

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD VERMONT 2019



OUR 160th TOWN REPORT

FISCAL YEAR: JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

TOWN MEETING: MARCH 2, 2020 - 7:00 P.M.

at Wallingford Elementary School

POLLS OPEN: MARCH 3, 2020 10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

at Wallingford Town Hall

Conservation Commission
 Development Review Board
 Energy Committee
 Planning Commission
 Prudential Committee
 Recreation Committee
 Selectboard
 Wallingford Historical Society
 Mill River Unified Union
 School District Board

Town Meetings

4th Monday, 6:30 p.m. Town Hall
 On Call by Chairperson
 1st Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall
 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall
 2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m. Town Hall
 1st & 3rd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall
 On Call by Chairperson
 1st Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. at Mill River, 3rd Wednesday at
 different schools

Town Hours

Gilbert Hart Library	Monday, Thursday, Friday - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Wednesday - 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Saturday - 9:00 a.m. - Noon
Town Administrator	Monday – 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday - Thursday - 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Town Clerk & Treasurer	Monday - Thursday - 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Friday - 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Transfer Station	Monday & Wednesday - Noon - 5:00 p.m. Saturday - 8:00 a.m. - Noon
Zoning Administrator	Friday - 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Phone & E-Mail

Burn Permits-Mark Barone	446-2349	
Burn Permits-Martin Rabtoy	345-5550	
Gilbert Hart Library	446-2685	ghlib@comcast.net
Assessor	446-2974	wallisters@wallingfordvt.com
Mill River Union High School	775-3451	
Selectboard	446-2872	selectboard@wallingfordvt.com
Town Clerk/Treasurer	446-2336	townclerk@wallingfordvt.com
Town Clerk/Treasurer fax	446-3174	
Town Administrator	446-2872	townadmin@wallingfordvt.com
Town Garage	446-2472	roads@wallingfordvt.com
Transfer Station	446-2524	
Wallingford Elementary School	446-2141	
Wallingford Fire District #1	446-2964	wallfired1@vermontel.net
Zoning Administrator	446-2974	zoning@wallingfordvt.com



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.....and on Facebook – Town of Wallingford, VT

Town of Wallingford
 Rutland County, Vermont
 Population: 2,079 (2010 Census)

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*Disclaimer - individuals submitting reports are responsible for the accuracy of their submissions.

Dedication

At the heart of Wallingford's quintessential New England village is Gilbert Hart Library, a Neoclassical Revival Style structure built in 1894 and financed by Gilbert Hart. Over the past 126 years, many librarians, staff members, volunteers and residents have devoted their time and energy to the library making it a shiny beacon of lifelong learning, literacy and a love of books.

Three of those individuals, Bonnie Gainer, Carol Pratt and Joan Jackson, left indelible marks. Bonnie served on the Board of Trustees for almost a decade having been appointed in 2009. She even took on a leadership role as Chair of the Board of Trustees and as the library's representative to the Town. Carol was an assistant librarian for a decade from 1999 to 2009. Both women demonstrated a true love for the library and the community of Wallingford during their service. In addition, Bonnie and Carol worked alongside Joan Jackson, who served as a dedicated librarian for 27 years until she retired in 2005. She then volunteered with the Friends of the Library. Sadly, Joan passed away last fall. All three women served in some capacity during several important transitions, including the major renovations and addition in 2004 that made the building accessible for those with disabilities.

Bonnie and Carol have resigned/retired from their posts at the library, but remain active with Bonnie volunteering and Carol participating with Friends of the Library.

For being inspirational examples of service and goodwill that encapsulates the spirit of small town Vermont, the citizens of Wallingford happily dedicate the 2019 annual Town Report to Bonnie Gainer, Carol Pratt, Joan Jackson and all of the past and present librarians, staff members, volunteers and patrons of Gilbert Hart Library.



Elected Town Officers
Officers Elected at Town Meeting (1-year term)

Moderator..... Tammy Heffernan (Appointed)
 Town Agent..... Julie Sharon
 First Constable Robert Cook
 Grand Juror..... Julie Sharon

Selectboard	Term/Date Expires
Nelson Tift	Three Year/2020
Rose Regula	Two Year/2020
Patricia Pranger	Three Year/2021 (Appointed)
Bruce Duchesne	Two Year/2021
John McClallen	Three Year/2022

Auditors	Term/Date Expires
Jane Duda	Three Year/2020
Joyce McMahon	Three Year/2021 (Appointed)
Lynn Edmunds	Three Year/2022 (Appointed)

Delinquent Tax Collector	Term/Date Expires
Jill Stone Teer	Three Year/2022

Town Clerk & Treasurer	Term/Date Expires
Julie Sharon	Three Year/2020

Trustee of Public Funds	Term/Date Expires
Melissa Whitmore	Three Year/2020
Dave Ballou	Three Year/2021
Joyce Barbieri	Three Year/2022

Mill River Unified Union School District Directors	Term/Date Expires
Bjorn Behrendt	Three Year/2020
Maria French	Three Year/2021
Tammy Heffernan	Three Year/2021
Liz Filskov	Three Year/2022

Town Officers

Assessor.....	John Tiffany
Assistant Town Clerks & Treasurers	Jill Stone Teer & Sandi Switzer
Deputy Fire Warden	Marty Rabtoy
Dog Warden.....	Tori Filskov
E911 Coordinators.....	Eric and Dale Davenport
Emergency Management Director.....	Mark Tessier
Energy Coordinator.....	Ken Welch
Fire Protection Budget.....	Richard Kendall, Michael McMahon, Nelson Tift
Fire Warden	Mark Barone
Health Officer.....	Trisha Nash
Road Commissioner.....	Philip Baker
Town Administrator	Sandi Switzer
Tree Warden	Steven Pytlik
Zoning Administrator	Jeffrey Biasuzzi



Pete’s Posse at the Wallingford Town Hall Concert Series. The next concert will feature Extra Stout, a traditional Irish band performing on March 11th. See page 33 for the full concert schedule (more dates may be added).



Monthly Newsletter available on the municipal website www.wallingfordvt.com and direct mailed to residents.

Planning Commission (3-Year Terms)	Term Expires
Tony Masuck	2020
Erika Berner	2021
Kevin Mullin	2021
Bill Brooks III	2022
Jill Burkett	2022
Jeff Biasuzzi- Alternate	

Development Review Board (3-Year Terms)	Term Expires
Dave Ballou	2020
Jill Burkett	2020
Bill Brooks III	2021
Lucy Thayer	2022
Erika Berner	2022
Beth Blaisdell and Jason Stone - Alternates	

Conservation Commission (4-Year Terms)	Term Expires
Marc Pramuk	2020
Vacant	2020
Jill Burkett	2021
Ralph Nimtz	2021
Deborah Scranton	2021
Jane Quigley	2022
Pat Stone	2022
Carol Macleod	2023
Vacant	2023

Energy Committee (3-Year Terms)	Term Expires
Nick Benjamin	2020
Ralph Nimtz	2020
Carol Tashie	2020
John Armstrong	2021
Katherine MacLauchlan (Vice Chair)	2021
Ken Welch (Chair)	2021
Doug Blodgett	2022
Jay White	2022
Rob Stubbins	2022

Rep. to Rutland Co. Solid Waste District	Vacant
Alt. to Rutland Co. Solid Waste District	Vacant
Rep. to Rutland Reg'l Planning Commission	Erika Berner
Alt. to Rutland Regional Planning Commission	Kenneth Fredette
Rep. to Rutland Reg'l Transportation Council	Erika Berner
Alt. to Rutland Reg'l Transportation Council	Gary Fredette

Recreation Committee (1-Year Appointments)

Diane Baker, Carolyn Behrendt (Chair) and Trisha Nash (Vice Chair). Two vacancies.

Justices of the Peace (Elected, Terms Expire 2021)

Ruth Anne Barker, Ann Buffum, Sandra Eddy, Judy Edmunds, Lynn Edmunds, Liz Filskov, Gary Fredette, Wendy Savery, Sue Thayer and Tom Truex



Many local residents and public officials participate in our local Front Porch Forum (FPF). FPF is a Vermont-based online service that helps neighbors connect and build community by hosting local online conversations in every town in the state. To read more about missing pets, wildlife sightings, break-ins, road conditions, local events, recommendations, helping neighbors in need and more, sign up (free of charge) at FrontPorchForum.com.

ANNUAL MEETING WALLINGFORD TOWN MINUTES

March 4, 2019

Wallingford Elementary School

Town Moderator Jay Kenlan called the annual town meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed the large crowd. He turned the meeting over to Selectboard Board Chair Bill Brooks who introduced board members Nelson Tift, Rose Regula, Gary Fredette, Mark Tessier, Town Clerk Julie Sharon, and Town Administrator Sandi Switzer.

Bill Brooks presented Mr. Kenlan with a plaque honoring his 30+ years of service as Town and School Moderator. Jay Kenlan thanked everyone for the privilege of serving the town and stated that he will be stepping down after this year as he's moving out of town.

Jay Kenlan reviewed the rules for the meeting and read the warning as follows: The legal voters of the Town of Wallingford, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Wallingford Elementary School on Monday evening, March 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. to act upon the following articles. The polls will be open on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Wallingford Town Hall for the purpose of voting Australian Ballot.

ARTICLE I. To elect the following Town Officers by Australian Ballot: a Town Moderator, Town Agent and First Constable, each for one-year terms; two Selectboard members, one for two years and one for three years; a Delinquent Tax Collector for three years; an Auditor for three years; a Trustee of Public Funds for three years; and a School Director for Mill River Union Unified School District for three years.

ARTICLE II. Shall the Town vote to have scholarships provided under Title 16 V.S.A., Section 2535, the same to be applied for on or before April 29, 2019 at the Mill River Unified Union School District Office? Rob Carey moved for the adoption of Article II; Erika Berner seconded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE III. Shall the Town vote to have one-half (1/2) of the fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) property taxes and fire protection taxes paid to the Town Treasurer on or before October 21, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. and the remaining one-half of the fiscal year 2020 property taxes and fire protection taxes paid to the Town Treasurer on or before April 20, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.? Payments are physically due in the Town Office; post-marked dates will not be accepted. Bruce Dobbins moved for the adoption of Article III; Bill Scranton seconded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE IV. Shall the voters of the Town of Wallingford vote to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$1,245,244.50 for the General Operation of the town, with an amount not to exceed \$740,565.54 to be raised in Property Taxes for fiscal year 2020? Rob Carey moved for the adoption of Article IV; Bruce Dobbins seconded.

Bill Brooks indicated the proposed budget of \$1,245,244 is up 8% or \$91,978 over the current budget of \$1,153,267. However, the amount to be raised in taxes is down \$58,600 from \$799,200 to \$740,565 due to \$139,620 in FEMA Reimbursement Funds from the 7/2017 storm and an anticipated \$10,000 increase in ordinance fines.

The administration budget is up \$16,750 due to a 3% increase in employees' salaries and increasing the Town Administrator's hours by 4 hours a week, which accounts for \$5,500.

The appropriations budget increased \$18,193 mainly due to an increase of \$20,000 for Wallingford Rescue to purchase updated equipment.

The highway budget is up almost \$40,000 due to the paving budget increasing almost \$60,000 along with smaller increases for salt, sand, culverts and gravel. One truck loan was paid in full, which helped offset some of the increase.

The public safety budget increased \$17,500 so that Sheriff coverage can increase patrols by 10 hours per week to 40 hours.

Of the \$139,620 in FEMA reimbursement funds received, \$20,000 will reduce the amount to be raised in taxes, \$30,000 will offset the paving budget increase, and voters are being asked to approve establishing an Equipment Reserve Sinking Fund in the amount of \$89,620.

Don Spruit asked about the increase in ordinance fines. Dave Seward asked if Wallingford Rescue's request is a one-time increase. Eric Davenport stated that they have been mandated to replace two heart monitors in their ambulances. Refurbished monitors are approximately \$45,000 each; therefore, he expects they will ask for the same amount next year. Dave Seward asked if the 2018 Dodge Ram Truck has three loan payments and the answer was yes. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE V. Shall the Town approve the Reports of the Town Officer as submitted? Rob Carey moved for the adoption of Article V; Bill Scranton seconded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE VI. Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to appoint a Constable as provided in Title 17 V.S.A. §2651a (change position from elected to appointed)? (Must be voted by Australian ballot).

Bob Soule asked how many other municipalities have considered this question. Nelson Tift explained that a change in law has limited constable duties. Constables must now complete training at the police academy in order to have any law enforcement authority. Justin Jankus questioned why the need to have coverage by the Sheriff too, and it's because the local constable can no longer run radar, etc. The Sheriff will patrol 40 hours each week with a deputy assigned to Wallingford.

ARTICLE VII. Shall the Town stabilize the real estate taxes of the Wallingford Rescue Inc., pursuant to Title 32 V.S.A. §3840, at \$150 annually for five years commencing as of July 1, 2019? Dave Seward moved for the adoption of Article VII; Bruce Dobbins seconded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Mr. Seward asked why the rescue squad was even being taxed, and it was stated that nonprofit organizations are not exempt from property taxes.

ARTICLE VIII. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,993 to the Rutland Marketing Initiative, a collaboration of the Rutland Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Rutland Economic Development Corporation along with area municipalities and businesses with the

goal of growing the economy of the region? Bruce Dobbins moved for the adoption of Article VIII; Michelle Kenny seconded. No representative from the Chamber was present to report feedback from their first marketing campaign. However, approximately a half dozen residents spoke either in support or against the long-term efforts to promote Rutland County and reverse the serious population decline. The article passed by majority voice vote.

ARTICLE IX. Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for a recreation director for fiscal year 2020? Kevin Mullin moved for the adoption of Article IX; Bruce Dobbins seconded.

Kevin Mullin asked if there is a plan in place yet for the new hire. Bill Brooks said that the Recreation Committee had provided a job description for a fulltime position. However, after hearing residents input at the special meeting held in December on this issue, the Selectboard approved Article IX as presented. They felt that it was best not to jump right in with a fulltime position. We can look for someone who can continue with the current local summer program offerings on a parttime basis.

Recreation Committee Chair Michelle Kenny spoke on how the proposed fulltime position became part time. She said that the committee plans to rework the job description and duties. Andrew Seward asked if the position would be funded by recreation revenue if it became fulltime. Ms. Kenny said that the fees from programs could help offset some of the expenses. She would like to see more activities offered locally as many parents have to shuttle their children to other communities for recreational offerings. Dave Seward asked if a portion of other budgeted salaries could be earmarked towards this position. Ms. Kenny said that would be a Selectboard decision. Andrew Seward asked if the Recreation Committee really expected people to move to town because of this position. Ms. Kenny is optimistic that that will happen and added that there should be recreational offerings for all ages.

Bob Soule asked if this is a seasonal position and who would supervise this employee. Gary Fredette stated that after crunching the numbers from this year's and next year's budget, the employee could work from early summer through the fall. This employee would report to the Recreation Committee and Selectboard.

Rob Carey is opposed to this position as he expects the \$10,000 figure will develop into something bigger. He feels that offering youth theatre and other similar activities in Wallingford is too large of an effort to offer in every town.

Kim Phillips stated that volunteers were always used when her children participated in little league. She asked where the funds would come from for capital items such as a skate park.

Katherine MacLauchlan said that we would be hard pressed to find someone at \$500 per week and to keep that scale in mind. She hopes that the position grows, which would help grow the economy. She encouraged residents to invest in this position for a minimum of five years.

Paul Dilonno asked if this employee could work in the off-season to plan programs. Ms. Kenny doesn't envision that as we need to start off small; however, some volunteer time might be considered during the winter months. Mr. Dilonno said that a lot of work has been done to the recreation area over the years – pedestrian bridge, dug outs, fencing, and playground

equipment along with the acquisition of Stone Meadow. He said that it was important to have long-term vision for this property.

Bjorn Behrendt is concerned that the duties required of this part-time position can't be accomplished without proper funding.

Deb Scranton and Carol Tashie expressed their support for the part-time position.

Justin Jankus asked about grant opportunities.

Bruce Duchesne said that once this position is approved, it will cost more than is being proposed. He doesn't feel that this will draw in prospective residents given our current tax rates. Arthur Seward felt the same way. Robert Soule pointed out that only \$10,000 is being voted on tonight and that any future increased funding will require voter approval.

Dave Ballou stated that the town had a rec director for two years in the 80's and that it didn't work.

Lynn Edmunds asked if it's the town's responsibility to provide recreational activities when the facilities and opportunities are already in place.

The article passed by majority voice vote.

ARTICLE X. Shall the Town establish a Highway Sinking Reserve Fund for the purpose of Equipment Replacement and/or Highway Emergency Repairs to be funded by the \$89,620.20 surplus funds from the FEMA reimbursements received in the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Section 2804? Bill Scranton moved for the adoption of Article X; Bruce Dobbins seconded. Bill Brooks explained that it took FEMA over a year to reimburse the Town after the storm-related repairs were completed. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE XI. The School Directors from Mill River Unified Union School District will present information related to the 2019 Mill River Unified Union School District Annual Meeting and the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 education budget for the Mill River Unified Union School District. This is an information article only – the Union School District Articles will be discussed at the Mill River Unified Union School District Annual Meeting held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 28th in the library at the Mill River Union High School. Articles will be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 5th. There was no discussion on the school budget.

ARTICLE XII. To conduct such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

State Representative David Potter highlighted the new issues being considered in Montpelier that include e-cigarettes and vaping, subsidizing electric vehicles, and the cultivation of hemp.

First-time attendees Justin Jankus, Carol Tashie, Dennis Duhaime, and Andrew Seward were welcomed.

Deborah Scranton spoke about the "Communications and Events" group's goal to make Wallingford residents aware of happenings around town through the town newsletter. They are

mailing the newsletter to all residents for a three-month trial basis to determine whether it is an important means of distributing information. However, it costs approximately \$375 a month for this mass mailing. They've received nearly \$1,100 in donations to date and will be soliciting tomorrow at town voting.

Lynn Edmunds stated that the Selectboard has discussed whether to ask voters to change to Australian Ballot for all town meeting items. A few residents spoke either in support or against this proposal.

Jay Kenlan mentioned the dedication of the Rotary Building in the town report. Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary International, once attended school in the building.

With no other business to come before the body, at 8:35 p.m. Mr. Kenlan asked for a motion to recess the meeting. Rob Carey moved to adjourn the meeting; Erika Berner seconded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Warning March 2, 2020

The legal voters of the Town of Wallingford, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at WALLINGFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL on Monday evening, March 2, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. to act upon the following articles. The Polls will be open on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the WALLINGFORD TOWN HALL for the purpose of voting Australian Ballot.

ARTICLE I. To elect the following Town Officers by Australian Ballot: a **Town Moderator and Town Agent**, each for one-year terms; **three Selectboard members**, one for two years, one for three years, and one to fill out the remaining year of a three-year term; a **Town Clerk and Treasurer** for three years; **three Auditors**, one for a three-year term, one to fill out the remaining two years of a three-year term, and one to fill out the remaining one year of a three-year term; a **Trustee of Public Funds** for three years: and a **School Director** for Mill River Union Unified School District for three years.

ARTICLE II. Shall the Town vote to have scholarships provided under Title 16 VSA, Section 2535, the same to be applied for on or before April 27, 2020 at the Mill River Unified Union School District Office?

ARTICLE III. Shall voters authorize property taxes and fire protection taxes to be paid to the Town Treasurer in two installments with one-half (1/2) of the fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021) due on or before October 19, 2020 at 4:30 P.M. and the remaining one-half of the fiscal year 2021 due on or before April 19, 2021 at 4:30 P.M.? Payments are physically due in the Town Office; post-marked dates WILL NOT be accepted.

ARTICLE IV. Shall the voters of the Town of Wallingford appropriate a sum not to exceed \$1,271,451.41 for the General Operation of the Town, with an amount not to exceed \$882,352.78 to be raised in Property Taxes for fiscal year 2021?

ARTICLE V. Shall the voters of the Town of Wallingford approve the Reports of the Town Officers as submitted?

ARTICLE VI. Shall the voters of the Town of Wallingford appropriate the sum of \$35,000 to rehabilitate the basketball court at the recreation fields off Meadow Street?

ARTICLE VII. Shall the voters of the Town of Wallingford appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for Wallingford Rescue, Inc. to establish a Sinking Fund for ambulance replacement?

ARTICLE VIII. Shall the voters of the Town of Wallingford appropriate the sum of \$1,993 to the Rutland Marketing Initiative, a collaboration of the Rutland Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Rutland Economic Development Corporation along with area municipalities and businesses with the goal of growing the economy of the region?

ARTICLE IX. Shall the voters of the Town of Wallingford authorize the Selectboard to borrow a sum of money not to exceed \$66,000 for the purchase of a Highway Department excavator to be financed for a period not to exceed four years?

ARTICLE X. Shall the voters of the Town of Wallingford adopt all budget articles by Australian ballot to commence with the 2022 fiscal year pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2680(c)?

ARTICLE XI. Shall the voters of the Town of Wallingford vote to approve the appropriation of any funds in addition to the annual Town budget by Australian ballot to commence with the 2022 fiscal year pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2680(d)?

ARTICLE XII. The School Directors from Mill River Unified Union School District will present information related to the fiscal year 2020-2021 education budget for the Mill River Unified Union School District. THIS IS AN INFORMATION ARTICLE ONLY.

ARTICLE XIII. To conduct such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

The legal voters of the Town of Wallingford, Vermont are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting shall be as provided in Chapters 43 and 51 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

WALLINGFORD SELECTBOARD

Bruce Duchesne _____

John McClallen _____

Patricia Pranger _____

Rose Regula _____

Nelson Tift _____

Dated at Wallingford this 20th day of January, 2020

Budget

See Proposed FY'21 Budget at Separate Link on Municipal Website

Auditor's Report

We, the undersigned auditors for the Town of Wallingford, have examined the accounts and records for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019. This audit included a review of bank accounts, statements, selected accounts payable, financial statements and payroll records. We are of the opinion, after having conducted this audit, to the best of our knowledge and belief, that the reports accurately represent the financial status of the Town of Wallingford for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Jane Duda, Lynn Edmunds, and Joyce McMahon, Auditors

Selectboard Report

The Wallingford Selectboard welcomed three new members and said goodbye to three board veterans. Bruce Duchesne and John McClallen were elected last March and Patricia Pranger was appointed to fill a vacancy. The Town appreciates the dedication and service of veteran Board members Bill Brooks, Gary Fredette and Mark Tessier.

It has been a very busy year. The Board hired Co-Directors Lisa Cotrupi and Lawrie Roundy to oversee the popular four-week Summer Recreation Program with the assistance of Senior Counselor Rosie Phillips. Five part time employees ran Elfin Lake concessions and two lifeguards, Britney Blanchard and Alia Lunna, kept watch over swimmers.

As part of a \$24,200 Municipal Planning Grant to fund Wallingford Block upgrades, the Town hired VMS Construction for structural repairs, Sellers Treyball for engineering designs, and BMA Associates for architectural plans and a streetscape designs. The Town sold a problematic three-acre parcel on Route 103 and the property is now back on the tax roll.

Upgrades at Town Hall included enhanced lighting for the second floor stairway, replacement of emergency lights, upgraded exterior lighting by the Taft Terrace entrance, and replacement of broken ballasts on the second floor. Other Town Hall upgrades included refinishing floors in the Town Clerk and Treasurer's office, the hallway and the fire district office. Outdated computers in the assessor and zoning administrator were replaced. Electrical upgrades to the town garage will be undertaken in early 2020.

In response to citizens' concerns, the Town obtained party status with the Public Utility Commission in order to advocate for residents who lose telephone service and access to the E911 system when power goes out. Board members urged the Commission to investigate telephone backup power obligation and they worked with VTel to host a forum at Town Hall to gather input from residents.

There was a transfer of ownership of the Railroad Section House located in East Wallingford from the Historical Society to the Town in order to reduce the financial burden of insuring the structure on the volunteer group.

The three members road crew – Steve, Charlie and Kyle – have been very busy this past year with routine highway maintenance as well as special highway projects. The Town was awarded a Better Roads grant in the amount of \$16,137 for ditching and culvert replacement projects on Hartsboro Road. The Town received \$12,839 for a Sugar Hill Road ditching project through Grants in Aid. The Town was also awarded \$14,700 Grants in Aid for another ditching/culvert project to take place in the spring. In other grant news, the Town was awarded a Better Roads grant of \$7,997 to conduct a road erosion inventory as required by the state, and the Town received a VLCT PACIF Safety grant in the amount of \$417 for municipal employee safety equipment. Much needed Van Wyck Bridge repairs were completed utilizing FEMA funds as well as Wallingford taxpayers' dollars. Paving projects included Mill, East and Railroad Streets as well as Hillside Road. Annual roadside mowing took place in late August. A 2019 Milton CAT loader was purchased in November to replace the 1998 Kawasaki Loader.

With the dedication and commitment of the Communication/Events Committee along with municipal staff and many volunteers, the revival of Wallingford Day last July was a great success. Vermont Community Foundation awarded a \$2,500 Sparks Grant as well as a \$500 Hills and Hollows Grant in support of Wallingford Day. There were also many business and individual sponsors who contributed financially and in-kind. The Board hopes this is the first of many annual Wallingford Days.

The Wallingford Town Hall Concert Series featured a diverse selection of local and regional talent with more concerts planned for the coming year. Visit the Community Events page of the municipal website for the schedule. Reminder, the Town's website www.wallingfordvt.com, Facebook page and monthly newsletter provide information regarding municipal agendas, local events, Gilbert Hart Library happenings, and Town Clerk and Treasurer news. Please consider joining Front Porch Forum (FPF). You will find links to FPF on the municipal website.

Finally, we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all municipal employees and the many volunteers who serve on boards, committees and commissions. Our wonderful community is a reflection of your hard work and dedication and your efforts do not go unnoticed. Please remember, the Selectboard is here to serve you. Do not hesitate to drop by our twice monthly meetings or contact any one of us with questions or concerns.

Nelson Tift (Chair), Rose Regula (Vice Chair), Bruce Duchesne, John McClallen, and Patricia Pranger, Wallingford Selectboard



Wallingford Day barbecue. Photo courtesy of Maria French.

Town Clerk & Treasurer Report

The new laws for obtaining vital records took effect last July 1st. Certified copies of birth and death certificates can only be issued to family members, legal guardians and certain court-related parties and legal representatives. Applicants must complete an application and show acceptable identification.

Wallingford has nine closed cemeteries, and the Town is responsible to care for these cemeteries. We were fortunate to have a dozen Rutland Middle School students and their teachers, Wallingford resident David Cornwell and Ted Lindgren, volunteer their time again last July. They weeded and cut overgrown brush at the Hill-Roberts Cemetery, situated out of sight on a hill above Wallingford Crushed Stone on Route 7 in South Wallingford. They certainly made a difference. These cemeteries need more attention, and if you have any interest in helping out, please contact me.

Many thanks to our generous residents and the Wallingford Community Thrift Shop for regularly filling the Wallingford Food Shelf every month. It's open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. We're also fortunate to have the ladies show up every month to mail out the town newsletter. We all hope that you enjoy receiving it in your mailbox.

Eligible Vermonters can register to vote online at "olvr.sec.state.vt.us". Existing voters can access their voter-specific web page at "mvp.sec.state.vt.us" to request an absentee ballot, track its status, view a sample ballot, and much more. There will be three elections this year: March 3rd is the Presidential Primary and Town Elections, August 11th is the Primary Election, and November 3rd is the General and Presidential Elections. Thank you to our dedicated Election Officials for their continuous help during these elections.

Stop in to register your dog by April 1st. You must present a current rabies certificate. We are happy to issue licenses through the mail. We will host a dog/cat rabies clinic here in March.

As I approach my 18th year working for the Town and my seventh year as Town Clerk and Treasurer, I am honored to serve you. If you have any questions or need help, please do not hesitate to stop in or call, and Jill, Sandi or I will do our best to help you.

Julie Sharon, Town Clerk and Treasurer

Conservation Commission

Since its founding 15 years ago, the mission of the Wallingford Conservation Commission (WCC) has been to identify, protect, preserve and enhance those features that contribute to the uniqueness of our Town. Central to this has been the restoration of Stone Meadow as a diverse wildlife habitat and scenic recreational area for hikers, dog walkers, bird watchers and other outdoor enthusiasts. The WCC maintains more than two miles of trails around Stone Meadow and Elfin Lake.

In 2019, we explored protecting additional lands for the benefit of Town residents. Last spring, we examined the potential of the property behind the Fire Station along Otter Creek as additional recreation and conservation space. The land did not meet the threshold in terms of cost and value. However, later in the year we were approached by the Trust for Public Land in their effort to conserve 481 acres of Fernfield Farm property in Wallingford as an addition to Green Mountain National Forest. We sought public input and encouraged interested citizens to voice their input to the Selectboard. The response received was overwhelmingly in support of the land acquisition, and we strongly endorsed this land transfer. This will add additional hiking trails, supplemental parking, and access for residents to trails in South Wallingford.

Community events remained an important aspect of our efforts in 2019. We scheduled a Winter Fun Day in February at Stone Meadow to include sledding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, free hot dogs and hot chocolate, and a fire for toasting marshmallows. However, the weather did not cooperate. So, we channeled our efforts to two other community events: the Elfin Lake 5k in May and Wallingford Day in July. We supported the Elfin Lake 5k with course maintenance, a mid-race water station, and water and fresh fruit at the finish line. For Wallingford Day, we sponsored a scavenger hunt along the trails at Stone Meadow, hosted an information booth, and offered a hot dog lunch to visitors. We look forward to Winter Fun Day 2020 on Sunday, February 16 with a rain date of Sunday, February 23.

Green Up Day is another community event that receives a lot of support each year from WCC. We handed out litter bags, gloves, and bug spray at the library and transfer station. Green Up Day is a great way for families to work together to help keep our beautiful town clean, while involving young members in learning about the negative impact of litter. Green Up Day this coming year is Saturday May 2, 2020. We look forward to seeing you!

Stone Meadow trails received a great deal of maintenance this past year. We did a lot of tree and brush removal to keep trails safe, hired arborists to thin the canopy in the meadow, added 48 tons of Sure-pak to refresh the main trail to Elfin Lake (thanks to Mill River volunteers for helping with this), and mowed the Meadow in the fall to keep the character of the space (thanks to John McClallen for the mowing). We also did a significant removal of invasive plants, mainly poison parsnip and some poison ivy, and in the coming year plan to remove buckthorn. We also installed a bag dispenser for dog waste removal.

The WCC is currently comprised of seven individuals, and we do have vacancies. If you are interested in joining us, we meet the fourth Monday of most every month. If you do not wish to participate as a Board member but still would like to help, volunteers are always needed.

Marc Pramuk, Jill Burkett, Carol Macleod, Ralph Nimtz, Debbie Scranton, Pat Stone and Trisha Nash, Conservation Commission



Stone Meadow trail maintenance. Photos courtesy of Ralph Nimtz and Marc Pramuk.

Transfer Station

The Wallingford Transfer Station provides valuable services to residents, including Zero Sort recycling, the collection of electronic waste, yard waste, and solid waste. Reminder, as of July 1, 2020, food is banned from the solid waste stream and must be composted or placed in the food scrap bin. Collection of household hazardous waste will occur May 16 and October 10 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Property owners are required to display municipal stickers on their motor vehicles in order to access the transfer station. Stickers are available for purchase at Town Hall at a cost of \$3 each. Residents will receive free 50-punch and 20-punch cards with their property tax bills in August. Punch cards may only be used for bagged garbage. Punch cards may be purchased at Town Hall or the Transfer Station. For those interested in composting, Rutland County Solid Waste District is selling residential compost bins. For more information, call RCSWD at (802) 775-7209. As always, residents are encouraged to recycle, reduce and reuse. Wallingford Transfer Station hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from noon to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to noon.



Food scraps are banned from the solid waste stream starting July 1, 2020.

Recreation Committee

The Recreation Committee has been working very hard to support and add programs for the enjoyment of our residents.

The Summer Recreation Program was well attended along with youth sports, including softball, baseball and football. The Great Elfin Lake 5K Race was a big success and we were thrilled to support the return of Wallingford Day with the Events Committee. Many people are looking forward to all of these programs continuing in 2020. The Memorial Day Parade was a great day as always and we welcome new ideas. Line dancing was a huge success thanks to Diane Baker and Jamie Consolatti. The classes were well attended by a variety of age groups.

The basketball court is in desperate need of replacement. Many of our residents use the court, and as of late, it has truly become a hazard. The cost of replacing the court is significant and we hope townspeople will see the need and support a special article on the Town Meeting Warning. The Recreation Committee has proposed to the Selectboard that a large portion of funds currently held in a CD for the benefit of recreation be used to supplement the cost of the repair/replacement of the court. This will help reduce the tax burden and give our residents a safer and usable Basketball Court.

As always, take the time to enjoy all that our Town has to offer!

If you are interested in serving as a member of the Recreation Committee, please forward your letter of interest to the Selectboard via the Town Administrator.



Summer recreation participants visit The Mint. Photo courtesy of Lisa Cotrupi.

Planning Commission

During the course of 2019, the Planning Commission welcomed new members Tony Masuck and Bill Brooks following the resignations of Daniel Alcorn and Justin Jenkins. Jill Burkett, Kevin Mullin, Jeff Biasuzzi (recorder and alternate member), and Erika Berner continued to serve on the Board. We are indebted to each of them for giving up their family time to serve on this Commission.

The Planning Commission started working on the Zoning policies upon the approval of the Wallingford Town Plan. The goal is to bring the policies into line with the Town Plan, update and expand upon definitions, correct typographical errors, and reformat the document as well as update maps.

Last August, the Selectboard approved the Planning Commission's request to put notices in the Wallingford monthly newsletter and on Front Porch Forum asking residents to contact the commission if they felt, for justified reasons, that their property should be rezoned. No requests were received by the Planning Commission.

The commission was briefed by the Energy Committee on the proposed Energy Plan and the two groups will work together to incorporate it into Town Plan.

Several member of the Planning Committee attended workshops sponsored by Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns this past year and will continue to do so in 2020.

Various members of the Planning Commission serve on the Conservation Committee, the Development Review Board and other volunteer groups.

Erika Berner, Planning Commission Chair

Zoning

The Fiscal Year saw a 10% decrease in total Permit requests, which was comparable to activity levels in many other Rutland County towns. Three new single family residential homes were approved; same as last year. Commercial applications were also similar. The Development Review Board (DRB) met to decide on two new business applications.

The summary of permit applications includes:

New Single Family Homes (including site built, modular, or mobile homes)	3
Renovations, Additions, attached Decks/Porches (to existing structures)	7
New (detached) accessory structures: Garages, Sheds, Fences, Pools	3
Subdivisions or Lot Line Adjustments	2
Business, Temporary and Vendor's licenses, Signs	7
New Driveway access permits	1
Miscellaneous or No Permit Required determination	1
Agricultural Structures (to qualified farmers)	3

Total Permits

27

There is one page of Exemptions to Obtaining a Town Permit (in Article V) in the current Zoning Rules. If your project is not clearly an exemption, a local Zoning Permit is likely required (the \$2,000 construction cost exemption no longer applies). There is an additional fee for starting a project before obtaining a permit; so please check with your Zoning Administrator early in your design phase. I am here to assist with the application process in order to avoid zoning violation issues. Please note that Vermont has both an Energy Code and an Asbestos Certification requirement; including renovations and demolitions. For information on any State permits that may be required, contact Vermont's Permit Assistance Specialist Rick.Oberkirch@vermont.gov or (802) 282-6488.

Review of commercial permit applications, appeals, and major subdivisions is conducted by the DRB. Many thanks to members Bill Brooks, Erica Berner, Dave Ballou, Jill Burkett, and Lucy Thayer; as well as alternates Beth Blaisdell and Jason Stone. This volunteer group brings a wealth of diverse experience and commitment to the DRB.

Jeffrey Biasuzzi, Zoning Administrator

Trustees of Public Funds

The Trustees of Public Funds have the responsibility to receive, hold, manage, invest and reinvest the assets of the Trust. The Trustees shall collect and distribute the income in accordance with the underlying bequests or Trust Agreements. The funds have been invested in well-diversified moderate allocation mutual funds. The status is as follows:

	Shares 12/31/19	Market Value 12/31/19
The Revenue of Augmentation Trust	9,513.989	\$221,105.10
Fernfield Farms		
Ralph E. Stafford Memorial Fund	6,336.747	\$147,266.00

The funds returned 18.51% in 2019. The investment holds an overall four-star rating from the investment research firm, Morningstar and continue hold a low risk rating. Quarterly dividend distributions sustain the investments. American Funds Income Fund of America (AMECX) remains an appropriate investment.

By January 31 of each year, the 1993 Revenue Augmentation Trust shall distribute net income up to a maximum of 5% of Trust assets to the Town as "Other Income" or for such other category designated by the Selectmen. The Revenue Augmentation Trust shall terminate December 7, 2023 at which time the principal and any accumulated income shall be conveyed to the Town's General Fund or for such other purpose as the voters of the Town of Wallingford shall determine at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

The Irving Smith Scholarship Fund, in the amount of \$1,000, is made available annually to eligible Wallingford students by the taxpayers in memory of Irving Smith. Mr. Smith served as

Town Clerk and Treasurer, Administrative Assistant and School Treasurer.

The Ralph E. Stafford Memorial Fund, created by bequest, shall distribute net income "to grant scholarships to worthy and needy students who are residents of the Town of Wallingford, and, who wish to attend schools of higher learning beyond the high school level."
There were no applicants for the scholarship funds in 2019.

Dave Ballou, Joyce Barbieri and Melissa Whitmore, Trustees of Public Funds

Wallingford Energy Committee

In 2019, the Wallingford Energy Committee (WEC) continued its work on an enhanced energy plan for the town, expanded its membership and welcomed a new vice chair. WEC also welcomed the completion of the Wallingford Solar LLC photovoltaic array on the former Pike Industries quarry off Creek Road, investigated the feasibility of electric vehicle charging stations in the town center, advocated for community solar electricity for the town buildings, explored additional carbon free generating projects and purchased energy committee labeled multi use shopping bags to be used to promote public meetings.

In March, Jay White resigned as co-chair and Katherine MacLauchlan was elected vice chair. In May, we welcomed two new members, Robbie Stubbins (of Rob Stubbins Electrical in Rutland) and Carol Tashie (of Radical Roots Farm). The other members are John Armstrong, Nicholas Benjamin, Doug Blodgett, Ralph Nimtze and Ken Welch and Jay White.

The committee was gratified to see the completion of the Wallingford Solar, LLC project, which will generate nearly three million kilowatt hours of clean electricity, enough for Wallingford to meet its 2025 target for local generation. This project will produce about 60% of the town's goal for 2035 and over 20% of the 2050 goal. It also contributes \$130,000 a year to the town budget. "It's amazing how peaceful it is," Ken Welch commented after visiting the site this fall. "I'm proud of our contribution to its success."

The same developers approached the town with an offer to supply electricity to the municipal buildings at reduced rates, but the Selectboard decided to decline the offer. The committee is exploring whether there is interest in lower cost electricity for Fire District No. 1. The district uses much more power than do the town owned buildings.

WEC is exploring whether an existing potable water line from Wallingford Pond to the Mill River could be used for electrical generation.

The committee continues to be interested in persuading the school district to acquire electric school busses. We are also exploring charging station locations for electric cars and trucks in the center of the village. Tesla will donate charging equipment if a location can demonstrate that there are opportunities for motorists to occupy the time it takes to charge a vehicle. This is

certainly true of the center of the village, particularly in the summer. In addition to restaurants and shopping, there are hiking trails, a beach and tennis courts within an easy walk from Main Street.

The committee has purchased reusable shopping bags as a way to show support for the phase out of single use bags and to use as an incentive to attend informational meetings.

The committee continues its work on an Enhanced Energy Plan to give the Town a greater voice in Public Utilities Commission decisions about energy generation projects. We expect the Rutland Regional Planning Commission will give the draft report a green light in early 2020 to begin a formal adoption process under the direction of the Wallingford Planning Commission. That process will include at least two public meetings, submission to the Selectboard and an Australian ballot submission to the Town.

This plan is being developed following lengthy specifications from the Vermont Department of Public Service. These requirements require a lengthy and detailed report: the current draft has 57 pages plus appendices, but we have taken pains to make it easy to read and, in fact, easy to skim. When the document is ready to review, we plan to make it possible for people to order a print on demand copy for about the cost of a magazine. Residents who want to read the current draft can request a .pdf file from john@john-armstrong.com.

The committee recognizes that the real work in energy change is not the plan, but what the plan proposes we all should do to support and develop local energy production while protecting Wallingford's way of life. We have concluded that there is no reason to wait for an approved plan to start helping people weatherize their homes, convert to more efficient fuels and vehicles, and enjoy the benefits of a modern energy system. Vermonters already conserve energy: the state is 45th in per capita energy use. We are, however 13th in energy spending. We can do better.

If this interests you, we look forward to your help. You are welcome to attend our meetings on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of every month at Town Hall. See you soon.

John Armstrong, *Energy Committee*

Wallingford Seniors

A monthly foot and blood pressure clinic is held the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Wallingford House. Our Senior Meal Program continues every Monday at the Rotary Building under the direction of Rhonda Renner (802) 779-5893 or 446-3069.

Another program intended to keep Seniors active and healthy is the "Bone Builders" program held at Gilbert Hart Library on Tuesdays and Thursday at 8:30 a.m. Whist gatherings are held at the Wallingford House on some Fridays. For more information, call Goldie Nemeth at 446-3836.

Delinquent Tax Collector Report 12/31/19

Current Year Warrant 4/30/19 \$101,081.19 (Principal only)

Total Collected & Remitted to Town \$99,874.36

From Current Tax Collector
as of 12/31/19

**Delinquent Principal Balance \$64,418.66
Including Years from 2015-2019**

The following are delinquent in the payment of their taxes as of December 2019

Allstar Childcare	2018-2019
Blanchard, Raymond	2015-2016 & 2017-2018
Burnett, Burton	2017-2018 & 2018-2019
Duval, Douglas	2017-2018 & 2018-2019
Forrest, Jessica	2017-2018
Fox, Florence	2016 through 2019
Frederick, Ira	2017-2018
Greene, Barbara	2016-2019
Humes, Douglas	2017-2018
Makar, Joseph	2017-2018 & 2018-2019
Morabito, Michael	2018-2019
Narragansett Indian	2016-2019
Narragansett Indian	2016-2019
Nimtz, Spencer	2016-2019
Phillips, Christopher	2017-2018
Shanahan, Steven	2017-2018
Shaw, Michelle Martin	2016-2017
Subashiq, Nazim	2019-2019
Travers, Terry	2017-2018 & 2018-2019
Whiting, Fairfield	2018-2019

Jill Stone-Teer, Delinquent Tax Collector

Wallingford Fire Chief's Report

The Wallingford Fire Department had a very successful 2019. We provided assistance just under 100 times for emergency and non-emergency situations throughout the year. We responded to structure fires, auto accidents, carbon monoxide alarms, wildland fires, and assisted Wallingford Rescue with entry to locked areas, lift assist with rescue, car fires, mutual aid to area towns, elevator rescues, burnt food on the stove, etc.

The department was able to achieve its goal of firefighter training at the same level as a full time professional fire department, which is 24 hours per month or 288 hours per firefighter each year. This training takes place at the fire station on Tuesday evenings throughout the year. We also utilize additional resources for training with area departments, Wallingford Rescue for CPR, the State Fire Academy, etc.

We have also made progress with our "Lights on for Safety" program. This program asks if you have an emergency in your home - and it is safe for you to do - please turn on as many lights as possible while we are responding. This will improve visibility and make it easier for fire and rescue personnel to find you. But again, only if it is safe to do so.

We have a good roster of men and women volunteers currently, but we are always looking for additional people to join our department. You are welcome with or without experience, as we will train and help you grow with us. We also have a Junior program, for ages 13 through 17. If you have an interest or would just like to stop in and see us on a Tuesday evening at the fire station, we would love to meet you.

My last request is that you review the location of your house number and assure that it is visible from your street, so we can find you quickly.

Please have a safe 2020, and thank you for your support.

Michael Hughes, Fire Chief



Wallingford Fire Department at Wallingford Day. Photo courtesy of Maria French.

Fund Balances
(as of December 31, 2019)

	Balance	APR	Type	2019 Interest Earned
Building Fund	\$53,702.20	0.55%	Interest Checking	\$356.95
Cemetery Fund	\$5,759.99	0.03%	Interest Checking	\$1.72
Conservation Commission	\$2,765.32	0.03%	Interest Checking	\$0.32
Creek Road Bridge Fund	\$182,632.66	0.80%	Money Market	\$1,485.24
Energy Committee Fund	\$275.53	0.55%	Interest Checking	\$1.84
Highway Sinking Fund	\$89,887.72	0.97%	Interest Checking	\$267.14
Reappraisal Fund	\$48,526.14	0.55%	Interest Checking	\$286.39
Recreation Fund	\$14,532.52	0.55%	Interest Checking	\$87.29

Enhanced 911

2019 was another good year for the E-911 committee. We would like to thank everyone working at Town Hall for their continued support and help they give us.

Please remember to have your locatable address visibly displayed with 3-inch reflective numbers so emergency services can readily locate your address from the road.

As a reminder, your parcel number is NOT your E911 locatable address. The two numbers are different. If you are building on a new lot or changing the use of a current lot, please notify us and we would be happy to assist you in assigning or updating your locatable address.

If you have any questions, or would like to verify your correct E-911 number, please telephone (802) 446-2007.

Eric and Dale Davenport, E-911 Coordinators

Wallingford Town Hall Concert Series

The Wallingford Town Hall Concert Series upcoming schedule.

Wednesday, March 11th – Extra Stout is Vermont's favorite traditional Irish band. They bring all of the variety that Irish music has to offer from raucous drinking songs to ballads of home and county; from slow and haunting airs to rocking reels, jigs and polkas.

Wednesday, May 6 – Gypsy Reel performs high energy stirring music rooted in the Celtic tradition, but garnered from the whole world. Their music is an exciting synthesis of world rhythms and influences from 3 continents.

Wednesday, July 10 - Aaron Audet Band is well known, popular trio playing the biggest hits from the 70s and 80s from Eric Clapton to the Eagles at venues all across Vermont and New England.

Wednesday, August 5 – Zeichner Trio - A family band based in Central Vermont. The siblings play traditional Irish and Old-Time/Appalachian music on fiddle, uilleann bagpipes, 5 and 4-string banjos, tin whistle, vocals, and Celtic harp. They have performed at festivals, concerts, and private events across their state.

Wednesday, September 9 – Jeremiah McLane Trio play tunes from France and the British Isles as well as original compositions by Jeremiah McLane. The trio plays music that is alternately driving, haunting, melancholic and up-lifting.

Concerts are held at Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. Thank you for supporting local live music.

Green Hill Cemetery Association

On behalf of the trustees of the Green Hill Cemetery Association, I would like to submit this report to the Town of Wallingford.

The beautiful historical Green Hill Cemetery was established as an Association in 1870. It is an active cemetery that operates as a 501 (c)3 organization. It is governed by a Board of Trustees of not less than seven or more than eleven members. All meetings are open to the public and lot owners.

The Cemetery trustees are always concerned that the cemetery will be well maintained. We rely mostly on lot sales and internment fees to function. There are many lots available that can be paid with time-sale financing with 20% down, balance paid in 10 monthly payments. The deed is issued following the final payment. Many people purchase their lot well in advance of when it may be needed.

We are especially grateful for the support from the Town last year and to the lot owners who donate to us. These donations help us immensely. On behalf of the board, I would like to thank our Maintenance Superintendent Curtis Lidstone, caretakers and volunteers for their hard

work. That is what keeps the cemetery well maintained and always looking so nice.

If you would like to purchase a lot in Green Hill Cemetery, you can contact Sandy Eddy at 446-2538 or 558-7038. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 773-6252.

Chris Book, *President*

Legislative Report

The 2019 Vermont Legislature passed a balanced \$6.1 billion FY 2020 budget up 3.1 % over last year. Investments were made to help with childcare expense and higher education costs for Vermont students. Funding increases were also made for weatherization projects, plus mental health and substance abuse programs. Low and moderate income Vermonters will also benefit from a subsidy to purchase electric vehicles and repair large expense auto emission problems. Efforts were also made to insure water quality at schools and remove lead from drinking sources.

The VT Legislature passed a 92% excise tax on electronic cigarettes, delivery devices and nicotine liquid to discourage harmful use and level the playing field with costs of conventional smoking. Effective January 1, 2020 the VT Estate Tax Exclusion rises from \$2.75 million to \$4.25 million. On January 1, 2021, this exclusion goes to \$5 million. The 40% Vermont Capital Gains Exclusion now phases out at capital gains value of \$875,000.

Both the House and Senate passed different versions of a \$15/hour minimum wage and paid family leave bills, but could not agree on compromise details before the session ended. Another controversial bill that failed to cross the finish line was tax and regulation of marijuana. These three bills will be reconsidered early in the 2020 session, with the outcome up in the air, pending different input from the House, Senate and Governor.

Clean water in Vermont is now requiring a \$50-60 million annual investment. This is being partially funded by 6% of the 9% Rooms & Meals Tax along with unclaimed beverage container deposits.

Please feel free to contact me at any time by email at dpotter@leg.state.vt.us, at home (438-5385), or the State House (828-2228) with questions or input. A day trip or visit to the State House is also always welcome.

David Potter, *State Representative*



*The 106th annual tree lighting on the library lawn, hosted by the Friends of Gilbert Hart Library
Photos courtesy of Maria French.*

Gilbert Hart Library

Late spring of last year brought the winds of change into this 225 year old landmark. A vacancy was created in the assistant librarian position when after four years at Gilbert Hart, Angela French became the Library Director in Wells. Madelyn Smith served as a capable and competent interim while on her summer break from American University. Wendy and Maddie weeded books that were outdated and thoroughly cleaned all the shelving from the children's area upstairs right through biography, now located downstairs on the marble tiled floor.

In August, after reviewing over a dozen applications, the personnel committee selected Susan Gilbert of Wallingford as the new assistant. Not long after that, Bonnie Gainer passed the torch to Michael Luzader, who became chair of the Board of Trustees at the October Annual meeting. All these changes have brought new energy and enthusiasm for this beautiful treasure that offers so much to the community. On to the next decade!

Wendy Savery, Librarian and Michael Luzader, Chair of GHL Board of Trustees

Gilbert Hart Library Association - Budget 2020

Operating Income:	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
Town Funding	\$36,000	\$38,000
Memberships	\$8,000	\$8,000
Interest & Dividends	\$8,000	\$7,000
Memorials/Honorariums	\$1,000	\$1,000
Fundraising	\$2,000	\$2,000
Donations	\$3,000	\$3,000
Library Cards	\$50	\$50
Petty Cash Fees/Donations	\$1,000	\$600
Friends	\$2,000	\$2,000
Grants	\$500	\$500
Total Revenue:	\$61,550	\$62,150
Operating Expenses:		
Salaries	\$28,300	\$28,500
Bookkeeper	\$1,400	\$1,600
Payroll Taxes	\$2,700	\$2,500
Insurance (workers comp)	\$600	\$600
Insurance-Building	\$2,000	\$2,200
Electricity	\$2,000	\$2,300
Fuel Oil	\$3,000	\$3,000
Telephone	\$700	\$700
Equipment Expense	\$1,000	\$1,000
Maintenance – Bldg	\$6,000	\$6,000
Maintenance – Grounds	\$1,000	\$1,000
Postage I	\$1,000	\$800
Library Supplies	\$500	\$1,000
Printing/fund-raising	\$300	\$500
Technical Support	\$100	\$100
Workshops/Dues/Mileage	\$200	\$300
Total Operating Expense	\$50,800	\$52,100
Library Acquisition		
Books	\$6,000	\$6,000
Periodicals	\$500	\$500
Audios, Videos	\$500	\$500
Programming	1,000	\$1,000
Computer Software	\$0	\$0
Automation	\$500	\$850
Total Resource Expense	\$8,500	\$8,850
Total Expenses	\$59,300	\$60,950
Income/(Loss)	\$2,250	\$1,200

Wallingford Historical Society

The Wallingford Historical Society wishes to thank all who have contributed to the society over 2019.

This year we were fortunate to receive items and ephemera from two historic houses on Main Street – 210 the 1869 home of E. W. Kent and 143 the 1869 home of E. O. Eddy. The boxes of paperwork are full of amazing Town history. If you would like to have a peek, let us know.

I would like to thank Elaine Warzocha for her continuing help sorting and organizing the paperwork with me and the Mill River students and their teachers for help cleaning the museum this fall.

I would also like to thank Anne Pace and Paul Rondinone for taking care of the railroad museum located in East Wallingford.

We are also available to help you search your Wallingford family genealogy and/or the history of your house.

Joyce Barbieri, *President*



Railroad Section House in East Wallingford.



American Legion Ralph H. Pickett Post #52, Wallingford, VT

American Legion, Post #52 received its charter on April 10, 1946 and has been a local advocate for Veterans and their families ever since. The Post was named "Ralph H. Pickett" in honor of a Marine killed at Wake Island, defending it from the Japanese. He was Wallingford's first man to be killed in WWII. Ralph H. Pickett graduated from Wallingford High School with the class of 1936.

Like many organizations, our membership has fluctuated over the years due to members who have passed on and new members joining. We still maintain a membership of approximately 70 to date. In addition to being a veteran's service organization, the American Legion sponsors community based programs for young people and is a spokesman for patriotic values.

The eligibility to become a member of the American Legion has changed as of 2019. Any person who has served on Active Duty for a minimum of (1) day since 1941, along with an Honorable Discharge is Welcome! Our Post #52 welcomes all veterans to attend out meetings and social functions. We meet the first Tuesday of every month (except January) at Fellowship Hall in the First Congregational Church at 8:0 a.m. for breakfast, followed by a business meeting at 8:30 a.m. On the third Tuesday of the month, we host a "picnic" for veterans to socialize, share their experiences, and enjoy each other's company. Locations for the picnic vary so contact a member for directions if someone is interested in attending.

We would like to thank the students and teaching staff at Wallingford Elementary School for honoring members of the American Legion and all Veterans at a ceremony at the school on the Friday prior to Memorial Day weekend. That event is then followed by students, teachers and American Legion members visiting several cemeteries known to have Veterans interned and placing flags on all gravesites that can be identified. We also would like to thank the students and teaching staff at Christ the King School for their moving and enjoyable concert last November in honor of Veterans Day.

When requested by families, the American Legion provides Honor Guards at the funerals of Veterans who have passed away during the year.

On behalf of the membership, I strongly encourage every eligible military veteran in our area to become a member of Post #52 and take part in the activities and enjoy all the benefits and discounts offered by the American Legion. This information is available on the American Legion Website, www.legion.org. If I can answer any questions any of you may have, please feel free to call me at 293-5895.

Wallingford Rescue, Inc.

From October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019, Wallingford Rescue, Inc. was called out a total of 182 times. This included 22 calls in Tinmouth and 31 mutual aid calls to assist in Mt. Holly, Danby, Dorset, Fair Haven, Clarendon, and Rutland. There were 3 calls to assist Wallingford Volunteer Fire Department.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the fire department for their continued assistance and support throughout the year. Thank you to Regional Ambulance Service for their help with both coverage and paramedic level intercepts. The 32nd Annual 50/50 Raffle was held at the Boys Camp on Friday, July 26th. Many people attended the event, socialized with their neighbors, munched on a large finger food buffet and even won a door prize or money prize during the evening. The Raffle will be back for another year, on Friday, July 24th. If you would like to become a first time purchaser, now is the time to contact a member or call 446-3942 to be placed on our waiting list. Thank you all for turning out to support Wallingford Rescue. We are so fortunate to live in such a giving community.

Last year we lost a longtime member of Wallingford Rescue with the passing of Nancy Seward. She served as our Treasurer for 27 years. She was an invaluable member of our group who served with dedication and pride. Nancy's quiet smile and steady calm attitude was an inspiration to all who knew her and is missed every day. Wallingford Rescue also got word of the passing of former member Gary Wells. Gary was a member for 5 plus years and served as a driver.

Wallingford Rescue is actively looking for new responding members to join us. If you have time to volunteer and go through training, please call squad headquarters at 446-3942 and leave a message. A member will get back to you. We would like to give a big thank you to our responding members who volunteer their time day in and day out, whether it be in the middle of the day or the dark of night. Thank you so much for the countless hours given to this organization. They are the unsung heroes of our town.

Eric Davenport, President



Wallingford Day volunteers. Photo courtesy of Mara French.

Civil Marriages

SPOUSE	RESIDENCE	SPOUSE	RESIDENCE	DATE
Mary Langer	Virginia	Carolyn Grady	Virginia	06/01/18
Jason Smith	Massachusetts	Elizabeth Halligan	Massachusetts	06/23/18
Gregory Ilaria	New York	Melissa Cole	New York	06/23/18
John Stiles	New Jersey	Kristine Perry	New Jersey	06/26/18
Craig Wood	E. Wall, VT	Birgit Wood	E Wall, VT	07/18/18
Darcy Sanderson	Wallingford, VT	Paul Burroughs	Wallingford, VT	08/11/18
Kevin Fredette	Wallingford	Deborah Ludden	Wallingford, VT	08/18/18
Courtney Marsh	E. Wall, VT	Matthew Bates	E. Wall, VT	08/25/18
Gianni Merino	Wallingford	Jeffrey Roberts	Wallingford	10/04/18

Births

Child's Name	Sex	Date of Birth	Father's Name	Mother's Name
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Deaths

Deaths registered in the Town of Wallingford for the year ending December 31, 2017

Name	Sex	Age	Date of Death	Residence
Patricia A. Philbin	F	59	01/13/17	Wallingford
David D. Perry	M	74	03/29/17	Wallingford
Nellie Nardi	F	100	05/05/17	Wallingford
Janet L. Poell	F	70	05/14/17	Wallingford
L. Elizabeth St. Onge	F	88	05/14/17	Wallingford
Harold S. Merck	M	90	06/23/17	Wallingford
Marie Westcott	F	95	07/01/17	Wallingford
Alan D. Davenport	M	59	08/07/17	Wallingford
Charles E. Wade	M	60	10/05/17	East Wallingford
Winifred M. Stack	F	91	11/02/17	Wallingford

Advocacy Resources & Community (ARC)

Our mission is to advocate for the rights of individuals and families with developmental disabilities to be regarded as valued citizens with the same entitlements as non-disabled individuals, including the right to lifelong opportunities for personal growth and full participation in the community.

In 2019, six events were held providing a safe atmosphere for individuals with developmental disabilities to build circles of support as well as physical exercise and recreation. The Self-Advocates held 12 meetings, several game nights, tended a garden and conducted five training sessions. AKtion Club participated in Relay for Life and adopted a soldier's family for the holidays. Rutland Family Support Network maintains a listserve, which provides families and individuals with news, information and answers pertaining to developmental disabilities.

In addition, we provide transportation for the self-advocacy group, the AKtion Club, events, and dances. Thank you for your support. For more information, call (802) 775-1370.

Ross Almo, Executive Director



Wallingford Community Thrift volunteers.

Wallingford Community Thrift

Wallingford Community Thrift is all about Neighbors helping Neighbors. This group of volunteers is dedicated to supporting and helping out residents in Wallingford and surrounding communities.

In 2019, we assisted seven households with children in need, six families with expenses associated with serious illness, and donated clothing to area neighbors and organizations. Food and gifts cards were provided to the Wallingford Food Shelf, housewares were donated to former homeless people or women who had to leave their homes due to abuse, and clothing for costumes was donated to support local theater. We also donated to the Elfin Lake 5K Race, Wallingford Day, the Town Newsletter, the Summer Recreation Program, and Elfin Lake family passes. In addition, we supported area agencies that assist people in need. We could not do this without the support we receive from the community, both from the donations dropped off and the items we sell. We thank everyone who has made the Wallingford Thrift Shop a success. Located at 218 North Main Street in Wallingford, the shop is open Wednesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call (802) 446-6040.

NewStory Center (formerly Rutland County Women's Network & Shelter)

For 40 years, NewStory Center has been the single agency in Rutland County supporting survivors of domestic and sexual violence by working to end the cycle of violence through support, education, prevention, and collaboration. During FY19, NewStory Center served 816 women, men, and children through direct services such as emergency shelter, medical advocacy, legal advocacy, case management, clinical services, and the 24/7 crisis hotline. Additionally, we provide training and technical assistance to our community partners, including local law enforcement, to ensure a more effective community response to domestic and sexual violence.

The Board and Staff of NewStory Center thank the voters of Wallingford for their support of our agency. Thanks to you, we are able to continue to provide comprehensive services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault from your town.

Jennifer Yakunovich, Administrative Director

Green Up Vermont **Green Up Day is May 2, 2020**

Green Up rolls into its 50th year in 2020. Green Up Vermont is the not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization responsible for continuing the success of Green Up Day. The success of Green Up for Vermont depends not only on individuals volunteering to clean up, but also on financial support from the public and private sectors throughout the state. Appropriations from cities and towns continues to be an essential part of the operating budget. These funds pay for supplies, including over 50,000 Green Up trash bags, promotion, education, and services of two part-time employees.

Quick litter stats from 2019, 43 tons of litter and over 2,100 tires were collected. This data is only from about half of our participating towns that filed post-Green Up reports. We will be striving to obtain better statistics in 2020. **Mark your calendars for the next Green Up Day, May 2, 2020, the first Saturday in May. Put on your boots, get together with your family, invite some friends and come join us in your community to make Vermont even more GREEN!**

Kate Alberghini, Executive Director

Rutland Mental Health Services

In the year 2019, 28 towns in Rutland County supported the work of Rutland Mental Health Services through town giving. Our agency is committed to providing quality services regardless of an individual's ability to pay. The generous support of towns such as the Town of Wallingford assures that quality services are available for their families, friends and neighbors. Town donations support services which include:

- Individual Counseling for Children, Adults and Families
- Substance Abuse Treatment Services
- Emergency/Crisis Services
- Developmental Disability Services

During fiscal year 2019, Rutland Mental Health Services provided 3,482 hours of services to 58 Wallingford residents. We value our partnership with the Town of Wallingford in providing these much needed services and thank you for your continued support.

Mary Rand, Executive Assistant

Mount Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc.

The Mount Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad would like to thank everyone in the town for your support throughout the year. During the last fiscal year (July 1, 2018 thru June 30, 2019) our squad provided emergency services 30 times for the residents of East Wallingford, or about 26 percent of our calls. During the fiscal year prior to that (July 1, 2017 thru June 30, 2018), our squad provided emergency services 21 times, or about 20% of our calls. On average, East Wallingford is about 20-25% of Mt. Holly Volunteer Rescue call volume. The money your town provides helps us to meet the shortfall between our expenses and our income.

Green Mountain National Forest

The employees of the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) depend heavily on support from the many municipalities, volunteers, partners and contractors who help us accomplish our robust program of work every year. We would like to take this time to thank you and your community for your support and the interest that you have shown in helping us manage the more than 400,000 acre GMNF, which several million outdoor recreation enthusiasts enjoy and is critical to our local economy. We are proud that the GMNF is part of Vermont and part of your town. It is truly one of Vermont's treasures and the largest contiguous public land area in the state. Our staff works hard to achieve quality public land management under a sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of the people -- people in your town as well as all of the visitors who come to Vermont every year.

Regional Ambulance Service

We are pleased to present our annual report to the Citizens of the Town of Wallingford. "**Medic One**" is one of our advanced life support equipped ambulances that meets incoming patients who require advanced life support when needed and requested.

Training is very important to keep our paramedics up to date with their skills. Training has been provided in Pre-Hospital Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, and Advanced Personnel National Paramedic certifications.

We are proud of our accomplishments and look forward to serving you in the future. Regional Ambulance Service Inc. is a not for profit corporation. Community contributions help to keep this program available to incoming patients from outside of the Regional Ambulance Service area. Our "Medic One" is a vital part of our goal of "**Serving People 1st with Pride, Proficiency and Professionalism.**"

The Wallingford Rescue Squad is a valuable and professional community resource. Our staff works closely, as a team, with your community ambulance and first response personnel. We thank you for your past support and hope we can continue to serve with your local emergency personnel.

James A. Finger, Chief Executive Administrator

Rutland County Humane Society

The Rutland County Humane Society provides shelter and care to companion animals while finding loving families for those at risk or homeless. We also serve our community by providing information and referral services to people dealing with animal issues.

The RCHS shelter is the largest program of the agency, taking in more than one thousand animals in 2019. Our agency is funded through fees for service, town funding, donations and special events. No funding comes from the state, federal government or national organizations. We sincerely thank

those who support our operations. We can only save lives with your help.

The Rutland County Humane Society took in 22 animals from the Town of Wallingford in the past year. Please call us at 483-9171 or visit our website at RCHSVT.org if you would like more information about the Rutland County Humane Society.

RSVP & The Volunteer Center

RSVP and the Volunteer Center is an “Invitation to Serve” program for people of all ages who want to meet community needs through meaningful use of their skills, talents, interests and knowledge in volunteer service. Over the past 16 years, RSVP has implemented several “Signature Programs” aimed at addressing pressing community needs. Telecare, a telephone reassurance and safety check program offered free to Rutland County Seniors, and Bone Builders, free strength and balance exercise classes, are two of our Signature Programs.

Locally, RSVP is the largest program of coordinated volunteer services serving the people of Rutland County with 799 volunteers. From 07/01/18 to 06/30/19, volunteers provided 153,287 hours of community service. Wallingford residents took advantage of RSVP programs such as free income tax return preparation and free Bone Builders osteoporosis prevention exercise classes. RSVP also provides volunteers at Godnick Adult Center, One-2-One, Mount Holly School, Christ the King School, Rutland Recreation and Parks, American Red Cross, Bridges and Beyond, Fair Haven Concerned, Dismas House, Community Cupboard, PEG TV, RSVP Bone Builders program, RSVP Rutland County Reads, and RSVP Operation Dolls and more.

On behalf of RSVP, I would like to thank the residents of Wallingford for their continued support. As financial constraints affect more and more non-profit organizations, the need for volunteers increases. With your help, RSVP will continue to respond to this need.

Alix O’Meara, Director

The Preservation Trust of Vermont

Preservation Trust was founded in 1980 to assist community and statewide efforts to preserve and use Vermont’s rich collection of historic, architectural, and cultural resources.

A primary focus of our work is on downtowns and village centers. We help build local capacity by providing technical assistance, workshops and training, seed grants, and encouragement to local organizations and communities.

Neale Lunderville, Chair

Rutland County Solid Waste District

The Rutland County Solid Waste District offers a variety of solid waste, recycling, waste education, household hazardous waste, composting and administrative support programs for our seventeen member municipalities. Some services are also available to non-District communities on a fee for service basis. In addition, the District operates a regional drop-off center and transfer station at Gleason Road in Rutland City. District program, facility and rate information is now available on our web site, www.rcswd.com. Watch for the updated website.

The District started contacting local businesses informing them about recycling composting and hazardous waste and the programs that we offer. The District will also be working with local schools on many of these same issues over the next few years.

Waste Disposal: During 2019, residents and businesses in our member municipalities disposed of approximately 36,000 tons of municipal solid waste, which includes construction and demolition activity.

Recycling: The District owns a Material Recovery Facility (MRF), recycling center in Rutland City that is leased to Casella Waste Management for their operations. The MRF accepts seventeen recyclable commodities from transfer stations, commercial haulers and large generators for processing and sale for re-use. The facility currently receives approximately 35,000 tons of recyclables a year.

Household Hazardous Waste: Rutland County Solid Waste District operates an extensive Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program for district residents. The HHW program operates year round at the Gleason Road facility and has scheduled collections at twelve town transfer stations through the spring, summer and fall.

Other Programs: The District also offered other waste management, education and reduction programs, including construction and demolition waste, clean wood and composting. The District is continuing with its “Merry Mulch” program in collecting and processing over 1,200 Christmas trees annually. The District also has been working with and providing recycling materials or information to various local organizations including the Rutland Master Gardener’s Club, the Rutland Dismas House, Rutland Neighborhood Program, and Vermont Southwestern Council on Aging, Rutland Hospital, NewStory (Women’s Network & Shelter) and the Rutland County Humane Society.

Mark Shea,, District Manager



Many local residents and public officials participate in our local Front Porch Forum (FPF). FPF is a Vermont-based online service that helps neighbors connect and build community by hosting local online conversations in every town in the state. To read more about missing pets, wildlife sightings, break-ins, road conditions, local events, recommendations, helping neighbors in need and more, sign up (free of charge) at FrontPorchForum.com.

Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice

In 2019, Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice (RAVNAH) provided Rutland County residents with exceptional home care, hospice and community health services. From infants with hi-tech needs to our most senior population facing end-of-life care, we continued to bring medically necessary healthcare wherever it is needed, regardless of a client's ability to pay, location of residence, or complexity of health issues. Last year in Wallingford, RAVNAH provided 2,851 visits to 69 individuals. In closing, we wish to thank you for your past support. With your vote of confidence, we will continue to meet our mission to enhance the quality of life for all we serve through comprehensive home and community health services.

Ronald J. Cioffi, Executive Director

Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District

Vermont Envirothon - The District promotes this program through visits to area high school science departments to encourage student participation. Teams of high school students are challenged to answer questions about conservation issues and scores are calculated to determine the winning team. The District sponsored three teams from two high schools in the 2019 statewide competition.

Conservation Field Day/Science at the Hatchery - The District organized this event at the Dwight D. Eisenhower National Fish Hatchery in Chittenden. Topics that students learned about were: stream ecology, forests and tree identification, fish shocking and identification, soils, and the different fish species raised at the hatchery.

Land Treatment Planning (LTP) - The District works with a Land Treatment Planner who provides technical assistance to farmers in preparing technical information for the development of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CMNP'S).

Portable Skidder Bridges - The District has two portable skidder bridges available for rent to loggers and consulting foresters. Portable skidder bridges when properly installed and used as a temporary stream crossing structure, will reduce streambank and streambed disturbances as compared to other alternatives, thus minimizing the potential for sedimentation.

Watershed Planning for the Otter Creek and its Tributaries - Completed the Stormwater Master Planning process in the Town of Wallingford.

Website - The District hosts a website at www.vacd.org/rcd that contains information describing the many projects/programs that the District is involved in. For further information on these programs/projects or to be added to our mailing list, please contact Nanci McGuire at 775-8034, ext. 17 or Nanci.mcguire@vt.nacdnet.net

Nanci McGuire, District Manager

Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired

In Vermont today, over 13,000 residents are blind or visually impaired. Vision problems can complicate an individual's ability to perform daily tasks, stay mobile inside and outside the home, and enjoy leisure activities. Additionally, Vermont's rural nature makes it less likely for those with visual impairments to encounter others who face similar challenges, thus creating feelings of isolation and a sense they are not understood. During 2019, VABVI served 1,431 clients from all 14 counties. We provided services to four adults in Wallingford as well as 134 adults and 20 students from Rutland County. Since 1926, VABVI is the only private agency to offer free training, services and support to visually impaired Vermonters. Our mission is to enable individuals with vision problems to achieve and maintain independence.

Services include SMART Device Training Program, Peer Assisted Learning and Support Group, Helping Adolescents Prepare for Independence, and Intensive Residential Life Experience.

For more information about VABVI's services, or to volunteer, please contact us at (802) 863-1358 ext 217.

Shannon Turgeon, Development Assistant

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross of New Hampshire and Vermont is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the New Hampshire and Vermont communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from local disasters. These services help thousands of Vermonters each year and would not be possible without the help of generous donors and hundreds of local volunteers working together 365 days a year.

In the past year, the American Red Cross provided the following services throughout the two states:

- Responded to 14 disaster incidents in the region, supporting 62 families in Rutland County.
- Collected 3,188 pints of blood at 81 blood drives in Rutland County.
- Installed 8 free smoke alarms in homes in Rutland County.
- We connected 22 military members with their Rutland County families and loved ones with the help of our Service to the Armed Forces department.
- Rutland hosted 96 courses where 791 residents were taught a variety of important lifesaving skills.

If someone you know has experienced fire, flood or other disaster, please call (802) 660-9130 option 1 day or night 24/7.

Rachel Zelle, Regional Development Specialist

NeighborWorks of Western Vermont

NeighborWorks of Western Vermont, a nonprofit organization, is a one-stop-shop providing all the answers and support homebuyers and homeowners need. Programs include: homebuyer education, budget and credit coaching, realty, lending, home repair loans, project management, NeighborWorks H.E.A.T. Squad for comfort and energy savings, reverse mortgage counseling, and foreclosure prevention. 2019 has been quite a productive year for NeighborWorks of Western Vermont. In our service area of Addison, Rutland, and Bennington counties:

- **190 Low-cost, Comprehensive HEAT Squad Energy Audits** were completed on buildings; 139 Home Energy Improvement Projects were completed and homeowners received a rebate check from Efficiency Vermont; 79 Energy Loans were issued, a total of \$1,209,730, to help homeowners make energy improvements
- **64 Down Payment Assistance Loans**, a total of \$1,226,373, were made to help homebuyers make it over the 20% down payment barrier (a 200% increase over 2016)
- **15 Rehab Loans**, a total of 710,446, were made to homeowners to make health and safety upgrades to their homes
- **238** homebuyers attended our Homebuyer Education Course (a 150% increase over 2016)
- Assisted 11 households in finding their dream home with our RealtyWorks service

Svea Howard, Communications and Outreach Coordinator

Vermont Council on Rural Development

Each year, Vermont Council on Rural Development engages thousands of local residents to build dozens of new task forces to advance creative local projects. Hundreds of volunteers connect to scores of state, federal and non-profit partners to build momentum and get things done. Activities include Community Visits, Vermont Community Leadership Summit, The Climate Economy Model Communities Program, and policy initiatives. We help communities advance the priorities they identify, such as building a day care or community center; create new hiking/walking trails; design a new village wastewater system; expand affordable housing; develop events to celebrate the unique story of your town.

Paul Costello, Executive Director

Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging

This report describes the services that the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) provided to elders in Wallingford in 2019:

Senior Meals: The Council helped provide 1,518 meals that were delivered to the homes of 10 elders in your community. This service is often called “Meals on Wheels.” In addition, 19 Wallingford elders came together at a luncheon site in your area to enjoy a nutritious meal and the company of others; 558 meals were provided.

Case Management Assistance:

SVCOA case management and outreach staff helped 26 elders in your community for a total of 149 hours. Case managers meet with an elder privately in the elder's home or at another agreed upon location and assess the elder's situation. They will work with the elder to identify needs and talk about possible services available to address those needs. If the elder desires, the case manager will link the client to appropriate services, coordinate and monitor services as necessary, and provide information and assistance to caregivers. Case managers also help elders connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to frail elders facing long term care placement who still wish to remain at home.

Other Services and Support:

1) "Senior HelpLine" assistance at 1-800-642-5119. Our Senior HelpLine staff provide telephone support to elders and others who need information on available programs and community resources; 2) Medicare and health benefit counseling information and assistance through our State Health Insurance Program; 3) Legal service assistance through the Vermont Senior Citizens Law Project; 4) Information about elder issues and opportunities via various agency articles and publications; 5) Nutrition education and counseling services provided by SVCOA's Registered Dietician; 6) Senior Companion support for frail, homebound elders; 7) Outreach services to elders dealing with mental health issues through our Elder Care Clinician. This service is provided in cooperation with Rutland County Mental Health; 8) Transportation assistance; 9) Caregiver support, information and respite to family members and others who are providing much needed help to elders in need of assistance; 10) Money Management programs that offer either a volunteer bill payer or representative payee services to elders and younger disabled individuals.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

We enjoyed working with the Town of Wallingford in 2019, especially with Wallingford's Regional Board Commissioner, Erika Berner. The RRPC and the Town collaborated on several projects.

Our Emergency Management planner worked with Nelson Tift to strengthen local emergency management capabilities and assisted with the annual Local Emergency Management Plan update. The RRPC planner worked with the Town's road crew to complete a Road Erosion Inventory and a Road Stormwater Management Plan for Municipal Roads General Permit compliance.

RRPC assisted with Grants in Aid road projects for year 2 and year 3, assisted the Wallingford Planning Commission with energy planning work, assisted Town Administrator Sandi Switzer with the Municipal Planning Grant for Wallingford Block, provided outreach for the Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan, and assisted the town with a Better Roads grant application.

RRPC is a resource for towns. We provide the tools and information towns need to make informed decisions about land use, economic development, energy, transportation, emergency management and more. **RRPC is a platform for ideas.** We create opportunities through our monthly meetings and provide communal space for people to learn and share ideas. **RRPC inspires a vision for the future.** A cornerstone of our work is the Regional Plan, which articulates a vision for the land use, development, and growth in the Rutland region.

Ed Bove, Executive Director

Vermont Family Network

The mission of the Vermont Family Network is to empower and support all Vermont families of children with special needs. Formed in 2008 when two organizations – Vermont Parent Information Center and Parent to Parent of Vermont merged – Vermont Family Network has collectively served the families of Vermont for more than 30 years and created a virtual “one stop shop” for families of children with special needs and the providers who serve them. We are proud to serve over 1,400 families yearly with expert information, referral and assistance services provided by family support consultants located in Williston, Newport and Rutland. For more information, contact (802)876-5315 ext. 201.

Claire Giroux-Williams, Marketing and Events Coordinator

Rutland County Sheriff's Department

The Rutland County Sheriff's Department is honored to continue to provide law enforcement services to your town. We strive to give the highest quality services possible and assist all citizens and town officials with the issues that arise today.

This year the Selectboard has opted to add funds to the budget that will increase the number of hours of service for the Town of Wallingford to 40 hours per week. This will provide a dedicated deputy to patrol and serve the citizens of the Town. Wallingford has proven to be a busy area to patrol, not only for criminal and citizen assist activity, but also for motor vehicle enforcement. It is our hope that the taxpayers will support this line item increase. Activity for the Town of Wallingford for the past year is as follows:

556	Traffic stops	129	Incidents
656	Traffic Tickets	11	Arrests
259	Traffic Warnings	\$49,046.00	Traffic Fines
5	Driving with a Suspended License		
5	Driving While Intoxicated		
1	Drugs		
12	Citizen Assists		
12	Agency Assists		
19	Directed Patrols		
25	Suspicious Complaints		
6	Welfare Checks		
15	Motor Vehicle crashes		
12	Motor Vehicle Complaints		
0	Threatening Complaints		
10	Trespassing Complaints		

I want to thank Jean Coloutti and Dave Lewis, our County Side Judges, the Selectboard and the citizens of Wallingford for your continued support.

Stephen P. Benard, Sheriff

Child First Advocacy Center

The Child First Advocacy Center (CFAC) serves as a central agency through which reports of suspected child abuse can be channeled for investigation and victim recovery. CFAC was established in 1995 and became a fully Accredited Member of the *National Children's Alliance (NCA)* in 2004. We share with NCA the passion to minimize the traumatic effect of child abuse upon the children and families of our community. CFAC is a non-profit organization serving Rutland County to assist families in the discovery, intervention, treatment and prevention of child sexual abuse, severe physical abuse and children affected by violence. We provide a safe comfortable environment for the forensic quality and child appropriate interviews, training for professionals and collateral referral services for victims and their non-offending family members. Our agency serves families of all socio-economic levels and is committed to providing quality services regardless of the ability to pay.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Child First Advocacy Center Multidisciplinary Team, we want to thank you for your continued support and dedication.

In calendar year 2019, The Child First Advocacy Center served 429 clients, 224 Victims and 205 caregivers and siblings in Rutland County. We were able provide wrap around services and support to at least six Wallingford families as they began their recovery from the effects of trauma. In addition, we continue to provide community awareness and education at no cost, in an effort to provide community members with the ability to recognize, react and respond appropriately to child sexual abuse. Our support increases each school district's ability to complete the legislatively mandated ACT 1 initiative also known as Child Sexual Abuse Awareness training for Educators, Community Members and Student's grades K-12.

Wendy Loomis, Executive Director

Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force

The mission of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force is to improve the safety and welfare of Vermont communities by assisting local fire departments in reducing the risk of injury, loss of life, and damage to property and natural resources. In the 22 years of this program, 1,100 grants totaling \$2.6 million have been provided to Vermont towns for installation of new rural fire protection systems such as dry hydrants as well as for replacements and repairs.

Tom Maclay, Chair

Report from the School Board

It is once again my honor and privilege to write to you as the Chair of the MRUUSD Board. On behalf of my fellow board members, please accept this report as an update on what your school board and district have been doing this past fiscal year.

This past year has encompassed a lot of strategic planning. Now that we have our feet under us as

a District, the Board felt it was important to engage in strategic planning for our future as a District. As a result, over the past year, the Board has been working hard to identify what we and our communities expect of our schools, our students and ourselves as we move into 2020. I am pleased to identify the following Board and District Goals moving forward:

1. Student Opportunities: The Board identified the Trailhead Project, Arts Program Enhancement and the Pre-K expansion as areas of focus in order to provide our students with additional learning opportunities and make our District more attractive to our families with school-aged children.
2. Student Growth: The Board solidified its belief that it is important for the District to assist our students to develop socially, emotionally and academically in a high-quality proficiency-based learning environment.
3. Equity: The Board identified the goal to develop and adopt an Educational Equity policy for the District by June 2020 and review the District's policies to ensure that we are providing educational equity for all our students.
4. Community: The Board identified the goal for the Board to further engage with the Mill River community and in that regard, the Board set a goal to develop and implement a Board Community Engagement Plan by June 2020.
5. Human Resources: The Board identified the Board and the District's goal of hiring, retaining and developing high quality, effective teachers, leaders and support staff.
6. Finance and Facilities: The Board identified a goal for the effective and efficient management of the District's resources. This will be implemented by continued audits to ensure compliance, an annual community survey, energy efficient, safe and secure district facilities.

We are working with our District leadership and staff to implement these goals and make our District the premier school district in the state.

Over this past year, the District has seen the implementation of the Pre-K program that you helped to make possible by voting in favor of last year's budget has been bustling at all of our schools. This has been a great addition to our district and provides a much-needed resource for our littlest students and their families.

Our building and grounds personnel at the District have been busy this past year. Our physical buildings and grounds have seen the fruits of the prior years' construction bond with installation of improved and more energy efficient heating systems in our buildings, installation of solar panels and the biomass heating system at the high school, and work on many of the other construction and improvement projects that were included in that bond. The Board extends its thanks to Gary Marcy, our facilities administrator, and his staff for putting into place the items that were part of the energy performance contract that voters approved last March and for overseeing and keeping all of our buildings in good repair. As a result of our voters' support of last year's bond for the energy performance contract, our buildings are well on their way to becoming more energy efficient. All of this work will ultimately benefit not only our students, but also our taxpayers.

The Board is excited to work toward the goals that it has approved this year and looks forward to being able to report next year on its status towards achieving the goals established through its thoughtful strategic planning this year.

As always, I encourage each of you to come to a Board meeting or a committee meeting, especially

if you've never attended. We welcome your input.

On behalf of my fellow board members, thank you for your continued support of our schools and our students.

Tammy Heffernan, MRUUSD Board Chair

Report from the Superintendent of Schools

It is my pleasure to offer this report on behalf of the Mill River UUSD Superintendent's Office.

We have excellent work going on in each of our local schools and in your school district. In a state where enrollments are declining, we have remained stable. We are strategically building an instructional foundation for long term success that will last for years to come. We have experienced low turnover with educators and leaders, and we work hard to develop leadership talent from within whenever we can while identifying individuals from other places who will benefit our kids and community. We spend taxpayer dollars judiciously and with clear oversight. We seek to refine and improve our external communication so that community members can find what they need, when they need it. Our educators care deeply about the success of their students - this community's children - and will do whatever it takes to help them find their way toward that success. Our facilities are well-maintained and becoming more efficient with every passing year.

We recently completed a significant set of building projects, funded by a performance bond approved by our voters in March of 2019, which will ensure that our facilities operate as efficiently as possible and are maintained in a way that makes the community proud. We thank you for your support of that necessary work.

The budget that the board is asking you to approve has been developed with a few key concepts in mind:

- ~Maintain staffing at the most efficient, effective levels possible.
- ~Manage the realities of statewide roughly 13% increases in health insurance costs for our employees.
- ~Invest in staff positions that are focused on meeting the social and emotional needs of our students.
- ~Continue to support our Arts programs and PreK programs as they are at the foundation of the long-term success of our students and community.

If you ever feel like you need more information about what our school district and its schools are up to, we want to help you to find the information you are looking for. Please do not hesitate to call or email any of our principals with your questions. Please don't hesitate to call or email our district office with other questions. We'll work hard to point you in the right direction and find answers if we don't know them. We are committed to our students, committed to our schools, and committed to this community. Thank you for supporting all that we do.

Dave Younce, Superintendent Mill River Unified Union School District

Report from the Wallingford Elementary School Principal

Wallingford Elementary continues to thrive and has enjoyed a wonderful year. This is mainly because of the fabulous faculty who work hard and are dedicated to the education of all our students. They are a group of highly talented, energetic, lifelong learners and focus on building positive relationships with all their students. We are so fortunate to attract high quality staff who choose to work at Wallingford Elementary School.

One of the highlights in the past year and one in which I am most proud, is the addition of full day preK with wrap around childcare. Last fall, we welcomed five staff members and 40 three and four year olds to our school. The research is very clear that early developmentally appropriate education is extremely important to the long term success of all students. This is especially true for children who come to us from disadvantaged backgrounds. By being in early childhood classrooms for two years, our children will be better prepared for Kindergarten.

The Trailhead project continues to make progress as we designed our schedule to ensure core instruction in math and literacy take place at the same time in all the grades so flexible movement can occur to meet the needs of our students. All the grades have now created a proficiency based course planner in math and are working diligently to develop the learning maps for each unit while keeping an eye on leveraging the focus math concept for each grade. We are striving to make sure all students have mastery of the grade level concepts before they move to the next level. Work also continues on developing both our reading and writing workshop as well as developing project based learning grounded in science or social studies concepts.

Our work continues with focusing on social and emotional wellbeing of our students through the use of both the responsive classroom and Dovetail Toolkit. Our monthly all school meetings focus on deeper learning of the tools we need to be successful, compassionate and positive human beings. It is wonderful to watch students using these tools to solve their problems, deal with their frustrations, persevere when learning is hard, and show empathy towards others.

The continued support of PTO & Four Winds volunteers support a variety of enrichment programs for the school. The Four Winds program introduces monthly nature lessons to our students featuring a variety of life science concepts about the natural world. They sure do look forward to the monthly events. Our PTO purchased new rugs for some of the classrooms, basketball hoops for the younger players, and sponsored fun evening activities for the whole family like pie tasting, an auction, a contra dancing, poetry night, and the annual egg hunt combined with breakfast. We feel honored to have this support from our school community families.

It is my honor and privilege to serve the Mill River District as your principal in a community which values quality education for all our students.

Helen Richards-Peelle, Principal

Report from Mill River Union High School Principal

We are quickly approaching the midpoint of the 2019-2020 school year and our faculty, staff, and students are still displaying the eagerness and excitement of the first day of school. As always, our mission at Mill River Union High School is, as a community, to best serve our students and maximize their learning potential. We are extremely proud of our small class sizes, extensive advanced placement (AP) offerings, and our ongoing commitment to and emphasis on a combination of academics, arts, and athletics. All of these lead to what we believe is a personalized, civically-minded, and academically excellent learning environment.

The co-curricular programs at Mill River continue to be strong and are a crucial part of our students' and communities' lives. We offer a multitude of programs, including baseball, basketball, cheerleading, football, soccer, cross-country, Interact Club, Model UN, unified bowling, peer tutoring, skiing, snowboarding, Stage 20, Stage 40, yearbook, wrestling, rock climbing, geo-bee, golf, and student government. Our visual and performing arts programs are a highlight of MRU. Approximately 45% of our student body participates in the performing arts, which speaks wonders for the talents of our student body. Additionally, our athletic teams are thriving. The Boys' Varsity soccer team earned a trip to the State Championship match and the Cross Country team had two runners competing at the state level and beyond.

Our work in the classroom has also continued to grow and thrive. Teachers and students are continuing their path to proficiency-based learning and assessment. Students are able to personalize their education, all the while manipulating the content learned and applying it to real-world scenarios. No longer are our students just memorizing and forgetting what they have learned. They are obtaining and utilizing the skills necessary to critically think and analyze the world around them. Our learners are becoming global citizens.

As you can see, Mill River Union High School is preparing our future graduates to be leaders, as well as responsible global citizens. Students are proud of their work and we are proud of them. I strongly encourage you to visit MRU at any time to see the amazing things our staff and students are participating in on a daily basis.

Tyler Weideman, Principal

**Education budgets and reports are prepared and distributed by Mill River Unified Union School District.



Monthly Newsletter available at Town Hall, on the municipal website and around Town.

Town of Wallingford
75 School Street
Wallingford, VT 05773

2019 Town Report
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