

EAST MONTPELIER Signpost

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Volume 35 / Number 4

NEWS OF OUR COMMUNITY

March-April 2025

Town Meeting Day: Tuesday, March 4

photos by Alex Brown



Before the Big Day

Voter Registration: at the Town Office Monday through Thursday 9 am - 5 pm, Friday until noon, or at the East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) polling place on election day. Register online at olvr.vermont.gov at any time.

Early Voting: Town ballots were sent to all active voters in February. WCUUSD and Central Vermont Career Center early ballots must be requested separately. Ballots may be hand delivered to the Town Clerk **through Friday, Feb. 28 at 12 Noon** or deposited in the secure drop box outside the office until 5 pm on Tuesday, March 4. Ballots may be delivered to the EMES polling place until 7 pm on March 4. **The Town Clerk's office will be CLOSED on Monday, March 3, to prepare for the election.**

In-Person Voting: All ballots are available on election day at the polling place. Polls are open 7 am - 7 pm.

Pre-Town Meeting Forums: The WCUUSD meeting will take place on Monday, March 3 at 5:30 pm in room 128/131 at U-32. Remote access is available at <https://tinyurl.com/57upnjtt>. The Town Forum took place on February 17, 2025. Please check your Town and School Reports to see what will be discussed and voted on.

Town Potluck Checklist

At the end of Town Meeting, we feast with friends and neighbors in the EMES cafeteria. We'll follow last year's format and here are my top five asks!

- RSVP.** Let me know if you plan on attending Potluck Lunch and how many will be in your party so that we can plan for food. Email: ebclark23@hotmail.com
- Eating Well.** Bring a main entrée (no soups) and label it non-vegetarian, vegetarian, or vegan. List ingredients for those who have allergies. Please prepare enough to feed at least eight people. We will provide bread, salad, desserts, beverages, and napkins.
- No Cleanup!** Since we will not be using the dishwasher, please bring your own plates, glasses, forks, knives, and spoons as well as a serving spoon for your main dish. You will take your serving dishes, utensils, and cutlery home with you to be washed.
- The Best Deal.** If you are unable to bring an entree, you can purchase a meal for \$5. Please RSVP with me in advance.
- Helping Out.** Email me at ebclark23@hotmail.com if you can volunteer to help with setup, serving, and cleanup.

Town Meeting begins at 9:30 am at EMES - see you there!

—Erin Clark, Town Meeting Potluck Chair

What is Community?

As I approach my 56th Town Meeting Day in Vermont, I'm trying to analyze why this day feels so important to me—why I have deferred other commitments (even vacations) so that I could be present each year. Then it dawned on me that my devotion to the *Signpost* has the same roots: each is a key aspect of our community which makes me feel part of something larger than myself and to which I can contribute.

The *Signpost* evolved almost 35 years ago to help increase our sense of “community-ism”— to help us get to know our neighbors, to feel part of our small town, and to learn how we can play a role. Town Meeting, a rare example of direct

democracy, provides an important outlet for people to speak frankly, listen carefully, and find solutions to common community concerns. It also fosters a sense of community.

And speaking of playing a role, we have two of our neighbors who have stepped up to preserve two long-time traditions in EM – see below.

Also, put in your two cents by completing the Planning Commission’s survey – see page 10.

Long live community-ism! See you at Town Meeting.

—Edie Miller

Town Traditions Go On!

After fearing that the potluck would not happen this year, Erin Clark—an East Montpelier resident since 2008—volunteered to take over organizing “the best meal in town” from Sue Racanelli. Ann Stanton was so relieved that this annual tradition would continue that she wanted to follow up a bit. Ann reports:

When I asked what led her to volunteer, it became apparent that Erin is a person who sees a need and figures out how to meet it. She recognized that a wonderful tradition like our potluck would quickly lose momentum if even a year were missed, so she stepped forward.

Meeting individual and community needs is a skill Erin has honed after graduating from VTC’s nursing program and becoming a home health nurse. That job takes her all around the area, observing, understanding, and taking action. Apart from that “day job,” she saw additional needs in the Central Vermont community for supportive care. Consequently,

she is starting a non-profit called Generations Vermont, an intergenerational care center providing supports for older adults, adults with disabilities, and childcare, under one organizational umbrella. The *Signpost* will cover that exciting project in a future issue.

Green Up Day, a Vermont tradition for more than 50 years, and one that has been fully embraced by East Montpelier for all that time, has a new leader this year as well. We’re delighted that her “pet peeve” spurred her on to take on the leadership of this important project.

Christine Schultz-Beling gave us this very brief introduction to herself: She and her husband, John, moved to East Montpelier in 2008 with their three sons. Chris works on both solid and hazardous waste issues in the environmental field and has a pet peeve about litter.

Thank heavens for pet peeves!

EAST
MONTPELIER

East Montpelier Signpost

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They Want Your Vote

Job descriptions taken largely from the VLCT Resource Manual and Vermont Law

TOWN MODERATOR: *one 1-year term*

The moderator is the presiding officer of municipal meetings and shall decide questions of votes taken, except if Australian ballot is used. The moderator shall preserve order in the conduct of business and meetings.



Michael Duane: I am running for re-election for the position of Town Moderator. My wife, Ellen Knoedler, and I have lived in East Montpelier for the past 43 years. We raised our three children in East Montpelier, and we now have two grandchildren who also reside in our town and attend East Montpelier Elementary School.

I am a retired attorney after 35 years of practicing law and now spend my days gardening, babysitting, skiing, hiking, traveling, and cutting wood. I have been the Town Moderator since 2015. As Moderator, it has been my practice to attend the Selectboard meetings when the annual Town Warning is being prepared so that I have an understanding of what issues may arise at the upcoming Town Meeting. I believe I have a pretty good grasp of Robert's Rules of Order and Vermont state laws as they pertain to Vermont Town Meeting procedures. It would be my honor to serve as East Montpelier's Town Moderator for another term.

SELECTBOARD MEMBER: *one 3-year term; one 2-year term; one two years of a 3-year term*

Selectboard members are responsible for general supervision of the affairs of the town and are responsible for seeing that all duties, not assigned by law to any particular officer, are carried out. The selectboard convenes town meetings and may enact ordinances and rules that regulate areas such as roads, traffic, waste disposal, animals, and nuisances as examples.



Carlton "Carl" Etnier, 3-year term: Since joining the Selectboard in 2011, the town has seen many changes. Flooding in both 2023 and 2024. Town officers and staff have come and gone. But our community has shown remarkable strength and adaptability.

Before November's voter approval of a new town garage, the Selectboard and town staff held many events and sent out information to voters on the need for a new garage and to get voters' input on design choices. The vote was the town's endorsement of constructing a building that will stand the test of time and paying for the building's energy costs up front by installing photovoltaics. These design decisions will reduce future annual costs and inflation-proof the energy use.

Thanks to the Resilient Roads Committee, we've identified the threat to roadside trees and public safety from the emerald ash borer and worked annually to remove roadside ash trees. We're replacing the electric vehicle charging station at our park-and-ride. And the road crew continues to keep the roads well-maintained and clear of snow (within the limits imposed by nature and acknowledged by the selectboard's Winter Roads Policy).

I have been proud to work with the team on the Selectboard, in the town office and on the roads, and to represent the people of East Montpelier. I'm asking to continue working with the team.



Scott Hess, 2-year term:

It has been an honor to serve the citizens of East Montpelier for the last two years. During my first term, I helped set up a plan to invest the town's funds in safe investments (CDs and T-bills) that have returned a considerable sum of money to the town. Prior to Selectboard, I spent over a decade on the Planning Commission, which has given

me insight into the town plan, zoning, and property regulations.

I serve on several non-profit boards, including Community Harvest of Central Vermont and the Vermont Alliance of Retired Americans. I recently served three terms as a panel member of the Vermont Professional Responsibility Program, which investigates complaints against attorneys. In my spare time, I run, hike, and substitute teach at elementary schools throughout the WCUUS District. My professional background is in commodities.

Candidates, continued on p. 4

Candidates, continued from p. 3

LISTER: one 3-year term

Listers are responsible for determining the value of the real and personal property in town. This is the value the selectboard or the town will use to set a tax rate necessary to raise the money to operate the town in the next year. It is also the basis for the determination of the property wealth of the municipality for purposes of setting state education property taxes.



Richard “Jez” Harrington: 3-year term: Some of you may know me by my nickname “Jez,” but of course both Richard and Jez work equally well. I have lived on North Street in East Montpelier with my wife Anne Mixer since 2013 and in Vermont since 1995. I currently serve as a Justice of the Peace for East Montpelier and intend to continue to serve in that role for the balance of the two-year term.

The decision to run was a relatively simple one—to serve and be a value-added member of our community. I am retired from my career as a project manager. I worked at Wall Goldfinger (a custom manufacturing firm of fine woodwork, specializing in boardroom conference tables) for fourteen years. Our clientele were principally Fortune 500 companies and the federal government. Some of our work can be found in the White House, as well as other government agencies. I retired from Wall Goldfinger in 2016 as senior project manager supervising three other project managers. I believe my career experience will serve me well in adapting to the role and responsibilities of Lister for our town. Please consider me when you vote at Town Meeting.

TOWN AUDITOR: one 3-year term

Town auditors are responsible for examining and adjusting the accounts of all town officers and all other persons authorized by law to draw orders on the town treasurer. Secondly, they are to report their findings in writing to the legal voters of the town presenting an easy-to-understand picture of the town’s finances.

Deborah Fillion, 3-year term: no statement submitted

PLANNING COMMISSIONER: three 3-year terms; two 2 years of a 3-year term; one 1 year of a 3-year term (6 positions are being voted on)

The Planning Commission is responsible for preparing and maintaining a current town plan and zoning regulations. It reviews significant developments and makes recommendations on issues including land development, transportation,

economic and social development, historic, wetland and scenic preservation.

Kim Watson, 3-year term: no statement submitted



Glenn Weyant, 3-year term: My wife Jennifer and I live on Johnson Road with our two daughters—Kestrel and Ibis—and a bunch of animals.

Last year I was appointed to fill the term of a vacated seat on the Planning Commission. I’d no intention of running for another term when I signed on. But as I began work on the Town Plan with members of the PC, I became invested in the process and realized continuity was important as we head towards a June deadline. Also, the work of the PC dovetails with the work of the Development Review Board, of which I have been a member since 2019.

My interest in the PC and DRB comes from a life-long interest in the spaces we inhabit and how those places mesh or clash with the natural world. In Vermont, during the pandemic, I helped manage a popular co-op. It was a stark contrast seeing “essential workers” valued by our community struggle to find affordable housing. In New York and Massachusetts, I was a journalist covering land use and environmental beats. In Arizona I worked on projects documenting the sonic topography/changing soundscape of the Sonoran Desert—a place my wife and I called home for 23 years and our children’s birthplace.

Before our desert detour in 1994, Jennifer and I had planned to move to Vermont. East Montpelier’s a wonderful place to live, and I’m grateful to be of service to the community.



Erica Zimmerman, 3-year term: I am running for Planning Commission to continue the service I began two years ago. The PC attracted me with its potential to be forward-looking and to help shape the future of our town. Its work has been new to me, but my interests in ensuring the vitality of our community relate to my lifelong career in education and my 20 years of farming.

Candidates, continued on p. 6

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

Michele Pallas
treasurer@eastmontpeliervt.org

Town Administrator

Jennifer Devine
manager@eastmontpeliervt.org

Fire Permits

Ty Rolland 793-8532

First Constable

Jon Boucher 917-4855

Animal Control Officers

Lead: Amber Perry 498-5140
Assistant: Jon Boucher 917-4855

Listers

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

Health Officer

Zoe Christiansen 261-1978

Service Officer

Rachael Grossman 223-3177

Selectboard

Seth Gardner, Chair
sethbgardner@hotmail.com
Zoe Christiansen Carl Etnier
Scott Hess Tom Brazier

Planning Commission

Zach Sullivan, Chair, zsullivan@gmail.com

Development Review Board

Steve Kappel, Chair
sjkappel@gmail.com

WCUUSD Board

Amelia Contrada, acontrada@u32.org
Flor Diaz Smith, fdiazsmith@u32.org
Zach Sullivan, zsullivan@u32.org

State Representative

Ela Chapin, 552-0242
echapin@leg.state.vt.us

Green Up Day is May 3rd



Looking out at snow covered hills, it is hard to think ahead to May while enjoying snow fun! But deadlines are fast approaching, and it is never too early to start thinking about how to participate in the time-honored tradition of Green Up Day! This year's collection event will take place on Saturday May 3, 2025, from 9 am - 1 pm at East Montpelier Elementary School.

The iconic green trash bags will be available starting the week of April 21 at several locations and from greenupvermont.org.

In anticipation of the day, there are many ways to participate, with something for every talent. Work in groups or on your own, with the whole class or a group of friends – the main thing is to have fun and share your love for Green Up Day! Go to greenupvermont.org for more details.

FOR THE KIDS

In advance of Green Up Day, there are three contests open to K-12 students:

- Writing Contest – poem, essay, speech – the sky's the limit. The deadline is March 1.
- Video Contest – 30 to 60 second TV commercial. DEADLINE April 1
- Jingle Contest – 15 to 30 second tune to inspire people to Green Up. The deadline is April 1.

FOR EVERYONE

- Mentor Program – leadership opportunity: looks great on resumes and college applications.
- Green Up at Home and School – request a kit, start a movement, be Enviro-heroes.
- Team Building – do a pre-game/practice Green Up. Great for camaraderie.
- Apply for the scholarship. Have you ever Greened Up? That makes you eligible.
- Donate to Green Up Vermont on Line 23 of your Vermont tax return to keep Green Up Day funded.

Volunteers are needed beyond the traditional trash collecting along our scenic roads: staff the East Montpelier Elementary School collection site; sort recyclables and transfer trash to trucks graciously provided by the town; provide and drive your truck to pick up green bags along our roads; and encourage your business, school, or civic organizations to join in the effort too.

Interested in volunteering? Email Chris Beling at csbeling@gmail.com or call 802-522-6690.

-Christine Beling, Green Up Coordinator for East Montpelier

Candidates, continued from p. 4

My husband Kevin McCollister and I came to East Montpelier 30 years ago this month! We moved from halfway around the world, but since then have stayed within a mile of East Montpelier Center. Since 2004, we have had the honor of owning and stewarding Center Farm, where we raise grass-fed sheep, pastured poultry, and a few ponies that give me the opportunity every year to teach a handful of local children to ride. With our own kids graduated from U-32, I maintain a connection to the schools through my work running their nonprofit partner, Washington Central Friends of Education.

In both education and agriculture, I have taken an integrative perspective of sustainability – where community, economics, and ecology are the overlapping lenses through which we gauge our success. The PC gives me a chance to help bring all our townspeople's perspectives together to guide our priorities. I am coordinating our survey as a good way to share your thoughts and experiences. If you haven't filled it out, please do asap! (See the link <https://tinyurl.com/EastMontpelierSurvey> or find the blurb in this *Signpost*.)



Celina Barton, two years of a 3-year term: I have returned to our family farm in East Montpelier and would love to contribute my skills, expertise, networks, and passion for community development to the Planning Commission.

My background is in green real estate and sustainable development. I am a serial entrepreneur and committed to working with fellow committee members to address key issues, foster community engagement, and help our community thrive within planetary limits. I have a daughter at St. Andrews in Scotland and a son at Brown in Providence. They have both given me marching orders to help make our community enticing for young people so they may move back here and convince their friends to join them as well.



Renee Carpenter, two years of a 3-year term: I've lived in East Montpelier for 35 years—most of it in North Montpelier Village where I raised five, mostly home-schooled children (now all adults). I've worked as a writer/editor while operating the Kingsbury Branch Community School, in the building trades, in non-profit administration, and

in organic agriculture.

In addition to juggling occupations (long before the current "gig economy" nomenclature), I was a Lister for four years, Zoning Administrator in Calais, representing them on the CVRPC; and, as a party to the Act 250 case which protected the 6-acre swimming hole on Coburn Road, I spearheaded a grassroots citizen's alliance which evolved to become "Friends of Coburn Pond." Through this—and many other experiences on non-profit boards—I've learned a lot about the intersection of state and local governance with various agencies and non-profit groups.

I'm running for the PC to support the committee in amending the new Town Plan so it will accurately reflect changes in East Montpelier through the pandemic, increased flooding, other erratic consequences of extreme weather, and their impacts on the economy and social fabric of our community.

One year of a 3-year term: no candidates

WASHINGTON CENTRAL UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT (WCUUSD)

The WCUUSD consists of the elementary schools of the five towns of Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, and Worcester and U-32 Middle/High School. A single school board with representatives from the five towns is responsible for the entire pre-K through 12 school system. Voters from the five towns elect all members of the board, as well as a moderator, clerk, and treasurer for the school district.

In keeping with time and space limitations, the Signpost will publish statements from those running as board members from East Montpelier, as well as the non-town-affiliated positions of moderator, clerk, and treasurer. It is hoped that information on other candidates will be available on the WCUUSD website.

WCUUSD SCHOOL DIRECTOR

School directors are responsible for managing the general affairs of the school district by developing policies and hiring able administrators to assure the soundness of the physical assets as well as the educational content and methods presented in student classrooms. They are responsible for convening school district meetings.

Flor Diaz Smith, East Montpelier, 3-year term: I live in East Montpelier with my husband, Dan, where we raised two wonderful young adults who attended EMES and U-32. Born in Guatemala, where public education is neither prioritized nor recognized as the foundation of democracy, I firmly believe in the transformative power of public education to shape lives, build communities, and strengthen

CANDIDATES 2025



democracy. It is our collective commitment to the future and our greatest gift to our children.

Since moving to Vermont in 1997, I've been actively serving our community, volunteering in schools, and fostering collaboration to benefit all children. In 2009, I became a U.S. citizen to serve on the EM School Board. I worked to

dream, pass, and complete the renovation and addition at East Montpelier Elementary.

Currently, I serve as chair of the WCUUSB, president of the Vermont School Boards Association, and the Eastern Region Representative for the National School Boards Association. Additionally, I co-chair Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council and contribute in various roles dedicated to improving opportunities for children and families in Vermont and beyond.

My love for our Washington Central school district is immeasurable, and my commitment is to our communities, our leadership team, and especially our children. I look forward to working to ensure our school district centers future decisions on the quality of education, its sustainability, and its ability to provide equal opportunities for success for every child. It would be an honor to continue to serve you.

3-year term, Berlin: no candidate

Michelle Ksepka, Calais, 3-year term: no statement submitted

Elizabeth Schenck Brown, Calais, two years of a 3-year term: no statement submitted

Ursula Stanley, Middlesex, 3-year term: I currently serve as the Vice Chair on the WCUUSD School Board. In addition, I chair the Education Quality Committee, where we are implementing our Academic Achievement Monitoring Plan, while considering district equity indicators, State Education Quality Standards, and the district's Strategic Plan goals. I am also a member of the finance and steering committees, and last year, I contributed to the reconfiguration committee's efforts to find sustainable and equitable methods for delivering education in our district. This experience has allowed me to develop a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities our district faces, and it has strengthened my commitment to

finding innovative solutions.

Appointed to the School Board in August 2021 to fill a vacancy, I have since run for and continued to serve. I firmly believe in the potential of all students to succeed and am deeply passionate about ensuring equitable access to education for all students. My dedication is fueled by the belief that education is a fundamental right and a powerful tool for social change. I am hopeful for the work we can do to develop a district configuration that will allow us to deliver quality programming that meets our students' needs and ensures fiscal sustainability.

I look forward to collaborating with fellow board members, educators, and community stakeholders to build a brighter future for all our students.

Patrick Whelley, Middlesex, two years of a 3-year term: no statement submitted

Julia Hewitt, Worcester, 3-year term: In August, I was appointed to fill a vacant Worcester seat on the Washington Central Unified Union School District (WCUUSD) School Board, just as it was embarking on a reconfiguration plan that would close two of our elementary schools. In this role, I've gained insight into the challenges and opportunities facing our schools, and I'm eager to continue helping to shape the future of education in our district. To that end, I now seek your support in working on behalf of all WCUUSD communities.

With 33 years of experience as a Vermont public school teacher and five years as a community college adjunct professor, I am committed to the value of public education. My career has taught me the importance of listening to all voices—students, parents, teachers, and community members—and using their input to make thoughtful, responsible decisions. I currently serve on the configuration committee and look forward to finding creative, fiscally responsible solutions for the challenges we face. I would be honored to continue serving on the board and to help ensure that every student in our district has a high-quality education.

WCUUSD MODERATOR

1-year term: no candidate

WCUUSD CLERK

1-year term: no candidate

WCUUSD TREASURER

Mary Ormsby, 1-year term: no statement submitted

TOWN WEATHERVANE

DEATHS - survivors living in East Montpelier are listed when known

- Donald Tosi, father of Laurie Mekkelsen and partner of Susan Shattuck, died in January
- Kenneth Pearson, husband of Barbara Pearson and father of Kurt Pearson, died in January

LAND TRANSFERS

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

- Various transactions relative to the Cherry Tree Co-Housing Community, with property located on Cherry Tree Hill Rd and Wyvern Way. Parties include Ellen Leonard Trust, Allison Adrienne, Janice Walrafen, Benjamin Graham and the Cherry Tree Hill Co-Housing Community LLC

The following are excerpts from minutes of EM's and WCUUSD's governing boards. Complete minutes are on the town and school websites. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings were held in person with a remote participation option available.

SELECTBOARD

December 2, 2024

- Authorized Energy Committee to apply for grant to conduct a scoping study for pedestrian/bicycle connections as alternative to using roads
- Approved motion to allow the WCUUSD to distribute ballots for the School District's Annual Meeting via USPS mail to all active, not-challenged registered voters on our town checklist
- Authorized TA to sign contract with Mike Brown for snow removal, salting and sanding for 40 Kelton Rd
- Authorized Chair to execute the documents necessary to effect the FEMA buyout of 1495 Coburn Rd
- Approved offering all full- and part-time employees, in accordance with the personnel policy: 1) 100% payment of the MVP Platinum plans; 2) the option of either an MVP or a Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance plan 3) a stipend equal to

50% of the single MVP Platinum plan in lieu of a health insurance plan

December 16, 2024

- Supported the idea of constructing a covered shelter at the rec field. Funding will come from several sources
- Authorized the Resilient Roads Committee to award the ash tree removal contract to Whitney Tree Services for an amount not to exceed \$20,800
- Awarded the town-wide reappraisal contract to NEMRC. Reappraisal to be completed in April 2029
- Following an executive session, authorized TA to sign contract with Bonnie Ingalls for office painting
- Authorized the TC to mail municipal ballots for Town Meeting to all active, not-challenged voters

January 6, 2025

- Appointed Rosie Laquerre as the town's ethics liaison
- Authorized town rep to submit a bid for the tax sale on 1-9-25 in the amount of \$2,325 if no other higher bids are received
- Authorized the SB Chair and the TA to sign the permits requesting the boundary line adjustment for the town garage. Also authorized the permit for a concrete slab to be poured for the purpose of storing equipment at 3035 US2

January 10, 2025 (Special Meeting)

- Interviewed the town garage prospective contractor, Connor Contracting, Inc.

January 20, 2025

- Approved Connor Contracting, Inc. for the management contract for pre-construction services for the town garage up to \$15,000
- Approved the Selectboard budget for FY26 at \$2,469,268.
- Approved the Town Meeting Warning
- Awarded the Horn of the Moon engineering contract to DuBois & King

PLANNING COMMISSION

November 21, 2024

- Discussed Town Plan, Chapter 5 (Public Services) Sections C and D revisions

- Proposed that future revisions for each section of Town Plan be made by a lead committee of up to 4 members which will bring its work to a review committee and then to the whole commission; meeting deadlines set by the commission

December 5, 2024

- Brainstormed questions to be considered in the housing section of the Town Plan

December 19, 2024

- Review lead committee's edits for Chapter 9 (Natural and Scenic Resources)

January 2, 2025

- Approved Town Report submission with amendments
- Reviewed Chapter 2 (About East Montpelier) and Chapter 3 (Town Government and Finance)

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

November 19, 2024

- Reviewed with applicants the sketch plan of proposed 4-lot subdivision at the intersection of VT14 and East Hill Rd. Parcel #09- 058.100

December 3, 2024

- Approved the change of use to allow the retail sale of equipment at 1776 VT14S
- Reviewed sketch plan for a 2-lot subdivision at 139 Daggett Rd
- Answered applicants' questions related to proposed application for minor subdivision needed for Fitch estate planning. The division will not occur until the Trust is dissolved

January 7, 2025

- Approved construction of the public works garage, conditional on DRB prior approval of any exterior lighting and signage
- Approved construction of a 10x20 ft. concrete pad at 3035 US2 for town equipment storage

Excerpts of the WCUUSD board may be found at emsignpost.com.

PoemCity

MONTPELIER | 2025

PoemCity is the Kellogg-Hubbard Library's annual celebration of National Poetry Month each April. Started in 2010, PoemCity displays poems by Vermonters in storefront windows in downtown Montpelier and organizes a community calendar of poetry events for the month. Come enjoy this walkable anthology, as well as readings, workshops, and events happening almost daily. For a schedule of events and exhibits visit kellogg-hubbard.org/poemcity.

Watch/Warning/Flood

by Michelle A.L. Singer

I admit it—
I went to get a coffee
So I could see how high
the water was...this time
I stood on the bridge
Next to the people with their Wilaiwan bowls
Next to the newspaper people
Next to the kids out early from school
Looking across to the watchers
On the Langdon Street bridge
Looking back at us
I walked slowly back to the library
The granite
Dark gray
From all the rain
And I checked my desk drawers
To make sure there wasn't anything
I couldn't bear to lose,
Just in case

—Michelle A.L. Singer, former coordinator
of PoemCity, lives in East Montpelier
and was formerly managing editor
of the Signpost.

Keeping the Electricity On

by Louis Porter

Preparing for outages and the safe restoration of power after a storm are the most important things we do here at Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC), even as we work to minimize those outages and respond quickly. A new metering system helps us get information more quickly, allowing more efficient deployment of crews. In recent years, outside crews under the utilities' mutual aid program help, and we hire contract crews to restore electricity quickly. All of this will not eliminate outages, but hopefully reduces their severity.

WEC members are also the owners of the cooperative; so, I would ask WEC member/owners to act on the following:

Help us prepare: Prepare for major storms by having supplies on hand to be ready for outages, particularly in the winter. That includes fuel for generators and vehicles and an alternative heating system not reliant on electricity, in addition to basic needs like food and water.

Also, help your neighbors, family members, and friends who are in need before and after storm events. If you (or they) don't have a backup generator but do have a medical condition that jeopardizes you during an outage, please inform WEC and keep us updated. We must restore power from our substations out to the ends of the line in order to get power to people's houses, but if we know you have such a need, we can help coordinate with emergency responders for assistance.

Help us restore power safely: Report outages to WEC. We rely on timely, accurate reports to respond efficiently. We may not know you are out of power if you don't call or otherwise report in. Please give all WEC personnel and contract crews the space they need to do their work safely. These folks leave their own homes and families to work long hours in difficult circumstances and horrendous weather to help communities. They deserve respect and patience.

Help us recover: The work of repairing our system goes on long after electricity has been restored to the last house. Broken poles that are propped up temporarily must be replaced, trees must be cleared out of rights-of-way, and lines spliced temporarily must be replaced. Our crews, dispatchers, and member service representatives keep working long after a storm has been consigned to memory for the rest of us.

Thank you for being a WEC member and for the assistance you provide in keeping local, renewable power flowing to our communities.

--Louis Porter is general manager of WEC.

Voting Security in East Montpelier

Last summer, the Vermont Secretary of State's office partnered with an agency of the Department of Homeland Security, the Cybersecurity Information and Security Agency (CISA), to provide Vermont's town clerks free security assessments for their polling places. After performing a walk-through of both the municipal office building and the elementary school, they provided their commendations for work we've already done and recommendations for enhancing our election security. Just after their report was received, I learned of a grant opportunity through the Center for Tech and Civil Life (CTCL) to receive funding for rural communities to enhance elections and election security.

After the grant was secured, the town office team went to work to create a more secure voting experience. Video

surveillance was installed to monitor the entrances to the building and the ballot drop box. Interior doors now have locks, and 2-way radio handsets were procured to allow for communication between the clerk and the front door monitor at the school on voting day. The remainder of the grant was used to get covers for our new voting kiosks, keeping them clean and making them easier to store. These changes help keep elections secure, while maintaining a warm, welcoming, and safe environment for our townspeople.

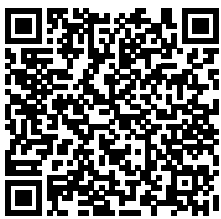
Grants add value to town assets and allow us to secure goods and services that may not otherwise be affordable. I feel fortunate that I was able to take advantage of this opportunity.

--Rosie Laquerre is EM's town clerk.

Deadline for Town Survey is March 15th

What should EM be in the future?

As part of its preparation for updating the East Montpelier Town Plan, the Planning Commission has prepared a survey to allow it to better understand how EM residents would like to see our town grow and prosper in the future. The PC wants to hear your perspectives on our town's priorities, resources, concerns, and possibilities with a particular focus on planning for housing.



Please fill out our survey before March 15th! You may complete it online at <https://tinyurl.com/East-MontpelierSurvey> or by scanning this QR code. You may also complete it on paper at the town office or contact the town office, and we'll make

sure that we get you a copy. We will also have paper copies available to complete at Town Meeting. If you would like a paper survey mailed to you, or if you need it in another format, please email us at eastmontpelierpc@gmail.com.



Paulie's Recipe Tasty Tomato Soup

INGREDIENTS

- 1 medium onion
- 6 T butter
- 1 29-ounce can diced tomatoes
- 2 29-ounce cans tomato sauce
- 6 T sugar
- 2 T "Better Than Bouillon" reduced-sodium vegetable base
- Freshly ground pepper, to taste
- 1 ½ cups heavy cream
- ¼ cup chopped flat leaf parsley
- ¼ cup chopped basil

DIRECTIONS

Dice onion and sauté in the butter in a large pot or Dutch oven until translucent. Add tomatoes, sugar, bouillon, and pepper (to taste). Bring almost to a boil. Add cream - do not let it boil after adding cream. Add parsley and basil. Serves: 8

Paulie's comments: This is a simple and versatile soup with a delicious flavor. You can leave out the basil. You can also add cooked Italian sausage or cheese tortellinis for protein. A wonderful soup for not-quite-spring: hints of fresh tomatoes to come!

Recipe contributed by Alice Angney to *Gather Around the Table: Recipes and Stories from the Old Meeting House*



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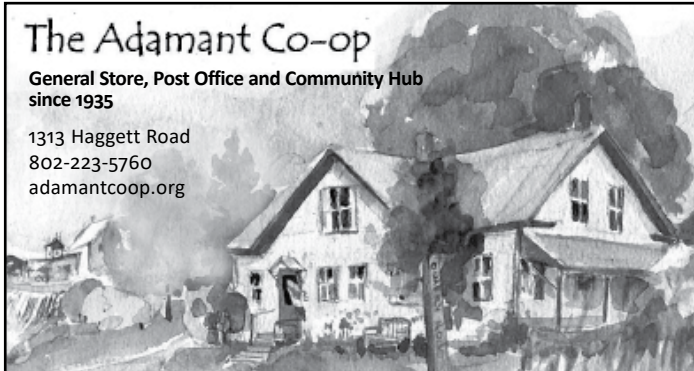
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IMPORTANT DATES

Mon. Mar. 3, 5:30 pm, Pre-Town Meeting Day WCUUSD School Forum, Room 128/131 at U-32, Remote Access at <https://tinyurl.com/57upnjtt>

Tues. Mar. 4, 9:30 am EM Town Meeting, EMES, Polls open 7 am - 7 pm

Tues. Mar. 4, around the noon hour, EM Town Meeting Potluck, EMES

Free AARP Tax Clinic

Twin Valley Senior Center

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 am – 5:30 pm

Appointments Required
Some limitations may apply

To schedule call 802-223-3322 (Mon/Wed/Fri)
or email info@twinvalleyseniors.org

**MAY-JUNE SIGNPOST
SUBMISSIONS DUE: March 31, 2025**

CALENDAR

Mon. Mar. 17, 6 pm, Meeting of the EM & Calais Historical Societies, Old Brick Church in EM Village. Optional potluck at 6, program at 6:45: "Getting Around, Through and Above our Towns in Earlier Days." Contact sandal.cate@gmail.com for information.

Mon. Apr. 21, 6 pm, Meeting of the EM & Calais Historical Societies, E. Calais Recreation Hall on Moscow Woods Rd. Sugar on snow potluck at 6, sugaring stories at 6:45. Free and open to the public. Contact sandal.cate@gmail.com for information.

Sat. May 3, 9 am – 1 pm, Green Up Day, EMES collection site and snacks.

Thank you for your support

GINGER & RICK HOPKINS

ELAINE MANGHI

LORING STARR

CHRIS & MARY STONE

Correction: Attribution of Sarah Swift's photo in the last issue was NOT taken by Terry Allen as noted but WAS taken by Alex Brown

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Development Review Board (DRB)
East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)
Four Corners Schoolhouse Assn
Planning Commission (PC)
Recreation Board
Selectboard
WCUUSD Board Meeting
East Montpelier Historical Society

1st Tues. 7 pm
every Tues. 7 pm
2nd Wed. 7 pm
1st & 3rd Thurs. 6:30 pm
2nd Mon. 7:15 pm
1st & 3rd Mon. 6:30 pm
1st & 3rd Wed. 6:15 pm
3rd Mon. 6 pm

Town Office Building
EMFD Community Room
Four Corners Schoolhouse
Town Office Building
Elementary School
Town Office Building
Rotating Locations (check website)
Old Brick Church/E. Calais