

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD VERMONT 2020



Balsam fir donated by Len and Mary Ann Cadwallader to adorn the Statehouse in Montpelier.

OUR 161st TOWN REPORT

FISCAL YEAR: JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

INFORMATIONAL MEETING: VIA ZOOM, MARCH 1, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.

POLLS OPEN: MARCH 2, 2021 10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

at Wallingford Town Hall

Town Meetings

(Check agendas for Zoom meeting information)

Conservation Commission	4 th Monday, 6:30 p.m. Town Hall
Development Review Board	On Call by Chairperson
Energy Committee	1 st Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall
Planning Commission	2 nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
Prudential Committee	1 st and 3 rd Wednesday, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall
Recreation Committee	2 nd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall
Selectboard	1 st & 3 rd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall
Wallingford Historical Society	On Call by Chairperson
Mill River Unified Union	1 st Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., MRUHS, 3 rd Wednesday
School Board	at different schools

Town Hours

Assessor	By appointment
Gilbert Hart Library	Public hours during pandemic: Wed 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Sat 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. Curbside Pickup Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays
Town Administrator	Monday - Thursday - 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Town Clerk	Monday - Thursday - 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Transfer Station	Monday & Wednesday - Noon - 5:00 p.m. Saturday - 8:00 a.m. - Noon
Zoning Administrator	Monday - 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Who to Call (or Email)

Assessor	446-2974	wallisters@wallingfordvt.com
Burn Permits-Mark Barone	446-2349	mtbarone@vermontel.net
Burn Permits-Martin Rabtoy	345-5550	
Dog Issues - Joseph Elwell	395-1114	jeelwell@vermontel.net
Sewer/Water/Lodge - FD#1	446-2964	wallfired1@vermontel.net
Gilbert Hart Library	446-2685	ghlib@comcast.net
Mill River Union High School	775-3451	
Road Issues - Town Garage	446-2472	roads@wallingfordvt.com
Rutland County Sheriff	775-8002 (non-emergency or 911 for emergency)	
Selectboard	446-2872	selectboard@wallingfordvt.com
Town Clerk	446-2336	townclerk@wallingfordvt.com
Town Clerk fax	446-3174	
Town Administrator	446-2872	townadmin@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

Town of Wallingford

Rutland County, Vermont

Population: 2,094 (2018 American Community Survey for the U.S. Census Bureau)

1,171 Housing Units (2018 ACS Survey for the U.S. Census Bureau)

9,025 Acres of Public Land

Index

American Legion.....	37	Regional Ambulance Service	43
Assessor Report.....	26-27	Rutland County Humane Society.....	43
Auditors' Report	10	Rutland County Sheriff's Dept	41
		Rutland County Solid Waste Dst ...	44-45
Births	31	Rutland Nat'l Resources Conserv.....	46
Budget, Expenditures.....	18-22	Rutland Regl Planning Com.....	47-48
Budget, Fund Balances	16		
Budget, Revenues.....	17-18	School Reports.....	48-53
		Selectboard Report.....	14-15
Conservation Commission Report.....	24		
		Town Annual Meeting Minutes.....	6-10
Deaths.....	32	Town Clerk and Treasurer Report	23
Dedication	2	Town Officers	3-6
Delinquent Tax Collector's Report.....	30	Transfer Station.....	53
		Trustees of Public Funds Report ...	27-28
Energy Committee Report.....	26	VT Council on Rural Dev.....	45
Enhanced 9-1-1.....	33	VT Dept of Health.....	46-47
Fire Chief's Report	28	Wallingford Community Thrift.....	40
Fire Protection Budget Report.....	29	Wallingford Historical Society	36
		Wallingford Rescue, Inc.....	38
Gilbert Hart Library	34	Balance Sheet FYE 9/30/20	39
Proposed Budget, 2020-2021	35	Wallingford Seniors.....	16
Green Hill Cemetery Association ..	32-33	Warning, Town.	12
Green Up Vermont	42		
		Zoning Report.....	25
Informational Meeting Agenda.....	11		
Informational Meeting Handout.....	13		
Legislative Report	33-34		
Marriages	31		
Mt Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad	42		
Planning Commission Report.....	26		
Preservation Trust of Vermont	44		
Recreation Committee Report.....	24-25		

NOTES:

~Disclaimer: groups/officers/committees are responsible for the accuracy of submissions.

~Education Budget and Warning distributed by MRUUSD.

~ See pages 11-13 for budget Informational Meeting agenda, Town Meeting Warning, and a handout.

~An electronic version of this report with color photographs is available at:

www.wallingfordvt.com

Dedication

This year's Town Report is dedicated to the frontline and essential workers who displayed courageous, selfless and genuine concern for the citizens of our community, our state and our country during this once in a century pandemic. Doctors, nurses, EMTs, hospital personnel, first responders, teachers, grocery store clerks, truck drivers, mail carriers, state executive and legislative leaders, and local municipal employees put their communities first despite risks to their own health and safety.

COVID-19 has placed a great strain on the health care system as well as the economy with many citizens struggling with medical concerns, finding employment or putting food on the table. But like generations past, frontline and essential workers have risen to the occasion to do everything they can to assist their communities through the toughest days of this pandemic. Governor Phil Scott honored frontline workers on Labor Day last September:

“Every year, on the first weekend of September, we celebrate the workers of our nation – those who, throughout our history, have powered our economy and communities. This year, I especially want to recognize the frontline heroes of this once-in-a-century health emergency. The nurses, custodians, grocery store workers, childcare providers, and all of those who have helped to keep Vermont one of the safest states in the country during one of most uncertain times many of us can remember. Our success has been earned by the labor of so many Vermonters. Those who volunteered to deliver lunches to students at home, spent their own money to make homemade masks to distribute to frontline workers, our teachers and school employees getting ready for the start of the school year, and those who have found ways to do their work from home to slow the spread and protect our most vulnerable.”

Shining examples right here in Wallingford, include teachers visiting students struggling with remote learning, folks sewing face masks for essential workers, donations of personal protective equipment, offerings of groceries for the Town Hall food shelf, residents preparing meals for neighbors, the creation of safe distancing events to boost morale, or checking in on someone living alone. We implore residents to fight COVID fatigue as there is a light at the end of the tunnel with vaccine distribution imminent and new therapeutics on the horizon. In the meantime, please continue to follow state and CDC guidelines by wearing face masks, washing your hands frequently, avoid gatherings, and staying home when sick.

For being inspirational and hardworking heroes during these unprecedented times, the citizens of Wallingford happily dedicate the 2020 annual Town Report to frontline and essential workers as we extend our deepest gratitude for your exhaustive efforts.



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

Moderator Tammy Heffernan
Grand Juror..... Julie Sharon

Selectboard	Term/Date Expires
Bruce Duchesne	Two Year/2021
Patricia Pranger	Three Year/2021
John McClallen	Two Year/2022
Rose Regula	Three Year/2022
Nelson Tift	Three Year/2023

Auditors	Term/Date Expires
Elaine Warzocha (appointed)	Three Year/2021
Lynn Edmunds	Three Year/2022
Barbara Kaminski (appointed)	Three Year/2023

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

Town Clerk & Treasurer	Term/Date Expires
Julie Sharon	Three Year/2023

Trustee of Public Funds	Term/Date Expires
David Ballou	Three Year/2021
Joyce Barbieri	Three Year/2022
Melissa Whitmore	Three Year/2023

MRUU School Directors	Term/Date Expires
Maria French	Three Year/2021
Tammy Heffernan	Two Year/2021
Liz Filskov	Three Year/2022
Bjorn Behrendt	Two Year/2023

Town Officers

Assessor.....John Tiffany
 Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer.....Jill Stone Teer
 Constable..... Robert Cook
 Deputy Fire Warden.....Martin Rabtoy
 Dog Warden.....Joseph Elwell
 E911 Coordinators.....Eric and Dale Davenport
 Emergency Management Coordinator.....Mark Tessier
 Fire Protection Budget CommitteeRichard Kendall, Michael McMahon, Nelson Tift
 Fire Warden..... Mark Barone
 Health Officer..... Trisha Nash
 Road CommissionerPhil Baker
 Town Administrator Sandi Switzer
 Tree Warden..... Steven Pytlik
 Zoning Administrator..... Erika Berner



Special thanks to Maria French for photographing the town wide pallet project and creating this inspirational montage. Thanks to all organizers and participants who made this a delightful community event.

Planning Commission (3-Year Terms)

Erika Berner, Chair

Kevin Mullin

Bill Brooks III

Jill Burkett

Tony Masuck

Jeff Biasuzzi - Alternate

Term Expires

2021

2021

2022

2022

2023

Development Review Board (2- & 3-Years Terms)

Bill Brooks III, Chair

Lucy Thayer

Jason Stone

Dave Ballou

Jill Burkett

Jeff Biasuzzi, Alternate

Beth Sheehe, Alternate

Term Expires

2021

2022

2022

2023

2023

Conservation Commission (4-Year Terms)

Ralph Nimtz, Co-Chair

Jill Burkett

Deborah Scranton

Jane Quigley

Carol Macleod, Co-Chair

Term Expires

2021

2021

2021

2022

2023

Energy Committee (3-Year Terms)

John Armstrong

Katherine MacLauchlan, Co-Chair

Ken Welch, Co-Chair

Douglas Blodgett

Rob Stubbins

Jay White

David Castonguay

Ralph Nimtz

Term Expires

2021

2021

2021

2022

2022

2022

2023

2023

Visit the municipal website at www.wallingfordvt.com for Agendas, Minutes, monthly Newsletter and more.



Rep. to Rutland Regional Planning Commission	Erika Berner
Alt. to Rutland Regional Planning Commission	Ken Fredette
Rep. to Rutland Region Transportation Council	John McClallen
Rep. to Rutland Co. Solid Waste District	Sandi Switzer
Alt. to Rutland Co. Solid Waste District	Vacant

Recreation Committee (1-Year Appointments)

Trisha Nash (Chair), Diane Baker, Tabitha Davis and Michael Luzader

Justices of the Peace (Elected, Terms Expire 2023)

Maureen Duchesne, Sandy Eddy, Maria French, Kate Goetz, Nikolaus Houghton, Curtis Lidstone, Anthony Petrossi, Wendy Savery, Stanley "Buster" Seward, and Tom Truex

ANNUAL MEETING WALLINGFORD TOWN MINUTES

March 2, 2020

Town Moderator Tammy Heffernan called the annual town meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed the large crowd. Following the pledge of allegiance, the Moderator asked those new residents of the town to stand and be recognized. The meeting was turned over to Selectboard Chair Nelson Tift who introduced board members Bruce Duchesne, Rose Regula, and John McClallen.

The Moderator 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 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, 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 V.S.A., Section 2535, the same to be applied for on or before April 27, 2020 at the Mill River Unified Union School District Office? Erika Berner moved the adoption of Article II; Rob Carey seconded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE III. Shall the Town 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. Christine Palmer moved the adoption of Article

III; Donald Spruit seconded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

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? Cindy Daubenspeck moved the adoption of Article IV; Kathy Upton seconded.

Sharon Nimtzt read Rutland Herald reporter Gordon Dritschilo's statement that stated that the town's amount to be raised in taxes would increase by 19% if voters approved the budget tonight. It was clarified for the crowd that the reporter used the wrong figures from last year and did not include funding articles approved at Town Meeting. The actual increase would be less than 5% if the FY'21 budget was approved. Michael McMahan asked that although nothing is budgeted for the Recreation Director in FY'21, is the position is still open. There are some funds still remaining in the FY'20 budget. However, since most of the Recreation Committee has resigned, the Committee has not recommended filling the position. Mark Tessier asked if the position had been posted, and the answer was no.

Tom Barone asked what the 5% increase in property taxes to be raised consisted of. Nelson Tift said the proposed budget would add almost 2 cents to the town tax rate. Total revenue is down almost \$130,000. Over \$139,000 of that revenue was the previous year's carryover balance, which was FEMA reimbursements from the prior year. The Administration budget is nearly level funded while Town Govt. Operations increased over \$8,000 mainly attributable to the Transfer Station operating expenses and the Rutland County tax. Appropriations decreased \$17,000 as Wallingford Rescue requested an extra \$20,000 last year. Paving was reduced to \$55,000 from \$99,500 in the Highway budget. The Sheriff's budget increased almost 14%, from \$74,921 to \$85,400 as the constable position has no authority.

Gary Fredette is concerned about the Public Safety budget because it has increased over 50% during the last three years. He recalls when an extra \$10,000 was added to increase 30-hour per week coverage to 40. Mr. Fredette has never supported full-time sheriff coverage and believes that the flashing speed limit signs help alert drivers. He would rather see the \$10,000 spent on additional flashing lights. Mrs. Nimtzt discussed the high volume of traffic that travels along Route 7 in the village from 6-8 am and suggested having flashing lights at all four ends of town. Dave Seward asked if the town expects more revenue from the Green Mountain National Forest with the sale of the land to GMNF. No answer was given as the sale is still pending. Mr. Seward asked about the \$20,000 proposed for the Highway Sinking Fund.

There was a lengthy discussion about the Recreation Director vacant position with voters questioning why someone hasn't been hired, why the salary isn't budgeted in FY21, whether it was a one-time occurrence as proposed in FY20, or whether it should be ongoing, and why the employee didn't work out. Former Rec Committee Chair Michelle Kenny explained how the position evolved over many months and although it was approved at last year's town meeting, the Selectboard did not support it. It was understood that it would take time to get the programs up and running; however, the duties demanded by the Selectboard were too much for the elementary teacher that was hired for the job. Mrs. Nimtzt stated that the Selectboard and Recreation Committee should work more closely together to fill the position.

Don Emery moved to call the question. Tony Masuck seconded. Motion to call the question passed by unanimous voice vote.

Motion to approve Article IV. passed by majority voice vote.

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

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? Don Emery moved the adoption of Article VI; Michelle Kenny seconded.

Wallingford Day organizer Maria French alerted the Selectboard that the court has to be available on Wallingford Day, which is July 18th. Bruce Duchesne stated that the total cost is approximately \$54,000 and funds from a CD and funds in the present budget will be used towards the court. The Town Administrator obtained quotes for this project. It was explained that this project is a total court replacement as it has been patched several times over the years. Tom Barone asked the Selectboard to consider establishing a sinking fund. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

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? Dave Seward moved the adoption of Article VII; Cindy Daubenspeck seconded.

Wallingford Rescue's Eric Davenport stated that one of their ambulances is 20+/- years old. New ambulances cost \$160,000; however, they are looking for a refurbished vehicle. They have approximately \$52,000 available for the purchase. Tom Barone asked if the price is for the vehicle only, and Mr. Davenport replied yes, that it costs another \$70,000 to equip the ambulance. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

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? Tom Barone moved the adoption of Article VIII; Don Emery seconded. Lynn Edmunds stated that this is the third year for this request, and he does not see any benefit in contributing to this effort. He and others felt that the funds would be better spent on town expenses such as the basketball court or ambulance. The article failed by majority voice vote.

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? Michael McMahon moved the adoption of Article IX; Kathy Luzader seconded.

Tom Barone asked how much the excavator would cost, and Road Commissioner Phil Baker stated that it would be approximately \$110,000. The balance of the Highway Sinking Fund would be the down payment. Cindy Daubenspeck asked what an excavator is used for. Mr. Baker explained that the machine is used to dig ditches as well as load material and will cut down work and travel time. Eric Williams asked if the town considered used equipment. Mr. Baker stated that it's more beneficial to have a warranty on heavy equipment. Dave Seward stated that the town of Mount Holly hires someone to perform this work each year. Mr. Williams asked if the excavator would require a trailer, and Mr. Baker answered that the town will be using his trailer for the next year or two at no charge. The article passed by majority voice vote.

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)? Tom Barone moved the adoption of Article X; Michael McMahon seconded.

Rob Carey spoke against this article saying that it would be the end of Town meeting. Bruce Duchesne spoke in favor, citing that second shift workers who cannot attend town meeting, are not able to vote on the budget. He feels that voters should be able to vote on the money articles that they are taxed on. Michael McMahon thanked the Selectboard for proposing this article, mentioning that the voters now can vote by Australian ballot on town plan and bylaw amendments. He and six others asked for a paper ballot.

Lynn Edmunds said that we shouldn't disenfranchise voters because they can't make it to Town meeting. Tom Barone suggested establishing committees who can prepare questions and answers on each article to help better inform the voters who can't attend Town meeting. Maureen Duchesne mentioned the "snowbird" voters who can't attend Town meeting. Rob Carey said that interest and attendance will decrease if there is no Town meeting. Brian Finch spoke in favor of Australian ballot as many parents of young children can't attend Town meeting. He also thought that an informational meeting would give voters additional time to reflect on what was discussed at the meeting in order to make more informed decisions at the polls.

Peg Soule recalled that whenever the town budget was second on the schedule, voters stayed for that meeting, but when the School budget was second, voters left early. She questioned whether it's more important to have the "best-informed" or the "most" people voting. She felt that the quality of information heard tonight and discussion that took place could not be duplicated in a newsletter. Christine Palmer asked if Australian ballot could be conducted at the end of town meeting. Ron Boucher, a former Selectboard member, spoke in favor of the article stating that when the school changed to Australian ballot, the school remained open and if this article passes, that the town will still operate as usual. Mr. Boucher felt that it's important to have confidence in the elected Selectboard members. Brian Pinsonault mentioned that some towns have their meeting on the Saturday before Town Meeting Day.

Deborah Scranton spoke about the "Communications and Events" group's goal to make Wallingford residents aware of happenings around town by mailing the monthly town newsletter to all households. She encouraged residents to complete the survey included in the March newsletter.

Paper ballots were handed out to 84 voters with 45 voting yes and 39 voting no. The motion passed.

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)? Don Emery moved the adoption of Article XI; Michael McMahon seconded.

Michael McMahon and six other voters asked for a paper ballot. Paper ballots were handed out to 67 voters with 36 voting yes and 31 voting no. The motion passed.

State Representative David Potter spoke on legislative issues that included the Vermont House approving the climate bill requiring state to meet emissions goals; the Senate approving the new

family leave bill; the House approving the minimum wage bill; and a bill to update the State's Act 250 land development and use law was passed by the House.

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. There was no discussion on the school budget.

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

Bill Scranton was annoyed that the Town Report lacked a report from the Assessor's office.

Christine Palmer spoke on the impact climate change has on Vermont, citing Act H.688. Opponent Daniel Whipple countered that Vermonters cannot afford additional taxes and will be hit hard with this carbon tax proposal.

With no other business to come before the body, at 9:00 p.m., Ms. Heffernan asked for a motion to recess the meeting. Rob Carey moved to adjourn the meeting; Erika Berner seconded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Julie Sharon, Clerk

Auditors

We, the undersigned Auditors for the Town of Wallingford, have examined the accounts and records for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020. 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, 2020.

Barbara Kaminski, Lynn Edmunds, and Elaine Warzocha, Auditors



Pallet project photo by Sandi Switzer

Town of Wallingford

Remote Public Informational Hearing

Notice and Agenda

The Selectboard of the Town of Wallingford, Vermont will hold a public informational hearing by electronic means on Monday evening, March 1, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. to discuss the Australian Ballot Articles on the 2021 Town Meeting Warning. To access the remote public hearing, the telephone number is 1(929)205-6099 (tolls may apply). When prompted, the meeting Meeting ID is 7330764419 and Password is 907463. Or, visit <https://www.wallingfordvt.com/government/selectboard/> and click on the meeting link. Please review the Informational Handout for Remote Public Hearings to understand how this meeting will be conducted. If you cannot access the remote hearing, questions/comments may be emailed to townadmin@wallingfordvt.com or mailed to: Wallingford Town Administrator, 75 School Street, Wallingford, VT 05773 in advance.

Call the Meeting to Order.

Additions or deletions to the Agenda. Review Articles.

ARTICLE I. To elect the following Town Officers: **two Selectboard members**, one for a two-year term and one for a three-year term; **two Auditors**, one for two years to complete a three-year term and one for a three-year term; **one Trustee of Public Funds** for a three-year term; and a **Town Moderator** for a one-year term.

~Public Comment

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 30, 2021 at the Mill River Unified Union School District Office?

~Public Comment

ARTICLE III. Shall the Town vote to have one-half (1/2) of the fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022) property taxes and fire protection taxes paid to the Town Treasurer on or before October 18, 2021 at 4:30 P.M. and the remaining one-half of the fiscal year 2022 property taxes and fire protection taxes paid to the Town Treasurer on or before April 18, 2022 at 4:30 P.M.? Payments are physically due in the Town Office; post-marked dates WILL NOT be accepted.

~Public Comment

ARTICLE IV. Shall the voters of the Town of Wallingford appropriate a sum not to exceed \$1,292,013.92 for the General Operation of the Town, with an amount not to exceed \$894,738.82 to be raised in Property Taxes for fiscal year 2022?

~Public Comment

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

~Public Comment

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

~Public Comment

Motion to Adjourn.

Warning
Town of Wallingford Annual Town Meeting
March 2, 2021

The legal voters of the Town of Wallingford are hereby Warned to gather for an Informational Meeting via Zoom on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to review Town Meeting articles. To join by telephone, dial 1(929)205-6099. To join via electronic device, visit <https://www.wallingfordvt.com/government/selectboard/> and click on the link. The meeting ID is 7330764419 and Password is 907463. The polls will be open Tuesday, March 2, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Wallingford Town Hall for the purpose of voting all articles by Australian ballot:

ARTICLE I. To elect the following Town Officers: **two Selectboard members**, one for a two-year term and one for a three-year term; **two Auditors**, one for two years to complete a three-year term and one for a three-year term; **one Trustee of Public Funds** for a three-year term; a **Town Moderator** for a one-year term; and **two School Board Directors** for Mill River Unified Union School District for three-year terms.

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 30, 2021 at the Mill River Unified Union School District Office?

ARTICLE III. Shall the Town vote to have one-half (1/2) of the fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022) property taxes and fire protection taxes paid to the Town Treasurer on or before October 18, 2021 at 4:30 P.M. and the remaining one-half of the fiscal year 2022 property taxes and fire protection taxes paid to the Town Treasurer on or before April 18, 2022 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 \$1,292,013.92 for the General Operation of the Town, with an amount not to exceed \$894,738.82 to be raised in Property Taxes for fiscal year 2022?

WALLINGFORD SELECTBOARD

Nelson Tift, Chair
Bruce Duchesne
John McClallen
Patricia Pranger
Rose Regula

Dated at Wallingford this 18 day of January, 2021

Informational Public Hearing Handout

The public informational hearing for the proposed FY'22 budget and Town Meeting articles scheduled for Monday, March 1, 2021 will be conducted remotely via electronic means. The public will also be able to access and participate in the remote hearing.

Accessing the Hearing

Please refer to the hearing notice and agenda for information on how to access the remote hearing. Please note that whether you join by telephone, computer, or device, you may be put on hold or in a waiting "room" until granted access to the hearing. You also may be muted or restricted from using any chat function until the public comment portion of the hearing.

Participation

The Selectboard will follow its agenda and allow public attendees to participate through voice (audio) means where feasible or alternatively using any chat function during the designated public comment periods on the agenda and at other applicable times as needed. Initially, the hearing host/organizer will mute all participants. This is necessary to control background noise. The host/organizer will then unmute participants or allow participants to unmute themselves when invited to speak by the Selectboard Chair.

Please review the following guidelines:

- The Chair will invite comment:
 - Following Board discussion of each Article on the agenda;
 - During any open public comment period, if applicable; and
 - Other times as determined by the Chair.
- When a participant/attendee is unmuted, that individual must state their name before commenting.
- All comments must be directed to the Selectboard. Cross conversations with other attendees are not allowed.
- Each member of the public will be allowed to comment on an Article before any one person is allowed a second comment/question on the same Article.

When the Selectboard adjourns the hearing, the host/organizer will end the electronic hearing by turning off/closing the remote hearing software. Attendees will be automatically disconnected.

Minutes and other public records that were part of the hearing will be made available in accordance with VT's Open Meeting and Public Records Laws.



Selectboard Report

2020 has been a year I think we all would like to forget, and probably never will. The Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on all of us, individually and within government, as we struggled to learn and adapt socially and financially, with this virus. The Selectboard has had to make some tough decisions this past year, which were not always popular with some individuals in Town, but those decisions were made after careful consideration and with two goals in mind. First and foremost was to keep everyone in Town safe and healthy. Secondly, it was to keep the Town on a sound financial footing.

This virus has changed many things in our lives and will continue to do so for some time to come. It is with these things in mind that we have developed the proposed budget request of \$1,292,013.92 for FY' 2021-22, which is a decrease of \$24,437.49 from the current \$1,316,451.41. The proposed budget would require an estimated tax rate of \$.3744 based on the 2020 Grand List. This would be a more than 2 cent drop from the current tax rate of \$.3972. Citizens of Wallingford have always been supportive of town government and it is our hope you will continue to do so with this budget.

Town Meeting will not be meeting as normal this year, due to the pandemic, and we will also be voting by Australian ballot. An informational meeting will be held Monday, March 1 via Zoom. We recognize this will be difficult to present information and get questions answered, since not everyone has a computer or access to the internet. Therefore, once the annual Town Report comes out, we would encourage anyone with questions to mail or e-mail them to the Selectboard, in care of the town administrator, beforehand, and we can answer them appropriately.

Email questions to:

townadmin@wallingfordvt.com

Or mail to:

Wallingford Town Administrator
75 School Street
Wallingford, VT 05773

Highlights of this past year included the completion of paving projects on Hartsboro Road, Waldo Lane and Franklin Street. The Town secured \$12,923 in Grants in Aid funding that covered labor, equipment and material costs for completed ditching and culvert replacement projects on Parker, Van Wyck and Hawkins Roads. The Town submitted grant applications for additional paving and bridge projects, but the State decided to proportionately distribute aid to all municipalities rather than specific projects due to economic constraints as a result of the pandemic. The Town of Wallingford received \$21,564 and a portion of those funds will be used to repair the retaining wall on the Maple Street bridge. The Town has pending applications for Grants in Aid funding for other ditching projects and a Better Roads grant for upgrades to West Hill, Dugway and Mooney Roads.

The Town entered into an Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement with other Rutland County municipalities that provides FEMA grant eligibility for emergency highway equipment rental from neighboring communities. The Town purchased a 2020 Milton CAT Excavator that has been very useful on highway projects in many Wallingford neighborhoods.

The state awarded Local Government Emergency Response (LGER) grant funds to the Town in the

amount of \$2,419 to cover the costs of personal protective equipment, Plexiglas barriers at Town Hall, signage, and other expenses associated with the pandemic.

FEMA requires the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to be updated every five years in order to be qualify for emergency funds. Utilizing a FEMA grant in the amount of \$7,612, a planning team consisting of Nelson Tift, Bruce Duchesne, Julie Sharon, Sandi Switzer, Michael Hughes, Phil Baker, Steve Lanfear and Charlie Woods worked from mid-summer through the end of the year alongside Rutland Regional Planning Commission's Steffanie Bourque to complete the update. The Town awaits state and FEMA approval.

Pike Industries, Inc.'s bid of \$22,800 was accepted for upgrades to the basketball court off Meadow Street with work to be completed in June. The Town approved plans submitted by Tyler Shelvey for a skateboard ramp adjacent to the basketball court. The ramp is expected to be installed in the spring.

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 join our twice monthly meetings or contact any one of us with your questions or concerns. Stay safe, stay well.

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



Photo by Sandi Switzer

The newsletter Wallingford Standard is mailed monthly to residents and available at



www.wallingfordvt.com

Fund Balances (as of December 31, 2020)

	Balance	APR	Type	2020 Interest Earned
Building Fund	\$ 62,733.48	0.15%	Interest Checking	\$ 161.00
Bridge Sinking Fund	\$ 204,789.59	0.60%	Money Market	\$ 1,275.00
Cemetery Fund	\$ 5,760.81	0.01%	Interest Checking	\$ 0.82
Conservation Commission	\$ 3,680.76	0.01%	Interest Checking	\$ 0.44
Highway Sinking Fund	\$ 1,084.99	0.60%	Money Market	\$ 197.27
Reappraisal Fund	\$ 58,641.67	0.15%	Interest Checking	\$ 149.63
Recreation Fund	\$ 14,574.91	0.15%	Interest Checking	\$ 42.39

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. Seniors Meal Program continues every Monday at the Rotary Building and you can RSVP by calling Rhonda Renner (802) 779-5893 or 446-3069. Keep active with the Bone Builders program held at the Gilbert Hart Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.



Photo by Sandi Switzer

FY'22 Budget Proposal can be found on the Town Meeting page of the municipal website.

<https://www.wallingfordvt.com/town-meeting/>

Town Clerk and Treasurer

2020 has been a challenging year as a result of the public health emergency. We closed our office to the public in mid-March and reopened in early June adhering to the Town's COVID-19 Program and Exposure Control Plan.

The State awarded us a Coronavirus Municipal Records Digitization Grant in the amount of \$16,580. This grant provided funds to purchase workstations and a scanner, as well as pay for vendor contract fees and labor costs to scan and index five years of land records. This new cloud-based records management system provides convenient access to indexed information and images for these recorded records. Our long-range plan is to have 40 years of land records available online.

All dogs, age six months and older, must be registered annually by April 1st. A valid rabies certificate must be submitted or on file. We are happy to issue licenses through the mail. Fees are \$10 fixed; \$14 not fixed. \$1 from each license is sent to the State for the rabies program and \$4 for the spay/neuter program.

I want to remind residents that you must file your Homestead Declaration Form HS-122 if you are a Vermont resident whose property meets the definition of a homestead. A Vermont homestead is the principal dwelling and parcel of land surrounding the dwelling owned and occupied as a person's domicile as of April 1st. The deadline for filing is April 15th, regardless of filing extensions; otherwise, a late filing penalty will be assessed. In order to receive a Property Tax Adjustment, the Household Income Schedule HI-144 must be filed too.

We officiated three elections last year – Town Meeting, the Primary election and General election. Voter participation in November was unprecedented with the majority of voters using the early voting system. The State reimbursed us for costs incurred for the purchase and installation of a secure ballot drop box and security camera for the return of voted ballots. We were also fortunate to receive a \$5,000 grant from the Center for Tech and Civic Life for ensuring that we could operate a safe and secure election in Wallingford.

If you would like to register to vote, you can register online at "<https://olvr.vermont.gov>". Existing voters can access their voter-specific web page at "<https://mvp.vermont.gov>" to request an absentee ballot, update voter information, view a sample ballot, and much more.

The Wallingford Food Shelf is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to Noon. Please call to make an appointment.

It is my pleasure to be your Town Clerk and Treasurer. Feel free to contact me or Jill Stone-Teer at 802-446-2336 should you ever have any questions or concerns.

Julie Sharon, Town Clerk and Treasurer

Conservation Commission

This past year started out well with WCC's annual Family Fun Day held at Stone Meadow Conservation Area in late February. Plenty of participants for sledding, hotdogs, S'mores, and fun. Unfortunately, the coronavirus followed shortly thereafter and curtailed additional activities planned for 2020. Stone Meadow saw noticeably more users walking the trails and using Stone Meadow as an entrance to Elfin Lake. Unfortunately, trash became a larger problem than usual – multiple bags of uneaten Kentucky Fried Chicken and a mixed array of returnable bottles, clothing and cigarette butts and just plain ole trash. Although we have small garbage bins for returnables/recyclables and dog waste, we should all keep in mind the slogan "take only photographs and leave only footprints." Until the coronavirus is under control, the Commission has opted not to restock brochures and dog waste bags.

The WCC suffered the loss of its bee population due to a wax moth invasion last spring. There is a bright spot in the future. One hive was taken over by native bees and is full of honey, which we will gather this coming spring and hopefully have for sale at Town Hall. It is our intention to purchase two new queens and colonies to stock two hives for next year.

Green Up Day was held May 30th, 2020 and Green Up bags and information were distributed in front of the Gilbert Hart Library. Although the number of participants decreased due to COVID-19, participation exceeded our estimates. Thanks to all of you who participated. Hopefully we will see you on May 1, 2021 for the annual Green Up Day event. We will keep you posted through inserts in the Town newsletter.

For safety and insurance reasons the Selectboard determined in September that there is to be no bike riding on the trails in Stone Meadow except on the Main Trail from Waldo Lane to the beach.

The copse area at Stone Meadow has been mostly cleaned up; and whatever is left to be cut up and stacked should be completed by March of 2021.

Sadly, the Conservation Commission accepted the resignations of two members last spring. Marc Pramuk, former Chair, and Pat Stone were integral members of the Commission and are sorely missed. This brings up the point that the Commission needs an influx of new members. If you are interested, please contact the Wallingford Conservation Commission.

The Conservation Commission is grateful to the Gilbert Hart Library, especially Michael Luzader, for creating the Book Trail in Stone Meadow. There have been so many positive comments and we very much hope the library continues this addition to Stone Meadow and the Town.

Be well, stay safe, and get vaccinated when it is available.

Ralph Nimtz, Carol Macleod, Jane Quigley, Deb Scranton and Jill Burkett, Conservation Commission

Recreation Committee

The Recreation Committee has been working very hard in these challenging times to support programs and add events that align with the current safety guidelines put in place due to COVID-19. The Halloween scavenger event and the turkey coloring contest provided some much needed, safe

interaction. The next event planned in coordination with the Gilbert Hart Library was a Christmas book path stroll at Stone Meadow. Library personnel chose books with winter themes and the Recreation Committee assisted by lighting the path for fun family evening strolls.

Upcoming plans include, improvements to the basketball court and a new skateboard ramp to be added to the recreation area off Meadow Street, annual maintenance of the baseball/softball fields as well as Elfin Lake beach. We remain cautiously optimistic about operating the Summer Recreation Program and opening Elfin Lake to visitors.

As always, take the time to enjoy what the Town has to offer! If you are interested in serving as a member of the Recreation Committee, please contact myself, another member of the committee, or the town administrator.

Trisha Nash, Chair

Zoning Report

Jeff Biasuzzi resigned as Zoning Administrator effective August 1, 2020 and I was hired to fill the vacancy as of September 1, 2020.

Summary of permits issued:

Type of Permit	Number
Home Occupation	1
Additions/Renovations/Sheds/Decks	25
Signs	2
Permit extensions or renewals	3
New building (home, garage, accessory)	2
Vendor Licenses	2
Skateboard ramp	1
Driveway extension	1
Total	37

Since COVID-19 has eliminated all in-person workshops and Conferences, there are none to report for this past year.

Before COVID, the Development Review Board met once (in-person) to review the issuance of the Home Occupation permit to Susan Dresner as her neighbors objected the operation of an Air BnB in her home on Hounds Hill Lane. The DRB upheld the issuance. Before any further legal action was taken, Ms. Dresner sold her property and the permit became invalid.

The Planning Commission continued to revise Town Zoning Regulations with the goal of submitting the regulations to the Selectboard by December. However, a variety of circumstances has resulted in a delay until the spring of 2021.

Erika Berner, Zoning Administrator

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission (PC) met during the year both in-person and via Zoom to revise and revamp the current Zoning Regulations with an original target of sending the final draft to the Wallingford Selectboard by December.

At the November meeting, the PC voted to hold public hearings in accordance with Vermont statutes. Copies of the proposed regulations along with public hearing information was forwarded to the Selectboard. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the Selectboard asked that the PC to postpone public hearings until such time as in-person meetings can be scheduled (spring 2021). The PC agreed to the postponement. Via voice and email, planning commissioners also agreed to take the extra time continue to refine the regulations.

Erika Berner, Chair

Energy Committee

The Wallingford Energy Committee (WEC) is committed to educating and assisting Town residents in identifying ways to improve the efficiencies of their homes and businesses through improvements that will reduce operating expenses and improve air quality.

The WEC's activities for 2020 were significantly curtailed due to the pandemic. In spite of this, the committee was involved in the following activities:

Energy audit of Town Hall. A blower door test and analysis of the building identified major sources of air infiltration and lack of basement wall insulation. We developed the scope of a retrofit that may go out to bid in 2021. WEC encouraged and assisted Wallingford Solar in phase 2 of the solar generators located in the former Pike facility off Creek Road.

The WEC is currently in the process of evaluating Fire District No 1's water/wastewater facilities and operating procedures in order to identify energy and environmental efficiencies.

The WEC is currently in the process of identifying and honoring Wallingford homeowners who are environmental stewards and power their homes through solar generation. These residents assisted the Town in reaching current and future renewable energy goals.

Ken Welch, Co-Chair

Assessor Report

This year has been a difficult one due to the COVID-19 virus. Building inspections were limited to exterior inspections, emails, and telephone calls. Likewise, there were no face-to-face grievance hearings.

The processing of Current Use applications, certifying, re-certifying of properties, withdrawing properties, etc. was extremely slow on the State's side due to fewer employees and having to work from home. This continued at the tail end of December.

The new solar panel farm off Creek Road has been added to the Grand List and another is due to be on line before the end of 2021.

The Towns of Wallingford and Tinmouth agreed to disagree over the location of several properties in the southwest corner of town. Parcels moved to Tinmouth have been returned to Wallingford's Grand List.

Since the last reappraisal, there were numerous fire district properties that needed attention and cleaning up in order to receive proper fire district taxing. It is confusing.

Real estate sales are up in both volume and in value due to people from populous southern states looking to relocate to an area of few COVID-19 cases. Quite a few sales have been over the assessed value. It will be interesting to see how this affects next year's Common Level of Assessment and Coefficient of Dispersion numbers. These are used by the State to calculate the Education Equalization Ratios to determine everyone's education tax. Our current levels are:

Common Level of Assessment – 99.42% Perfect is 100%; under 85% or over 115% brings on a reappraisal. When the percentage drops it is an indicator of an increase in purchase price vs. assessed value. Coefficient of Dispersion – 9.89%. This is a very acceptable level; over 20% brings on a reappraisal.

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 trusts have been invested in well-diversified moderate allocation mutual funds. The status is as follows:

	<u>Shares Held</u>	<u>Market Value 12/31/2020</u>
1993 Revenue Augmentation Trust	9584.764	\$225,721.19
Ralph E. Stafford Memorial Fund	6563.565	\$154,571.96

The accounts earned a 9.20% rate of return in calendar year 2020. The return is in line with the average return for similar moderate allocation funds. The investment holds an overall three-star rating from the investment research firm, Morningstar, and continues to be awarded a low-risk rating. Quarterly dividend distributions sustain the investments. American Funds Income Fund of America (AMECX) continues to be 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 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

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." The 2020 recipients were Tyler Shelvey, Emma Baker and Jude Seo.

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

Wallingford Fire Chief's Report

The Wallingford Fire Department had a very successful 2020. We provided assistance just under 100 times for emergency and non-emergency situations throughout the year. Some examples of our responses were: structure fires, auto accidents, carbon monoxide alarms, wildland fires, Wallingford Rescue assistance 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 of 24 hours per month or 288 hours per firefighter each year. This training takes place virtually as well as 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 made progress with our "Lights on for Safety" program. This program asks you to turn on many lights in your home, if it is safe to do so, in the event of an emergency. 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 currently have a good roster of men and women volunteers. However, we are always looking for additional people to join our department 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 is visible from your street, so we can find you quickly. Please have a safe 2021 and thank you for your support.

Michael Hughes, Fire Chief



FIRE PROTECTION BUDGET WORKSHEET

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
	Jul '19 - Jun '20	Jul '20 - Dec '20	Jul '20 - Jun '21	Jul '21 - Jun '22
4400 · FIRE PROTECTION INCOME				
Prior Year Over (Loss)	26,184.93	31,528.70		
4401 · Interest - Checking	46.36	13.14		
4402 · Contract Payment from Town/Tax	111,257.14	46,101.59		
4403 · Miscellaneous Income				
Total 4400 · FIRE PROTECTION INCOME	137,488.43	77,643.43	126,200.00	126,100.00
5400 · FIRE PROTECTION FUND				
5401 · Administrative Expense	6,500.00	6,800.00	6,800.00	7,200.00
5404 · Emergency Phone	420.20	218.76	1,000.00	500.00
5405 · State Dispatching Annual Fee	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	2,700.00
5406 · Office Equipment Expense	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
5407 · Utilities	6,243.82	2,157.43	10,000.00	8,000.00
5408 · Chief's Stipend & FICA	1,345.63	1,345.63	1,350.00	1,350.00
5411 · Attorney Fees	-	-	500.00	500.00
5412 · Insurance Expense	10,378.00	5,985.50	10,000.00	10,000.00
5413 · Miscellaneous Expense	557.11	-	1,500.00	1,500.00
5416 · Education/Training Expense	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	5,000.00
5417 · Fire Hydrants/Dry Hydrants	-	4,449.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
5419 · Firefighter Equipment	20,090.96	1,910.59	25,000.00	25,000.00
5420 · Pager/Radio/Computer/Software	3,472.70	95.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
5421 · Fire Vehicles Repairs/Maint.	5,671.24	7,030.27	7,500.00	7,500.00
5422 · Fire Vehicles - Diesel	1,043.05	759.34	2,000.00	2,000.00
5423 · Station Expense	2,860.80	1.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
5427 · Truck Replacement Fund	24,000.00	24,000.00	24,000.00	24,000.00
5433 · Testing/Maint.	6,224.52	3,910.05	6,000.00	6,500.00
5435 · Firefighters Stipend	5,086.95	-	5,000.00	5,000.00
5438 - Air Pack Replacement Fund	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
5439 - Deputy Chief Stipend+ FICA	1,614.75	1,614.75	1,600.00	1,600.00
5440 - Repeater Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
TOTAL FIRE PROTECTION EXPENSES	105,959.73	65,727.32	126,200.00	126,100.00
YEAR OVER (LOSS)	31,528.70			

Delinquent Tax Collector Report 12/31/20

Current Year Warrant 04/30/19 **\$138,723.85 (Principal only)**

Total Collected & Remitted to Town \$172,525.83
For current year & previous years.

Delinquent Principal Balance **\$51,358.70**
Including Years from 2016-2019

The following are delinquent in the payment of their taxes as of December 31, 2020

Charboneau, Lisa	2019-2020
Fox, Florence	2019-2020
Houghton, Nikolaus	2019-2020
Makar, Joseph	2019-2020
Maple Valley Grange	2019-2020
Michael, Morabito	2018-2019 & 2019-2020
Narragansett Indian	2016-2020
Narragansett Indian	2016-2020
Nayla LLC	2019-2020
Phillips, Christopher	2017-2018 & 2019-2020
Pitts, Thomas	2019-2020
Skiba, Richard	2019-2020
Travers, Terry	2019-2020
Weightman Linda	2019-2020

Jill Stone-Teer, Delinquent Tax Collector



Front Porch Forum is a Vermont based online service that helps neighbors connect with neighbors and build community by hosting online conversations in every town in the state. To sign up for this free service, visit www.frontporchforum.com

Births

Child's Name	Sex	Date	Father's Name	Mother's Name
Ensley Michelle Cormia	F	1/25	Tiler Cormia	Brandi Munger
Henry Charles MacLauchlan	M	3/18	Ian MacLauchlan	Katherine Rockwell
Lincoln Robert Aines-Avery	M	3/20	Elliot Avery	Ashley Aines
Adalyn Grace Phillips	F	3/22	Sean Phillips	Julie Ingram
Calahan Charles Brothers	M	4/14	Sean Brothers	Jennifer Galusha
Jacob Ezra Bombardier	M	4/27	Warren Bombardier	Laurie Beebe
Lucy Lola Harlow-Jankus	F	5/26	Justin Jankus	Abbey Harlow
Oaklyn Cheyeann Hepburn	F	6/30	Dillon Hepburn	Abigail Zimmer
Jupiter Elizabeth Frye	F	7/15	Zacchues Frye	Tereka Hand
Preston Joshua Tyminski	M	7/18		Samantha Tyminski
Lawson Van Robert Filskov	M	8/13	Justin Filskov	Victoria Bergen
Avalyna Elizabeth Boyd	F	9/1	Sudeque Boyd	Caitlin Sears
Eliza Jayne Rohrer	F	9/9	Christopher Rohrer	Kelly Holland
Jasper Jon Rohrer	M	9/9	Christopher Rohrer	Kelly Holland
River Blue Johnson	M	9/30	Logan Galante	Halee Johnson
Evangeline Hope Gustafson	F	10/17	James Gustafson	Kendra Parker
Benjamin William Pearson	M	10/27	Henry Pearson III	Danielle McMahon
Penelope Mae White	F	10/29	Logan White	Lauren Tursi
Everest William Kitchin	M	12/11	William Kitchin	Taylor Gainer

Civil Marriages

Spouse	Residence	Spouse	Residence	Date
Noel Chuderski	Wallingford	Terry Weeks	Wallingford	2/20
Elicia Mailhiot	Wallingford	Brian Pinsonault	Wallingford	6/27
Shyanne Phillips	Wallingford	Andrew Bushee	Wallingford	6/27
Melissa Garrow	Wallingford	James Kent	Wallingford	7/11
Andrew Roberts	Wallingford	Laura Morse	Wallingford	7/18
Lindsey Ruitter	Wallingford	Matthew Crossman	Wallingford	8/22
Lisa Taggart	Wallingford	Gregory Leighton Thayer	Wallingford	9/4
Bryan Cole	Wallingford	Jenna Ray	Wallingford	9/6
Caitlin Sears	Wallingford	Sudeque Boyd	Wallingford	9/13
Lauren Bizzaro	Rutland	Joseph Lattuca Jr.	Wallingford	10/3
Abigail Zimmer	Wallingford	Dillon Hepburn	Wallingford	10/3
Selina Ferrandino	Wallingford	James Conley, II	Wallingford	10/10

Deaths

Name		Date	Residence
Victoria Cole-Wilbur	58	1/4	Wallingford
Rebecca Hodgdon	78	1/10	Wallingford
Lydia Underwood	64	2/21	Wallingford
Gary Howk	72	2/24	E. Wallingford
Robert Underwood	77	2/25	Wallingford
Evelyn Smith	93	2/28	Wallingford
Scott Sargent	76	3/25	Wallingford
Barry Lamson	81	4/1	Wallingford
Kara Lunna	45	4/5	Wallingford
Frederick Wagner	71	4/14	Wallingford
Donald Parker	74	6/11	E. Wallingford
Robert DePhillips Sr.	60	6/12	Wallingford
Stephen Heckler	59	7/5	E. Wallingford
Francis DelPrete	77	7/23	Wallingford
Frederick Shum, Jr	88	7/25	Wallingford
Raef Cornell	23	8/16	Wallingford
Beverly Coote	85	9/2	Wallingford
Sumner Page, Jr.	75	9/14	Wallingford
Leo Farley	83	10/7	E. Wallingford
Janet Tifft	75	10/10	Wallingford
Cynthia Cameron	72	10/18	Wallingford
Robert Savin	78	11/12	Wallingford
Stephen Goetz	63	11/14	Winooski
Bonnie Gainer	75	12/4	Wallingford

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 and to the lot owners who donate to us. These donations help 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 Curtis Lidstone at 558-5276. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 446-3239.

William H. Brooks III, President

Enhanced 911 Board Report

As always, we would like to thank everyone working at the Town Office for all the continued help and support they give us.

Please remember to have your locatable address visibly displayed with 3 inch reflective numbers so that 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 contact personnel at the town offices OR 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 contact us at telephone: 802-446-2007.

Eric and Dale Davenport, E-911 Coordinators

Legislative Report

2020 was a year that none of us could have ever imagined. Since March, our daily lives and routines have altered drastically due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In our lifetime, a virus of this magnitude was only something that we read about in the history books. The community of Wallingford has done an outstanding job of coming together, supporting one another, and following the recommended safety guidelines. A job well done to all!

As you would imagine, legislating this year looked far different from usual. This legislative session turned into a much longer one due to the virus. Governing by Zoom is a far less effective way to operate, but safety has been our first priority in the legislature. The lack of comradery was felt by all legislators as countless discussions and lively debate often take place in the hallways and cafeteria of our special statehouse.

I have the privilege of serving as the vice chair of the House Judiciary Committee. This committee tackles matters related to judicial and legal affairs. This committee often finds itself to be one of the busiest and most important. During the past legislative session, our committee discussed topics ranging from our court systems and bail, firearms, racial justice, expungement, and a variety of other important matters. Two issues that I have worked diligently on in committee include domestic violence legislation and strengthening our laws against internet crimes involving children.

The biggest challenge our state will face for the unforeseen future is our loss in revenue due to the virus. Our state depends heavily on tourism and that industry has taken a severe hit. Our

restaurants, motels, ski resorts, and others are hurting, and I am committed to do what I can to help these industries from my seat in Montpelier.

The 2020 November Election saw a record level of voter participation. Town Meeting Day 2021 will also offer a variety of ways to participate due to the pandemic. I wish to thank State Representative David Potter for his many years of service representing our two-seat district. I also wish Art Peterson well in his new role as a state legislator.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me at any time. I enjoy hearing from so many of you and assisting with your legislative needs. I can be reached at tburditt@leg.state.vt.us or by phone at 802-236-9257. Here is to a better 2021!

Tom Burditt, State Representative

Gilbert Hart Library

This very interesting year got off to a running start, then changed abruptly as the global pandemic COVID-19 put the entire state of Vermont under a lockdown the week of March 16th. Once we could react and regroup, the library building remained closed to the public while continuing to provide curbside service to patrons under reduced days and hours. Those hours were expanded in May. As libraries resumed lending and the courier service was re-established, we continued with filling requests, cleaning, and quarantining items throughout the summer.

In September, we began offering open hours to the public on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Curbside pick-up continues the other 3 days of the week. The community has responded favorably. We expect to continue in this fashion through the winter months. As more things potentially open in 2021, our public hours may expand. Meanwhile, an extensive ceiling repair and repainting of the Klock room took place and some limited programs were offered with safety protocols in place. The most exciting development this year was a Book Path installed at the Stone Meadow recreation area. Thirty-six panels display changing selections of classics and newer titles offer an outdoor encounter with books for readers of all ages.

Michael Luzader, President, Board of Trustees



Enjoying the Book Path at Stone Meadow. Photos by Michael Luzader.

Gilbert Hart Library Association - Budget for 2020-2021

Operating Income:

Town Funding	\$38,000
Membership	8,000
Interest & Dividends	7,000
Memorials/Honorariums	1,000
Fundraising	2,000
Donations	3,000
Library Cards	50
Petty Cash/Donations (rent)	500
Friends	2,000
Grants	<u>500</u>
Total Revenue	\$62,050

Operating Expenses:

Salaries	\$30,000
Bookkeeper	1,600
Payroll Taxes	2,700
Insurance/Workers Comp	600
Insurance Building	2,000
Electricity	2,100
Fuel Oil	2,600
Telephone	700
Equipment Expense	1,000
Maintenance-Building	6,000
Maintenance-Grounds	850
Postage	1,000
Library Supplies	1,000
Printing Fund Raising	500
Technical Support	250
Workshops, Dues, Miles	<u>300</u>
Administrative Expense	\$53,200
Total Expenses	

Library Acquisition:

Books	\$6,000
Periodicals	500
Audios, Videos	750
Programming	800
Computer Software	0
Automation	<u>1,400</u>
Total Resource Expenses	\$9,450

Total Expenses:	\$62,650
Net Income (Loss)	-\$600

Wallingford Historical Society

Focusing on the positive, I would like to report the Wallingford Historical Society has been gifted with a melodeon donated by Chuck Ferguson (Lake Elfin camps). Mr. Ferguson's grandparents, Albert and Margaret, moved to Vermont in 1910 and Albert managed the American Fork and Hoe. They lived at 212 Main Street (now Emma's place). Margaret's sister, Marion Tryon, was office manager at the plant and organist at the Congregational Church. She lived at 196 School Street (now Sara Seward's) with her melodeon (circa 1850) located in the bay window of the back parlor.

We also received from Jack Cary, descendant of Lillian Tarbell, a plethora of paperwork, photos and diaries related to her father, Edwin Paul Tarbell. Lillian married William P. Cary and lived in the house at 128 Main Street (now O'Neil's) and later lived at 96 Prospect Street (now Barone's). Mr. W. P. Cary was a merchant at 15 South Main Street (now Michelle Kenny's building), town clerk, and spearheaded the 1912 Wallingford Pageant where medallions were given out. Mark Barone dug one up in his backyard several years ago and donated it to the museum. How cool is that?

Edwin Paul Tarbell's son, Harold, was the father of several children. Charles has many descendants still in the area. Cornelia was instrumental in the formation of our museum.

On behalf of the Wallingford Historical Society, I thank all who have contributed through the year, either by buying our historical society books or thinking of us when you decide to pass on your family collections.

Joyce Barbieri, President



Marion Dexter Tryon



Albert and Margaret Ferguson



Chuck Ferguson with the melodeon gifted to the Wallingford Historical Society.



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, while also acquiring new members along the way. 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 spokesperson 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 our meetings and social functions. We meet the first Tuesday of every month (except January) at Fellowship Hall in the First Congregational Church at 8:00 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.

Traditionally, on the Friday prior to Memorial Day, the students at Wallingford Elementary would conduct a ceremony honoring members of the Legion at the school followed by assisting the veterans with placing flags at the cemetery. Due to Covid-19, this event had to be cancelled along with the Memorial Day Parade and related activities. We are hopeful that Memorial Day 2021 will be back to normal. When requested by families for a funeral, the American Legion has provided an Honor Guard for veterans who have passed 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, please feel free to call me at 293-5895.

Dan Garceau, Commander Post #52



Photo by Sandi Switzer



Wallingford Rescue, Inc.

Wallingford Rescue, Inc. would like to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Safe 2021. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during these last few difficult months dealing with the coronavirus pandemic that has effected all of us in one way or another. We have been and continue to be Vermont Strong!

From October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020, Wallingford Rescue responded to a total of 181 calls, including 154 calls in Wallingford, 13 in Tinmouth, 14 mutual aid calls to assist Mt. Holly, Danby, Clarendon and Rutland. We would like to thank the Wallingford Fire Department for all the assistance you have given us throughout the year. Thank you to Regional Ambulance Service for their help with both coverage and paramedic level intercepts. Because of COVID-19, life as we knew it changed. One of the casualties was our 33rd Annual 50/50 Raffle. It is usually the social event of the summer, but had to be cancelled. This was our major fundraiser for the year as well as a great deal of fun for the community. If it returns in 2021, it should be held on Friday, July 24th. There will be a notice posted in the Wallingford Standard monthly newsletter with an update. 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. Thanks to all of you who show your support to Wallingford Rescue throughout the year. We are so fortunate to live in such a giving community.

This past year, several new people joined Wallingford Rescue. Some have gone through training to become responding members and some are in the process of taking classes in order to become responders. 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, especially during COVID. They are the unsung heroes of our Town.

Eric Davenport, President

Wallingford Rescue, Inc.
For the Year Ended September 30, 2020

RECEIPTS

Town Allocations:

Wallingford	\$11,000	
Tinmouth	\$3,000	\$14,000
Wallingford Equipment Allocation		\$20,000
Transport		\$47,929
Donations		\$1,320
Misc		\$7,592
Gain (Loss) Investment		\$6,708

TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$97,549
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DISBURSEMENTS

Program Services:

Medical Supplies	\$3,436	
Insurance	\$8,386	
Fuel	\$405	
Equipment Repair	\$379	
Vehicle Expense	\$1,271	\$13,877

General & Administration:

Fees	\$3,540	
Banquet	\$1,920	
Commissions	\$4,499	
Utilities, Property Taxes	\$6,908	
Mortgage Interest/Principal	\$17,999	
Building Maint & Supplies	\$1,667	
Postage & Office Supplies	\$1,866	
Dues & Conference	\$2,095	
Misc	\$64	
Treasurer & Secretary Compensation	\$1,000	
Public Relations	\$274	\$41,852

Total Disbursements		\$55,729
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Excess Cash Receipts over Cash Disbursements		\$41,820
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Cash Balance, 10/01/19		\$144,646
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Cash Balance, 09/30/20		\$186,466
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As of 09/30/20, cash consisted of the following:

Cash Checking		\$87,384
Morgan Stanley	\$99,082	
Cash Balance, 09/30/20		\$186,466

Wallingford 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.

Like the rest of you, 2020 was a challenging year for us. We closed in March due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but were able to re-open in June. We thank everyone for following our Covid-19 procedures (wearing masks, sanitizing hands, one-way traffic in the store) - without a single complaint!

We were able to assist fourteen families in need with clothing, household items and gift cards for food and gas. Gas cards were provided to the Foley Cancer Center to help with travel expenses for treatment, clothing was donated Serenity House and Wallingford House residents as well as the Brick Church's "Yellow Box" effort. Bedding and linens were donated to the Rutland Humane Society, Dismas House and NewStory Center and clothing for costumes and housewares were donated to support local theater. While we were closed due to Covid-19, we donated sheets that were used to make face masks provided to the hospital and townspeople. We also donated to BROC's Share Heat program and their general programs, the Wallingford Newsletter, Danby-Mount Tabor Rod and Gun Club, Red Cross, Tinmouth Library, Tinmouth Scholarship Fund, Gilbert Hart Library, Vermont Restoration Resources, NewStory, Mill River Union Honor Society's holiday food basket project, Open Door Mission, WSYB Christmas Fund, Meals on Wheels, Rutland Food Cupboard and an Ovarian Cancer Support Group.

We also underwent changes to our shop. We were able to enclose our porch in the winter to keep us cozy. We started our Giving Box, a small food shelf in front of our building. We used money from sales to purchase food and personal items for people who may not be able to get to the Wallingford Food Shelf. We would like to thank Brad Kelley for designing and building the Giving Box.

We also installed a ramp to assist those with disabilities. We would like to thank BROC for finding and installing the ramp as well as Rotella Building Materials Inc. for supplying the wood to replace our porch deck. We have wanted a ramp since we opened and they were able to fulfill our wish.

We could not do this without the support we receive from the community, both from the donations you give us as well as the purchases you make. We thank everyone who has made the Wallingford Thrift Shop a success. Located at 218 North Main Street in Wallingford, the shop is open Thursday and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, please call (802) 446-6040.



Wallingford Thrift Giving Box

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 provide the highest quality service possible and assist all citizens and town officials with the issues that arise.

Sergeant Cross and Deputy Schneider are assigned to this patrol. Their connections with townspeople and town administration as well as their historical knowledge of the community continues to be an asset when investigating crime and solving issues.

Activity in the Town of Wallingford for the past year.

<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Activity</u>
230	193	Total incidents
556	739	Traffic stops
656	551	Traffic tickets
259	229	Traffic warnings
25	20	Suspicious
12	17	Citizen assists
12	13	Agency assists
6	6	DLS
5	7	DUI
6	9	Welfare check
25	30	Arrests

I want to thank the residents of Wallingford for their continued support of the Rutland County Sheriff's Department during this exceedingly difficult year.

David Fox, Sheriff



*If you see something, say something.
Rutland County Sheriff Department
Non-Emergency Line (802)775-8002.
For Emergencies, dial 911.*

Clean up

the world
Green Up Vermont 2021

Green Up Vermont is the not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization working to enhance our state's natural landscape and waterways and the livability of our communities by involving people in Green Up Day and raising awareness about the benefits of a litter free environment. The success of Green Up for Vermont depends upon two essential ingredients. One is the combined efforts of individuals and civic groups who volunteer to make it all possible; and two, the financial support given by the public and private sectors throughout Vermont.

With your Town's help, we can continue our unique annual Vermont tradition of taking care of our beautiful landscape and promoting civic pride so our children grow up with Green Up. Children are our future, and Green Up Vermont focuses on education for grades K-12 with activities such as a curriculum for K-4, activity booklets, a story and drawing booklet, and the annual poster and writing contests. Please visit www.greenupvermont.org to learn more. In 2020, there were 14,000 volunteers with 241 tons of litter and over 9,000 tires collected.

Careful use of resources minimizes Green Up's costs. The State appropriates funds that cover about 12 percent of our budget. Last year, appropriations from cities and towns covered 14 percent of our budget, so we rely on your help to keep Green Up Day going. These funds pay for supplies including over 46,000 Green Up trash bags, promotion, education, and services of two part-time employees. We ask your community to contribute, according to population, to keep Green Up growing for Vermont!

Mark your calendars May 1, 2021, the first Saturday in May, when "Green Up Day" celebrates its 40th Anniversary! 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 Alberghni, Executive Director

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, 2019 thru June 30, 2020) our squad provided emergency services 39 times for the residents of East Wallingford, or about 31% of our calls. During the fiscal year prior to that (July 1, 2018 thru June 30, 2019), our squad provided emergency services approximately 20 times, or about 16% of our calls. On average, East Wallingford is about 15-20% of Mt. Holly Volunteer Rescue call volume. The money your town provides helps us to meet the shortfall between our expenses and our income.

Kristin Veysey, President

Regional Ambulance Service

We are pleased to present our annual report to the citizens of the Town of Wallingford. “**Medic One**”, or one of our advanced life support equipped ambulances, 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, Advanced personnel’s 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. The funds communities contribute 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 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 communities 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 2020. Our agency is funded through fees for service, town funding, donations and special events. No funding comes from the state or 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 12 animals from the Town of Wallingford in the past year. Please call as at 483-9171 or visit our website at RCHSVT.org if you would like more information about the Rutland County Humane Society.

Beth Saradarian, *Executive Director*



The Preservation Trust of Vermont

Like many of you, I've been awed by the challenges each of our communities and all of Vermont have faced this past year. And like previous generations of Vermonters, I'm inspired by our shared commitment to the values we hold dear and the opportunities before us.

Vermonters' responses this past year have illustrated the ways we can treasure our past and yet adapt. Preserving that dynamism for the future is what the Preservation Trust of Vermont is all about. It is the work that PTV has been doing for forty years with an energetic and creative spirit that enlivens our communities. We are not about to slow down now.

Creating gathering places in our beautiful old buildings, even when they require substantial repair, accessibility, elbow grease – and money – is one of the most gratifying things we do. General stores that serve us all, churches that become food shelves, old banks that become community centers, tiny historical societies and breath-taking jewel-box theatres are just a few examples. Saving these historic buildings and gathering places affirms who we are and who we aspire to be.

This is hard work. It is more relevant than ever as Vermont recovers from the effects of the pandemic and looks to a future where all Vermonters (including new ones) feel safe, connected, and at home.

Ben Doyle, President



Photo by Sandi Switzer

Rutland County Solid Waste District

Watch for our updated website in 2021! Here are some program details:

Waste Disposal: During 2020, residents and businesses in our member municipalities disposed of approximately 36,000 tons of municipal solid waste. This includes construction and demolition activities along with a significant amount of bulky waste.

Recycling: The District owns a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) recycling center in Rutland City that is leased to Casella Waste Management for operations. The MRF accepts Zero Sort recycling 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 from a large geographical area. Since we began tracking material in 1995, the facility has processed over 460,000 tons of recyclables.

Household Hazardous Waste: Rutland County Solid Waste District operates an extensive Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program for district residents and small business generators. The program operates year-round from the Gleason Road facility by appointment only. Additional collections are scheduled at twelve town transfer stations within seventeen member towns through the spring, summer, and fall. The HHW program collects and safely disposes of dozens of hazardous, flammable and toxic materials. The RCSWD HHW also collects electronic waste and has collected over 1,700 tons of material since collections began in 2004.

Other Programs: The District offered waste management education and reduction programs for construction, 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 local organizations, including the Rutland Master Gardener Club, 350 Rutland County, the Rutland Dismas House, Rutland Neighborhood Program, and Vermont Southwestern Council on Aging, Rutland Hospital, NewStory, Rutland County Humane Society and our valued haulers.

Mark S. Shea, *District Manager*

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. VCRD works to build unity and common direction to advance local communities and policies supporting a strong, resilient and prosperous future for Vermont.

During COVID-19, we crafted a three-pronged work plan: respond to the immediate challenges of the pandemic; build new and diverse leadership for the future of Vermont communities; and frame a ubiquitous dialogue about the future of the state and a platform to rally around a more equitable and resilient Vermont.

Meanwhile, VCRD's other work continues, including policy efforts on behalf of Vermont Working Lands and Climate Economy as well as community initiatives like Community Visits, Climate Economy Model Communities, and support for Climate Catalyst leaders. For more information, call 1-802-223-6091 or email info@vtrural.org or visit vtrural.org

Paul Costello, *Executive Director*

Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District

Conservation Field Day/Science at the Hatchery – The District organizes this event at the Dwight D. Eisenhower National Fish Hatchery in Chittenden for local elementary schools. Topics that students learn about include: stream ecology, forests and tree identification, fish shocking and identification, soils and the different fish species raised at the hatchery and their life cycles.

Land Treatment Planning - The District works with a Land Treatment Planner providing technical assistance to farmers for the development of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans.

Portable Skidder Bridges - Two portable skidder bridges are available for rent to loggers and foresters. These bridges reduce stream disturbance, minimizing the potential for erosion and sedimentation.

Watershed Planning for the Otter Creek and its Tributaries:

With funding through grant sources, the District:

- Will work with the Rutland Recreation and Parks Department to implement Stormwater BMP's designed by Watershed Consulting Associates, LLC at Rotary Park. This will include rehabilitating and expanding an existing infiltration trench to provide extra capacity for stormwater runoff and install a new bioretention facility.
- Worked with Watershed Consulting Associates and the City of Rutland to complete the Stormwater Master Planning process for the Moon Brook in the City of Rutland.
- Is continuing to work with the VT DEC on a floodplain restoration project on the Cold River in the Town of Clarendon.
- Participated in the development of the Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan. A copy of this plan is available on the Districts website.
- Continued Water Quality Monitoring during the Summer of 2019 at eleven sites. Nine sites in the City of Rutland, one site in the Town of Pittsford and one site in the Town of Chittenden.
- Hired an Engineering Consultant to complete 100% a final design for a stormwater system at Wallingford Elementary School to reduce erosion and sedimentation and improve water quality.
- Will continue to work with the City of Rutland, Towns and landowners to develop and prepare projects for future design and implementation. These projects have been identified in Stormwater Master Plans or other reports.

For further information, please contact Nanci McGuire at 802-775-8034 ext. 117 or nanci.mcguire@vt.nacdnet.net.

Nanci McGuire, District Manager

Vermont Department of Health

At the Vermont Department of Health, our twelve Local Health District Offices around the state provide health services and promote wellness for all Vermonters. More info on your local health office can be found here: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/local>

COVID-19

2020 has been a challenging year for Vermonters. However, the Vermont Department of Health has been recognized as a national leader in managing the virus. This is what the Health Department has done in your community:

- COVID-19 Testing:
 - Since May 2020, the Health Department has provided no-cost Covid-19 testing. Through November 17, 2020, the Vermont Department of Health has held 509 testing clinics, testing 40,796 Vermonters. This important work helps to identify the spread of Covid-19 and is just one of the many ways your Health Department is promoting and protecting the health of Vermonters.
 - Statewide, 224,284 people have been tested as of November 30, 2020.
- COVID-19 Cases:
 - As of November 25, 2020, Vermont had the fewest cases of COVID-19 and the lowest rate of cases per 100,000 population of all 50 states.
 - Statewide, as of November 30, 2020, there have been 4,172 cases of COVID-19.

Additional Programs

In addition to the COVID-19 response, the Health Department has programs such as influenza vaccinations and WIC.

- Flu Vaccinations: Protecting people from influenza is particularly important in 2020, as the flu may complicate recovery from COVID-19. (Data is as of November 17, 2020).
 - Approximately 213,000* Vermonters have been vaccinated against the flu this season *(Due to technology outages, flu vaccinations given are underreported by approximately 25%-33%).
- WIC: The Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Education and Food Supplementation Program remains in full effect, though much of the work that was done in person is now being done remotely through TeleWIC. (Data is as of October 20, 2020).
 - 11,308 infants, children, and pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding people were served by WIC in Vermont, either in traditional format or TeleWIC.

James Wood, Health Systems Program Administrator

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) is a resource for towns, a platform for ideas, and inspires a vision for our future. We balance local desires, best practices and regional planning for communities that are vibrant today and strong for years to come.

The RRPC and the Town of Wallingford continued working together in 2020 on many community development initiatives. Some highlights include:

- Worked with the planning team to update the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Assisted town to complete FY20 Grants in Aid projects and secure FY21 Grants in Aid funding for stormwater best practice projects.

- Worked with town officials to complete the 2020 Local Emergency Management Plan.
- Provided technical assistance with COVID-related Local Grant Expense Reimbursement (LGER) program.
- Conducted bicycle and pedestrian counts for use by town officials.
- Worked with town officials to adopt the Rutland Region Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement.
- Provided technical assistance to the incoming Zoning Administrator.

If you feel inspired to participate in local or regional planning, want to be paired with opportunities to grow your community, or just want to learn more, please visit or give us a call - we'd love to hear from you!

Ed Bove, Executive Director



Photo by Sandi Switzer

Report from School Board

When I wrote my report on behalf of the Board of Directors last year, one could not even fathom the year that lay before us. As we welcomed a new decade when the clock struck midnight on December 31st, none of us could have imagined that less than 10 weeks later, we all would be thrust into a global pandemic that all but an exceptional few among us, had ever experienced in a lifetime. I am proud to say that our District, our Board, our students and their families all rose to the incredible challenge that was laid before them. Shortly after last year’s annual meeting, our schools were closed statewide and terms like “remote learning”, “synchronous and asynchronous learning” and “learning pods” became commonplace in our vocabulary.

One of the silver linings, if one can be found in this pandemic situation, is the fact that our meetings which have been virtual since the pandemic began. Virtual meetings have been live streamed and are available on YouTube and we are encouraged when we see that there are a good number of viewers. We also appreciate those that take the time to speak during our public comment and I want to take this opportunity to inform you that we will be having virtual board/community discussion meetings during 2021 to encourage additional participation and an ongoing dialogue between the community and the Board in accordance with our community engagement plan. I hope that you will

find the time to watch a live streamed board meeting in the future, offer public input at a meeting or join us at one of our discussion meetings moving forward.

Normally, in this report, I would highlight several of the things that the Board and the District have undertaken during the past year. This year, however, the most important work that the Board conducted was the Board's commitment to and development of an equity policy that was adopted by the Board in June. It was and remains the Board's expectation that adoption of the equity policy would help to further the District's foundational beliefs that *all* of our students are respected, cared for and loved.

Particularly during this pandemic, the sheer scope of this equity work would become even more apparent. While the District was aware of and had been diligently working to eliminate inequities in our educational system and process while engaged in traditional learning even before the adoption of a formal policy, the overnight shift to remote learning laid out new equity challenges to tackle. Access to education, technology necessary to access remote learning and the simplest and most necessary of needs, access to food for our students became paramount issues to be addressed.

Equity work is difficult work as the Board learned firsthand. It is work that requires us to grow and change and neither of those things are without discomfort and pain. This proved true in our community as well, as the District's equity work was met by a community which was simultaneously supportive of and frightened by both the pandemic raging around us and concept of any type of change. The Board and the District persevered with this important work, as we had been elected to do, and continues to work to support all our students and ensure that our schools raise young citizens that are compassionate and accepting of the world around them, inquisitive, and ready and able to rise to whatever challenges lie ahead of them. While we, as a board and a community, do not always agree which path to take to move forward, I do think that we all agree that our children are our greatest strength and our greatest gift. We owe it to them to move forward even when that growth can be challenging and uncomfortable.

Finally, the Board of School Directors is most appreciative of our students and their families who have risen to the challenges that the pandemic shift caused to everyone's "normal" school routine; our staff members and faculty who have stretched their own boundaries and went, in some cases, far beyond their own comfort zones to be able to continue to educate our students in these unprecedented times and to do so with incredible professionalism, love and compassion even while simultaneously themselves juggling their own pandemic-related family issues and concerns; and last but not least, our administrators who have worked, mostly behind the scenes to the community, spending untold long hours including many nights and weekends navigating the guidelines, health requirements and logistics to keep our schools operating and our students learning, to keep us all informed, obtain for our teachers and staff what they needed to be able to teach our students in this COVID-19 world all while also simultaneously handling their own family concerns. None of this has been easy for anyone and while we will seldom, if ever, hear any member of our administration, staff or faculty mention it, there was and continues to be, enormous personal sacrifices that they have all made to ensure that our students remain the District's number one priority.

Never has the adage, “it takes a village to raise a child” been more accurate than during this past year.

Tammy A. Heffernan, Chair MRUUSD Board of School Directors

Report from Wallingford Elementary School Principal

There is no other school I’d rather be a part of than the Wallingford Wildcat Family. This has been one of the most challenging years for our families, students, and staff, but the true family atmosphere has resulted in people going out of their way to help one another. Of course our school has a priority of improving student outcomes academically, but our staff has recognized the need to go the extra mile to provide social-emotional support to our students daily. Teachers and families were challenged with the task of educating and being educated through remote learning, but this didn’t stop us from having social-emotional learning activities at the start of each day. “Morning Meetings” were held to build closer personal relationships amid a distance learning atmosphere. I had the privilege of participating in these activities with each grade level and it was refreshing to be able to interact with our students on a more personal level and really get to know them, even though it was virtually.

Let’s not ignore the elephant in the room...COVID! Covid has certainly changed the way we do things at Wallingford beginning with the start of the day when students arrive, all the way through to dismissal. Our staff has definitely been stretched during this school year while implementing remote learning, but I do believe this has resulted in positive growth in the technological skills of both staff and students. Also, our staff has gone above and beyond expectations picking up extra duties to make sure we are following all Covid safety guidelines set by the state and Agency of Education. We have staff greeting families at the sidewalk daily with appropriate PPE equipment where students are screened by having their temperature taken and answering Covid related questions aligned with the local restrictions and Covid symptoms. Families have really stepped it up in keeping our students and staff safe by following the Safety Guidelines. One of our biggest challenges has been to maintain social distance as we naturally are drawn closer to each other when having conversations. However, taping directional lines down the hallways, furniture arrangement, and our PE teacher marking circles spaced 6 feet apart where students line up for games during recess have all really helped, and students have done a great job adapting.

As a staff we participated in the Stop, Start, Continue activity where all had the opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions to improve the overall program at WES moving forward. A main focus that came from this activity is to improve Positive Behaviors, Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Our staff has come up with new, laser focused Schoolwide Expectations: PAWS- Practice Respect, Accept Responsibility, Work Together, and Safety First. We then identified what behaviors are appropriate in each location of the school related to each of the updated expectations. When we return from break, we will have posters with the behavioral expectations posted in each area and we will be teaching these to the students schoolwide. There will be Pawsitive PAWS (tickets) distributed to students meeting these expectations and student names will be announced Fridays for following these expectations.

Though traveling and socializing are very limited at this time, we still felt it necessary to send home

the Come Alive Outside Passports with each student. These Passports encourage families to get outdoors to actively engage and learn in nature. There have been some adjustments in the types of activities to keep health and safety at the top of the priority list, but this has not hindered the ability to participate in some of these activities outdoors and even right in the backyard.

All in all, the major team effort and support among staff has really helped WES make the best of one of the most interesting years and I couldn't be more proud to be a part of this family!

Dan Betts, Principal

Report from Superintendent

2020 has been quite the year. When life is challenging and hectic, we believe that it is important to focus on the simple things and the foundations of what make us who we are as an organization and community. In the MRUUSD we have ten foundational beliefs that we are proud of. The first, and most important of those beliefs, is that "students will feel respected, cared for, and loved."

Some might be critical of such a statement, asserting that schools should be in the business of learning only, and focused on the essentials of reading, writing, and 'rithmetic. While those areas are of course a key part of our focus, we know that if the basic needs of our students are not met, including feeling respected, cared for and loved, the other things become elusive and ultimately unattainable for all. Some students might get to where they need to be. But, many will flounder if we don't meet those needs. Our students are busy. They are hungry. Their lives have been turned upside down by a pandemic. They have dealt with loss and frustration, and have had to learn patience because there is no other option. Through those formative experiences, they need for us to continually show them love, care and respect. We work our tails off to do so, first and foremost by trying to keep them as safe, healthy and connected as we can. We assure you that we will keep that effort up for the long term.

For those not connected to our schools, the following is an overview of some of our key decision-making in 2020:

- We completed a challenging March-June 2020 school period focused on providing our students and staff with everything we could, under the complex expectations of fully remote schools as directed by the Governor.
- Our Board made a public determination, supported by district administration, to fly Black Lives Matter and Pride flags publicly at our schools. This action was met with significant community support AND resistance. Over time a Board Policy was created and adopted to govern that process. To date (as of this writing) no flags beyond the U.S. and VT flags have flown on our school flagpoles.
- We opened our school year remotely for all students for 6 weeks, with one exception for students with required support services who were able to attend in-person.
- We returned our elementary-aged students (PreK-4th Grade) to in-person learning on October 19th.
- We returned our 5th-12th grade students to in-person learning on November 2nd.

- Roughly 8% of our student population opted to remain in fully remote learning even when we returned to in person instruction.
- Due to limitations caused by the state's guidelines regarding distancing, our students at Mill River Union attend school in person 2 days per week and learn remotely 3 three days per week. Our elementary students attend school in person 5 days per week.
- We saw our first positive COVID-19 case in one of our schools the week after Thanksgiving.
- We preemptively declared the week after New Years as a remote learning week in order to allow for any multiple-household gathering activity occurring during the holidays to run its course before our in-person return.
- Understanding the significant impact of the pandemic on families, businesses, and taxpayers' ability to respond to the needs of our schools, we developed a budget for your consideration this year that takes advantage of dollars saved and cuts in central office costs to level fund the budget and maintain a per pupil expenditure increase of 0% for our taxpayers.
- We are preparing for the impacts of vaccination in Vermont, not knowing fully what course or timeline that process will follow. We expect to remain under emergency orders and strict health guidelines through the rest of this school year, and hope for a return to "normal" in the Fall of 2021.

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 any questions you may have. 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 - through the best of times and the worst of times. Thank you for supporting all that we do on behalf of our community's students.

David Younce, MRUUSD Superintendent

Report from MRUHS Principal

We are quickly approaching the midpoint of the 2020-2021 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.

We started our school year off quite differently this year given the pandemic of COVID-19. In early September, students at Mill River Union High School started their year remotely. This approach allowed students to pick up where they left the year prior and engage with their teachers and peers in a controlled environment that allowed for our students, their families, and our staff to remain safe and healthy. Fast forward to the beginning of November and we welcomed our students back into

the building in a hybrid format. Even though we were two months into the school year, November 2nd felt like the first day of school as our entire faculty was eager to be back in person. Other than a few small procedures and protocols students and staff have to follow, school feels rather normal.

In a normal year, Mill River would offer a multitude of extracurricular and athletic programs that are a crucial part of our students' and communities' lives. We offer a variety 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. However, due to COVID restrictions, we are not able to run all of our normal programming. This is only going to be a blip on the radar though. We'll be back to our normal pace before we know it.

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.

Tyler Weideman, Principal

Transfer Station

The Wallingford Transfer Station provides valuable services to residents, including Zero Sort recycling, electronic waste recycling, yard waste collections, and solid waste collections. Food waste is banned from the solid waste stream and must be composted or may be placed in bins at the transfer station. Household Hazardous Waste collections in 2021 have tentatively been set for May 15 and September 25. Revised transfer station fees become effective March 1, 2021.

Vehicles entering the transfer station must display municipal stickers. Stickers may be purchased at Town Hall or the Transfer Station at a cost of \$3 each. Proof of residency is required to purchase a sticker. Punch cards may be purchased at the Transfer Station or Town Hall at a cost of \$20 for a 20-punch card and \$50 for a 50-punch card. Punch cards may only be used for bags of garbage. Residents will be assessed fees to dispose of furniture, appliances and other items. The transfer station is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from noon to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to noon.



Town of Wallingford
75 School Street
Wallingford, VT 05773

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2020 Town Report

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