

EAST MONTPELIER Signpost

IN THIS ISSUE

Get Involved /2

Creature Feature /7

Town Weathervane /8

A Look at the Past /10

Volume 32 / Number 3

NEWS OF OUR COMMUNITY

January-February 2022

New Kids on the Block



Terry J. Allen

Chandler, Annie, and Lauren

by Michael Duane and Ellen Knoedler

If you have driven on Guyette Road lately, past the house formerly owned by Jim and Joni Clemons and wondered who the new owners of the beautiful white cape are, wonder no more. It is still the Clemons house: Chandler, Lauren, and Annie, that is. When Jim (Chandler's dad) and Joni were thinking about downsizing and building a new

home on their land, Chandler and Lauren became interested in buying the house. They finalized the purchase in April.

A warm welcome greeted us when we went to visit our newest neighbors, and we have all been pleased to welcome them to the Snow Hill area of town. The house itself dates from the mid-1850s and was first occupied by the Merritt family. Later, it and much of the surrounding land was owned by the Guyette family until the mid-1960s, when it was purchased by Ray and Lu Lovely who eventually sold the house in 1984 to Maureen and Phil Gates who, in turn, sold it to Jim and Joni in the mid-'90s.

Lauren and Chandler are no strangers to this neck of the woods. Lauren grew up on Loomis Street in Montpelier and attended Montpelier High School; her family roots in Montpelier run deep. Her great-grandfather (Canales) owned Cano's Market, a butcher shop, in Montpelier where Birchgrove Baking currently does business. Chandler also grew up in Montpelier, on North Street and attended Montpelier High School. Likewise, his Vermont roots go back at least to his great-grandparents (Brigham). He fondly recalls many a day at his grandparents' home on Berlin Pond.

After high school, Lauren went off to Holy Cross College in Worcester, MA. On graduation she worked in Washington D.C., for Congressman (and Holy Cross grad) Peter Welch. Wanting to return to her native Montpelier, Lauren began a career with the Social Security Administration in the Montpelier office in 2009. She now works for its regional Boston office, which she able to do from home in Vermont.

After graduating from high school to attend the University of Montana, Chandler ventured out West. He soon developed a passion for fishing, as well as for professional cooking and the restaurant business; he began working at Sarducci's upon his return to Vermont.

He's still interested in cooking, especially for his friends, and his cooking skills are much appreciated by his family.

Clemons, continued on p. 6

Getting Involved

Even in a small congenial town like East Montpelier, I'm sure most of us have, on occasion, been critical about a town decision about zoning, or roads, or building permits, or something else that we might have made differently. The good thing about living here is that you can do just that. One of the first and most wonderful discoveries I made when I moved to Vermont from Philadelphia more than 50 years ago is that instead of complaining about what "they" have decided for us, we can easily become one of "them." Vermont local government is truly government by everyday people, and right now is the time of year for you to think about where you'd like to have some impact. Our local, municipal government depends on citizens of good will who are willing to contribute their time, skills, and energy. And I can tell you from personal experience that you will never regret getting involved. The returns are far greater than you can imagine.

During these last two pandemic years, especially, we've had a lot of time to reflect on what "community" is and how important it is to us humans, who are, by and large, very social animals. Joining with others to accomplish things that will benefit everyone is an effort with enormous tangible and intangible positive results. It's easy to do, will be fun (most of the time), always satisfying, and will contribute to the well-being of the East Montpelier we know. Check out the listing, grab a petition, and you're off; call the town office if you need more detail.

—Edie Miller

Great Opportunity: Coordinate Green Up Day

I've had the pleasure of being involved with Green Up Day since 2013; this May 2022, will be my last.



Green Up Day is a 51-year-old Vermont tradition, and the coordinator is instrumental in its success. Being Green Up Coordinator is a good way to learn about the Town of East Montpelier and to meet your neighbors. It's pretty easy, fun, and has tangible positive results.

April is the busy month with putting up posters, providing bags to different locations, using Front Porch Forum to get the word out, finding problem areas, and assembling morning and afternoon crews.

Please call or text me if you are interested in being the next coordinator, and we can work together as I help you transition into the position.

—Chris Racanelli, 802-793-6687

Positions to be elected at Town Meeting on March 1:

- **Town Moderator:** presides over Town Meeting, deciding on floor voting questions and maintaining order
- **Selectboard Member (2 positions):** supervises the affairs of the town including hiring, enacting ordinances, road maintenance and convening Town Meeting
- **Lister (2 positions):** determines value of real property in EM, which is the basis for tax rates
- **Auditor:** examines and adjusts the accounts of the Town and reports findings to the people of EM
- **First Constable:** serves as animal control officer and may act as process servers and aid first responders as needed
- **Planning Commissioner (4 positions):** prepares and maintains town plan and zoning regulations and participates in capital budgeting for the town
- **WCUUSD Board Member:** oversees management of school district by developing policies and hiring administrators to provide a sound, high-quality educational system

In addition, it's time for a new Green Up Day Coordinator, and you don't even have to run for election—see Chris Racanelli's description on this page. This is a great "toe in the water."

What will Town Meeting Day look like this year? No one is quite sure. As of early December, plans are moving ahead for a normal in-person Town Meeting on March 1. But that could change due to continuing concerns about the pandemic. Stay tuned.

If you're running for office, petitions to place your name on the ballot for any of the (above) positions are due by 5 pm on Monday, January 24. These require only 25 signatures.

Petitions to place an item on the Town Meeting Warning are due no later than 5 pm on Thursday, January 13. These require 116 signatures (5% of the voter checklist), but Town Clerk Rosie Laquerre recommends gathering 130 just in case all are not valid.

Green Up Opportunities for Kids

Green Up Vermont sponsors three contests for students K - 12 to contribute their creativity in service to promoting participation in Green Up Day.

- An art contest: posters due February 1, 2022
- A writing contest: essays/poems due March 1, 2022
- A video contest: videos due April 1, 2022
- A jingle contest: jingles due April 1, 2022

Details are available on the Green Up website at greenupvermont.org or call 802-522-7245.

Orchard Valley Waldorf School

by Erik Esselstyn

As the drive north on Route 14 from East Montpelier gains elevation, off to the south one spots the string of low mountains that create the fertile valley of the Winooski's Kingsbury Branch. Though the road's many small dairies are long gone, one eye-catching sign offers a hint of the area's agricultural past: Orchard Valley Waldorf School.

What further draws your attention might be the small cluster of sheep grazing amidst a few remaining apple trees on the knolls near the old farmhouse (now an administration building) and a newer wooden classroom building. Clusters of brightly snow-suited and wool-capped youngsters bustling around three woodshed-like structures in the meadow sloping to the river certainly caught my attention as well. Teri Page, the school's admissions director and a Waldorf parent, assured me these were active outdoor classrooms.

Page emphasized the significance of being outside and being grounded—themes central to the teachings of Rudolf Steiner, the educational theorist from early in the last century who developed the Waldorf approach. A schedule emphasizing “Head, Heart, Hands” anchors each day. Those sheep play a vital part in a Waldorf curriculum: the wool is clipped, cleaned, spun into yarn, dyed, and knit into scarves. Students age five, six, and seven engage in each step of the process—hands-on indeed.

Having grown up on a Hudson Valley family dairy farm, hearing Teri Page's comment about the importance of “meaningful work in childhood” sparked my interest. She explained that students in the third, fourth, and fifth grades on any given morning would be shaking out baled hay for the sheep or, perhaps, breaking the layer of ice in the water bucket. While the Waldorf philosophy's role at developing the whole child understandably includes knitting, crafts, and drawing, having youngsters doing the morning chores with the sheep underscores Rudolf Steiner's focus on honoring all living creatures.

Along the way students write about each activity and make detailed drawings in their treasured Main Lesson books. These Main Lesson books accompany each student through the entire Waldorf experience. I've known adults, Waldorf graduates, who enthusiastically describe their experiences while sharing pages of their decades-old Main



OVWS students in an outdoor classroom

Lesson books. Drawings from nature are common, along with detailed renderings of upper grade lessons in physics and geometry.

The insights gained in exploring Robin Hood or the Greek myths, key aspects of the Waldorf curriculum, re-emerge in storytelling and acting out mini-dramas of familiar sagas from ancient beliefs. While math and geometry also play a significant role, the Waldorf focus on developing the whole child sees the highly personal interactive engagement in myth essential for fostering imagination and the delights of wonder.

A particularly telling and, for many, surprising aspect of Orchard Valley Waldorf School's program can be found in the absence of electronic screens. In our tech-driven world, where screens provide so much of our news, exposure to new information, and distracting personal communication, the impact of the largely passive, mostly one-way communication of staring at a screen is often overlooked. One can almost hear Rudolf Steiner's delight at the highly interactive crackle of lively children discussing an idea while sitting in a circle, no phones in sight.

Waldorf education in the Montpelier area includes 104 youngsters and takes place at three locations. Grace Farm, the name of the 55 acres of the Orchard Valley Waldorf

Orchard Valley, continued on p. 6

Upcoming Planning Commission Hearings

After much time, research, and effort to update both the town plan and the town's zoning regulations, the Planning Commission (PC) will soon be holding hearings on each early in the new year. Specific dates, when finalized, will be publicized on the town website, at public places in town, and on Front Porch Forum. The PC has been meeting in a hybrid format since July and will likely offer both in-person and remote options to attend the public hearings as well.



Terry J. Allen

Hoarfrost

primarily residential while allowing development at a village scale and density. We also propose to fix some technical problems in the broader town zoning, such as reducing large setbacks that result in a large number of waiver or variance requests.

Zoning Updates:

The Town Plan, adopted in 2018, and the Village Master Plan, adopted in 2017, lay out a vision for East Montpelier Village as a walkable, mixed-use area supporting both additional housing and a variety of businesses. The current zoning for the Village does not fully align with this vision, so we are recommending changes to the zoning regulations which will make this possible. The proposed changes outline zones that encourage a mixed-use village center which would support residences, business, and the town offices, as well as two zones surrounding the Village that will be

Town Plan Updates:

In response to a proposed cell tower in the northwest corner of town, the PC was asked to address this issue in the Town Plan.

The citing of cell towers raises a number of issues that need to be balanced: Nearly everyone uses cell phones, but the most significant negative impacts fall on a small number of people, while the landowner hosting the tower may benefit significantly. We have tried to create criteria that balance these interests and also provide standards both for what constitutes a good site and the types of sites that should be avoided. Addressing this in the Town Plan will give the town's interests greater weight in cases that come before the Public Utility Commission.

For questions and further information, contact Zach Sullivan at zsullivan@gmail.com or 413-207-1716.

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East Montpelier Signpost

PO Box 184
East Montpelier VT 05651

www.emSignpost.com

Signpost Archive,
Business Supporters
Links to Other Town Information

Signpost Volunteers

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

Lyn Blackwell
Proofreader
229-9588 lyn.blackwell3@gmail.com

Jennifer Boyer
Webmaster
223-8926 vtpots@gmail.com

Alex Brown
Production, Mailing, Photography
223-0430 alexbrown802vt@gmail.com

Patty Connor
Layout & Design
279-1928 pattyconnor@gmail.com

Hilari Farrington
Features Co-editor
223-4039 benedictandhilari@gmail.com

Rachael Grossman
Business Manager
223-3177 garlicmountain@gmail.com

Renee Kievit-Kylar
Features Co-editor
498-0005 windsong860@comcast.net

Rosie Laquerre
Town Records
778-0273 clerk@eastmontpeliervt.org

Edie Miller
Copy Coordinator
229-0677 Signposteam@comcast.net

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

Barbara Ploof
Copy Editor
223-6934 Signpostbcp@hotmail.com

Kate Rader
Records Editor
229-4737 raderca2015@gmail.com

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

Merry Schmidt
Copy Editor
223-2550 merrykschmidt@gmail.com

Michelle Singer
Managing Editor
595-9141 jmsinger98@hotmail.com

Ann Stanton
E.M. Eats Coordinator, Copy Editor
223-5321 profstanton@aol.com

Printed by L. Brown and Sons Printing
476-3164

Town Offices

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651
Phone: 802-223-3313
Office Hours: Mon–Thurs 9 AM–5 PM
Fri 9 AM–12 PM

Town Clerk

Rosie Laquerre
clerk@eastmontpeliervt.org

Town Treasurer

Don Welch
treasurer@eastmontpeliervt.org

Town/Zoning Administrator

Bruce Johnson,
manager@eastmontpeliervt.org

Fire Permits

EMFD 225-6247

First Constable

Jon Boucher 917-4855

Animal Control Officers

Lead: Carl Etnier 552-4343
Assistant: Amber Perry 498-5140

Listers

Ross Hazel
Chris Racanelli
223-3313 x206,
listers@eastmontpeliervt.org

Health Officer

Ginny Burley 272-4045

Service Officer

Rachael Grossman 223-3177

Selectboard

Seth Gardner, chair
sethbgardner@hotmail.com
Judith Dillon Carl Etnier
Jon Jewett Amy Willis

Planning Commission

Zach Sullivan, zsullivan@gmail.com

Development Review Board

Steve Kappel, chair
sjkappel@gmail.com

WCUUSD Board

Flor Diaz Smith, fdiazsmith@u32.org
Lindy Johnson, lindyjvt@gmail.com
Stephen Looke, stlooke@u32.org

State Representative

Kimberly Jessup, 249-9306
jessupkimberly@gmail.com

School News

While the pandemic has created enormous challenges, the teachers, staff, and administrators of WCUUSD have truly shown us what it means to be educators, as they have worked tirelessly to continue providing in-person education to all our students. We will continue to prioritize the common good and let that be the basic focus for the well-being of all our children and our communities.

By the time you read this, the Board will be almost finished developing the FY23 budget. Being responsible for making decisions on behalf of the entire community, we have tried very hard to engage community members in budget discussions to ensure those voices are at the heart of our decisions. It also helps us ensure that we are moving towards equity in each of our schools and also in our communities as a whole. Good budgets don't happen by accident; planning and collaboration are key components of crafting a budget that is grounded in community values and driven by data.

An important board goal is to improve and create new ways to energize and engage our communities. We have initiated regular monthly community forums. After each such meeting, we attempt to use the feedback to align what we heard with current work we are doing.

The Board is responsible for removing barriers and providing the resources needed for student learning. Every budget tells a story; and to help us with that narrative, the School Board has set some parameters to help guide the budgeting process:

1. **Social and Emotional Pillars:** Students and staff
2. **Multi-Layered System of Supports,** including professional learning for teachers
3. **Under a penalty threshold** based on prior years (\$19,353)



Alicia Lyford

Some school activities move outdoors

4. Hardening for cybersecurity

5. Boost or reinvigorate one of our various initiatives:

- a.) Arts and music
- b.) Outdoor education
- c.) Farm-to-table

6. Contingency plan for expenditure reductions if the tax rate is not favorable

There is one final public meeting on the FY23 budget on Wednesday, January 12. Please join us in completing this task. And know that we will continue to inform and engage the community in guiding the work of our schools. We have many opportunities including redesigning and continuing to ask the question: Are we structured the best way possible to serve the needs of all our students? Please continue to engage with us on this important effort that will affect the future of us all.

Please join me in thanking our amazing WCUUSD team, administrators, teachers, staff, cooks, custodians, and bus drivers. And thank you for continuing to be the heart of our communities and for all you are doing for our children during these challenging times. We know it is not easy, but your efforts don't go unnoticed. We are grateful.

—Flor Diaz Smith is chair of WCUUS District

Paulie's Recipe: Blender Custard Pie



Paulie's Comment: "This is such a quick and easy pie to make, and it's really tasty."

DIRECTIONS

Put above ingredients in blender for 2 minutes.

Put in 9-inch pie tin that has been greased and floured well. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes. Cool for 3 hours in refrigerator and top with cream.

Hint: Hold out 1 cup of mixture and then add when placed in oven.

—From *East Montpelier*, Vermont Presents Personal Recipes, sponsored by Brick Church Club, recipe from Gladys Dunkling

INGREDIENTS

- 4 eggs
- ¼ C. oleo or butter
- 2 C. milk
- ½ C. sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ½ C. Bisquick
- ½ C. flaked coconut

Twin Valley Seniors Meals on Wheels DELIVERS

If you are 60 years or older and find preparing nutritious meals for yourself difficult, this program is for you. TVSC staff and volunteers are available to arrange meal delivery, and the center is open for many other activities and services. Call 802-223-3322.

Clemons, continued from p. 1

Given his outgoing and friendly personality, Chandler was approached by a customer who thought he would be an asset to the automobile sales profession. He took the bait, beginning a successful 20-year career working for some of the premiere auto dealerships in our area, including Lamoille Valley Ford in Hardwick, where he is now employed. Chandler truly enjoys working at a company like Lamoille Valley, where honesty is highly valued and where a positive work environment makes it a pleasure to go to work every day.

Despite their Montpelier upbringings, Lauren and Chandler met only later while playing in the adult kickball league at Hubbard Park in 2010. Chandler refers to it as "an instant connection!" They were married in 2014 in Montpelier and made their home in Plainfield prior to buying their new house.

Their daughter, Annie, was born in 2015 and has just turned six years old. Annie began kindergarten at East Montpelier Elementary this year, and Lauren, Chandler, and Annie say they are thrilled with the school. Even with some of the current Covid health restrictions in place, Lauren and

Chandler are finding opportunities to meet other parents. Fortunately for our family, our granddaughter, Penny, who lives just down the road, is also a kindergarten student at EMES. She and Annie have quickly become good buddies both at school and on our road.

In addition to their busy work and family lives, Lauren enjoys engaging in artistic pursuits. Chandler enjoys walking in the woods and trails around the Snow Hill area, keeping up with his passion for fishing, and playing golf when he can.

Lauren, Chandler, and Annie are happy being a part of the East Montpelier community and enjoy being so close to their respective extended families of parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts and uncles, and nieces and nephews. In a few short months, they have settled into their new home. We could not be happier to have them as our new neighbors.

—Michael Duane and Ellen Knoedler live on Markham Road. Ellen is a retired EMES teacher, and Michael is retired from the Attorney General's Office. They have lived in East Montpelier for 40 years.

Orchard Valley, continued from p. 1

School, currently offers elementary education through sixth grade. The Child's Garden site in Montpelier offers programs for the early childhood years, while the Sweet Clover location serves youngsters from six weeks to three years.

Anyone curious about admission and the significant State of Vermont tuition support for the Early Childhood program, or a detailed appreciation of the school's annual ceremony to honor the Abenaki Confederacy's ancient primal

settlement of the school's campus, will find a fact-filled trove on the Orchard Valley Waldorf School website

Next time you're driving Route 14, between East and North Montpelier, slow down and listen carefully for a moment, that quiet rumble may be students at the Orchard Valley Waldorf School enthusiastically drumming with an Abenaki master.

—Erik Esselstyn lives in North Montpelier

Coyote Songs

Question: Michelle Singer asks:

At night I hear coyotes howling and yipping. They sound like they are so close! What are they howling about? What do they think of us human neighbors?

Nona Estrin answers:

You've picked a creature often heard, rarely seen. In 42 years in this house, I've seen only three, although I track them and hear them (at this time of year, like Michelle, almost every night). But here's what I know. Coyotes are adaptable omnivores and/or predators, depending on the availability of food. They live in every part of Vermont, including urban environments. Their adaptability comes partially from their genetic diversity. Recent large-scale DNA studies on 426 coyotes led by Stony Brook University have found that the average genetic breakdown showed 64% smaller western coyote, 13% gray wolf, and 13% eastern wolf (the latter two picked up in the Great Lakes region, where wolf populations were at a low point and wolves were having a hard time finding wolf mates!). And, yes, they are 10% domestic dog.

Their numbers fluctuate from summer highs to winter lows and are controlled by the intact social structure maintained by a dominant male and female, who mate for life at age two. They control and defend a 15-square-mile home range in which the family group moves around—more in the woods in winter and spring, and in open lands in summer and fall. The howling we hear, especially now, in fall and early winter, is related to maintaining pack cohesion as the pups start to hunt, first with parents, then independently.

If the social structure of the pack falls apart because of loss of one or both of the dominant pair, the young mate earlier, have larger litters, and coyotes from outside the home range come in. The numbers of animals spike until a dominant pair emerges and the population is again controlled by their structure and influence.

We have had a stable dominant pair and family structure in our area. Bruce Howlett of Bobolink Farm keeps his sheep in electric fence enclosures that are moved daily—100 or so sheep in an enclosure. He has seen the coyotes walk right by these enclosures, hunting for rodents or small mammals, and neither sheep nor coyote even glance at one another. They all know the deal! Bruce says the coyotes and their young know they can't mess with the fence, and the sheep know they won't—and that the power of their numbers can be intimidating! However, an unfamiliar dog coming that close can create a panic. However, Bruce wonders what would happen if it were only a few sheep or



Terry J. Allen

Lone coyote in an EM field

if unfamiliar coyotes (caused by loss of the dominant pair) roamed through. Hmmmm...

And what do they think of us? Coyotes, like other animals that are hunted and trapped, are wary of humans and probably smart enough to figure out whether or not we are stalking them. They must know us well to live, hunt, raise and manage families, and control territory in such proximity to us.

Coyotes are relatively new to Vermont (50 years or so) and seem to be with us to stay. Without top predators, deer will and do over-browse woods and other plants. I've been known to say we need more hunters and wolves if we want to keep our maples and gardens. It remains to be seen what the future of hunting or our landscape will be, but coyotes, perhaps not a great top predator like hunters or wolves, are definitely better than nothing!

Dog Licensing Begins January 3

You've waited, and it's back!

The 2022 #1 dog drawing is right on track

Tucker, Milo, and Maya said it can't be beat!

It's our fourth annual drawing and sure to be a treat.

Bring your dog in for licensing so we can all meet!

Annual dog licensing begins Jan. 3 and ends April 1. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required. One-time cost for neutered/spayed dogs is \$9; unaltered is \$13. Your pooch will then be entered into a drawing for a chance to win the **#1 dog tag** and a prize package from local businesses.

Thanks to *Signpost* contributor: Loring Starr

Town Weathervane

MARRIAGES

- Carl Benson & Sally Boisvert were married in October
- Shannon Searles & Rome Cottrell were married in October

DEATHS (*survivors living in East Montpelier are listed, when known*)

- Emily Ovaitte, daughter of Michelle Ovaitte, died in September
- Dylan Wirth, son of Cate & Elizabeth Wirth, brother of Hannah died in November
- Thomas Morse, husband of Monica, father of Caitrin, son of Burr, brother of Rob

LAND TRANSFERS

Transfers relative to estate planning and corrective deeds are not included in this listing. For further information on land transactions, please contact the Town Clerk.

- Nicole Clark to Blue Hillscape LLC, a home and 1.6 acres on VT14N
- Linda Dole to The Housing Foundation, a mobile home on Sandy Pines Rd.
- East Montpelier Acres to Jason & Elizabeth Cote-Wong, home and 2.18 acres on US2
- Joseph & Lucy Ferrada to Joseph Kiefer and Amy Goodman, 10.1 acres of open land on County Rd.
- Goodrich Living Trust to Mark D'Angelo, a home and 10.11 acres on Jourdan Rd.
- Richard Harvie to Daniel & Ann Green, 10.10 acres and dwelling on Partridge Run
- Darryl Johnson to James Lindars & Jill Viggiani, home and 21 acres on Dodge Rd.
- Susan Martin to Tressa Kreis, 9.25 acres of open land on Chickering Rd.
- Helen Merena to Marjorie Merena, undivided 50% interest in a home and 52 acres on North St.
- Christopher Nuñez to Lyme Trust of 2021, a dwelling and 3 acres on County Rd.
- Tonya Nuñez to Christopher Nuñez, undivided 50% interest in dwelling and 3 acres on County Rd.
- Jennifer Perry to Benjamin & Linda McCall, 1.53 acres of open land on Pine Ridge Rd.
- Robert W. Phillips to Lloyd Properties, LLC, home and 19.73 acres on VT14N
- John & Ellen Riley to Kyle Konline & Herrie Son, 34 acres of open land on Old Trail Rd.
- Ralph Schaarschmidt, II to Erin & Matthew Borland, a home and 8.7 acres on Boulder Ridge Rd.

- Loring & Owen Starr to Kent Johnson & Sandra Green-Stark, a home and 10.09 acres on Center Rd.

The following are excerpts from minutes of the EM and WCUUSD governing boards. Complete minutes are available on the town and school websites.

All town meetings were held in person at the town office building with a remote participation option using the Zoom conferencing platform.

SELECTBOARD

October 4, 2021

Discussion

- Wrightsville Beach Recreation District update
- Existing Town Office positions & future needs
- Town Treasurer transition

Motions Passed:

- to authorize limited use of town roads as requested by East Montpelier Gully Jumpers
- to authorize TA Johnson to complete the necessary paperwork to renew the town's membership in VLCT PACIF
- to authorize Treasurer Welch to move the full amount of the three requested FY22 budget lines from the general fund to the affiliated small accounts when he deems it appropriate, but prior to the close of FY22 on June 30, 2022
- to appoint Seth Gardner and Jon Boucher as the East Montpelier representatives to the central VT region's Regional Emergency Management Committee (joined by Calais Selectboard and Fire Chief Rolland)
- to enter executive session at 8:51 p.m.; exited at 9:31 p.m.
- to authorize Chair Gardner to sign the joint letter on behalf of the EM Board conveying that information (as described in [minutes]) to EMFD and work with the Calais Board to get their signatures as well before sending the letter to EMFD

October 18, 2021

Discussion

- CV Solid Waste Management District's FY23 Preliminary Budget
- Status update on Emergency Services Agreement
- Potential use of ORCA Media for meetings
- Existing Town Office positions and future needs
- Town Treasurer transition

Motions Passed

- to set the 2022 employee health benefit at a maximum of 92% of the premium cost of the BCBS Platinum Plan and to allow employees to choose between the BCBS and MVP Platinum Plans
- to adopt the proposed Town of East Montpelier SARS-CoV-2 ("Covid-19") Vaccination and Mitigation Policy for Employees

November 1, 2021

Discussion

- Central VT Prevention Coalition: Impact on East Montpelier
- Central VT New Directions: Update on Retail Cannabis
- Review of East Montpelier traffic ordinance
- Review of proposed House reapportionment statewide map

Motions Passed

- to authorize the EM Fire Department to use up to \$30,000 from the EMFD Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase and installation into Rescue 3 of a Stryker powered loading system
- to enter executive session at 8:36 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters; exited at 8:53.
- to immediately increase hourly wages of the following town employees: Road foreman Guthrie Perry to \$29; road crew members Frank Campbell, Ken Lorden and Craig Seadeek to \$24; and municipal office assistant Denise Sparrow to \$24.

November 15, 2021 (U)

Discussion

- Use of Revolving Loan Fund
- FY23 Budget development
- 2022 Town Meeting Warning
- Lister vacancy

Motions Passed

- to accept the time extension amendment to VTrans Better Roads Grant BR0842 and to authorize TA Johnson to complete the agreement
- to authorize Vice-chair Etnier to sign the letter of support for the East Montpelier Trails, Inc. application for ERSA Grant Program funding to construct the proposed Bobolink Farm Trail
- to appoint Spencer Hardy to the Planning Commission through 2022 Town Meeting

- to enter executive session at 8:16 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters; exited at 8:34 with no action taken afterward

PLANNING COMMISSION

October 7, 2021

Discussion

- Zoning Update (Setbacks for nonconforming uses, waivers and variances, certificates of compliance)
- Process to fill upcoming vacancy

October 21, 2021

Discussion

- Zoning update: Setbacks for nonconforming uses, waivers and variances
- Zoning update: Certificates of Compliance

November 4, 2021

Discussion

Zoning Update: Draft Village Maps
Zoning Updates: Articles 3 & 4

Motions Passed

- to recommend to the SB to appoint Spencer Hardy to PC to fill the vacancy

November 18, 2021 (U)

Discussion

- potential *Signpost* article re: hearings for zoning and town plan amendments
- Design Review Board

October 15, 2021 (U)

Discussion: Conceptual Plan Review—Old LaPerle Farm property

WCUUSD

October 6, 2021

Motions Passed

- to approve an extended leave of absence request from Christiana Martin through Jan 18, 2022
- to approve an increase of 0.2 FTE for Ellen Dorsey for WCUUSD Assessment and Professional Development Coordinator
- to approve the hiring of Amy Molina for the position of U-32 Assistant Principal

October 21, 2021 (U)

Motions Passed

- to accept the Humanity and Justice Coalition vision statement
- to nominate Ursula Stanley as voting member [of the Board]
- to allow board to spend up to \$1K to hire a VSBA consultant to help the board create Superintendent Evaluation system
- to form a Superintendent Consultant Search Committee with members Jonas



Really Great Blue Heron

Terry J. Allen

Eno-Van Fleet, Ursula Stanley, Flor Diaz Smith, and Maggie Weiss

- to approve the calendar year 2022 Dental Insurance Premiums as follows: Single Plan \$552; 2-Person Plan \$1,080; Family Plan \$1,512
- to authorize the use of \$1,500/\$3,000 for building personnel projections for the Health Reimbursement accounts for the FY 2022-2023 Budget Development
- to authorize superintendent to enter into an agreement with Black River Design, not to exceed \$15,000 to create schematic designs with estimates for projects identified in the FY23 Capital Improvement Plan

October 30, 2021 (U) Special Meeting

Motions Passed

- to enter executive session at 8:02 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a legal issue with Interim Superintendent Jen Miller-Arsenault, Legal counsel Scott Cameron, Tech Director Mark Kline, Michelle Ksepka, and Joseph Lazzarotti and Mary Costigan from the law firm of Jackson Lewis, Berkeley Heights, NJ; exited at 9:40. No action was taken afterward.

November 3, 2021 (U) Special Meeting

Motions Passed

- to find that premature public knowledge of the issue to be discussed would place the district at a substantial disadvantage to enter executive session at 5:18 p.m. for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel over a pending legal issue.
- to enter Executive Session to include Interim Superintendent Jen Miller-Arsenault, Counsel Scott Cameron, Technology Director Mark Kline, District Operations Manager Michelle Ksepka, Joseph Lazzarotti and Mary Costigan from the law firm of

Jackson Lewis, Berkeley Heights, NJ; exited at 6:10. No action was taken.

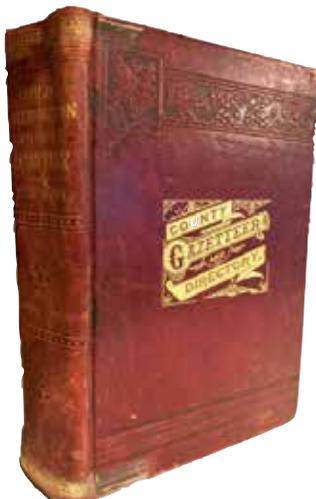
November 3, 2021 (U)

Motions Passed

- to approve the new teacher nomination for Georgeanne Baker at Calais, Reading Interventionist
- to approve extended leave of absence request for Amy Koenigbauer, as presented
- to enter executive session at 5:04 p.m. to discuss a student matter, and include Interim Superintendent Jen Miller-Arsenault, Principal Steven Dellinger-Pate, Alan Hefferon, Jes Wills, and Ellen Cooke; exited at 5:48.
- to accept the administration's recommendation regarding the student matter
- to support the School Administrators Amicus Brief: Vishakha Joshi as presented.
- to authorize superintendent to complete bidding for the projects listed on the WCUUSD Capital Improvement Project Plan, FY 22-23 Budget column, for a total estimated cost of \$1,533,863
- to authorize the Superintendent to sign a limited contract with Jeff Forward, Forward Thinking Consultants LLC, at \$100/Hour, not to exceed \$2,000 for identifying appropriate net metering partners for WCUUSD
- to authorize superintendent to sign a one-month extension to current net metering agreement with Kingsbury Hydro Electric
- to authorize superintendent to sign a 36-month lease agreement with Hillyard and All Lines Leasing Company for \$971.22/month for 2 Trident ride-on auto scrubbers and 1 Trident walk behind auto scrubber, with option to buy the equipment for \$1 at the end of the lease.
- to award the bid to First Student based on the bus bid, with direction for selecting diesel buses
- to award the copier and printer bid to Symquest with Konica Minolta copiers and printers and approve and authorize superintendent to sign the proposed tax-exempt lease with M.S.T. Government Leasing, LLC, for the purposes of leasing, refinancing, and funding photocopy equipment leases including consultant fees, and related costs of issuances of such leases in an amount not to exceed \$183,517.21 and an annual interest rate of 3.29% through August 1, 2025
- to approve the hire of Lauren Keissling, school psychologist

A Look at the Past

Hidden treasures show up when you're not expecting them. Jennifer Boyer, on a current quest to uncover the history of houses in our area, struck gold in the files of the late David Coburn, whose family played a big role in that history. Until his death in 2017, Dave was one of EM's most knowledgeable historical sleuths. Jennifer found a history of East Montpelier excerpted from the 1889 volume of Child's Gazetteer of Washington County (right). Hamilton Child of Syracuse, NY, had a business writing historical information about various locations. He covered all the counties of Vermont as well as many from New York State and some from New Hampshire and Pennsylvania. The East Montpelier chapter begins with a few paragraphs of history. Here is his description of how East Montpelier in 1848 became a town separate from Montpelier:



There was a petition for this division, signed by the majority of the legal voters of the village (of Montpelier), and a remonstrance to the measure, signed by the whole mass, in the part proposed to be set off (now East Montpelier), and a respectable

minority of the voters in the village. Notwithstanding, the legislature passed the act and the division was made. The Green Mountain Boys have always been tenacious of their rights, and some who were thus arbitrarily set off at first exhibited a little warm blood. But time is a healer, and now both towns see that the division is a mutual benefit.

The account also features profiles of many of the early settlers. Common is a phrase such as: *he located his farm, cleared the land and built a cabin. He then returned (to Massachusetts) to travel with his wife and children to his wilderness home with an ox team, where he lived for the rest of his life.*

Included are such family names as Cummings, Wheeler, Dodge, Young, Templeton, Vincent, Rich, Snow, Peck, Foster, Clark, Cutler, Kelton, Mcknight, Dodge, Coburn, Daggett. These names are familiar to us now as the names of roads or other landmarks. Most were farmers, sometimes doing other jobs on the side such as carpenter, mill wright, town officer, or legislator. If you wish to know more about these families go to eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org. Under #3 you will find the entire chapter as it was written in the Gazetteer.

—Barbara Ploof is a member of the EM Historical Society

Historical Society Zooms in on Area History

For the first time ever, our town historical society opted to use Zoom for two autumn meetings. In October, Dan Bragg presented a detailed talk about how he arranged to have several historic markers created and installed along Vermont roadsides—one for Senator William Upham on Main Street in Montpelier, another for Clarence Fitch near the Adamant Coop, and a third for William Slade of Cornwall. Dan researched each person and worked with state officials to get the informative signs designed and installed.

In November, Nathan Phillips shared a series of black-and-white aerial images of farms that existed in the 1960s along Routes 2 and 14 extending up to E. Calais. He researched the owners of the properties; and to make a logical program, he had to determine all their geographical positions. Members watching could comment about the places if they had knowledge of them. Nathan has more images to share in a future meeting. Both these programs may be watched for

free in their entirety by going to the Historical Society <http://eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org/index.php/programs/>

Our society along with the Calais society, will be planning for new programs in 2022. Watch for public postings. For questions or program suggestions, contact Sandal Cate: sandal.cate@gmail.com.

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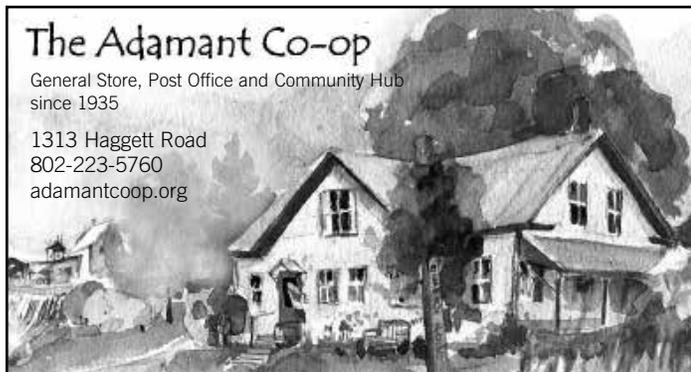
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IMPORTANT DATES

- Mon. Jan. 3,** Dog Licensing begins
- Wed. Jan 12,** Final public hearing on WCUUSD budget; see website for Zoom access
- Thurs. Jan. 13,** Petitions for articles for Town Meeting Warning due by 5 pm
- Mon. Jan. 17,** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Town Offices open
- Mon. Jan. 24,** Candidate Consent Forms due to town clerk by 5:00 pm. Contact town clerk for form
- Mon. Feb. 14,** Presidents' Day: Town Offices open
- Sat. Feb. 28,** Pre-Town Meeting Forum, 9:30 AM Elementary School



Terry J. Allen

Hoarfrost covers the hills

SIGNPOST DEADLINE FOR MARCH-APRIL SUBMISSIONS: JANUARY 24, 2022

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Conservation Fund Advisory Committee
- Development Review Board (DRB)
- East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)
- East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative
- Four Corners Schoolhouse Assn
- Planning Commission (PC)
- Recreation Board
- Selectboard
- WCUUSD Board Meeting
- East Montpelier Historical Society

- as needed
- 1st Tues. 7 pm
- every Tues. 7 pm
- as needed
- 2nd Wed. 7 pm
- 1st & 3rd Thurs. 7 pm
- 2nd Mon. 7:15 pm
- 1st & 3rd Mon. 6:30 pm
- 3rd Wed. 5:30 pm
- TBD

- contact: blusig@aol.com / 229-5441
- Town Office Building
- EMFD Community Room
- contact: rhazel@ezcloud.com
- Four Corners Schoolhouse
- Town Office Building
- Elementary School
- Town Office building
- one of the district elementary schools
- Four Corners Schoolhouse/E. Calais