



WALLINGFORD NEWS

124TH Edition

OCTOBER 2015

TOWN CLERK & TREASURER'S OFFICE NEWS

Town Clerk & Treasurer's Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday-8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. to Noon.
446-2336/townclerk@wallingfordvt.com
The front door has an after-hours mail slot.

The Town Office will be closed October 12th in observance of Columbus Day. The Transfer Station WILL be open.

FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY
Saturday, October 10th from 8:00-10:30 a.m. at the Transfer Station. Visit www.wallingfordvt.com for a list of acceptable materials.

PROPERTY TAXES DUE
Town of Wallingford
1st Payment Property Tax Due
Monday, October 19, 2015
Payments can be made in person at the Town Office or by mailing to:
Town of Wallingford
75 School Street
Wallingford, VT 05773
Post-marked dates are not accepted.



Thank you to Wallingford resident Susan Gilbert for the fall clean-up around the Boy with the Leaking Boot. And to the others who responded to our call for help.

 **Second Tuesday Open Mic**
will be Tuesday, October 13th. Sound system available. Contact the Town Administrator at 446-2872 or townadmin@wallingfordvt.com for more information. If your non profit group would like to raise some funds, contact Sandi at 446-2872.

Deadline for submission to the Wallingford News is the 23rd of each month.

Editor: Julie Sharon
Town Clerk & Treasurer
Wallingford News
75 School Street
Wallingford VT 05773
(802) 446-2336
townclerk@wallingfordvt.com
Wallingford News is online at town's website @ www.wallingfordvt.com.

9/22/15 WALLINGFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL BOND VOTE RESULTS

"YES" In Favor of Article 90
"NO" Opposed to Article 97

187 voters turned out to vote (13.7%), out of a total of 1,438 registered voters.

We'd like to thank the poll workers and appreciate the commitment they made to help us, as part of their duties as Justice of the Peace. Thanks to *Ruth Anne Barker, Charlie Gauthier, Sue Thayer, Sandy Eddy, Gary Fredette, and Lynn Edmunds.*



Stop in to buy your hunting and fishing licenses at the Wallingford Town Office.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

27	28 7:00am Rotary 12:00pm SRS Meal 6:30pm Conservation Commission	29 8:30am Bone Bldrs	30	1 8:30am Bone Builders 10:30am Library Storytime 6:30pm WES School Board	2	3
4	5 7:00am Rotary 12:00pm SRS Meal 6:30pm Selectboard 8:00pm EW Fire Dept.	6 8:30am Bone Bldrs 6:30pm WFD Jr/Sr Training 6:30pm Energy Committee	7 10:30am BP & Foot Clinic 7:00pm MRU Board	8 8:30am Bone Builders 10:30am Library Storytime 3:30pm Library Book Discussion	9 1:00pm Whist	10
11	12 7:00am Rotary 12:00pm SRS Meal 6:30pm WFD Officers 7:00pm Planning Commission <u>TOWN HALL</u> <u>CLOSED</u>	13 8:30am Bone Bldrs 6:30pm WFD Bus. Meeting 7:00pm Open Mic Night 7:00pm Library Annual Meeting 9 a.m. Flu Shot Clinic	14 1:00pm Library Friends 6:00pm Prudential Committee	15 8:30am Bone Builders 10:30am Library Storytime 6:30pm WES School Board	16	17 5:00pm Library Dinner
18	19 7:00am Rotary 12:00pm SRS Meal 6:30pm Selectboard <u>PROPERTY</u> <u>TAXES DUE</u>	20 8:30am Bone Bldrs 6:30pm WFD Training 6:30pm WES School Board	21 7:00pm MRU Board	22 8:30am Bone Builders 10:30am Library Storytime	23 1:00pm Whist	24 5:00pm FREE Harvest Dinner
25	26 7:00am Rotary 12:00pm SRS Meal 6:30pm Conservation Commission	27 8:30am Bone Bldrs 6:30pm WFD Work Detail	28 6:00pm Prudential Committee	29 8:30am Bone Builders 10:30am Library Storytime	30	31

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

(Please note that these meeting minutes are a brief summary and are not the final approved version.)

SELECTBOARD

09/07/15. Present: N. Tift, R. Regula, M. Tessier, G. Fredette, and B. Brooks

Authorization was given to the fire department to hold a coin drop on 10/10 from 9-3 (rain date 10/11).

Board members want Road Commissioner Baker to confirm a paving schedule, provide a list of streets to be paved and reconfirm paving prices with Fuller. Sandi Switzer sent numerous emails to state railway officials requesting a timeframe for repairs to the Route 140W railroad crossing with no response. A "No Unauthorized Vehicle" sign off Waldo Lane near the transfer station will be installed.

The board accepted Ann Tip lady's resignation from the Development Review Board, and appointed Bill Brooks as her replacement. Carol Ann Martin was appointed to the Planning Commission.

Eileen Tessier is interested in volunteering to assist the American Red Cross blood drive at Town Hall in November.

Jeff Biasuzzi's grant writing workshop request was discussed.

The board authorized Julie Sharon to sign state grant agreements through the "e-Sign Live" program.

There was a discussion concerning ongoing complaints about the barking dog on Homer Stone Road. A second municipal ticket will be issued.

All but one unregistered vehicle would be moved or screened at the Route 103 rental property. The owner will be given notice of a possible violation of the junk ordinance.

The Rutland County Sheriff's Department will set up a speed cart on School Street. N. Tift will speak to the Sheriff Stephen Benard about the town's concerns with the lack of tickets written.

N. Tift will attend the LEPC meeting on 9/22 and EMC G. Wells will be asked to join him.

The board discussed tennis court repair quotes and will wait for the Recreation Committee recommendation. The board declined an option for the transfer station to set up a primary battery collection site in response to Act 139. Board members agreed Charlie Woods should become familiar with the lake concession stand water system in order to operate it each spring and fall. Harry Chapman, John Sease/Ann Tiplady, and Tom & Barbara Truex have

appealed their respective Board of Civil Authority decisions to Superior Court.

09/21/15. Present: N. Tift, R. Regula, M. Tessier, G. Fredette, and B. Brooks

Wallingford Fire Chief Michael Hughes introduced himself and provided details regarding his 40 years of fire service. He was given approval for the road crew to assist digging up the dry hydrant at the Weeks Pond on Heritage Hill.

The board agreed with Road Foreman Steve Lanfear's proposal to increase drainage on the pedestrian bridge. Sandi was authorized to purchase RSMS software at a cost of \$150 for the Network Inventory. John Squier will be asked to assist with the Network Inventory. The road crew will assist with clearing debris near Sarah Green's on Ice Bed Road. Road Commissioner Phil Baker reported by telephone, paving priorities included River Street, Elm Street and Circular Drive.

The Board signed the new truck loan documents and the retail seller's agreement from Green Mountain Kenworth.

The Board authorized Tree Warden Steve Pytlik to purchase a red maple to be planted near the 1818 red house on Main Street, and the Conservation Commission to purchase trees for Stone Meadow.

The board approved adoption of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

N. Tift gave an update on the Superior Court hearings related to three BCA decisions appealed to Superior Court.

The Board accepted Ann Tip lady's resignation from the Planning Commission, and appointed Erika Berner as her replacement. Erika was also appointed rep to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission & Transportation Council. Gary Fredette will be the alternate to the RRTC.

The Board authorized Z.A. Jeff Biasuzzi and Sandi Switzer to attend a grant-writing workshop sponsored by Stafford Technical Center in Rutland in February.



FLOYD IMHOF—ELECTRICIAN

Licensed/Insured

802-446-3309

The Board discussed VLCT's report on the inspection of Town Hall and their recommendations. The Board approved a request by the state Department of Environmental Conservation for soil testing at the ball field.

The Board authorized hiring attorney Gary Kupferer to advise the town on Truex and Sease appeals. Our assessor will handle the Chapman appeal.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

09/14/15. Present: J. Burkett, D. Farmer, and J. Biasuzzi

J. Burkett volunteered to serve as Interim Chair until the full board is present to vote. Ann Tiplady has resigned, as well as Bruce Dobbins (who has relocated for a year).

Review of the new subdivision regulation format was done. Information was reorganized to make it easier to understand. Reference to height of cellular telephone and alternative energy generation facilities was revised.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

08/26/15. Present: S. Sendra, K. Stocker, and G. Wells

Scott reviewed the cost for the V-plow and what is needed to install it on the tractor for sidewalk plowing this winter. The Board approved the cost of approximately \$3,500, which will come out of the snowplow replacement fund.

Kandie did not receive the bid to replace the furnace at the cabin. Gary suggested asking Joe Stone to bid on it so we have a couple of quotes to review before we make a decision.

Gary stated that John would be willing to move the water meter from under the kitchen sink to a better location. John will do this on his own time, not on SOS's time. The Board approved this along with Gary purchasing a new stove.

Maureen reviewed the two plans from the fuel company for the fire house this winter. The Board approved a pre-buy plan at \$2.35 a gallon.

Maureen asked the Board about posting a notice for bids for snowplowing for the upcoming winter season. The board agreed and set a bid date of September 23rd. Maureen will get it posted on the town web site, at the post office, Town Hall, and on Front Porch Forum.

09/12/15. Present: S. Sendra, K. Stocker, and G. Wells

Scott stated the V-plow had been ordered, and it will take about 45 days to get here.

Kandie received a quote from Suburban to install a new furnace at the caretaker's cabin. They proposed a maximum cost of \$2,400. Gary is waiting on a quote from Wallingford Plumbing and Heating. The Board decided they would postpone making a decision until the next meeting.

The board reviewed the monthly financials and signed off on them. Maureen reported that she had contacted the fire chief as there are still two outstanding firefighter stipend checks. He will ask the firefighters to cash them before they are voided.

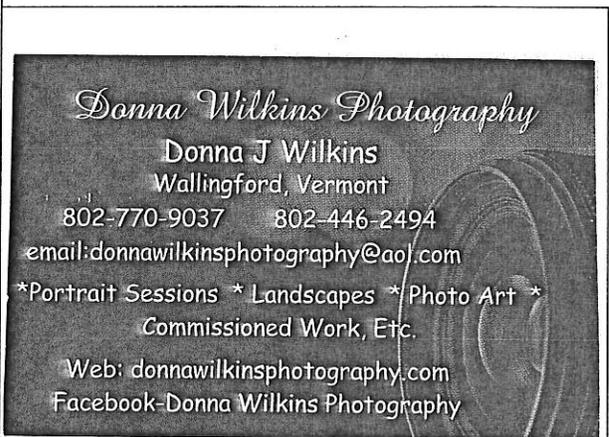
ATTENTION WALLINGFORD FIRE DISTRICT #1 RESIDENTS

The Prudential Committee announced they are offering to issue quarterly bills by email. Not only will this save paper, postage, reduce land fill waste and associated resources, it will also offer increased security as only you will see your bill. No need to tear your bill into tiny pieces or shred your bill for secure recycling!

Simply send the office an email to wallfired1@vermontel.net and just say you'd like to join!

In addition, the clerk/ treasurer will send out reminders to all participants before the due date who may have forgotten the due date, misplaced their printed bill or deleted the original email.

Either email or call the office (802-446-2964) and Maureen will send you another email with your bill attached. This is totally a voluntary service.



Donna Wilkins Photography
Donna J Wilkins
Wallingford, Vermont
802-770-9037 802-446-2494
email: donnawilkinsphotography@aol.com
*Portrait Sessions * Landscapes * Photo Art *
Commissioned Work, Etc.
Web: donnawilkinsphotography.com
Facebook-Donna Wilkins Photography

WALLINGFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

08/20/15. Present: K. Fredette, P. Rondinone, J. Rodgers, and T. Lidstone

George Ambrose, chair of the RSSU Board, came to discuss Act 46. The Board approved forming a study committee with the other member districts to analyze possible changes to the governance structure. Tammy Heffernan and Ken Fredette will serve on the committee.

The Board approved the food service contract with Fitz-Vogt.

The Board adopted the school bond vote documents.

Board members and Principal Richards-Peelle discussed, and then approved the agreement with AllStar Daycare.

All contractors and staff are working diligently to ensure everything is in place for the opening of school. The Fire district will be running a new waterline to the school. New gym floor will be put in on August 10th. Boiler assessment: August 12th.

The board agreed to authorize the superintendent to hire Catamount Environmental to inspect the Little Red Schoolhouse for any asbestos.

The state is way behind in reviewing our grant for implementation. The school year will start as originally planned, and when the grant gets finalized, a plan will be developed for transitioning to a full day PreK program.

Cheryl Maniery has put together a plan to offer morning care for school-age children from 6:30-8:00 a.m.

Staffing changes: Melissa Rosato has been hired as the new Para educator for 5th & 6th and Chris Pagentine as a 1:1 special education Para educator; and Kelly Shannon has

accepted a position at the hospital.

152 enrolled students: PreK: 28, Kindergarten: 16, First: 23, Second: 14, Third: 24, Fourth: 18, Fifth: 15, Sixth: 15.

Elementary teacher and special educator bargaining continue.

School startup details were shared.

Janine gave details to use the Ice Cream Social to showcase the work that has been done in the building.

09/03/15. Present: K. Fredette, P. Rondinone, J. Rodgers, S. Pytlik, and T. Lidstone

The opening of the school year was very successful with extra help from some Mill River custodial staff.

Caroline Laramie was hired as the new administrative assistant.

WES staff have been thinking and planning around the concept of a Growth Mindset – how we can grow our minds. Combined with perseverance of last year with clarity this year we have decided that it is a great fit.

Enrollment: 152 students: PreK: 28, Kindergarten: 16, First: 23, Second: 14, Third: 23, Fourth: 18, Fifth: 15, Sixth: 15

The principal and business manager are actively working with the State on our preK grant. The draft budget shows a \$5,000 deficit, the estimated cost for a new bathroom to meet licensing regulations. This may be something we consider doing in year two.

Our partnership with Allstar began on 8/31 and all worked well. The school is now full with PreK-6th all in attendance.

The parental request for PreK tuition reimbursement was discussed. Board members requested more information regarding the specific program to ascertain public dollars could be used.

Bargaining with Elementary and Special Education Teachers continues.

Still many items on the punch list for the building renovations.

Informational meeting regarding the school bond vote for the pellet boiler will be held 9/17.

Catamount Environmental has inspected the Little Red Schoolhouse for any asbestos and we are awaiting results

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&
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BILL LOHSEN

Plumbing & Heating

Repairing • Remodeling • New Work

Rt. 140, P.O. Box 465
Wallingford, VT 05773
(802) 446-2931

- Oil Burners
- Water Pumps
- Hot Air Furnaces
- Wood Boilers

from lab testing of samples they sent out.

Shannon reminded everyone about the fundraiser for the Winter Sports Program on 9/12.

Ken noted the upcoming two VSBA regional meetings.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

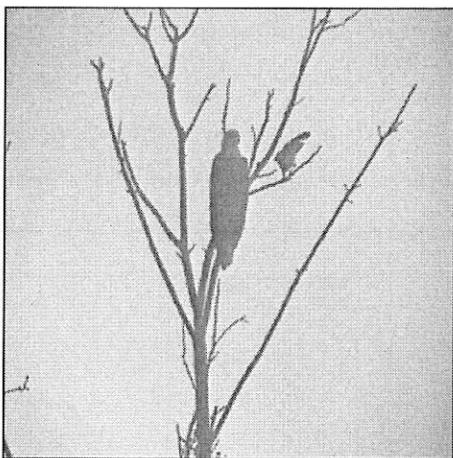
08/24/15. Present: M. Pramuk, J. Burkett, C. McLeod, and R. Nimtz

Vandalism: Stolen bench has not been found, and the kiosk has been vandalized. Ralph will replace the plexiglass. Wheelchair accessible sign has been stolen. It was suggested that we carry \$250 in our next budget to cover replacement costs for vandalism.

Maintenance: A tree is down across the Beach Trail, which gets frequent use after the Beach Road is closed. The tennis courts are in bad shape and need maintenance. There was discussion on whether any extra money from the Pavilion should go to that purpose vs. moving the gate on the Beach Rd. to Rte 140.

Waldo Lane Parking Area: Donald Glendenning of Rotary and WCC have combined efforts to submit for a grant to improve the parking area. The final design included regrading, a split rail fence and a large stone with "Stone Meadow" carved into it. Additional landscaping might include some birch clumps and crab apple trees.

Canoe Trail: The water line across Otter Creek is exposed about 1' above the water thereby obstructing canoe/kayak travel. It is not known if it is still active or who it might serve. It might fall into the category of a project funded by a "Transportation Grant". WCC to investigate.



Ralph Nimtz, photo

Monday morning on Creek Road just outside of Wallingford in the fog. The crow was giving the eagle a piece of its mind.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

Read them online at www.wallingfordvt.com.

Yard Waste at Transfer Station

Residents may bring leaves as well as yard waste under 1-inch in diameter to the Transfer Station on Saturdays. Leaves *must* be in compostable/biodegradable bags. Bags may be purchased at the Transfer Station or at supply stores like Home Depot (remember, *bags must be* biodegradable/compostable). Brush, limbs and other yard debris must be no larger than 1-inch in diameter. NO EXCEPTIONS. See Transfer Station attendants to pay fees before dropping off yard waste in the designated area.

VACANCIES=YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOUR TOWN

There are a few vacancies the Selectboard would like to fill:

Planning Commission—one seat.

Conservation Commission – one seat – term expires in 2018.

Energy Committee – three seats – one expires in 2016, one expires in 2017, and one expires in 2018.

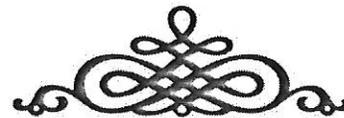
Recreation Committee – one seat – one-year appointment.

Development Review Board alternate.

Rutland Regional Transportation Council alternate.

FLU SHOT CLINICS – RAVNA

The 2015 Flu Clinic Schedule is set. Call their Flu Hotline at 770-1574 for clinics and information or visit www.vavnah.org. A clinic will be held in *Wallingford* on October 13th at St. Patrick's Church on North Main Street from 9 a.m. to Noon.



BURIAL LOTS FOR SALE

By Time Sale; Interest Free

GREEN HILL CEMETERY

South Main Street ~ Wallingford, VT

Call Charles Gauthier at 802-353-0996. Terms: 20% down; balance paid in 10 monthly payments. Deed will be written when last payment is made. If APPLICANT FAILS TO MAKE FINAL PAYMENT AS AGREED, APPLICANT WILL FORFEIT 20% DOWN PAYMENT. ANY ADDITIONAL MONEY PAID WILL BE RETURNED TO APPLICANT.



GILBERT HART LIBRARY NEWS

GILBERT HART LIBRARY

We have set a date for our VT Reads multi-generational book discussion and ART HAPPENING! On Thursday, October 8, at 3:30 p.m., we'll have a discussion of *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* by Salman Rushdie and then participants will be supplied with materials to create a small painted canvas inspired by the book and its themes. All 40 of the library copies of the book went out into the community, including the elementary school, and so we invite all of those readers to consider attending and sharing their experience of the book. Want to find out more about the story and perhaps get a copy if you haven't yet read it? Stop by and see if one might still be available...if you've finished your copy and want to bring it back, we're happy to redistribute it as well.

It's that time of year once again...the annual meeting of the Gilbert Hart Library Association will take place on Tuesday, October 13, at 7 p.m. in the Klock Room at the library. During this meeting, the Board of Trustees will present the budget for the coming year, the Librarian will provide an annual statistics report for 2014-15, and the Friends of the Library will update those present on their activities over the past year as well. It is a time for celebrating and planning ahead, and as all library cardholders and patrons are members of the association, all are welcome.

Meanwhile, plans are forming for a children's story time to take place once again so stay tuned. And for all the young readers, lots of books for the spooky season and fall changes are on display upstairs in our children's space (still under construction but progressing nicely). Stop in and check it out!

HART LINES

As a small child, I grew up in the 1930's. Now that's not the Victorian age, but at the Victorian tea, which still persists in my mind, most of those "dressed up" looked like all those folks I remember from the 30's with all their dark clothes on. And, my, don't those dark things add years to each one of us!! Well, despite the way we looked, we had a good time anyway! The décor and ambience were certainly from a happy era and spirits were gay. We thank all of you who came and those who helped with sandwiches and goodies and tea. We hope you enjoy your antique souvenirs, as well.

And before you turn your minds off over more food, we have our annual fund raising dinner coming up on October 17th. This is usually between 5 and 7, at the Rotary Building and this year will be All-American Comfort Food. As far as I know, this will be ham loaf, salad and vegetables, and pie for dessert. We meet in a few days to make things final. **Watch for Signs !!** And add another event to your calendar!

I also want to remind you of the series of features given at the Rutland Library called **First Wednesdays**. Starting in October, these occur monthly through May 4th 2016 and cover a number of different people and subjects. Time is 7:00 p.m. October 7th will find Willard Sterne Rundall speaking on Gentleman Johnny Burgoyne's Trail in the Champlain Valley in 1776.

If you'd rather go to Manchester, you'll hear Stephen Wade on The Beautiful Music All Around Us at the First Congregational Church at 7:00 p.m.

The rest of the schedule will be posted at the Library.

Library Hours

Sun: Closed

Mon: 10 – 5:00

Tues: Closed

Wed: 10 – 8:00

Thurs & Fri: 10 – 5:00

Saturday: 9 – 12:00

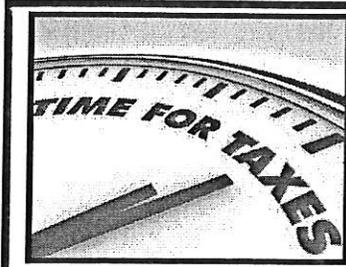
Librarian – Wendy Savery

Telephone: 446-2685

FOR SALE

WALLINGFORD HILL TOP 9 ACRES

enjoys 180 degree mountain views from very private home site. Seller financing; sacrificed priced at \$65K. NE Land & Trading Co. Ltd. (802) 770-0380 Landtrade@AOL.COM ASK ABOUT OTHER PARCELS AVAILABLE, from 1/2 to 500 acres, starting at \$25,000.



Property taxes are due on Monday, October 19th by 4:30 p.m.

MAPLE VALLEY GRANGE—SOUTH WALLINGFORD



October 24th-Joint Harvest Dinner with South Wallingford Congregational Church—no charge—5:00 p.m.

November 14th—Hunter's Breakfast—5:00 a.m. \$10

Patricia A. Pranger, CPA, MBA
Certified Public Accountant

1044 Sugar Hill Road
Wallingford, VT 05773

802-446-2066 • cpapat@together.net



Wallingford Country Store & Deli
137C North Main Street
P.O. Box 364
Wallingford, VT 05773
(802) 446-2352
wallingfordcountrystore@netzero.com

State Liquor Store
Full Deli - Cold Cuts
Catering

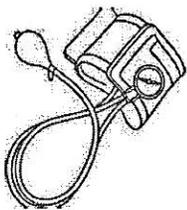
Owner: Evelyn Gould

WALLINGFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Jr. Firefighters – Age 13-18 – Senior Firefighters – Age 18 - ? *We will train.* Volunteers needed -- Age 16- seniors for work details, etc. Contact John Thomson at 353-0996 for details. Seniors are certainly welcome to join. Contact Charlie Gauthier at 353-0996.

CONSTABLE JERRY TIFT – ON FACEBOOK AT "WALLINGFORD CONSTABLES OFFICE"

Wallingford's Animal Control Officer is Constable Jerry Tift. You can reach him at 802-353-2378. The ACO handles calls concerning domesticated animals, and farm animals, to include animals running at large, animal cruelty, aggressive dogs, dog bites, etc. Wallingford's Animal Control Ordinance can be viewed at wallingfordvt.com.



WALLINGFORD SENIORS

Foot and blood pressure clinic on the first Wednesdays of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Wallingford House, 10 North Main Street, Wallingford.

Remember the Seniors' lunch every Monday at Noon at the Rotary. Contact Linda Weightman at 446-2301.



Join Front Porch Forum ... see what you've been missing.

Wallingford's Forum started September 10, 2013. Since then, 377 Members from 880 Households have posted 1,761 Postings. It's free. It's local. And it's friendly.

Check it out at <http://FrontPorchForum.com>.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Seller: Christian Brown; Buyers: Kenneth Bradley & Heather Tobin; 47 Meadow Street, Assessed value: \$157,600; purchase price: \$132,000.

Seller: Gerald & Dorothy Roberts; Buyer: John Blanchard; 586 Clarendon Road; Assessed value: \$214,500; purchase price \$150,000.

Seller: John Sease & Ann Tiplady; Buyers: Thomas & Barbara Truex; Hartsboro Road (9.35 acres); Assessed value: n/a; purchase price: \$14,000.

Seller: Erin & Stephen Palmer; Buyers: Rachael Burch & Andrew Hjelmhaug; 127 School Street; Assessed value: \$194,900; purchase price: \$172,000.

ZONING PERMITS

Paul Shortt, 397 Church Street, single family residence.
Robert & Theresa Ahlers, 763 Blackwood Road, shed.
Charles Farmer, 108 Mears Meadow Trail, shed.

because

*Because we are explorers,
Because when we choose our learning,
we own our discoveries,
Because new learning feeds our growth,
Because our goals are attainable,
Because learning from our own experience is
powerful and enduring.*



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CHOOSING TO EXPERIENCE OUR POTENTIAL

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TheNewLearningProject@gmail.com
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Marcos Levy,
Instructor

Therapeutic Massage

Lisa Marie Donohue, MA, LMT

The Thrive Center of the Green Mountains
68 South Main Street • Wallingford, VT 05773

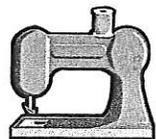
t: 802.446.2499

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P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, VT 05773
versatiledrywall@gmail.com



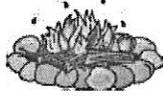
**ALTERATIONS
MENDING
GENERAL SEWING
BONNIE GAINER
446-2290**



Gabriella Netsch
802-558-2897

yankeedriving school.com
yankeedriving school@comcast.net

**A PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR
OUTDOOR BURNING**



BURN PERMITS

May be obtained from the Wallingford Fire Warden Dave Gilman 446-3100, or Art Seward 259-2277 (East Wallingford area). Leave a phone number. Do not burn until you have spoken to them. SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS

**To the voters of Clarendon, Shrewsbury,
Wallingford, and Tinmouth:**

The Vermont Legislature recently passed Act 46 and has ordered town school districts to consolidate into Supervisory Districts (SDs) with at least 900 students. The SDs will have a single school board for pre-K through 12, with representation based on population, and a single tax rate. Our towns are already organized as Rutland South Supervisory Union with finance, transportation, special education, and curriculum managed by the superintendent and his staff. Each town has its own school board and representation on the supervisory union board. So why change?

The Legislature has provided carrots and sticks – more like whips. **The Carrots:** If we voluntarily reorganize as an SD, within the allotted time period, our tax rate is reduced by 10¢ the first year, 8¢ the second, 6¢ the third, and so on for five years. Tinmouth and Shrewsbury’s small school grants, totaling approximately \$170,000, instead of disappearing, will be paid to the SD as long as those schools stay open. **The Stick or Whip:** In 2018 the state will produce its own plan for school district consolidation for any districts that have not consolidated voluntarily. They will have no limits on their plan; we have no idea at this point what it would be; and we will have little or no control over the outcome. Rather than take our chances on Montpelier’s understanding of our educational geography and to receive the financial benefits of consolidation, our school boards have formed a Study Committee to attempt to find the best possible scenario for our schools before we are told what to do without any say in the process.

The Study Committee will try to come up with the best solution for the Rutland South towns. It will write a report for the State Board of Education on the outcome. The report will go to our local school boards and the Vermont Board of Education for comments. Then the Vermont Board of Education will decide if that plan meets the Legislature’s desire for a larger district with a single board that will save money and improve educational outcomes.

board that will save money and improve educational outcomes.

If the Vermont State Board approves the plan, it will go to the voters of each town for approval.

Please be clear: This is NOT about consolidating schools. All four elementary schools and Mill River Union High School will continue to operate. It is about consolidating school boards. There would be just one school board for pre-k through 12 instead of the existing six school boards.

The Study Committee meets on alternate Thursdays, starting September 10th, at Wallingford Elementary School at 7 p.m. The public is welcome. If you have questions or concerns, please call your Study Committee members, whose contact information is listed below.

George Ambrose, Chair (Clarendon; Mill River Board)
gambrose@rssu.org Phone 438-9997

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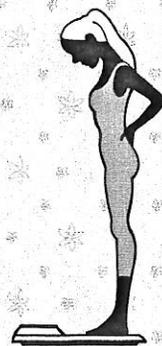
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