: Though I think I did some proofing for a while—a job I was singularly bad at—I mostly did drawings based on what was going to be in the newsletter. I remember wracking my brain every issue for simple illustrations to draw.

As Jean Cate wrote in the final issue of Volume I: “The week after you receive your fresh copy, we seven volunteers meet to size it up and start on the next issue. We discuss what’s going on in town, decide what business and individual to profile,



Terry J. Allen

what events to feature, and what illustrations we need. We suggest possible writers. Janice then takes over, phoning authors, nudging reporters, and preparing extracts of minutes from town bodies. Sylvia provides the town statistics. Janet creates imaginative drawings to highlight the stories. By month’s end, Janice rounds up all of the copy and begins typing it into Fred’s computer. A week or so later, the final text is entered, and the text is put on a floppy disk and given to Cherie for editing and formatting.”

How about finances?

All: We were financed totally by contributions—a real shoestring operation. After a year or so, the issues were printed using soy-based ink on recycled paper, which was more expensive. It cost \$500 an issue to print and mail. Occasionally, we had to call people and say, “We don’t have money enough to print the issue.” Somehow, enough came in, but it was always a worry. What saved us, really, were Rally Day silent auctions: the first one in 1991 brought in enough money to publish three issues. In Volume 2, #2, the first two commercial supporters appeared.

These days, the *Signpost* is financially secure, with support from the town, as well as individual contributors and twelve East Montpelier commercial supporters. That’s a far cry from the September-October issue of Volume 2, in which Jean Cate thanked the individual supporters who had sent in enough money to publish that issue.

Everyone has fond memories of those years—Jean Cate’s capable leadership, the camaraderie of fellow volunteers, the satisfaction of seeing each issue emerge, getting to know people and activities that were new to them. Here’s to another thirty years of a thriving newsletter helping to knit our community together, just as it was designed to do.

—Ann Stanton is a *Signpost* volunteer who does it all in addition to being the coordinator of East Montpelier Eats

Weathervane, continued from p.9

policies, propose changes if necessary, and secure board approval by end of June 2020. Draft new policies as necessary.”

Membership: Chris McVeigh, Jaiel Pulskamp and Marylynne Strachan

- to approve the Rumney Memorial Playground equipment bid in the amount of \$22,420.75, to Pettinelli and Associates
- to authorize the Finance Committee to approve Rumney Memorial School tractor bid

September 18, 2019 (Unapproved)

- The board entered executive session at 6:32 pm to discuss the matter of hiring a new superintendent

- the board exited at 7:04 pm. No action was taken during executive session

Discussion

- Consideration of paying VSBA dues

Motions Passed

- to transfer \$437,490 from the general fund to the capital fund earmarked for U-32
- to increase the English Language Learner position by 0.3FTE for a total of \$30,232
- to adopt Version 2 of Article 1, of the Articles of Agreement, to change the date of the District Annual Meeting by deleting ‘last’ and inserting [the Monday before the first Tuesday in March]

- to adopt Article 2 as written where the Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer are elected by Australian ballot
- to adopt Article 3 as written
- to form a committee with the charge as follows: Draft the hiring and evaluation criteria for the board approval by end of October 2019. Identify prospects, screen applications, interview and refer top candidate(s) to the board for final decision by end of February 2019 [sic]
- to appoint Scott Thompson, Flor Diaz-Smith, Chris McVeigh, and Dorothy Naylor to the committee
- to appoint Debra Taylor as the proxy/rep to the VEHI/VSBIT Annual Meeting

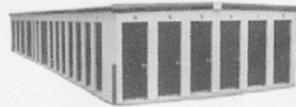


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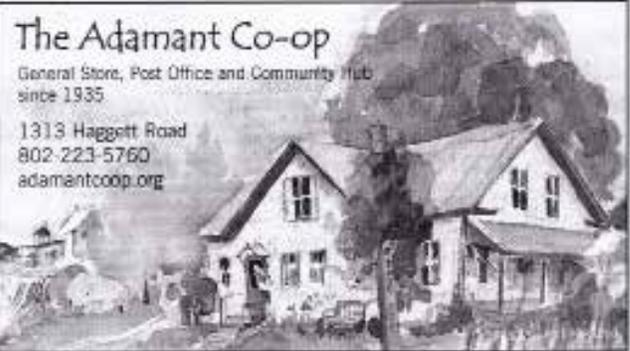


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CALENDAR

Mon. Nov. 11, 11:30 a.m. arrival, meal at 12:30 p.m. Veteran's Day luncheon at Twin Valley Senior Center, veterans free; others \$5 donation; RSVP at 802-223-3322 or Twinvalleyseniors@myfairpoint.net.

Sat. Nov. 16, 5-11 a.m. at the Twin Valley Senior Center, Hunter-Community breakfast buffet, \$8 adults, \$5 for kids under 10.

Wed. Dec. 4, 5:30 p.m. U-32, WCUUSD community meeting on unified budget

Wed. Dec. 11, 5:30 p.m., U-32, WCUUSD community meeting on unified budget

Wed. Jan. 15, 2020, 5:30 p.m., Calais Elementary, WCUUSD community meeting on unified budget

Wed. Feb. 19, 2020, 5:30 p.m., Doty Memorial, WCUUSD community meeting on unified budget

IMPORTANT DATES

Tues. Nov. 5, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

EMES, special school election on WCUUSD operating procedures

Fri. Nov. 15, Tax payments due, at Town Office by 5 p.m.

Thurs.-Fri. Nov. 28-29,

Thanksgiving holiday, Town Office closed

Wed. Dec. 25, Christmas, Town Office Closed

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee
Development Review Board (DRB)
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
WCUUSD Board Meeting

as needed
1st Tues. 7:00 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.
3rd Wed. 5:30 p.m.

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Gerard Ducharme covers haylage at McKnight Farm

Terry J. Allen